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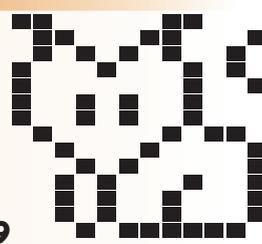
Why immigration is the key to Eurovision success

13

**Pet hates**

Lizzie Houghton revisits the world of tamagotchi

19

**Born in the 80s**

The year that shaped Hip Hop

29



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STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 3 Summer Term, Tuesday May 5, 2009

Wetherspoons murder victim was Lancaster student's uncle

- Man dies after St George's Day brawl in Lancaster pub
- Witnesses should call 0845 1 25 35 45

Rob Miller
Assistant Editor

THE NEPHEW OF a 45-year-old man from Preston, who died following a mass brawl outside the Sir Richard Owen Wetherspoon's pub in Lancaster, has made an appeal for witnesses of the attack to come forward.

The 19-year-old Lancaster University student, who we will call James, does not wish his real name to be published.

James' uncle, David Bolton, a father of two, suffered head injuries and was found unconscious outside the pub on the afternoon of Thursday April 23. He died in the Royal Lancaster Infirmary

the following day, while still being treated for his wounds. The police are now conducting a murder inquiry.

"Everyone who knew Dave loved him for who he was - a kind, caring and considerate man who would do anything for anyone, day and night," said James. "This tragedy has left us all devastated however we continue to think of the proud thoughts and memories he has left behind."

The cause of the violence is not clear. Mr. Bolton was at the pub celebrating St. George's day with friends, but police are not ruling out the possibility that the violence was football-related. Police confirmed that at least some of those involved were fans of rival clubs Preston North End and Blackpool FC.

James said: "I am appealing to anybody who happened to be in the area between 3 and 4.15 pm, particularly living in Cityblock, who may have seen anything to come forward and contact Lancashire Police on 0845 1 25 35 45."

"Please help us to bring those responsible to justice and let Dave rest

**Brawl victim:**

David Bolton died after a brawl in the Sir Richard Owen pub on St George's Day. Police are looking for witnesses.

in peace."

Blackpool FC has vowed to ban from attending games any fans who were involved in the attack. "We condemn violence of any kind and we work hard to eradicate it from the terraces," said club secretary Matt Williams. "It has no place in football, or society."

"We will be speaking to the police about a ban for any fans who are found to have been involved in this incident."

While the investigation is ongoing and police are currently studying CCTV footage to try and establish a clearer picture of events, 17 men aged between 20 and 45 were arrested on suspicion

2 >

Campus to be wind-powered



Story on page 5 >

Lecturer's union threatens national action after 8% pay demand rejected

Chris Davis
News Editor

Fears over the possibility of industrial action by the University and College Union (UCU) have resurfaced following the latest breakdown in negotiations between the union and university representatives. Following a 'derisory' proposed pay increase of 0.3%, as well as the renewed threat of widespread redundancies across the

higher education sector, UCU began the process of balloting individual university unions on May 1. UCU are set to make a final decision on industrial action later this month, on May 22.

Industrial action by lecturers and academic staff over the summer term could potentially have a significant impact on students across the country. When lecturers went on strike in 2006, monitoring and assessment of exams were severely disrupted. Some universities were left having to cancel exams,

whilst at others, students were left waiting months for essays and projects to be returned.

The primary motivation for strikes to take place on this occasion was the announcement on March 30 by the Universities and Colleges Employer's Association (UCEA) that up to 100 institutions were planning for widespread redundancies. However, tension between UCU and UCEA had long been growing around disputes over pay increases for university staff.



Balloting: The University and College Union are threatening potentially disruptive industrial action following disputes over pay and widespread redundancies.

UCU general secretary, Sally Hunt, blamed the "failure of employers to

react to the growing crisis," for UCU's decision to resort to balloting its members. She went on to say "The key thing is to ensure that we have a situation where all acknowledge that redundancies are a final resort, not the first option as seems to be at some institutions at the moment".

However, UCU have taken considerable criticism for their decision, not only from UCEA but also from the National Union of Students (NUS). Speak-

3 >

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Nephew of victim makes appeal for witnesses

of affray following the brawl, 12 from Blackpool and 5 from Preston. All were bailed, pending continued investigation. Detective Superintendent Justin Srivastava, said: "Although we have already made a number of arrests, the investigation is still in its early stages and we would appeal for anyone who was in the Sir Richard Owen pub [that day] to come forward and contact police.

"We believe there were between 40 and 50 people in the pub at the time."

Mr. Bolton was a self-employed carpenter and lived in Bamber Bridge, Preston. He is survived by his wife, Michelle, and sons Sam, 21, and Jake, 19, who have spoken of their anguish at the attack. "This has absolutely devastated us," said Mrs. Bolton. "It doesn't seem real—it's like it's happening to someone else." She added: "I was with Dave for 27 years, married for 23. We did everything together as a family. He was an absolutely fantastic person. This has absolutely devastated our sons."

Mrs. Bolton also led calls for those responsible to hand themselves in. "Go to the police station and hand yourself in," she said. "Do the right thing."

Alesha Dixon to headline Grad Ball

THE LINE UP for this year's Graduation Ball has been announced by LUSU. Alesha Dixon, former Mis-teeq singer and star of Strictly Come Dancing will be headlining the event. Also on show will be Björn Again, the ABBA tribute band who recently put on a secret concert for Russian prime minister, Vladimir Putin. Frankmusik and the Pupinni Sisters will also be playing.

LUSU general secretary, Janie Coleman, explained the process of picking Dixon as the main act. "We went through loads of different people that we thought would be exciting enough."

"It took a while to get hold of her to do it because she was doing all her Comic Relief stuff at first, so it was quite nerve-wracking. But we've got her now."

The event will take place on Monday June 22, in the Great Hall complex. Tickets are already on sale from the LUSU information desk. Similar price to last year.

Ms Coleman found it difficult in describing the theme of the event. Apparently it will resemble a "twisted circus-esque" and "like Moulin Rouge" was the closest she got to explaining a definitive theme for the event.

"It's the package I'm excited about, – the whole thing – not just Ms Dixon. I've had some really good feedback [from it]. I've had some not so good feedback as well, but you can't please everyone."



In demand: LUSU had difficulty pinning Ms Dixon down for the event at first, due to her involvement with Comic Relief.

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in this scan

News

- 5 £5m wind turbine plan for Lancaster University
- 6 What do international students really think?
- 7 BBQ clampdown still undecided
- 8-9 Special Report: Students in the recession
- 10 University monitoring swine flu epidemic
- 11 Fylde students put on memorial for friend

Comment

- 13 Patrick Allinson: Why Eurovision is fixed
- 14 Liam Richardson: Redundancy should worry students too
- 15 Alex Harris: A wedding? What were Pendle thinking?
- 16 Michael Payne: University House doesn't exist in a vacuum
- 17 Letters to the Editor

Features

- 19 Lizzie Houghton reacquaints herself with cyberpets
- 20 Daniel Ash takes a closer look at Roses
- 21 Christie Anderson finds some interesting things on Google Street View
- 22 Michael and Sarah

Arts

- 24 A look at J.G. Ballard's influence on the world of literature
- 25 Why everyone should read the original *Dracula*
- 27 US vs UK in the battle of the spring comedies

Music

- 28 PJ Harvey and John Parish's new album reviewed
- 29 Happy 21st birthday, Hip Hop!

Sports

- 30 Inter-college Football results
- 31 Robert Payling: Moyes is bringing magic back to Merseyside
- 32 The first result from Roses, a week early

LUSU attacks external functions after wedding in Pendle turns ugly

Chris Davis and Dan Hogan

THE HIRING OUT of college bars for external functions has been attacked by the LUSU president, Michael Payne.

Disruption caused by guests at a wedding held in Pendle bar on April 18, officially one day into the start of the Summer term, gave rise to the criticism.

The event was staged on the same Saturday that saw many students returning to campus following the Easter break, and was also during the quiet period designated by the university to prevent disturbance to students who are preparing for examinations. Mr Payne called the situation "outrageous".

The wedding was booked as early as last summer through Pendle college itself. Although external functions such as weddings and conferences have been held before at other colleges such as Lonsdale and Cartmel, this was the first of the kind to be held in Pendle bar.

Both the college Porters and subsequently the police were called during the course of the evening following an altercation between two wedding guests, reportedly the result of a licentious game that got out of hand.

Speaking to SCAN, Mr Payne said:

"It's outrageous that students are being continually ousted from their college social spaces during term time in such an unaccountable way by external functions which have no link whatsoever to the colleges or the university.

"It is also deeply irresponsible, when such an event was known to be taking place, for external security not to have been hired to oversee the event, instead of letting the burden fall on already over-stretched porters," he said. "Students were complaining about being woken up all night by guests at the party, and it isn't acceptable, especially during the quiet period.

"The students union and the JCRs are - rightly - expected to jump through hoops when planning events on this scale. If the university insists on entertaining external functions, at least the same rules should apply to them as well."

However, the bar's assistant licensee, Zita Duffy, downplayed the incident, calling it a "small fight" that had got "blown out of proportion" by following reports. She stressed that similar incidents often take place at events such as each college's end of year extrav, which, unlike external functions, have bouncers present to diffuse trouble. "Because it wasn't students involved" she said, "this has attracted more attention than it otherwise would have done." The calling of the police,



In the firing line: University House has received a lot of criticism from students for prioritising external functions over student access in college bars. But on this occasion, the blame lies squarely with Pendle college itself. (Photo: Dan Hogan)

she maintained, was merely "standard procedure".

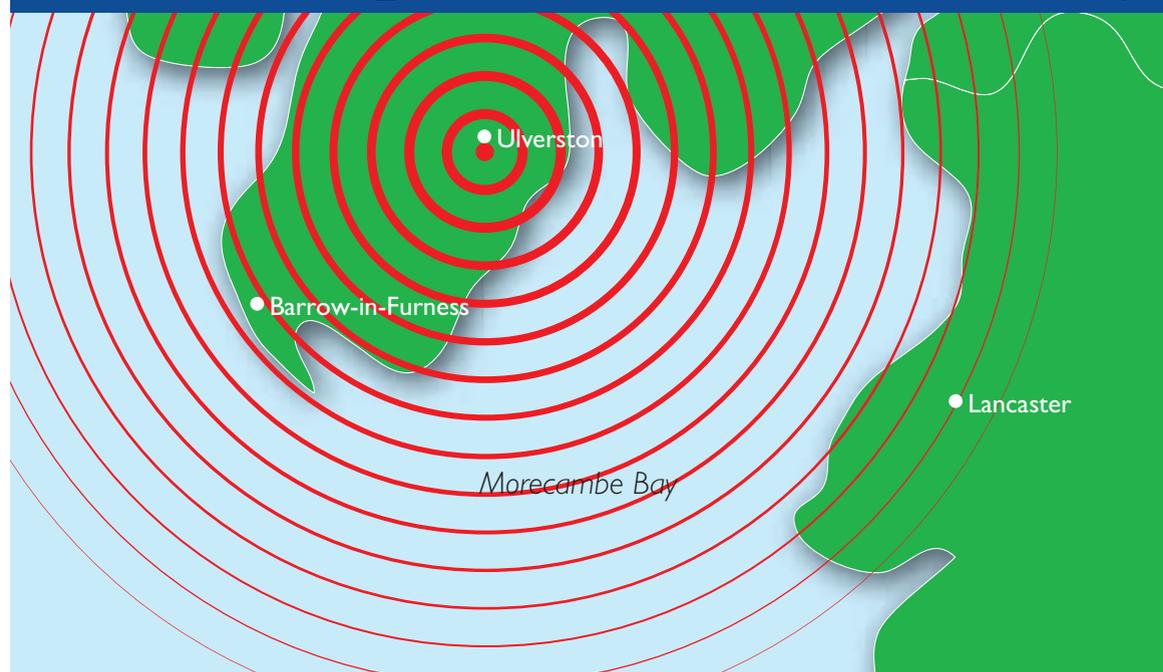
However, questions remain over why the wedding was held during the university's quiet period, which forbids any "noise of unreasonable volume at unsuitable times" in any area close to residential accommodation. Students in accommodation adjacent to the bar reported that guests from the wedding reception were making noise outside their rooms after midnight. Some of those students had examinations on Monday 20, only two days after the disturbances took place.

Concerns about the increasing use of college facilities for external functions were expressed by student campaigners earlier in the year following the takeover of some of the college bars by the university's Commercial Services division, which now controls all bars on campus.

However, according to the sister of the groom, who booked the bar for the event, it was the Pendle college principal, Peter Scullion, and not the university's hospitality division, that agreed to the use of the bar for party.

Ms Duffy indicated that it was likely that the incident on April 18 would not prevent all bars being increasingly used this way in the future, since the wedding gave the bar more money than it took in the whole last two weeks of the Lent term.

Minor earthquake rocks Morecambe Bay



Michael Holt

LANCASTER WAS GENTLY rocked last week by a small earthquake centred on the Lake District. The tremor, which happened on April 28, was the result of an earthquake measuring 3.7 on the Richter scale.

The quake happened at around 11:20am and was felt as far south as Blackpool. The epicentre was located

near Ulverston in Cumbria. There were no reports of damage.

David Potts, a PhD student in the university's physics department, found a potentially dangerous experiment disturbed by the quake. "[It] was detected on our thermometry wires that are very sensitive to vibrations. At first people in the department thought I'd blown up the experiment and came rushing to the scene expecting to find my liquefied remains. During the quake I feared for the safety of

my experiment and for my life."

A spokesman for the British Geological Survey said: "With a magnitude of 3.7 it is relatively small. We get one of this size roughly once every year in the UK and they rarely cause any damage."

In February 2008 Lancaster found itself disrupted by an earthquake centred near Market Rasen in Lincolnshire. The quake measured a magnitude of 5.2 and was the biggest for nearly 25 years.

Threat of strike action puts exam schedules at risk

ing to the Guardian, NUS president Wes Streeting said: "Given the effects of the current economic climate on the graduate jobs market, students need industrial action by university staff like a hole in the head".

Jocelyn Prudence, UCEA Chief Executive, called UCU's decision "premature, inappropriate and out of process", and asked UCU to "reflect on the wisdom of asking its members to take industrial action at this stage". She also pointed out that the issue of redundancies was one controlled by the universities themselves, not UCEA.

The meeting between the two associations that took place on March 30 was expected to see the formulation of a new pay deal for the higher education sector. The last deal, in 2006, saw salaries increase for academic and related staff by 10.37% over two years, followed by a further 5% increase the following year, in line with RPI inflation.

This year, UCU requested a pay rise of 8%, which would increase higher education sector pay in line with public sector workers' pay. Despite the 2006 deal, a UCU report in 2008 maintained that higher education salaries remained 'very uncompetitive'. UCEA's later offer of a 0.3% increase was bluntly condemned in a statement by Ms Hunt as 'derisive'. Whilst previous pay increases had stood comfortably

above the rate of inflation, this year's offer stands well below the current RPI of 2.9%.

UCEA, however, defended the 0.3% pay offer as 'realistic, responsible, and credible under the current circumstances'. A statement by the association condemned UCU's requests as "constructed without any reference to the exceptional recent pay increases or to the current economic environment." They also repeatedly highlighted the recent higher education cuts in this month's budget, which cost the HE sector £400m.

UCU have expressed their desire to continue negotiations, but with the increasing pressure on universities and UCEA due to recent funding cuts, a national agreement to protect jobs may be difficult to implement. Two major University groups, the Russell group and the 1994 group, the latter of which Lancaster University vice-chancellor, Paul Wellings, is soon to become chair, have both expressed concern that examinations could be heavily affected by strikes.

A message from the vice-chancellor to staff at Lancaster recently expressed hope that it would be possible "to avoid any action that may damage the experience of our students and the job security of our staff", but also warned that in the event of a strike, staff pay would be immediately withheld.

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PENNY STREET - LANCASTER
REVOLUTION

£5m wind turbine plan could reduce campus energy consumption by a third

Chris Davis and
Sam Newsham

LANCASTER'S DRIVE TO reduce its 'carbon footprint' is set to take a significant step forward following proposals to build two wind turbines on the University's Hazelrigg site to the east of the M6 motorway.

If built, the 2.3 Megawatt turbines could potentially reduce the university's energy consumption by a third, equivalent to the utility requirements of all students who live on campus.

Funding for the project is to come from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as part of their £10m 'Transformational Fund', which aims to promote innovative approaches to sustainable energy at universities across the country. Lancaster's proposals, said by deputy chief executive of HEFCE, Steve Egan, to be "exceptional", were awarded £5m – half of the overall funding available. The university was one of only three out of 37 applicants to win funding.

The university's environment and sustainability manager, Jonathan Mills, said: "we're very positive and very enthusiastic about the proposal. It's the sort of project we need to implement, the first stage in trying to really significantly cut carbon emissions and introduce a nearly zero source of electricity."

"Anything that takes away the use of non-efficient energy is a good thing. It's a step in the right direction and we should be at the forefront, being a green university," added LUSU's green officer, Michael Keegan.

However, the building of wind turbines has often shown provoked public resistance, as demonstrated by the efforts of Lancaster-based Wind Direct to secure planning permission to build a wind turbine in nearby Garstang last year. When the developer's proposals



Forecasted campus power demand

Source: Report to University Council on Feb 6 2009



were bought to the local council, there were over 300 objections to the plan. But following an appeal to the government, Wind Direct's plans were controversially approved in April of this year.

Development of wind energy is becoming increasingly prominent across the North West, following the government's announcement that it is aiming to reduce carbon emissions nationally by 26% for the year 2020 and 80% by 2050.

Stephen Booth, chair of Ellet Parish Council, told the Lancaster Guardian: "I've got mixed feelings about the proposal. I support it on the grounds of the environment. But on the other hand, I'd be bothered about the disruption caused to the community when they bring everything through the area, and start having to build access roads".

The university is currently in the process of monitoring popular opinion towards the project. Future consultation with Lancaster City Council is planned, as is a full public consultation to be held later in the summer.

As yet Mr Mills is unsure of the level of resistance from local residents but hopes it will be low. "It's difficult to say. In previous cases [where resistance was encountered] there were usually site specific issues – they were on a different scale to ours and much larger," he said. "I've looked at surveys on public perception of wind turbines and 70-80% of the population are positive about them."

If the project does go ahead as intended, construction of the turbines, which would measure 125m from the ground to the top of the blades, could begin as soon as early 2010.

Completion of the project would be a key component in the University's Sustainable Energy strategy. This includes replacement of the campus's outdated boiler system as well as the installation of meters to measure the consumption of electricity, gas and water in all the campus's major buildings.

Union bans officers from debating with 'fascist' BNP

Sam Newsham
Deputy News Editor

UNION OFFICERS HAVE been banned from debating with fascists, after a controversial motion was passed at Union Council on April 23.

The 'No Platform for Fascists' policy was drawn up in response to Nick Griffin, the leader of the British National Party (BNP), standing for election as an MEP for the North West in the forthcoming European Parliament Elections. Its aim is to protect students at Lancaster from what the union regards as fascist organisations, whose ideologies stand in stark contrast to LUSU's Equal Opportunities Policy and also the Prevention of Offensive Activities Policy.

According to the BBC, the forthcoming elections are "the biggest transnational election in history". The Eu-

ropean Parliament is the only directly elected body in the European Union and therefore has a significant impact on those who live in EU countries.

All EU and Commonwealth students are eligible to vote in the election. Most UK students living on campus will be automatically registered to vote, however on-campus Commonwealth students (who are eligible) those living off-campus may have to register online at www.aboutmyvote.com.

As a result of the policy, no union officer may promote fascist organisations or participate any events involving a fascist organisation. Last time a similar proposal came before Union Council, in December 2005, it was defeated by a single vote after a heated debate that lasted several hours. The then Sabbatical officers, who were opposed to the policy, argued that it would harm freedom of speech.

Proposing the motion, LUSU Presi-

dent Michael Payne said: "As a students' union we're obliged to protect our membership. Some of our diverse groups across campus are under threat of being specifically targeted [by the BNP]."

If he gains a seat, Mr Griffin and his party will have access to around £250,000 of expenses. "They can use [these resources] to threaten and intimidate our students," said Nat Walker, a former block of six officer who wrote the motion. "I think it's really important we recognise how serious this issue is. The North West is a large region and [fascists have] a lot of support within it."

It is hoped that as a result of the policy, LUSU's campaigning will raise awareness amongst students of the importance of the European elections, and thereby encourage them to vote on June 4. In the 2004 elections Mr Griffin gained 6.4% of the vote in the

North West and would need a swing of just 2% to win. A low turnout on June 4 would increase his chances of winning. Both Mr Payne and Ms Walker stressed the importance of participation in the elections.

Despite Mr Payne's fear that "some people are going to have concerns about how political we're being," the motion passed with only minor amendments.

It was noted by Dave Prescott, President of Furness JCR, that whilst he agreed with the motion he felt that the union "needs to be aware that we're not patronising students. Some people may take offence and see it as LUSU being overbearing."

SCAN Editor, Dan Hogan, called for an amendment to clarify the distinction between the promotion and the discussion of fascist ideology. "This is to ensure we can discuss issues surrounding fascist organisations such as the BNP without being afraid that we might be

promoting their ideology," he said.

Speaking to SCAN about the lack of discussion in Council before the vote, Ms Walker said: "I got as much advice as I could about it beforehand; I spoke to lots of people and got student input. There's also the context – the BNP candidate is in our constituency so it's an immediate issue." She added: "We have a duty of care to our students".

Nick Griffin was in the news recently following the leaking of his party manual 'Language and Concepts Discipline'. The manual, seen by anti-fascist group Searchlight, claimed that black and Asian Britons "do not exist" and instead should be referred to as "black residents' of the UK". Other minority groups targeted by the BNP in the past include the LGBT community and Jews. LUSU's policies on diversity and liberation are in direct opposition to those of the BNP.

'The most stressful days I have ever experienced'

As LUSU applies for government funding to better integrate internationals, **Lisa Stallard** finds that not all foreign students at Lancaster University feel welcome

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY'S PROSPECTUS claims that the university offers a "friendly cosmopolitan community" for international students, and with over 1,500 international students from over 100 different countries, Lancaster certainly prides itself on the diverse mix of nationalities that study at the university.

It seems that the university's eagerness to support is recognised by the students. Sarah Clark, an Australian student who studied at Lancaster for the Michaelmas term highlighted the good points of the international system at the university. Ms Clark felt that some of the most efficient points were the academic staff, who "were helpful when it came to differences between Australian universities and Lancaster University; and provided assistance when required," even after she had returned home.

It's not just the university itself though. A positive point that was highlighted by many of the students SCAN spoke to was the helpfulness and support that home students provided. Ms Clark commented that her friends helped to explain how some things worked differently at a British university. She said: "I felt like I fitted in perfectly, everyone I ran into was accommodating and friendly and I miss them lots now." Sara Tennant, a student from Canada who is spending a year at Lancaster, also echoed the sentiments. "The best help that I have received is

from the students of Lancaster. The UK students I have met here have assisted me a great deal whenever I have a question or a concern."

But it's not all sweetness and joy. An area where Lancaster seems to fall down is in the frosty welcome for international students when they first arrive at the university. Ms Clark explained how she felt disappointed at the orientation session, leaving halfway through because of how basic the information was. "I understood enough already. I had spent time in England on several occasions before coming to Lancaster and didn't really need to be informed on British bank accounts, etc."

Ms Tennant was also annoyed by the welcome she received. "The first few days here were some of the most stressful days I have ever experienced, and the international office of Lancaster did not do much to help. Upon arrival we were told to report to the international office immediately for assistance."

But that assistance was less than useful: "As soon as we found the office, the people we spoke to did not help us at all and only made things more stressful and frustrating. We were left without knowing what to do and without any means of contacting our families at home."

Accommodation worries and the attitudes of staff also seem to be a rather unpredictable experience. Ms Tennant went on to explain: "My friend and I requested to live together on our accom-



Cold reception: Canadian exchange students, Elizabeth Pereira (left) and Sara Tennant felt let down by the university when they arrived in Lancaster. (Photo: Dan Hogan)

'The people we spoke to only made things more frustrating'

modation applications, which did not end up being the case when we arrived. It was disappointing, but manageable. However, upon talking to a resident official we were rudely told that they could not meet the needs of everyone."

Things improve after the first few days though, with the range of activities being widely praised. For Ms Tennant the best organised group for international students "would have to be the Erasmus society." She explained: "They provide continuous activities and social gatherings for international students. Through this group I have met some of the most amazing people."

Samuel Tang, Vice President of the university's Chinese Society, believes that LUSU should be doing more to engage with internationals. He suggested that the union and JCRs could hold more events earlier in the year to help freshers integrate more. "The student union can do a bit more to help those international students. At least, let

those international students to get involved in any of the activities," he said.

Sara Dunn, the LUSU Women's Officer, has been in charge of organising international events for the past year. She conceded that the union could do more to engage International students but maintained that positive progress was being made.

"[For] the first time ever LUSU have provided International Music events at our student union nightclub," Ms Dunn said. "They're not perfect by any stretch of the imagination but we're committed to working on it."

She added: "The International Forum has grown from strength to strength with officers who are committed to improve the most stressful and difficult times for international students. However, we need to engage with our international membership face-to-face so that they can tell their Union what they want, instead of us just speculating on what they want."

'LUSU can do more to help international students'

However, when SCAN tried to contact LUSU's International Students Officer, Anca Tatomir, we received no reply. According to other union officers, she has barely been seen since she was elected in November. Despite her absence, LUSU is currently pushing to be one of 20 other student unions in the country to receive funds for 'internationalising students unions' as part of a government scheme initiated by Tony Blair while he was prime minister.

But despite the poor welcome from the university, and the mixed provision from LUSU, the students seem to have positive experiences with their contact with university staff, students and various groups they may encounter in their time abroad. Ms Clark summed up her feelings by saying: "My experience has been fantastic with many new and exciting memories and adventures. I love the difference of culture and the overall different way of life and the new sense of independence you gather during the year abroad." She balanced out her dissatisfaction with staff at the university with her ultimate experience. "Though I was a bit disappointed in the more official aspect of Lancaster, I do believe that the students of the university have definitely created a pleasant environment for all to enjoy. This year has been one of the most amazing years of my life."

Lancaster student elected to NUS LGBT committee

Matt Saint

A LANCASTER STUDENT has been elected onto the LGBT Committee of the National Union of Students.

Dani Gross of Furness College was elected to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Committee on a platform of empowering women in the LGBT movement. She was the only woman running for an open place on the committee rather than a women's only post.

The election took place at NUS' annual LGBT conference in Nottingham.

Four members of Lancaster University's LGBT association, YOURlgbt, attended the National Union of Students' annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans campaign conference in Nottingham along with 300 other LGBT representatives from further and higher education institutions across the UK.

Resolutions were passed at the conference to broaden the campaign to include students who defined their sexuality as queer, undecided or questioning.

Ms Gross won after votes were reallocated and came second overall. She



Elected: Dani Gross, a former LUSU LGBT officer, was elected onto NUS' LGBT campaign committee.

said she was "really not expecting to receive the level of support I did, as I was trying to make a point about women's equality in a historically men's and trans-led position. But I'm glad every-

one had faith in me and understood my point."

Jen Daffin, current member of National LGBT Committee (Women's Place) and Pendle College alumni, said "By challenging and contravening the status quo, as newly elected NUS LGBT committee open place Dani Gross has broken the mould and pushed for a new level of and direction for Women's equality within the NUS LGBT campaign."

"Open place committee positions are open to everyone, but women rarely stand. I can't remember the last time a woman stood in an open place and

won! By standing in an open place and winning on a platform of empowering women is an amazing breakthrough. I know Dani is going to be a great committee member" said Lucy Brookes, re-elected National LGBT Officer.

The debate around the redefinition of the LGBT movement was the most controversial of the conference. After much argument, the delegates failed to agree a new term to define the campaign. Both "Minority Sexuality and Gender Identity" and "Queer Students" failed as proposals after a heated debate.



Hot stuff: The blaze outside Pendle College was caused by a disposable barbecue. The cost of repairs is expected to be in the region of £50,000. (Photo: Andrew Ratcliffe)

Uni may impose BBQ restrictions

Lizzie Houghton
News Editor

24 students have been moved into temporary accommodation following the fire in Pendle Avenue last month. The fire originated in a bin store behind Pendle Block 12. It is thought to have been caused by an unextinguished portable barbecue.

The Lancaster Fire Service dealt with the incident, which took place on April 18 at 7:20pm. Heat from the fire caused severe damage to the outside of the Pendle block, scorching brickwork and shattering the windows. Two first floor bedrooms and their contents were damaged by smoke. No one was hurt. The estimated cost of the fire is £50,000.

University safety officers have issued a reminder to students stating that portable barbecues should not be used on or near surfaces that could catch fire or be damaged and completely extinguished before being placed in bins.

Mark Salisbury of university security, said: "It is requested that all staff and students co-operate with these procedures in order to minimise risk. New steel containers are being purchased in the short term and these should be used to dispose of all portable barbecues. Longer term, the University is producing options for fixed barbecue facilities throughout campus and changes to the use of portable barbecues will be kept under review."

According to sources the university's disciplinary committee is reluctant

to impose an outright ban on portable barbecues although this may yet become the case.

Despite the fire having damaged only two rooms, all the residents of Block 12 have been relocated while repair work is underway in order to not disturb their exam preparation. Emma Inglesant, a Block 12 resident, was sat in her flat mate's room at the time the fire began. They left his room just as an aerosol can exploded.

"We were all sat in one of our friend's room," Ms Inglesant said. "Usually the steam from the launderette comes up past the window and we thought 'the steams a bit black'. Then the whole room went black. We moved into the room next door as that's exactly where it [the fire] was. We had the window open looking down at it. We closed the window and then, literally five seconds later, an aerosol can blew. The flames shot up past where we could see."

She added: "The fire alarm didn't go off because the fire was outside of the building and they're heat activated. One of my flat mates hit the fire alarm on our way out."

Three fire engines were called to the scene. Once the fire had been extinguished the students were allowed to collect an over night bag on the Saturday. They were allowed back in their rooms on Sunday in order to pack enough for a week. By Wednesday it was clear the repair work would take some weeks to complete. A removal company was hired to help move the students' belongings to Cartmel.

LUSU in driving seat for future college bar discussions

Dan Hogan
Editor

LUSU IS CLAIMING a small victory in its campaign to win back more influence in the college bars.

The university's Bars Advisory Group, has agreed to allow LUSU president, Michael Payne, to guide the agenda of a series of negotiations over the future management of the college bars that will commence later this term. The negotiations are to involve all the college principals, licensees and JCR presidents as well as the commercial services director, David Peeks, and Pro Vice-Chancellor Amanda Chetwynd. It will be the first time that each colleges' principal, licensee and JCR president will be able to feed into the debate.

It is Mr Payne's intention for "the student delegation" to present a document outlining "Foundations for a sustainable future" of the college bars, to the first of those meetings. The document is hoped to form the basis for a new model of cooperation between students and the university over the bars.

In an early draft of the document, seen by SCAN, 16 'key principles' are set out for future decisions on the college bars. In an apparent gesture to put the hostile atmosphere between LUSU

and David Peeks behind them, point 3 reads "There must be a partnership between the Facilities Division, college JCRs, DPRs, principals and LUSU."

A key point for the JCRs will be the protection of their income from games machines in bars. Other important points from the document include the suggestion of a "service level agreement" to mutually agree, among other things, bar opening hours.

Payne promises that there will be wide opportunity for consultation amongst students on the proposal, before it is presented before the strategy group. The document has already been discussed by JCR execs, but Payne was reluctant to take it to a meeting of Union Council, instead preferring to present it to the LUSU's Executive Committee, whose role is less political than it is operational.

Richard Bennett, the campaigns officer for the Labour Club, and who was deeply involved in the campaigns around the college bars last term, was skeptical of the rationale for not putting the strategy to Union Council for wider input. "It is important that this document is seen to have had as wide a consultation amongst students as possible, in order to stop it again being characterised by the university as just the demands of a vocal, rabble-rousing few.

But at the same time, it must be very clear in its objectives."

But the president believed that calling a special meeting of Union Council to discuss the document before its full contents was announced was unnecessary. "This is stuff we've already presented to council," he said. "Union Council is probably more in the know [on this issue] than most other people."

The intention is to follow the strategy document's presentation with a detailed social calendar, drawn up over the summer vacation, to get students using the bars again in greater numbers next year. The year-long plan will include proposals for purple card deals on the bars which are "in touch with what students actually want."

Payne claims the emphasis will be upon broadening the appeal of the college bars beyond their traditional regulars: predominantly white, British, male students. His hope is that if LUSU and the JCRs demonstrate that they can be responsible and 'grown up' enough to take a greater role in how the bars are run, some areas of responsibility for their promotion to the student body will be delegated to the union.

As yet, there is very little indication of what the university will think of the proposals.



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State of Play is a film about a dying industry. Its lede may present it as a political thriller, but the heart of the story is on the value of good journalism

Arts, 24

Students in the recession

Downturn causing students to alter uni choices

- **43% of applicants' university choices affected by recession**
- **NUS renew call for support based on need**
- **27% of students want to see higher taxes fund HE**

Liam Richardson
Editor-elect

THE RECESSION IS having a major impact on choice of university for prospective students, particularly in the North West of England, according to a recent survey by the National Union of Students (NUS).

The survey's findings also reveal that students prefer to remain living at home whilst studying in order to incur as little debt as possible during the course of their degrees.

The recently re-elected NUS president, Wes Streeting, believes that student debt levels in this economic climate have become arguably the salient factor when filling out UCAS application forms with six out of ten poorer students apparently restricted by financial concerns. Mr. Streeting went on to say: "Clearly, students applying for university this year have faced some stark choices as a result of the recession. Rather than simply choosing the best course or campus for them, many are now sadly having to take money into consideration."

As the reality of recession hits home, it is students in the North West that are becoming more prudent when mapping out their academic futures, with 65% claiming that the impact of the global economic crisis has directly influenced their decisions, often at the expense of their individual preferences. This turn of events saddens Dannie Grufferty, the President of the Liverpool Guild of Students: "It is a real shame that nearly two thirds of university applicants from the North West find their choices restricted by financial concerns. The whole system of student support needs to be overhauled so that poorer students are no longer priced out of any

university courses."

Mr. Grufferty's assertion that financial support networks for students needs to be remodelled is supported by evidence which shows that universities which offer the most bursaries or scholarship opportunities are now becoming more appealing to 41% of debt-averse students. However, this worries the NUS President. Mr. Streeting maintains that: "The need for a national bursary scheme is now greater than ever. All financial support should be based on how much a student needs it, not where they happen to be studying. We cannot leave this in the hands of individual institutions any longer".

There is, therefore, a growing feeling that poorer students are becoming the victims of a carrot and stick approach to their education, with financial incentives outweighing academic and social preferences.

The NUS survey presents further findings, including that three quarters of students seek part-time work whilst studying for their degrees. This raises concerns over employment and the affects it might have on a student's capability to devote as much time to their studies as is necessary.

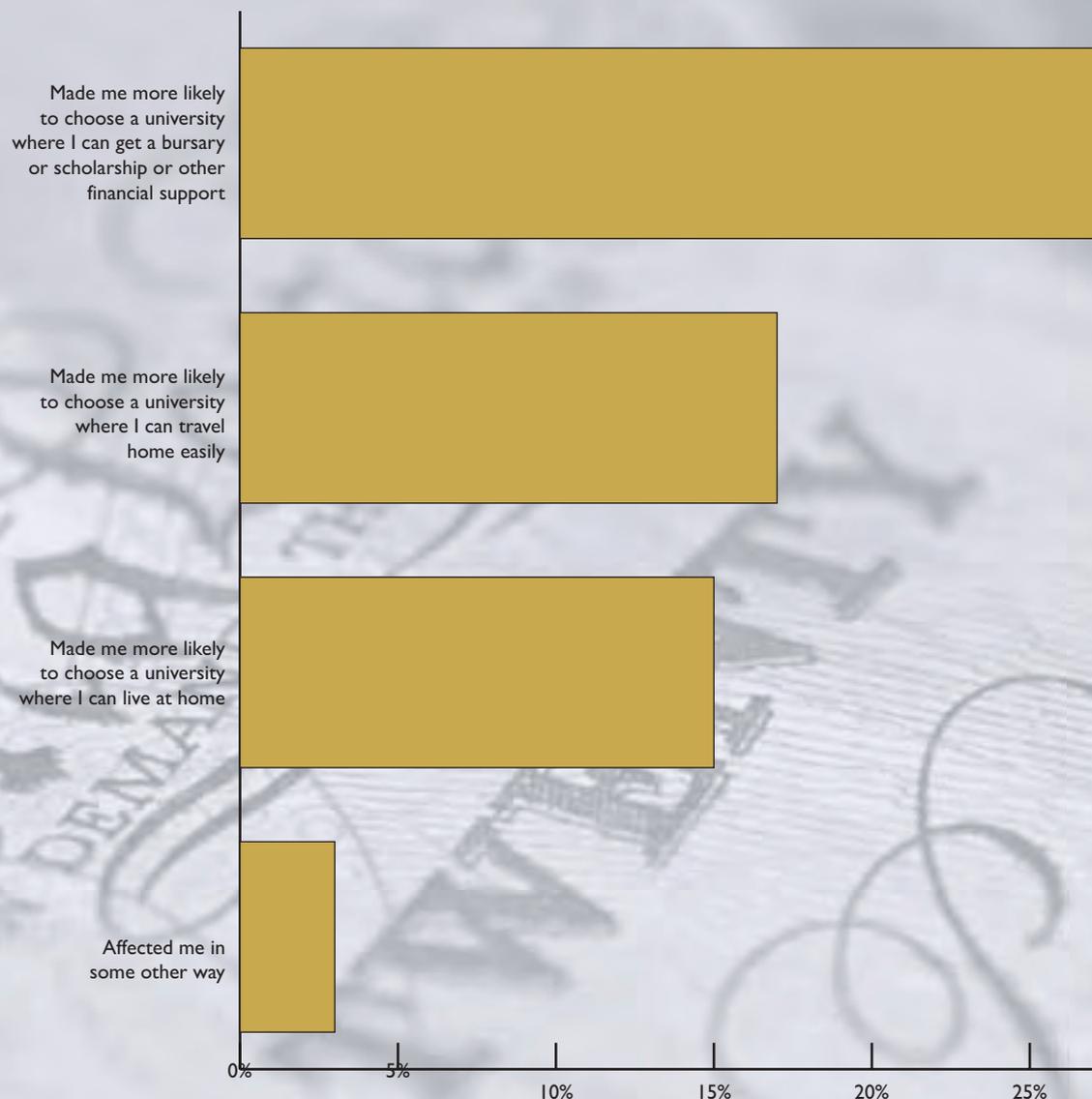
More than a third of students fear that parental contributions they may receive during their time at university may be significantly reduced due to the onset of recession. This limiting of income streams for students has potentially negative consequences in their choice of lifestyle with many cutting costs on food and seeking out budget alternatives which are not always as nutritious and healthy as would be hoped.

There were also clues as to what incoming students would like to see done about HE funding and graduate employability in the findings. 30% of those surveyed believed the government should make businesses contribute more toward the growing costs of universities. 27% suggested increasing the cost to the taxpayer, with one in five wanting the number of university places to be cut.

Two thirds of the students were concerned about graduate employment (16% being 'very concerned') with a similar number calling for government intervention on the issue. The most popular course of action to improve employment prospects was to offer grants to employers to increase places.

How has the recession affected university choices?

Source: NUS Applicants survey, March 2009



Students borrowing more than ever

Graham Harwood

THE RESULTS OF a study have revealed that the costs of participating in higher education have increased by almost half, while student incomes have only gone up by 12%.

The study, commissioned the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) showed that increased tuition fees account for much of the overall 7% rise in student expenditures. The survey also showed that students are increasingly relying on loans and grants provided by universities and the government, rather than on income received from their parents or part time work. According to the study, the percentage of students doing paid part-time work during the academic year fell from 58% in 2004-05 to 49% in 2007-08, whilst income received from bursaries rose by 44%.

Student expenditure and income rose by similar proportions from 2005, with the 12% rise in expenditure driven largely by the introduction of top-up fees. The study showed that borrowing amongst students had increased by 17%

in order to finance the increased costs.

The results of the DIUS survey show a falling degree of faith in the financial worth of higher education, with a 5% drop (from 86 to 82%) in the numbers of full time students agreeing that "the long term benefits of higher education are greater than the costs." 72% of full time student expected to get a job upon leaving university, although 59% of those surveyed said they felt some anxiety about the increasingly competitive job market.

The survey also drew comparisons between student finance and student academic wellbeing. 56% of full-time students reported that they felt their financial situation had an impact on their academic performance. Financial difficulties were cited as the most common reason for students to leave higher education. Over a third of full-time students said that finance influenced the majority of their decisions whilst at university, including course and accommodation choices. 68% of full-time students said that they would not have studied at all without financial support.

Recently, the National Union of Students (NUS) launched their cam-

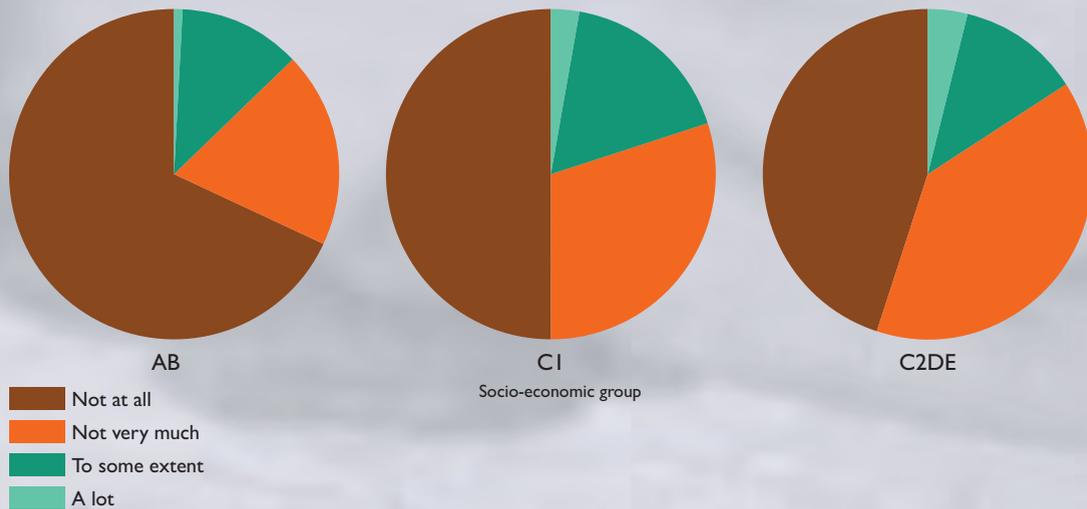
campaign Broke and Broken, which seeks "to change the education funding system". LUSU president, Michael Payne, who has long been supportive of the NUS campaign, said: "The national campaign on higher education funding and the government review which is set take place later this year is a vital campaign to protect students' interest and financial stability whilst at university."

"We are calling on the government to involve the NUS and students' unions in their review and we have set down five key foundations we would like them to take on board when considering the review of higher education."

He went on to say: "It is vitally important that the government provides clear and in-depth advice and guidance to students navigating the higher education sector. Also the current bursary and student support systems in place must be analysed and properly reviewed, to make sure that students are supported fairly and equally across all universities."

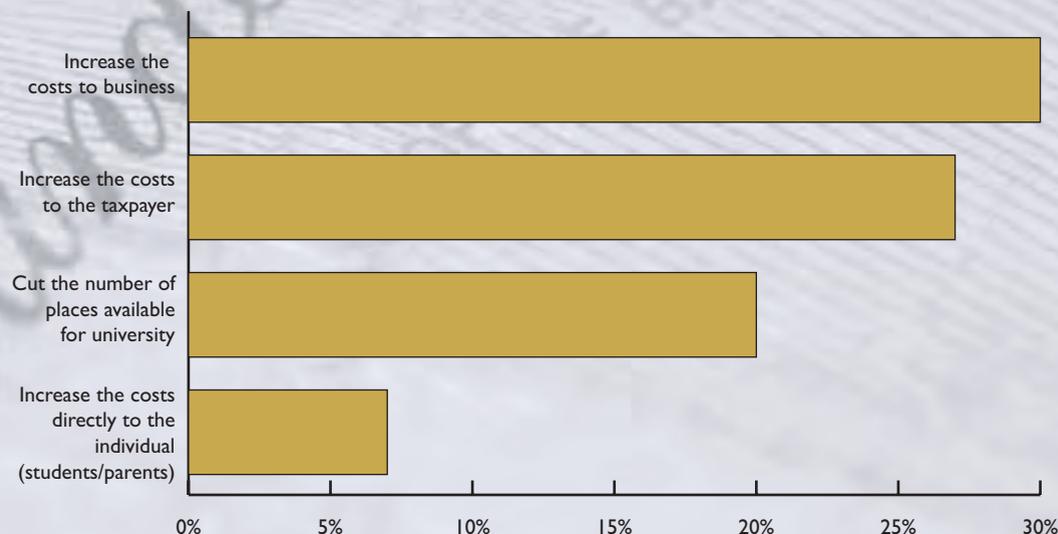
How much has the recession affected your choice of university?

Source: NUS Applicants Survey, March 2009



How should the government meet the increasing cost of HE?

Source: NUS Applicants survey, March 2009



The Editor's view



Dan Hogan

Editor

READING THE SUNDAY Times last week, you might think that we're seeing a 'bonfire of the billionaires', with £155bn wiped off the value of the UK's richest 1,000 people. But despite appearances, it's not the well-heeled who are taking this recession the worst.

The figures speak for themselves. 4% of those in the lowest socio-economic brackets, C2DE, said their choice of university was affected 'a lot' by the recession, compared to only 1% of those from professional families - socio-economic groups A and B. At the other end of the scale, 68% of groups A and B made their choice independent of economic woes, compared to only 45% of C2DE.

In the early phases of this downturn, some - now discredited - commentators claimed that we were in for a 'service recession', where the professional, middle classes of the south would take glutton's share of the punishment, and the industrial, working class north would go largely unscathed. Complete tosh. Not only are we seeing the reverse to be true in the job markets, with the majority of lay offs hitting the poorest

workers in the poorest areas, we are also seeing a similar picture emerging of how this economic train-wreck is affecting the poorest students too.

Take the north west, for example, still recovering from the industrial slash-and-burn strategy of the last Conservative government, and still waiting for the current government to live up to their expectations. 15% of students from the north west worry about getting into debt (compared to 3% in London) with the same number in London comfortable enough to say 'money is not an issue' (13% there and 3% here).

John Harris, on the BBC documentary *The North-South Divide*, summed this phenomenon up wonderfully: "The north remains stuck in the shadow of its industrial past," while "the closer you are to London, the better things get." He was talking about the economy, but he may as well have been referring to studentdom as well.

What's needed on the economic front is targeted assistance for those being hit hardest by the recession. By that I don't mean those with the most to lose financially - losing £16.9bn when you have £10.8bn left doesn't sting as much as losing your job when you earn £18,000. The poorest have far less room for manoeuvre than Lakshmi Mittal, the country's richest person.

On the student front, financial assistance needs to become a level playing field. The situation where rich universities full of rich students are the only ones who can afford to pay out big bursaries needs to end. Only then will the children of the parents who suffered most in the last recession get a fair chance to get through this one without misery.



Gladstone glad-rags: The chancellor, Alistair Darling, holds up the ageing Gladstone budget box to reporters outside 11 Downing Street.

£1bn for new youth jobs in budget

Michael Holt

THE CHANCELLOR OF the Exchequer, Alastair Darling, announced a raft of new initiatives aimed at helping young people during the recession in his budget on April 22.

The initiatives include a plan for all under-25 year olds who are long-term unemployed (out of work for 12 months or more) to be offered employment or training of some sort. A £1bn project called 'Future Jobs Fund' will form the backbone of the pledge, creating new jobs in local government and the voluntary sector.

Other provisions in the budget include a five pence rise in duty on cigarettes and alcoholic drinks. Furness college Social Secretary Stuart Walton remarked that the price increase was "unfortunate". Fuel duty will also increase from September which may add to the transport costs of all students. Student parents will see an increase in their Child Tax Credit of £20 by 2010.

NUS president Wes Streeting welcomed the budgetary proposal, saying: "the current recession has resulted in

the worst youth employment prospects in a generation, and we are therefore pleased that the government recognizes the importance of offering educational opportunities in order to help individuals and the economy back on their feet."

He added: "The creation of new educational opportunities is infinitely preferable to the prospect of long-term unemployment, and the devastating effects it has on individuals, families, communities and the wider economy."

Further education is also set for an increase in funding. £650m has been earmarked over the next two years for colleges. The increase comes only weeks after educational authorities raised concerns that they wouldn't have enough funding to meet the demand for places in September. The additional funding should fund an additional 54,000 places in colleges. Spending will increase by 250 million this year, followed by a further 400 million in 2010-11.

Darling claimed in his budget speech that these measures came from his "determination that we do even more to protect young people from the damaging impact of long-term unem-

ployment. The alternative is a return to the days when a whole generation of young people found themselves abandoned to a future on the scrapheap."

The rules on budgets mean that Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will also receive extra funds, but it is not yet clear how the devolved governments in those nations might spend this.

In the wake of the Chancellor's budget, the Directgov website has launched a new search engine aimed at providing a plain-speaking guide to the economy. 'Moneyspeak' (www.direct.gov.uk/moneyspeak) is a simple search-engine which can be accessed via the internet, Teletext and mobile phones. The search engine also has the functionality to be shared via social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace.

'Moneyspeak' allows access to a number of topics covered by the Directgov website such as finding a job and mortgage payments. As well as providing simple definitions to economic terms such as 'quantitative easing' and 'fiscal stimulus'.

University monitoring swine flu epidemic

STUDENTS HAVE BEEN warned against all non-essential travel to Mexico following the recent outbreak of swine flu. The university is working closely with the Health Protection Agency, monitoring the global situation and ensuring that staff and students are kept informed.

Swine flu is a respiratory illness usually found in pigs. A new strain of the flu has emerged which also inflicts humans. It contains a combination of genetic material, similar to that found in avian, swine and human influenza viruses. The symptoms are similar to those of human influenza, including fever, fatigue, lack of appetite, coughing and sore throat. Diarrhoea and vomiting have also been reported. The virus is contagious and can spread from human to human. It cannot be caught by eating pork or pork based products. The infection is treatable with the antiviral drugs oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) and zanamivir (Relenza®).

So far human cases have been reported in Mexico, US, Spain and Canada. Eighteen cases have now been confirmed in the UK.

Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Health, gave the public this advice. Speaking last week he said: "One of the best lines of defence against this potential pandemic is keeping people informed, so they are aware of the steps they can take to protect themselves and their families. There are precautions



that people can take themselves to prevent this disease spreading. The rules we should all follow to avoid catching or spreading colds and seasonal flu in the winter apply equally to swine flu.

"Always use a tissue to catch coughs

Protection:
A Mexican woman wears a mask to protect her from the virus.

and sneezes. Throw away used tissues and regularly wash your hands ... The message is simple: Catch it. Bin it. Kill it."

Students with children 'need more support'

60% OF STUDENT parents have considered leaving their course at some point, a survey by the National Union of Students (NUS) has found. According to the survey only 18% of student parents felt they had been given enough information about financial support.

The NUS women's officer, Katie Curtis, said: "Although many aspects of the current student support arrangements for parents are to be applauded, there is still much more that can be done. Extending the Childcare Grant to all adult learners in further education would be a good start."

LUSU recently approved the creation of a Student Parents Forum, which, it is hoped will give the union a better insight into the needs of students with children at Lancaster.

Ama Uzowuru, the NUS Welfare Officer, said: "In the current economic climate, with the prospect of many people losing their jobs and having to learn new skills in order to pursue a different line of work, it is essential that we understand how difficult it can be for those with children to cope with the demands of college or university."

Some MPs have rushed to agree with the reports findings. David Lammy MP said: "I'm not sure I could juggle being a student parent and a job."

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Stagecoach in Lancaster

Fylde students put on memorial for friend

Lizzie Houghton
News Editor



Sorely missed: Fylde student Matt King committed suicide on February 15 this year. His friends organised a non-religious memorial event in Fylde College, to pay tribute to his memory, which took place on April 24.

THE PRINCIPAL OF Fylde college has paid tribute a group of students who organised a memorial event for Fylde student Matthew King. Frank Wareing said the event was “lovely”, adding that it was a credit to Matthew’s friends for organising it at already difficult time.

“I am very proud that the college has got students who can, at a busy and stressful time for themselves, re-adjust their priorities to want to make this tribute to their friend,” Mr Wareing said. “I hope the event helped them to put some of that feeling about how much they loved him and respected him into what they did.”

The memorial event, which took place on April 24, was primarily arranged by three of Matthew’s friends: Tom Killoran, Bethany Evans and Rebecca Warner. Around 30 members of

Matthew’s family attended the event, along with many close friends and university staff members.

“I am very proud that the college has got students who can, at a busy and stressful time for themselves, readjust their priorities to want to make this tribute to their friend,”

Mr Wareing said that Matthew’s friends had been the ones to approach him with the idea for the event. “They said they’d like to organise something. So what the college then did was put some recourses into it, offer some budget support, organise food and drink.”

Mr Wareing added: “What I valued about their contribution was that they organised it over the Easter break. They took the responsibility for getting the venue sorted out, the sequence of the tributes, rehearsing it and all at a time when they would normally be working towards their finals. It’s a tribute to them that they managed to get the priorities right as they did and were willing to put the time and effort into organising the event. I’m very proud of the fact that they wanted to do it and then carried it through. And of the very professional way they did it.

“I think it came over to the family. I hoped it helped both the family and the students. It enabled the family to see another side of their son or relative and that wouldn’t have happened without the students.”

LU Cinema makes call for students’ films

LU CINEMA WILL be screening a collection of short films made by Lancaster University students on May 18. The screening, which will begin at 7:30pm, will showcase students’ films to showcase the talent at the university and to provide filmmakers the opportunity to show off their work on the big screen.

The films, the majority of which is by art students, covers a whole of host genres from animation to live action. Robin Spalding, who approached the cinema with the idea, said: “I like the idea of fostering talent and giving people a chance to exhibit their creativity in a professional manner”.

On top of showing off the films, the event will help raise funds for third year art students’ art exhibition. Current LU Cinema President Rachel Morris is pleased to be able to help the show go ahead: “The cinema has wanted to showcase student films for a while now but to do so and help art students display their work as well is fantastic”.

For anyone who has made a short film and would like it to be shown, there is still time just contact Robin Spalding at r.spalding@lancaster.ac.uk before the closing date Monday 11th May. For more general information please contact, the current LU Cinema President, Rachel Morris (president@lucinema.co.uk).

Students grassing up tardy teachers

STUDENTS AT MANCHESTER Metropolitan University have set up a text hotline for reporting lecturers who failed to turn up on time.

Repeated complaints of poor time-keeping by lecturers, led the students union to start the service, which students can text to record the problem.

The students union president, Nicola Lee, told the Times: “We wanted to find out the scale of the problem, ten minutes late may not seem like a lot but it does have an impact.”

The University and College Union said: “The relationship between lecturer and student is key to higher education and schemes that encourage either to spy on the other, however well intentioned, undermine that bond.”

But professor Kevin Bonnett, deputy vice-chancellor for student experience at Manchester Metropolitan University, said he supported the campaign. “We are trying to develop professional skills in our students, including encouraging them to be on time, so we must also behave in a professional manner and set an example.”

The ‘Late’ hotline receives on average 20 texts a week from angry students whose lecturers haven’t turned up.

“It is not a witch-hunt. It’s about finding out if learning takes place,” said Ms Lee.

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scan:COMMENT



Patrick Allinson

Of course Eurovision is a fix, but not for the reasons you think

The reality behind the voting patterns is nothing to do with music, or even alliances, and it threatens to discredit the whole competition

A Farce. An irrelevance. The campiest show on the planet. Not the best platform to write 10,000 words over the course of a year as a dissertation, some might argue. A love of cheesy music, European politics and being different led to this time last year, my embarking on a highly enjoyable research project. As Eurovision is only weeks away, who are the countries to watch out for and why - and fundamentally is the contest just a political one?

My Eurovision research over the last year has been fascinating. I have discovered many interesting things about the competition, both as a spectacle and from a political perspective.

It has become obvious within my research that the Diaspora vote has dominated Eurovision in the post cold war period. With the creation of so many new states in relatively small landlocked areas of territory, the scatter of citizens who identify with a country different to the one they happen to reside in has been massive. Combine with this a wave of immigration into Western Europe from the eastern states and the spread of certain countries votes stretches much further than just their 'allies'. Countries such as Turkey ('03), Russia ('08) and Serbia ('07) have gone on to win the competition over the last ten years simply due to the pervasiveness of their peoples.

In previous years Scandinavia and the Baltic states would dominate. We saw this up until 2002, when more and more countries switched over to the tele-voting system and there was less certainty that the juries would support one state from that region. When all those states were qualifying, it makes it easier for them to dominate. However, now any European state can vote they have suddenly become outnumbered.

The future of Eurovision will, I believe, rely on whether the blocs gain a sense of individuality over the next decade. The blocs swing the vote, there is no doubt about that. In 2008, the Balkans, Scandinavia and the Satellite States awarded Russia a total of 222 votes - 82% of Russia's final score.

I think it is fair to say that voting is political within the contest, following the collection and analysis of data I have conducted. Within the blocs of the former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union this is most prevalent and is where I would argue the proof for political voting lies. The nature of the political voting is born out of mainly conflict related issues. These can be a closer link to either home, or the want to stretch out the hand of friendship in the case of Former Yugoslavia. The element that has the biggest effect on revision is that of the diasporic vote (the vote of a scattered community, identifying with its homeland).



The smart money is on...: Russia's Anastasia Prikhodko is more likely to win because of Russian immigration than her music.

However, bloc voting at Eurovision along the lines of 'allies', is something of a myth. Two rare experts in the subject, Gainsborough & Noury, point

this out: "Bloc voting occurs along preexisting cultural/linguistic lines, rather than being an ad-hoc process of alliance." This again is the diaspora

vote - a recurring theme in the voting patterns. Voting is political at Eurovision but looking into it allows you to see the valid and fascinating reasons behind it. Russia's dominance suggests that many of those ex-Soviet citizens still consider themselves as Russian, regardless of their current citizenship. Turkey and Greece, who were Eurovision dominants until recently, have lost out to the Soviet bloc simply due to the number of individual states. Their diasporic vote may strengthen them also, but they would struggle to gain enough '12 points' to threaten Russia's hegemony.

The credibility of the competition's voting system hangs by a thread, as Russia look set to win the contest at home this year. However, as the ex-satellite states of the USSR gain more independence of their former masters, and develop their own national identities again, it will make for a great Eurovision, based on music again, not politics. Whilst the growing eastern diasporas will give an advantage to the Latvias, Lithuanias and Turkeys of Europe, as areas of recent conflict put their pasts behind them, they will become more like the western European states and vote more upon the music than the loyalties.

Russia are the ones to watch this year, but if you lose £100 at the bookmakers, don't come running to me.



Michael Holt

What will all this bluff and bluster really achieve?

I imagine for a second that you are a deviant sexual predator. You're psyching yourself up for your evening prowling. You've carefully selected your snuggest fitting pair of Y-fronts. You've picked up your lengthiest trench-coat from that dry cleaner you've got the understanding with (just so long as you give him twenty quid extra he doesn't ask about the stains). You deposit a Smint directly into your browning mouth and slowly wander into the shadows. Lurking in wait like a perverted trapdoor-spider until some pissed and vulnerable girl stumbles past; allowing you to pounce and ensnare her in your lust.

Then suddenly, through the darkness, down the street you see something; a rainbow banner held aloft with righteous indignation. You find yourself ruffled. This wasn't supposed to happen! A convoy of people of all creeds and sexual persuasions marches towards you! The banners triumphantly read 'Reclaim the Night'. You realise that the day of reckoning has come.

People aren't just going to stand by and take your taking advantage any longer. With a wounded pride you steal yourself home and slowly reflect on your detestable life; a strange calm washes over your soul as you realise that this is, truly, the first day of your life.

Of course, that was a dramatisation. No sex-offenders were hurt (either emotionally or physically) in the making of this column. The idea came from when I was looking through the photos from the Reclaim the Night protests in Blackpool last term. The aim of the demonstration was to wander around the streets with banners protesting against violent and sexual attacks upon women. Now, no-one could object to the misplaced nobility of the aims of the march. I did wonder if any would-be-Rapists were scared into changing their ways due to the protests... it also got me wondering about Student protesting in general and as to whether it ever ultimately achieves anything.

There is barely a week goes by that there isn't some form of protest going

on in Alexandra square about something or other; taking some far-flung, morally complex issue and boiling it down to a bunch of hippies lying around pretending to be dead. I largely think it's harmless; but when more focussed and sustained campaigns, that are directly related to the student body and that have quite wide support (such as the 'Bars are Ours' campaign) struggle to make an impact on their own more modest terms; it does make you wonder how serial student protesters ever feel that their efforts will ever be able to take on the intangible problems that confound humanity, such as assault on women, by impotently harassing people on their way to Greggs.

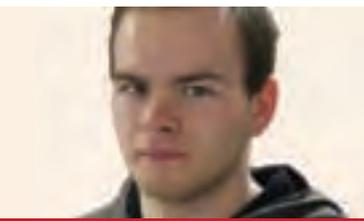
Of all the places to want to inform people about these issues, the broadly liberal environment of a university seems like a foregone conclusion in terms of trying to raise awareness. Most of the issues that form the bulk of Alexandra square agitation are dealt with more rationally and comprehensively on the syllabuses of many of the

courses the university provides.

Whenever I am 'confronted' with solemnly quoted statistics and Po-faced regurgitated stories of other peoples suffering it only serves to alienate me from the world's collective suffering even further and confirm me even more entirely in my belief there is absolutely nothing as an individual that I can do to help.

One day, perhaps, I will be walking through Alexandra square. I will see the faux-corpses and earnest little stalls decorated with felt-tip calls to revolution. And suddenly I will find myself galvanised into action. I will withdraw the shallow remainder of my overdraft. I will text my family farewell. I will get the very next national express coach to Palestine. I will walk calmly into the centre of the Gaza strip. I will begin to weep and with shaking hands and streaming eyes, I will shout: "Stop. Stop. Stop..." Over and over again. Until they stop.

What more awareness can be raised by a crowd of hippies playing dead?



Liam Richardson
Editor-elect

The spectre of redundancy should worry students too

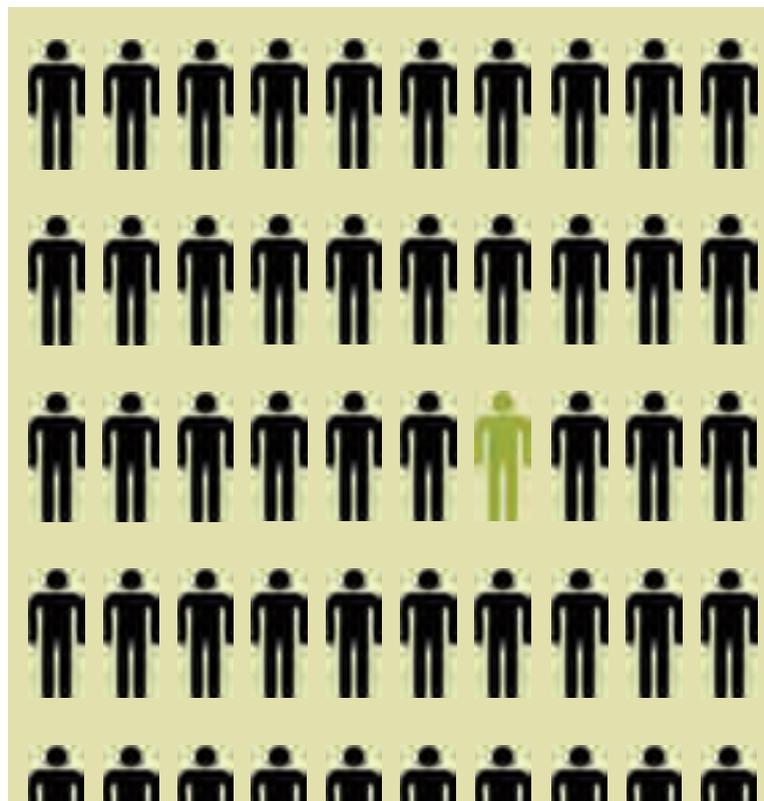
The Vice Chancellor's disregard for reputation, unions and morale can bring nothing but misery

On February 4, the Times ran an editorial in its business section in which an expert gave clear advice on how to deal with the threat of redundancy in the present economic climate. This expert warned against being "self-protective" or playing "organisational politics" in whatever job you happen to occupy. He concluded his raft of advice on an inspirational note, quoting the American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson: "The reward of a thing well done is to have done it".

How ironic, therefore, that just over two months down the line, the expert in question, a certain Professor Cary Cooper, a Pro-Vice Chancellor at this very university, is witness to a dispute between staff and his superior, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings, over the same issue of redundancy. What a pity it is that staff have singularly failed to heed his advice and are resorting to the sort of self-protectionism and internal politics which he warned against.

However, I expect little else. If machinery is put in place which may threaten your job security, this is the stance any rational individual would take, as opposed to the pie-in-the-sky optimism prescribed by Prof Cooper. With all due respect, perhaps getting one's own house in order before preaching to the nation's workers is something the Pro-Vice Chancellor should in future bear in mind.

The current debate over redundancy is one that students should also engage in. The measures approved by University Council allow for not just the shedding of staff at the end of their fixed



term contract, or those whose external funding has dried up, but also (and most worryingly) every other category of academic staff in the institution.

Lancaster's branch of UCU (University and College Union) has already pointed out the impact of these measures upon staff morale, and the irony that it comes at a time when the university is practically gushing to report that 92% of its research is international quality. Surely this move, although on

some levels necessary, will have a detrimental effect on the university's league standing and put a blot on Lancaster's reputation for how it treats its staff - all important in recruiting new academics to replace the ones they're getting rid of. Staff are the most essential asset this university possesses and students should feel worried that the Vice Chancellor is resorting to measures which may, in the long term, could have such a negative impact on the standard of

teaching at this institution.

The spectre of redundancy which hovers over all members of staff is exacerbated by the lack of sympathy handed out by the Vice Chancellor. Although he has repeatedly stressed that he 'does not want mass redundancies,' he has ignored the advice of Senate, the co-governing body of the university, and has avoided productive communication with unions.

Members of Senate have attempted to scupper plans for the formation of the redundancy committee by venturing to refuse to send the two members required from its body to sit on the Redundancy Committee. The Vice Chancellor's melodramatic response, that hindering the mechanisms of governance could lead to the university going bankrupt, forcing him to go cap in hand to HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) is at odds with the university's determination plans to increase their annual surplus targets from 4 to 5% - unusual and perhaps inadvisable in a recession.

It is understandable that in this economic climate, some cutbacks have to be made, but this haphazard approach and the railroading of this controversial committee may have disastrous effects for the university's reputation and the morale of its staff. The possibility of strikes may alienate some students and cause unease amongst LUSU, but on this occasion, it is important for students to support staff during this difficult time, as in the long term, the quality and range of teaching and specialist support at the university may suffer if widespread cutbacks to personnel are made.

You don't know what you're pissing on

Anil Dave responds to a column in the Guardian by Terry Eagleton, Chair of English Literature at Lancaster University

Your recent article on "liberal supremacy" in the Guardian shows a severe lack of knowledge of what it means to be a liberal. To borrow a phrase from your critic Christopher Hitchens, "[you]... don't know what you're pissing on." Although liberalism is a diverse tradition, the main emphasis has always been on individual rights and as a corollary, freedom from arbitrary rule.

The key issue is not how "the liberal states copes with those who reject its ideological framework"; that is pretty clear-cut. Even the most outspoken liberals deplore the erosion of civil liberties in the war on terror. The question is: should the state be allowed to sacrifice civil liberties in the name of 'tolerance' and cohesion?

I direct you to J.S. Mill's *On Liberty*: "The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilised community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others." The religious zealots who call for the beheading of those who insult their prophet should be arrested for incitement to violence. But if those protests against the Danish cartoons of Muhammad had just opposed the publication of the cartoons or the gist of their message, then they would have the right to state their case in public. I'm sure that even the most strident bigot can understand this.

To even mention socialists in the same line as Islamists, as you do, is to sully the honourable legacy of socialism and the people who have contributed to its theory. Would Rosa Luxemburg - a socialist who paid the ultimate price for defending individual rights - have allied herself with Islamists? I think not.

To make a strident case for the supremacy of a set of values - especially those that ensure the individual rights of others - is the antithesis of imperialism. And while liberals abhor religion, unlike Islamofascists we do not believe in repressing it, we simply believe in open (and strident) debate - the Socratic method. Likewise, those who oppose liberal values may argue against them. After all, one of the most important tenants of the European Enlightenment was the promotion of religious tolerance and free speech. Voltaire had many qualms with religion; nevertheless he did not believe that they should be persecuted.

While people like Hitchens and Grayling (the so called 'New Atheists') defend your right to free speech, you spend most of your time defending those who wish to stifle it, whether it be through legislation, intimidation or violence. And at a time when our civil liberties are being attacked on two fronts (Legal and Civilian) it has never been more important to state the Liberal case as strongly as possible.



Susannah Chadwick

Charge fees according to contact time

University is sold as the time of our lives. It is plugged from mid-secondary school onwards, with the hard sell truly beginning at A-levels. But that relentless plugging often omits how much will we pay for it. With tuition fees creeping higher every year and the cap on fees under threat, is the university experience really worth it? Having a BA or BSc after your name is no longer the immediate passport to employment that it once was. We are no longer buying job security with our education, so the education itself has to be worth it. Whether or not it is becomes increasingly questionable as we enter summer term.

After the Easter holidays some students may have a few lessons, lasting at the most for a couple of weeks. Most have none at all. While everyone needs exam preparation time, we are, in effect, paying for what is in reality only three months of lessons. A thousand pounds a month is a pretty high rate.

Universities need to understand that the price of a degree has to be fair. We spend thirteen years of our life being educated for free, so we do not expect to be ripped off at this last stage. Not only is the price of education sneakily creeping towards unaffordable levels, but charging the same rate across the board is also unfair. Contact time widely differs between subjects and yet everyone has to pay the same. This may be simpler administratively but it certainly isn't logical. Either everyone should be charged proportionately, according to the number of contact hours, or each subject should have the same amount of contact time per week.

Finally, there is the question of how much are we actually learning with the contact time we have? Students need to be included in decisions about how many lessons are required for their subject and also what these lessons are used for. People are far less likely to skip lessons if they perceive them to be useful. I am sure that everyone has

been to lessons and left feeling that they have wasted fifty minutes. We should have the opportunity to ask for tuition on the topics that we judge and find to be important.

Currently, the opinions of students are not asked until the end of term, by which time it is too late. The majority of subjects rely on online module evaluation, which is not only limited, but also easily ignored and forgotten amongst the flood of e-mails which cascade into every student's webmail. Students are far more likely to be interested in giving criticism and opinion when asked face to face. Perhaps, two or three weeks into every term, time could be allocated for gauging the opinions of students on what they are being taught.

However important independent study is viewed to be at this university, the contact time is what we are paying for. The average student should be given far more opportunity to say what they want to learn and how they should learn it.

When we pay so much for our limited contact time, students ought to have a greater say in what it covers



Alex Harris
Comment Editor

A wedding in a student bar? Not so barmy at Lancaster, it seems

It's no wonder students feel unwelcome in their college bars when a bit of cash from an outsider can put one off-limits for a day

I am only a first year, so perhaps my naivete can be excused, but when I applied to Lancaster University, one of the most appealing aspects was its collegiate system – with each college having its own separate and distinct bars for students to enjoy themselves in. Whilst the bars would be open to everyone that cared to use them; their main focus would be on assuring that all students had a fun and varied time at university. Be it drowning your sorrows in a seemingly endless flood of Kronenbourg and Snakebite, or shouting at all your friends for pressing the wrong button on the itBox, the underlying feeling was that the bars were there to serve the students of the university, and only that.

That's why it came as such a surprise to hear that Pendle Bar had been

hired out for a wedding reception on the weekend immediately before the start of Summer Term. I drove into the university to see signs pointing to the wedding reception in Pendle. A slightly odd location to spend the most romantic day of your life, perhaps, but maybe they were students to whom Pendle Bar has some significant attachment that can only really be explained if you were there at the time. This was a nice thing, after all. My mind entertained itself with ridiculous scenarios of how and why these two people would have chosen Pendle Bar of all places to host their wedding reception. I felt like I could have written the first chapter of a truly awful romantic novel.

It came as even more of a shock for me to find out that the wedding was not for students, but was in fact for

some local people. Okay, that made the choice of Pendle Bar even weirder, and seemed like something of a dereliction of duty on behalf of the university. At the very least, it would be poor judgment to agree to have this sort of event on the exact weekend that people would be making their journeys, some short and others long, back to start Summer Term.

Times are tough, sure. I've heard the word 'recession' so many times that it's begun to lose all meaning and just become part of the scenery of 2009 along with iPhones and games of Rock Band, but there are responsibilities that a university college should fulfil, and commercial venturing is lower on the list than ensuring that students arriving from a break aren't greeted by a wedding reception for strangers – par-

ticularly one of this nature.

Then, the rumours started. Things hadn't gone down all too well – apparently a fight had broken out, but nobody was entirely sure why. The porters were called out to break up the mess, then subsequently – the police came. This is straightforward procedure for something of this nature and doesn't necessarily indicate that a drunken bar-room brawl between two wedding guests necessarily warranted the almighty arm of law enforcement, but if it's straightforward procedure then it's surely something foreseeable? I can understand the reasonable temptation to want to put the university bars to some use out of term time to raise some extra money, so as to feel the sting of the 'R word' a little less, but if this sort of thing could be foreseen as

having happened, am I wrong in saying that the university should take measures to ensure that its students aren't in its immediate vicinity?

I used to think that the scaling down of the university bars could have its upsides. Certainly from a social aspect it could alleviate or eliminate the 'empty campus bar' phenomenon that occurs most nights of the week. Well, I thought, maybe it really is in our best interests. But this sort of commercial foray makes me more wary that the pound sign is the real glint in the university's eye, rather than a vision of a more united community. The obvious truth seems to me that if the university, and Pendle College, is to advertise the college system as a student facility – it should treat it as such and not as a money-printing scheme.



Michael Payne
LUSU President

I'd be insulted, but I'm not sure the loop even exists

University House can not hope to operate in a vacuum. They must keep stakeholders informed

The last few weeks have left me wondering exactly what the strategy of central university management is in reforming their central administration and staffing structure in order to make this institution more effective and efficient.

The establishment of a working party on the vitality of the colleges, and another on the colleges in academic life; and the strong student representation on both, means we have made progress. But mixed messages being sent out from the university's centre serve to both undermine progress and damage the trust in the relationships we have with them.

The details of the announcement of a process for appointing a new university librarian at last week's Senate meeting for example, revealed the Vice-Chancellor's political nous and savvy, and that he knows how to make decisions on issues that affect people from all areas of the university. In his announcement, the VC declared that he had made a new addition to the appointment panel for what he saw as a key role in the university – a representative from the students' union. Yes please, thank you very much.

But that savvy doesn't always seem to dribble down to the VC's senior staff. The students union is constantly finding out about key appointments, new procedures and new structures of management through leaks and whispers around the spine. All too often, senior managers leave important stakeholders out of the loop, if there is a loop at all.

So when the president of the stu-

dents union only finds out that the appointment process for the new director of student services is already underway, one's trust in this administration begins to dwindle. It seems the new chief operating officer made a conscious decision not to involve the students union in the process. What's more, it is worrying that the VC believes student involvement is vital in appointing the head librarian but his own right-hand man does not share the same view for the appointment of a post that will be dealing with as much a group of front-facing, student-focused services as the library is, and who will probably have a great deal of liaison with LUSU.

This inability to create 'buy in' for strategy extends wider that a few senior appointment processes. A paper coming to University Senate on the reform of the Pro Vice-Chancellors' roles (the Vice-Chancellor's most senior team) is yet to be discussed with LUSU. The one ambassador the students have in University House, the PVC for colleges and student experience, looks set to be abolished. It would be foolish of university management not to take heed of the nervousness of the students' union at the possibility that they may lose a seat at the top table for students and their views.

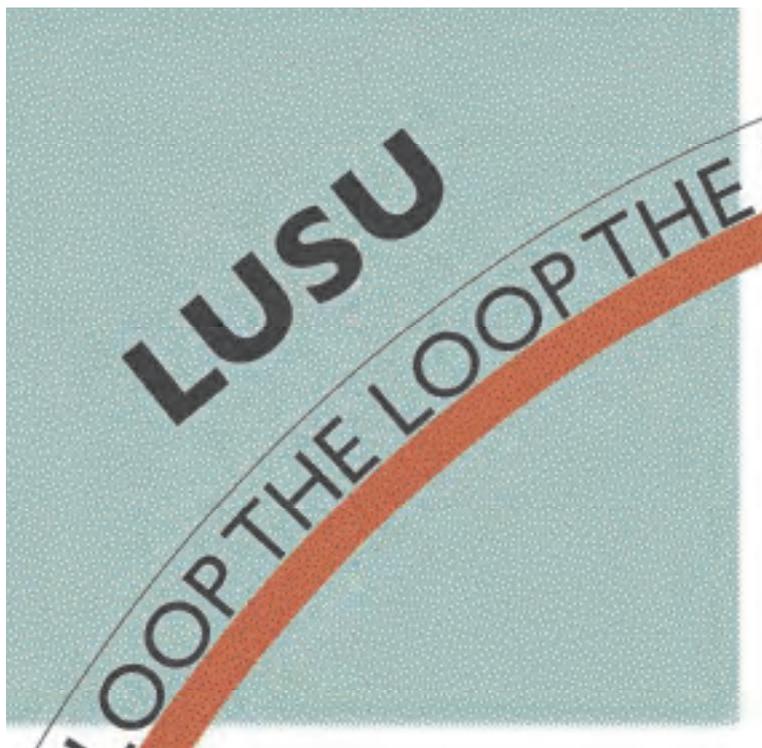
The Vice-Chancellor is surely serious about his drive to reform the central administration within the university, so he should ensure that his senior team are communicating this strategy in a transparent, coherent and accountable fashion. He should also realise that isolating the recognised

student representatives from this process will only serve to cause aggravation, tension and mistrust.

If the Vice-Chancellor's leadership espouses student involvement and inclusive, transparent decision-making, then he should make sure his senior management team is practicing what he preaches.

It is not just the students union who should be championing accountability, openness and a shared leader-

ship of the institution. The academics too must shoulder their responsibility as freethinking leaders of their field, to make sure this institution safeguards and upholds some of its founding traditions and principles. It would be a mistake for this university to descend into an institution led solely by business-focused and out-of-touch decisions that have not been sounded out to their key 'beneficiaries'.



Paul Lynch

Despite orders, spooks still have consciences

Enhanced interrogation. Extraordinary rendition. These rather clinical yet sinister terms have risen to prominence in recent times, used as a legal and political shield by those, especially in the United States, who wish to use torture but do not wish to deal with the consequences. This is regardless of how it contravenes both the Geneva Convention and the Eighth Amendment of the US Constitution. That's not to mention the worthlessness of the information gained from such techniques.

However, when Barack Obama was inaugurated as president of the United States he pledged to end such practices and close the detention camp at Guantanamo Bay. The aberrations of the last eight years were becoming mere bumps in history, never to be repeated, or condoned. Indeed, the Obama administration has released several memos to the press, evidencing the use of torture by the American intelligence services on many terrorist suspects. In one instance a man connected to the 9/11 atrocity was 'water boarded' 183 times

in order to gain information concerning the possibility of another attack. To many, this seemed an outright indictment of the CIA, and an indication that the Attorney General may follow the actions of his UK counterpart, and order a criminal investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency.

However, these promising noises were followed by a speech made during the president's first visit the CIA headquarters on April 21, intended to boost morale. The president assured the assembled spooks that they had nothing to fear and that they hadn't broken the law, since they were "relying on the legal opinions of the Bush Administration".

The president must be congratulated on his willingness to prosecute the civilian officials who authorised the use of torture by the US security services; indeed Vice President, Dick Cheney, Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales, and Deputy Defence Secretary, Paul Wolfowitz, have all been mentioned as potential subjects of criminal investigations, and for many this may seem fair

game. But this is not an ill-conceived military action where the commanders are blamed and the soldiers can be let free because they were doing their jobs and following orders. The use of torture by a modern democratic society is not only illegal but also immoral; even if the torturers believed in their government's actions why did they not listen to their consciences?

Whilst there is merit to the argument that attacking the security services serves only to weaken them; and therefore weaken the country, we must also consider the long term effects of allowing those who have broken the law to be pardoned because they were following orders. It sets a precedent for future administrations and future operatives to view the law as nothing more than an abstract concept – a symbol to be defended and promulgated, but never to be obeyed. The Obama administration must seize this moment to clearly state that those who live outside the law can not expect protection from the law.

scan

Tuesday, May 3, 2009

Find your own leverage

IT MUST BE hard being a university academic, judging by the demand by the University and College Union (UCU) for a national 8% pay rise in the middle of a recession.

In fairness, that laughable demand was nothing more than a negotiating position, a high point to come down from; and 8% was suggested well before the depth of this economic crisis became fully apparent. But the latest wheeze of the UCU leadership, to seek a mandate from its members for national industrial action, is inexcusable.

The reason they're in the wrong isn't that they should be thankful for their lot in this economic climate. Nor is it that the plans for redundancies in two thirds of the country's universities (Lancaster included), are acceptable. It's that a union of academics is seeking to use their own students as leverage with their employers.

Of course, UCU's hope is that their mettle will not be tested, and that the threats of industrial action will never need to amount to anything more than threats. They hope that a strong mandate from their members in favour of action will scare the university chiefs in UCEA into abandoning their plans for redundancies, thereby ending the feud without disruption. And since students have already been dragged into this dispute – unwillingly – this organ hopes so too. But to put at risk the marking of students' coursework and exam papers, not to mention teaching, is very much the low-road route to a resolution.

It's a strategy as self-effacing as it is exploitative. If UCEA call their bluff, and the threatening noises coming from UCU's high command turn into picket-line speeches, then tomorrow's academics and UCU members – today's students – are going to suffer, and will blame the academic union; not a wise plan when trade unions are in a state of inexorable decline, with UCU itself being formed from the merging of two weakening unions, AUT and NATFHE, only three years ago.

UCEA are stonewalling UCU's legitimate complaints about redundancies, and academics have a valid reason to feel aggrieved. But their approach only serves to alienate their strongest traditional ally: the student movement. Any hope of winning the all-important battle of perceptions with UCEA should have been abandoned the minute the NUS declared that "students need industrial action by university staff like a hole in the head."

If UCU wants to win this fight, it should be working to persuade students of their case, not alienating them. Ultimately, mass redundancies are bad for both constituencies, but those interests only remain mutual so long as UCU doesn't treat students like the fulcrum in the broken seesaw of industrial relations.

Obama's principles should be put to practice to demonstrate that no-one is immune from the law

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.

Appeal for murder witnesses

On Thursday 23rd April my uncle, Dave Bolton, was out in Lancaster City Centre celebrating St George's Day with his friends and family when he was attacked in the Sir Richard Owen Wetherspoon's pub and died the following day in Lancaster Royal Infirmary.

The police have launched a murder inquiry following the incident and I am appealing to anybody who happened to be in the area between 3 and 4.15 pm, particularly living in Cityblock, who may have seen anything to come forward and contact Lancashire Police on 0845 1253545.

Everyone who knew Dave loved him for who he was - a kind, caring and considerate man who would do anything for anyone, day and night.

This tragedy has left us all devastated however we continue to think of the proud thoughts and

memories he has left behind.

Please help us to bring those responsible to justice and let Dave rest in peace.

Name and address supplied

A taxed policy

I am writing with regard to several articles referring to the NUS graduate tax, in particular 'What happen to the fight for free education?' by Robbie Pickles (News, April 21).

The stance of the NUS for a creation of a graduate tax contains a fundamental flaw. A graduate's performance in their chosen degree doesn't necessarily reflect the quality of the teaching or facilities available. An able student who attains a first class degree and as a result earns more over their career, contributing more in tax, costs the university exactly the same, if not less, than a less able student who may require additional tuition and graduates with a lower

class degree, earns less over their career and thus contributes less in tax. From the standpoint of the university, both students attended the same course and cost the same to educate, yet may not produce the same return.

Predicting the outcomes of any new policy is always fraught with danger, but the added risk to universities could see a decrease in the number of places available which contradicts the current government policy.

James Cornish
Cartmel College

Fine fairly

I am writing to state my confusion and annoyance surrounding the recycling situation in my college.

During the first weekend of the Easter holidays my flat mates and I noticed everyone's recycling was being taken out for them, which is not usual practice unless students have been previously warned

about the state of their recycling.

After speaking to other members of our building, we emailed Facilities Management to ask why it had been taken away, and whether we were likely to be fined for it. The response, although informative (telling us we would be fined £10), was inaccurate stating that our flat had received warning notes about our recycling. We replied, saying that we had had no warning of any action to do with our recycling, and that of course if we had we would have removed it: no one wants to be fined! But seeing as there were only three of us in the flat over the holidays, without warnings it didn't occur to us to do anything straight away.

After this, we received no response from the department, which I feel is unfair and irresponsible. Students have enough money worries already without having to live with the threat of an unfair fine.

A disgruntled resident
Furness College

New horizons

It is the time of year I've been dreading: I have to sort out the paperwork to allow me to study abroad next year, but it has been a struggle to decide if this is really what I want. After making so many new friends here and knowing that I would have to leave them, my old friends and my over-protective parents behind I began to wonder: Is it all going to be worth it?

But I have enjoyed my first year at Lancaster so much that it has given me the drive to continue to put myself out there and experience new things. Sure, my family don't want me to go but I think it's time to show them that I am my own person. After all, isn't that what university is all about? Discovering new things and discovering more about yourself? I'm writing this in the hope that others in my situation will read it and realise that opportunities like these are not to be taken for granted: go out and there and grab life with both hands, it only happens once!

Kian Hayes
Lonsdale College

Rare praise

It seems incredible to me that LUSU do not manage to make themselves as popular as they should be. I have seen how hard various people work for all areas, be it SCAN or other sabbatical and non-sabbatical posts. It seems to be driving some people I know crazy with the amount of work they do, yet as has previously been mentioned in this paper, hardly anyone knows much about the goings on in their little purple bunker. Now I'm not saying that everything they do is right or amazing, but these people put in a lot of effort which many people never see. I think LUSU workers need to get out there more!

Cerys Oliver
County College

Bye bye Bowland

Bowland Bar is closing this term, and a lot of people (not just Bowlanders) are really going to miss it. So I just wanted to write a quick letter to encourage everyone to get up to Bowland when you get the chance to make the most of it before it closes! Bowland bar holds many good memories for a lot of students, and we have a few weeks left with it yet, so lets continue to have a good laugh up there, and bid farewell to it in style!

A Bowland Relic

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I'm bringing 'gotchi back

Cyberpets such as the infamous Tamagotchi took the nation's youth by storm in the 1990s. **Lizzie Houghton** revisits her brief childhood obsession, with a £1 cyberpet she found on eBay

AT SOME POINT in the last two years, leggings came back into fashion, men started wearing strange square glasses, and retro became cool.

Personally I blame the geeks. They brought it back after we all got a bit bored of their chicness. At least the chicness was cool. This is just a bit of a fifth-of-the-way-through-life crisis. We see twenty-somethings playing Pokemon, and otherwise sane people walking round in colours so bright, a Teletubby wouldn't be caught dead wearing them.

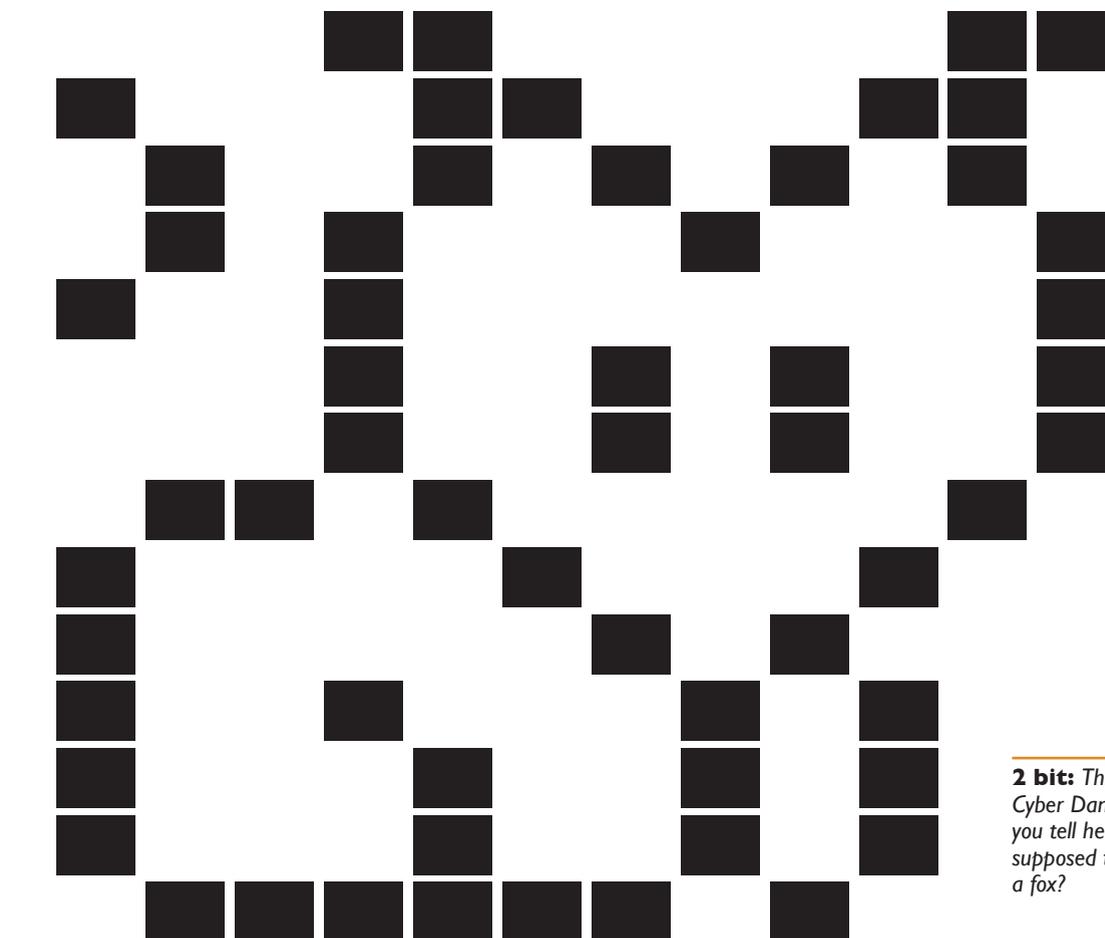
Naturally, I've bought into all of this. But being a poor student, I couldn't afford to buy the prerequisite six-ton original Game Boy necessary to play Pokemon, and my fashion sensibilities shudder at the thought of neon colours. Instead I bought myself a Tamagotchi.

I presume anyone reading this is old enough to remember what a Tamagotchi is, but just in case let's have a recap. Against my better judgement I'll refer to Wikipedia, which says that a Tamagotchi is a "handheld digital pet" which is "housed in a small and simple egg-shaped computer."

When I was young I spent a whole summer searching for the perfect cyber pet. It was beautiful. It was a penguin housed in a lovely red penguin-shaped computer. I took good care of it. I think it was called Pingu (I was particularly original as a child). So my excitement was palpable as I went to pick up my new cyber pet from the Furness College post room.

I'll be honest, my Tamagotchi isn't really a Tamagotchi at all. Firstly, it's called 'Dinkie Dino'. Secondly, it only cost £1. Still, I had high hopes as I popped in the batteries and it sprung to life.

For starters, I had the choice of 49 different animals. I decided I wanted a badger (there is a reason for this, but it would not survive the editorial cut). I pressed the left button, and the screen scrolled right. I pressed the right button and the screen scrolled left. This was somewhat confusing. More confusing though, was the array of animals on offer. There were three identical mice, three different types of fish, a human, A robot and something that looked like a



2 bit: This is Cyber Dan. Can you tell he's supposed to be a fox?

penis with wings. But no badger.

This upset me. I wanted a badger. I wanted a badger called Cyber Dan. Again there is a reason for this, but it would not survive the editorial cut. In the end I settled for a fox.

Once it had hatched – a worrying action for any mammal – it wanted feeding. I fed it. It was happy. I wanted to play with it, but it did not want to play. I wanted to teach it, but it did not want to learn. I put it aside and forgot about it for the next hour.

At least I thought it was an hour. In fact by all human measurements it was an hour. Not so in Cyber Dan time. In Cyber Dan time it was two hours, which meant I spent one horrible moment thinking I had completely missed a seminar. It was two hours because

the Dinkie Dino clock somehow operates at twice that of a normal clock. And then it started beeping.

A little sign in the corner signified that it had expelled the contents of its earlier meal. Being a kind, caring owner I cleaned it up. It was happy. Seeing how it was in a good mood I thought perhaps now it would want to play. It did not. This concerned me somewhat. Maybe Cyber Dan was unhappy? Perhaps it had some sort of mental affliction? Curious, I turned to the cyber pet version of NHS Direct; the instructions. Apparently my Dinkie Dino had "totally two kinds of games" but there was no explanation as to why Cyber Dan did not want to play either of them. I decided he was just a grumpy bastard and so headed off to my seminar.

Somewhere outside County I encountered a potentially devastating problem. Cyber Dan didn't have a mute button. I could stop my phone making a noise during the seminar but I couldn't stop my Dinkie Dino. And he was due a poop.

This opened up a whole new arena of social convention problems. Was it okay to clean one's cyber pet half way through a seminar? For that matter, did I have enough street cred within the group to be able to admit to having a knock-off Tamagotchi in my pocket?

As luck would have it, it fell asleep before I got there. It woke up about two hours later in the mood to play. This was the moment I had been waiting for. Almost too excited to breath I looked at the instructions eager to learn how

to play Dinkie Dino football. "Press B or D, running Press more quick more power more big, the slow power the press small."

Now I know this paper is sometimes accused of having less than brilliant grammar, but there is not a typo in that sentence. And that's not the worst of it. The whole thing read like it had been typed word by word into Google translator. "Enter/leave to sleep the appearance, keeps at least sleep degree half, lower then half or sleep over 4 spaces may will get sick." No wonder little Cyber Dan seemed so confused.

Admittedly, I did work out how to play the football game. It wasn't exactly Champions League, but it was something. It was soon getting on for 8pm, so I thought Cyber Dan would be getting ready for a good night sleep. Only it didn't. That mid-afternoon nap had obviously set it in good stead for the rest of the night. At 11pm and it was still up and about, beeping away merrily. I on the other hand was exhausted from a day of cyber-mothering. So I did what any good mother would do when her cyber thing is beeping and she wants to go to sleep. I shoved it in my sock draw, drank some rum and forgot all about it until the morning.

Cyber Dan died. I don't know how it happened. It may have starved. It may have pooped itself to death. Either way, I was a terrible owner. I half imagined the RSPCCP would come bursting through my door at any moment. A specially trained group of super cyber vets out to prosecute anyone who mistreated cyber pets.

Fortunately this didn't happen. Maybe the RSPCCP was disbanded in the 90s when people just stopped caring about cyber pet welfare. But let's think about this rationally. In these times of economic gloom and doom can people really afford to keep physical pets? A cyber pet costing just £1 (plus p&p) is far more economical.

Perhaps that makes as much sense as Dinkie Dino's instructions. Either way, I know I for one will be turning that Dino over, pressing the restart button, selecting a field/flutter/white mouse and basking in the whole wonderful experience of being a cyber pet owner all over again.

**BEER GARDENS
NOW OPEN!**

The Plough
COUNTRY PUB & DINING ROOM

The legends of past battles

As Lancaster and York prepare to face off once more in the Roses tournament, **Daniel Ash** looks at the history of the competition and speaks to AU president, Gareth Coleman

FOR ONE WEEKEND every year chaos, anarchy and unrivalled sporting enthusiasm falls spectacularly upon one of two northern universities. Sports teams from both side of the Pennines clean their kits and polish their boots, focus their game and practise their war cries.

I am referring of course to the infamous Roses tournament that is fought out between the universities of Lancaster and York in a sporting homage to the War of the Roses. The tournament is a yearly grudge match epitomising sporting prowess and spirit, a massive sporting and social event embraced by the students of both universities.

In the run up to the 45th annual Roses tournament this Friday, SCAN has delved into the history of the event.

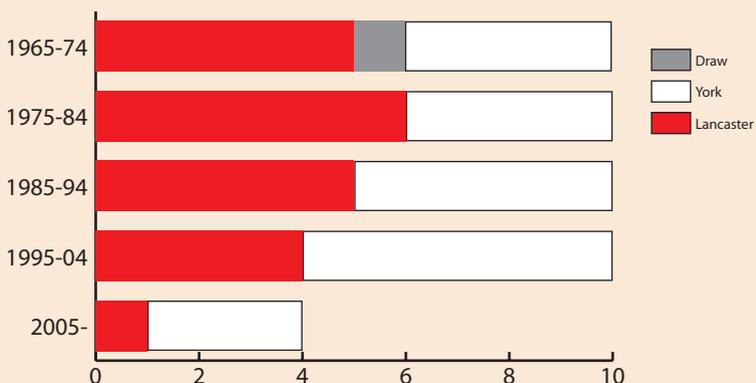
The tournament began long ago, in the archaic mists of time: 1965, when the Vice-Chancellor of York, Lord James of Rusholme, accepted the challenge laid down by his Lancastrian counterpart, Sir Charles Carter. The challenge in question was to have a boat race between the two universities in imitative style of the ancient Oxford – Cambridge boat race on the Thames. The first race between the two universities was won by the team from York, and were given the Carter–James trophy in celebration and recognition of their triumph. It didn't take long for the event to be enlarged by students from the respective institutions and it was soon turned into a three-day event

that included rowing, table tennis, a relay race, mixed field hockey and a tug of war. The event is also traditionally ended with a quaint game of croquet, played between each University's Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and Athletic Union president. As if to demonstrate how much the tournament has moved on, this year Lancaster's college principals and York's college provosts will compete in a round of laser clay-pigeon shooting.

Since its fledgling start in the 60's, the weekend of sport has grown to encompass over 30 different games with hundreds of participating contestants. The games that are played range from the usual football, rugby, cricket and hockey, to the more unexpected ballroom dancing, frisbee, karate and canoeing. Each year the organisers of the event seek to make it bigger and better than before, with American football, powerlifting and judo being added just last year. The tournament has grown to such an extent that in recent years

'Teams will be thinking about their performance in relation to this one weekend.'

How the teams did, decade by decade



Chaos theory: A Lancaster player struggles to break free in the Rugby Union match at Roses '08. (Photo: Rob Miller)

it became the country's largest inter-varsity sporting event.

I spoke to Lancaster's Athletic Union president, Gareth 'Gaz' Coleman about the competition and its future. "The tournament has the potential to be much larger than it is at the moment. Unfortunately the expansion of Roses requires facilities that aren't available right now."

When I asked Gaz to explain the competition's enduring appeal, he eagerly spoke of why the tournament is seen as "the jewel in the sporting calendar." Gaz explained to me that from the first week of the year "teams will be playing and thinking about their performance in relation to their ability over this one weekend."

The weekend is as social as it is competitive. "Cheering on your mates... celebrating wins and enjoying the exciting atmosphere" are as much a part of the weekend's atmosphere as the sports themselves. But at the most fundamental, a resounding win at Roses gives the team all-important and sought after "bragging rights" over their York counterparts.

Since the first competition in 1965 the trophy has changed hands between the two universities many times. On the tally of wins Lancaster is currently behind, with 21 wins to York's 22, with the only draw of the tournament occurring in 1974. The home advantage usually weighs heavily in the host's

favour. A quick glance at plaque of victors hanging in the LUSU building indicates that the trials of travelling and then sleeping on a lecture theatre floor lead to an unsurprising disadvantage. But barriers that in other sporting events would be seen as decidedly unfair don't worry Roses players, "what goes against you one year will be in your favour the next, it's all part of the tournament," explains Gaz.

Lancaster has had sustained periods of success in Roses, the most impressive being the years of 1972-77. But recent years have seen the title swaying in York's favour, with the last Lancaster away win being back in 1985. Looking towards Lancaster's performance this year Gaz hopes to "reverse the recent trend of losses," and believes that this university had "a very good chance of winning the tournament" this year.

That said, in the rugby – one of the tournament's biggest crowdpleasers – Gaz was only sure that it would be a close contest. "Lancaster will be entering the game as the underdogs". Hopefully the rugby teams will be eager to bring to York the inevitable fall that follows pride.

The AU president's belief in Lancaster's appetite for victory stemmed in part from the controversy of the Sabbatical review earlier in the year, when members of AU clubs packed the LUSU General Meeting in George Fox to vote down plans to get rid of a dedicated

'What goes against you one year will be in your favour the next, it's all part of the tournament'

sabbatical for sports. Gaz believes the process "galvanised the teams." To him, the Athletic Union isn't just a collection of different sports groups, but is now "a unified university team, with similar goals and similar beliefs." He hopes that the unity the AU showed earlier in the year will resurface during Roses, giving the teams a focused, collective mindset.

I asked Gaz what he saw as being the most important aspect of Roses and how he would like to see the event develop. He explained that whilst the tournament was developing year on year, it is important that it maintains the values of sportsmanship, which are central to the nature of Roses. Whilst good-natured rivalry are all part-and-parcel of a good sporting mentality, he had already had to recommend that some teams "tone-down the pre-Roses banter with their opponents in York."



A treasure trove of amusement

Christie Anderson has been poking around Google Street View...

IT IS THE controversial mapping service that has been greeted with outcry as well as acclaim. It has reignited the privacy debate and has inspired countless blogs reporting the funniest or most bizarre sightings.

Since its UK launch in March, people have explored millions of streets, all on their computer screen, using Google Street View.

Some sectors are impressed with the introduction of Street View. The

UK Tourist Board believes it will boost tourism in this country as Britain can 'showcase' its attractions. Incidentally, the sun is shining in all the pictures because the cameras, mounted on cars, only work in temperate weather.

The Tate Gallery are also working with Google to integrate images of paintings by Turner and Constable with their famous locations. It will be possible to view the paintings alongside the pictures of the present-day area.

However, many are outraged at the alarmingly detailed images of people, houses and cars that are available for anyone in the world to see. For example, residents of the village of Broughton in Buckinghamshire launched a re-

volt and have managed to stay off the map. They did this by forming a human chain, which prevented the Google car entering their street.

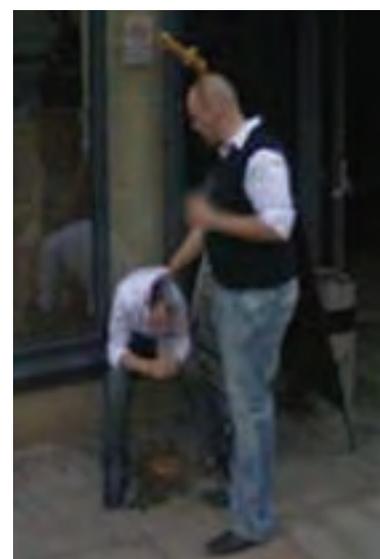
Many people have been left embarrassed as the cameras have caught customers leaving sex shops, people being sick in the street and women in very low-cut tops and dresses. One woman even phoned divorce lawyers after spotting her husband's car parked outside another woman's house.

Drivers of Google cars have not been immune to embarrassment either. One image reveals a driver being pulled over by the police for driving in a bus lane in Bradford. Another driver was involved in an argument with a local resident who photographed the distinctive vehicle driving through a village in Dorset. Ironically, the driver claimed this was an invasion of his privacy.

Hundreds of users have drawn attention to more light-hearted scenes that have been captured. Top Gear's the Stig was spied in the window of the BBC offices. Liam Gallagher can also be seen enjoying a drink at a pub in Camden.

Eerie images that appear to include ET and a ghost in Victorian dress have also come to the attention of eagle-eyed users.

Many people also took on the challenge to find Wally, after Google an-



Sick stag: A man wearing fluffy antlers helps his ill friend



Unlucky: The owner of this car would not have been happy to find twice as many parking tickets to deal with.

nounced that the Where's Wally character was featured somewhere in the images of the UK. He was eventually found in Putney High Street.

Street View is certainly a new phenomenon. Whether it is being praised or condemned, Google bosses will no doubt be delighted at the attention it is receiving as it is great publicity for the company.

Getting the better of exam stress

Daniel Ash speaks to agony uncle Matt Whyman about exam stress

IF YOU LISTEN very closely you will be able to hear the sound of students across the country sighing mournfully at their desks or pulling at their hair in frustration. Yes, unfortunately now is the time of year that the humble student is plagued by revision stress and exam anxiety.

The carefree days of the summer holidays seem like a lifetime away and the impending doom of unending examinations hangs above the collective head of the student body. For many students the third term of university life means a curb on social activity, an end to fun and having to endure weeks of headaches and distress.

But fear not, as SCAN has been in contact with Matt Whyman, the agony uncle for TheSite.org. Matt is an experienced youth adviser, who has written for such stalwarts of the teen magazine industry as Bliss, 19 and B, and who has also written numerous novels and advice guides such as Unzipped: a toolkit for life. Matt talked to us about the best ways to maximise your time and your results whilst avoiding worrying, and even how to enjoy yourself whilst revising!

The main piece of advice that Matt imparted sounds simple, but to him holds the key to surviving the exam

period. Matt said that preparation is crucial and that it is important to 'set up a realistic revision plan, in which you have to look at the amount of time you have, and divide it proportionally between your subjects'. To get the best out of your timetable there are two key factors that need to be accommodated, these are that 'the plan must be written down on paper for you to see, and that you have to factor in regular breaks'.

Matt acknowledged that each person is different, and will realise how best to work out a schedule for themselves, however his model timetable would involve 'around 45 minutes re-



Online oracle: Matt Whyman gives advice on thesite.org.uk

vision, followed by a 15 minute break'. He stressed that the quality of both the revision time and the break were important. 'The work has to be 45 minutes without distraction; it's no use having your attention diverted by the Internet or the T.V'. Once you have successfully completed this 45 minute stint then you could 'kick back in front of the Simpsons with a cuppa and a chocolate biscuit'. Matt's advice was founded on the idea that 'it is very easy



to get stressed, and therefore ensuring you have a timetable that maintains the right balance of work and rest is absolutely essential'.

Matt explained that a good revision plan based on the 45-minute model had multiple benefits. 'This plan takes away the worry of how much work to do and when, you know how prepared you are, and it won't overwork your head'. We were told that to fully appreciate this plan, you had to accept that 'revision is often about sacrifice, but it is sacrifice over a relatively short period of time which will pay off in the end'. Matt however did suggest that instead of sacrificing your social life/sports/hobbies completely, you could instead 'put them into your timetable as rewards for working hard'. 'Timetabling rewards means that you learn how to creatively manage your time, revision can be flexible, but it must remain realistic'.

The website that Matt Whyman works for is an award-winning site run by the young person's charity Youth-

Net. The site has numerous experts and knowledgeable journalists writing for them on a variety of topics. The sort of hints and advice found at TheSite.org include 1) 'If you feel as if your mum and/or dad is on your back, then talk to them. Clear the air to clear your head' and 2) 'Choose a place in the house to revise where you won't be distracted'.

There are many places that anyone suffering from exam stress can turn to within the University system. If you feel that your worries would be better dealt with by talking face to face with someone then there are appointed members of every colleges' JCR, as well as University tutors, Nightline, and the University even has its own Counselling Service which is prepared to help with academic issues. Matt did acknowledge that whilst the medium of the internet is perfect for people who want quick advice or who don't want to talk face to face about problems, there can be no better stress relief than to chat to someone directly about their problems and concerns.

Indeed, a Facebook group attacking York students union's sports sresident, Alex Lacy, was quietly shut down after the 'banter' got too personal.

This year the York hosts have decided to take the theme of England's 15th century civil war a step further and have decided to give the entire weekend a medieval twist. This slight change in emphasis is an extenuation of the other side of the sporting tournament, the side of socialising and entertainment. Every year the hosts usually organise a bar crawl and on campus events, this year these will be taking place on the Friday and the Saturday respectively. For more information on this weekend's activities see the Roses 2009 website, be warned however as SCAN was told of the inclusion of a chlamydia-testing tent alongside other entertainment being added to the event.

But Gaz voiced worries that by playing up the extraneous entertainment aspects of the event – as the York hosts are doing this year – the sports at the core will receive less attention from the organisers.

The Roses weekend has always been seen as the culmination of the University's sporting calendar and the organisers try hard to make it a great time for all students, from the team players to the spectators. If luck is on the Lancaster team, they'll remember which side won the actual War of the Roses.

Michael



&



Sarah

A Woman with the heart of a lion and a Young Man with the dimensions of a giraffe suffocate the relationship issues of Lancaster University.

(Keep this column out of reach of children)

I am a member of the University Rugby team and to look at me you'd think that I was the dictionary definition of machismo. Most people think that I must eat, drink and shit testosterone. I love going for prolonged drinking sessions with the lads and I have a lifetime subscription to Nuts but every night when I'm alone with my thoughts I find myself constantly wishing that I was born a woman. I mean physically willing for my body to transform. Is this normal?

Scrum-half Boudicea

MICHAEL: Who wouldn't want to be a Woman!? DRESSES! MAKE-UP! PERIODS! Whenever I walk through clothes shops I want to physically wretch flesh-dissolving bile onto my penis so that I can drape myself in all that colourful flowing garmentation guilt-free. If you are on the Rugby team I think you shouldn't hide your inchoate yearnings any longer, besides, you could really capitalize on your rugged frame and repressed feminine temperament in a way that could help lead Lancaster to Roses success. Why not begin to dress like legendary Roman-twatting warrior queen Boudicea out on the pitch; I can't think of anything that would

bewilder the York team's collective morale more than a rabid ginger-wigged Queen built like a brick-shithouse screaming in the centre of a scrum. Girl Power!

SARAH: You don't mention how long this has been going on for so my first suggestion would be that this could be a phase in which you are keen to examine your feelings regarding your body. The physical manifestation of your problem needs to be examined and one way to do this would be to confide in a friend and discuss your feelings with them. Perhaps you can covertly try on women's clothing and experiment with make up to see if

you feel physically comfortable. Experimenting with your appearance is completely normal and it may be that as a rugby boy you are forced to conform to the stereotypical views of how you should look and behave. The current situation regarding Roses may be hindering your emotions as the uniform look of yellow heads is hardly conducive to your predicament. Try to deviate from the confines of your masculine appearance in small ways and see how you adjust to the change. If you feel it suits you then continue in this vein and opt for other changes, and finally, seek professional help as the depth of your problem may require counselling.

Many people at Uni have pretty sustained drinking habits but I'm worried that mine is far worse. I physically can't make it past mid-day each day before I feel my hands begin to shake. My habit is also taking its financial toll; I have to beg my family for money each week to fund my habit under the pretence that 'I need to buy more books for my course'. I don't know what to do anymore; I even wrote this whilst drunk. Help.

Drinking into debt

MICHAEL: Alcoholism is no laughing matter. Except in the case of Oliver Reed, who is amazing. But for the most part it's a tedious, faintly pathetic way to eke out an existence. It certainly isn't cheap either; what's the point in investing so much money into a period of time that you're not going to remember? You'd do just as well to buy a mallet and bonk yourself on the head with it in the hope you'll get amnesia; then you can save money by forgetting a whole lifetime, not just an evening.

Alcoholism is indeed a slippery slope but there is still hope for you yet. You're young and aware of the problem; You're still a while away from becoming *that* tramp who carefully scrimps together pennies in order to buy special brew.

Ultimately, though, no one can assist you. You've got to really know that you need to quit and want to quit. On the other hand, with the way alcohol is slowly but surely on its way to becoming as stigmatized and regulated as cigarettes, we might well be the last generation that truly has the privileged opportunity to indulge in wanton alcohol abuse. Maybe *that* tramp is on to something. Let us all join him in the gutter. Ours was a generation too beautiful to last.

SARAH: Crikey, what an environment to be in whilst struggling. You are going to need willpower and self-control if you are going to overcome this problem. I always think the line between having fun and alcoholism is a bit blurry so you have

to be the judge of the extent of your problem. Try to wean yourself off alcohol slowly as I think going cold turkey could affect you quite badly. You need to rely on your friends and housemates, anyone who you come into contact with daily who can help you through the day by encouraging you to stay out of the bars and either studying or doing something more productive.

Set yourself a financial limit for each time you go out and either give your bank cards to friends or leave them at home. You don't need to stop having fun, but curb your addiction by looking sensibly at the situation. If your own will power appears to be failing go on the internet and Google 'liver disease'. The pictures might just put you off your lager.

One of my friends has begun to stalk me. He used to be pretty socially awkward and spent a lot of time on the internet, but he was nice enough. The first inkling I got was the day I noticed that the desktop background on his computer was a picture of me and him hugging. Then I got told that he kept declaring that I was his girlfriend when he got tipsy at a party. I have told him politely where I stand and he appeared to take it in. But every hour of the day he sends me flirtatious text messages. How do I deal with a good friendship gone sour?

Facebook-stalker or actual stalker?

MICHAEL: This is a phase. It will pass. If his affection towards you developed so quickly with no prompting from yourself, chances are that he is merely the victim of a juvenile fickle affection, increasingly common of a generation of men raised by the internet. Ultimately he sounds harmless, calling him a stalker looks to me like an example of an overly-dramatic anecdote harvester, increasingly common in a generation of women raised by Hollyoaks. You invited the virgin-hearted fellow round so repeatedly that you confused his no doubt internet-meme addled mind into thinking that you would ultimately let him put his USB stick into your motherboard if you get my meaning (note: sex).

This might be irresponsible but

the best way to decisively put an end to it might be to get naked in front of him and press yourself sternly and dispassionately against him. Hopefully you'll cause the required circuit-break in his mind that will let him move on with his life. Use this advice with caution, however, as he could just as easily become even more acutely obsessed and end up murdering you. Either way it's an anecdote.

SARAH: You and so many others! This happens a lot in Lancaster due to the wealth of attractive women and the dearth of potential boy-friends. You have two ways to handle this: mature and dignified or cut him out of your life. If he is unwilling to talk sensibly about labelling you his girlfriend and he won't ad-

mit to sending flirty texts then play at his level. I would suggest phasing him out, don't respond to texts or calls, don't let him into your house and only be around him with a third person who can protect you if needs be. If you are not comfortable behaving in that manner, then you have to take the moral high ground and explain firmly (and with a third person present) that you are not romantically interested in him and that he has spoiled the friendship with his clamouring. It really depends upon whether you think the friendship is worth saving, as I can promise you Lancaster presents an abundance of socially awkward boys to watch T.V with. Dump him or keep him – there will be plenty more to take his place.

Relationships in focus #2

The elderly

**Michael Holt
Granny-baiter**

IS THERE ANYTHING more depressing than elderly couples?

Perhaps stillborn kittens; but at least stillborn kittens have the common courtesy not to greyly parade themselves around the high street whiling away the residual few moments before death looking for boring clothes that they can boringly wear and boring ornaments that they can boringly display to their boring friends whilst talking boringly about the aforementioned boring trip to the shops.

Until one of them inevitably dies. After which point the remaining boring spouse will spend the rest of their boring days talking about their boring memories of their boring partner before their own eventual boring death where they will be placed in the same boring grave as their boring dearly beloved. A grave, I might add, which will rarely be visited on account of the fact that all their remaining relatives and friends generally find it boring...

*They didn't even notice
when it all went astray,
Their bodies' agendas
just altered one day.
Her menopause was more
protracted than most,
His wrinkled old penis just
gave up the ghost.*

*Memories of their long
since spent passion,
Slowly faded away; went
out of fashion.
Till' all that was left were
two wizened grey shells;
Whose marital soundtrack was
the Sunday Church bells.*

*Their generation had no
time for precision,
No time for luxuries; like indecision.
So when one of the two
is eventually dead,
The last moments sting with
what'd never been said.*

*How she'd never liked the
way that he kissed her,
How he'd always wished that
she'd been her sister.
'Give us this day our daily bread',
Curious, two strangers should
have shared a bed.*

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Small show, big drama



Desperation: Jamaica House becomes more physical as the drama escalates.

Theatre Review: Jamaica House

Dukes Theatre
by Paul Sirrett,
Dir: Gwenda Hughes

Richie Garton
Arts Editor

IT'S BEEN A while since this production ended, yet I feel I have to mention this quirky little drama that showed at the Dukes playhouse last month. Performed in the Dukes' small Round theatre (an excellent space for intimate plays), *Jamaica House* is about a decrepit tower block about to be demolished. A young Muslim demolition worker, Naz (Darren Kuppen) meets a mysterious ex-resident of the house, Jean (Hazel Maycock), who is revisiting her old flat one last time. What occurs is a complete collision of interests and worlds; Naz's job is in danger if he doesn't get Jean out

of the building before it is destroyed, and Jean is determined to remain there no matter what. However, as the story unfolds, it is revealed that unlikely pair may have more in common than it first appears...

A miniature show in all respects, at an hour long, with one scene and a cast of two, *Jamaica House* compensated for its lack of scale by presenting an intense dramatic situation rich in emotion and conflict, nicely acted by the two performers. Costume and staging were both simple but perfect for the required purpose, and the use of sound helped to set the scene. The story unfolded nicely, although I found some moments quite repetitive, with the characters seeming to go over the same issues time and time again until it became quite tiresome. Nonetheless, I was very pleased as Naz's character was fleshed out towards the end of the play; at first I found him a bit two-dimensional. The Dukes is an excellent place to see unique shows like this, plus it has the benefit of being right in the city centre, and most shows are very affordable for students.

Look out for the promising 'Queen Bee' this month, which is showing on the 8th and 9th of May.



Old news

Film Review: *State of Play*

Russell Crowe, Helen Mirren, Ben Affleck, Rachel McAdams
Dir: Kevin Macdonald

Lizzie Houghton

**AS I WRITE this, the News-
paper Association of America is announcing a plan to cut half its staff. Over the past six months newspaper circulation in the States has dropped by almost 10 per cent. Spitting Image used to caricature print journalists as pigs, so with swine flu doing the rounds it's no wonder we're a dying breed. The internet is slowly spelling the death of the profession which was arguably once the most powerful regulator of democracy.**

All of this is relevant to a film review because *State of Play* is a film about a dying industry. Its lede may present it as a political thriller, but the heart of the story is on the value of good journalism over the gossip and assumptions of the blogosphere.

It's in this environment of redundancies and closures that Cal McAffrey (Russell Crowe) makes his living. When his Congressman friend (Ben Affleck), is found to have been having an illicit relationship with a recently deceased employee, Cal is left needing to sort hard facts from internet fiction. He's not helped by Della Frye (Rachel McAdams), a political blogger for the online version of Cal's newspaper, the Washington Globe. Slowly, Della comes round to Cal's way of doing things. By the end the two have taken the

story from a smears sex scandal to a full-blown paramilitary conspiracy.

Directed by Kevin Macdonald (*Last King of Scotland*, *Touching the Void*) the film was originally set to have Brad Pitt in the lead role, but Pitt pulled out four days before the film began shooting. But all involved knew Pitt wasn't right for the part of Cal. There's little surprise in this. The role requires a total absolution from the world of celebrity: a world based on gossip and speculation. Crowe doesn't have that baggage. He plays Cal with an integrity not seen in on-screen journalists for too long – despite having no love for the profession in real life.

Macdonald has a slightly rosier view. He set out trying to emulate the newspaper movies of the 1970s, when the journalist was always the good guy, fighting a wave of government corruption: "*All the President's Men* was the high-water mark of idealism in journalism," he told the Sunday Times. "The newsroom in that film was all crisp, clean and modern. Ours was a similar space, but 35 years on, when nobody's tidied up."

There's a deep sense of irony to all this. Newspapers over the past three decades have been tarnished with a very dirty brush. Nobody trusts journalists anymore, whether their national, regional, or even student. Most would say the profession needs to clean itself up. And yet, for all the bad press print journalists get, we're still bound to



more rules and laws than bloggers. Behind a pseudonym and in the safety of an ungovernable internet, most bloggers don't have to worry about libel and slander. There's a reason Damian McBride and Derek Draper planned to write their smears on a blog, not in print. Conversely, newspaper stories, as the Globe's wonderfully fowl-mouthed Editor (Helen Mirren) tells Cal, need to be clean. It's

J.G. Ballard: A lifetime of lugubrious literature

Liam Richardson
Editor-elect

J.G. BALLARD CAN certainly lay claim to being one of Britain's most accomplished and creatively challenging authors. His death last month from prostate cancer, at the age of 78, provides an opportunity to look back on his literary career, assess his key triumphs and crystallise a defining ideology which shapes his novels.

The term 'Ballardian' is used to denote the dystrophic hinterlands that Ballard portrayed in his novels. A sense

of bleakness, moral decay and aversion to new technologies and their associated pitfalls, are typical tropes and prescient warnings to his readership even today, and probably in the future, such is the timeless appeal of his best works.

Ballard resented being pigeon-holed as a science fiction author, despite his close ties with the New Wave of the genre which emerged in the 1960s and contained contemporaries such as Michael Moorcock, Ursula K. Le Guin and Philip K. Dick. His most startling future visions can be found in two texts of the 1970s, *Crash* (1973) and *High*

J.G. Ballard:
A catalogue of exquisite novels stand as tribute to this great man.



Rise (1975)

Crash perhaps best encapsulates Ballard's inclination for causing controversy. The book tackles themes of dehumanisation and sexual fetishism, presenting the reader with a couple who fulfil their sexual fantasies by orchestrating and involving themselves in car accidents. This disturbing and sinister book can be perceived as Ballard's critique of mankind's increasing reliance on technology and subsequent loss of a moral compass and sense of humanity. *Crash* was unsuccessfully adapted for the cinema by David Cronenberg in 1996.



Strained: The newspaper in *State of Play*, and its tired reporter, Cal McCaffrey, brilliantly illustrate the gloomy forecast for the future of the printed press in the age of 24 hour news.

difficult to think of a world where there is not this level of accountability. If the people who are in charge of keeping politicians in check are as dirty as the politicians, where does that leave the rest of us? *State of Play* suggests we will soon find out.

The movie is not without its flaws. The ending feels rushed, possibly the result of trying to fit six hours of BBC drama (from which the film is adapted) into

just two hours of feature film. Then there's the scene in which a gun-wielding military maniac chases Cal. Pure Hollywood. But the rest of the movie has a gritty realism - right down to reporters having to write for sections they don't usually in order to plug gaps.

On a happier note, a lot of reviewers have pointed out a particular picture on Cal's desk. It's of Carl Bernstein and Bob

Woodward, the journalists who uncovered the Watergate scandal and whom *All the President's Men* is based on. Hopefully in 35 years time, there will still be a print media to make films about, and if there is, Cal McCaffrey will be partly to thank.



Again, Ballard rather pessimistically and allegorically offers his viewpoint on urban environments and how this is linked to a breakdown in human society in *High Rise*. This depicts life in a luxury high-rise apartment block. The initially apparent utopian landscape is viciously dissected by Ballard; the inhabitants grow agitated as technology fails them and they become violent and regress to an attitude akin to the primitive hunter-gatherers.

Ballard eventually broke free from being categorised as a science fiction author and gained widespread literary acclaim for his semi-autobiographical

novel *Empire of the Sun* (1984) which was adapted into a multi-Oscar nominated movie in 1987, directed by Steven Spielberg and starring a young Christian Bale. *Empire* is set during World War II and tells the story of a young boy growing up in Shanghai and who eventually becomes imprisoned in a Japanese POW camp. Although realist, it remains in the Ballardian tradition, unflinching in its depiction of starvation, disease and death. Ballard never shirked from chronicling the dark underbelly of humanity and the grim horrors perpetrated by it.

J.G. Ballard remains a highly influ-

ential author. He has inspired a generation of recent British writers such as Martin Amis, who was keen to lavish praise on his recently deceased mentor. His dark and despairing visions remain a hallmark of postmodern and science fiction, and evidence of his world view can be found in the films of David Lynch and even the musical arena, with the Klaxons titling their award-winning debut album, *Myths of the Near Future*, after a Ballard work. Perhaps in death, Ballard will be reserved the sort of praise his extensive and incredibly high quality back catalogue surely deserves.

'Children of the night; What music they make!'

Classic book review: *Dracula* by Bram Stoker

Richie Garton
Arts Editor

YOU MAY BE thinking that this is an odd book to review in May 2009. "Why dedicate space to a novel written over a century ago?" I hear you ask. Surely everyone already knows about *Dracula*? It's true; *Dracula* is a universally recognized character. He has been portrayed by scores of actors in hundreds of film adaptations, some good, some downright embarrassing. He is firmly ingrained in pop culture, with his likeness gracing an American breakfast cereal, and a character in *Sesame Street*. He is the main villain in the popular video game series *Castlevania*, and who could forget David Jason's timeless creation, 'Count Duckula'? Yet despite all this, I wonder how many people have actually taken the time to sit down and get acquainted with Stoker's original horror novel, which first spawned this cultural icon.

Dracula didn't begin the idea of the charismatic, aristocratic bloodsucker; thank Byron-contemporary John Polidori in 1819 for that. Nonetheless, *Dracula* formed the basis of the vampire story as we know it today, and shaped our idea of what a vampire is. The novel begins with Jonathan Harker's visit to the Count's castle in Transylvania, where he quickly realises that something is not altogether right. He is kept prisoner by the nocturnal *Dracula*, who subjects him to mind-warping horrors including his three sensual, demonic brides. After securing a home in England, *Dracula* travels there by ship and infiltrates society, feeding and infecting people straight away, leaving Mina Harker, psychiatrist Dr. Seward and, of course, supernatural expert Abraham Van Helsing, to put an end to his diabolical reign.

Let's be clear about this; *Dracula* is masterfully written. Few other horror stories are as effective in frightening and unsettling the reader. This sense of bone-chilling, undergarment-soiling terror is chiefly created by Stoker's descriptive language. The first four chapters are perhaps the scariest in this regard; from the pathetic fallacy of the storm and the wolves as Harker nears the castle, to the description of *Dracula* lying in his coffin, swollen and paralytic with blood, every moment is truly gripping. The entire book is written in an epistolary style, as a series of letters and journal entries written by the main characters, which together sculpt the plot. This proves a very effective method of storytelling as it places the reader directly in the shoes of the protagonists as they experience these horrifying events. Because of this, the sense of

terror is amplified and you start rummaging around in your cupboard for a clove of garlic to take to bed with you, just in case.

Today, vampire narratives occupy a very different place in culture. No longer a subject of horror, we are given big-budget action trilogies such as *Blade* and *Underworld*, playing off the 'cool' aspect of vampires. Either that, or vampires become sex symbols, giving teenage girls something to fantasize about (I am, of course, talking to you, *Twilight*). Although this sexploitation is not limited to male vampires; last edition, SCAN reviewed the dire *Lesbian Vampire Killers*, a crude horror parody, which, to be fair, does deliver everything promised by the title. Vampires just aren't scary anymore, and



Not so suave: 'His ears were pale and at the top extremely pointed; the chin was broad and strong, and the cheeks firm though thin.' The description of *Dracula* in the novel differs greatly from the suave Count we are used to seeing.

they tend to be misunderstood heroes now rather than monstrous, terrifying baddies. I would advise anyone claiming to know anything about vampires to pick up a copy of *Dracula* and read it in bed on a dark, stormy night, with a glass of milk and a crucifix handy. Either that, or take a look at some of the few worthwhile film adaptations.

Nosferatu (1922)- a relatively loyal silent film version (although all the characters' names are changed because of copyright), with Max Shreck as a hideous, rodent-like Count. Iconic early horror cinema.

Bram Stoker's Dracula (1992)- perhaps the most faithful film adaptation. A decent piece of film, but let down by Keanu Reeves and some dodgy special effects near the end.

Shadow of the Vampire (2000)- a fictional account of the making of *Nosferatu*, suggesting that Max Shreck was, in fact, a real vampire. Very clever and scary; stars Willem Dafoe and John Malkovich.

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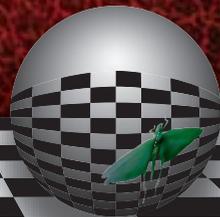
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The transatlantic battle of the spring comedies

I Love You, Man
Paul Rudd, Jason Segel, Rashida Jones
Dir: John Hamburg

Hannah Fearon

PAUL RUDD PLAYS Peter Klaven in this witty 'buddy' movie, a successful real estate agent who has just proposed to his girlfriend Zooney (Jones). Peter soon realises that he has no male friend worthy of being his best man, and proceeds to pursue a new best friend on a series of 'man-dates'. After an awkward start, including some rather unwelcome male attention, Peter meets Sidney (Segel) the charismatic object of his affection. As the pair becomes close, their friendship causes problems with Peter and Zooney's relationship.

I was pleasantly surprised by this alternative take on the classic romcom cliché. Whilst the 'buddy' movie isn't exactly new, John Hamburg's *I Love You, Man* was a fun and refreshing film exploring the platonic love between male friends. The humour comes from the common uncertainty of etiquette in male friendships. The jokes are new

and snappy, the pace is quick and nothing drags on too long. The occasional gross-out gags are expected, involving a 'masturbation station' and the typical projectile vomiting, but they certainly do not dominate the film. The chemistry between Rudd and Segel makes this film a funny and heart warming watch, with plenty of laugh out loud moments. Paul Rudd is known for his smaller roles in films such as *The 40-Year Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up* but has finally been given his chance to shine. His awkward search for a friend leads to some hilarious and cringe-worthy moments, such as his dilemma of whether or not to call after the first 'date'.

I rarely enjoy this type of film, or am even willing to watch them in the cinema for fear of disappointment. However, I was more than happy that I had given *I Love You, Man* the chance it deserved. Whilst it isn't mind-bogglingly original, its different take on the romcom and 'buddy' flick made for an interesting twist. A performance from the original Hulk, Lou Ferrigno, made the film even more enjoyable. The film is completely charming, and strays away from the common gross-out films which continue to pollute our screens. I completely enjoyed this film and hope to see more lead performances from both Rudd and Segel in the future.



Not Somalia: Philip Seymour Hoffman stars as the big, brash American pirate radio DJ, *The Count* (Alex Bailey)

The Boat that Rocked
Philip Seymour Hoffman, Bill Nighy, Rhys Ifans
Dir: Richard Curtis

Lizzie O' Brien
Arts Editor

IT WAS THE film that nearly rocked. Don't get me wrong, it was funny, heart-warming, enjoyable, and best of all you leave with that feel-good factor bubbling away in your tummy at the end. It ticked nearly all the boxes, but in the end it just didn't have the wow

factor that makes you want to immediately go back and see it again, or tell everyone you know to go and do the same.

It is a British comedy set on board the boat for the fictional pirate radio station *Radio Rock* during the 1960s, and follows supposed bad boy Carl (played by Tom Sturridge) who arrives on board after being expelled from school for smoking (well, it was the 60s). Bad boy my rear end; he's about as exciting as alcohol-free beer, and nearly as pointless. There is a potential father-son storyline which gets completely glossed over, and by the end of it all the poor boy has done is sat there, looked a bit awkward, and gotten involved in a couple of near-sexual encounters without much in the way of success.

The fact that the story was inspired by true events makes you want to believe it *could* be true, even if it isn't,

and there were too many points in the film where my willingness to suspend my disbelief was pushed too far. Dornmandy (Kenneth Branagh), the government minister determined to shut the station down, was almost *too* evil, if that is even possible for a villain.

All in all, it is well put-together, and there are some beautifully executed cinematic sequences towards the end, but it just lacks the necessary oomph. It is too large for a cult following, too small to be a classic. In the end, despite the solid performances, the nearly all-star cast, the drama, the action, the 'stick it to the man' persona of rock and roll, something was undeniably missing. Well worth the money spent to see it on the big-screen, but you won't shoot yourself if you wait for the DVD release.



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Ghost meets grunge - brilliance ensues

PJ Harvey & John Parish *A Woman a Man Walked By* (Island Records)

James Barker



A beautiful blend: The styles of PJ Harvey and John Parish blend wonderfully on *A Woman a Man Walked By*

IT HAS BEEN over a decade since PJ Harvey and John Parish last collaborated; 1996 bore *Dance Hall at Louse Point*, a strong and critically acclaimed album. Now they return with second effort *A Woman a Man Walked By*. The album is a haunting, 40-minute trip, with plenty of diversity and depth whilst still remaining true to its folk roots. The balance between the two musicians is brilliant, with Parish providing the perfect grungy folk sounds for Harvey's ghostly wail to cry over.

Kicking it off is *Black Hearted Love*, a sliding guitar lead track with Harvey singing like a woman on the edge of despair. There are other heavy moments such as *The Chair* and *Pig Will Not*. Both are fantastic, again blending Harvey's sinister vocal and Parish's gothic folk rock.

There are some totally bizarre

tracks too, such as title track *A Woman a Man* which is simply scary as Harvey yells, "I want his fucking ass!" This and *Leaving California* are good tracks and help round the album, but some may see them as inaccessible; they do not make for easy listening.

In contrast, there are some beautiful moments. *The Soldiers* sees Harvey singing like a teary angel over a beautiful slow banjo riff. *Passionate and Pointless* is a sad dreamy number. By the end track, the organ-led *Cracks In The Canvas*, you're ready to float off to sleep to Harvey's whispers.

If you are not a fan of PJ Harvey, or indeed of John Parish, this is a great

place to start, combining all of their best elements. There is angst-ridden despair through to gorgeous fantasy songs whilst delving into the bizarre; something both Parish and Harvey do better than anyone. If you're already a PJ Harvey fan then you will be more than happy with the result. Though there is no major progression in her sound, there is nothing wrong with the album at all. *A Woman a Man Walked By* is a terrifying, brilliant and beautiful album that should be treasured.



Merrymaking menagerie

The Pet Shop Boys *Yes* (Parlophone)

Andrew Almond

IT IS IMPORTANT that before pressing play with *Yes* one forgets every preconception they already have about the Pet Shop Boys. The Pet Shop Boys are the sort of band that make you question why you listen to music; is it to appear aloof, distant and pretentious, whilst impressing your mates with the obscurity of your vinyl (and it is always vinyl) collection, or is it to be entertained, to have fun? The reason people listen to the Pet Shop Boys is unashamedly the latter, and why not?

Opener *Love Etc* is as camp as a row of pink tents and is all the better for it, a wonderfully tailored pop song that sounds instantly idiosyncratic, but for all the right reasons. Like on the marvellous *Pandemonium* later on the album, within a few seconds it's clear the both Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe are out to enjoy themselves again.

Beautiful People hears Tennant yearning how "city life leaves me weak/

all this madness on the street," suggesting that for all the disco ostentation there is something deeper, purer than that which often gets pigeonholed with 80s synthpop. *Vulnerable*, against a back drop of intricate electronic noodling, provides respite from the prevalent pomp and glamour to offer a pit stop, before the imperious thud of *More Than a Dream* thumps into life.

Yes is not perfect; *King of Rome* is not needed and *Building a Wall* is a hollow attempt to reference the climate of fear and ignorance that has arisen in Britain in recent years regarding immigration. "I'm building a wall/ a fine wall/ not so much to keep you out/ more to keep me in," Tennant proclaims with all the authority of a university college porter, its hardly going to have the far-right quaking in their boots. However, to dwell on this is to miss the point of *Yes* completely.

The bottom line is nobody does Pet Shop Boys music quite like the Pet Shop Boys. *Yes* will not win many new fans (which appears even more beguiling when the debt that such 'indie-tronica' bands such as Empire of the Sun and MGMT quite obviously pay to Tennant and Lowe is considered) but that's not the point. *Yes* is fresh, vibrant and, wait for it, fun. And there is nothing wrong with that.

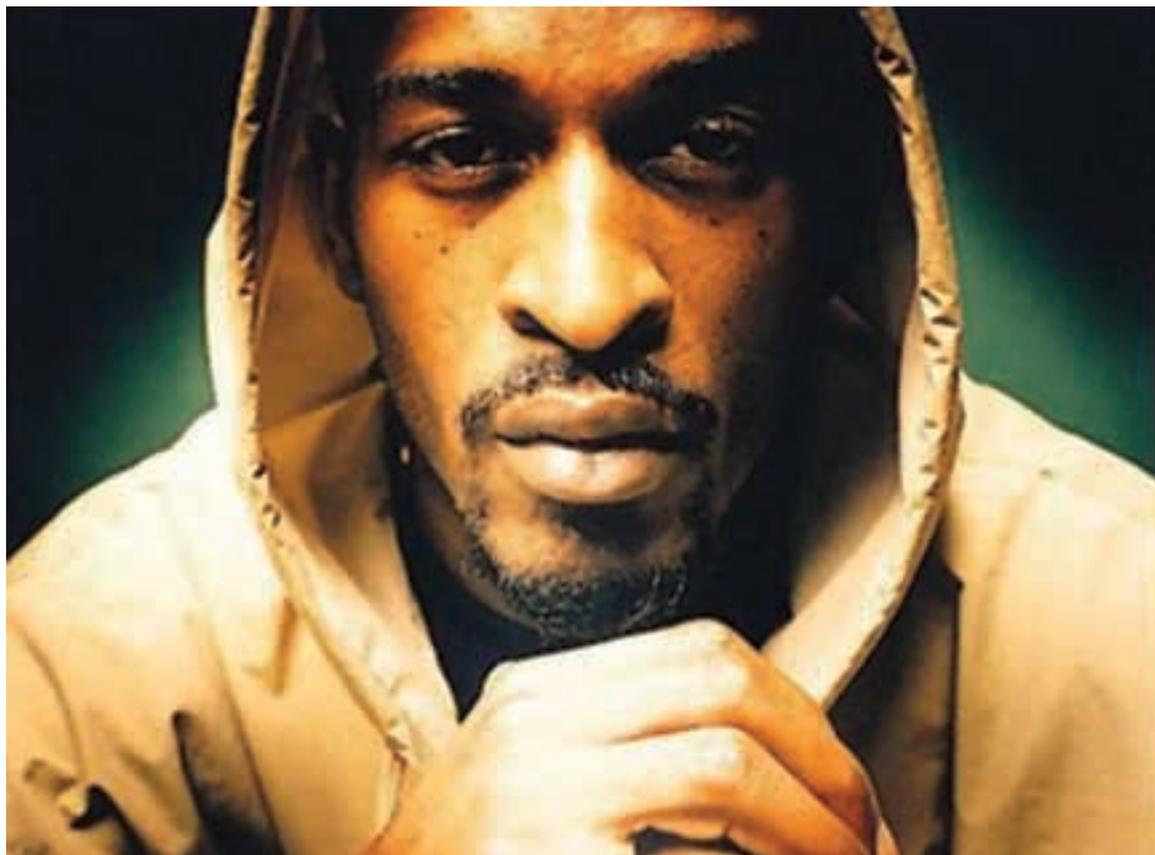


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1988: The Year of Hip Hop



Meer Shah takes a look back at the year that shaped Hip Hop as we know it

THERE IS SO much hype about 2009 possibly re-inventing the bar for musical achievement. Hip hop is one field where that hype particularly holds sway, which would be great in the year the game celebrates 30 years since the Sugarhill Gang released the first rap record. Yet it wasn't until nine years later – when I and many other third-years were born – that it really hit its peak (and no, I'm not referring to *Anfield Rap*). '88 wasn't a great year for music on the whole, but what is often forgotten is how rap reigned.

To begin with, the greatest hip hop song of all time, *Lyrics of Fury*, was released by Eric B and Rakim, on their *Follow the Leader* album, their follow-up to 1986's *Paid in Full*. Rakim, the greatest MC of all time, had revolutionised the art of emceeing on the duo's debut, but *Lyrics of Fury* was exactly that: his finest (and most intense) moment of lyrical dexterity.

The Master's only real contender to the crown, KRS-One, pioneered socially conscious hip hop on Boogie Down Production's own sophomore album, *By All Means Necessary*. BDP had established the first signs of hardcore rap on *Criminal Minded*, but following the death of Scott La Rock, KRS-One be-

came who we now know as the Teacher and, amongst other things, urged the hip hop community to Stop the Violence – a message that still resonates today.

The other major socio-political record of the year was Public Enemy's outstanding *It Takes A Nation of Millions To Hold Us Back*, almost unanimously regarded as the group's best effort. There isn't much to say about this LP that hasn't been said already, though even Kurt Cobain loved it – yes, it was that good.

Fuck Tha Police, showed a genuine scariness never matched since.

Juxtaposing Public Enemy's ethos of peaceful protest was the aggressive rebellion of NWA, who pioneered, developed and perfected gangsta rap on *Straight Outta Compton*; this included the ultimate defiance to authority with the contemptuous *Fuck Tha Police*, showing a genuine scariness never matched since.

Moving on from war to love, hip hop's smoothest operator, Big Daddy Kane, practically invented the standard of the bling-wearing 'player' on *Long Live the Kane*. His persona would soon be misinterpreted by future wannabe-players, which would lead to hip hop being branded a misogynistic type of music; thank heavens then that MC Lyte also debuted in '88 with *Lyte As*

A Rock, which would pave the way for future femcees to be respected as capable of standing alongside their male counterparts in the industry.

Lyte As A Rock was as fun as it was serious; important when we remember that hip hop started out as party music. In the late-80s this area of rap was still at its peak, evidenced by the best-ever beat boxer Doug E Fresh showing he was The World's Greatest Entertainer. His partner-in-crime, Slick Rick, however is not just entertaining, but the greatest storyteller in the game; Ricky D's masterpiece *The Great Adventures of Slick Rick* proved that, which included what is now known as the benchmark of narration, *Children's Story*.

Finally, 1988 saw Ultramagnetic MCs' eponymous classic kick-starting the underground scene (as well as single-handedly popularising the use of samples in production); and more significantly, the Jungle Brothers establishing the framework for future alternative acts such as De La Soul and A Tribe Called Quest on *Straight Out The Jungle* – this also contained the first house track *I'll House You*.

This is just a small example of the innovation, vibrancy, eclecticism and – most crucially – aesthetic musical heights reached in hip hop's greatest year. All the groundwork was laid for the genre to be taken into the 90's and beyond as the undisputed tour de force style of music in the world.

Then along came Nirvana...

'Life ain't fair, but we'll make it sound good'

Delta Spirit
Ode To Sunshine
(Decca Records)

Kate Davis

SOME BANDS HAVE the unique ability to inspire pure feeling and image with their melodies; crafting stone-eyed working class melancholy on the downstroke of an acoustic guitar, or asserting the casual spirit of nonconformist musings in a disassociated piano refrain. Delta Spirit, an indie grassroots foursome new to the rock 'n roll scene, achieves this fickle balance perfectly in their debut album "*Ode To Sunshine*"; proudly displaying their laid-back California roots in a manner that makes any open-minded listener feel like they, too, are a part of the emotional atmosphere through which these songs were created. It's no surprise that the honesty and natural aura of the album comes through in pristine clarity: the lead singer, Matt Vasquez, was discovered busking by a San Diego railside, where he and the band whisked themselves off to a desert cabin to record an album that reflected their love of "dogs, Old Crow and Coke, star filled nights and BBQ's", to name but a few inspirations.

"*Ode To Sunshine*", at its best, sounds like the Bob Dylan of the iTunes generation, referencing serious social issues while sounding like the token dude with the guitar by the bonfire. Songs like *People Walk By*, for example, is a completely beautiful acoustic piece that speaks to the seemingly insignificant misfortunes



Inspiring: Delta Spirit sound like the Bob Dylan of the iTunes generation.

in life, propelling them to heartbreaking reality through the power and grit of Vasquez's course, raw vocal faculty. *Parade*, conversely, is an electric guitar in a room, with some drums, and a piano, and an awesome off-tempo beat; the acoustics of this song are where the imagery derives, immersing the listener to a position of fly-on-the-wall to the recording process itself, evoking a feeling of involvement unique to a sparse few songs in a musical environment of dehumanizing overproduction.

People C'Mon is one of those songs that would not be at all out of place in a Quentin Tarantino movie; with its laid-back melody and tinny guitar riff, it sounds like something straight out of the broken glory days of the Mississippi Delta. Similar is *Tomorrow Goes Away*, the minute-30 album opener, where crisp guitar chords, moderately up-tempo beat, and a soft backing chorus give rise to an eerie, semi-depressing song that seems to announce that 'hey, life ain't fair, but we'll do our best to make it sound good.' And bravo to them, they succeed wonderfully.



Diverse, but formulaic

A-Trak
Fabriclive.45
(Fabric)

Meer Shah

WHEN A WORLD champion DJ who has worked with mega-producers like Kanye West drops a couple of remix LPs, you sit up and listen. The second of these by A-Trak is this set, which draws on an extensive range of material, from 'back in the day' to what is currently banging in the clubs.

More importantly, though it is easy to categorise *Fabriclive.45* as a house record, it isn't inflexibly so; A-Trak uses samples from techno, reggae, R&B and pretty much anything club-friendly in between. The eclecticism is no hindrance either, as A-Trak manages to mesh it together rather well, layering and scratching just as well as one

might expect from a premier DJ, creating loops and melodies catchy enough to bounce to. Also impressive is the cohesion of all this, as songs that would (on the surface) be unrelated are mixed well to provide genuine flow.

A-Trak is no DJ Shadow, however, and *Fabriclive.45* is no *Endtroducing*. In spite of the album's diversity, the tracks sometimes feel formulaic. The real problem, however, is that at 25 tracks long, clocking it at nearly 70 minutes, anyone who listens to it from start to finish will feel nothing but sheer exhaustion afterwards. It is alright as a set for a club night, while wannabe DJs might find it an enthralling piece to break down and utilise the ideas in their own work. But *Fabriclive.45* just isn't innovative and vibrant enough to merit classic status; not by a long shot. Basically, bump it during a flat party, but don't add to your iPod.

Similar Artists: DJ Babu, Mike Relm, X-ecutioners



Fylde win ICF league as Cartmel finish bottom

Orange shirts keep Pendle from the title with 5-1 win over Lonsdale

10-man Grizedale see off bottom-of-the-league Cartmel



Oliver Holmes
Sports Editor

FYLDE A'S WENT into the last game of their league season knowing that a win would secure the league title. Anything less would result in Pendle winning the league after going unbeaten all season long.

The much anticipated game saw flocks of Fylde fans make their way down to the university pitches, some of whom brought their own video cameras in what they hoped would be a triumphant finish to the season. Meanwhile, the much changed Lonsdale team craved the points that would guarantee that they did not finish bottom of the league.

The Fylde team and their supporters did not have to wait long. Around fifteen minutes into the action, the game was turned on its head. A ball was played into the Lonsdale box which struck the centre-back's hand and resulted in the referee awarding a penalty. Claims of ball to hand were quickly dismissed and Fylde held their nerve to convert the penalty comfortably.

The frustration of the penalty decision was apparent within the Lonsdale team as their left-back was sent off for dissent towards the referee. With Cartmel battling for the three points that would propel them off the bottom of the league in the day's other game, Lonsdale were left wondering whether it could be them left propping the league up.

Fylde soon scored a second as Lonsdale failed to cope with a corner resulting in an in-off the knee finish. The title was then in Fylde's hands as they added a third with a fine individual goal and a tidy finish. Lonsdale were clearly struggling with a man less and Fylde piled on more misery with a fourth which the keeper would have wanted to do better with. However, had it not been for the Lonsdale 'keeper's heroics, the score could have become much more punishing.

Fylde knew the title was theirs at this point, but Lonsdale kept on battling away and pulled a goal back, but questions of offside were raised. The half-time whistle blew and surely nothing could go wrong from here for



Dance in a Fylde: Joseph Carroll leaps for a header in Fylde's 5-1 end of season victory over Lonsdale. (Photo: Ben Robins)

Fylde.

In comparison to the first-half, the game was relatively low key affair. Fylde scored a fifth to put the game further beyond doubt, but it could have easily been more had the 'keeper not been in

good form for Lonsdale. Fylde played out the rest of the game to take home the league title and will now surely look to challenge for the double in the Inter-college cup competition

CARTMEL HAD MORE at stake than their opponents going into this game as they looked to finish their season with a win. An achievement they had failed to do all season.

Cartmel reverted to a 3-5-2 formation that had seen the team record much improved performances since the start of the campaign. Good work in midfield and early pressure from Cartmel came to nothing as they failed to create any clear cut chances.

Despite Cartmel's early dominance, Grizedale were getting a foothold of the game and exchanged some good passing moves on more than one occasion. On one such move, Grizedale took the lead as a series of short, sharp passes along with good movement that Cartmel failed to prevent resulted in an accurate finish from the Grizedale scorer. From this point onwards, much of the game was battled out in midfield. Grizedale were invited forward by Cartmel who comfortably dealt with any threat that they posed.

However, in a game that was showing signs of being a non-existent affair, a flash point occurred ten minutes before half-time. An innocuous off the ball incident involving shirt pulling saw the Cartmel defensive-midfielder and Grizedale striker being called over

by the referee who saw it fit to book the Cartmel midfielder and send off the Grizedale striker, much to the team's frustration.

This seemed to affect Grizedale's concentration and was soon punished when Cartmel's substitute midfielder finished off a wonderful passing move down the left hand side with a superb finish that smashed the top left-hand corner of the Grizedale net. Cartmel now knew this was their chance for a victory that they had been deprived of all season long.

Half-time came just as Cartmel were exercising their one man advantage. The second-half brought some more good play from both sides and Grizedale cannot be accused of sitting back and taking a point as they could have easily snatched all three had it not been for poor finishing when the goal was left gaping.

The game was action packed and Cartmel could have won it in the closing stages as Cartmel's attacking midfielder sprung the offside trap but saw his well placed shot go agonisingly wide of the far post. The final-whistle blew full-time on Cartmel's season which despite some damaging results, will at least build some confidence for upcoming cup tournaments.

Up for the cup

WEEK TWO SAW the annual Inter-college football cup begin as all the college teams prepare themselves for what they hope will be a successful cup campaign.

The much-awaited cup competition brings a welcome distraction to what has been a stop-start season for all those involved. Snow, waterlogged pitches and no-shows from referees have all forced games to be rescheduled, resulting in the coveted cup competition being postponed until now.

Nevertheless, the chance of glory, success, and the thrill of being an underdog is set to be demonstrated in abundance as college B teams match themselves against the higher level A teams. With many of the B teams being more than capable of matching their A team counterparts, it shows there is little gulf in class when it comes to such contests.

The draw has pitched two all A team affairs, while three first round games sees six B teams playing each other. The chances of an unlikely winner have never been higher. The tie of the round will surely be County A vs Pendle A with both teams recording some impressive

results in the league so far. However, Grizedale A will have a game on their hands when they come to grips against a goal-scoring Fylde B who have done well again in their league.

All of the B teams playing against each other will fancy their chances of progressing in what will certainly be a very intriguing round of games. Fylde A's should have too much for County B's to handle if they keep their composure in their battle, but you can never rule out a cup upset.

However in the other A Vs B contest, Cartmel A will have to be on their guard and improve on their league form to prevent an organised Grad B side who have played some good football this year. With the first-round games spread out over the first few weeks of arguably the most important term of the year, it will be interesting to see whether exam and revision pressure will take their toll on some of the squads. This will only add to the likelihood of a shock exit.

In what promises to be a very exciting competition as usual, I feel that on current form, Pendle A's will fancy their chances more than most if they are able to overcome their first-round tie.

Another war of the Roses is about to begin



Gareth Coleman
AU President

BEFORE WE'VE EVEN got on the coaches to York, Lancaster are already eight points along the road to Roses victory.

We held the first events, Canoe Slalom and Canoe Polo on Saturday, and the Canoe Club claimed all the points on offer. I went down to watch the Canoe Slalom in the morning, and Lancaster's canoeists were on top form, winning both the men's and women's events. In the evening, Lancaster dominated the Open Canoe Polo, beating York 12-0! It's a fantastic start to our Roses battle, and fingers crossed, we can carry this momentum over to York.

However, the main weekend of Roses is still ahead of us (May 8, 9 and 10), and I want to say to all our sportsmen and women travelling across the Pennines, 'Good Luck!' We can win Roses this year, and if we do, the victory will be historic: it'll be the first time Lancaster has won away since 1985. Unfortunately, few in Lancaster will get to see it.

We'll be competing across more than 30 different events, from rugby to ballroom dancing, and everything in between. Everyone with involved has been training their socks off over the past few weeks, making sure they're all fighting fit for the tournament.

Preparation for Roses has been going on from day one. I've done what I can on the operational side to ensure that our teams get as many advantages as possible beforehand and throughout the tournament through their placing in the timetable. Admittedly, it's not been easy, and several last minute alterations, postponements and rearrangements from York have kept me and the teams on our toes.

In spite of this, all our teams have been doing their homework, weighing up their opposition and revising through match tactics and formations. Considering the situation we've had this year with the change of date, exam clashes and available facilities, I really couldn't have asked any more of our teams in the build-up to Roses. They've simply been brilliant - and now I'm wishing for the momentum they've gathered in recent weeks to take them through to a winning total in York.

Those competing in Roses already know what it means to everyone in Lancaster. But I promise, that I'll personally do everything I can to make sure we bring back the Carter-James Trophy on Sunday evening, and I'm sure everyone who is participating in Roses 2009 would also make that very same pledge...

Good luck Lancaster... let's bring it home.

Boat club ready to row through York

Aaron Sims

ROSES IS ALWAYS a big event on the Lancaster calendar; each and every club prepares for two terms ready to take on York to try and secure points to declare supremacy over their rivals. None more so than the boat club. Last year LUBC walked away the overall victors having won 8 of the 9 races and claiming 16 of the possible 20 points on offer. The result also pushed LUBC into the lead with 18 boat race wins to York's 17 since the start of the event in 1965, back when Roses was just the boat race.

Having tasted the pain of defeat, York have bolstered their forces this year and have begun fighting back. LUBC drew first blood with a resounding victory in first term. A win in enemy waters, with a men's IV taking first place in York Small Boats Head Race Senior 3 division.

This is not the only race where Lancaster and York have gone head to head however. York's senior men bested Lancaster's at the North of England Head of the River Race in Chester by almost 40 seconds - a massive blow to the confidence of the squad.

The day was not lost though, as both of LUBC's novice men's crews were able to beat their York rivals by a considerable margin, and the Women's boat not only beat York but went on to win their division outright.



Racing ahead: LUBC novice men's stormed ahead by 40 places in the Head of the River race in Chester in March.

The men's squad had another trial a week later in the longest race of the year: the Head of the River Race held on the course of the famous Oxbridge Boat Race. Many crews fielded Olympians and international rowers from all nations, as well as club and university rowers, all vying to climb higher in the rankings of the 6.8km time trial. A lack-lustre performance from the senior men saw them drop nearly 50 places in the rankings of the 420 strong race whilst the novice men's crew de-

livered a fantastic result, climbing 40 places after completing in a time only 30 seconds behind that of their peers in the first boat.

A week before term started, LUBC returned to the boat house at the River Lune and commenced an intense and gruelling training programme engineered to give them a jump start on the opposition for the oncoming regatta season. Three sessions a day, both on land and water is no easy task and all the while, people's performance be-

ing assessed so the best crews can be assimilated. The week ended with the Red Rose Time Trial, 2 lengths of the River Lune raced between LUBC and their closest competition, John O'Gaunt Boat Club and Lancaster Royal Grammar School who both train on the Lune. The best result of the day came from the senior women's VIII who recorded the fastest time ever set by an LUBC women's crew, once again boding well for the season ahead.

Magic Moyes is bringing romance back to Merseyside



Robert Payling

DAVID MOYES, FOOTBALL'S classic anti-hero working in the shadows of the big spenders dominating the premier league, but a mastermind who has given a potent reminder to England's 'big four' that money counts for nothing in the oldest cup competition in the world.

What Moyes has achieved for Everton in this year's FA Cup, as well as in the league during his seven years at the club, is nothing short of a footballing miracle. The self confessed 'People's Club' have never claimed to be enriched with financial resources and so it has been up to Moyes to work within his means to lead Everton to greatness.

The Scotsman has managed to create a solid team on the foundations of Championship players such as Tim Cahill, Phil Jagielka, Joleon Lescott, and mixed their experience with the young English talent rising through their academy. Everton's biggest rivals, Liverpool, need little reminding of just how talented their youngsters are after



People's club, people's manager:

Despite lacking the resources other clubs have at their disposal, David Moyes has led Everton into this year's FA Cup final, where they will play Chelsea later this month.

a goal from 19-year-old Dan Gosling knocked them out of the competition during their fourth round replay.

Gosling is one of many aspiring talents from Everton's youth system that has produced other quality players in the past such as Richard Dunne, Wayne Rooney and more recently the highly promising Jack Rodwell. Undoubtedly, with prospects like these Everton can carry on improving in the coming years and create a legacy their fans can be proud of.

Wembley awaits Moyes' men first though, in their first FA Cup final since winning the competition in 1995. Their

opponents that year were Manchester United, the team they beat on penalties in the semi-final of this year's campaign, and a measure of their success that they will look back on for inspiration when they meet Chelsea in the final on May 30.

The competition and more specifically Wembley have received much criticism lately but with such a depleted squad Everton will hope its magic can be revived for a further ninety minutes. With key players like Yakubu, Arteta, and more recently Jagielka all out for the trip, Moyes' will have to use everything he has learnt as a manager to

conjure up a surprise on the pitch.

Recent history suggests an upset is highly unlikely though. Since Roman Abramovich arrived at Chelsea bearing his chequebook Everton have yet to come out on top in contests between the two. However, the two matches between the clubs this season have both ended 0-0 which suggests something will have to give for one team at the end of May. Chelsea's rapid rise in recent years is the antithesis of Everton's steady progress and few would argue that victory would not just be great for Evertonians but for football purists alike.

Early canoe contest puts Red Rose 8 points ahead

- Full points win for Lancaster in slalom and canoe polo
- Result will be morale boost for Roses team

Kaz Thornton

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY CANOE Club fought to a sizable victory over York this weekend in the opening events of Roses 2009, claiming all of the eight available points for canoeing.

The day arrived with fine weather and high spirits. Not being able to book the usual canoeing venue in York, their canoe club headed over to the fairer side of the Pennines for a day of competition and banter. The first event of the day, the slalom, started well for the Lancaster team winning both the men's and women's events.

Charging into the lead for the Lancaster girls – over the ten gate, two weir course – was Katy Kemble, who clocked an impressive time of one minute 23 seconds; placing her joint first with York's Rachael Spanton in the women's



Bygone: This year's Roses is intended to have a medieval flavour.

category. Following her lead, the rest of the female paddlers took the competition in their stride, with the top three Lancaster girls – Katy Kemble, Sam Barry and Rosie Twambley – clocking a winning combined time of 4:21, crushing the combined time of York Ladies' final top three, of 6:57.

In the men's category, Lancaster were equally as impressive with Matt Carter and Rob Beaumont placed joint second overall with a time of 1:13. As the crowd of overexcited Lancaster supporters shouted and cheered from the bank, Matt Fear and Ollie Margett's powered into joint third position with a time of 1:17. Once again York were beaten, with the Lancaster boys clocking a in at 3:43, leaving York wanting with a lamentable final time of 6:32.

Later, at five o'clock in the university sports centre, the poolside lined with excited fans, and the pool filled with psyched up kayakers. It was time for Canoe Polo – and Lancaster were thirsty for further victories.

The players lined up and the referees blew their whistles to start the game. Possession of the ball was immediately seized by Lancaster's Matthew Carter who wasted no time in moving



Paddling pool: Ollie Margets in the canoe slalom event. Lancaster won all the canoe events, giving them an 8 point lead.

the ball up the pool and into the net. 57 seconds into the game and Lancaster were already 1-0 up. As the 10 minutes of the first half ticked by the goals kept coming. By the time the whistle was blown Lancaster had stormed into the lead and were 6-0 up, With Matt Fear and Alex Yare scoring once each, and Jim Cooper and Matt Carter both finding the back of the net twice.

After a two minute break the victory for Lancaster continued, with another goal from Matt Fear, two from Samantha Barry and one from Amy Fowler. Soon after, both Matt Carter and Jim Cooper added extra goals to their tallies to make hat tricks and a final score of 12-0 to Lancaster, who were ecstatic.

Claiming all eight Roses points is another victory for the Canoe Club to add to their recent run of successes that include finishing eighth and ninth at BUCS Polo and winning two categories at the National Student Rodeo. Their performance reflects the hard work and training they put into all aspects of their sport.

£2,200 raised from Wynes' marathon run

Oliver Holmes
Sports Editor

IN THE LAST SCAN we reported how LUSU Vice President-elect for Sports, Sue Wynes, was about to run the London marathon for the first time. Following her successful completion of the 26.2 mile run, we caught up with Sue to share her experience.

While most people were waking up to a relaxed Sunday morning, Sue was pounding London's baking hot streets with tens of thousands of other people running for their selected charity.

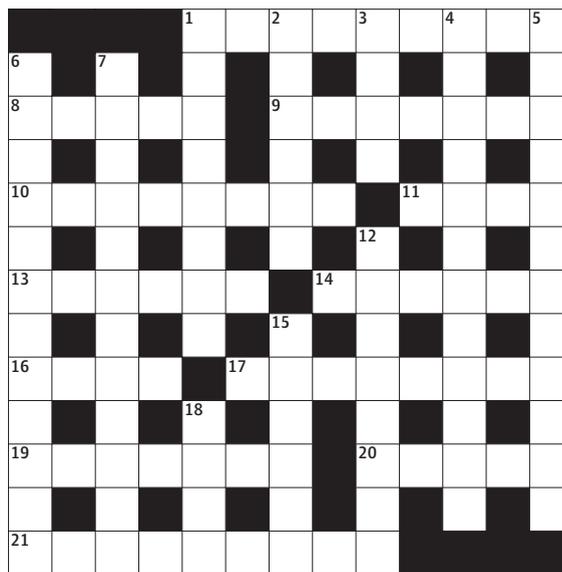
After completing the distance in a very impressive 5 hours and 32 minutes, Wynes said: "it was such an amazing experience, I'm so glad I've done it. To get the London marathon medal at the end of the run made me really feel like I'd achieved something huge."

The annual event is just as much a mental test as it is a physical one for all those participating. Her preparation took months of dedication. Sue was running for the mental health charity Mind and raised well-over £2,200. "I'm so grateful to everyone who has given me support or sponsored me. I couldn't have done it without them," she said.

The support helped motivate Sue and kept her going throughout the run. "There were times when I thought I really can't do this. I forced myself to keep going, thinking about all the money I was raising and how proud I'd be to finish it."

"I don't know how many more marathons I'll do. I think I'll stick to the shorter distances but it's something I'll never forget".

Quick crossword no. 11,841



Across

- Device for transmitting information over distance (9)
- Fish-eating member of weasel family (5)
- Believing the worst of human nature (7)
- Boxer (8)
- Walk slowly and laboriously (4)
- Member of legal profession (6)
- Shout of joy (for Henry?) (8)
- Line about which a body turns or a construction is symmetrical (4)
- Longfellow's legendary native American chief (8)
- Student's break between school and higher education (3,4)
- Treasure-___ (5)
- One of a group of 15 hard-to-distinguish elements – at her rear (anag) (4,5)

Down

- Exciting story (8)
- Swarming, destructive insect (6)

- Group acting with common purpose (4)
- Rate of increase of speed (12)
- One on vacation (7-5)
- Ghostly double (12)
- Ostensibly private aside intended to be heard by audience (5,7)
- Short afternoon shift on ship (8)
- Looking glass (6)
- Nothing more than – lake (4)

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