



scanews

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

Read more at scan.lusu.co.uk

Week 7, Lent Term, Thursday February 26, 2009

Pete, Peter, Payne in 3-way fight for LUSU presidency

- Last minute rush of nominations means all Sabb positions contested

- Presidential election to be fought around engaging students in LUSU

- Candidates' banners vandalised in outburst against student politics

Dan Hogan
Editor

16 CANDIDATES ARE battling for LUSU's six 09/10 sabbatical posts, as campus saw the start of election campaigns this week.

The official election period, in which three candidates are campaigning for the position of LUSU President, opened last Friday evening.

Second years Pete Macmillan of County and Peter Slaney of Cartmel, have both taken on Michael Payne, the current LUSU President, who is standing for a second term. The most contested position is Vice-President Media & Communications/SCAN Editor, with five candidates running for the job; the same number as ran for SCAN Editor last year.

Sabbatical Officers take a year out between academic years, or at the end of their degree, to work full time in the students union. The positions up for election are LUSU President, and five Vice-Presidents, with responsibilities for Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies (FEDS), Academic Affairs, Equality, Welfare and Diversity (EWD), Media & Comms, and Sport.

As well as the three candidates for president, former Union Council Chair, Sandeep Banwait, and former County JCR President, Andrew Johnston, are battling for the FEDS position; Current Sabbatical Women's Officer, Sara Dunn, and Block of Six Officer Torri Crapper are running for EWD; University Council Rep, Si Rimington, and Academic Affairs Non-Sabb, Danny Owens are in the race for Academic Affairs Sabb; and current Athletic Union Non-Sabb, Sue Wynes, is running against her predecessor, Tan Farrell,

3 >



Battle at the ballot box: (From left) Presidential candidates, Peter Slaney, Michael Payne and Pete MacMillan (Photo: Dan Hogan)

VC concedes to discussion on future of colleges

- Wellings orders creation of working group on future of colleges
- Campaigners welcome move

Lizzie Houghton
News Editor

THE UNIVERSITY AND LUSU have agreed to set up a working group to discuss issues surrounding the future of the college system. The Vice-Chancellor, Paul Wellings, has given his support to the project and requested the group be set up in time to present its findings by July of this year.

It is hoped that the move will go some way to appeasing students who feel let down by the University's recent conduct in regards to the colleges. In particular the centralisation of the college bars.

The Vice-Chancellor asked that the group be formerly set up at the start of February. The request followed on from a report to University Council by LUSU President, Michael Payne, who asked Council members to back the Union in attempting to set up a dialogue between student representatives and Senior University Management. Since then Mr. Payne has been working closely with Professor Amanda Chetwynd, Pro Vice-Chancellor (College and Student Experience), finalising the organisation and aims of the group.

Mr. Payne, who has been talking with the Vice-Chancellor about the possibility of setting up a group for some time, is cautiously optimistic that the LUSU/Senior Officers Committee will take heed of recommendations made by the group. "This could be seen as lip service," he said. "But I think the important thing to focus on is that there is an offer being made. I think the important thing for us is to not say from the sidelines, but to engage the opportunity irrespective of the motivation and prerogative behind it. The ball is in our [the student's] hands and we need to grasp it."

5 >

Lancaster University Students' Union
Slaidburn House
Lancaster University
Lancaster
LA1 4YA

Editor

Dan Hogan
scan@lancaster.ac.uk
01524 592613

Assistant Editor

Rob Miller
r@robm.me.uk

News

Chris Davis

Lizzie Houghton
scannews@hotmail.com
Meets in Furness Bar,
Mondays, 2pm

Comment

Liam Richardson
scancomment@gmail.com
Meets in Bowland Bar,
Tuesdays, 5pm

Features

r@robm.me.uk
Meets in Furness Bar,
Fridays, 1pm

Arts

Lizzie O'Brien &
Richie Garton
scanarts@hotmail.com
Meets in County Diner,
Wednesdays, 1pm

Music

Mark McGlashan
scanmusic@hotmail.com
Meets in Pendle Bar,
Wednesdays, 1pm

Sports

Charlotte Parker
Oliver Holmes
scan_sport@hotmail.com
Meets in Fylde Bar,
Mondays, 6pm

Adverts & Marketing

Martin Ennis
m.ennis@lancaster.ac.uk
01524 593422

Darts team bares all for Comic Relief

by Lisa Stallard

FYLDE WOMEN'S DARTS Team are causing a stir this month with a naked 'Calendar Girls' style project to raise funds for Comic Relief's 'Do Something Funny For Money' 2009 campaign. Fylde Women's Darts Team used the theme for inspiration. "What better way to do something funny than strip off and pose with various dart-related things," Captain Charlotte Parker said.

Comic Relief's funds go to various worthwhile causes both in the UK and Africa. The money raised is spent on campaigns to stop domestic violence, raise awareness about mental health, provide aid for HIV and AIDS sufferers and giving some of the world's poorest the chance of a better life. This year's Comic Relief has the theme 'Do Something Funny For Money'. By selling naked calendars of the Women's Darts Team at around £5 each, the girls hope to raise a considerable amount for the cause.

Ms. Parker explained a little about



Bare ambition: Lisa White and Naomi-Beth Dixon of Fylde Women's Darts Team. (Photo: Andrew Plowright).

where the idea originated from. Alex Smith, Captain of Furness Men's Darts Team thought of the idea of a naked Calendar, but apparently the Fylde Women's Darts Team "stole the idea as we thought people would rather buy a women's one than a men's". The women also hope that the calendar will show that "darts isn't about big men with beer bellies".

The calendar was inspired by the 2003 film 'Calendar Girls', based on a

real story of a Women's Institute group that did a similar project in order to raise funds for leukaemia. It will feature the Darts Team posing naked behind the bar, "strategically positioned so the lager and cider pumps will cover us" Ms. Parker described. It will include single, duo and group photos of the girls. Fellow team member, Susan Wynes added: "I think the Calendar is a great way for us to raise some money for Comic Relief. Some may think its a

bit risqué, but if the likes of Helen Mirren and Julie Walters can do it then why can't we! And if it raises money for a good cause then its definitely worth doing. I've already been getting requests for copies."

The calendars are in the process of being printed, and will be on sale from the 8th March. For details, go to the Facebook group: Comic Relief: Fylde women's darts team -- 'Calendar Girls' style

ELEVEN MONDAY WEEK 8
Cafe • Bar • Lancaster Cocktails 2 for £5 (selected)

COYOTE UGLY

Desperados £2
Corona £2
Cobra pint £2

8:30PM

in this scan

News

- 5 RAG Week raises over £2000 for charity.
- 7 Survey finds LUSU's campaigns lacking.
- 8 Islamic Week tackles ignorance.
- 9 Union sub-committee approves e-voting.
- 11 Visa fees may discourage Non-EU students

Candidate Interviews

- 12-13 Presidential Candidates.
- 14-15 Candidates for VP (Media and Comms/SCAN Editor).
- 16-17 Candidates for all other Vice-Presidential positions.

Comment

- 19 The press we deserve?
- 20 Tsvangirai's near to impossible choice.
- 22 Debate: Is surveillance justified?
- 22 Editorial.

Features

- 24 The art of haggling.
- 25 Seen the movie, now read the book.

Arts

- 28 Broadway musical makes West End debut.
- 29 Growing old gracefully: Brad Pitt in Benjamin Button.
- 30 Battle of the sexes over Eve Ensler's 'Vagina Monologues'.

Music

- 33 Review: Lily Allen's 'It's Not Me, It's You'.
- 33 Dubstep a success, even without Rusko

Sports

- 34 LUMFC lose out to UCLAN
- 35 Pool team reaches last 16 in annual Championships
- 36 George Wyatt hots up

NUS President calls for debate on 'real student issues' at Annual Conference

- **Student inflation 1.5 times national rate**
- **Graduate employment to drop by 5.4 per cent in 2009**

by **Lizzie Houghton**
News Editor

THE RECESSION'S EFFECT on students is set to dominate talk at this year's NUS Annual Conference, as delegates and students union leaders look to find ways of easing students' financial burden. In a statement sent out to union representatives, Wes Streeting, National President of the National Union of Students, outlined the very great need of discussing the country's current economic climate and its relation to students. He said that ignoring the issue would be equivalent to "fiddling when Rome burns".

Mr. Streeting highlighted the fact that as many households start to feel the pinch, students coming from these households will be affected too. In a statement he said: "Headlines in recent weeks have not been good for prospective students, current students or graduates. We've [the NUS] been working hard to influence the government's response to this crisis, pressing for additional help for those in hardship, reducing the interest rates on student loans in line with inflation and an urgent increase in the cap on student numbers to ensure that the record numbers of people applying to university this year are able to find a place."

LUSU President, Michael Payne, commented that he felt it was "absolutely brilliant that Wes has raised these issues. I think as this is coming from the leadership of the NUS then constituent groups such as Lancaster should support it."

He added: "At the moment there is a massive lack of guidance by the NUS and the National Executive Committee on how the recession affect students and, equally important, how it will affect student unions: how it will affect their commercial activities and finances. At the end of the day it's those activities and finances fund the student services we offer and representation for students." LUSU is holding an extraordinary Union Council meeting today to discuss amendments to motions put to the conference. Lancaster will be sending seven elected delegates and the president to the conference in early April.

Streeting has passed 4 amendments to Motion 608 of the conference discussion. The motion, which focuses on the financial situation of students, will now also include recommendations on graduate employability, applicant places and student support during a recession.



Wintery reception: Over 1400 delegates attended last year's Annual Conference at Blackpool's Winter Gardens.

The need for this support was demonstrated in a recent study by the Open University. Researchers there found that since July 2008 full-time students have been saddling a rate of inflation 50 per cent above the national average. The Student Price Index, published by the university, shows the inflation rate for students being 6.6 per cent, compared to 4.4 per cent for all UK households, making the 07/08 academic year one of the most expensive on record.

Despite this squeeze on student finances, a number of universities have started cutting back their funding for student bursaries, a move which Mr.

Streeting has pledged to oppose if the motion is passed by those in attendance at the Annual Conference.

The effects of the economic downturn on prospective students and graduates will also be debated at the Conference. The Association of Graduate Recruiters recently forecast graduate employment to drop by 5.4 per cent in 2009, the first time vacancies have fallen since 2003. Almost 50 per cent of organisations are expected to take on fewer graduates this year, with 64.4 per cent admitting this was in some way connected to the downfall.

While graduate employment falls,

the number of applicants to university has risen to record numbers, included a marked growth in the number of mature applicants. However, even with the government having recently re-set the cap on the number of university places available nationally, the NUS is still concerned that a significant number of potential students will be turned away due to lack of spaces.

Other notable motions to be discussed at the Conference include a call for the cap on tuition fees not to be lifted, which would give universities free reign to charge whatever fees they liked per annum.

Candidates limber up for elections

for the Sports position.

In the race for the Media & Comms/SCAN role are Societies Council Chair, Edwin Burrows, SCAN Comment Editor, Liam Richardson, former Cartmel President, Sam Fitton, SCAN Sports Editor, Charlotte Parker and former Bailrigg FM Station Manager, Charlotte Henry.

Also being contested are elections for seven delegates to the National Union of Students' Annual Conference, taking place at the end of April, and two places on LUSU's 'Block of Six' officers without portfolio. There are 13 candidates running in the election for NUS delegates, several of whom are simultaneously running for sabbatical posts.

However, not all students seem caught up in election fever. On Tuesday night, banners belonging to at least three different candidates were torn down from above Pizzetta Republic.

According to witnesses, the two vandals said they were protesting against student politics in general. A bystander told SCAN: "It was pretty clear that they weren't doing it in favour of a particular candidate." Porters and LUSU's Chief Returning Officer are investigating the incident.

Candidate interviews: 12 >

"I am delighted that students' unions have voted to prioritise the education debate at conference," Mr. Streeting said. "I am in the process of tabling amendments through students' unions to ensure that we get a real debate on the issues raised by the recession and get some good education funding policy passed to take us into the government's fees review next year. This year's conference promises to be one that debates real issues affecting students up and down the country."

Students can vote for Lancaster's NUS delegates in the Union elections, on Thursday of Week 8.

Straw poll: What the candidates say

What do you think is the most important issue to be discussed at this year's NUS Annual Conference?

(Amir Farajpour, Paul Lynch and Gemma Evans are also candidates for NUS Conference Delegate, but did not respond to SCAN's request for a statement.)

"Decreased numbers of Womens Officers within Unions is sure once again to be a contentious issue and I will support guaranteed womens representation."
- **Matt Saint**

"I think after the scenes of the last extraordinary conference the NUS stance on Gaza could figure but I want the agenda geared around the cap on tuition fees."
- **Pete MacMillan**

"Our Vice Chancellor granted the opportunity will charge thousands; Keeping the cap on tuition fees has never been more important."
- **Sara Dunn**

"Making sure support is given to those students who need it the most, so education is available to all."
- **Liz Houghton**

Tuition Fees – we need to 'keep the cap' for a waterfall of reasons, especially in respect of the current economic climate!"
- **Janie Coleman**

"Prevent further marketisation of our education and lift the cap on tuition fees and defend Palestinian rights to education and demand an end to the siege of Gaza."
- **Fayez Almari**

"Graduate employment and future prospects for students is an ever growing concern in the current economic climate; this issue must be on the NUS agenda."
- **Sandeep Banwait**

"Tuition fees. If they rise, thousands of students will miss out on an education they deserve but can't afford."
- **Robbie Pickles**

"Protecting students and graduates in the downturn: 70% of graduate recruitment places have vanished this year. NUS must do more."
- **Dan Hogan**

"Raising the profile of the NUS conference, and greater feedback to students concerning the event."
- **Peter Slaney**

University management suffers defeat at Senate in debate over redundancy measures

- **University Council urging creation of a Standing Redundancy Committee**
- **Lively debate at University Senate results in setback for management**

Dan Hogan
Editor

PLANS BY UNIVERSITY senior management to establish a Standing Redundancy Committee were dealt a severe blow yesterday, when academics voted to urge University Council to reconsider its proposals.

The proposals, if forced through, will create a committee in anticipation of the need for lay offs, that could expedite the process of making university staff redundant. Members of the Universities and Colleges Union (UCU) see such a move as undermining staff and student morale and confidence unnecessarily.

A motion that called for university bosses to rescind their decision, was passed yesterday with the help of LUSU representatives at University Senate, which is the top academic decision making body in the university. The motion passed with 35 votes to 26.

Speaking before the meeting, LUSU president, Michael Payne, said: "The

threat of redundancy will impact on staff morale and work ethic, which may in turn impact upon students' learning experience."

The motion, which calls the setting up of a standing redundancy committee "premature in the light of the university's current academic and financial performance," was proposed by Furness Dean and University and Colleges Union organiser, Dr Chris Grocott. He summarised the motion, saying: "We are not convinced that we have seen evidence that would support the idea that [setting up this committee] would be good for the university."

Principal of Bowland College, Joe Thornberry, seconded the motion. "If the Standing Redundancy Committee is established... it will be a signal to staff that redundancies are going to happen," he said. "It will affect morale, it will affect the very thing that makes this university so successful."

"There are people who think that fear is a great motivator... but I believe fear has no place in our university."

He went on to outline the possible

effect that rumours of redundancy may have on students: "Students are worried about their job prospects, and worried for their families' jobs... so what do you think is going to be the impact on [students] when they hear that a teacher... may be made redundant?"

Lancaster UCU's branch secretary, Rory Daly, said: "We acknowledge the challenges that the university community will face in the coming years, but believe that the setting up of the committee would cause more harm to staff and student morale and our external reputation than it would bring benefit to senior management."

Speaking to the Vice-Chancellor immediately after the meeting, SCAN asked what his reply was to those who claimed setting up the committee would damage staff and student morale. "I don't think it will... The idea that somehow just having a committee sitting there will damage morale is really quite wrong," he said. "The committee itself is not going to wander round looking for redundancies... Redundancy is the bluntest tool you can use; it's a very expensive thing to do. The university is not going to be running around saying 'lets have lots of redundancies.'"

"I don't think that it will be as dramatic and draconian as some individuals might want to make out, I don't think that would be the case at all."

UCU may resort to industrial action over pay bargaining dispute

THE LECTURERS UNION, University and Colleges Union (UCU), may ballot for industrial action if national bargaining talks fail to produce a consensus before the beginning of March.

UCU is locked in a fight with UCEA, the body that represents higher education employers, over the negotiating framework for the 2009 higher education pay review. If no agreement is reached by March 3, UCU may go to its members to ask permission to organise a strike.

In 2006, industrial action by the AUT and Natfhe (which later merged to form UCU) put exam results of students in jeopardy, forcing Lancaster University to adopt contingency plans which would compensate first year students for lost exam marks.

Among UCU's disagreements with UCEA is over the timing of the pay negotiations' conclusion. Currently, under the timetable set out for 'New JNHCES' (Joint Negotiating Committee for Higher Education Staff), pay negotiations are set to conclude late in May, depriving academic un-

ions of any realistic opportunity to hold industrial action to disrupt examinations or marking.

After an earlier demand of an 8% pay rise was abandoned, in light of the economic situation, UCU decided to focus its efforts upon changing parts of the negotiating framework, as opposed to the end pay deal itself. UCU also object to the possibility for universities to opt out of New JNHCES, which they claim undermines the whole process.

A war of words has been fought through the pages of the Times Higher Education, with UCEA chair, Bill Wakeham, and the General Secretary of UCU, Sally Hunt, both writing comment pieces in the supplement last month. Though both sides have expressed a desire to continue with negotiations, a compromise is yet to be reached.

NUS National President, Wes Streeter, said: "The last thing that students need is an industrial dispute. Stability in the sector is vital and all sides need to maintain a dialogue."



ELECTIONS

HUSTINGS

MONDAY WEEK 8



democracy.lusu.co.uk

RAG Week a success with help from students, local businesses



Charity begins at Uni: RAG volunteers sell RAG Bands in Alexandra Square. (Photo: Lizzie Houghton)

- RAG Bands raise over £1500
- Local, national and international charities benefit from help given by Lancaster students

by **Samantha Newsham**
Deputy News Editor

LANCASTER'S RAG GROUP held their annual RAG Week in Week Six, hosting events across campus and further afield to raise money for charity.

The week's events began with a gig at the Yorkshire House on Sunday of Week Five, featuring student bands Jo Gillett, Home Made Lemonade and headliners Guernica. A stall was set up in Alexandra Square during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday where students could buy RAG Bands and participate in a tombola and lucky dip. Following this, RAG members sold glowsticks at the Carleton on Wednesday, organised bag packing at Sainsbury's on Friday and held a street collection in Lancaster on Saturday.

One of the biggest fundraisers was the sale of RAG Bands. Costing £3.50, they entitled the wearer to a variety of deals donated by local businesses, from free drinks at Cuba to a £15 cut and blow dry at Jo and Cass. Throughout Weeks Five and Six, over 500 were sold.

"There were lots of good deals, loads of people said they'd really enjoyed them," said RAG President Emily Campbell. "The RAG Bands were a good way to make money because it's a way for people to give something and get something back."

As yet the money is still being counted, but the group have raised at least £2,500 and are hoping that their final event, an inter-college quiz night on Sunday, will push them over £3,000. This will be split equally between RAG's three chosen charities. For 2009 they are Water Aid, a charity dedicated to providing clean water to all; Scope, which raises money for people in the UK with cerebral palsy; and Derian House, a children's hospice

in Chorley.

"The week's been really successful," said Ms. Campbell. "We've had some great events. The Carleton was a really fun way of making money, we sold nearly all our glowsticks, and we made over £240 bag packing. I think we've really raised the profile of RAG this year."

In addition to raising as much money for their charities as they can, the group's aim for the week was to increase awareness of RAG and attract new members. "We're quite a small group compared to some universities, though we've had a big push on Facebook and got some new members at Refreshers' Fair," said Jenni Wright, the group's Publicity Officer. "If anyone was thinking about joining RAG I'd say they should definitely do it. It's not just about raising money, it's about having fun and going on socials too."

Vice-President Sam Potts added: "You can just help when you can, it doesn't have to be a full-time commitment, and it's a chance to do stuff you wouldn't otherwise have the chance to."

The group meet every two weeks to discuss upcoming events and decide which charities will benefit. "We always have three, one local, one national and one international," said Ms Wright. "People give presentations about charities they think we should fundraise for and then we vote, it's not the exec who decide. I think people don't always realise that if there's a charity they feel passionately about they can get us to support it."

Although RAG Week is the main event in the group's calendar they have several others coming up: they are planning a possible bungee jump next term and will be participating in Lancaster's Beerfest at the Town Hall in Week Eight.

Referendum on LUSU's 'strategic direction' lacks any formal opposition

by **Chris Davis**
News Editor

THURSDAY WEEK EIGHT, as well as being polling day for the LUSU's sabbatical elections, will also see students invited to vote on a motion that will shape the development of their union. The motion, that LUSU should adopt the recently formulated document 'A more Relevant, Representing and Sustainable Union' as its new strategic direction, will go to a referendum, and all union members will be able to vote on whether to adopt the strategy or reject it.

Although expected to be less contentious, this referendum on the union's future direction follows other reforms that were on the agenda earlier this academic year. The widely debated Sabbatical Review, a dramatic restructuring of the union's sabbatical team, was passed at a General Meeting of over 500 students held in week nine of last term. This referendum is the result of earlier constitutional reforms passed last academic year, which came into effect on January 12.

LUSU's constitution states that every time 'a new long term plan' for the development of the union is proposed, it should be approved by referendum. The motion needs 800 yeas votes, as well as a two-thirds majority to pass.

Nobody turned up to form the official 'No' campaign against the referendum proposal, when meetings were held last Wednesday.

LUSU's strategic plan is based around three key objectives: increasing the relevance of the union to students, representing students more effectively, and improving the union's environmental and financial sustainability.

To achieve these objectives, the plan proposes a range of initiatives, such as securing better facilities for students, extending the union's visibility across campus, increasing the positive profile of students across the city and within the local community, and limiting the union's negative environmental and ethical impact. All of these initiatives come under the umbrella of the union's new mission of 'securing representation, support, opportunities, and services for Lancaster students'. An online debate, hosted on democracy.lusu.co.uk has been set up to allow students to present their views of the union's strategic plans, but it has so far attracted little attention.

The motion was formally proposed by LUSU President, Michael Payne, and seconded by SCAN Editor, Dan Hogan. Mr Payne said "This is about where LUSU is heading for the next three years. It is vitally important that students use this opportunity to decide upon the long term future of their students union."

Students are able to vote on the motion on Thursday of week eight, from 10am to 6pm in their college's porter's lodge, and up until 8pm in the LUSU building.

Uni agrees to work with students over colleges

President of Cartmel JCR, Robbie Pickles, also saw the move as a positive. He said: "The working group being set up by the Vice-Chancellor is a positive step in the right direction. It shows that the University has listened to its students and is concerned about the future of the colleges. It means that the Save the Bars campaign was a success."

The Lancaster University Labour Club, who have been actively engaged in the college campaign, were also pleased with the Vice-Chancellor's decision. Richard Bennett, the Club's Campaigners Officer said: "This is a significant step forward, if and only if the University intends this as an opportunity to listen to students. If not,

it is meaningless exercise designed to stifle criticism and ignore students. It is also important that LUSU is prepared to engage with and listen to its membership about the future of their college bars, other college facilities and their college itself. Our campaign has widespread student backing, as well as support from alumni, lecturers, college staff and members of University Court, such as Councillor Eileen Blamire and Clive Grunshaw. Such a coalition cannot be ignored."

The exact agenda of the group has yet to be decided on, however the College Tutor System has been highlighted as one area of concern for students. The involvement of non-academic staff in the SCRs may also be brought up. College bars and social space, al-

though likely to be debated, will not however be the main focus of the group. It is currently being taken up by the Bars Advisory Group as a separate issue. "This is not about the price of a pint," said Mr. Payne. "This is about the colleges, and how they will be in the future."

According to Professor Chetwynd the working group will include "JCR and SCR representatives to look at ways of enhancing the vitality of the Colleges for all students. Recommended actions from the review will be considered by the joint committee and any actions not within the powers of this group will be forwarded to UMAG (University Management Advisory Group) for routing to relevant parties."

As well as the working group a

separate review is also underway into the role of the colleges in academic life. This review is likely to recommend that any barriers preventing academic staff from engaging with the colleges, be removed within reason. It is also like to cite the diversity of populations within colleges and suggest that more be done to cater for different tastes.

In a recent survey carried out by the University on student experience at Lancaster, almost 80 per cent of home undergraduates said they were satisfied with the events put on by their colleges. International students however, were mostly unsatisfied.

Professor Chetwynd will be setting up a MyPlace site for student to discuss ways to "enhance the Lancaster Colleges" and welcomes any ideas.



THE sugarhouse
www.thesugarhouse.co.uk

GET SHAGG-ED EVERY WEEK!

Vice-Chancellor made chair of research unis' lobby group

by Chris Davis and Dan Hogan

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF Lancaster University, Professor Paul Wellings, has been announced as the new chair of the 1994 Group of research-led Universities. Professor Wellings will take over from Professor Steve Smith, Vice-Chancellor of Exeter University, in August.

The 1994 Group is an organisation of eighteen research based universities across of the UK. Membership of the group allows these universities to promote their collective interests, respond to government policies, and share research methods and practice. As chair of the group, Wellings will act as its national spokesperson, representing its interests to the government and the general public.

Prof. Wellings has been Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster since 2002, when he took over from Prof. Bill Ritchie. He is currently also chair of the Research and Innovation committee at the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce), as well as being a board member of Universities UK, and chair of its International and European Policy Committee.

In a statement, Wellings said: "I am proud and excited to be entrusted with leading the 1994 Group at a crucial time for the higher education sector."

Speaking to SCAN yesterday, Prof. Wellings explained what he saw as the priorities for the group. He spoke of the need for institutions like Lancaster to have input into the government proposals on the future of universities that are expected from the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills. "[That] will be really important because it will set the shape of the re-

search and educational landscape for the next 15 years," he said. "We need to make sure that universities like Lancaster - research strong campus-based universities - get dealt with and our policy views get integrated into that."

He also spoke of the need to continue the group's focus on the 'student experience'. He said: "Second [in the group's priorities] is making sure that the student experience... as a theme actually plays through. I know from listening to [universities secretary] John Denham yesterday, he was very clear

In the hot seat: Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wellings, soon to be chair of the 1994 group.



that we should understand the experience of undergraduates and postgraduates and also British and international students.

"That whole student experience thing is actually a very complex and rich area to look into."

Prof. Wellings is set to take office at the start of August, serving for three years and will take up the position at a difficult time for the Higher Education sector. Amidst the current economic crisis, Universities across the country have been put under increased financial pressure.

LUSU president, Michael Payne, said: "this is surely a positive step forward for Lancaster University and LUSU is looking forward to being party to the new insights that will be obtained regarding comparative institutions. I sincerely hope that the Vice Chancellor will continue Steve Smith's commitment to improving the student experience."

Infolab professor helps link up Chernobyl

by Lizzie Houghton News Editor

A PROFESSOR AT Lancaster University has helped design a wireless broadband system which will allow inhabitants of the Ukrainian town of Slavutych to connect to the internet for the first time.

Slavutych was built after the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident in 1986 to provide evacuated workers with a place to live. However, a lack of internet access has hampered the towns development over the past two decades. It is hoped the new internet system - part of a £750,000 project by the British government to rejuvenate the area - will encourage more businesses to invest in the area, and increase the population.

The wireless system was in part designed by Professor Garik Markarian, a member of the Department of Communication Systems at Infolab21. He said: "We asked people what they wanted from the internet and it was a long list from banking to publishing. This system has created wireless hotspots around Slavutych as well as a public access centre for those who do not have computers at home. The work was carried out by a local company with the value-added services such as video broadcast being delivered by Rinicom, a technology company in Lancaster."

The investment comes as part of the government's 'Social and Economic Consequences of Nuclear Power Plant Closure Programme' programme, which in turn forms part of a larger programme addressing the chemical, biological and nuclear legacy of the Former USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

Larisa Nikitenko,, Director of the Slavutych Business Development Agency, said: "We expect the population of the town to double as business-

es create jobs facilitated by the new ICT system, which will be operated by a "social enterprise", so the profits will go back into the local community."

The Chernobyl nuclear disaster happened on April 26 1986 when one of the four nuclear reactors at the Chernobyl power plant exploded. Unlike most reactors, the Chernobyl ones were not housed in reinforced concrete, meaning when the reactor exploded large amounts of radioactive material escaped - releasing more than 100

times the radiation dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. The station is currently encased in a sarcophagus to prevent more waste escaping. Plans are underway to build new shelter, costing £600m, to replace the old one which is feared to be unsafe.

Traces of radioactive material from Chernobyl have been found in almost every country in the northern hemisphere. Even today parts of Britain still face post-Chernobyl controls.



Building bridges: It is hoped that the wireless technology developed at the Infolab will lead to a doubling of the population of Slavutych.

Survey reveals dissatisfaction with LUSU's work with JCRs

- Students satisfied with opportunities given
- Postgrads and international students feel left out of communications

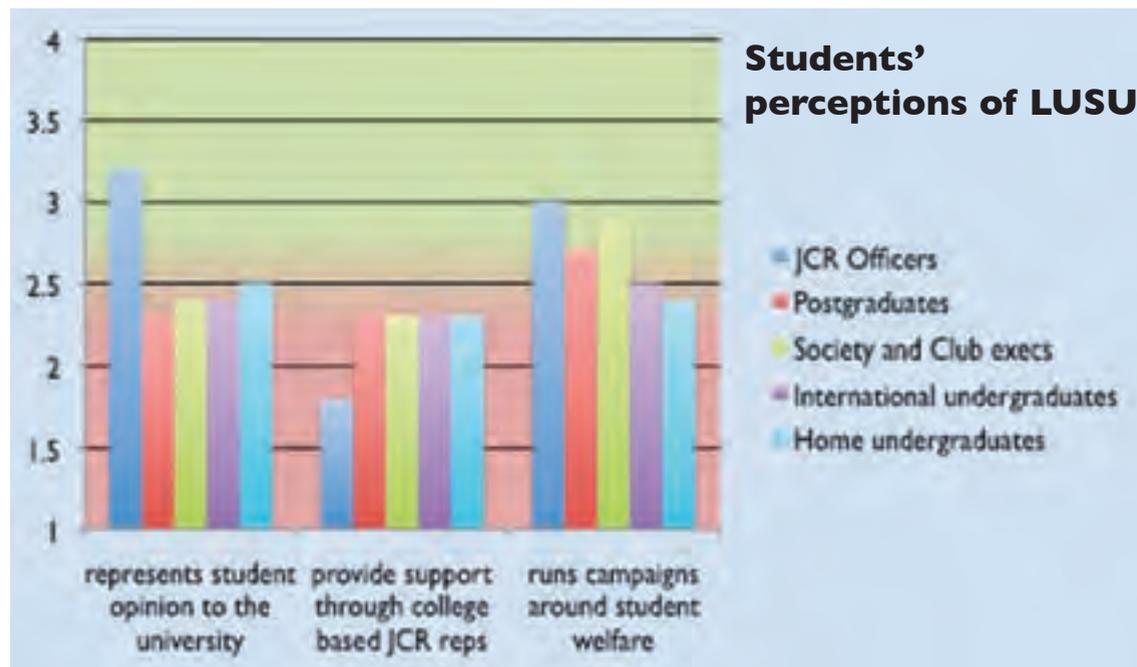
by Graham Harwood

THE RESULTS OF LUSU's student perception survey, which aims to discover what different groups of students across campus think of the services LUSU offer, were revealed earlier this month. The survey seeks to improve the relationship between the union and its students, getting feedback from JCR officers, postgraduate students, club and society exec members, international undergraduates and home undergraduates.

Overall, the survey indicated positive results for the union, with respondents as a whole suggesting satisfaction with the efforts of LUSU. However, there appear to be major concerns among the general student body regarding LUSU support through the colleges'

JCR reps, and particularly their officers. In response to this, Michael Payne, LUSU President, stated: "We have several new structures, committees and ways of involving reps in the decision making process within the Union and I am confident we will see the benefit of these in our next surveys." He continued to claim that "this year we have adopted an open, honest and mature communication policy with JCRs, bringing them in discussions about Union finances, facilities, commercial services and representation."

Another area for concern was the representation of Postgraduate students. General Secretary Janie Coleman commented on the Postgraduate response, expressing that it is "understandable" that they feel a "lack of support" as they have no representative until one is elected at the end of the Michaelmas term. Actions are now in



place as there are now two GSA representatives and elections will be taking place at different points in the year, ensuring that there should always be an appointed rep. International students also raised questions about their levels of representation, an issue that has featured widely in LUSU discussions and strategy over previous months.

Indeed, throughout all demographic groups taking part in the survey, support from JCR reps and student representation were consistently identified as the Union's weaker points. However, several extremely positive factors were also revealed; generally, students expressed satisfaction at the opportunities to form and join societies and to

play competitive sports, as well as with the entertainment provided by the Sugarhouse. However, one problem when analysing the results is the different ratios of students representing each group, as no accurate comparisons can be made between them, although candidates have been excluded who did not fill in all fields of the survey.

Islamic Society holds week of talks to further better understanding



Misunderstood: Despite the negative stigma often attached to it, Islam is not an inherently violent religion.

by Rob Maidstone

LAST WEEK WAS Islamic Week at Lancaster University. Heralded as a big success by its organisers, a wide range of people turned up to the week's many events, which sought to offer a better understanding of the religion.

President of the Islamic Society, Faye Almani, was pleased with the success of the week saying that he "would like to thank everyone who attended, the speakers and the rest of the committee."

The event, hosted by Lancaster University Islamic Society, consisted of five talks, one on each day. The talks were aimed at both helping people, both Muslim and Non-Muslim, gain a greater understanding of Islam.

Each evening opened with a short introduction from a member of the Islamic Society and a reading from the Qur'an. Then came the talk from the main speaker of the evening, which

was followed by a question and answer session.

The topic of the first talk was 'Is Islam a Violent Religion?' This was given by Ajmal Masroor. Mr. Masroor is a member of the Muslim Council of Britain and an experienced broadcaster. He began his talk by stating that, in the literal sense of the word "Islam means peace". This was the general theme for his talk. He backed his opinion up with passages from the Qur'an and told the audience "there's not a single verse in the Qur'an which condones violence". He then went on to discuss Islamic terrorists saying that they are "barbaric" and have no place in a Muslim society.

Tuesday saw Hamza Tzortzis, an international lecturer and author, come to Lancaster to discuss the topic, 'Does God Exist? An Islamic Perspective'. Mr. Tzortzis presented his two main arguments for belief in God's existence. His first was a cosmological argument, saying that the start of the Universe had to have a cause. He argued that this cause could not be mechanical as "from nothing, nothing comes" and that the only other explanation was a divine one.

Mr Tzortzis' second argument was based on the Qur'an. He said that the Qur'an was the "peek of eloquence" and the language devices it contained are both superior to the Arabic writings of the time and Arabic writings since. Because of this, the Qur'an was a "miracle in itself" and proof of God.

Wednesday night was the mosque open evening. This took place in the Islamic Prayer Rooms on South-East Drive. Participants were invited to look around followed by a curry dinner. There was also a short talk given by Bashar Takruri, a member of the University's Islamic Society, on 'Why Muslims Care about Palestine'.

The fourth talk of the week, was taken by Raana Bokhari. This lecture was on 'Man-Made Women? Islam and Women'. Ms. Bokhari is a PhD student in Religious Studies at Lancaster. During the talk she described the debate amongst Qur'anic scholars about Islam woman; "Was women created for

man?"

She explained how many different meanings can be read into the Qur'an and how, in her view, many the verses relating to women's rights are subject to interpretation. Ms. Bokhari then told the audience how the West's view of the treatment of Islamic women was unjustified. She explained how Islamic women "are very visible in the pages of history" and that wearing the veil is a "choice not a compulsion".

Concluding the week, was a lecture on 'Islam and the West: Where's the Problem?' by Idris Tawfiq, a former Roman Catholic priest. Mr. Tawfiq expressed his opinion that relations between Islam and the West were currently quite bad, but "improving all the time". He went on to suggest that the current generation of Islamic youth in the UK "needs leaders" to give them a strong peaceful identity in the modern world.

One World Week to highlight global issues

by a SCAN Reporter

WEEK NINE WILL see the return of One World Week to Lancaster's campus. The Week will feature a number of events, all run by students. Its aim is to increase awareness of global environmental and social issues, as well as celebrating the diverse world we live in.

Nat Walker, Chair of One World Week, explains: "These events highlight and promote a variety of issues which students feel are of relevance and importance to the wider world, the one world we have. This year we are considering issues of diversity, conflict, water provision, social justice, equality, environment and many more, there are a range of different events to get involved with, so please feel welcome to share with others your vision of a better world."

The Week will be launched on Monday March 8 with a barbecue outside of the Chaplaincy Centre. There will also be an art display set to demonstrate to link between Bangladesh and global warming. Other planned events include stalls and protests in Alexandra Square. The protest, organised by the People and Planet society and scheduled for the Tuesday of the Week, is against the University's ties with companies such as BAE, the defence and arms company.

The University's Amnesty International Society will also be campaigning. Their aim is to raise awareness of 'rape as a weapon of war'.

Also planned is a mass commuter cycle ride from Lancaster. This is joined by a free breakfast and raffle for staff members who pledge to cycle or walk to work on March 12. £10 Pough Inn gift certificates will also be handed out to all cyclists and walkers entering the University via the cycle path on North Drive on that day. High visibility vest will also be given out in Alexandra Square between 11am - 2pm.

ISS prepares for office relocation

by Ashutosh Kumar

ISS, THE UNIVERSITY'S central IT services department, is set to move to a new location later in the year. The office will be shifted to 2,500 metre, three storey building sited inside the perimeter road to the north of Infobal 21, the ICT centre of excellence situated at the south west of the campus. The development is set to consolidate most current ISS services, and to provide office accommodation for over 100 staff.

It is expected that the new building

will be handed over to the University in mid-June, with ISS commencing the move in August. The work was started in January 2008 but the handover, originally planned for April 2009, has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. The IT equipment currently located in the Computer Centre will be moved in phases from August 2009 and, it is hoped, will be completed by February 2010. The development has cost £10m to build, and is set to achieve a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) excellence rating.

Work on the new building began in

January of 2008. Projections of how the completed building is set to look are currently available on the University Estates website, at www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/estates/projects/iss.htm. Students can also watch the construction of the building live via a webcam located on the roof of the Infobal.

The ISS Service Desk and the ResNet workshop are set to remain on the ground floor of the library, even after the completion of ISS's move to its new premises. It is also expected that ISS will be able to provide normal service throughout its change of location.

Champion of tuition fees dies, age 78

Ron Dearing, a long standing civil servant instrumental in persuading the government to introduce tuition fees, has died from cancer. He was aged 78.

Dearing's report, entitled "Higher Education in the Learning Society", was published in 1997, at a time when the Higher Education sector was facing a variety of challenges, One of these was a dramatic increase in student numbers, a situation that left many Universities significantly underfunded. The report called for this to be addressed by charging students to study, and established the now familiar systems of set tuition

fees and student loans. However, Dearing did maintain that it should only be wealthier students who were made to pay fees, suggesting that poorer students should still receive grants from the government to fund their study.

The newly elected Labour Government chose not to follow this principle, introducing means-tested tuition fees for all students. Dearing is now widely credited with rejuvenating the Higher Education sector and greatly improving the quality of research and teaching. He was knighted in 1983, and was made a peer for life in 1998.

E-voting approved in principle after extensive UC debate

by **Samantha Newsham**
Deputy News Editor

THE UNION COUNCIL has voted to allow the use of electronic voting in elections. The new system will enable voting to take place on and off campus via a computer.

The aim of the motion, put forward by the Elections Sub-Committee and proposed by LUSU General Secretary Janie Coleman, is to widen participation in student elections. Ms. Coleman made a presentation to the Council listing the considerations that the ESC, of which she is chair, had taken into account when proposing the motion. These included greater flexibility and accessibility of elections and less scope for human error, but also highlighted the need to ensure the security of the system.

In her presentation Ms. Coleman observed that the use of the electronic system would allow the ESC to identify groups of students with low participation rates and target them in future elections.

Lancaster has a turnout of approximately 20% in student elections, a figure considerably higher than some

universities.

Speaking against the motion, SCAN Editor Dan Hogan asked if the aim was to widen participation, why not look at methods of tackling apathy? He stressed the need to remember the buzz created for many students by casting their votes at the polling station, which would be lost under an electronic system.

The subject of e-voting has been under discussion for several years. A considerable amount of research has been done, both into the ways it would be implemented at Lancaster and the success it has had at other universities, but this is the first time it has been brought before the Council.

Following the presentation, the debate was opened to the floor. Inevitably the issues of security and technological failure concerned many people. Ms. Coleman reassured the Council that the ESC would do everything in its power to ensure that the system was safe from hackers.

Another concern, raised by Tom Mackrory, Vice-President of Cartmel College, was the potential to influence voters. Under the current system candidates are forbidden from entering the porters' lodges on polling day. Howev-



er, as Mr. Mackrory pointed out, if voting could take place in student rooms it would be difficult to prevent candidates gaining access to residences.

One suggestion that found favour with many Council members was to have electronic polling stations. This would combine the advantages of the computer system with the opportunity to observe students as they vote.

In response to Mr. Hogan's men-

tion of the 'buzz' generated by casting votes, LUSU President Michael Payne suggested that this could equally be created by candidates getting out and speaking to as many students as possible during the campaign period.

A vote was taken and the motion in favour of e-voting was passed subject to a detailed description of how it will be implemented being brought to the Council in Week Nine.

Speaking about the decision after the meeting, Ms. Coleman told SCAN: "I'm happy as the Union Council agreed with the principle of our proposal and said we can now go forward but am a little disappointed people got caught up with the technological issues. It's not about that, it's about reaching out to as many students as we can."

Electronic engagement:
LUSU's Election Sub-Committee believes that electronic voting will make it easier for student to vote and that it will broaden participation in elections.

THE ONLY WAY TO RUIN WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

FUSION TUESDAYS
AT CUBA LANCASTER

JOIN US EVERY WEEK FOR THE
BIGGEST, MESSIEST
STUDENT NIGHT
LANCASTER HAS TO OFFER
BUY A BOTTLE GET A SHOT FREE!



PARTY GAMES
DRINKS OFFERS
EVERY WEEK
SEE YOU THERE
YES?!



Open Your Mind to Postgraduate Opportunities at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston

Our postgraduate programmes are founded on the very latest research and benefit from close links with industry, giving graduates all the skills they need to move up the career ladder. You can choose from an exhaustive range of courses, some of which can be studied on line, and there's the chance to get involved in real projects with industry.

For further details visit our Postgraduate Advice Afternoon on Thursday 26th February from 3-6pm or call 01772 892400 or visit www.uclan.ac.uk/pg



VOICE YOUR OPINION IN THE ONLINE DEBATE

The new LUSU constitution states that our students should decide the strategic direction of our Union each time a new Strategic Plan is formulated. Therefore do you agree that the document; "A more Relevant, Representing and Sustainable Union" should be adopted as LUSU's strategic direction for the years 2009-2012? Yes or No?

democracy.lusu.co.uk/referenda

Post-'92 former polytechnics may revert to type

- **Newer universities to focus on providing vocational degrees**
- **Government aims to get more students from poor background**

THE GOVERNMENT ARE to try and change the role played by post-'92 universities, according to Universities secretary John Denham.

Former polytechnical colleges, which were granted university status in 1992, will be told to focus on providing vocational degrees in practical subjects, a position that they traditionally occupied before the 1992 reforms. The news came to light in an interview with the Sunday Times last week.

Denham will present these proposals as part of a review of Higher Education set to take place this summer. It is expected that he will announce the introduction of a completely new vocational degree, aimed at students with NVQ's rather than A-levels. By focusing on providing practical qualifications rather than imitating the degree schemes presented by research-led institutions, Denham believes that the Higher Education sector can become more "flexible".

However, this is also part of the government's wider aim to address class inequality within the University system. The government is keen to attract students from poorer backgrounds into Higher Education, and views the offering of vocational qualifications as a possible way of achieving this.

Denham feels that it is the explicit role of the post-92 Universities to be at the forefront of this initiative. This, he feels, would take the pressure off higher achieving Universities to ensure that they take in a certain amount of poorer, less qualified students.

"Institutions that take most of the students who would not traditionally have gone to university are in a different position from those that are most research-intensive and selective" Den-

ham stated, in an interview with the Sunday Times. "We are not expecting those places to be the major places for widening participation".

The announcement of these reforms is set to cause controversy across the Higher Education sector. Many have criticised the suggestion that Universities across the UK can be simply 'divided' into two different categories, each performing a different role. Indeed, the results of the recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) indicated that many of the newer Universities contained 'pockets of excellence' in specific departments. For example, De Montfort University, a former polytechnic, was ranked 10th in the UK for English, the same as the top-ranked University, Cambridge.

Indeed, the proposed reforms signal a significant reversal in the government's attitude to post-92 institutions. Previously, they had championed the research credentials of former polytechnics. But following the RAE, they have been pressurised by the elite 'Russell Group' of research led Universities, who refuted suggestions that research funding should be spread more evenly.

Wendy Piatt, director-general of the Russell Group, told the Times that "It is essential we bolster Britain's critical mass of research excellence, rather than try to spread limited cash more thinly. Only truly top-flight institutions will attract and keep the international pioneers in their fields."

Post-92 Universities look unlikely to embrace their new role, especially if it means a cut in funding. The nearby University of Cumbria recently announced up to 80 job losses, due to financial difficulties.

Increased visa fees may discourage non-EU students



by Chris Davis
News Editor

VICE CHANCELLORS ACROSS the country have warned that the recent increase in Visa fees could have a detrimental effect on higher education in the UK. They are concerned that the increase in cost of applying for a Visa could prevent international students from choosing to study in the UK, and that the result will be a significant blow to Britain's Higher Education sector.

International students have become an increasingly valuable asset for UK universities, both academically and financially. As well as bringing their knowledge and skills, foreign students are often charged vastly inflated tuition fees. The determination of universities in the UK to recruit from abroad has led to a dramatic increase in the international student population, something that has been exaggerated further by the weakness of the pound in the international money market.

One in five degrees awarded by British universities last year went to an international student. More than 50,000 started an undergraduate degree in 2008, with a similar number

beginning postgraduate courses. Whilst last year saw international student numbers rise by over 4%, the number of home students experienced a 1% fall.

Although universities are keen to attract international students, fears have been raised that the Higher Education sector is in danger of becoming too dependent on them as a source of revenue. Professor Malcolm Gillies, vice-chancellor of City University, London, stated that the effect could be 'cataclysmic'. Furthermore, UK Universities are facing increasing competition from Australia and the US, both of whom have increased efforts to recruit students from Europe and the far East. Diana Warwick, chief executive of Universities UK, claimed to be 'disappointed' at the visa fee hike. Talking to the Guardian, she stated that "the UK government is in serious danger of sending out a message that it does not welcome international students".

The Home Office has increased the fee for applying for a visa to study in the UK in 2009-10 from £99 to £145. Visa fees for extensions via postal applications in the UK will increase from £295 to £357, and in-person applications from £500 to £565, with additional costs for dependents.

Lancaster's banana binge to be part of world's biggest

AS PART OF Fairtrade Fortnight (February 23 - March 8), GreenLancaster will be taking in the world's biggest banana eating event, *Go Bananas*. The event, which has been co-ordinated by the Fairtrade Foundation, will be held on March 6 in Alexandra Square between 12-3pm.

The Fortnight will also include an ethical fashion show, (Thursday Week 7 in County Bar). The show will feature only fairtrade clothing, with the aim of reminding students that there are alternatives to chainstore clothes which are often produced by exploited workers. Fairtrade stalls will also be set up in Alex Square on the Tuesdays and Thursdays of Weeks 7 & 8.

Roughly a third of humanity survive on less than \$2 a day. Fairtrade Fortnight is set to highlight their plight, encouraging people to buy fairtrade goods which ensure that the workers who produced them get a decent day's wage. Through work done by GreenLancaster, the University and Union now stocks fairtrade products in retailing and catering outlets across campus. It is now asking students to lobby their departments to ensure they use fairtrade good as well.

Gallon Challenge returns to Fylde Bar

The Gallon Challenge is returning to Fylde Bar this Saturday (February 28). Tickets will be available from 5.45pm at the bar on the day. All ticket holders will receive a Gallon Challenge t-shirt and pint mug. Those who manage to down a Gallon will have their name get their name placed on the Gallon Challenge boards in the bar. Drinks this year are as follows: Strongbow; Guniess; Black Car; Directors; Tetley's Cask; Moor House Premiere; Tetley's Smooth; and Carlsberg/Fosters.

New director for public arts promises to work with students

by Chris Davis
News Editor

A NEW 'DIRECTOR of Public Arts' has been appointed by the University, in an effort to expand the role that art, music, and theatre plays across campus. Matt Fenton, former director of the University's Nuffield Theatre, will take on the newly created position with the aim of "developing new strands of activity that are exciting, contemporary, and more visible".

The Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (LICA), recently rated joint first in the country by the Research Assessment Exercise, has an impressive public arts profile, boasting the Lancaster International Concert Series, the Nuffield Theatre, and the

Peter Scott Art Gallery. However, Mr Fenton is aware that few students are fully aware of the activities and events presented by LICA. "A lot of students don't know the Public Arts exists," Mr Fenton said, "and part of that is down to the way the Great Hall is used. If we are going to make art at Lancaster less exclusive and more visible, we are going to have to bring it directly to the students".

Part of Mr Fenton's plan for achieving this is greater use of the public, open spaces across campus. He stressed the potential for artistic performances and activity to allow students to "re-imagine the campus", and the possibilities of making it a place "for wonder and for spectacle". Although no concrete plans are yet in place, he has ideas for a number of themed events that will

stretch across all artistic mediums.

Mr Fenton is hoping students will play a part in this process, and he is particularly keen to work more closely with societies across campus. He is confident that, through working with



New direction:
Matt Fenton is hoping to engage more students in Lancaster's Arts.

LUSU, he can acquire "consultation and advice from the student body", allowing him to develop Public Art events around the desires of students.

Dance Society's Debut

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY DANCE Society will be holding its first 'Debut' Dance Show on Saturday, February 28. It is billed as an evening of "pure dance entertainment" and will feature from performances from LUDanS, the Ballroom Dancing Society and the Hip-hop Breakdance Society. Speaking on behalf of the LUDanS exec President Stephi Theodosiou, and Vice-President Pippa Welch, said the evening will "suit everyone's taste." The evening will be hosted by the unique Michael Holt, and feature a range of dance styles from ballet to breakdance. There will also be another chance to see the *BLancaster Does Strictly Come Dancing*.

Tickets are available now for collection from the Nuffield Box Office, or call 01524 594151; £7 for adults, £5 for concessions. The evening starts at 7.30pm, The Nuffield Theatre.

Free theatre tickets for under-26s

The Nuffield Theatre, along with the Dukes Theatre in Lancaster, will be giving away £30,000 worth of free theatre tickets, as part of a national scheme to encourage more young people to engage with the arts. Arts Council England will be giving away a total of 618,000 free theatre tickets to under 26 year olds over the next two years. The scheme is being funded by a £2.5m grant from the government.

The scheme - named A Night Less Ordinary - was launched earlier in the month, and has already enabled young people to see for free performed by the likes of a Royal Shakespeare Company and has been backed by a number of stage actors. Rupert Penry-Jones, star of *Spooks* and former member of the RCS said: "with the recession making nights out more of a luxury, here's something really different young people can enjoy for free."

The candidate interviews

SCAN WANTED TO do something different for this year's sabbatical elections. We thought that SCAN needed to challenge candidates, and question their motivations, their policies and their abilities. We thought that the electorate needed not only to read who the candidates were and what they wanted to achieve, but scrutiny

of those candidates and their pledges. We thought that since the candidates are not allowed to criticise their opponents weaknesses, we should fill that void, in order to give voters the chance to make a better informed decision of who deserves their support a the ballot box.

So, we set out to do something that

SCAN hasn't done before: interview every candidate in the Sabbatical elections, quiz them about why their experience is relevant and ask them how they intend to implement their wonderfully pie-in-the-sky ideas.

On the next few pages, there are interviews of the candidates for LUSU President and for Vice-President (Media & Communications / SCAN Editor),

together with precis of the candidates statements for the Finance, Events, Democracy & Societies, Academic Affairs, Equality, Welfare & Diversity, and Sports roles.

The interviews for the other four positions will appear on scan.lusu.co.uk throughout the coming week.

Dan Hogan
Editor

Rob Miller
Assistant Editor

Liz Houghton
News Editor

Chris Davis
News Editor

Sam Newsham
Deputy News Editor

Oliver Holmes
Sports Editor

for more sabbatical elections coverage go to
scan.lusu.co.uk/elections

LUSU President



Peter Slaney

College
Carmel

Degree subject
Law

Proposer
Edwin Burrows (Furness)

Second
Toby Cordwell (Furness)

- **Make Sabbs accountable**
- **'Scare' students into seeking employment help**
- **Look to donate wages back into Union**
- **Review JCRs & Non-Sabb roles**

PETER SLANEY WANTS a Student Union that is accountable to its members. He wants Sabbs to be in it for the good of the students, not for themselves. To this end he said he is personally looking into donating a third of his

potential wages to RAG or LUSU.

"I would like to earn the trust [of students] personally as the face of LUSU," he said. "It's something I've thought seriously about and I think we do need to start making stands and doing things to try and convince the students that we can be trusted and that we're not acting out of our own self-interest."

Slaney has never held a position in the Union before, but he is not deterred. "I'm quite good when it comes to throwing myself into new organisations," he said.

With no Union experience to fall back on, Slaney pointed to experiences he'd had before starting university to demonstrate his capabilities. "I did some work while I was at school as a tenancy rep, where you have a situation where the tenants are customers of the

people in charge ... I would see it [negotiating with the University] more along those lines."

Slaney said he had six major policies, outlining four of them. Talking about the college bars he suggested, while he stands by nine college bars, setting up a committee of JCR and licensees which would "buy the products in bulk, thus giving us economies of scale". A similar scheme was attempted by Bowland.

Having previously said on graduate employability that he would "scare" students into action with the realities of work after University, he conceded that this was the "more extreme side".

"After you leave you don't have a guaranteed job," he said. "Rather than trying to ensure we give the students a very nice relaxed time ... I think they would appreciate us being honest with

them and trying to push and motivate them, and I think that's what's in the best interests of the students."

As he is planning on giving up a third of his wages, Slaney is "quite concerned" by rising rent prices. In his opinion "LUSU should make a declaration that, if there is any rent rise over the rate of inflation ... that LUSU should strongly oppose it in all negotiations." He plans to make the University back down by pointing out to them that students will move off-campus if they find it is cheaper.

Slaney also makes the point that the Union should be "in all cases fighting against the University on rent rises and other economic problems", although he later went on to adopt a more conciliatory tone, saying how important it is that LUSU be seen as reasonable by the University, and not "an opponent that must be overcome."

Speaking about under represented groups, he highlighted postgraduates and students who live off-campus as his main target areas. He suggested the creation of more non-sabbatical officers for both groups. He also conceded that international students were under represented, but was "very careful" about suggesting policies as he doesn't "want to create a situation where some groups are over represented over others. "I'm very careful about opening up committees which serve the interests of a small minority and are then seen as

prejudicing large groups. One person shouldn't have a stronger voice in any sort of debate, but these voices should be more clearly heard."

Slaney admitted that he wasn't very involved in his college, but did offer his thoughts on the general make-up of the college JCRs. "The JCRs are something which we need to look to," he said. "There's no clear reforms at the moment because of the strength of the JCRs, and people who have been JCRs. They feel very protective towards these institutions and possibly are less likely to be looking into reforms." He again suggested the possibility of creating more new non-sabb roles to bridge the gap between JCR education and welfare officers and LUSU, "bringing in LUSU officers working with the colleges in a partnership rather than the JCRs having to go to LUSU and then back and forth, back and forth."

Finally Slaney admitted to feeling like LUSU was no longer a democratic institution, because of the low turn-out in elections. "The elections don't matter," he commented, "and therefore aren't happening and thus it [the Union] loses legitimacy, and when you have an institution which is lacking legitimacy governing it feels unfair." His remedy to this is to have LUSU "earn the trust of the students. We need to take actions. Perhaps we need to be more open ... it would make us more accountable."

Main Rd, Galgate, Just off Jct 33 M6

25% OFF MAIN MEALS
12.00 - 2.30pm. valid for up to 4 people
ON PRODUCTION OF THIS VOUCHER

The Plough
COUNTRY PUB & DINING ROOM

Tel: 01524 751337 www.the-plough.co.uk



Michael Payne

College
Cartmel (Graduated)

Degree subject
Law

Proposer
Robbie Pickles (Cartmel)

Secunder
Andy Johnston (County)

- Promote 'policies, proactivism and participation'
- A 'constructive solution' to graduate employability
- Engage with 'disenfranchised groups'
- Ready from day one

IT WOULD BE a mistake to presume that Michael Payne's message for this campaign is 'more of the same'. Payne's standing ground this year as a LUSU Presi-

dential candidate is all about "policies, proactivism and participation".

Candidate Payne's reasons for running again for the position of LUSU President are simple. "I've got the experience ... and I've still got the drive," he said. "I still want to represent students and it would seem right to give them another opportunity to elect me as their President."

There have been those who have criticised Payne for standing in this election. To them his response is "free and fair elections in the student union: anyone has the right to stand, all members have the right to vote." He elaborated: "The elections are about issues and students. They're not about me or my ego or anyone else's ego. I'm here to talk about issues and that's what I will be doing."

Payne spoke thoroughly on what he believed these issues are. When asked he cited more engagement with "disenfranchised groups" - such as Graduates and International students - "massive engagement" with this year's higher-education bill, a review of the Union's non-sabbatical officer structure and the "Achilles' heel" of the University, graduate employability.

"It's wrong to just sit here and criticise the University [on graduate employability]. I'll criticise the University's strategy but we should be coming forward with a constructive solution," Payne said. Outlining what his solution would be, Payne said he would aim to get more students involved in the project side of the Union, "teaching them skills", "getting them involved" and "giving them employability". One example he offered would be employing

students to dip sample postgraduates to find out why they aren't engaging in the Union. "Not only are we providing an employment opportunity," he said, "we're finding stuff out for the Union as well. So students are benefiting in more than one way."

Another avenue Payne said he would like to explore is communication between LUSU and those it represents, something which he feels the Union has been failing in for the last few years. Having been asked about the recent student/LUSU perception survey, he spoke of the need for a review on how the Union is "representing our students and championing their needs to the University."

"Are we relying as a Student Union on [communication] channels we've relied on for ten years?" he asked. "There are people out there who aren't activists and we shouldn't be ignoring their opinion ... It's simply not good enough to sit there and say we only care about people with purple cards or have signed up to be members of sports clubs."

Payne spoke great praise of the college JCRs and the work they do with the Union, saying this year the Union's relationship with them has been more "open, honest and mature" than ever before. He was however at pains to point out "this year we've not been a Union that holds peoples' hands and spoons feeds them, but rather gives people the opportunity - the spring-

board - to get involved in the Student Union, to take from the Union what they want".

One particular springboard students often want is campaigns, and Payne claims he is "ready to be campaigner in chief from day one".

"I think often there's a chance that people think a campaign should be something where there's a student protest outside," he explains. "Actually it's not. It's about a furtherance of your own agenda to secure something for students." Pointing to the Sabb review and the colleges campaigns as examples of where he's been actively involved, Payne explained that there are also a number, perceivably smaller issues, such as more space for societies which also need campaigning on. "You've got two things: you've got the very visible campaigns which are posters and protests, and then underneath you've got the day to day work which you do in order to secure the best possible student experience," he said. By providing the best student experience Payne feels he can make sure the Union is "relevant, representing and sustainable".

"The direction of the Student Union doesn't sit with me," he added. "It sits with the membership ... People are trusting me to make a decision on their behalf. It's about communication and collaboration ... A melding of minds will achieve much more than one individual banging a drum in the corner."

Pete MacMillan

- Engage Freshers right from the go
- Will be a 'figurehead' in the bars campaign
- Would consider setting up a postgrad Sabb
- Will 'sit and listen' to students with issues

PETE MACMILLAN ACKNOWLEDGES that he could be seen as "just another student officer going for Sabb role" but he hopes to show the student electorate that he is more than that. "I feel as though I'm not just any student officer," he said. "I feel as though I'm still in touch with the students and that I'll benefit from this as LUSU President."

MacMillan currently stands as the Union's Welfare Campaigns Non-sabbatical officer. He cites his involvement in the pharmacy campaign as his most noteworthy experience from the role as it "got me more involved with how the University itself works and as President you need to know that."

One thing he says he aims to do is rebuild the bond between students and Union. "You look at the positions that we have as a Student Union and the wide and vast [student body]," he said, "and everyone at this University has the capabilities to fulfil at least one of those roles. So we should be able to have contested elections. We shouldn't really have that kind of situation [uncontested elections] happening."

Listing off his policies, MacMillan pointed to the on-going debate about the colleges. For him, campaigning for this "all starts from Fresher's week, where people are new and seeing what the University's all about. We need to tell them 'look, the University's trying to destroy the college space to the detriment of your colleges'. The vast majority of students will have chosen Lancaster University because of the college system and if we say the University is threatening then most students will say 'well, I don't want to lose my college identity. Let's get behind it'."

He added: "Also I keep hearing that student want a leader on the issue of college bar space. I would be quite willing to take up that role." He added that he felt during the recent campaign, "there was no one figurehead saying 'right I'm going to lead this'. We needed one main figurehead who could lead and then we could follow. I'll step up to the plate." On the college working group, recently set up by the Union



College
County

Degree subject
Politics & Peace Studies

Proposer
Fraser Welsh (Graduate)

Secunder
Kate Fry (Furness)

and Senior Management, MacMillan agreed that "obviously the best way to get your ultimate aims is through negotiation and that's an excellent way to do it. But if we don't do it that way we have to make sure we get the students behind us and make sure the University hears them."

As well as the position he holds within the Union, MacMillan is also the Vice Chair of Lancaster's Labour Club. He admits that it had crossed his mind that this may put off potential voters of different political persuasions, but reasoned: "I'm not a Labour Club pin-up." One area in which this may raise concern is in MacMillan's own admission that the society has been "blacklisted" by the University. He felt confident however that this connection would not hamper his relationship with the University. "The society itself

was blacklisted but I personally wasn't blacklisted. I like to see myself as personable and friendly and quite diplomatic, and I'm not extremely militant like quite a few people in Labour club can be. Maybe that side of me would be seen quite well by the University."

Another area of negotiation would be tuition fees, on which MacMillan he pledged to take a "tough stance". He said he will "make sure that the University hears us and that we're very vocal. We need to keep the cap on tuition fees otherwise we'll lose quite a large demographic of our students."

Carrying on the theme of finance he said he would be supporting the NUS's 'Broke and Broken' campaign, as "we're [LUSU] an affiliated body to that [the NUS] and if they've got a very good campaign - and I do think it is a very good campaign - I don't see much point

to try something new. I'd just stick with the NUS campaign and maybe try our own little variation of it at LUSU."

Talking about postgraduate engagement with the Union, MacMillan was keen to stress what a large part he feels postgraduates play in the University. He said he would consider looking at setting up a postgraduate Sabbatical position to give the group better representation. "It's hard because I'm not myself a postgraduate, but I'd like to think that a postgrad would be able to come to me with any issue they have and I would take it higher." He also hopes to have regular officer hours for any student to come and talk about issues they are concerned about. There was also talk of rehashing JCR training so it better reflects what students want and need from their college representatives.

Vice-President (Media & Comms/SCAN)

Edwin Burrows



College
Furness

Degree subject
Psychology

Proposer
Peter Slaney (Cartmel)

Second
Toby Cordwell (Furness)

- **Campaigning to prevent 'censorship' of SCAN**
- **Media should act independent of LUSU**
- **Will 'review' way SCAN is run**
- **Will research student wish list**
- **Change reporting of LUSU elections**

EDWIN BURROWS GOT into this election to stop what he sees as the potential for censorship of the student media by LUSU's Union Council, claiming a section of the constitution that deals with mandating union officers could potentially be used to prevent certain views or information being published in SCAN.

His other motivation to run for the post is to make the most of the opportunity the new post of VP Media & Comms provides for improving Lancaster's student media. "I feel that Lancaster university has a good opportunity at having one of the best student media things there is possible, and I just want to make sure of that."

Among the first things he was quizzed on, was whether the potential for control by Union Council was real, given that interpretation given by the General Secretary is that it would be too difficult for Council to override the SCAN Editor's final say. He said: "It could be argued in future that because the ultimate control [of SCAN] lies with Union Council, if they were to put a mandate on [the SCAN Editor], that would override [the Editor's final say]"

"This Sabb team have chosen to it as the SCAN Editor has control, but in a future sabb team [that could be different]."

Burrows believes that despite LUSU's media not being independent, they should act as though they are. "It's not unknown to have had some sort of situation where you get some sort of corruption or cover-up, and you're supposed to have an independent media to make sure you can keep tabs and checks."

How does he plan to inspire enough people to tackle this problem? "I'd use my campaign from actually getting in to continue to motivate students to

come to a General Meeting and ask for the amendment to change [the constitution]."

On another constitutional issue, Burrows wants to look again at whether SCAN ought to be run by a paid sabbatical officer, or if the SCAN Editor's workload should be passed onto students. "I believe that the Sabbatical Review should continue continuously, because as a union we should always try to see if we can improve our services to students. I'm not saying straight away get rid of the position, I'm saying we should conduct a review."

Rather than set out his own ideas for SCAN, Burrows wants research conducted into what students want to see in the paper. But isn't the point of elections to choose between candidates with competing ideas? "I've had a number of ideas that would be good for SCAN, but if we're to stand and say 'I know exactly everything that should be in a student newspaper,' I would be a fool."

"A lot of the candidates you'll get [in these elections] will be talking about encouraging students to participate more... That's easier when you say 'yes I've got ideas, but I'm also wanting to show that I'm willing to take on other ideas.'"

However, sabbatical officers can't do an opinion poll whenever they have to make a decision, so Burrows was challenged to identify what his own ideas for the paper are. He pledged protection of sections of the paper, saying "The two things I will keep safeguarded from any research will be an unbiased news section, because being a student newspaper, news is essential, and the comment section."

Burrows also wants to challenge the way LUSU elections are covered by the student media, particularly by Bailrigg FM. According to him, Bailrigg is afraid of covering the elections and the issues candidates talk about. Issues deserve to be discussed, as long as that discussion is balanced. "At the moment, all that happens is we get sabb candidates in, and we'll get these questions that don't really look at the issues that much, like 'what do you do on the weekend?'"

"Sometimes issues get put on the back burner... because we can't actually examine the issues too much because there's too much control over it."

"If you want to talk about candidates, then have people in the room who will actually give a balanced overall show, because that's what the OFCOM regulations say anyway"

Liam Richardson



College
Graduate

Degree subject
English Literature

Proposer
Berni Denston (Bowland)

Second
Ben Nye (Bowland)

- **Wants to maintain topical news and comment**
- **Balance with entertainment**
- **Student media should be impartial**
- **New lifestyle section and better sports**
- **Has dealt with 'hard hitting issues' as Comment editor**

SCAN SHOULD BE entertaining, topical and relevant, according to current SCAN Comment editor, Liam Richardson.

He spoke of how his time editing the Bowland Lady gave him inspiration for how to run SCAN. "Over the ... two terms [years] I was elected [as magazine editor], we had a heck of a lot of different contributions, and the magazine grew in size. It gave me a lot of ideas on a small scale that I think could definitely transmit to a larger scale."

"One of my key skills is identifying the key strengths of other people and utilising them in the best way."

But writing and editing a college magazine is very different to the standard of journalism required in SCAN. When quizzed about his experience in writing news journalism, he talked about Bowland Lady's coverage of the issues surrounding the Learning Grid. "It was something that really affected the college, and it had to be handled very delicately because information was very scarce."

"In the Comment section... there is a definite role in synthesising and analysing different information and presenting it."

Would his view of the ideal SCAN as entertaining topical and relevant be any different to this year? "SCAN this year has definitely been very topical. It's covered some very serious issues that students should be made aware of." But Richardson would try to be more entertaining than the current SCAN. "I would try... to strike more of a balance between serious and lighter stuff. That wouldn't be to the detriment of the news section."

"News and comment are topical, they're relevant, they're hard hitting; that's what they've got to be."

To broaden the appeal of SCAN, Ri-

chardson wants to merge the Arts and Music sections into Culture, as well as improving sports coverage through "better communication with the AU and the different clubs."

"Another change I'd like to make is to include a ... lifestyle [section] ... [with] student fashion, student tips, more light hearted columnists as opposed to what we currently have in the Comment section."

He was asked if his key pledge of making the student media "impartial, unbiased and relevant" conflicted with his other aim of uniting them to send a message to the university.

"Balance is key... Sometimes being unbiased and impartial can be difficult because you are a member of the sabbatical team; there are certain things that LUSU has to do: they have to send out that clear message... that is the job of the VP Media & Comms."

"At the same time... I think there should be a contrast: 'we are saying this, but also you might want to listen to this opinion.' Students should be able to make up their own minds."

But when is it right for a controlled message to be substituted for impartiality? "Generally speaking, [the student media] can be impartial and unbiased, however there will be certain situations where ... if there are things done by the university that we simply do not agree with, it is in the best interests of the students for us to ... communicate in that manner."

But when asked how he would aid other union officers to communicate the message to the university effectively, Richardson was more vague. "I think, obviously, the union president will need the support of his Media & Comms officer."

After some time, he elaborated further: "Whether it be helping with different speeches, different campaigns, offering advice, tips, points of contact, that could aid them in whatever they're trying to do, I think it's more a case of being a sort of support base and being called upon when needed."

I asked him if he was sufficiently immersed in university politics to report on what was happening in LUSU and the university. He mentioned how he's dealt with some "hard hitting issues" as Comment editor, such as the bars and the campus masterplan.

"Obviously I'm not on Union Council, I've never been a college president or anything like that... but I do immerse myself in student politics... I try to get as much information as possible... as it works quite well to have a comment piece based on a news story."

Sam Fitton



- **Turn SCAN 'back' into a student newspaper**
- **'Yes' to more advertising in SCAN**
- **Hopes to draw from skills as magician to run paper**
- **Less 'civil politics' found in Comment**
- **More 'creative' approach to SCAN**

AT THE CORE of Sam Fitton's bid for the position of Vice-President (Media & Communications / SCAN Editor) is the pledge that he will make SCAN "back into exactly what it was intended to be, a student newspaper."

Fitton was asked if this meant SCAN isn't a student newspaper now. "I'm not saying that SCAN isn't a student newspaper at the moment, I just think that it needs to be more of a student newspaper than it currently is."

"I think there should be more innovative content, such as travel experiences, things like competitions, things that will actually engage the reader: fashion, gadgets and gizmos, that sort of thing, that people will actually be interested in reading, which have a part in our daily life."

"At the moment there is too much emphasis on... civil politics."

But when pushed to answer if the politics surrounding issues such as tuition fees and funding, which are of direct relevance to students have a place in the paper, he relaxed his position: "[national politics] does have a place in SCAN, but clearly not as large a place as it is given. I think more importantly, SCAN needs to be a more engaging piece with its audience."

He was asked whether he saw any elements of SCAN as changing for the worst this year, and said that things had "remained constant" except in terms of improvements in layout. Otherwise, he saw the quality of SCAN as not changing from last year. "I wouldn't say that things have got worse, but... that they've possibly remained constant." When asked if there were any student newspapers from other universities that demonstrated how he would like SCAN to be, he couldn't name any.

Does his pledge to "turn SCAN back into a student newspaper" mean that the paper under him would be more

College
Cartmel

Degree subject
Environmental Biology

Proposer
Stephen Anderson (Cartmel)

Second
Justin Matthews (Cartmel)

like the kind of SCAN from a year or two ago? "I'm looking further back than that." But he then told how he had not looked at any of the past SCANS that he sought to emulate. "I can't pledge to have been seen spending many hours looking through the SCAN archives. But, from my perception, and from what I've heard off other people, I think it's time SCAN went down a more entertaining and fun route."

In earlier statements, Fitton had mentioned his skills as a magician, claiming that those skills would be useful in the role. He was asked to explain how magic tricks would help him run a newspaper.

"A magician is something much more than someone who does tricks, someone who cons people," he said. "You have to adapt very quickly to your audience... and I'm hoping that when people give feedback of SCAN, I will be able to... produce things that people will actually want to read."

Fitton spoke at length about how he plans to turn SCAN into a money-spinner for the union. When asked whether that meant more advertising in SCAN, he answered: "Yes, but more effective advertising." His proposals included seeking sponsorship for certain sections of the paper, claiming big companies, such as Vodaphone, would pay as much for a half page advert in SCAN as the Plough does for a full page.

So does he think "big companies are going to pay more for smaller adverts?" "You won't know until you try," he said, before reeling off a list of his contacts in big businesses that he thinks he can convince to pay above market rate for SCAN advertising space.

He was asked about his ideas for the other areas of the VP Media & Comms role, beyond SCAN. However, when asked about his ideas for how the position should be involved in shaping LUSU's communications with the university, he was hesitant, responding, "it's either something that you do or you don't, surely... If [the union's] message is strong enough and has got a large student backing, I don't see how you can improve upon the ideas of that."

The idea he suggested for communicating the union's message to the university again involved SCAN: "I'm sure an image with a bold heading [on the front page] would make a lot more impact than a page full of text."

Finally, he was asked whether he thinks has all the skills, ability and knowledge for the role. "Oh no, not at all... Obviously, becoming the [VP] Media & Comms/SCAN Editor, I'm going to learn a hell of a lot, of course I am."

Charlotte Parker



College
Fylde

Degree subject
History & Politics

Proposer
Oliver Holmes (Cartmel)

Second
James Duncan (Fylde)

- **End bias in SCAN news coverage**
- **Intends to use ideas from BBC experience**
- **Will make issues more 'available'**
- **Share reporting between media**
- **SCAN must be a 'reflection' of students' beliefs**

CHARLOTTE PARKER, one of SCAN's current Sports Editors, sees her mission as abolishing bias from SCAN, and broadening its appeal through simpler presentation of the facts.

"On some stories there might be too much coverage that people don't understand... there needs to be more of a basic story before its expanded upon."

SCAN, in her view, has been biased toward "groups with very specific opinions on issues" and gives too much coverage to students and entities that make a specific point of getting themselves in the press.

Impartiality is a recurring theme when she talks about her hopes for the paper. "[SCAN should be] unbiased in the sense that LUSU a whole, as in every member, all the students being able to have their own say, and presenting news to them in a way that they will all understand, regardless of what they believe on the issue."

With regard to her experience, Parker points to her two years on SCAN's sports section, that showed her what is needed from an editor. "From writing for the paper for the past two years... you get to see what the editor role entails and you get to see how hard the editor does actually work and the sort of hours they have to put in.

"It's not just my experience from SCAN. I worked for the BBC over the summer, which involved a lot of work regarding design, laying up articles and which pictures to use."

But can she adapt to having to edit and write more news journalism, with her grounding being in sports, which is so different in style?

"[I've written] for the comment section and news section. I've been reading newspapers from a very young age and have always been interested in news. I've been to classes and know

how to start a news story, rather than a sports story, which is more for entertainment."

Parker believes that she is aware enough of the kind of complex issues that SCAN covers to report on them faithfully. "I've always been interested in everything that's going on in the university," she said. "I've been a member of my JCR and I've always read SCAN... I've been to the meetings and formed my own opinions on issues.

"My key point is making these issues available to all of the students."

Since the Sabbatical Review last term, the SCAN Editor has responsibilities in other media too. When asked about what she intends to do with the other media on campus, she talked about how correspondents from other student media could share stories and reports. "I'd be really keen to work alongside Bailrigg [FM], to get them more involved," she said. "The sports presenters on Bailrigg might be keen to get involved more with SCAN. They might make notes for their radio shows, and then submit it online, because in the actual world of media, a lot of what gets said on the radio they do type up and publish online."

But on the communications side of the role, she was less forthcoming with ideas. She was asked how she would help other union officers to shape and present messages when communicating with the university, and answered: "I've always loved the university, so one of the main reasons I'm running for this position to be on the Sabbatical team, to work alongside them."

When invited to talk about any other specific policies she might have, she declined to name any. "Not specific policies. I really want to listen to the students... find out what they want from the paper, and produce the paper as something that they want, as something that they'll be interested in, rather than taking on the role and having my own ideas."

But don't the students elect people to make those decisions on their behalf? "No, I just mean that one of my key points will be to produce a paper that students are interested in... in order to do that, it needs to be a reflection of the students' beliefs."

What would she change about the current SCAN? "I think the comment section has really improved this year... I'd want to improve that slightly more, just getting a few more views in.

"With some of the stories [in news], students that don't have any idea... might not understand exactly what's going on"

Charlotte Henry



College
Cartmel

Degree subject
Music Tech & Politics

Proposer
Helen Thompson (Cartmel)

Second
Phil Miles (Cartmel)

- **Broaden the range of people involved in student media**
- **Focus on all forms of student media**
- **Introduce SCAN proof-readers**
- **Will keep paper's layout, to focus on content**
- **Wants to 'contribute to solving' issues**

MOST OF CHARLOTTE Henry's relevant media experience comes from working in Bailrigg FM. Until just before the election campaign, she was Bailrigg's Station Manager, a role she believes has put her in good stead to take over at SCAN. "I think what attracted me to the job [of VP Media & Comms] are that the skills are very transferable and a lot of the things I've had to edit on the radio would help me edit SCAN. I think the difference will be the method of presentation... that's clearly the biggest difference."

She believes that key to engaging more students in LUSU is providing them with the opportunity to get their views across publicly, through media. "Students are often reluctant to speak up, and that is, I think, the biggest problem the students union faces... I think the letters page is a wonderful way for students to get their voices heard."

But she also wants to get more people who aren't already involved in the union to try student media, believing that it is mostly those on JCR Execs and Union Council that choose to contribute. "People might want to write an article in SCAN but feel they're not capable because they're not a JCR member or a Non-Sabb, and I'd like to actively encourage those people... to contribute to student media."

Her BFM experience means she can bring something different and unique to the role, she believes. "I'm sure all the candidates would be very capable of doing the job... but I believe I'm different because I've actually had experience of being part of a student media outlet that isn't SCAN."

She was clear that the holder of the new sabbatical role must not neglect any of the student media. "570 people sat in a boiling hot lecture theatre, and

they put forward, without any amendment or opposition, that they wanted the student media to come under one Sabb, and I think I can do that, I think my experiences set me apart."

She was keen to display an understanding of the different demands of the communications side of the role as well. "[shaping a message] is a key part to this role, you might have to sit with the president and discuss how you're going to present a union idea, and then take it to the university," she said. "If you're trying to communicate with the university, that's clearly going to have to be a much more formal approach than it is if you're trying to engage students."

Aside from her ideas for introducing proof-readers to SCAN to allow section editors to get on with running their sections, she spoke of her intention to add more puzzles to SCAN. "A lot of people simply pick up SCAN because they enjoy doing the crossword and I'd really like to look into expanding that," she said. "I think if we could extend that page, that would encourage more people to pick up SCAN, and then perhaps actually read more of the articles."

She likes the existing layout of SCAN and plans to stick with it, instead planning to balance coverage of college and university news, and current affairs. "In general, the layout [of SCAN] is very coherent, very clear, and I don't think I'd like to take on the task of redoing that," she said. "The things I would look at are more in terms of content. I would like to balance a lot between student news – things that are happening in the colleges, things that are happening in the university as a whole – ... with students' interests in current affairs outside of the university... Clearly student news is the key interest of the student newspaper."

But would this focus on college news mean college magazines would be overshadowed? "I don't think it would tread on the toes of magazine editors... I'd actually like it if the college magazines could perhaps contribute in some way... If key events are happening in the colleges, it's important that the university as a whole knows about them."

Will Henry be sufficiently immersed in student and university politics to report accurately on complex stories? "I'm not someone that's sat with my head in the sand and just gotten on with my degree. I've known what has happened in the university.

"That is, in a way, one of the inspirations for me wanting to run. I'm aware of these issues, and I'd like to contribute to solving them."

SABBATICAL ELECTIONS '09

Vice-President (Finance, Events, Democracy & Societies)

Sandeep Banwait



College
County

Degree subject
History

Proposer
Ross Braddock (County)

Secunder
Lee Howarth (Graduate)

- Two years on university and LUSU committees
- Offers 'leadership, commitment and progress'
- Key issue is electoral reform not limited to e-voting

RUNNING FOR THE position of Vice-President Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies, Sandeep feels that his past experience at the university makes him a good candidate for the role. Sandeep has been Chief Returning Officer for LUSU, General Secretary and Media Officer on the County JCR exec, and a History course representative.

"Administration and communication is important in LUSU, and so are the people; in my various roles I have demonstrated my ability to work with people and to understand how to get things done," he said. "Personal character and life ex-

perience are just as important in a Union where we should have compassion for the people we work with and who contribute their time to helping others."

Sandeep stressed the importance both of democracy and of working with the union in the coming year. "I offer leadership in upholding your democratic right to question and hold to account your Union representatives," he said. "I offer to embrace change where progress is needed and to talk to the Union, to listen to the Union and to work with the Union."

The key issue for Sandeep, however, is electoral reform and the potential introduction

of electronic voting. "I strongly believe that the question we should be asking is: are our electoral processes effective and is progress needed?" Sandeep said. "Elections are at the foundation of our Union and in the modern environment we operate in, elections should reflect a process which people understand and can access."

Sandeep hopes that, if elected, he will help to improve the union. "I hope to make a positive difference to the union," Sandeep said, "by working with people. I hope to finish the year in office with a sense of having served the union with dignity, respect and conviction."

Andy Johnston



College
County

Degree subject
IR & Strategic Studies

Proposer
Kate Foster (Bowland)

Secunder
Samuel Monks (County)

- Claims to be 'dedicated, enthusiastic and competent'
- Pledges 'constant support to JCR and society execs'
- 'Ask not what your union can do for you...'

ANDREW JOHNSTON IS a former County JCR President. He is running for the position of VP Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies, a role he sees as a continuation of the work done by the General Secretary under the previous Sabbatical system. "The students deserve a VP-FEDS that is as dedicated, enthusiastic and competent as the recent General Secretaries have been," Andrew said, "and I fully believe I am that person."

For Andrew, the issue that would be at the centre of his work should he be elected is participation. "I would love to create an ethos around the J. F. Kennedy speech: 'Ask not what

your union can do for you, but what you can do for your union," he said. "This would encompass everything from elections, to JCRs, to societies, to volunteering, to the Sugarhouse and much more. The amount of potential within the student body is massive."

Also key, Andrew felt, was the issue of communication—between the VP-FEDS and JCRs, between the VP-FEDS and societies, and between the VP-FEDS and the wider student body. "I intend to offer the student body a VP-FEDS they can connect with, one that understands the concerns of wider student participation," he said.

"I believe constant support for JCR and Society execs is key to this role, not only to provide great Extravs and events, but throughout the year so that the essential jobs they do can be recognised."

Andrew feels that his experience, primarily on the JCR exec of County college, will stand him in good stead to become VP-FEDS. "The amount of organisation and dedication that is needed for this job is massive, and I feel that my time working within the Union and with students campus-wide has given me a sound footing in this area."

Vice-President (Academic Affairs)

Simon Rimington



College
Fylde

Degree subject
History & Politics

Proposer
James Duncan (Fylde)

Secunder
James Dodd (Pendle)

- Experience on Fylde JCR and University Council
- Claims to have a 'a real passion for the issues'
- Wants focus of year to be anonymous marking

SI RIMINGTON'S INVOLVEMENT in student politics began before university, as Vice-President of a FE college students union. He has served on Fylde JCR for two terms, one as President, and is now LUSU's elected independent on University Council. In those roles he claims to have developed experience of working with university bosses. Now running for VP Academic Affairs, he wants to build on that experience. "I think I can bring valuable experience of working with university management to the role," he said. "I think my

experience will allow me to help pursue my ideas for office and be able to get the job done." He claims to be a "commit-

ted and knowledgeable individual [who will] drive forward the major academic issues in LUSU." He lists attendance monitoring and Wednesday afternoon timetabling as key concerns.

However, the issue most important to him is that of anonymous marking. "If exams are marked anonymously then essays should be the same. I think with the fact that BNP lecturers have been here in the past makes it vitally important that there is a level playing field for all our students."

To this end, he wants the Anonymous Marking Working Party re-established, and to talk to figures in the university who would help achieve his aim.

"I plan to re-commission the Anonymous Marking Committee while also taking the issue forward to university management figures... such as Gavin Brown, the director of Undergraduate Studies."

Rimington intends to implement solutions to issues he has come across throughout his three years at the university. "Through the role I can achieve some things that I have wanted to see done throughout my time at Lancaster," he said. "I also hope to gain experience of working as part of a close knit paid team; this will be good experience for any job post-Lancaster."

Danny Ovens



College
Lonsdale

Degree subject
Physics

Proposer
Matt Windsor (Lonsdale)

Secunder
Azmi Scaiti (Lonsdale)

- Current Academic Affairs Non-Sabb
- Wants to give harried students 'peace of mind'
- Key focus is improving graduate employability

ONE OF THE candidates running for the position of Vice-President Academic Affairs is current non-sabbatical Academic Affairs Officer, Danny Ovens. Ovens believes that his experience in this role, as well as his time as chair of the university's Academic Council and vice-president of Lonsdale college, has given him the knowledge and insight required to fulfil the responsibilities of the sabbatical position.

Ovens is focusing his campaign around the dual issues of graduate employability and student representation. He believes that the 'current situation' of the national economic crisis has made concentration

on graduate employment a key part of the Vice President Academic Affairs remit. He states that he wants to ensure that "our students use their degrees to be successful outside of the walls of Lancaster," and has outlined a number of strategies to achieve this. These include expansion of the Careers Service, ensuring that feedback from tutors is consistent and clear, and guaranteeing that students are made aware of what they need to do to achieve their goals.

He hopes that he will be able to maintain the "continuing representation of Students on all educational issues," and plans to liaise with the University to make sure that the way

these issues are addressed are beneficial to the student population.

Ovens is keen to stress his long standing involvement with LUSU and his commitment to the Union's work. He states that due to the union's lack of an Education & Welfare sabbatical officer this year, he has had to build an especially large system of relationships with people and committees throughout the union and the university.

However, he maintains that he has also experienced life at Lancaster as a student, and that he has "seen both sides of the coin," as both a student of the university and as an officer of the union.

Vice-President (Equality, Welfare & Diversity)

Sara Dunn



College
Bowland (Graduated)

Degree subject
Media/Cultural Studies

Proposer
Tom Skarbek-Wazynski (Bowland)

Second
Alice Ripley (Bowland)

- **Current LUSU Sabbatical Women's officer**
- **Offers 'open and non-judgemental ear' to students**
- **Will link up with BBC campaign on mental health issues**

CURRENT LUSU SABBATICAL Women's officer Sarah Dunn is running for re-election as Vice-President (Equality, Welfare & Diversity). She claims that her achievements over the past academic year have shown her suitability for the role. She oversaw the organisation of the annual Vagina Monologues, set up a Women's Group, and ran a 'responsible and fun' Sexual Health Campaign during the Fresher's Fair. 'Creativity and visibility is what I have brought and will continue to bring to the Union and this role,' she says.

But, Dunn feels, there's always more that can be achieved. She states that, if elected, she

will 'continue the work that I have so far achieved so that it can transform from basic change into revolutionary progress.'

Dun also states that she will 'continue to actively involve students in campaigns that matter to them and endeavour to make these events as creative as possible', as well as offering 'loyalty and an open and non-judgemental ear.' Furthermore, she claims, she will be 'a person who can represent [students'] opinions and the issues that matter to them to higher levels.'

If re-elected, she states that her main focus would be on the issue of mental health. '[This

is something that affects one in four of us in Britain and is still stigmatised by damaging myths and taboos'. Her first actions in tackling this would be to continue to liaise with campus counselling services, and to make support groups fully available to students.

Dunn is also keen to stress the importance of full and complete student representation.

'Mostly I want a Union that takes its student members seriously and a space where all students, no matter their age, ethnicity, sexuality or gender, can feel at ease' she stated. 'If elected, I will continue to strive to get this done.'

Torri Crapper



College
Grizedale

Degree subject
History

Proposer
Chaz Ginn (Grizedale)

Second
Matt Saint (County)

- **Hopes campaign experience will give insight into role**
- **Will focus on stigma attached to mental health**
- **Wants to create 'atmosphere of campaigning and fun'**

TORRI CRAPPER BELIEVES that she can bring four things to the position of Vice-President (Equality, Welfare & Diversity): "Dedication, confidentiality, support, and productivity." Involved in the union since her first year at Lancaster, she has taken on roles including EWD officer on Grizedale JCR, as well as formerly being LUSU Non-Sabbatical Women's officer.

She feels her participation in campaigns during this time, such as on disability access, mental health, and "Donation not Discrimination", for the LGBT committee, has given her an "insight" into the EWD position that will enhance her per-

formance in the role.

"I have an understanding of the work as the women's position has a similar remit. I feel that I have the capability to keep equality, welfare and diversity at the forefront of the union. I will empower students to make decisions and change things, and I believe that I will do the best job for our students."

If elected, she intends to concentrate on the issue of mental health. "I would like to challenge the stigma attached to a person with a mental health issue," she said. She plans to work closely with Nightline, the Advice Centre and Student Support, running campaigns

and setting up a mental health policy within the union.

Crapper also intends to campaign on the issue of diversity and inclusion. She claims that she will "be working heavily upon diversity, on welcoming the differences between us all, and moving forward by celebrating those differences and not shying away from them."

When questioned about what she wished to achieve during her first year in office, she expressed a desire to "give autonomy to all groups within our union, serve students to the best of my ability and create an atmosphere of campaigning and fun."

Vice-President (Sports)

Tan Farrell



College
County

Degree subject
History

Proposer
Ceri Davies (County)

Second
Marc Handley (Lonsdale)

- **'Driving force' behind AU Sabb Review fight as Non-Sabb**
- **Not intending to 'reform sports' or make 'huge changes'**
- **Sports Rep training can save 'dying' Carter Shield**

TAN FARRELL AIMS to lay particular emphasis on inter-college sport and wants to improve the Carter Shield. Farrell believes a lack of training of JCR members is a fundamental problem. He says: "I would make sure that all AU execs, sports reps, inter-college captains and inter-college chairs were given full new officer training; and given a chance learn from the experience within the AU exec and the AU office."

Farrell wants to spend time with the sports clubs: "this role is very different to the other five Sabb positions in that it gives the elected candidate a lot of contact hours with students, es-

pecially with the sports clubs."

He has experience within the Athletic Union having the roles of club President, Treasurer and team Captain in her American football team. Furthermore, he is a County College sports rep and is former AU Non-Sabb and has sat on the last two Roses execs. Tan has worked as the AU Non Sabb for a year, helping and supporting the last two AU presidents. He draws attention to his efforts in the AU, to keep a dedicated sports sabb: "I was a driving force behind the mobilising of the AU against certain amendments in the LUSU Sabb Review."

Farrell believes he can make

sure all students are catered for and wants to bring his individuality to the role. "I will endeavour to fight for all students' sporting needs and demands. Something I would bring to the role is maturity and experience, both from a sporting point of view and from the outside world."

If successful, he wants to give something back to students. "I want to give back to the students of Lancaster everything I've learnt over the last three years, and help develop their skills to a high standard."

Sue Wynes



College
Fylde

Degree subject
Psychology

Proposer
Lauren Kidd (Cartmel)

Second
Helen Llyod (Fylde)

- **Current AU Non-Sabb, involved in 'all sports'**
- **'Equal passion' for both intercollege and uni sport**
- **Fix falling participation through better promotion**

SUE WYNES INTENDS to target the key issue of participation in all levels of sport if successful in her campaign to become Vice President of Sports. Wynes said: "participation has decreased over recent years and I'd like to promote sport at Lancaster so that more students can get involved. I feel it is important to provide students with an opportunity to play sport for fun as well as providing more elite sport at a university level for those who wish to push themselves."

Wynes pinpoints a decrease in participation as having "a lot to do with students not being aware of what is available so I

would aim to promote sports much more widely amongst the student community." Additionally, Wynes hopes that she can help get Graduate College back into the Carter Shield to get more people involved.

Wynes cites her experience of working within the Athletic Union. She is currently the AU Non-Sabbatical officer and works alongside AU President, Gareth Coleman, in which she has "learnt a lot about the position." In the past Wynes has been sport's rep for Fylde, captain of her dart's team as well as being on the exec of her football team for three years.

Wynes wanted to go for

this position since she knew of its existence and feels that she "would be able to provide an unbiased service to all students" as she has "a passion for equal involvement."

Wynes said: "I can offer 100% passion in the job. If I were to do this job, I would ensure that I am fully committed to students who want to play sport." If successful in her application, by the end of her tenure as Vice-President of Sports Wynes hopes "sport for students at Lancaster will have improved because that is my aim."

BE HEARD

www.thestudentsurvey.com



Are you a final year undergraduate? Do you want your opinions on your student experience to be heard?
Take part in the National Student Survey.

LANCASTERS OFFICIAL
STUDENT NIGHT LUSU

FREE BUSES AVAILABLE FROM CAMPUS

MONDAY
MADNESS

2 FLOORS

2 DJs

8PM TO 3AM

Management reserve all rights to refuse entry

PENNY STREET - LANCASTER

REVOLUTION®

FREE **Vodka**
SHOT
with this voucher

Bottle VK
£1
with this voucher

COCKTAILS
2-4-1
with this voucher

£1 OFF
ENTRY
with this voucher

scan:COMMENT



Sam Newsham

It's time 'the guardianship of faith' was used for peace, not further bloodshed

Blair and Obama's own perspectives on faith might just be what takes the heat out of the Middle East's ongoing religious conflicts

Unexpected, but perhaps not unsurprising, and certainly not unremarkable; of all the possible contenders for the honour, the first foreign statesman to meet Barack Obama following his inauguration was none other than Tony Blair.

Not only its venue – the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, during which both Obama and Blair addressed the 3,500-strong crowd – but the fact that the meeting took place at all, raises a series of fascinating questions about the roles the two could play on the world stage together.

Since he stood down as Prime Minister in June 2007, Tony Blair has been peace envoy to the Middle East on behalf of the United Nations, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the USA. His role there has been not political negotiation but to work on behalf of the Palestinians in areas such as crime and the economy, to prepare Palestine for the time when it can become a state in its own right. To date his achievements have been modest, but it is impossible to deny his genuine belief that peace can one day be achieved – and that he is the man to do it.

It is more than likely, therefore, that Blair will be using his opportunity as Obama's first confidante to further the cause of the Middle East. He believes that Obama, unlike many previous Presidents who have left the issue

until well into their first term of office or even later, should take action immediately. And already Obama has gained his approval by sending a US peace envoy, George Mitchell, out to the Middle East to work alongside Blair and others.

It is almost impossible not to draw comparisons between Barack Obama and Tony Blair. Both combined youthful promise with an unquestionable desire for change; the election of both men as national leaders gave rise to an unbridled euphoria. From Blair's 'Britain deserves better' message in 1997 to Obama's 'change we need' in 2008 the similarities are striking. So it's perhaps not surprising that we should already be speaking in terms of the effect the combined efforts of the two might have on the world stage.

Despite ten years in power tainted by accusations of spin and sleaze, Tony Blair's achievements in the Northern Ireland peace process are undeniable. He was instrumental in bringing about the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998 and establishing the Northern Ireland Assembly. Throughout this process he worked closely with the aforementioned George Mitchell. Though it remains to be seen whether he will be able to repeat his success in the Middle East, he has only been in the job eighteen months. The Northern Ireland peace process took ten hard years.



Special Envoy: Tony Blair meeting President Barack Obama following his inauguration earlier this month.

But in spite of the despatch of Mitchell, it is doubtful that peace in the Middle East is Obama's only – or even his most pressing – concern. His priority is arguably the revival of the American economy and the withdrawal of his troops from Iraq. The question is, how long will Tony Blair be able to keep his Middle Eastern efforts at the

top of Obama's agenda?

The next question, of course, is about religion.

The problems in the Middle East have their roots in religious conflict. Both Obama and Blair are religious men. Both are determined to use their faith to its best advantage. With this in mind we ask not only what effect their

religion could have, but also what effect it should have.

So great is Tony Blair's conviction that faith is the way forward that in May 2008 he set up the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, an organisation which encourages members of different faiths to join together and promote respect and understanding. "The 21st Century will be poorer if it is not under the guardianship of faith," he has said.

Though he believes firmly in the separation of church and state – a welcome relief after his predecessor – Obama too is a practising Christian. Neither Blair nor Obama argues in favour of a blurring of the boundaries between religion and politics, a fortunate view to take when looking at how to fix the Middle East. There is no doubt that the faith of both men will act as an encouragement to unite those divided by religious strife.

The aims of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, and others like it: using faith as a platform from which to cure the ills of poverty and conflict; are laudable. But whilst religious beliefs provide guidance and support for Blair and Obama on a personal level, we must never forget that faith – or lack of it – is just that: personal. Faith may be the way forward for Tony Blair – and millions of people all over the world – but there are just as many who choose to manage without it.



Carys Hepworth

Despite all the drama and tragedy, Goody isn't the story

Jade Goody first appeared on our TV screens in 2002 as a big-hearted and wonderfully endearing Big Brother contestant and became a household name within weeks. Famed for not mincing her words, Goody and her idiotic statements would keep viewers in stitches for months after she was voted out of the Big Brother house.

When Goody made what turned out to be the worst career move of her life by agreeing to participate in 2007's Celebrity Big Brother, her bullying of Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty caused her to become a national hate figure. Was her behaviour appalling, shocking, degrading and unforgivable? Yes. Did anybody believe Goody was truly malicious? No. So I cannot comprehend why Goody's battle with cervical cancer only started to be taken seriously when, on February 4, it was revealed that the cancer had spread to her liver, bowel and groin and that doctors were acting simply to prolong her life as long

as possible. Unsurprisingly, this turnaround in public opinion coincided spectacularly with the change in the media's attitude. Suddenly Goody was a victim, as though she hadn't been before, and we were only too ready to be manipulated by the press once again.

It is incredible how the British public have become so fickle that we would criticise a 27 year old woman facing cancer because she wanted to be famous. Of course, Z-listers such as Goody and the likes of Tara Palmer-Tomkinson or Kerry Katona stooping to ridiculous levels for a front page splash is irritating. But public perception of celebrities based solely on the angle tabloid newspapers take is even more ridiculous.

So ask yourselves, did you dislike Goody the minute she walked into the Big Brother house? She was loud, brash and very hard on the ears – of course we all hated her immediately. But then Goody's background was splashed across the headlines – her father, a

drug addict, had served time in prison and died of an overdose at the age of 42. Her mother, a one-armed lesbian was also an addict who Goody had had to take care of despite being a young child at the time. All of a sudden, the tabloids were no longer printing unflattering photos of "The Pig" with her unmade face squinting at the camera first thing in the morning, and we were no longer throwing old slippers at the TV screen every time she appeared. Overnight, Jade became a hero – and boy, did she revel in it.

When Goody returned to our screens in 2007 on Celebrity Big Brother, I thought all of my Christmases had come at once. However, public opinion was made to spin on its axis again as it soon became apparent that our beloved Jade would not be faced with the same reception on leaving the house as she had enjoyed five years earlier. Instead, Goody and fellow contestants Jo O'Meara and Danielle Lloyd were shunned by the nation after they

ganged up on Shilpa Shetty by making racist comments. Like a flash, Goody was banished to the 'isn't she ridiculous' corner, normally reserved for the Rebecca Loos of the celebrity world.

And when Jade Goody was diagnosed with cervical cancer, gossip magazines and tabloid newspapers pounced on her once more. Goody cried her way through interviews and press conferences, all the time being accused of "playing on it for the fame" – because the papers said so. Only when it was discovered that the cancer was terminal did the tabloids decide they would make more money by suddenly playing the sympathy card? They certainly did and oh, how we all rallied!

The real story here is not Jade Goody, it is the 'roller-coaster', 'anything for a headline', 'don't let the truth spoil a good story', 'the Press Complaints Commission can't get us for that', irresponsible press. Perhaps we got the press we deserve?



Mike Indian

For Zimbabwe, there is no deep blue sea, only the devil

The choice before Tsvangirai is nearly impossible: co-govern with hope, or walk away with honour

After the hope and hysteria of the Presidential elections last year, one could argue that there is no sight more exasperating than to see MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai stepping onto the block of power alongside Robert Mugabe. One could feel the weight of inevitability in the proclamation made by Zimbabwe's new prime minister of "a new chapter" for the country. Many will be asking who exactly will be writing this newest and most crucial instalment? When it came to the crucial plot twist, did Morgan Tsvangirai simply sell short of what was needed from him?

It is a sure sign of the defeat of democracy when you accept a compromise from the man who polled fewer votes than you, in an election where the words 'free' and 'fair' were as absent as the doctors and nurses from the wards of Zimbabwe's hospitals. You cannot claim to have turned a fresh page in the history of your nation when you felt the need to seek protection from your political opponent. And it's political suicide to accept a power sharing agreement where almost half the cabinet ministers are drawn from your opponent's party and your party's slender majority in parliament relies on MPs from a split-away faction not deserting you. Then of course there is the tiny detail that your opponent not only remains president, but also chairman of the cabinet and the National Security Council, and so still holds sway over the security forces which have terrorised, intimidated and brutally persecuted your followers.

Indeed, you would think that Morgan Tsvangirai could not have received a clearer indication of his naivety on the last point, when security forces hunted and arrested one of his newly appointed ministers, just after his role in the new government was announced. The case of Roy Bennett surely shows that "democratic change" part of the MDC has been grossly discarded by Tsvangirai's surrender to the deal.

That is to say nothing of the Zimbabwean people, who he has categorically failed to emancipate from the fist of a deluded tyrant. Tsvangirai has placed himself at the mercy of a man under whose rule the country has been crippled by inflation of 231,000,000%, agriculture has become impossible and infrastructure decimated.

In the middle of a cholera epidemic which has killed more than 3,300 people and infected tens of thousands more, local reports say more than half the doctors and nurses have left their jobs or gone to seek a new life abroad because the government cannot find the money to pay them. Tsvangirai is now connected to the same corrupt regime that has allowed water supplies to stretch to breaking point, with 45% of all that is produced lost in leakages, forcing people to turn to sources contaminated by the filthy environments they are bound to. Add to these crippling rates of unemployment and the other day-to-day issues like starvation and we have only a small picture of the dire needs of the people Tsvangirai now co-governs.

However, Tsvangirai's actions do

not mark him as a sell out, but hold out hope for him to be the saviour his people desperately need him to be. Considering his actions since the elections last year, Tsvangirai has been driven by the necessity to spare his people further suffering. His decision to withdraw from the second round ballot was a politically savvy one in granting him legitimacy in the eyes of his people and the West, as well as sparing the strife of an internal power struggle. At the South African Development Community summit in Pretoria last year, Tsvangirai had to steer a hard

line through those, like Gordon Brown, who refuse life-saving 'donor dollars' in the current state of affairs and the slight tacit support of Western nations who would withdraw it if he turned to "illegitimate means." Put simply, he could work with Robert Mugabe and hold out some hope for vital long term aid and future backing from the West or he could have walked away and left the fight. The "democratic change" of the MDC hasn't been forgotten, but it is just going to take a little longer to realise, even if it means a harsh compromise in the short term.



British jobs don't need British workers

Our globalised world means there is no need to rely upon British workers to fuel our economy, writes Chris Blackburn

Recent weeks have seen a flurry of strikes which began at Lindsey Oil refinery in Lincolnshire and have spread to nuclear power plants at Sellafield and the near by Heysham. It is hard not to feel sympathy with the over generalised British worker. The sense of panic which provoked these strikes is understandable; we are in the beginning of what looks to be a brutal recession, the cost of living increases with every energy price rise and unemployment figures continue to rise. Who wouldn't worry when another threat to your livelihood arrived in the way of cheap foreign labour?

To label the movement as one based on xenophobia is a mistake. We attend a university populated mainly by the middle classes, and with our large overdrafts and life in an enclosed world it is difficult to fully understand life on the breadline, and as a consequence we are in no position to judge those who face this situation as hate mongers.

Furthermore it is heartening to see values such as solidarity and unity coupled with a desire to act. Despite the current economic climate these workers are unafraid to risk their jobs in order to make a point. We are too apathetic as a nation, with more anger coming from politicians than the public over the bankers who created the current climate getting seven figure bonuses courtesy of the tax payer. Were this France they simply would not escape attention, but we are too accepting. These workers are not, and they should be applauded for their activism.

While, however I can see the emotion behind the project, I can't see the reasoning. What does the protest hope to achieve? Foreign workers are entitled to work here through EU law, which we subscribe to because participation in EU trade is the only feasible way to prosper in this age of globalisation. Economics has changed too much for us to operate alone. We are not going to back out of EU trade anytime soon due to its potentially disastrous consequences, and hence there is no such thing as the British job, only a European job.

If a business decides it is in its interests to employ Italians or Poles or whoever then they will do because it will widen their profit margin. They can do this because we live in Capitalist society and as a consequence the expansion of wealth takes precedence over the British worker. Perhaps in the days before Thatcher the British worker could have gained something from striking. But when Thatcher found her fuel abroad and the mines closed, she set the precedent for the current situation. There is no ultimate reliance on the British worker in the modern era.



Jamie Brook

A good eBook has no beginning, middle or end

Books smell. They can make us look either intellectual or childish; the cover and name of the book can offer some insight for any snooping eyes.

You don't get that with a digital book. The faceless nature of your average eBook reader denies your fellow commuters the chance of passing judgement on your character through examining your reading habits.

Maybe that's not the best thing about books, but digital technology is threatening to wipe them away in a similar way it did to tapes, video and telegrams. The low-tech feel and ease of use has been replaced with high-tech, high-quality digital substitutes. Technology doesn't smell, but some people like it that books do and like the way they feel in their hands.

So, where is the advantage in the increasingly popular digital book? Starting as digital words on a personal computer, expansion of technology has led to the digital books spreading to mobile phones, games consoles, portable media players and the growing fad

of eBook readers. Costing in excess of £200, the eBook readers are portable book-sized tablets whose sole function is to show eBooks. It's a large initial investment for the reader, but eBooks purchased after this point will generally be a lot cheaper than their paper counterparts. Immediate access allows users to think of a book, search for the book, download the book, and if they feel inclined, they might actually get round to reading the book.

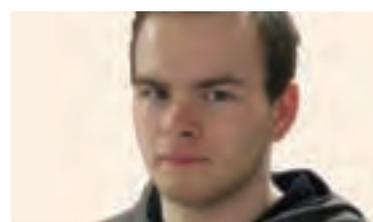
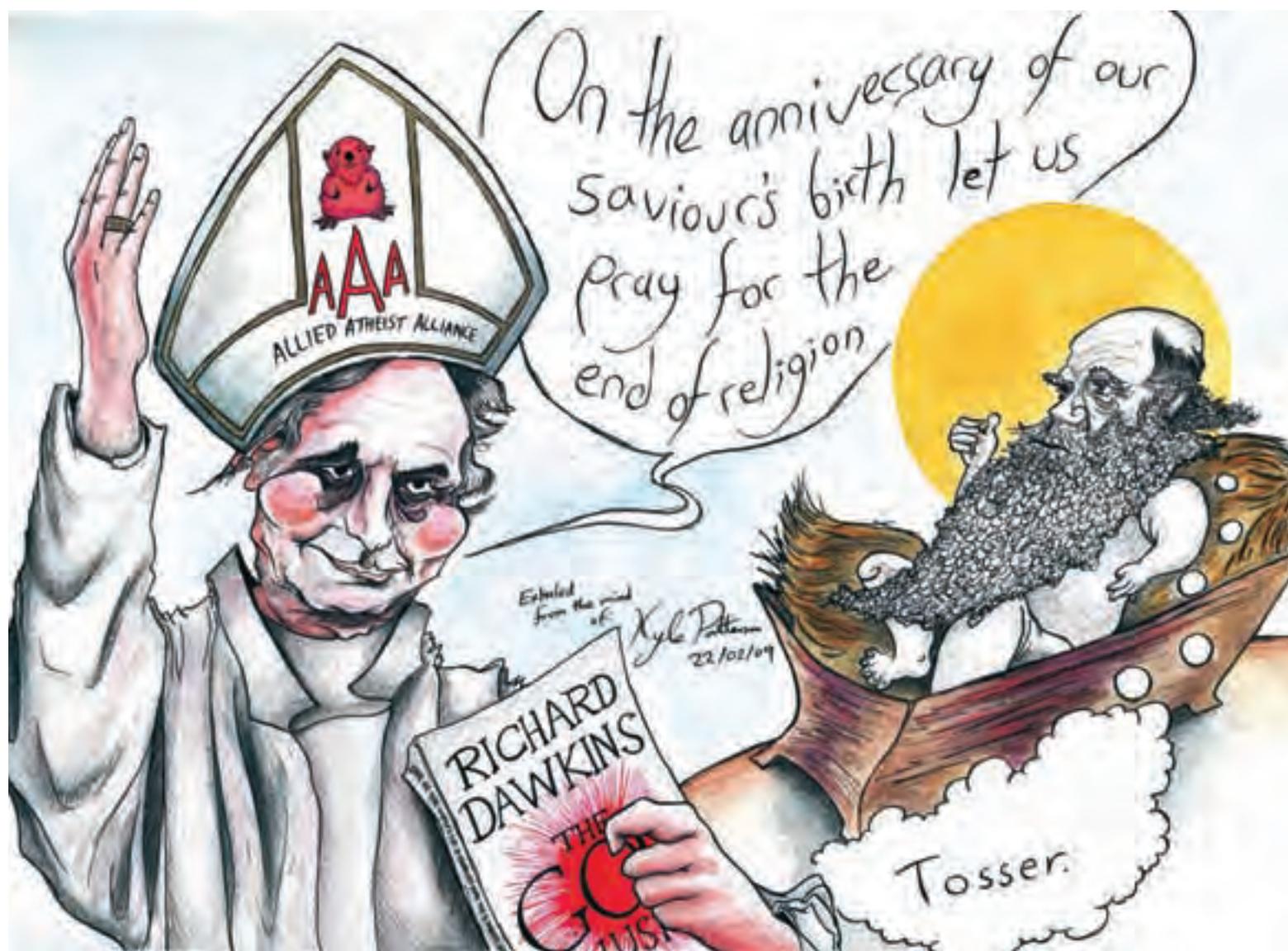
The easy-to-hold tablet and backlight for reading in whatever lighting replace those annoying issues that come with its paper predecessor. No longer will reading books be an arduous task, no longer will people struggle to read by feeble lamplight, no longer will they struggle to find a comfortable position in which to read. Instead, reading will actually be easy. And if you 'only read books to look at pictures', they can have animations, just for you.

I don't, however think paper books will follow the stoic downfall of their videotape comrades. While allowing their intrepid users to carry a world of

books in their bag without the need to be the world's strongest man, this creates a mass of problems with regards to copyright and lending. For starters, you can't lend your eBook to your best mate without depriving yourself of all of your own reading material – surely one over for the traditional book.

The number of publishers releasing their books in electronic form a few, not even Harry Potter exists in a digital format. Similarly, damaging a flexible paper-based book can be a hefty task, with their only true nemeses being fire and water – and you can still read them if they get battered in your bag. But a flimsy eBook reader won't withstand that kind of punishment, and its replacement will cost you 50 times more than your humble paperback, as well as the cost and effort of replacing all of your books.

EBooks are just the latest fad. While I wouldn't fork out 200 quid for one, I wouldn't say no to a freebie. But I wouldn't say no to a free chocolate hammer either. I don't see a future in eBook readers, because there isn't one.



Liam Richardson
Comment Editor

Pratchett's public struggle is a blessing to his fellow sufferers

Alzheimer's is so woefully misunderstood that it needs a figure like Terry Pratchett to stop it

Terry Pratchett is one of Britain's best loved authors having sold over 50 million books and whose works have been translated into over 30 different languages. This year he was knighted for services to literature, and deservedly so. His Discworld series of novels possess a unique blend of fantasy and humour which has captivated readers for over 25 years. It is then, with great sadness, that such a fertile imagination is slowly being ruined by the early onset of Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia and affects millions of people worldwide. The disease affects the brain and ravages the memory leaving its victims as mere shadows of their former selves. For relatives and loved ones of sufferers, it is a terrible illness to cope with. It is hard to care for someone who was once so close and may now appear so distant and unfamiliar. Alzheimer's disease carries a heavy burden that is hard to handle; there is nowhere near enough support for families of sufferers.

The burden created by public perceptions of the disease is no lighter,

with the stigma around Alzheimer's remaining predominantly and undeniably negative.

In a recent two-part BBC documentary series, Pratchett set out to alter our preconceptions of the disease. He allowed a camera crew to follow him for the first year from the date of his diagnosis, and let the viewing public see first hand the subtle ways Alzheimer's slowly consumes an individual. That we are witnessing it in a figure such as Terry Pratchett, who is held in high regard in the nation's affections, is particularly poignant. It is heartbreaking to see Pratchett struggle and stumble his way through a reading of his latest novel, as his devout followers in the audience respectfully sit with tears glistening in their eyes.

Any sort of mental illness has for too long been regarded as a taboo subject. Its symptoms are cruel, painful and difficult for someone to respond too and emphasise with. Perhaps that explains why donations to fund research into Alzheimer's disease and support for its sufferers equates to just 1% of that achieved by cancer support groups. The vast gulf in charity work

and fundraising does not in any way reflect the similar numbers of people affected by both illnesses.

Perhaps, in some ways Pratchett's suffering is a godsend to other sufferers and their families. He has deliberately and wholeheartedly championed the cause of Alzheimer's research and tackling the misconceptions, and has become the figurehead and spokesperson that Alzheimer's charities desperately needed. Scientific research is closer than ever to finding a cure for the disease, and the more support and backing they can get—surely due to increase thanks to Pratchett's influence—the sooner the suffering of millions can be eased.

Gifted orators and politicians such as former US President Ronald Reagan or former British prime minister Harold Wilson suffered from Alzheimer's; so did celebrated authors as varied as Iris Murdoch and Ralph Waldo Emerson; the most legendary sportsmen like Hungarian footballer Ferenc Puskas and Sugar Ray Robinson, together with some of cinema's most recognisable faces from the actor Charlton Heston to the director Otto Preminger, have all

suffered from the disease, and have all had their reputations dented—wrongfully—by its surrounding stigma.

Yet despite some of the most celebrated people in history having suffered from it, sufferers of Alzheimer's still find themselves all too often excluded and abandoned by a society that is ill equipped to respond with compassion and that affords them little chance of living out their days with their dignity intact. Pratchett's contribution will be essential over the coming years in thawing these perceptions.

Over the coming years, attitudes must soften and eventually alter. If the disease is to be finally conquered, funding to Alzheimer's research needs to be increased and care provision improved to a more satisfactory standard. It is sobering that—in this country at least—change will probably occur as a result of the efforts of one man alone as a figurehead. For this, Terry Pratchett deserves thanks for his valiant efforts. Hopefully he will still delight his readers a few more times yet, before he too sadly and inevitably succumbs to the disease himself.

Public purse paintings are pointless if the expense will be unappreciated

Andrew Duggan and Laura Howarth
Art Society

How much money would you spend on a painting? Hundreds of pounds maybe? Thousands? How about £50,000,000?

This is the amount of money the National Galleries of Scotland and The National Gallery in London spent on one piece of art work. The painting in question, entitled *Diana and Actaeon*, was created between 1556 and 1559 by the Italian artist Titian, as part of a collection of work for King Philip II of Spain. The owner of the painting, The Duke of Sutherland, a descendant of Titian himself, was selling the painting, along with its sister painting *Diana and Callisto* for a total of £100m. You might be thinking this is a great investment, but the Scottish government put forward £12.5m of tax-payers money to help save the painting from leaving the public eye. Both galleries are attempting to purchase the second piece, *Diana and Callisto*, for the same amount of money and have until 2012 to buy it before it is put up for purchase by private collectors.

In favour of the purchases, a campaign to save both paintings for the nation was supported by a letter signed by sixty artists which was sent to the *Times* stating that they fully supported the joining effort of the galleries to raise the £100m to save the paintings. This certainly shows that members of the artistic community believe that both these paintings are of significant importance and need to be viewable for the public. From an artistic point of view, the necessity and historical significance of these images outweigh any physical costs. These paintings were very influential on Western Art and are considered to be a milestone in its history.

However, consider how many people will actually go to see these paintings? Many who view the paintings will not know of the extreme effort that went into saving these paintings for the nation. Much of the population will not even go to view the paintings at all, even if a portion of their tax money did go to purchasing these pieces. The heritage of the pieces also cannot be argued. Titian was Italian and held no connections to England or Scotland. In the time of the credit crunch, where every penny counts, is it a good idea to be spending so much money on a couple of paintings, or would it be better spent on the NHS and education?

We fully understand the importance of these pieces in the history of art and want more people to appreciate all forms of work, including these very significant pieces, however, everything has a price, and for us this is too much.

Debate: Is our surveillance state justified?



At least Orwell's characters knew when Big Brother was watching them

Fran Bartels

A few months ago, on a surprisingly nice afternoon, I was sitting in the outdoor part of a pub, when a barmaid suddenly came rushing out. She was heading in my direction. The problem was I was wearing a hat. Apparently, this was forbidden, as it would render my recognition on the CCTV cameras impossible. So I took it off. Big brother could see me again.

Rumour has it, an introduction of personal chips on campus is looming. This means that whoever has the information acquired by these will have the ability to watch our every move. Supposedly, they would stop "foreigners" from coming to the UK and feigning their studies in order to stay in the country. Now forgive me for being dubious, but these chips would not only monitor the attendance of lectures and seminars but, apparently, they would have to be scanned by everyone upon entering, among other places, the library and college bars. Again, forgive me for not understanding the link between what people choose to do with their spare time and the controlling of attendance. Of course, no one would be literally watched by this procedure, but this brings me back to the topic of closed circuit television.

According to recent research, there are over 4 million CCTV cameras in the UK. One camera for every 14 people, which makes the country that we live in the most watched in the world. And that's just an estimate; no one knows the exact number. While you are reading this, unless you are at home, there

is quite a high chance that you are within the reach of one. If you are at home, you probably have the internet on. Does this really make you feel safe?

Many people argue that if you've done nothing wrong, you've got nothing to worry about and feel perfectly safe in the knowledge that crime rates are decreasing thanks to the fantastic idea of introducing more and more security cameras. Yes, the number of CCTV cameras is increasing, and crime

cameras do not act as a deterrent

is generally on the decline, but that doesn't mean they are linked - crime isn't falling because of these watchful eyes. Detective Chief Inspector Mike Neville, head of Scotland Yard's Visual Images, Identifications and Detections Office says cameras do not act as a deterrent as many criminals assume they are not working. And he acknowledges that some police officers do not want to look through CCTV images "because it's hard work", adding that only 3% of London's street robberies have been solved using CCTV images. So still nothing to worry about?

Why is it that most people feel outraged about Nineteen Eighty-four when we live in a society that is not so far off? At least they knew and realised they were being watched constantly. Are we aware of every camera, every microphone, and every means of surveillance around us? So maybe Orwell was right, despite the fear dispelled by his work of fiction. So take a minute to look around you and try to spot the cameras. Smile, you're on CCTV.

Surveillance is the price we pay for our safety and security

Carys Hepworth

Ever had the feeling you were being watched? Felt the back of your neck prickle and turned to find nobody there? It could be paranoia - or it could be the estimated 4 million closed-circuit television cameras across the UK which result in the average Brit being filmed up to 300 times a day.

The public outrage at this invasion of privacy is understandable and, on many levels, justified. This 'Big Brother' presence is especially disturbing when one considers that, thanks to CCTV, 7% of the British population have now been logged into the government's DNA database compared with just 0.5% in the US. Creepy, yes, but would we really prioritise our wish for anonymity over our own safety, and the safety of those around us?

I have never had a Saturday afternoon shopping trip spoilt because I could not stop thinking about CCTV cameras

Most criminals are opportunists. They will only commit a crime if an opportunity presents itself, and would therefore be put off by the sight of a CCTV camera. There is no way of knowing how many crimes have been prevented simply through rendering formerly 'easy' targets safe, but I for one am more than happy to experience the strange feeling of being 'observed' in return for my safety. Aside from filming sound evidence which can

be used in court cases in conjunction with theft and car accidents, evidence from CCTV cameras can also be used in more serious cases such as kidnapping, sex crimes and even terrorism. I wonder whether victims of violent crimes like rape would say to themselves: "My attacker is roaming free to pray on their next victim, but gosh, at least I haven't been filmed doing my weekly Asda shopping."

In fact, the contra arguments to CCTV cameras are nothing more than superficial and selfish. It is a topic that one could debate for hours without stumbling across anything even resembling a convincing argument other than the stubborn repetition of: "but it's just a bit weird...". True enough, it is a bit weird, but do we really spend our days thinking about it? I can honestly say I have never had a Saturday afternoon shopping trip spoilt because I could not stop thinking about CCTV cameras. In fact, the thought has never even crossed my mind. So it seems ridiculous that we are distraught by these 'Big Brother' statistics when the lives of children and adults have been, and are still being, saved. Crimes have been solved, lost children have been found, and the threat posed by terrorism is being carefully observed. We Brits are so gripped by paranoia after watching too many episodes of the X Files that we seem to have forgotten the very reason CCTV was implemented in the first place - for our own safety. 'They' are not watching our every move, 'they' have no interest in our personal lives, and Davina McCall is not lurking anywhere nearby.

Editorial

Sabbatical elections

Electing sabbatical officers each year is possibly the most important way that ordinary students influence the direction of their students union. The officers that they elect have a massive bearing upon the direction and focus of the union for the coming year. And yet, it can often seem as if LUSU's election rules stifle the ability of students to make informed decisions about which candidates deserve their vote.

Though we expect students to be intelligent enough to spot a phoney, not every student knows enough about LUSU or the university to understand the pros and cons of every candidate's election pledges. In the outside world, voters can rely on the media, particularly the BBC, to distil election promises into realistic expectations. But in LUSU elections, SCAN and Bailrigg FM are expected, in general, to act as little more than a platform for candidates to disseminate their raw, spin-heavy and often unrealistic (or sometimes downright false) rhetoric without any untangling of real policy from unachievable ploy.

Similarly, candidates themselves are not allowed to offer scrutiny their opponents policies to point out their relative flaws, even when asked. There is surely a distinction to be drawn between underhanded smear campaigns, that have no place in a students union election, and honest debate over candidates' policies.

The rules are at fault, not the people who enforce them. But in order for students to be presented with the best opportunity to make an informed decision before they cast their vote, those rules need to be relaxed, in order to allow something closer to a true debate of ideas between candidates, and faithful reporting of elections by the media.

Future of the colleges

The Vice-Chancellor's decision to set up a working group to examine the future of the colleges is laudable, but declarations of victory from any side are premature. The membership of this working group will be vast, and will represent a range of interests from across the university. As such, the number of agendas represented at the negotiating table will outnumber the negotiators themselves. Reaching a consensus will be difficult.

It also needs noting that the group will discuss all areas of the collegiate system, not just - as perhaps expected in some quarters - the issues surrounding the management of the college bars. Anyone looking to exert influence upon the people who will be sitting around that table need to update their perspectives, and consider the wider picture of the whole college system, not just one small element of it, however vital.

The leaders of the recent campaigns, most notably the Labour Club, 'Peek-a-boo', and the publishers of UMAG, should be particularly careful to quieten their more reactionary tendencies, else they risk alienating themselves even further from their potential allies in LUSU and the colleges.

Letters to the Editor



Send your letters to scan@lancaster.ac.uk together with your name and college (even if you would like your letter printed anonymously). Letters longer than 150 words (not including signature) will be shortened. SCAN reserves the right to edit your letters for publication.

There is no one right answer

I'm writing in response to the recent comments regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, because I'm frankly puzzled by the clear 'x-is-right, y-is-wrong' views taken by everyone who's contributed to this discussion. They fail to realise that the fact this battle has, in one form or another, continued for over 60 years is testament to its moral ambiguity. My knowledge is limited, but it seems both the Israelis and the Palestinians are in the wrong. Both seem to feel that elimination of their opponents by use of force is justifi-

fied. Both sides feel they have a God-given right to eradicate one another, and until this situation changes; until they each recognise the pointless and mutually destructive nature of their actions, this heart-breaking bloodshed will continue. Until both sides learn to love their children more than they hate one another, there will be no peace in the Middle-East.

Kate Skellern,
Cartmel College

Bars campaigns must be respectful

I am concerned by the increasingly aggressive tactics made by certain societies on campus against the Commercial Services Director. Campaigning should be centrally coordinated through LUSU, not by political societies that have no remit to act on behalf of all students.

I am utterly disgusted at the YouTube video that was created about [David Peeks]. I find the parallels drawn to be shameful and the University is quite right to take action. The whole campaign needs to become more professional and respectful before irreversible damage is done to already strained relations between LUSU and the university.

The only people who have the power to change policy on this issue are the university management. When a small group of students resort to these intimidation tactics, the chances of the entire student body being taken seriously by the University decrease.

I am in favour of college run bars and I would urge the university to consider the voice of students in this matter. Outside of academic ratings and league tables, it is a good student atmosphere that makes the University of Lancaster. Don't let that atmosphere evaporate.

Andrew Hoyle

Five pound wine

In January this year a phenomena occurred in the college bars that made me visit them more often than ever before. This phenomenon was known as £5 wine. During the bars' 'January Sale' £5 wine was just such a perfect price, two people could go in clutching only £2.50 apiece and in the spirit of co-operation could chip in their money together to produce that satisfying gentle drunken haze that only wine can provide with just the right mark-up in price from the average bottle of wine to justify drinking in the ambience of the bars rather than at home. Wine has now jumped back to the prohibitory price of £7.80 which has none of the beautiful economic symmetry that sharing a £5 bottle of wine had; keeping wine teasingly out of the reach of the average student. All I ask is that whoever is setting the pricing for the college bars finds a way to democratize wine permanently; as an incentive I will gladly chip in my half of £2.50 with theirs to celebrate in the only appropriate way.

Michael Holt
Furness College

Dry water

Is any one else sick of using the most useless laundrette facilities provided by this university? Not only do they cost a fortune, but many of these so called washing machines seem to use 'dry' water! Two weeks running now I have paid for a wash only to have to take it back to my flat bone dry to hand-wash it.

If the university is so bothered about making improvements to the campus, maybe they should be starting with the basics like a fully functioning laundrette service. If you live on campus then unfortunately these are the only facilities we can use. Not only are they not kept clean, they swallow your money, they just don't work, or you pay £1.60 for it to be spun around for 40 minutes without water.

I pay a hell of a lot to study here and I expect in return a laundrette service that actually functions properly. I don't think that is too much to ask for. It seems like I should have saved my £3.20 and got a pint instead!

Sarah Finnegan

There's a world beyond the North

Dear 'An Affronted Northerner',

I am very sorry to hear you feel so strongly that we have some sort of southern bias, or that we in some way do not deem local art as worthy of a place in the pages of our section.

Firstly, we do publish A LOT about local arts projects. We covered all three theatre group performances last term, plays put on at the Blackpool Grand and the Dukes Playhouse, had extensive coverage of Litfest, lectures by world-renown poet Jackie Kay, and this is just off the top of my head. This issue over half our articles relate to locally-based arts projects.

Often, our writers chance across things we think readers would like to hear about, whether or not they hap-

pen to reside in the Lancaster area. We have an article this week about a theatre production in London, in fact, which I think is not only beautifully written, but about a major event in the arts calendar this year. I hope you can enjoy it alongside our local arts news, and appreciate that it gives a more far-reaching context than if we focused solely on art in the north.

Lizzie O'Brien,
SCAN Arts Editor

Carter Shield unbalanced

I recently attended the table tennis event to represent my college in the Carter Shield. As the teams started to train one thing struck me: apart from the college that I represented, only

Fylde College had put out a team of any playing experience. If the idea behind the Carter Shield was to give the opportunity to various people who are not in sports teams and who have a limited sports background to have the chance to play in a competitive event then it would be a worthy idea, but no one seemed to have told Fylde whose team largely consisted of the promotion winning BUCS team!

How can we declare Fylde officially the best sports college of the academic year when other colleges aren't even prepared to field teams capable of competing?! We shall never know if Fylde possesses the best sportsmen/women or if they simply have people capable of putting the best possible team together, unlike other colleges whose half-arsed attempts are frankly an embarrassment.

Anon.

"When a small group of students resort to these intimidation tactics, the chances of the entire student body being taken seriously by the University decrease."



**WHO DO YOU THINK IS
THE MOST STUDENT
FRIENDLY BUSINESS?
NOMINATE NOW!**

**LOG ON TO:
WWW.STUDENTFRIENDLIES.CO.UK**

Ever heard of a Pancake Race?

by **Christie Anderson**
Features Editor

SHROVE TUESDAY, OR Pancake Day, is the day before the 40 days of Lent. It was traditionally the day on which Christians treated themselves to the food they would not be allowed to eat until Easter.

Pancakes were the perfect food for this as they contain rich ingredients such as eggs, milk and sugar.

For most students today it means spending an evening whisking, flipping and eating as many pancakes as possible. The smell of pancakes wafts out of almost every kitchen on campus.

There have been reports suggesting that the "celebration" of Shrove Tuesday is diminishing, with an estimated two thirds of people saying they ignore the tradition.

However, this does not seem to be the case at Lancaster University and many pancake related traditions still take place around the country.

Olney, in Buckinghamshire, is renowned for the Olney Pancake Race, which dates back to 1445. Participants run 415 yards, carrying a frying pan

containing a pancake. When the winner crosses the finishing line they must successfully flip their pancake. They are strict about who can enter; contestants are "housewives or young ladies" and must have lived in the town for at least 3 months.

Similar pancake races take place throughout the country. London hosts the annual Parliamentary Pancake Race, in which members of the Houses of Parliament race against members of the press. Spectators are invited to come along and cheer for their favourite team. Last year's winner was political correspondent Nick Robinson.

The simple pancake has a long history, with recipes featured in cookbooks as long ago as 1439. The biggest pancake on record was made in Rochdale in 1994. It was 15 metres in diameter and contained about 2 million calories.

The tradition of flipping pancakes is nearly as old. A man in Leipzig, Germany, currently holds the record for flipping a pancake 416 times in two minutes.

Favourite pancake fillings seem to vary depending on where you are in the country. A poll conducted by Asda showed that almost half of Scot-



tish people prefer their pancakes with cheese; a popular filling in the North is mince; favourites in the West Country are jam or syrup. But the most popular filling overall is still lemon and sugar.

This traditional option seems to be the favourite at Lancaster as well. However, some less common favourites amongst Lancaster students include sour cream, pineapple and ginger, and gravy.

A Shrove Tuesday tradition that may be even older than the making of pancakes takes place in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. It is the home of Shrovetide Football; but this is no ordinary football match. On Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, several thousand people compete in a game that is played over two eight hour periods and the goals are 3 miles apart.

Normal life in the town comes to a

standstill as the brawl moves through the roads, across fields and even along the river bed. Shrovetide football is thought to be nearly 1000 years old. The event is well known in the area and BBC Derby even provides a live commentary.

So whether you are racing with them or just eating as many of them as you can, enjoy your pancakes this Shrove Tuesday.

Haggling: an annoyance or an artform?

Daniel Ash
Features Editor

VIEWED AS A veritable art form by some and as the biggest annoyance to curse tourism by others, the concept of haggling is viewed with stark differences across the globe, and is therefore undertaken differently in various parts of the world. Despite these variations I believe there to be fundamental similarities which can be applied across the board, meaning that a uniformity of action can be used from India to Brazil.

Before you embark on your spending spree in the middle of a foreign market place, there are a few safety tips that you should bear in mind. Firstly, always wear a money belt; they are eminently useful for keeping important valuables safe from prying fingers. You may be just as likely to have your wallet stolen in any high street in England, but a lack of money is suddenly much more worrying when you're stranded miles from your hotel in an unfamiliar Egyptian souk. Secondly, keep a watchful eye out for other tourists; a sudden lack of any other obvious foreigners may be indicative that in your quest for the best bargain you have strayed into an obscure area of the city and risk getting lost. Finally as a general rule don't wander down to the stalls in the dark, narrow side streets of a city. The dingy alley may have a certain antiquated charm, but the products being peddled there may not be as innocent as the little cuddly camels on the main street.

When you begin the haggling process, the first thing to bear in mind is that more often than not the person you are haggling with enjoys the process, look closely and you'll see a smile



Haggle gaggle: Men haggle for sheep in rural China. The practice of haggling is found all over the world. (Photo: Peter Morgan)

on their lips. Haggling is not a complex process which relies on intimidation and aggression, if you also go into the conversation with a smile on your face, you will find the experience more enjoyable and you will probably be more successful.

Having said this, a cheerful countenance alone will not buckle the stall holders years of experience, or their desire to take as much of your money as possible. To get the maximum result out of your haggling then it is useful to

go into the negotiations with a few key points in mind.

My first tip would seem simple, but it has caught out people in the past. Know the exchange rate for the currency you will be bargaining in. I once made the mistake of changing the haggling into pound sterling, multiplied the wrong way and accidentally offered more than his previous price. Fortunately my mistake was quickly realised and laughed off, but it was embarrassing all the same.

It is always useful to do a bit of research into the etiquette of the places you will be visiting before you go browsing the shops and markets. For example in Malaysia some stall holders may find it insulting if you point at their goods with your index finger rather than your thumb. Some areas will have helpful hints, such as in Italy where shops will have signs informing you that the price is fixed to save you having to ask. If you are not sure it's best to enquire, some sellers do actually find it stranger not

to haggle than to haggle.

If you are in an area where haggling is an acceptable practise and you see a price marked on the object you want to buy, don't think that this means the price is fixed. More often than not a labelled price is a tactic on the part of the stall holder, for when you go up and ask about the product they will instantly tell you a lower price than the one on the label, making you think that you are already getting a good deal. They are aware of our British love of fixed rules and are adept at playing off them; therefore take the second price as the starting point for haggling and not the labelled price.

Before you engage in a price war, consider what the maximum you're willing to pay is and be prepared to walk away if the price doesn't go low enough. Walking away in itself can sometimes work to your advantage, the stall holder eager to make a sale but seeing that you're not adverse to playing hard ball may quickly drop the price down to something more reasonable. At the same time you mustn't be stubborn for the sake of being stubborn, it's a process of give and take and they will also have a price that they will not go under.

Hopefully I have convinced you that as un-English as it is, haggling can be a fun addition to your travels. Your experience of haggling need not be confined to far off places, for example I always ask for an upgrade when checking into a flight, as you never know your luck. However whilst bearing this in mind, I wouldn't advise you to argue over the price of your next baked potato from Spar.

There's more to Wales than cheese on toast



Rarebit of culture: Welsh children wearing their national costume, which includes a hat of black silk and knitted stockings.

by **Alexandra Lainsbury**

MARCH 1, 2009. Happy St. David's Day. Or, for the Welsh speaking among us, "Dydd Gwyl Dewi Dedwydd!" This is the day for all Welsh people to celebrate their country, often accompanied by a leek or a daffodil pinned to their outfit.

So who was St. David, and why is he the patron saint of Wales? According to legend, he was the Abbot and founder of a monastery that is now known as St.

David's in Pembrokeshire. He later became the Archbishop of Wales.

A very devout man, he is believed to have performed many miracles before his death on the 1st of March, 589. He became the patron saint of the country many years ago, when the Welsh were resisting the Norman invasion.

St. David also founded or restored up to twelve other monasteries throughout the country during his life. Legends have been born that say he rode on the back of a sea monster from Ireland to Wales.

St. David's day is more of a celebrat-

ed occasion than its English equivalent, St. George's Day. In Wales it is in the same league as Burns Night in Scotland or St. Patrick's Day in Ireland.

St David's Day is a chance for all Welsh citizens and descendants to feel a sense of unity, despite where they may live.

Major Welsh cities such as Swansea and Cardiff organise special events in commemoration every year. In Cardiff,

a week-long program of events has been organised for this year. It includes a ten kilometer run, musical performances at Cardiff castle, and even a parade, which takes a route through the centre of Cardiff from a museum near the university to the National Assembly near Cardiff Bay.

St David's Day is a chance for all Welsh citizens and descendants to feel a sense of unity, despite where they may live. It is also a chance for non-Welsh people to learn more about the history and culture of the country, as well as have a good time at the various

Welsh Rarebit

4oz grated hard cheese
3 tablespoons of milk
A little mustard (to taste)
A tomato (or two)
A thick slice of toast

1. Mix the cheese, milk and mustard and spread thickly over the toast. Make sure the edges are covered so they don't burn.
2. Cook under a hot grill until bubbling and starting to brown.
3. Slice the tomato and put a couple of slices on top, then re-heat briefly.
4. Serve with the other tomato slices.

celebratory events. Wales has managed to retain a strong sense of its identity and culture, with traditional costumes and recipes having been passed down through the generations. Some of the most famous recipes include Welsh Rarebit, which is a variation of cheese on toast, Welsh Cakes or 'bakestones', and cawl, a country stew made with seasonal produce.

If you fancy celebrating St David's Day at home, here is a simple recipe for Welsh rarebit, courtesy of the website "Wales Wide Web". So enjoy celebrating; daffodils are optional.

Spoil sports

Are literary spoilers ruining our knowledge of classic literature?

by **Daniel Ash**
Features Editor

I HAVE RECENTLY become aware of a trend of deciding to forgo reading certain novels as, due to modern media and pop culture, people are already aware of the novels plot, themes and characters, before even turning the first page.

This gave rise to the question as to whether certain ideas and images are so embedded within our cultural conscience, that the reading of classic books and plays is ruined by our foreknowledge of these literary icons. For example, who doesn't know the story of Jekyll and Hyde before reading the book, and who isn't aware of the fundamental conventions of Dracula?

At first I sought to blame cultural heavyweights such as Disney for ruining our collective reading experience.

There is no escape from these imitations when companies churn out into our daily lives an un-ignorable myriad of movies which mimic the core themes of quintessential genre definers.

A (very brief) survey revealed that more people in our generation were introduced to the stories of Sherlock Holmes, not through Arthur Conan Doyle's books, but through Basil the Great Mouse Detective.

Do writers then have to go out of their way to ensure that their plot lines aren't absorbed into popular culture? In Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* the audience are forbidden to reveal the ending of the play. This secrecy could be seen as an example of an author consciously striving to make sure that mainstream success doesn't lead to a watering down of the play-going experience.

Unfortunately in the long run I couldn't blame Disney (mostly because



Adaptation: Millions have seen Keira Knightley in *Pride and Prejudice* (above), but how many have read the book?

Basil is awesome), and had to come to the conclusion that it is a reflection of the brilliance of the original texts which makes the mainstream mimic them so much. Genre Defining novels are called as much because that is what they do, imprint an undeniable set of conventions and codes into their specific genres.

The romance genre was defined by writers such as Austen and Brontë, which is why characters such as Heathcliff and Rochester are copied and hence seem so familiar, but this shouldn't make the original books irrelevant and unreadable.

If our foreknowledge of classic texts is ruining our reading of them and making them irrelevant, then how do we square the results of surveys such as BBC's "The Big Read"? This survey lists a large selection of classics and many of the quintessential genre definers.

Is it that the BBC would be unwilling to rate the trashiest of Chic-Flicks and Penny Dreadfuls as the nation's most popular books, that England is actually a well-read nation, or that the people surveyed didn't need to read the books to know them well enough to rate them as their favourites?

Michael & Sarah



A Woman who sticks by her principles and a Young Man who has a stern moral compass steer Lancaster University's Relationship calmly through turbulent waters

Dear Michael & Sarah,

LUSU Housing won't stop coming round to my house. Last week when I was still hungover from the Carleton, they burst into my room without knocking. I did have a duvet covering my nether parts- but my privacy was **INVADED**. Any advice what I can do?
X

SARAH: Invasion by LUSU does sound dreadful, especially in their oppressive purple hued clothes at some ungodly hour. Have you contacted them directly to discover the reason behind these early morning invasions? Perhaps a house inspection, investigating a problem you have reported or showing new tenants around was the impetus for disturbing your slumber. Best thing to do is go and see the fine folk at LUSU housing and ask for prior warning of visits. There is a limited amount of information I can give you as I decided against LUSU lets as I value real walls and locks on doors – just two of the many things LUSU had forgotten to provide in the houses. Contact them directly, ask for a lock on your door, 24 hours notice of any visits and perhaps invest in some pyjamas to protect your modesty.

MICHAEL: You are missing the point of visits from LUSU housing, it is best to remember that you renounce any normal human notions of privacy by living in a student house; when eager house inspectors make their merry way into your room just pretend that they are observing you as if it were a nature documentary by curling up in your duvet, concealing your morning glory and purring warily. I have a bit of a conflicted relationship with LUSU housing; on the one hand my house is infested with slugs, has leaky ceilings, doors that don't function properly and in winter the kitchen is as cold as being outside; But on the other hand, last week, one of the inspectors told me that they were fans of 'Michael & Sarah' in the office, so, in my book they can do no wrong. Keep up the good work guys!

Dear Michael and Sarah,

This term I have been feeling lethargic and unmotivated to do anything, not to go out, to cook, not anything. When it comes to doing my work, **I sit down to try and do it I feel unable to as I get tense and feel slightly panicky inside.** I'm not sure what's wrong but it's affecting my work. What do you recommend?
X

SARAH: This is second term, we're halfway into the academic year, and despite being breathtakingly cold, Lancaster has no snow. Everywhere else has enjoyed the frivolity of making snowmen, but not us. You have the Lent term blues sweet-heart. That tense and slightly panicky feeling is the repressed knowledge that deadlines are looming, so you need to get a handle on this fear now. Instead of putting off your work break it into manageable pieces, create deadlines for the day and allow yourself rewards at the end of it. Talk to your friends, are they feeling this way too? Create study groups and try to

work through assignments or seminar work together and accept that you are not the only one panicked by the academic fear. Don't worry about not cooking, go on a massive health kick instead and eat masses of fruit and vegetables as this will boost your vitamins and energy levels. Also, to beat your lethargy get up every morning and dance with wild abandon around your room. Endorphins will help you overcome the boredom university provides, so stop fearing the worst, you can do this, and with a little help from some camp pop tunes you will be back on top form in no time.

Dear Michael and Sarah,

After my boyfriend left me for a girl with more money, I was distraught. However, now I have a lovely boyfriend 6 months later and **my ex is becoming increasingly immature.** He de-friended me on Facebook and is telling my friends private details. Do I remain polite or do I give him the middle finger?
X

SARAH: Well now, he sounds charming. Who knew there were gold-diggers in Lancaster? I would strongly suggest you ignore his childish attempts at sabotaging your friendships, as you say you have a great new man who isn't trying to fleece you of your student loan. Break ups are personal and painful, and he is just showing himself up by behaving in such a ridiculous way. So what if he removed you as a friend on Facebook, do you want to still be friends? Chances are you just want to stalk his profile and that is a habit you need to break, now. It is always awkward having an ex spread personal details about you, but bear in mind your friends would have happily gone to their graves without seeing him do an impersonation of your orgasm face, or knowing intimate details of your underwear. So laugh it off, rise above his petty behaviour and retain an air of dignified defiance. However, if he is immature

or spiteful to your face you could get away with giving him the middle finger and telling him to swivel.

MICHAEL: The foolish young man obviously didn't realize how fleeting wealth is at University; the brief honeymoon period where her loan was still in rude health has obviously ceremoniously ended leaving them to spend their evenings subsisting on dry lasagna-sheets. Those who are pound-foolish will always end up penny-dreadful. Now that you have left him for a man that treats you right you say your ex-boo be frontin'? The only reasonable course of action is to wave your (sassin') finger at him whilst quoting Destiny's Child lyrics at every given opportunity, in particular 'You know I ain't gonna diss you on the internet'; obviously do not quote from their poorly reviewed Christmas album as you may fill him full of festive cheer.

If you have an issue you'd like to ask Michael & Sarah about, write to them at michael_unt_sarah@hotmail.co.uk.

Anonymity guaranteed.

MICHAEL: The fact that you are finding it very hard to go out and are feeling lethargic and unmotivated to do anything leads me to believe that over the holiday period you were quite obviously bitten by a vampire. The tense and panicky feeling you get when you approach your work is simply your body's way of telling you that you have an insatiable desire for blood; in order to get your 'five-a-day' ask your friends if you can have their used tampons to use as tea bags. I will say that I am not

best qualified to deal with your condition (I chose Werewolf politics as my speciality for first year 'occult studies', it was a good course but the seminar tutors were, for lack of a better word, ghoulish) you are best off joining the role-playing society as they offer a very helpful orienteering programme and fetish-network for first-time vampires.

For **official** LUSU Advice, go to the LUSU Advice mini-site at advice.lusu.co.uk or pop into the Advice Centre (open 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday in the LUSU Building, underneath SPAR)

My nightmares are stalked by a Red Ring of Death...

by Andrew Jackson

AS SOMEONE THAT has been fortunate enough to be fortuitously placed in the 20th century, I have had many positive experiences with computers, with only a few that could be described as downright infuriating. The resulting reaction is one that leaves me, on the whole, rather indifferent to most of the digital age's primary gripes. Unlike many others; I have never felt an uncontrollable urge to track down Bill Gates and force-feed him the windows operating system; and whenever a game slows down to that of a snail swimming through some treacle, I have let it pass.

I honestly believe that this comes from having grown up with the majestic and vastly overlooked ZX Spectrum in my house; a machine so ancient that it would inquire as to whether you had colour TV upon loading; and in fact while loading, would make noises that can only accurately be described as just a tad eerie.

The trouble is computing-kind's never-ending conspiracy to gradually drive us all insane is coming to fruition.

You see, despite the problems the ZX had in loading, crashing, and generally making you want to tear out your own ears instead of having to endure another twenty minutes of the 8-bit fog horn concerto, at least you could tell it tried; it tried so hard to get the game running and despite all the times it had been kicked in the past for failing, as well. You could get the impression that deep down in its robotic soul it respected you, and would derive no greater fulfilment than allowing you to finally drive the little green blip resembling something like a car into the back of that moving truck thing, which would then transform in front of your eyes into that speedboat, which was inevitably crashed into a rock straight away.

But as they say, 'they don't make them like they used to', and the 360 seems to be the case in point. Whereas Microsoft's urgency to get to the shelves before Nintendo and Sony, has caused for the roughly 7 million consoles already sold in Europe, to potentially be inflicted with a crippling defect known as the 'Red Ring of Death'; the ZX is indicative in many ways, of a bygone era. Far from being mass produced, this early British effort, gave the impression

of being assembled in darkened rooms by strange, inhuman inhabitants of the BBC sci-fi department, and if tracked down from the attic, I feel quietly confident that it would still initialise, even after these 20 odd years of ownership.

The trouble for Microsoft is that they cannot compete with the longevity of these earlier consoles. This has caused them to repair and return, broken down 360s, free of charge. This may seem altruistic, even magnanimous, and yet the cynic inside me, is not convinced. It will not stop shouting, how this is only indicative of Microsoft's culpability; it looks to me, it says, as if they have already surrendered this generation to Nintendo; and are now simply looking ahead to the next generation; and this would mean that all they are doing is keeping the gamers who have bought the 360 happy, long enough, to bring out the next instalment.

The unfortunate truth is that Microsoft may make the same mistake again, releasing too soon; as Nintendo are unlikely to transcend to the next gen yet, with the Wii being so successful, and Sony are, in my opinion, likely to try and hold out for as long as possible with the PS3.



Omen: The Xbox 360s 'Red Ring of Death' has spelled the premature end of many a gamer's enjoyment.



One World Week

Monday Diversity	Tuesday Conflict	Wednesday Justice	Thursday Green and Water	Friday Red Nose Day
<p>BBQ 12.30pm in the Chaplaincy Centre</p> <p>Garden Raft Launch 2pm procession from Chaplaincy Centre to Lake Carter, launching a floating garden raft</p> <p>Dance and poetry 7.30pm Creativity in the Chaplaincy Centre</p> 	<p>Boards of Peace With incense and white poppies being used to show commitment to non-conflict. Alexander Square, ongoing throughout the day</p> <p>UN based talk on Guantanamo Bay 12.30pm in the Chaplaincy Centre</p> <p>'Make some noise' about Ethical Investment Protest with instruments and megaphones. Alexander Square</p> <p>Film on living without using plastic Exact time tbc in the Chaplaincy Centre</p> 	<p>Workshop on People Trafficking 1pm Venue tbc</p> <p>Teach-in on the Democratic Republic of Congo 3pm Venue tbc</p> <p>Media Workshop on Rape as a Weapon of War 6pm in Furness Lecture Theatre 1. Opening into an open Debate on this topic</p> 	<p>Organic Garden Stall In the Square. Ongoing throughout the day.</p> <p>Organic Veg Market In the Square. Ongoing throughout the day.</p> <p>Lunch for Kickstart. in the Chaplaincy Centre</p> <p>Cycle tours to and from campus Leaving from the Square</p> <p>Water Activities Activities about water and access to water also about Eden Springs Water company. Alexander Square, ongoing throughout the afternoon.</p> <p>Donnachadh McCarthy Talk About sustainable living. Awards and Presentation for eco-residences carbon Competition. Elizabeth Livingstone Lecture Theatre</p>	<p>Comedy Alex Square, ongoing throughout the day</p> <p>Sugarhouse</p> 

purplecard offer of the week

OFFER WK7
ALL SALE ITEMS
HALF PRICE @
SNEAKS



T&Cs apply

check out www.lusu.co.uk/purple for all offers

Lancaster University's Biggest Mid-week night

The Legendary

Carleton

Home of the Stiff'un!

The only official student Wednesday Night

Get your bus tickets from the LUSU Shop all week or Walkabout on Wednesday nights

Register on-line for photos & special birthday offers • Sponsored by WKD, Carlsberg, Red Square & Smirnoff Ice

www.footking.co.uk

New musical wakes up to West End success

Spring Awakening
Dir: Michael Mayer

by Francesca Beckett

AFTER AN INCREDIBLY successful run on Broadway, the creators of the new musical *Spring Awakening* decided to bring it to London. It has since received rave reviews in everything from the Telegraph to the Jewish Chronicle, and so while in London I thought I'd see what all the fuss was about.

Based on the play of the same name, *Spring Awakening* is set in late 19th Century Germany with the plot following a group of young people as they begin to explore their own sexuality, and the effects this has on their lives and relationships. Rather than use a traditional musical score, composer Duncan Sheik chose to use a rock/pop style which helps bring an old setting into the modern world and results in the show having an incredible energy and momentum.

The show has an interesting concept of sitting some members of the audience on the stage, and (obviously!) I chose to sit there – it even beats being up with the Gods! It was amazing to get a different perspective to a show and being so close to the action enabled me to see every tiny emotional change in the actors, completely drawing me into the story. I was shocked when the guy sitting next to me pulled out a microphone and started singing – they hide some chorus members in with the audience! Although at first I got the giggles when I had two boys singing the song "Touch Me" immediately behind me, I thoroughly enjoyed being where I was and loved being able to almost interact



Sexual exploration: Lea Michele and Jonathan Groff perform in 'Spring Awakening' (Photo: Joan Marcus)

with the actors.

The set was one of the most effective and interesting I've seen, from parts of the stage flooring being turned into a swing, neon lights dotted around the stage and theatre, and hidden handholds enabling the actor playing Melchior to actually climb up the back wall. It was so well thought out, and it was wonderful wondering what was going to happen next.

The two members of the cast which stood out for me were Charlotte Wakefield as Wendla and Aneurin Barnard as Melchior. Wakefield's voice was beautiful; she was utterly believable in her naivety, making the moment she gives in to her sexuality even more engrossing. Barnard's voice was equally as captivating as his stage presence; his acting flawless, literally reducing me to tears during the show's heart-wrenching cli-

max. The adult actors were adaptable in their many roles; the supporting cast gave solid performances throughout, with an enthusiasm and energy that couldn't fail to be infectious.

The show was both hilarious and poignant; it has a message that is still relevant in today's society – the dangers of thinking that to teach young people about sex is damaging rather than beneficial. A combination of a fantastic

cast, memorable music and amazing energy makes the show completely unforgettable. I cannot fault it – and I am very picky! It's been so well received that there are rumours of a West End run, so if you can't get down to London soon, keep an eye out! It is not only cheaper than the big name musicals, it's actually far more enjoyable.

The forbidden pleasures of the old-fashioned barn dance

by Lizzie O'Brien
Arts Editor

OK, SO I know a barn dance doesn't sound like the most fashionable place to be seen on a Friday night, but it has to be the most fun. Sceptical? I certainly was. Haunting childhood memories of being forced to line dance with the smelliest boy in class 8Q were resurrected after a decade of repression from conscious thought. I was never quite sure how they got away with teaching it in PE – it was more mental torture than physical exercise.

Basically, you have your traditional ceilidh band and caller, who makes sure you all know what you are doing. Never done a ladies' chain or stripped the willow? Have no fear – your friendly ceilidh caller will guide you through all those tricky steps until you are a veri-

table expert by the end of the dance. I have always found my fellow dancers to be friendly and helpful as well.

I love ceilidhs/ barn dances so much (both pretty much the same thing, ceilidh pronounced kay-lee) I spend most of my time trying to find out where I can get my next folk fix from. There are two things this bizarre barn-dance-related-research has revealed: firstly, ceilidhs seem to be growing more popular and widespread every year (think about how popular they are at weddings); secondly, that Lancaster, quite sadly, is a LONG way from being the barn dance capital of Europe. They do very occasionally happen (I accidentally fell into one at The Gregson Centre last year), but are rarely publicised enough for one to know when/ where/ if they are happening. It is morbidly disappointing for the hardcore ceilidh fanatic, and unfortunate for those inexperienced

persons who might have been converted to my cause whilst learning to dance *The Nottingham Swing* or *The Flying Scotsman*.

Elsewhere in the country, however, there is definitely a revival of this folksome tradition. London has its own folk dancing society as well as piles of companies who put on barn dances every month, and the ceilidh tradition never even left Scotland. If you're looking for something a little closer to home, Manchester Ceilidh organises regular knees-ups just around the corner from Oxford Road Stn in the Manchester Met. Students' Union. Manchester Ceilidh has been described as 'a mosh pit with a caller' and is certainly going to be my next target; I would recommend everyone else giving it a good go as well!



Barning down the house:

Everyone joins in the fun at this folk festival ceilidh at Towersey,

Pitt proves he's not just a pretty face

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Dir: David Fincher

Starring: Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Julia Ormond

by Hannah Fearon

THIS ROMANTIC DRAMA is loosely based on the short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald. It tells the tale of a man who lives his life backwards, born as a baby with all the ailments of an old man. After his mother dies during child birth, Benjamin's father leaves him on the doorstep of a retirement home where he is found by the manager, Queenie (Henson). He slowly begins to realise that he is getting younger and he meets the love of his life, Daisy (Blanchett).

The film follows Benjamin throughout his life, and takes us from the end of the Great War in New Orleans in 1918 to the midst of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In an epic story of romance that covers over eighty years, the visual effects are stunning. We are taken through time in a very subtle yet magnificent way. *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* picked up three BAFTAs this year, for production design, visual effects and make-up and hair. It is as-



Ben Button: Pitt is impressive in this warm-hearted romance epic.

tonishing to see Brad Pitt resemble an 80-year-old man with the help of CGI, using three other actors' bodies for his different ages. The production design gives the film a fable-like quality as it guides the audience through history.

Both Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett give fantastic performances, as do the rest of the cast. I particularly enjoyed Taraki P Henson's role as the sweet and funny Queenie who takes care of Benjamin when others wouldn't.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button is certainly a beautifully executed

piece of cinema but it has been heavily criticised. Whilst charming, the film does not offer any catharsis for viewers and there doesn't seem to be anything to learn from it. Benjamin is a rather simple and boring character with little for an audience to like about him. It is the characters within his life that we find much more interesting and accessible.

Whilst watching the film I had a feeling of déjà-vu; it felt very similar to *Forrest Gump* as both films take the audience through different dec-

ades and countries, meeting a host of remarkable people. I was not at all surprised when I later found out that Eric Roth had written the script for both of these films. Director David Fincher has certainly taken a risk by moving away from his earlier work such as *Fight Club* and *Seven* by creating this warm-hearted romance epic.

At 2 hours and 40 minutes, the film is far too long and could have had the same effect if it had been shorter. The tale drags on in order for Fincher to show off the visual effects used in aging

his actors. However, whilst lacking in purpose *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* is certainly a pleasant film to watch, even if it just looks pretty. If you've got some time to kill or a soft spot for Brad, I'd recommend you give it a chance.



Home-grown talent needs support

Draw The Line '09 Art Degree Show

by Daniel Graham Jarvis

I FIND ART students are remarkably lucky in that at the end of their degree they are able to produce something visually impressive and exciting, more so than say... my dissertation. LICA's (Lancaster Institute for Contemporary Arts) art department boasts one of the most promising collections of young artists in the North-West. In their final year they get to publicly showcase their talent in the Fine Art Degree Show, providing the students with an exciting opportunity to present their work in a commercial gallery.

This year's degree show has been named 'Draw The Line - 09' (look! It

24th of June in the university's own Peter Scott Gallery opposite the Great Hall. This year's artwork will feature a huge range of contemporary and traditional pieces ranging from painting to interactive digital art to textiles to film and video; themes vary from the humorous to the political. The show looks set to provide a wide variety of engaging works. The gallery's opening night is on the 16th June with free wine (whey!) and live music (whoop!) reception. The work itself will be up for sale at very reasonable prices. There will also be catalogues available which contain information about the young artists, along with their work and plans for the future.

One of the challenges the art students face is having to raise funding for the project themselves, with a target of £2,000. So far the students have managed to raise half of their target with various successful fundraisers including a bar 11 social, hand crafted Valentine's day cards, and the enormously successful cake stall (I guess everyone just loves cakes). However there will

Mother's Day and Easter cards crafted by the students themselves with their own personal touches. There will also be an event in week ten which is yet to be confirmed - but keep your eyes peeled across campus for further developments!

The degree show is very important to the students as whilst they are not assessed on audience numbers, it is very important to encourage Lancaster's emerging talents in the arts and show our support. Co-chair of the Degree Show, Jo Gillot (working alongside Robert 'Bertie' Spragg), has said the degree show means a lot to the art students as 'for many of us it is the first time we have been able to display our work in a professional and commercial capacity'. So if you fancy purchasing some moderately priced contemporary artwork for your house, simply enjoy art, or even if you are easily swayed by the promise of free wine, then get yourselves down to the Peter Scott Gallery in June and applaud these young artisans!



Contortion: Student artist Sian Phillips' sculpture is given a female contortion through working with warm, organic and sensuous raw materials.

What would your vagina say? The Vagina Monologues

A woman's perspective

by **Christine Wilde**

VAGINA! VAGINA! VAGINA!

As the cast of this year's production marched towards the stage, their unified voices rang through the Chaplaincy centre like a summons, a hoorah, a war cry; sounding out one defining word with confidence and enthusiasm: Vagina! An interesting social experiment as well as a hugely entertaining and heart-wrenching play, *The Vagina Monologues* is based on a series of diverse interviews conducted by Eve Ensler considering the experiences of what it is to be a woman, focalised through the vagina. Uniting recollections of individual women's experiences of sex, violence, menstruation, life, work and relationships, the monologues aim to re-assess the connotations of the vagina and its associated euphemisms.

The first act juxtaposed the hilarious with the unhappy, the positive with the negative, everything structured so that I was able to empathise with the stories being told. The second act was a lot more sobering. Though it did have its lighter moments, featuring a catalogue of the different types of orgasm from a female sex worker 'who loved to make vaginas happy', scenes such as 'My vagina was my village', the story of a woman tortured in Bosnian rape camps, returned the focus to the continuing persecution of women all over the world. The play ended on an incredibly poignant

note when during the closing song 'Two beds and a coffee machine', performed beautifully by Chaz Ginn, anyone who had experienced domestic violence or knew someone that had, were invited to stand. Such a significant number of people stood, that it reduced much of the audience, including myself, to tears. Though it would have been more pleasant to end the performance on a happier note that reflected the more enjoyable aspects of the Vagina Monologues, this brave and powerful finale meant that the underlying message of the play could not be overlooked or deferred as a distant, irrelevant issue. I laughed, I cried, I was proud to be a woman.



The void: Victoria Weaver (left) and Kayleigh Harper explain how one woman saw her vagina in 'The Vagina Workshop' (Photo: Shimol Khakhar)

A man's perspective

by **Richie Garton**
Arts Editor

AS A SOMEWHAT repressed young single male, I was a bit anxious about going to see *The Vagina Monologues* (In fact, I kept abbreviating the title when mentioning it to people). I had no idea what to expect from it. Part of me thought I might be pulled out of the audience and be verbally assaulted by a group of angry feminists for my various crimes against womankind. These fears were not helped by the fact that the audience was predominantly female, and that where I

was sitting I was completely boxed in on all sides by women.

Fortunately, the show was nothing like this, and I ended up having a very good time. At first, the use of the word 'vagina', something that is often taboo, made me shuffle uncomfortably in my seat, but it was said so frequently that after a while I was desensitised to it. There were also a lot of jokes about orgasms and the clitoris that, as a man, were totally lost on me. This aside, I appreciated most of the show; the energy and confidence of all the performers was impressive, and many of the monologues were informative to me as well as entertaining. Some of them were extremely funny, and others deeply tragic and moving. However, I found that the balance between these scenes wasn't quite right; for example, a hysterically funny monologue about a woman's experiences with a man who liked to *see* vaginas was directly followed by a statement about the appalling treatment of girls in Congo. While this did give the statement more impact, it felt incongruous and destroyed my good mood, although I knew that it was something that needed to be said.

While there were certain elements of the show I couldn't empathise with, I never felt that as a man I was being excluded or attacked. I even felt a little enriched by the experience.

Is the credit crunch affecting you?

- Perhaps your parents are unable to help out as much as they could
- Lost your part-time job
- Do you owe money to credit card companies?
- Behind with your rent?
- Have your circumstances changed?

If you have any worries about your financial situation, maybe it's time to talk to someone about it. We don't always have a 'quick fix', however, there are steps you can take to alleviate the situation.

If you owe money, we can help you negotiate repayments with your creditors, don't just throw the reminders in the bin.

If you don't know where the next penny is coming from, we may be able to get you emergency help.

Money running out, we can help you draw up a budget to see you through to the end of term and help you ensure you know your limitations for next term.

If you can identify with any of the above or have any other financial queries please think about talking to one of our advisers about it.



Call 01524 593769 or email lusuadvice@lancaster.ac.uk to make an appointment

advice.lusu.co.uk





ELECTIONS

VOTE

THURSDAY WEEK 8



democracy.lusu.co.uk

JOIN US EVERY FRIDAY. FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.CUBALANCASTER.CO.UK



cuba **fridays**

DRINKS FROM £1 ALL NIGHT
R&B IN THE SMALL ROOM FROM 9.30
PARTY ANTHEMS IN THE MAIN ROOM
FROM 10.30 TIL 3
FREE BUSES FROM THE UNDERPASS
ENTRY JUST £3

singles

Dan Black
*Alone*Release: March 9
(A&M Records)

by Simon Bulmer

THIS LATEST RELEASE looks to reinvigorate the increasingly lacklustre indie pop genre. Dan Black is the new ultra-chic poster boy for the Disco-House revolution and as soon as you hear this single you will understand why. Black has a unique and truly creative approach to the genre and seeks to fill the void of creativity left by bands such as Klaxons. *Alone* is a futuristic mix of funk bass and synth beats that come together to create a truly euphoric listening experience. It is hard to mention synth-based electro-pop and 'unique' in the same sentence, but he has actually achieved the feat of creating genuine excitement about the genre.

Musically it is far more intriguing than the simple label of electro-pop would have you believe. The musical influences seem abundantly clear within seconds of hearing the single, this is not to say that he is unoriginal but rather he knows what constitutes a great pop song.

The best way to describe the artist himself is as the Topshop-clad offspring of Jamiroquai and Prince, or alternatively Mika (but one you can admit to listening to in public). Believe the hype and keep an eye out for Dan Black in 2009!

Beyoncé
Single Ladies
(Put A Ring On It)
(Sony BMG)

by Meer Shah

BEYONCÉ STILL HAS the powerhouse voice, the sex appeal and the sass. But the music has been on a downward spiral – slowly but surely – since the split from Destiny's Child. Remember the days of *Bug A Boo*; *Independent Women*; or even *Soldier*? *Single Ladies* is supposed to be a similar pro-female message about the class and elegance of the fairer sex, but is a hopeless piece of fluff: there's about two actual lines (the chorus) and a beat that makes clear just how desperate Beyoncé is to keep pace with Rihanna, the new queen of urban pop. It's over, people, and even the hip shaking isn't going to help. But then what do I know? I'm single... maybe because I didn't put a ring on it.



albums

Absurdly childish, but still sincere

Lily Allen
It's Not Me, It's You
(Regal)

by Clay Garland

THERE'S TWO KINDS of people in the world, those who have to admit to liking Lily Allen's music, and the rest of you dirty great liars.

So after two and a half years (plenty of time to grow up, we're told) she's back with a second album. No more trumpets, no more summery beats, this isn't 2006 any more. Cider in the sun is gone, the credit crunch is here. Apparently. Is playing with mellower sounds and deeper lyrics a risk for someone who built up so much based on such a unique debut?

If it is, it's a risk that works. Despite the odds cynics might put on it, the introspection and politics comes across without sounding totally false. *Not Fair* and *Back to the Start* may not be as scathing as the old favourites, *Smile* and *Not Big*, but they're just as heartfelt; while tracks like *Fuck You* and *Him* are childish to the point of absurdity, but still sincere. And besides, I don't think any song that tries to speak with the voice of God should take itself too seriously.

And all this is down to the great songwriting which got her noticed in the first place, something which hasn't gotten any less sharp with a change of producer. Step aside Ronson, Greg Kurstin does all the dirty work here,

and as a result, it all sounds more coherent too. The backing music is rooted in electro but finds influence in nu-rave, old rave, folk, post-rock and, well, all sorts. Bluegrass has certainly never been this catchy...

And yet despite all the new, this is still the same Lily Allen, and everything that made her first album so successful (and so good) is still here, renewed even. There's probably filler, but I don't doubt people will argue over what it actually is. Over all, it's clever and listenable, catchy and danceable. Put simply: fantastic pop.

The Airborne Toxic Event
The Airborne Toxic Event
(Majordomo)

by James Barker

FORMED IN LOS Angeles but sounding like a cross between The Libertines and The Cure, The Airborne Toxic Event are set to be this year's indie breakthrough.

Their self-titled debut is a tale of two halves, not clear-cut in track number but in dramatic sound changes through out the album. The first half of the sound is straightforward indie. Lyrics like "we were only 17 we were holding back our screams" on Libertine-esque *Gasoline* onto the staccato riff of *Does This Mean You're Moving On* which is straight out of the Franz Ferdinand book of song writing. Then onto the head bobbing, *Something New* with its Strokes laden guitar hook.

Already you can see a pattern and are probably thinking you've heard this all before. Well, to be honest, you have. But the surprises comes in the second half of The Toxic Event's sound. It can be seen just by looking at the song titles, *Somewhere Around Midnight*, *Wishing Well* and *Happiness is Overrated*. These are epic Killers, Snow Patrol numbers. Violins, soaring choruses and you can't believe that Singer/guitarist Mike Jollett who sounded on the last track like a cracked up Pete Doherty now has a Tom Smith meets Ian Curtis rasp.

This really is were the problems start, because you don't quite know what to make of them; to dismiss them as another indie band, or see them as something deeper. I've chosen the latter because of two reasons. Firstly the lyrics, though really depressing, are great.

"And the band plays some song, about forgetting yourself for a while and the piano's this melancholy sound check to her smile" on *Somewhere around Midnight* being a good example. Certainly better than "are we human or are we..." Secondly, despite the obvious British influence they do have a distinct American sound. Though verging at times on sounding exactly like The Strokes, they do have their own quirky sound.

For a debut album, The Airborne Toxic Event have produced something of a confusing mash up, but despite this the quality of their songwriting and their vision sees them through. It may take you a few listens, but it's worth it, a very promising start.



live

Rusk-who?

by Andy Johnston

AS I SIT here twelve hours after the last bass-driven song ended I am still struggling to regain full control of my hearing, my lecture this morning was mainly the sound of static.

Dubstep entered the Lancaster music scene this week, and it made quite the entrance. The event had been planned around the top UK dubstep DJ and music creator Rusko, but those turning up on the night were met with signs informing them of his absence from the event.

Instead the night was headlined by UK born N-Type aka Mark Newton, supported by Paradox's own Dirty Dan & Simba (DDS). The front room of the Sugarhouse was the venue, meaning the gig was going to be intimate and the dance-floor full all night. Taking up further space next to the array of decks were the towering 8ft high speakers to provide the crushing bass for the set. As the room filled, the feeling of disappointment at the loss of Rusko was lost as people began to recognise tracks that had been previously confined to iPods and personal computers, sounds rarely heard on nights out in Lancaster.

'Dirty' Dan O'Donnell got the crowd going with some great work on the decks and brought out everything from New Order to Kidda. When N-Type took the platform it seemed as if the volume - which could already be heard in Morecambe - doubled. Leading with a homage to Rusko, *Cockney Thug* was on first, but when the track was switched after only 2 minutes it gave a signal that N-Type wasn't just filling in, he was taking over. Track after track of thumping beats mixed with driving electronic bass were only split up by the DJ back-spinning the vinyl and shouting at the first two rows to jump some more. Lyrics were few and far between, but when they occasionally cropped up N-Type was shouting them out, and doing just as much dancing as the rest of the crowd.

After over two hours of 2-step, dub and break-beat, N-Type left the stage to a wave of applause and DDS entered to see out the night. They had no problem showing why they hold such a high reputation, easily keeping everybody on the dance-floor with some great collaboration mixes. The hardcore collective saw out the night until 3.30am and although I didn't attend, chances are the after party saw much of the same.

Whether on the dancefloor, at the bar or on the sofas it was hard to see a single person not moving to the sound or tapping the nearest surface, although the room was not full. Maybe it was that time in the term when we all try to spend that extra night in to get that piece of coursework done, or think that Friday is the night to be out instead of Thursday.

From my (nearly) 3 years experience in Lancaster this was one of the few truly unique and intimate dubstep events. Rusko, mate, you missed out.

LUMFC 1sts narrowly beaten by UCLAN in battle at the top

by Rob Parsley

LANCASTER WENT INTO this fixture placed third in the table, eight points adrift of their opponents at the top who have won every single fixture this season. With a nervy start in both midfield and defence, UCLAN took advantage, the midfielders looking to play the ball into the main striker who played with his back to goal, inviting the wingers and his strike partner to benefit from neat link-up play. Several desperate attempts in the opening exchanges kept UCLAN at bay, but the pressure was soon rewarded. A weak defensive header was snatched upon by the supporting striker, who had his effort saved by Zimmermann, only for a UCLAN winger to despatch the rebound and make it 1-0.

Lancaster looked to take the game to their opponents, settling with the ball in midfield and keeping the ball down to feet. James Hall and Taylor Cherrett linked well with the midfield to move the ball quickly, frustrating the UCLAN defence who operated more directly in their clearances.

This provided several chances on the break for the home side, last ditch tackles made by the two Lancaster centre-backs proving vital. Hard work by Whelan at left-back assisted the Lancaster cause greatly, in addition to great defensive cover by Danny Rowlands, who threw in numerous saving blocks, notably turning one round the post from within his own six yard box while Si Curtis had to be substituted after suffering a knock to his shins.

Kieran Heaney replaced him and the Lancaster defence now looked to establish themselves as the backbone,

playing a high-line and piling pressure on their opponents. Lancaster had several efforts on goal before a long ball into the box by Rowlands from the right touchline affected a defensive mix-up as the goalkeeper came to meet the ball too late, allowing Kim Rose to nod the ball home for his fourth goal of the season making it 1-1 at half-time.

Both teams returned after the interval looking to claim an early goal and settle the tie. With Lancaster looking to have the upper hand in a dogged midfield battle, UCLAN continued their long ball tactics. This soon served effective as a tackle by Lancaster's centre-back Rob Parsley was harshly judged to have deflected back onto his own arm via his opponent with the referee pointing to the spot. Despite Whelan's efforts to infringe the penalty, it was driven low and hard into the bottom left corner past Zimmermann, who had guessed correctly.

Lancaster continued to work hard in all areas of the pitch, although frustration crept in with Alex Baldwin receiving a yellow card for his efforts. Phil Collinson was introduced to add to the Lancaster attack, but his tricky runs proved ineffective. Further frustration at continuing poor decisions by the referee led to Baldwin's second yellow card for swearing, leaving his teammates an uphill task to get anything from the game. They resisted the UCLAN pressure well, with the aid of another substitute in Darren Clifford, and Parsley saved off the line at full stretch after a UCLAN winger had rounded Zimmermann. The game ended with UCLAN carving out a fortuitous 2-1 victory, but the Lancaster players have every reason to be proud of a great effort against the runaway league leaders.



Tussle: Lancaster's Simon Thompson leaps for a header in the Men's 1st's match against UCLAN. (Photo: Rob Miller)

BUCS Football Northern Conference Men's 2A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
UCLAN 1st	8	8	0	0	21	5	16	24
Liverpool Uni 1st	7	4	1	2	15	8	7	13
Lancaster Uni 1st	8	3	2	3	14	12	2	11
Uni of Cumbria 1st	8	1	2	5	5	17	-12	5
Lpool John Moores 1st	6	1	1	4	9	16	-7	4
MMU Cheshire 2nd	7	0	4	3	6	12	-6	4

Women's Hockey 1sts keep that winning feeling

by Robert Payling

FEW TEAMS CAN boast the same impressive form that Lancaster carried into this highly anticipated Quarter Final match. Unbeaten in the league and a cup campaign charged with thirty-four goals and not one conceded is enough to make any team fear a meeting with Lancaster.

The match began in a well fought competitive manner with both teams producing an entertaining first half display. However, it was Lancaster who got the initiative after breaking down a

tough Chester defence midway through the first half. The goal came from Lancaster's top scorer of the season Emma Collette scoring her 36th in all competitions.

Collette's goal caused each side to adopt a more open style of play and Lancaster's Kimi Hicken looked to take advantage of this new found space immediately. Showing great attacking prowess Hicken weaved between a number of Chester's defence before hitting a fierce shot on goal stopped only by the well positioned goalkeeper.

The second half began with the same high tempo seen in the beginning of the first. Hicken was again involved in

an excellent offensive move combining well with Fran O'Neill who split Chester's defence and fired a powerful shot inches wide. O'Neill was the star of the second half dictating much of Lancaster's attacking moves and found herself at the heart of another chance along with Hannah-Beth Robertson. After receiving a well weighted pass from Robertson; O'Neill turned brilliantly, hit a quick shot and forced a miraculous save from point blank range.

Chester's players started to show signs of tiredness and they soon found themselves helpless in their attempts to keep out a ruthless Lancaster. The match was effectively finished as

O'Neill got the vital second goal, hitting a low diagonal shot to the left of the goalkeeper and beyond reach.

Lancaster's attacking expertise can only be put in context alongside the superb defence behind them. Often the catalyst to spark these attacking moves, defensive players such as Heather Cadd remained consistent at the back as an omnipresent force retrieving possession and allowing those ahead of her to attack. Cadd was not alone in playing such a vital defensive role though as Eleri Jones and Anika Hall's interchanging play kept Chester guessing. Both took it in turns to attack and defend making great use of the

right side of the pitch to bring width to Lancaster's style of play.

Although the score line was considerably lower than previous matches such as their second round 13-0 and fourth round 12-0 victories, Lancaster can take comfort in the fact that this had a great deal to do with Chester's Goalkeeper and not their own faults. On another day Lancaster would have reached those double figures once more and what better time to show that when they face Liverpool 2nds in the semi final.

This year, Roses certainly will be red



Gareth Coleman
AU President

I HIGHLIGHTED THE notion of 'College legends' in a previous issue of SCAN, in that within the College system at Lancaster, when it comes down to Inter-College Sport, it is fascinating to see which players have the outstanding sporting reputations, which one are the genuine characters and which ones are the genuine personalities within not only their respective colleges, but their leagues as well.

This has been vividly illustrated over the past few weeks as we've been the running Roses trials for Men and Women's Pool and Darts, whilst also finalising a College Select Squad to compete alongside the Mens University Football teams against York. This has meant the best of the best College players have been put through their paces over the last few weeks in the selection process.

I am not trying to inflate egos here, but congratulations goes out to those guys who have made the final squads. You are now the representatives of the very best of what Lancaster's College teams can offer, and after seeing the results fly in every week, I'm feeling very confident that you guys will be bringing home maximum points from York!

Speaking of which, preparations for York are picking up pace. As mentioned, the College trials have been done, and the final timetable for the weekend is nearly complete for those involved. Inevitably, the behind-scenes-work is still going on (and has been from day one), and the correspondence between myself and my counterpart at York is becoming increasingly frequent. You all know how much attention I'm dedicating to Roses (I seem to talk about it every edition of SCAN) I just wanted to comment on something I overheard one of the AU Clubs discuss after a recent fixture. Without naming the club, after a victorious display, I heard "Right, next big game is Roses!" which was brilliant to hear, and I can only hope that all the other AU clubs are gearing themselves up for Roses in this way.

The AU has had a rough year regarding facilities etc, and I'd like to think the we've been galvanised this year, which is what I'm banking on us taking over that magic winning-number of points-total come May... Who's with me?

Women's rugby 1sts eke out a win over Keele, 15-12

by Oliver Holmes
Sports Editor

LANCASTER MADE THE short trip to the Vale of Lune pitches looking to take on a Keele side rooted to the bottom of the league without a point to their name.

Following last week's postponement, Lancaster were forced to delay their attempt to put the 46-0 defeat suffered in their last outing behind them. On a boggy pitch and in overcast conditions, the teams kicked off and fought out a fairly uneventful opening twenty minutes. Both sides cancelled each other out without scoring, as a bolstered Lancaster defence coped with everything that Keele threw at them. Half-way through the first half saw the game's opening try. From the back-line a jinking run drew in two Keele players to tackle on the half-way line with the ball being off-loaded to Winger Amy Cotterill who ran the rest of the pitch to finish off and give Lancaster 5 points. But Lancaster failed to capitalise as they missed the conversion.

Following the re-start Lancaster became a bit scrappy and gave away unnecessary penalties in their own half, heaping more pressure on the defence. Keele took advantage with a minute to go before half-time as they raced through from the 22 line to draw level. Putting the conversion well wide, Keele

wasted the chance to take the lead, with the half-time score 5-5.

A passionate team talk led to a more aggressive opening to the second half as Lancaster looked to take the game to Keele. A Keele player was carried off as injuries for both sides began to take their toll.

Sustained pressure in the Keele half by Lancaster was soon followed by a second try. Well-worked movement and good off-loading from the outside centre allowed Amelia Dobbins to break free and score. But again, the conversion was missed making the scores 10-5 to Lancaster.

Substitutions were made by both sides with Amanda Spencer coming on for Lancaster. Keele hit back hard, pegging Lancaster back into their own half for quite some time. Keele thought they had scored a try but a last-ditch tackle kept the ball off the grass, protecting Lancaster's lead.

This only served as a warning shot as Keele soon scored a try with 10 minutes to go followed up by a successful conversion. But Keele's celebrations proved premature as virtually straight from the kick-off Amy Cotterill got her second try after a good tactical play by the fly-half Catherine Jones.

The remaining eight minutes saw a battling effort from the Lancaster women to see-out a 15-12 victory which secured them three well earned points.

Pool teams reach last 16 in championships



On cue: Lancaster's Maurice Wong lines up a shot while playing Cambridge 1sts. (Photo: Joey Wong)

Ben Gill

THIS YEAR, FOR the first time ever, Lancaster entered three teams in the annual BUCS-UPC Pool Championships. Finishing as losing semi-finalists at shield level last year allowed us to enter two of these teams at championship level this year, meaning we would come up against the most talented student pool players the UK has to offer.

When the draw was made, the 1st's had a tough group, with the hotly tipped Cambridge 1st's and arch rivals York drawn against us. All 15 players from the three teams were also entered the individuals competition, with £600 available to the winner. The highlight of this was 3rd team

player Jon Purshouse beating former Roses captain Matt Bradley, now of Warwick, to reach the last 32, where he joined 1st's team star Maurice Wong.

In the team contests, the 3rd's punched way above their weight, beating some excellent teams on their way to a tight defeat to the eventual finalists, LSE, in the last 16 of the shield. The 2nd's were drawn against three of the top 1st teams and managed an impressive 5-5 draw against Edge Hill 1st's, but this proved to be too little too late as they went out.

Lancaster's 1st's managed a win and a draw against the lesser teams in our group, and an excellent 6-4 win against Cambridge left Lancaster needing at least a draw against York to progress. Drawn on the TV tables, it was one of the matches of the tourna-

ment, with all of Lancaster's players performing excellently to comfortably take the match 6-3.

The victory meant Lancaster had to play the experienced Durham in the last 16, who proved a cut above, beating Lancaster 6-2 on their way to the final. Despite losing this match, Lancaster performed admirably, with all five 1st's players performing to their maximum potential, each winning matches against York's top talent. It was clear Lancaster had made a big impression on the tournament. They came away with their heads held high, and confidence soaring ahead of Roses.

Later this week, match highlights of Lancaster v York be made available on www.cuesport.tv. It is definitely worth watching.

George Wyatt Cup leagues

Men's Pool A's

	Pld	W	L	D	Diff	Pts
Pendle	12	9	3	0	12	78
Bowland	12	7	5	0	14	75
County	10	7	3	0	18	68
Graduate	11	6	5	0	7	65
Furness	12	5	7	0	-4	62
Fylde	12	4	8	0	-4	60
Lonsdale	10	5	5	0	-6	52
Cartmel	11	4	7	0	-15	50
Grizedale	10	3	7	0	-22	40

Men's Darts

	Pld	W	L	D	Diff	Pts
Furness	12	12	0	0	50	103
Fylde	11	9	2	0	39	87
Bowland	12	8	4	0	32	86
Pendle	12	7	5	0	28	82
Cartmel	11	5	6	0	-19	50
Grizedale	10	3	7	0	-20	41
County	10	3	7	0	-26	38
Lonsdale	11	2	9	0	-35	36
Graduate	11	1	10	0	-49	27

Women's Pool

	Pld	W	L	D	Diff	Pts
County	11	10	1	0	25	82
Pendle	12	8	4	0	6	73
Bowland	12	6	6	0	6	69
Graduate	11	6	5	0	7	65
Fylde	12	6	6	0	-4	64
Furness	12	4	8	0	-4	60
Lonsdale	12	4	8	0	-14	55
Grizedale	11	4	7	0	-7	54
Cartmel	11	4	7	0	-15	50

Women's Darts

	Pld	W	L	D	Diff	Pts
Fylde	12	10	2	0	20	72
County	11	8	3	0	15	62
Pendle	12	7	5	0	8	60
Bowland	12	6	6	0	6	57
Furness	12	6	6	0	2	55
Cartmel	11	5	6	0	-1	48
Graduate	11	5	6	0	-7	45
Grizedale	11	4	7	0	-11	41
Lonsdale	12	1	11	0	-32	28

George Wyatt competition heats up as Lent Term end approaches

by Charlotte Parker
Sports Editor

WITH JUST FOUR weeks of the George Wyatt competition remaining (at the time of going to print) the pressure surrounding the bar sports teams has stepped up.

With regards to the men's darts, the league was settled a long time ago. There is no catching Furness who remain unbeaten and unless something goes drastically wrong then they will be crowned league champions at the end of the term. Fylde have put up a good fight but sit far adrift from Furness despite being in second. Bowland, who usually do so well in the men's darts, have also struggled to keep up with the seemingly unstoppable force that is the Furness Men's Darts team this year. Pendle round up the top four sitting just behind Fylde and Bowland, followed by another huge gap between them and fifth placed Cartmel.

Women's darts is proving to be as always a much closer league. Whilst Fylde have not slipped from the top spot since before Christmas, an agonisingly close defeat to Cartmel who are proving to be Fylde's bogey side, has left County easily within touching distance. The last few years have seen County conquer with Fylde always just behind, this year could finally be Fylde's year however if they keep up the form they have showed throughout the year. With the two top teams still to play each other, this league is one that will not be decided until the very last week of the competition. Close on the heels of second placed County are Pendle – who with enough players to field two teams every week have done exceedingly well. Bowland are not far behind, but close defeats to the top teams have left them with no chance of succeeding in the league this year. Furness are gradually improving after an awful start to the competition but it is a little too late for them to hope of equaling last year's achievement of second place.

The men's A pool league is perhaps the closest and will also be decided on the last day of the competition. Pendle sit just above Bowland, but with County and Grad only 10 points behind and both with games in hand, the league

really could go to any of the top four teams. Furness and Fylde will both no doubt be disappointed with their performances in the pool league this year, with a mid table position looking likely for both, this will be a blow to the college's hopes for overall George Wyatt victory.

The B pool league is less close; County sit fairly comfortably at the top of the table, although a couple of big wins from Grad or Bowland could their lead slip away towards the end of the competition. However, County Men's B team are a strong side and will not be complacent, they will be fighting to keep hold of the league right until the last week of the competition. Fylde B's are doing slightly better than their A counterparts but it is surely too late for them to move much further up the league.

Women's pool is also dominated by County. After a great start to the competition the Pendle team have slipped up in recent weeks allowing County to storm in and take control of the league. Having only lost one game and having a game in hand on second placed Pendle it seems that the league is almost undoubtedly already won. Bowland sit close behind Pendle and will be looking for any opportunity to snatch second place.

So finally to the bar sport that everyone loves, dominos. It may not be the most skilful of 'sports' but it is still counted towards the George Wyatt Cup. Furness are leading the way but with only six points separating the top five teams the dominos league really is anyone's.

Overall, it seems as if the George Wyatt trophy will be won by County this year with many of their teams looking strong. However with such close leagues (apart from the men's darts) the competition could totally turn around in the last couple of weeks. Fylde are sitting right behind County in the league and if the Fylde pool teams hit some late form then County could find themselves missing out in the last week. One thing is for sure, George Wyatt team of the year is already decided, and it can only be the Furness Men's Darts team.

George Wyatt Tables: 35 >

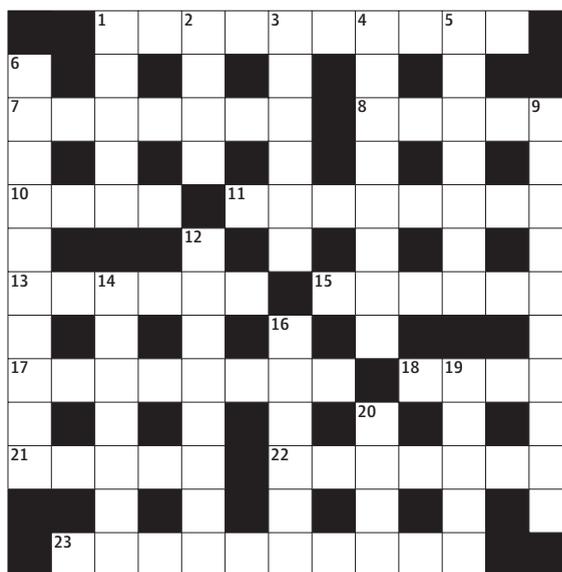
Lancaster Men's 1st lose out to UCLAN

Match report: 34 >



Challenge: Kim Rose tackles for possession in Lancaster Men's 1st match against UCLAN. (Photo: Rob Miller)

Quick crossword no. 11,838



Across

- 1 Relentlessly destructive force or object (10)
- 7 Association of devotees (3,4)
- 8 Brown pigment (5)
- 10 Wander (4)
- 11 Bearing on the issue in hand (8)
- 13 People of a state (6)
- 15 Workplace for artist, photographer etc (6)
- 17 Position of higher distinction (8)
- 18 Cleansing agent (4)
- 21 Concede – product (5)
- 22 Foolish (7)
- 23 Without a stitch on (5-5)

Down

- 1 Military group in power after coup d'état (5)
- 2 Rook – bird of the sea (4)
- 3 Symbolic representation on badge etc (6)
- 4 Cause sick or disgusted feeling (8)
- 5 Reapproach (7)

- 6 Cheek (10)
- 9 Look(ing) back (10)
- 12 Mounted bullfighter (8)
- 14 Three-pronged spear (7)
- 16 Deed (6)
- 19 Plumped (for) (5)
- 20 Select – ground-breaking tool (4)

Want more? Access over 4,000 archive puzzles at guardian.co.uk/crossword. Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 09068 338 248. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times. Service supplied by ATS. Buy 10 great Guardian puzzle books for only £20 inc p&p (save over £50). Visit guardianbooks.co.uk or call 0870 836 0749

Solution No 11,837

