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STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 9 Summer Term, Tuesday June 16, 2009

# 1 in 50 students voted BNP



**Invited over the threshold:** BNP leader, Nick Griffin, scraped to victory in the June 4 elections to win a seat in the European Parliament. (PAUL ELLIS/AFP/Getty Images)

**Dan Hogan**  
Editor

THE EFFORTS OF LUSU to drive students to the polls on June 4 turned out to be in vain in the early hours of last Monday, when far-right extremist Nick Griffin won the second seat of the evening for the neo-nazi British National party.

Two and a half hours earlier, the BNP's Andrew Brons, a former leader of the National Front, had already been elected as an MEP for Yorkshire and The Humber, winning 9.8% of the vote. Griffin won 8% in the north-west.

On polling day, LUSU had taken over Alexandra Square, hanging European flags from trees and urging passing students to use their votes. They handed out leaflets bearing quotes from BNP candidates, including one from

Griffin called gay people "creatures" and "repulsive". Another quote, from a BNP candidate for the London Assembly last year said: "Rape is simply sex. Women enjoy sex, so rape cannot be such a terrible physical ordeal." The leaflets explained that the BNP were within 2% of winning a seat in the elections and urged students to "vote anti-fascist".

By the close of polls at 10pm on the Thursday, 816 students had voted at the Chaplaincy Centre on main campus, and another 449 had voted at Barker House Farm; 21% of the campus electorate.

SCAN was at the count for the local elections in Lancaster, where the ballot papers for Europe were being verified. In a sample of the votes seen by SCAN, the BNP took approximately 2% of the votes on campus – one in every 50 votes cast. Though only a tiny contribution to the BNP's north-west total of 132,094 votes, this came as a slap in the face to

LUSU's anti-fascist campaigners. The party, which bans black and asian people from being members, came out the election narrowly ahead of the Green party, who received 127,133 votes.

The new MEPs for the north-west are Robert Atkins, Sajjad Karim and Jacqueline Foster for the Conservatives, Arlene McCarthy and Brian Simpson for Labour, Paul Nuttall for the UK Independence party, Chris Davies for the Liberal Democrats and Nick Griffin for the BNP.

Although the BNP's share of the vote on campus was higher than some had expected and hoped, the vast majority of votes were cast for mainstream parties. But despite coming first overall in both the country and the north-west, on campus the Conservative candidates for Europe came level with Labour on 20%, while the Lib Dems took 24%. However, the Green party came out on top, taking

28% of the vote.

Despite the Greens' claims to students on campus that voting for their candidates was the best way to stop the BNP, it was actually Ukip who came closer to gaining a second seat and denying Griffin a place in the European Parliament. Only another 2,500 votes for the Eurosceptic party – less than 1% of their total vote share in the region – would have stopped Griffin getting elected. In the end, the margin between the BNP and the Green party for the last seat in the north-west was twice that between the BNP and Ukip.

Since his victory, Nick Griffin has already raised eyebrows by arguing that there is no scientific evidence for global warming, and the real fascists are campaigners against the BNP, who hurled eggs at him outside Westminster.

**More on Euro poll: 9 >**

## BNP votes were 'backlash' against LUSU campaign

THE ESTIMATED ONE in 50 student votes for the British National party on June 4 were a "backlash" against LUSU's "overenthusiasm" in campaigning against fascism, according to the recently elected LUSU race relations officer.

Sampling of votes at the election count in Salt Ayre revealed that approximately 2% of the 1243 votes cast on campus in the European elections were for the BNP.

Aidan Williams, who was elected as the race relations officer on Thursday, and who participated in LUSU's campaign, said of the BNP vote: "Perhaps it was a backlash against the students union's overenthusiasm in campaigning against extremist parties... quite often on the day when I was telling people not to vote for the BNP, they just came back with 'well why not?'"

Other parties overseeing the counting process were astonished to see crosses appearing next to the far-right party's logo on the university campus. Fraser Welsh, a graduate student and Labour's candidate in the Tory heartland County Council seat of Lancaster Rural East, which includes part of south-west campus, said: "It's upsetting that people still vote for them despite the union highlighting what the BNP actually stand for."

But Joan Jackson, the newly elected Conservative County Councillor for Lancaster South East, which incorporates most of the university campus, expected the BNP's vote to be higher because of the "the way things have gone in the country at the moment", even among students. "It's a relief that [the BNP's vote] was so small," she said. "I just hope that its a protest vote and not a vote that agrees with their principles."

The BNP want an immediate halt on all immigration to the UK, and would pay people who it calls 'racial foreigners' to move back to their countries of origin. The party has attracted widespread criticism for only allowing whites to join as members.

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## Dan Hogan

Editor

## SCAN has changed immensely, but the revolution is still unfinished

**T**his is the last issue of SCAN for this academic year, and my last as editor. Therefore, I hope you'll indulge me as I use this space for a little editorial endnote to my year in office.

It has truly been a honour and a pleasure to be the editor of SCAN this past year. It has been a year full of challenges, of stressful all-nighters before deadlines, and of near-hermitude inside the windowless SCAN office, but it has been enjoyable none the less. My only hopes are that SCAN's readers have found it an informative and entertaining read, that it has enriched the university's culture and raised the level of debate on our campus.

Of the challenges, the greatest was the mission I set myself: to change the culture of SCAN itself, and make it into a newspaper, rather than a magazine. I believe, on that note at least, that I've been successful. But changing that culture has been, at times, difficult. And inheriting a paper with only one news editor, no features editors, and very few experienced contributors posed other challenges as well.

Where before features, arts and music were the focus of the paper, the emphasis is now firmly upon reporting the news – as it should be. We now cover more news stories, in greater depth, and with better reporting. Pieces of superb investigative journalism earlier in the year also unearthed stories that would otherwise never have come to light.

I believe the other sections too – despite their reduced size – have improved in quality, examining topics in more detail and consistently delivering content of genuine interest to the reader. And of course, this year's new section, Comment, has provided incisive opinion and analysis of campus, national, and international issues, and caused a few stirs as well. Everyone who has worked on SCAN this year, particularly the editorial team, deserves a huge amount of gratitude for their hard work and dedication.

But this isn't the end of the revolution. This year, the challenge was to turn SCAN into a respectable newspaper. Next year, that challenge will be to make it great.

There are areas that SCAN hasn't given much consideration to this year: travel, food reviews, lifestyle. These are all things that next year's editor, Liam

Richardson, has pledged to add to the paper. But SCAN can also be more ambitious. It can secure more interviews with famous faces; it can make better use of the tools available to investigative journalists; it can run competitions and reader offers; and it can make better use of its website. All of these are possibilities that have occurred to me over the year, or now upon reflection, but that we simply didn't have the time or resources to do properly.

Now that the final issue is done, I'm going to be looking through the SCAN back-catalogue from this year to find the three best issues to nominate for the Guardian Student Media Awards. We're close, I hope, to the standard necessary to take some of those awards home. Whether we're close enough though, is a question that won't be answered until November. But even if at the end of that long wait SCAN walks away empty handed, I'll be happy in the knowledge that this paper's fortunes have now turned upward, and that the paper's decline has been arrested.

While I've taken responsibility for the paper's low points this year (of which there have been a few – recently, I've been afraid to show my face in certain places for fear of being attacked with lacrosse sticks), SCAN's improvement is an achievement which everyone involved in it can be proud of. It is an achievement shared by every member of SCAN's editorial team, its reporters, columnists and critics and has laid the foundations for greater success in the coming year.

Next year, you can expect great things from SCAN. Next year, the incoming editor will start with an experienced team of section editors, and a healthy cohort of contributors from the beginning. Next year, Michaelmas Term won't need to be spent perfecting layout and design – a template will already exist. And next year, the editor will already have a year of experience as part of the editorial team.

As I said, my challenge was to make SCAN into a respectable newspaper. The challenge I'm setting for my successor is to make SCAN the best student newspaper in the country. SCAN has a real opportunity to go forward and become a truly brilliant, award-winning paper next year. Though ambitious, I believe that goal is well within reach, and in completing it, I wish Liam the greatest of luck.

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# Romans, hippies and The Hulk on offer at this year's Extravs

**Chris Davis,  
Sam Newsham  
and Lauren Hirst**

**THE END OF** year 'Extravs' taking place next week form a central part of the student experience at Lancaster University. Each of the undergraduate colleges hosts an event organised by their JCRs, based around a specific theme or concept. This year sees festival atmospheres in Fylde and Pendle, circus mayhem in Grizedale and Cartmel, cultural indulgence in Lonsdale, County and Furness, and TV nostalgia in Bowland. Here is SCAN's definitive guide to the JCR Extravs, 2009.

## Furness Fiesta Mextrav

Furness college's end of year party looks to bring the best of Mexican and Spanish culture together for the 'Furness Fiesta Mextrav'. The college will be hoping to recreate the atmosphere of a Hispanic fiesta, and students are encouraged to look the part by dressing up in ponchos, sombreros, and the ubiquitous fake moustache, whilst sampling the tequila and sangria on offer at Furness bar.

Music will come from Lancaster based salsa band 'Lava', and critically acclaimed Latin soul band El Mahico, amongst others. Free salsa classes will be available throughout the evening for those looking to improve their dancing skills, and food will be provided by local Mexican restaurant Crows.

## Lonsdalius Extravius

Lonsdale have looked to classical history to provide the influence for their Extrav, 'Lonsdalius Extravius'. The event looks set to offer a variety of attractions, such as outdoor Roman baths, a hog roast, and an inflatable gladiatorial arena (which is more likely to be in the vein of the television series of the same name than the movie). Music begins on the college's outdoor stage, with Alternative rock outfit Strategem, punk-rock band Middle Finger Salute, and Lancaster's own Boo Boo Kiddy Fonc on show.

After midnight, the indoor stage will present a heavier atmosphere, with rave duo Dirty Dan & Simba providing the final set. The college will be boasting full Greco-Roman décor; complete with living statues, bed sheets, and the prospect of a 'pampering lounge' run by the JCR. "Lonsdale has a reputation as a party college," said JCR president, Matt Windsor. "We had a very good event last year. Our bar is the best in terms of space for a good party".

## Fylde Fest

Fylde's Extrav, entitled Fylde Fest, has, in the words of vice-president, Myles Harrison, been an attempt to "remove the gimmicks" and go back to basics,



**Enchanted:** A student reveller gets carried away in the music at last year's Fylde Extrav (Photo: Carl Sukonik)

making their event "all about the music". The Fylde Fest will see three different stages play host to a number of acts, including Guernica, DJ Dirty Dan, and indie band The Rebs, who last year opened the V Festival. The Rebs are the major draw for students, but the college maintain that there will be something for everyone.

"Having three different stages, something unique for an Extrav, will allow us to deliver an exciting variety of music, from indie and rock to RnB and Acoustic", said Harrison. Joining the bands will be the winner of the college's 'Avenue 2 Fylde' competition, which invites acts from across campus to compete for the chance to perform on the night.

## Pendle: Back to 1974

Pendle is set to return to its roots for its Extrav, as the college goes back to 1974 for a day of music, festivity, and mud wrestling. 1974 was the year Pendle college was founded, and provides the inspiration for both the musical and visual style of the day. Vice-president, Dom Lawrence, promises a mixture of "hippie, punk, and disco" songs, as well as 1970s themed "merchandise and accessories" for students who wish to look the part whilst enjoying the live music

that will play until the early morning.

During the day, the college will host a "mud pit" for anyone wishing to indulge in some mud wrestling, whilst campus caterers Sultan will be selling a selection of food including burgers, kebabs, and ice creams. "I am very excited about the atmosphere of the day," said Lawrence. "It promises to be interesting, exciting, and extremely enjoyable."

## Grizedale: Twisted circus

Grizedale college promise to present "a circus with a twist" for their Extrav, offering what president, Lauren Emery, hopes will be a "completely unique" mixture of music, games, magic, and party food. The evening hosts a variety of acts, including local favourites Wag-tale, Britney Spears tribute Kimberley Dale, and a yet to be announced final act, who are performing at Glastonbury and have had a top ten music video on MTV.

Resident magician 'Magic' Sam Fitton will further the circus atmosphere, alongside jugglers and party games that will give students a chance to win prizes. "Were offering a lot more than the average Extrav," said Emery. "I hope everyone who comes is talking about it for ages afterwards".

## Cartmel: Moulin Rouge

Another variation on the circus theme, Cartmel's Extrav is based around the popular French stage show Moulin Rouge. The Barker House Farm food court will, according to president, Robbie Pickles, be transformed into a "Parisian style café", with the JCR becoming a "boudoir" for students to socialise and relax. Music is provided by, university band 'Tape' and Foo Fighters tribute act The Four Fighters, whom Pickles promises will be "brilliant".

For food and drink, Cartmel are presenting the uniquely European combination of pancakes and absinthe. "Our Extrav is a really exciting line-up," said Pickles. "It has a very strong theme and everything fits together really well, making it much more of an event."

## County Invades America

County college has a history of hosting hugely successful Extravs, so the pressure is on this year's JCR to ensure that their event, 'County Invades America', lives up to their previous high standards. The evening presents music from County favourites Full Fat Funk, local band The Magic Soundabout, and, contributing to the American flavour, Red Hot Chilli Peppers tribute The Funky

Munks. As in Cartmel, pancakes will be available, although this time with a distinctly American twist.

Tickets sold out incredibly fast for this Extrav, and expectations are already extremely high. "Traditionally, County college Extravs speak for themselves," said vice-president, Nick Dodd. "We have such great surroundings, and there is always a great atmosphere".

## Bowland Childrens TV

Bowland college's Extrav is based around the theme of 'Bowland Children's Television Network'. The children's television theme offers students the opportunity (if they needed one) to dress up as favourite TV characters from their youth, providing the potential for both nostalgia and some wildly inventive costumes.

Party games, including a Sumo-Wrestling bout between iconic children's TV favourites Batman and The Hulk will be ongoing throughout the night, and the atmosphere promises to be relaxed and fun. Home-grown Lancaster University entrepreneurs, Souped Up, will be serving a selection of food, and music will be provided by The Alfonso, DJ Simba, Justice Force 5, and local indie band The Heartbreaks.

## Immigration-dodging bogus colleges 'a national scandal'

Vicki Cole

THE SPREAD OF 'fake' universities and colleges across the country is amounting to a national scandal, a committee of MPs has been told. Approximately 2,000 bogus colleges, set up specifically to allow foreign nationals to avoid immigration restrictions, have allowed tens of thousands of people to live and work illegally in the UK.

MPs were told by Tony Millns, chief executive of the Association of Accredited English Language Centres (English UK) that a "cottage industry" of "bogus" education certificates existed throughout Britain. Often only a website or a couple of small rooms, the fake institutions have enabled immigrants to obtain visas by enrolling on courses that they do not intend to study for or gain a qualification in. Some fake establishments were created by people who had originally entered the country illegally and then exploited student visas to traffic in friends and relatives.

Earlier this month immigration minister, Phil Woolas, told the home affairs select committee that the government's controversial new 'points-based' immigration system, had largely resolved the issue. Students applying for visas are now fingerprinted and checked against immigration watch-lists and colleges

are subject to unannounced visits. However, Woolas confessed that he did not know how many bogus students are currently living illegally in the UK. "It is best not to guess if you are not sure" he said.

Millns claimed that the new regulations would not stop fake colleges from opening. "There are still a couple of pretty obvious loopholes in the system. Colleges will be able to stay open and be on the register for six months before they are checked," he warned.

He added: "It could be tens of thousands of bogus students in this country quite easily. I would go so far as to say it's a national scandal."

The chief executive's allegations follow the arrest in April this year of several terror suspects who exploited the student visa system to gain entry into the UK from Pakistan. Police uncovered photographs of potential targets of terrorist activity, including the Ardale and Trafford Centre shopping precincts, after raiding addresses in Manchester, Liverpool and Clitheroe. Eight of the suspects were enrolled at a fake college in the north-west, which had just three small classrooms and three teachers for 1,797 enrolled students.

College leaders have claimed that the government was aware of the problem of fake colleges as far back as ten years ago, but have repeatedly failed to properly address the issue.

## Women outperforming men at university

Chris Davis  
News Editor

WOMEN PERFORM BETTER than men across the board at university, with women students more likely to both attend a higher ranked University and gain a higher level degree, according to a think-tank report released this month.

The report, commissioned by the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI), firmly established that women both outnumber and outperform their male counterparts on almost all university degree schemes, with only a handful of technology based courses still disproportionately represented by male students.

The report concluded that 49.2% of women now choose to enter higher education, a figure close to the government's target of 50% of all school leavers to go to university. However, the number of men going into HE is adrift of the government's target currently only 37.2%.

8% of women students were reported to attend one of the elite Russell Group universities, traditionally perceived as being male dominated, compared to 6.5% of men. The figures contradict the arguments of some critics who claim gender equality in higher education was limited to the newer Post-92 group of former polytechnics.



**Outpacing:** Women do better than men across the board at university, but still end up getting paid less at the end of it.

Women were also much more likely to graduate with a high level degree. 63.9% of women graduates were found to leave university with either a first class degree or a 2:1, ahead of the 59.9% of male graduates who achieved the same classification. Women were also found to be less likely to drop out than their fellow male students, indicating not only better academic performance but also greater satisfaction with their university experience. The report follows concerns recently raised by the House of Commons education and skills committee, about male par-

ticipation in university life.

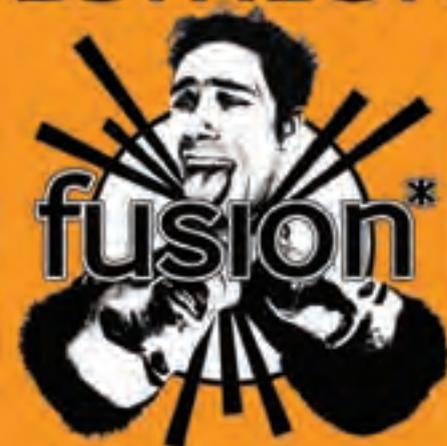
These national trends are largely reflected at Lancaster, where women made up 53% of students at the university between 2002 and 2005. 11% of women enrolled either did not complete their course or failed to receive a degree, compared to 16% of male students. In overall academic results, women again come out on top at Lancaster, with 73.5% of women graduating with either a first or a 2:1; significantly higher than the 59% of men who leave with either of these higher level degrees. Lancaster also follows the national averages at faculty level, with men overrepresented in the Faculty of Science and Technology and the Management School, and women featuring more prominently on courses in Arts and Social Sciences.

Indeed, research by academics including Lancaster's own Ian Walker, recently revealed that women are also now achieving a higher 'graduate premium' than their male counterparts. The extra amount that women with a degree earn over women without a degree has increased, while for men the amount has stayed largely the same. However, the HEPI report showed that women on average still earn less upon leaving university; a factor that it suggests is a result of the number of women enrolled on courses that continue to lead to lower paying professions in the public sector or the creative arts.

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# NUS launches 'blueprint' for future university fees system

- Uni's should be funded by graduate contributions, NUS
- Stats reveal poor students put off HE by fees

**Chris Davis**  
News Editor

TUITION FEES SHOULD be abolished in favour of graduate contributions through the tax system, according to the National Union of Students' new 'blueprint' for a new higher education funding system, released last week.

The report, part of NUS's 'Funding our Future' campaign, proposes the abolition of up-front tuition fees that are paid, and their replacement by a system in which graduates make contributions to a 'higher education fund' upon leaving university.

This follows a report released earlier this month by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) that indicated that the introduction of top-up fees has made students from lower income backgrounds less likely to seek a place at university, contradicting government claims to the contrary. The reports by HESA and NUS pre-empt the government's approaching review of higher education funding, set to take place later this year.

NUS's proposals suggest that a stakeholder fund controlled by an independent board, should be established to fund HE. Graduates would then pay a designated sum into the fund, linked to their earnings, over a period of twenty years. The funding received would then be distributed to universities by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), replacing the funds universities currently receive through fees. This would prevent

what NUS calls the "open market" that would appear in higher education if universities could charge whatever fees they like for students to study on their courses.

Graduates would contribute between 0.3% and 2.5% of their salaries each month, over a twenty year period. A graduate on £40,000 would pay £125 a month, while someone on £16,000 would pay £5. People earning under £15,000 would not contribute. NUS claim that, after twenty years, this would enable £6.4bn in funding every year, increasing to £7.9bn a year after thirty years. They calculate that the trust fund would take twenty years to grow sufficiently, during which time the government would have to contribute the £4.5bn a year it currently makes available through the Students Loan Company (SLC). They point out, however, that this does not amount to an effective increase in government spending, and that in the long term there would be high levels of saving from the abolition of the current "inefficient" system.

NUS have in the past argued that students should not have to pay for higher education, a position they moved away from in all but principle last year. In his blog on the Guardian website, NUS president, Wes Streeting, admitted that "both of the main parties are wedded to the notion of students making a contribution to higher education", and that the most realistic option for the union was therefore to prevent "a real market in fees" that would "reinforce existing social inequality".

This month's report from HESA appeared to vindicate this view, showing that the number of under 21s from lower socio-economic classes currently in HE was at its lowest for three years, and that since variable top-up fees were introduced, drop out rates had risen by 0.4%.

Ahead of the tuition fee review, this month saw the two government depart-



**Agenda-setting:** Wes Streeting unveiling NUS's report into the state of higher education funding last year. The new funding blueprint is the next step in Streeting's bid to realign the debate on how universities are funded.

ments responsible for universities and business merged together, to form a new department headed by Lord Peter Mandelson, new elevated to the post of what is in effect, deputy prime minister. The mission statement of the new Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is to "build Britain's capabilities to compete in the global economy" and encourage "enter-

prise, skilled people, innovation, and world-class science and research". The new department will integrate universities with the needs of UK businesses.

The NUS president said that he hoped Lord Mandelson would be "bold in his approach to the forthcoming review of higher education funding" and that he would "ensure that students have a genuine voice in the coming de-

bate".

Other reactions to the creation of BIS have been mixed. A press release by the outgoing chief executive of Universities UK, Diana Warwick, announced that she is "keen" to work with Lord Mandelson to "continue the momentum in developing a higher education system that will equip people with the knowledge and skills to compete in a global economy". But University and College Union general secretary, Sally Hunt, was more circumspect, bemoaning how universities had been "lumped in" with the needs of business, and fearing a conflict of interest between education and commerce.

The new department faces the immediate challenge of the upcoming review of university funding, which, as the last month has shown, remains a highly divisive issue. In opposition to NUS's alternative funding model, there continue to be calls for the cap on fees to be lifted. A survey of university vice-chancellors by the BBC earlier this year revealed two thirds of those polled wanted the cap increased to anything up to £20,000 a year, whilst one in ten wanted it removed altogether. At the end of May, Sir Martin Harris, director of the Office for Fair Access, which was set up to quell fears among Labour backbenchers that top-up fees would deter poorer students in the first place, called for the cap to be raised to £5,000 a year. "Genuinely I believe no student has been deterred on financial grounds," he said.

## The battle lines: NUS v UUK

### The NUS blueprint

- NUS's blueprint proposes the removal of 'up front' tuition fees. Instead, students would not make any payment until they graduate and find work.
- They would pay between 0.3% and 2.5% of their monthly wages, depending on how much they earn.
- The payments would last a fixed period of twenty years and not begin until the graduate is earning at least £15,000.
- Repayment amounts would depend upon how long the graduate had spent at university, and the nature and intensity of their degree.
- The money paid would not go towards individual institutions, but to an independent trust, which would fund universities through Hefce.
- Employers would be encouraged to contribute towards their employee's payments through tax credits.
- UCU and the Lib Dems still argue for a higher education to be completely free at for students.

### The UUK market

- Several senior figures in HE believe that increasing tuition fees is the best way to increase their funding.
- Many VCs have called for the limit on tuition fees, currently 'capped' at £3,140, to be raised to a higher level, potentially £5,000 or even £7,000.
- A report by Universities UK, released in March, claimed that a fees increase of £5,000 a year would not put people off university.
- Some, including the VC of Imperial College London, have called for the cap to be removed altogether, allowing universities to charge an unlimited amount to study. A similar system exists in the United States, where the top 'Ivy League' universities charge as much as \$50,000 (£30,500) a year for some courses.
- As in the current system, the government would continue to provide grants and bursaries to encourage students from poorer backgrounds to attend university.

## Privatise top universities, and let them charge £30,000 a year, says VC

A SENIOR VICE-CHANCELLOR has called for the creation of an elite tier of UK universities to be privatised. Sir Roy Anderson, VC of Imperial College London, suggested the UK's top five universities be freed from government control and allowed to set their own fees.

In an interview with the London Evening Standard, Anderson suggested the privatisation of the UK's top five universities: Oxford, Cambridge, the London School of Economics, University College London and his own Imperial

College London, and made reference to the elite group of 'Ivy League' universities in the United States, which routinely top the international academic rankings. These leading US universities charge practically unlimited fees, with some courses commanding up to \$50,000 (£30,500) a year.

Anderson questioned whether government influence on universities helped them deliver the best service for students or in quality research. "The trouble is, all universities are too de-

pendent on the government," he said. "You don't want to be subject to the mores of government funding or changing educational structures." He focused on the ability of universities to play a vital role in supporting the UK through a period of economic crisis, claiming "If you take the top five universities, they have enormous potential to earn income for Britain".

He also indicated that a system of privatisation would most likely see an increase in the amount of international

students recruited by UK universities. To increase funding, he suggested, institutions "would have to go where the market was". International students are often charged higher fees, allowing universities to maximise their revenue.

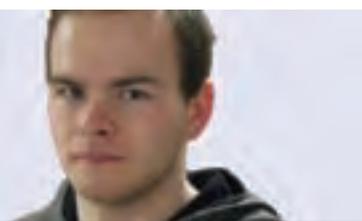
The call for reform follows several financial setbacks for UK universities which have challenged the UK's international competitiveness in higher education. Public funding for higher education was cut by £180m in the government's budget, announced in April and recent

decisions by the HEFCE have meant research funding is more evenly distributed among universities, with many of the country's elite losing out as a result. Last month, the vice-chancellor of Warwick University, Nigel Thrift, suggested UK universities should merge with American institutions, to allow a greater concentration of research power.

Many vice-chancellors have called for the cap on tuition fees to be raised across all universities, with figures of £6,500 a year frequently suggested.

## Campus redevelopment

# Open, transparent, consultative:



**Liam Richardson**

**Editor-elect**

**THE FALL OF the Soviet Union in 1991 heralded a new era of openness and transparency in the newly formed Russian Federation. Whilst it is fanciful and perhaps a little over elaborate to portray the director of the newly-created Facilities department, Mark Swindlehurst, as a Gorbachev figure, it does become apparent that better consultation and communication with students are positioned at the forefront of his thinking.**

Much like a singer appearing on the Jonathan Ross show to promote a new album, Facilities were very keen for

SCAN to see their progress on a range of crucial buildings, and what the have in the pipeline for the future.

Personally, it was an interesting experience to be welcomed into the Facilities offices less than eight months after claiming in SCAN that their architects must have been on hallucinogens when they designed Cartmel bar or that the much vaunted Learning Zone was a "white elephant". Luckily, grudges are not held, especially when promotion is the name of the game.

The rejuvenation of Alexandra Square is a major project being undertaken over the summer. Ian Sturzaker, in charge of the project, is keen to give the square a "sympathetic makeover" which will go some way to making the location greener, more sociable and most importantly, improve a space which now appears a "bit tired and worn down". They've consulted with students at every stage of the design process, and last week students and staff were given the opportunity to vote on one of three potential designs for the square's makeover.

The poll will count for 50% of the votes on the final decision, with a selection panel including the vice-chancellor,

the director of Facilities, and the LUSU president responsible for the other half. But is this consultation little more than window dressing to disguise the vice-chancellor's decide-all vote? Stuzaker remains adamant that the "comments from students and staff will be fully taken on board".

Alexandra Square has been the centrepiece of the university since its inception and has been rather grandly compared to a neural synapse in some design plans. For those not well versed in biological parlance, a synapse is like a junction in the nervous system, presumably making the university a gigantic throbbing brain. The analogy fits well, the notion being that the square embodies the hustle and bustle of everyday life at the university, a connection point between different areas of campus.

The rejuvenation is being taken seriously by Facilities who are well aware of the iconic status of Alexandra Square. Swindlehurst stressed the need for sympathy with the makeover and told me that the original architect from the early 1960s, Professor Epstein, was being involved in the process.

The changes could be completed by Freshers Week, with £1m apparently



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Laura McAllister  
MRes in Science of the Environment

Manic Street Preachers' new album reviewed

page 3 |

## What's springing up?

### County South Refurbishment

- Courtyard will be remodelled with renovation to interior also expected with new windows and doors and pedestrian opening to ground floor.

Expected Summer 2010

### New ISS Building

- A new bar building to accommodate all ISS staff and technologies.
- Will house a new Computer Data centre.

Expected Summer 2009

### Grizedale Social Space

- Brand new social space for the college following the demolition last year of existing facilities.
- A new Porters Lodge, offices, meeting room, kitchen and laundrette all expected.
- A new bar will be ready also with a first floor to accommodate to JCR and JCR office

Expected August 2009

### Learning Zone

- A new build located in the heart of Alex square which will provide facilities for both individual and group learning.
- A second phase of development will incorporate refurbishment to Bowland college.

Expected September 2009

### Waterside Development

- A new flexible facility situated between Management school and Grizedale college.
- Will include lecture theatres, seminar rooms and lounge area.

Work beginning Summer 2009

### LICA Development

- A new hub for the Lancaster Institute for Contemporary Arts.
- Will act as a public face for work produced by theatre, music, art and design students.

Work beginning July 2009

# the new watchwords at Facilities



earmarked for the project. Improvements to the underpass, including better lighting and lift access, also feature in the three designs. The (in)famous steps up to the square seem likely to be removed entirely. All three designs have their strengths and weaknesses but all have some stunning qualities that will revitalise the heart of the university.

Swindlehurst does not share my conviction that the Learning Zone risks becoming a wasteful flop. He was keen to point out the development was there to “promote learning” and was not a social space. The new north side of the square, the Learning Zone will be a 24 hour operation which will have “ownership” by the students and contain a range of flexible spaces. The building will be ready for the October arrival of new students. Swindlehurst did concede that the building was an “experiment” – surely a very risky one considering there is more than £3m set aside for it. “There is an element of risk with all projects” was his retort. His snappy soundbites and political cunning would make Gorbachev proud.

We next discussed the much anticipated (and delayed) new Sports Centre. Following Lancaster’s dismal perform-

ance at Roses, blamed at least partially on our dire sporting facilities, surely this project is high priority? “We will know by the end of June if the Sports Centre is going to progress or not. At the moment the university is gearing up to deliver the project”. The decision will be taken in University Council this Friday. Ears to the ground for that, then.

Further projects include the refurbishment of the Faraday lecture theatre complex, the redevelopment of Grizedale’s social space and the reconfiguration of Bowland. A new ISS building has been under construction for a year already with a new building (dubbed an overblown ‘greenhouse’ by its critics) designated to house the Lancaster Institute for Contemporary Arts and cost up to £10m. All this construction work must be burning a hole in the uni’s back pocket. How feasible is all this building work in the current economic climate? Again, Swindlehurst is confident: “We have had a review of all the capital programmes over the next three years and we think all our plans are deliverable.”

The Facilities super-department now incorporates security and portering, trading services as well as traditional

estates projects. To their credit, they now appear far more professional and co-operative in their attitude towards the student population than the sum of their parts. What does the newly-promoted director make of the sometimes frosty relationship between LUSU and the commercial services director, David Peeks, (who now reports to Swindlehurst – something Peeks is reported not to be very happy about) over the college bars?

“I think we’ve got to work together to give the university the best possible facilities we can deliver, and that includes the bars. Positive moves are being made between the commercial director and Michael Payne... working together to see what the best solution looks like rather than working against each other which, at times, has been the case in the past.”

There appears to be some truly exciting new developments ready to begin construction that will do much to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the campus improve social and academic space for students. With ‘consultation’ the new buzzword flying around the Facilities offices, let’s hope that this new culture of openness and transparency between the university and students catches on.



**Masterplan:** Above, how the Learning Zone is expected to look inside once finished. Below, the planned look of the new ISS building.

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# Post-election blues as Europe and Lancashire veer to the right

## Analysis: Where the votes went for Europe

### Conservatives

UK: 27.7%  
North West: 25.6%  
Lancaster: 28.5%  
University: 19.9%

### UKIP

UK: 16.5%  
North West: 15.8%  
Lancaster: 16.4%  
University: 2.9%

### Labour

UK: 15.7%  
North West: 20.4%  
Lancaster: 16.3%  
University: 19.9%

### Lib Dems

UK: 13.7%  
North West: 14.3%  
Lancaster: 12.5%  
University: 24.4%

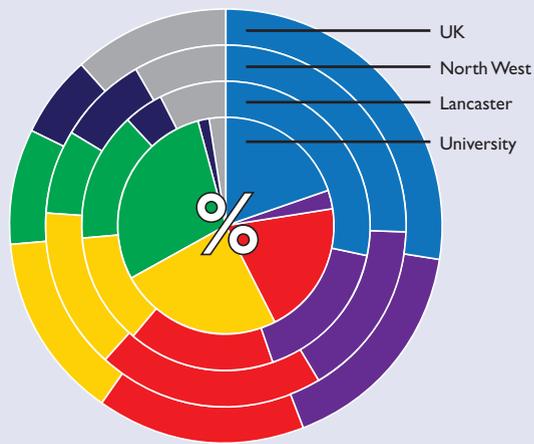
### Greens

UK: 8.6%  
North West: 7.7%  
Lancaster: 14.3%  
University: 28.9%

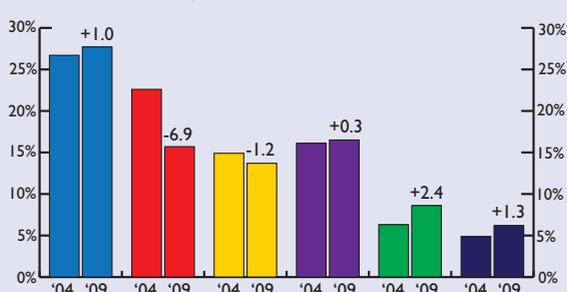
### BNP

UK: 6.2%  
North West: 8.0%  
Lancaster: 4.6%  
University: 1.9%

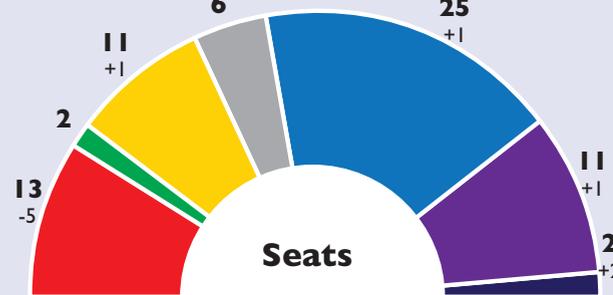
Vote share by area



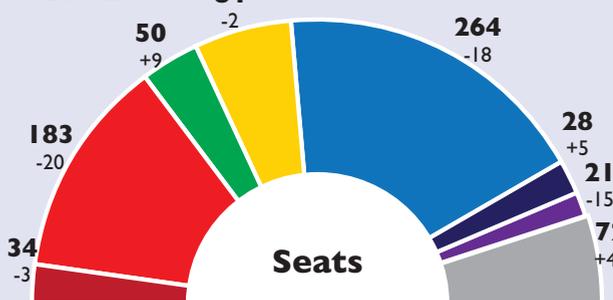
Vote shares compared to 2004



UK MEPs



EU MEPs



■ EPP (Centre-right)  
■ Socialists (Centre-left)  
■ Liberals  
■ Greens

■ Left  
■ UEN (Nationalist)  
■ Ind/Dem (Euro-sceptic)  
■ No group

### Dan Hogan Editor

EUROPE'S POLITICS IS swinging to the right, the results of the European elections earlier this month suggest, even though the public associate centre-right policies with the causes of the global economic recession.

Right the way across Europe, it was the centre-left parties who bore the brunt of public discontent with the response to the global recession. Despite

the financial crisis being widely seen as a product of capitalism and under-regulation, voters opted for centre-right parties whose instincts are to cut economic regulation, not increase it.

Martin Schulz, the leader of the Party of European Socialists, said: "It is a sad evening for social democracy in Europe. We are particularly disappointed, [it is] a bitter evening for us."

It wasn't always governing parties that got a kicking either. Despite the unpopularity of the French president, Nicholas Sarkozy, his centre-right UMP

party came top in the elections, even though he effectively made the election into a referendum on his leadership.

However, in the UK, in spite of Labour's turmoil and its loss of nearly 7% of the vote share compared with 2004, the Conservatives own share improved only slightly. MPs' expenses domination of the headlines in recent weeks may well have dampened the Tories' support and polls conducted before the election suggest that most former Labour voters were switching to the Lib Dems. Almost as many former Labour

supporters switched to Ukip as did to the Tories.

Despite the polls though, Ukip didn't see much benefit from Labour's collapsing support either. Their vote share went up by less than one percent. However, that still secured them one more MEP than before.

The BNP, though, increased their share of the vote by 1.3 points - a 26% increase. This can be partially explained by low voter turnout and passing disaffection with mainstream politics, but it is a trend that, if contin-

ued, will rock the mainstream political establishment.

For the Conservatives, an opposition party hoping to become the government in the next election, increasing their vote share by only one point will be disappointing.

The UK's 26 Conservative MEPs are also now without a group in the European Parliament, after leaving the European People's Party after the election. David Cameron pledged to take the Tories out of the EPP, which is comprised of centre-right parties from across Europe and has the biggest bloc in the parliament, because its pro-integrationist views of Europe contradict Tory policy.

SCAN's sampling of ballot papers for the European elections also suggest that the Conservatives' popularity is not yet at the level necessary for a 1997-style landslide, when the general election comes. SCAN's projection of European votes on campus puts the Greens ahead on 29%, the Lib Dems on 24%, but puts Labour and the Tories level-pegging on 20%. The far-right British National Party received 2% of campus votes.

All other sides of the political spectrum have condemned the BNP and expressed their dismay at their advances.

Foreign secretary, David Miliband said: "It is very damaging for Britain, a country that has stood up for democracy over the last century, to see the BNP elected to the European Parliament."

David Cameron, speaking before the election, said: "If you vote for the BNP you are voting for a bunch of fascists who want to divide this country over the issues of race and the colour of skin."

Nigel Farage, leader of Ukip, made pains to disassociate his party from the BNP, saying "we want proper immigration controls, but we're a non-racist party. We want government to do less in our lives, and [the BNP] want government to control our lives."

## Online voting could become a reality

PROPOSALS TO RADICALLY change the way LUSU and JCR officers are elected will be coming up for discussion this Thursday, as plans for an online voting system come before LUSU's Union Council.

The plans, which allow students to vote in elections via the internet, whether on or off campus, would go some way toward improving participation in LUSU's democratic structures, its supporters hope.

The proposals have been drawn up by LUSU's Elections Subcommittee, who claim to have spent "a number of years... collecting information about voting systems and experiences at other unions."

But the plans are not without opposition. At a meeting of the council last term, several councillors expressed their disapproval with an online voting system, suggesting that 'e-voting' should be restricted to polling stations,

similar to how elections work currently, but with computers instead of ballot boxes.

However, advocates of the online system argue that an electronic, web-based voting system is needed for LUSU to increase engagement with traditionally under-represented students. LUSU general secretary, Janie Coleman, who is leading the campaign for LUSU to adopt e-voting, wants to increase participation among off-campus students. "At the moment we have a problem of very few off-campus students turning out in our elections," she said. "Unless they happen to be on campus anyway, very few of them make the effort to go and vote. An online voting system will make it far easier and more accessible for these students to vote."

The particular system that Elections Subcommittee are most keen upon is provided by the company Mi-Voice. This would cost the union £2,500 a



year in service costs. However, Coleman argues that no longer needing to print ballot papers or employ staff to assist in the labour-intensive process of counting votes, would mean LUSU would make save money, which could then be put back into initiatives to better promote the elections.

But critics of the system have said privately that they are not convinced that e-voting will make students any more willing to vote in union elections. One union officer told SCAN: "if students choose not to vote, it's because we aren't connecting with them and convincing them that its worth it. Simply making it easier for people to vote doesn't do anything to address the root problem."

The decision will be made in Union Council on Thursday June 18, in Management School LT2 at 6pm. All students are allowed to join the discussion.

## Christian aid week in Lancaster

**Chris Davis**  
News Editor

WEEK NINE IS set to see a range of different activities organised as part of Christian Aid Week, aiming to increase awareness of worldwide poverty and injustice and raise money for a variety of charitable causes. Opportunities to get involved will be presented throughout the week, offering the chance for students to support a good cause whilst taking part in a variety of games and activities.

Tuesday will see Alexandra Square host a number of games for students to compete in, including childhood favourites Twister and giant Jenga. Prizes will be available for the winners, whilst other activities such as face painting, cake stalls, and a giant public art installation will also be set up for students to experience and enjoy.

On Wednesday evening the Chaplaincy Centre is hosting a 'Clothes Swap', with students encouraged to bring unwanted items of clothing and trade them with other students. It costs £1.50 to take part in the swap, which this includes a display from the Juggling Society and a bring your own food BBQ.

Thursday evening sees County Bar host Quiz Aid, from which all the proceeds will go directly to Christian Aid. Again, there will be a variety of prizes available for those who take part. As Friday presents the return of the stu-

dent union's continually popular Friday Fury bar crawl, each college bar will be collecting students' spare change for the fund.

Organiser Hannah Henderson encouraged students of all faiths and outlooks to get involved and help Christian Aid support charitable causes worldwide. She said: "Your money makes a huge impact on people all around the world who are living in poverty; a few pennies make such a small difference to you and such a big difference to someone else. Please, please come and get involved, you can both have some fun and save lives at the same time."

**"reach out to the poor and speak up for injustice, for a world free from poverty where all people have the right to leave in peace, regardless of their faith or race"**

She was particularly keen to challenge the popular misconception that Christian Aid is an event limited to only those of the Christian faith. "One common mistake is that Christian Aid is a charity just for Christians but that's completely wrong" she said. "It's driven by the values of the Christian faith - that is, to reach out to the poor and to speak up for injustice, for a world free from poverty where all people have the right to leave in peace, regardless of their faith or race".

## New report to tackle Lancaster's minority student issues

**Sam Newsham**  
Deputy News Editor

A REPORT BY the Equality, Welfare and Diversity Council will identify and resolve problems experienced by minority students at Lancaster.

The report, written by Sara Dunn, LUSU's sabbatical women's officer, will "communicate some of the recurring barriers that students may experience and collate this information in a single document." The focus will be on the welfare of students with regards to inclusivity and so will concentrate on those from minority groups.

The report aims to be more than just a critique of minority provision; it will signpost issues and provide guidelines and action points for the union and incoming sabbatical officers. All subgroups of the Equality, Welfare and Diversity (EWD) Council, as well as the



LGBT Association, will work together to identify the perceived barriers that prevent some students from fully embracing university life. It is expected that some issues will apply to certain groups while others will apply to several.

"Some issues crop up year after year and don't necessarily get resolved," said Dunn. "The sabbatical officer's job can be problematic as work can be lost during the handover period in summer... This report will be a handover document for new sabbs."

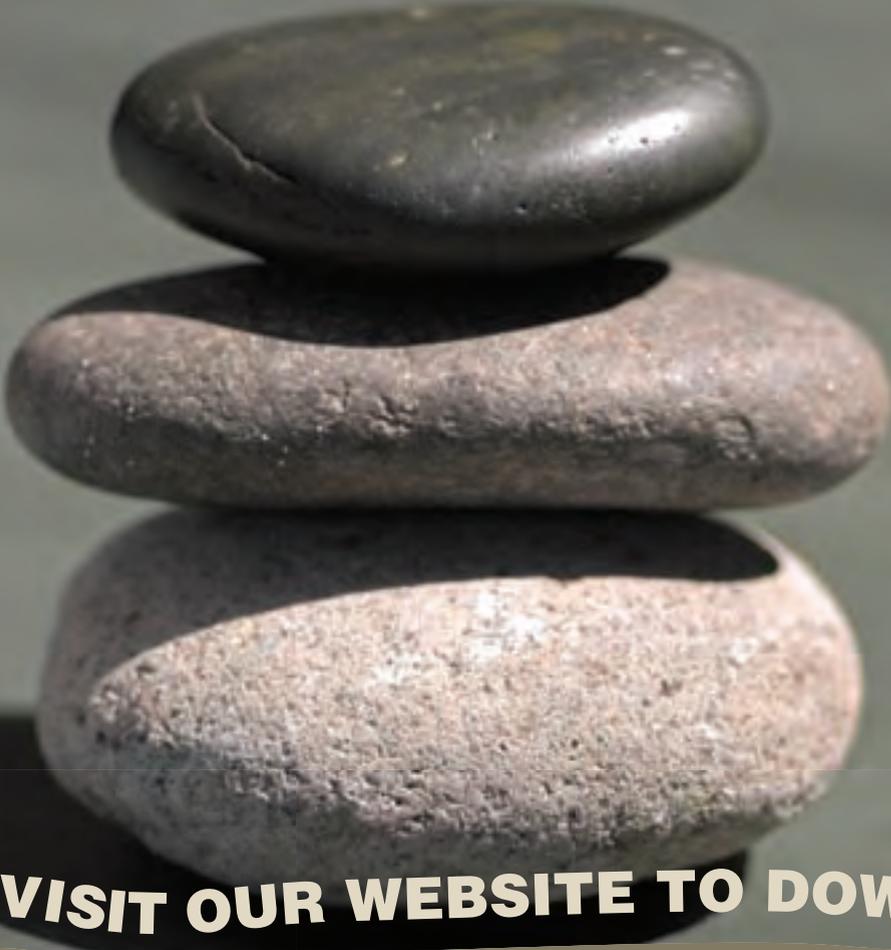
When completed the report will be a checklist for the incoming vice-president for EWD, Torri Crapper, who will add to it throughout her year in the job.

"Torri's very clued up, she's been on all the committees," Dunn said. "She can update the report, it's supposed to be there until the issues are sorted."

Dunn has already received feedback from some EWD forums. She plans to send the finished report to welfare

officers at the National Union of Students to explain the state of affairs at Lancaster University. Frequently arising issues that have already been noted include access problems for disabled students and ensuring sensitive mental health provision for LGBT students.

One section of the report that has already been completed is on the barriers to inclusivity identified by the International Students' Forum. These include clashed timetabling of events during Intro Week, and the lack of information given to international students before their arrival in Lancaster. It suggests more communication between branches of the university may resolve these issues. In addition, the report recommends that each application panel for JCR kitchen reps includes an officer with a welfare remit to ensure all kitchen reps are able to accommodate international students during Intro Week.





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# Payne's mission from God

**Lizzie Houghton**  
News Editor

AS MICHAEL PAYNE prepares for his second term as LUSU President, concerns have raised by those inside LUSU over some of his proposed policies for the next year.

Through a little known clause in the LUSU constitution which grants the president the power to make executive orders, Payne has decreed that the LUSU Advice Centre will no longer provide free condoms or other contraceptives to students. Starting from next year, LUSU's advice team will be under orders to hand out 'promise rings', intended to encourage abstinence from sex instead. All advice given to women considering an abortion will be pro-life.

To date, Payne's presidency has been predominantly guided by liberal values. But recently his principles have changed. Sources inside Central Stores and The Sugarhouse say they will soon no longer be allowed to sell alcoholic beverages. The Sugarhouse has also been told it must rethink its marketing strategy. Currently the slogan is "I got Shagg-ed at the weekend". Payne is believed to now believe that this slogan promotes promiscuity among students. Other policy changes include:

- Lobbying the university to make all campus accomoation strictly single sex.



**Inspired?** LUSU president, Michael Payne by the Chaplaincy Centre. The latest policy announcements from the president's office are moving many to question where he's getting his ideas from.

- Closing all union services on Sundays, including the Sugarhouse which will close at midnight on Saturday nights.
- General Meetings will now begin with a hymn and end in the Lord's Prayer.

At the last meeting of Union Council, Payne invoked the Old Testament prophecy of the Rapture, whereby the faithful will literally float into heaven, and urged the union to start forming policy on how to help those left behind.

"Speculating what goes on inside Michael Payne's head is always a bold endeavour," said one JCR president. "But you get the feeling that suddenly Christian values are being factored into his thinking."

Though welcomed by the Evangelical Christian Union, these changes have

been met with opposition by a range of groups, particularly the university's Atheist and Agnostic Society. "This is an affront to secularism. Religion should have nothing to do with our students union, and it certainly shouldn't be guiding its policy," said the society's president, Amy Baxter.

A more militant group of atheists across campus have been organising themselves in planned protest against the union president. Phillip Coulter, leader of the group, said: "Payne's dictatorship of faith cannot last. We will not let this union of God stand and intrude upon the lives of free-thinking students."

It remains to be seen how the president will react.

# CEEC and Dunn offering advice to students going into work

**Sam Newsham**  
Deputy News Editor

LANCASTER'S CAREERS SERVICE is launching a campaign to raise awareness of equal opportunities in the workplace.

The campaign, called Know Your Rights, is being run by the Centre for Employability, Enterprise and Careers (CEEC) alongside LUSU's women's officer, Sara Dunn.

The project will be rolled out in week nine, with stalls in Alexandra Square on June 17 and 18. Dunn and her team of welfare officers will be there to answer questions and give out information. It will be an opportunity to find out more about rights and opportunities at work, as well as a chance to learn what's available from CEEC.

"The student officers on the Equality, Welfare and Diversity Council and myself plan to produce concise and valuable information for students on their rights and clarify what constitutes discrimination," said Dunn. "Some students may be very unprepared about their working rights and the policies in place that aim to protect them from harassment and discrimination. University is the perfect place to gain free and valuable information and I hope that the uptake for this information will be high."

Students will also be able to collect resources from CEEC. Different materi-

als will be available for different demographics and CEEC will be able to provide details for specific requests.

Some of the resources available include a list of LGBT-friendly employers from gay rights campaign Stonewall, details of rights in the workplace from the NUS and the Lesbian and Gay Foundation (LGF) and a booklet from Target Jobs about equal opportunities, which describes workplace rights for a variety of different minority groups. It is hoped that the campaign will raise awareness not just of diversity rights but also of the resources and services available from CEEC.

"We want to boost the fact that we've got a really good careers service here on campus, you won't always get free resources later in life," said Dunn. "The campaign will hopefully get students to be more proactive – the CEEC and NUS booklets encourage this."

Employment prospects for its graduates has been described as Lancaster's Achilles heel by vice-chancellor, Paul Wellings. Whilst the university is generally amongst the top 20 in league tables, it is currently ranked 75th for graduate employability prospects by the Times Good University Guide. Senior university and CEEC staff have in the past suggested that the poor employment prospects of Lancaster's graduates is at least partly due to their apathy toward employability whilst students.

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## Carbon comp drives energy drop in eco residences

Lauren Hirst

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY is continuing to significantly reduce its carbon footprint by staging another round of its successful Grizedale vs County carbon competition.

The results from the first competition, held from January to April 2009, have shown a positive reaction on the part of participating students. A reduction in carbon emissions totaling 11.3%, an incredible 16 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>, compared to January-April 2008 was seen. The residences' carbon emission per day has dropped from 3.54kg in 2008 to 3.14kg in 2009. "This is a really significant difference," commented Jonathan Mills, Environment and Sustainability Manager for Lancaster University, "and I'm confident that, weather corrected, the amount will be even less".

The County eco-residences have been occupied by students for the past 18 months, with the first carbon competition commencing 12 months after their opening. "In retrospect, this 12 month delay in the carbon competition has proved extremely useful," said Mills.

With Universities and higher edu-



cation institutes emitting 3.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year, the carbon competition has proved a huge step in the right direction for Lancaster University according to the Carbon Trust Standard (CTS), who claim that Universities should have year on year targets for reducing their carbon footprint.

This enormous waste is the equivalent of heating over 1 million average households a year. Annually, Universities spend more than £200 million on energy. "The Higher Education sector has a crucial role to play in tackling social and environmental challenges, including climate change," commented Steve Egan, Deputy Chief Executive of

the CTS, the independent body certifying organizations that have genuinely taken action on climate change.

The carbon competition monitors the gas, water and electricity usage in both the Grizedale and County residences, by sending the utility data from each townhouse to the GreenLancaster website, where the overall carbon footprint is calculated. The aim is to use as little energy as possible and have the lowest carbon footprint.

The summer term competition will finish on 14th June, with the results announced on Friday 19th June at the Green Lancaster Festival in Alexandra Square. The winners will receive cash prizes totaling £1800.

## Mackrory wins academic affairs

THE RESULTS OF last week's LUSU byelections have been announced. Elections for 10 non-sabbatical positions on LUSU's Union Council were held to fill vacancies created by the departure of some officers as they graduate from the university.

In the only contested election, Cartmel JCR's male education & welfare officer, Tom Mackrory, beat Lonsdale vice-president, Azmi Sbaiti, by 90 votes to become LUSU's new academic affairs non-sabb. The position is usually a hotly contested one, as it represents a well-beaten path from to a sabbatical post in the LUSU advice centre. The vice president-elect for Academic Affairs, Danny Ovens, currently holds the remit as the non-sabbatical.

LUSU insiders have commented on how Sbaiti appears to have attempted to follow in the footsteps of Ovens. Ovens made the jump from Lonsdale vice-president to academic affairs non-sabb before his successful election as a sab-

atical officer, the exact transition that Sbaiti hoped to make in this election.



**Elected:**  
Cartmel's §Tom Mackrory, was elected as academic affairs non-sabb.

Other officers elected included Cartmel's president, Robbie Pickles, as University Council rep (often seen as a stepping stone to the position of LUSU president), Jessica Horsfield as Management School rep, Paul Denner as AU non-sabb, Aidan Williams as race relations officer, Catriona Clark as students with disabilities officer, and Sarah Strachan, Mark Lord, Michael Benson and SCAN's own Lizzie Houghton as 'Block of Six' officers without portfolio.

## History students are most active in bed

HISTORY STUDENTS HAVE the most active sex lives, a survey at Oxford University has revealed.

The survey, by the student newspaper Cherwell, found that students who had sex most frequently were more likely to get a 2:1 or 2:2 in their degree, while those who got firsts tended not to have sex more than once a month.

Following history, the students who had most sex were those studying politics, philosophy, economics and English literature.

On learning of the results, Lancaster University History Society's president, Rachael Orr, would "neither confirm or deny these results"

The survey also gave an insight into students' attitudes to safe sex, with around half admitting to having had unprotected sex, and 59% saying they had never been tested for an STD. In Lancaster, LUSU women's officer, Sara Dunn, has run numerous sexual health campaigns to raise awareness of the risks of unprotected sex.

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## CERN engineer to give Lancaster lecture

LANCASTER'S ENGINEERING ANNIVERSARY Week, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the University's Engineering Department, is being held in Week Nine.

As part of the event, Professor Philippe Lebrun, head of the Accelerator Technology Department at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), will be visiting the university to give a talk on the Large Hadron Collider. The LHC received huge media attention last year, amid fears that it could create a black hole. The collider is designed to recreate the conditions following the Big Bang, allowing scientists to better understand the materials that make the Universe.

The talk will take place at 5pm on Tuesday 16th June, in Management School Lecture Theatre 3.

"The LHC is amongst the most significant achievements in Engineering terms on the planet and it is a great honour to have Prof. Lebrun visit to talk about this", said Prof. Malcolm Joyce, Head of the Engineering Department. "This represents an excellent opportunity for students to find out more about this sophisticated system that is enabling scientists to answer fundamental questions about the universe we live in, from one of its key developers."

All students are welcome to attend.

# Grad Ball

two thousand & nine

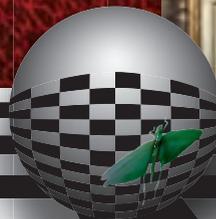
Alesha Dixon

The Puppini Sisters

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Byron Again

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# LUSU budget 09-10

## Equality groups lose out in Payne's budget shake-up

- Boost to academic campaigns
- Council fight over equal-ops cuts likely
- £8,500 women's bus to be axed

**Sam Newsham**  
News Editor

A 92% CUT in the money allocated to autonomous campaigns makes liberation the biggest victim of LUSU's 2009-2010 budget. The new draft budget, to be debated at Union Council this week, removes spending autonomy for almost all liberation campaigns and delivers a funding cut of 26% to the collective budgets of LUSU's Equality, Welfare and Diversity (EWD) Council.

With fund reductions for several sabbatical officers and subsidy for the women's bus removed altogether, the budget is likely to cause disagreement in the council. However, it is the loss of both autonomy and funds for welfare that is the most contentious issue.

From October 2009 funding for all welfare campaigns will be held in a central reserve and allocated at the discretion of the EWD Council. Previously the non-sabbatical officer in charge of each campaign, such as students with disabilities or race relations, had its own budget to spend as it chose.

"Liberation campaigns should primarily be run by the people in those minority groups," said Pete MacMillan, LUSU's welfare campaigns officer.

Andy Johnston, vice president-elect for the Finance, Events, Democracy & Societies remit, agreed, saying: "from a finance point of view, putting money back in the hands of the committees is the way forwards, because committees are where you get the flow of ideas."

LUSU president, Michael Payne, who drew up the draft budget, defended the decision to create a central welfare reserve. He told SCAN that the new system would allow greater flexibility and openness. "This is the many not the few making decisions on budgets," he said, and denied that it would decrease accountability of committees. "There will be a clear audit trail so we know exactly where the money is spent."

The central funding plan found favour with Torri Crapper, the VP EWD-elect. Whilst admitting it could reduce

autonomy she said it would allow the EWD Council to distribute finances more effectively. However, she strongly opposed the budget cut. "EWD is one of the biggest remits. It's the one with the most committees and the most officers to work with," she said. "I don't think it's fair to cut a budget of something that's so big and so important to so many people on campus."

"I think welfare of students should be paramount on the students' union's list of priorities," added MacMillan. "We've got to be seen to be looking after students. If we're not doing that we're not doing much as a students' union."

The central EWD reserve of £1,000 and an additional £1,500 for student security and welfare, is alongside what will be Crapper's own £3000 budget. It was mooted as a way to stop surplus being lost when campaign groups do not use their full allocation. For 2008-2009 the Disabilities, Mature Students and Race Relations Officers have each spent only £11 of their £300 budgets.

"The budget is often blocking people spending over and above what they're allocated and this new system will allow people to spend more," said Payne. "In a time of recession and with a very tight budget we need to be clear about what we're spending our money on."

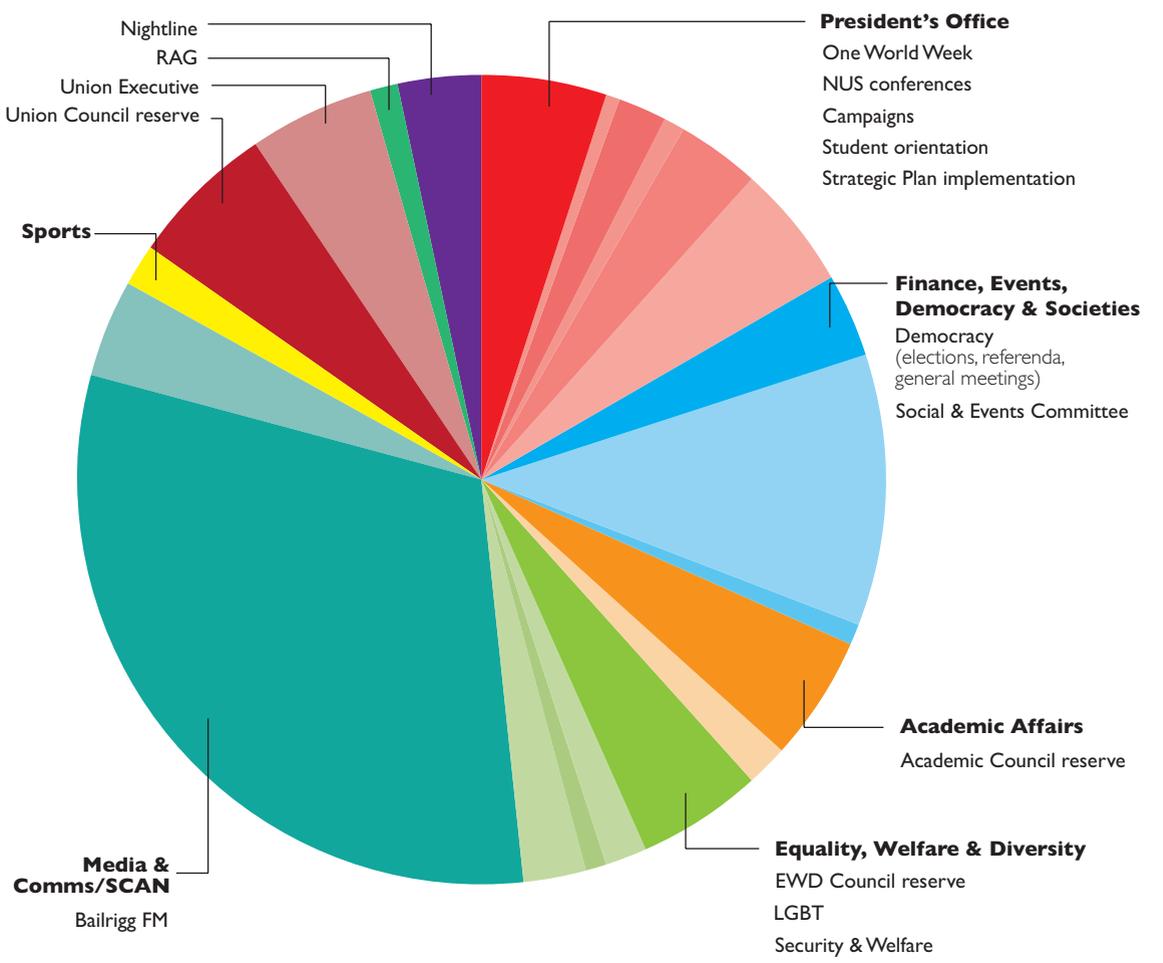
Other officers, including non-sabbatical women's officer, Sam Johnson, and 'Block of Six' officer Matt Saint, agreed with the central budget on the grounds that it was distributed equally between all campaign groups. Crapper, too, stated she would rather allocate equal amounts of money to each campaigning group as well as leaving some in a reserves budget.

One of the main beneficiaries of the budget was Academic Affairs. He will have access to £1,000 from the newly created Academic Council reserve, and the entirety of his own £3,000 budget can now be applied to academic campaigns, where before, a £3,500 pot had to fund both education and welfare. Ovens was pleased at the funding increase. "I think it's a good thing; it means I'm more capable now of getting into the academic aspect. We're a university and students need support," he said.

The only officer whose budget has increased is the union president. "Over the last six years the president has always overspent or at least spent up to their budget," said Payne. "I've had to turn down several opportunities and events which would benefit our students because of budget allocations."



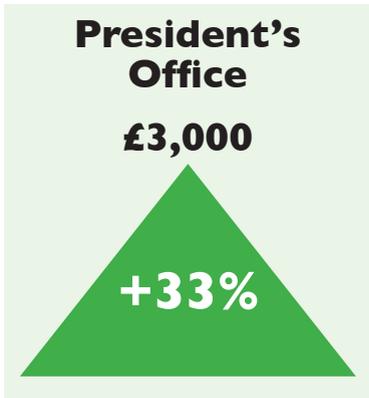
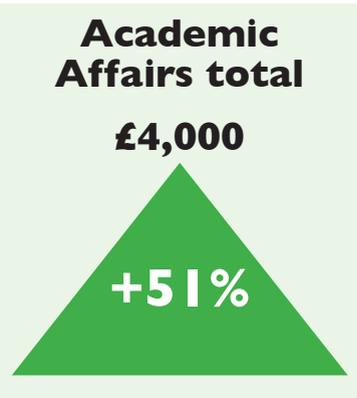
### Where the money goes





**Number crunching:** LUSU president, Michael Payne, sought to address the problem of money set aside for officers' campaigns being left unspent and untouchable in several small pots. 14% of LUSU's officer and committee budgets will now only be accessible with approval from Union Council or one of its subcommittees.

## The winners



## The losers



IF APPROVED, the new budget will mean the only non-sabbatical officer with direct access to a budget will be the LGBT officer. Every other non-sabbatical officer's budget has been cut completely, and subsumed into larger reserves, allocated by LUSU's three councils and by the powerful Union Executive Committee.

The women's safety bus, which has been the focus of controversy in the past, has also been cut, saving the union £8,500 a year, which will now be ploughed into other budgets - particularly the new Security and Welfare budget, jointly managed by the president and the VP EWD. According to figures seen by SCAN, the union has been subsidising each passenger on the women's bus to the tune of £18 a journey, in order to keep the service. Women's officer, Sara Dunn, is reported to be content with the abolition of the women's only service.

New budgets have also been created for student orientation, which sets aside £2,000 to be spent on activity in Intro Week, and for the Social & Events Committee, which will get £500 to promote joint socials between JCRs and LUSU.

The biggest winner in this budget is Academic Affairs, which gets a budget boost of more than half. Where the old education & welfare officer only had £3,500 to spend, £4,000 will now be available to spend exclusively on academic campaigns.

## Opinion and analysis

### Lets trust our officers to spend LUSU's money effectively



**Andy Johnston**

AS ANOTHER ACADEMIC year ends LUSU takes an inward gaze and reviews Officer and Committee Budgets with an aim of finalising the 2009-2010 budget.

I think the budget released this week reflects a change in LUSU's priorities from previous years and one that is positively progressive. The resulting 2009-2010 budget is one that represents a move to make the officer and committee budgets a system that is more efficient and one that makes the best of student membership funds.

Changes in individual sabbatical officer budgets represents a re-alignment of resources based on previous years figures that now puts money where it is needed. The president, VP-EWD and VP-Academic Affairs each now have budgets of £3,000. This large allocation of resources to single officers represents a move to putting faith and resources in the reach of elected officers. The important thing to remember here is that these officers work within a network of many student officers and committees, not alone. Money placed in sabbatical officer budgets, year on year, is dispersed to fund multiple projects, campaigns and ideas coming directly from these committees.

Alongside the allocations for officers and committees the budget shows funds for the activities that make Lancaster special. Bailrigg FM, RAG, LGBT Association and the invaluable Nightline are all catered for. This is money that few people see being spent, but money that many students benefit from.

Personally I believe in putting money where ideas are, within student committees. These are the places where officers share ideas and create the type of campaigns and events that the whole student body can enjoy. In this respect the combined £6,500 for the Union Executive and Union Council reserves is a positive step. The reserves for the Academic and EWD councils also allow a large amount of money that to be put to any good use.

The budget should not be just something published annually that quickly becomes forgotten. Students can actively follow the processes of union expenditure, and I urge you all to do so. Accountability is the word here, this budget is a show of faith in our elected officers, we need to ensure that this money is spent wisely and that the benefits can be seen and felt by all members of our union.

### One World Week is all about diversity. Put it where it belongs



**Torri Crapper**

BUDGETS ARE ALWAYS fun, but the new LUSU ones are definitely a step in the right direction with provisions for all student officers to use for their campaigns, events and actions. The increase in reserve funds allows allocation of funds to all areas of our students' union. The changes made by the current sabbatical team are moving our students union forward, allowing for, in my opinion better and more structured campaigns.

But where would I like to see the money go? Firstly, to increase the One World Week budget and move it under the control of the vice-president for Equality, Welfare and Diversity, as the person with the closest remit. I would also like for each subgroup of EWD Council to be allocated the same amount of money to facilitate their campaigns, all of which should be accessible for the officers involved and students rather than being caught up in red tape.

But I'm glad the changes provide the VP-EWD with their own budget along the same lines as the women's officer has, yet also facilitates for a reserve fund for the new EWD Council,

to allow all our committees and officers to apply for greater finances for their respective events. A prime example of this is the LGBT association, who usually spend all their money yet under the current system of budgets doesn't have access to any further finances to put on more campaigns. I hope you would agree, having a reserve fund is definitely better for allowing greater unified campaigns.

The new proposals also have the VP EWD and the LUSU President in joint control over the newly created student security and welfare budget. This will allow for provision for continuous campaigns throughout the year, for example the funding for the Easy Tiger Campaign.

What I don't agree with in the new budget is that the One World Week remains the president's remit. Why? It will be closely related to the work of the VP EWD for years to come. I'm hoping that Union Council have a proper discussion about whether this should remain there or be moved elsewhere! Lets hope that they choose to either allow joint control over the budget or move it altogether.

# Leaving University...

...Before you say goodbye to Lancaster there's still time to get things sorted!

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- do you owe anyone money?
- does anyone owe you money?

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION:

- Is it in the same condition as when you moved in?
- Attend to anything that might cost you money

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# scan:COMMENT



**Alex Harris**  
Comment Editor

## Evolution is simple, Godly fact. The debate should be on how it started

Faith in God and trust in natural selection are far from incompatible. The battle with Darwin is waged only in the minds of fundamentalists

On walking back from town the other day, I was stopped by a man who seemed to be taking a survey. He was smart looking; greasy, slicked back hair and a dark blue suit. I assumed he was taking a survey, but there was no clipboard, just a bunch of leaflets. Not being in a rush, I stopped and let him make his sales pitch to me. Maybe he wanted to know what I thought about the local area, or if I think that there should be another Subway in the town centre.

“Do you believe in evolution?” he asked me. Somewhat puzzled, I looked down at his pamphlets and saw a large crucifix symbol at the very top. Okay, I knew what I was getting into now. I had no interest in joining his fundamentalist religion, but I am always interested in the debate about the subject.

“Yeah I do,” I replied. The man smiled as he prepared for the next line of his script to be delivered. “So you think that if you leave a jar of peanut butter on the side for long enough, it will eventually sprout legs and walk off?” I laughed, assuming it to be a joke. Surely a man with such a nice suit couldn’t have misunderstood the basic tenets of primary school biology?

His white smile and expectant eyes suggested that he was asking me a serious (albeit highly sarcastic) question. I explained that I knew that wasn’t how evolution works and it’s a very different mechanism than it is in the Pokémon cartoons. He went on to explain



how the ergonomic qualities of a banana showed that it had been designed rather than evolved. Though I wasn’t in much of a rush, I wasn’t in a huge hurry to explain domestication and the most basic science to somebody who had clearly gone out of his way to ignore it. Reluctantly taking one of his leaflets, I walked off and threw it in the bin when he wasn’t looking.

Looking back on it, maybe I should

have taken the time to debate with the poor fool. It seems that even 150 years on, Darwin’s theory of evolution by natural selection is poorly understood. Roughly half of adults in Britain claim to not believe in or understand natural selection and 22% of adults in Britain prefer the theories of creationism or intelligent design. It’s a sorry state of affairs to anybody who really respects the scientific method and evidence-based

information gathering. It’s almost like hearing 50% of adults are sceptical of the holocaust ever having happened, or believe that objects’ gravitational pull being relative to their mass is ‘just an unproven theory’.

Only evolution, like gravity or the holocaust, is not ‘just a theory’. The late, great Stephen J. Gould put it best: “we have always acknowledged how far we are from completely understand-

ing the mechanisms (theory) by which evolution (fact) occurred.” The fact of evolution is being constantly observed in laboratories. Be it fruit flies evolving to the point where they are no longer the same species classification as the original genetic line that was started out with, or viruses mutating year by year, surviving the latest batch of flu jabs - evolution is a fact and to dispute that is to court ignorance.

As would be using the phrase ‘just a theory’ as if it were equivalent to the word ‘guess’ or ‘made-up shit’. In science, the word ‘theory’ takes on roughly the same meaning as it does when discussing music theory or legal theory. That is - it’s an encompassing body of information around a certain subject, not a single hypothesis or sentence summing up an idea.

The hostility felt by half the British adult population towards one of our greatest and most sound scientific theories is worrying. In particular, religious hostility seems deeply fanatical and puzzling. How is the interconnectivity of all life on Earth such an affront to their belief in a divine, supernatural force? Only the strictest, literalist interpretations of Biblical literature are incompatible with modern-day science, but they’re also incompatible with any modern notions of morality and ethics. Put simply - evolution is not and should not be incompatible with religious belief. As Archbishop Rowan Williams put it: “God didn’t create life, he let it create itself.”



**Danny Owens**

## Cuba’s little revolution is coming to an end

Let’s start with some word association. If I say ‘Cuba’ you say...? Those of you who didn’t finish the sentence with profanity would most likely end it with ‘Lonsdale’. From someone who has had relations with the club and LUSU since being a fresher three years ago, I feel that Lancaster’s own little Cuban Revolution is coming to an end.

The whole relationship started in 2006 with the launch of Lonsdale’s ‘Cuba Fridays’. As a JCR, we were in serious debt thanks to massive overspending by the previous year’s executive. Eventually the success of the night allowed the debt to be repaid and the venue was packed week after week. But to cut a very, very long story short, several disagreements between LUSU and Lonsdale JCR led to the event being cancelled by the union.

The issue seemed dead and buried only a few months later, and a new

JCR executive was elected. It was at this time that myself, as the new vice-president, and my colleague James Atkinson, the new president, discovered the issue was far from over.

In light of the success of Cuba Friday, the venue was reluctant to let the night fail, and re-launched it unofficially under Lonsdale’s banner. This seemingly unnoticeable transition led many to believe the night was still run by Lonsdale JCR and the crowds continued to attend even though this was not the case. This raised questions from many as to why LUSU did not allow Lonsdale to continue the night but spread the funds equally across all colleges - a scenario that Lonsdale JCR welcomed.

Powerless to do anything to stop the continually busy Fridays, a new night was launched by Lonsdale, Pendle and Fylde (with County joining later) on Tuesdays. This event, Fu-

sion, was created to add a new depth to Lancaster’s student night scene. But a year and a half after the immediate initial success, Fusion has begun to see lower and lower numbers passing through Cuba’s doors. Now it’s finally coming to an end. Those of you who read the SCAN front page a few weeks ago will be aware that the decision was made to cancel Fusion due to Cuba’s unpaid debts to the LUSU. So there you have it, three years worth of Cuba and Lonsdale’s relationship in less than 500 words.

I remember being the defiant JCR officer who would clash with the union at every turn, yet now I’m a sabbatical-elect for the very union I sought to fight. Do I still feel the same way I did then? No. A lot has happened over the entire affair and to give it justice, it would require more like 5000 words than 500 to explain it all properly. Students have their right to go wherever they please

and as a union, LUSU does what it can to make those nights enjoyable as well as memorable.

Cuba’s hold is waning, its reach exceeding its grasp. Nevertheless, without it we would not have the night scene we have now. First and second years, may not understand where I’m coming from, but there was a time when Lancaster had never seen the likes of Pendulum, Scratch Perverts, The Sugababes, or any other of the headline acts and DJ’s that it now pulls in from around the world. That all came about through competition between Lancaster’s clubs to offer the best night in town.

Whatever fondness anyone else may still hold for Cuba, the fascination is over for me. This is one Lonsdalion who is fed up with the ongoing joke that ‘we love Cuba!’ Events will come and go, and I’m sure this isn’t the last we’ve seen of Lancaster’s most infamous night club.

Despite bringing fierce competition to the Lancaster club scene, Cuba’s hold is waning



Sam Newsham

# Equal pay is one thing, but what about equal learning?

While the pay gap is slimming, the teaching gap that fails so many young men is getting wider by the year

It's been a rather confusing week to be a woman – or so the studies show.

First of all, a report by the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) showed that women outperform men in every aspect of university life, from the number who choose to go at all to the ones who come out with a first or a 2:1... but despite this men still tend to earn more.

On the other hand, research by Lancaster University Management School's Professor Ian Walker has found that the graduate premium – the financial benefit of having a degree – has increased for women but remained the same for men.

And finally, an American report entitled The Paradox of Declining Female Happiness claims that women nowadays are less happy than they were in the 1970s. Perhaps this comes as a result of such conflicting views on their earning power.

Of course, while a body like HEPI can't release any such findings without immediately inviting someone else to come along and claim to prove the exact opposite, there may be more correlation between the reports than first appears. After all, it is only since the early 1990s that the number of women going to university overtook the number of men. Before that universities, like so many other things, were heavily male-dominated. Over the past fifteen years the number of women with a degree, and therefore likely to be earning a higher wage, has increased significantly.

Does this mean, then, that the pay gap identified in the HEPI report and



elsewhere is narrowing? It may do, although the average woman's salary depends on far more than whether or not she has a degree.

What it does mean is that for possibly the first time in human history men are at a disadvantage.

There has been much research undertaken and much commentary made on the subject of why girls outperform boys in exams. It is brought out and dusted down every August as yet another set of GCSE and A-level results demonstrate the girls beating the boys right across the board. The HEPI report, however, is the first of its kind to show so clearly that such outperforming continues right through university.

It does not take a degree in sociology, or even a great deal of common sense,

to realise that the differences between men and women go much deeper than the shapes of their bodies. The average man finds it impossible to concentrate on more than one thing at once but can reverse his car into any space physically big enough to fit it in; the average woman can juggle a hundred tasks but can't read a map without turning it upside down to face the same direction she does.

Over millions of years our brains have evolved to the stage where the right hand side, which stores and controls visual information, develops faster in boys than the left hand side, responsible for language and vocabulary. In girls not only do the two sides develop at the same rate, they also tend to be far better connected. Consequently girls, in general, have stronger vocabulary skills.

Boys, on the other hand, tend to have higher spatial awareness, leading to their ability to park the car and their preference for science-related subjects. The only areas in which the HEPI report found men to have a higher university participation rate than women were some of the sciences.

What this means is that our current exam system, with its dependence on reading and writing assignments, is bound to favour girls. Add to that the fact that girls mature earlier and the overwhelming majority of female teachers and it's not surprising girls come out on top.

Men and women think differently and act differently; surely it follows that they learn differently too. Studies have shown that when boys and girls are taught separately in manners appropriate to their different learning styles there is little to choose between their exam results. That said, whilst there are clear benefits to single-sex secondary schools, which generally produce higher exams results than their co-educational counterparts, we can hardly teach boys and girls separately all the way through university.

So what does this mean for society? Much as the most ardent feminists among us may like it, we cannot take this male disadvantage as payoff for the centuries of disadvantage women have suffered. Eventually boys' underperformance in exams will take its toll. Perhaps we should work from the bottom up, and fix the imbalance in the education system before we move on to the workplace.

## Idealism is not dangerous

Despite their utopianism, Shami Chakrabarti's ideals are worth aspiring to, write **Mike Indian** and **Samantha Johnson**

What can the so-called "most dangerous and woman in Britain" possibly teach us about human rights? Shami Chakrabarti is director of Liberty, which for 75 years has championed 'human rights for human beings' and civil liberties for all. But do perpetrators of mass murder, terrorism and genocide deserve to be called human?

Her lecture at Bradford University on June 3 focused on the preservation of values like privacy, anonymity, equal opportunity, fair trials and presumption of innocence. She stated these should not be privileges, but an entitlement to all. The degrading treatment of suspects and the use of torture since 9/11 are viewed as intolerable violations, but were these not necessary responses at the time? In addition, ID cards and the proliferation of databases do hold risks of abuse, but are not they integral in securing the innocent? Condemnation of these policies is incredibly easy with hindsight, but would not the alternative have been pandemonium?

Clearly the police at the G20 protests believed that without supervision and monitoring, the situation would have dramatically escalated. However, in pre-empting trouble they allegedly used disproportionate force. We do not doubt the difficulty of the circumstances, nor the severity of its ramifications for both protesters and police. Nevertheless it is clearly a sign that the use of 'legitimate violence' has gone too far. Chakrabarti was right that passively accepting infringements of liberties leads to complacency.

The outrage following the death of Ian Tomlinson underlines the importance of reminding the instruments of the state of their accountability. How do we hold the state to account? By using our vote. State paranoia equates to an erosion of reason and our rights. If you believe that you cannot trust the system, but you should try to change it from within.

Chakrabarti emphasised engagement over detachment. Any fears of fascism gaining ground in recent elections have been founded on our own political apathy. Trepidation should inspire involvement, whether you oppose ID cards, Guantanamo Bay or draconian law enforcement. Such participation includes the advocacy and protection of human rights.

Respect and tolerance are the basis of a diverse and peaceful society and need to be recognised by everyone. We believe in "human rights for human beings." There are some who perpetrate atrocities against their fellows, but these people do not forgo the right to a fair and free process of judgement. Ms. Chakrabarti's zeal for universal human rights may seem utopian, but it is an ideal worth aspiring to. Just because you have nothing to hide does not mean there is nothing to protect.



Jonny Robinson

## Welcome to the age of the copycat

Watching the party political broadcasts for the European elections, I was struck by the similarities between each party's overall message. Conservative leader, David Cameron, said we need to "get rid of the waste and vote for change," Lib Dem leader, Nick Clegg, boldly claimed that we can "change this rotten old system" and UKIP leader, Nigel Farage, urged us to "stop the waste and stop the fraud." Even BNP leader, Nick Griffin, made his usual fascist racist immigrant bashing propaganda appear to be just watered down extreme right-wing nationalist nonsense. There were of course more nitty-gritty policies and proposals within these 3 minute wonders but the underlying theme seemed to be 'Labour is shit'.

What I'm trying to say is that each party other than Labour offered the same, rather milked, bit of info. Everyone knows we need change. Yet each party's idea of change is only to piss and moan. Even Labour whined about what David Cameron would do if he

was in power. It seemed as if each party planned to complain their way to victory in the European elections then bitch Britain out of the economic crisis into a dark, miserable, whinge-filled future.

After some contemplation, I realised that it is not just our political parties that seem to mimic each other, but it is pretty much everything around us. The Enemy's new album, Music For The People, clones rhythms and melodies from songs by The Clash and Pulp. Noel Gallagher has been doing this for over a decade with Oasis imitating songs such as Get It On by T-Rex. Many of the latest films are either sequels, prequels or remakes. Just look at Terminator: Salvation or Night At The Museum 2, and Star Trek. Even on campus, County's townhouses are carbon copies of Grizedale's. The bars are gradually being renovated to look like aircraft hangers. Candidates on The Apprentice are all equally massive arseholes to the point where it difficult to tell them apart.

We now live in a world of simulac-

ra, of copies of copies with no original. But perhaps in the political sphere, we can break away from this. Maybe all of this imitation will culminate in a massive explosion of change. Maybe when the time for a general election comes we will see real positive differences in the parties rather than mass mudslinging.

In 1997, New Labour proclaimed that 'Britain deserves better'. Now it seems that Britain deserves something more than the same old rubbish that we have both heard and seen before. We want more than squabbling parties only telling us how not to run the country. What Britain needs is constructive, logical and positive political parties, trying to win us over by convincing us that their policies are good, not just because they are better than what we find ourselves with at the moment.

It's just a shame that this particular rallying call a little less poetic than New Labour's '97 slogan and unfortunately, just like everything else in this article, has probably already been said, many times before.

Political parties need to stop trying to out-complain each other, and try to inspire instead



## This is only a pyrrhic victory for fascism

The BNP's victory in the European elections may well be their high water mark, writes **Robbie Pickles**

**Y**ou may be surprised to hear it, but the election of two BNP MEPs into the European Parliament this month marks the swansong of the party in British politics. For students, and for the larger population, this result was regarded as an absolute disaster; there is no need for me to point out to you the evils of the BNP or to give you another list of their unacceptable policies which make a toiled-up, liberal student like myself cringe to even bear thinking about.

However, anti-fascist campaigners should take heart that this is probably the beginning of the end for the BNP. Although they may have gained some popular support in these elections, their format was highly unusual and they did not take place under normal circumstances. The European elections, with their system of proportional representation currently alien to Westminster, are known to give an advantage to minor parties. In a normal Westminster election not one BNP vote cast would, if these results were to be repeated, have given a seat to the BNP, and they were a long distance from gaining a majority anywhere in the country.

Tellingly, they also did spectacularly badly in local council elections. Their surge in popularity can only really be attributed to the expenses scandal and the current malaise the population holds for the major parties. Electoral analysts believe that most voters who switched to BNP were from a group of voters who would normally identify as 'working class Tories', and who had not previously voted BNP. This switch of allegiance is likely to be temporary and, in a general election, many of these voters would revert to voting Conservative, especially after the effects of the expenses row have worn off.

It seems to me, then, that we have little need to worry that there may be a fascist future for Britain; although it is only right that we should lament these results and attempt to prevent them from ever occurring again, I do not believe that there is an inexorable move of support amongst the populace from social democracy towards fascism.

This election actually provides a great opportunity for protesters, as the increased media spotlight placed on the BNP will only serve to weaken their stance. The old adage that 'all publicity is good publicity' does not apply in a situation where almost everything the BNP say can be used against them in some way. These results will allow us to see the BNP for who they really are. When it comes to the 'difficult second album' of the Westminster elections, the BNP will have an uphill struggle on their hands, and good riddance to them.

## Brown lost his edge 15 years ago, not since becoming PM

Labour's ailing leader has been paying the price for stepping aside ever since 1994, he won't do it again



**Liam Richardson**  
Editor-elect

**I**t is now beyond the point of certainty that David Cameron will win the next general election and become the first Conservative prime minister since John Major was ousted from 10 Downing Street in 1997. Gordon Brown has now lost all authority and is tottering around like a beaten fighter. The expenses scandal and disastrous Local and European election results represent the glass finally shattering, but for how long has it been cracking?

Gordon Brown's political career has been in jeopardy for a long time, far longer than the last two years whilst prime minister. His destiny was decided not long after May 12, 1994, the day Labour leader John Smith died suddenly. The election of his successor heralded the birth of New Labour but also secured Brown's legacy as a central figure beside the chief architect of the party's new direction.

Brown's decision to allow Tony Blair to claim the leadership unopposed in 1994 and play second fiddle to his great rival has had a lasting impact. Though Brown excelled in opposition and enjoyed a confident and purposeful first four years as chancellor, taking

the brave decision to stick to the tight spending plans of his predecessor, it was the interference of Blair in his financial domain created problems for Brown.

Blair began to discard his promise to give the chancellor a free reign on the budget. Blair's had big plans and wanted to pour billions into the NHS and schools. Brown's resentment grew stronger from the shadows, reaching its apex after Blair's third general election victory in 2005 and his subsequent promise to serve a full term of office.

Residues of patience had long since evaporated. It took Brown two years to finally force out his master and claim leadership of the Labour party and the country. For many, Brown suffers because he was never elected by either the Labour party or the British electorate. He could yet find himself leaving Downing Street without an election, making him the first British prime minister to never have faced a general election as leader of his party since Alfred Balfour over 100 years ago.

Tony Blair still haunts the Labour party but his legacy impacts upon Brown's psyche far greater than he would ever admit. Blair's ubiquitous presence, from getting that first face-to-

face meeting with Barack Obama back in February, to his desire to become the first president of the European Union, has prevented Blairites from moving on and accepting Brown's leadership. Even Cameron has adopted many of the outward character traits of the former PM. Brown must feel his arguments across the despatch box are with some sort of medium, channelling the powers of his predecessor and forcing him to look at his own inadequacies.

Labour has lost direction over the last two years. They are now the party of exhaustion, dying a slow and undignified political death. No amount of reshuffles can aid the cause; Brown is merely rearranging the dust that has enveloped his stale and beaten government. They have found themselves fighting needless political debates, frequently ending up on the wrong side of the argument; Heathrow's fourth runway has incensed environmental campaigners, the right to reside for Ghurkhas attracted the ire of Joanna Lumley, the ID card scheme has a dwindling number of champions and further trouble is ahead over the part privatisation of Royal Mail.

Labour needed a fresh face in 2007; not somebody so deeply ingrained in its

past. Brown was past his peak then and now is paralysed by hubris as his careers meanders toward an ignominious end. His replacement with Alan Johnson could probably lessen the impact of the now inevitable Conservative victory, but Brown – desperate to neutralise his rivals in the cabinet – has strategically moved him to home secretary, a poisoned chalice if ever there was one. Johnson's failure to secure the deputy leadership against Harriet Harman two years ago also counts against him and probably stands as a major factor toward why Brown has not already been removed already.

Game Over. These are the words that should ring in Labour's ears. Brown has got to go and allow Labour to follow a new future and move in a new direction. Labour needs energy, enthusiasm and a focal point as leader; Brown cannot honestly tick any of these boxes. His moment of failure was not as prime minister; it was failed 15 years ago when he was at the peak of his powers but allowed another man to beat the Tories. He made the wrong call then, but now he needs to do the same thing again. Such a decision might just about save his reputation and the Labour party as a whole.



**Michael Payne**  
LUSU President

# LUSU's hard-won victories frequently go unnoticed

By being at the heart of the conversation this year, we've made some real gains for Lancaster's students

This year may not have been one of loud hailers, beating drums and civil disobedience but the achievements made have still been significant if perhaps less obvious. Although many achievements have been off the radar of many students, our focus and serious attitude toward influencing decisions made by the university has made a real difference.

An open debate about the make-up of the Sabbatical team was a long time coming, yet neglected for consecutive years. A general meeting of nearly six hundred students produced a step change for LUSU; a union that now has six full time officers that reflect what our students want and need. Of course there was opposition, there always is to such radical reform, but those who were serious enough to turn out in force got what they wanted.

Despite appearances, much has been achieved on the issue of the college bars. We have effectively negotiated our way to the table on this issue. Visible campaigning and tireless negotiating have together resulted in the creation of a Bars Strategy Group and all-inclusive strategy meetings of key stakeholders in the running of the bars. The aim is now clear from all sides: to make sure they are best suited for our students as of October 2009. We have built a coalition of all parties involved to provide social provision that is totally focused on the students who pay for it.

Another key issue, which was always going to be difficult, was protecting the significance and support of the colleges at Lancaster. Campaigning and lobbying have produced two working groups on the colleges' future, both of which are due to report back with their findings and recommendations in July, which have received the full backing of the vice-chancellor.

Regular meetings with the VC have led to support for our volunteering unit (LUVU) and to backing for our endless calls for a thorough and well evidenced sports strategy at Lancaster.

And earlier this month, LUSU's the get the vote out campaign worked. Though it faced operational difficulties and wasn't as smooth as it could have been, it engaged our members on the threat of extremist politics and saw the turnout on campus rise to 20% overall, impressive when turnout was only 34% across the whole country.

On the national scene, lobbies of parliament have led to NUS and students' unions finally being granted a seat at the table in the government review of higher education later this year. And lobbying of local MP, Ben Wallace has resulted in him signing an early day motion to call for a fairer funding system and his resultant declaration of opposition to the lifting of the cap on tuition fees.

Although we may not have proclaimed our victories from the top of Bowland Tower, we have contributed to and secured a new plagiarism frame-

work that places emphasis on support, thorough guidance and relevant information for students on what is such an important issue throughout their studies. We have also ensured any attendance monitoring of students is applied fairly to all students rather than just internationals.

At all levels of the union, we have given decision making power to those best placed to use it. Our welcoming attitude toward constructive criticism has resulted in a much improved Sugar House that delivers what students want – as seen by the increase in overall attendance this year.

Our achievements have not been without their problems and have not been without their opposition but all of them have been open, transparent and up for debate and scrutiny.

But many more challenges lie ahead, the biggest of all is to make sure that as a collective we raise the now respected profile of our students' union. We must make use of our new structures and exploit the radical changes we have made to our full time officer structure. But we must not stop there. We must radically reform our part-time officer structure to make sure all of our officers have a useful, effective and worthwhile role in the furtherance of the student experience at Lancaster.

Next year there is also a necessity to prove that co-operation can make the college bars financially viable but more importantly fit for purpose. And as a union we must remember we should not only be here to listen to those who are vocal, but also to talk to those who want to listen and then form their opinions.



**Wes Cosgriff**

## Griffin's tormentors are as bad as his goons

As a Conservative (already I hear the cries of 'Ya! Boo! Hiss!' emanate from the student body) this last week has been one of both joy and misery: the Tories are now governing what equates to all of non-metropolitan England and Wales and did reasonably well at the European elections. Ukip also succeeded in vanquishing the Brownian Labour Party into a paltry third place, helping to serve Labour the lowest share of a national vote that they have ever received as a mainstream political party.

Yet all of this is overshadowed by the monstrosity of the BNP gaining, as I am sure you are well aware of, not one, but two MEPs in the elections. As many others have already stated on Facebook, we now share the shame of France, Italy and Bulgaria: being represented by the National Socialists and fascists of the far-left. A party that once had very little funding now has access to finances that may – worryingly – allow it to maintain its two seats in the European Parliament.

Repellent as this is, however, it is not this thought that ails me, but another: on the night of the European

results, Nick Griffin was prevented from accessing the count for his seat in Manchester. Not by members of openly fascistic rival organisations, or any political party: instead, his entrance was blocked by Unite Against Fascism protesters chanting 'smash the BNP!' Do not mistake me: I abhor the BNP, detest the policies they hold, and despair for those foolish enough to vote for them. However, I am beginning to find it increasingly difficult to differentiate between the sponsors of fascism, and those who actively oppose it. The BNP, regardless of what they represent, are currently a legitimate political party attempting to gain a mandate by lawful means. Should the public – as unlikely and grotesque as the possibility is – ever vote for them in sufficient numbers to allow them to gain a parliamentary seat, then the BNP would be legally entitled to that seat.

Those who claim to oppose the BNP very often act in a manner reminiscent of fascist groups of the past. Whether throwing eggs or claiming that everyone is entitled to speak their mind except fascists, naturally, these activities are oppressive in nature, grant more publicity to a party that doesn't deserve

it, and play into the hands of the supposed tyrants.

For all the gains made in the last two weeks, the BNP has garnered no more support than it had five years ago (and actually acquired 2,000 fewer votes in Yorkshire and Humber, for example), and represents only 0.2% of the European Parliament. It is powerless, ineffective, and its ambitions are in vast contrast to the many reasonable MEPs who sit in the parliament. So by protesting against them with such forceful and incredibly hypocritical means, the BNP gains more in the UK than it ever could in Europe. Let them wither and die out; do not ignore them, and certainly do not prevent them from speaking freely: engage them in debate, logically and concisely, and watch as the foundations of support are burned by the fire of common sense.

When we deny the right of speech to anyone – racist, fascist, far left and far right amongst them – we are worse than those whom we seek to deny; we become the very force we hate. We know the BNP is the wolf: let us not join it with sheepskin draped round our shoulders.

# scan

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

## The beginning or the end

IT WAS ALMOST inevitable. Nick Griffin now represents the seven million people of the north-west, as one of the newest members of the European Parliament. The public anguish that followed his election was almost palpable, and hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of the 65% of the electorate who didn't vote on June 4, probably now wish they had.

This breakthrough will be a milestone for the BNP in one of two ways. Much of the taxpayer money that will pay the salaries and allowances of Griffin and his pal Andrew Brons, totalling £1.5m, will be channelled into funding organisers, campaign materials and publicity. It could transform the party from its current tinpot operation (with which they already win a disturbing number of elections) to a worryingly potent political force. If they manage to pull together another 23 nationalist MEPs from six other countries, they can form an officially recognised group and get access to yet more public funding.

Alternatively, they will melt in the bright heat of scrutiny. The BNP's current charm to some of the electorate is their conceited anti-political, no-nonsense image. It remains to be seen how that facade will hold up now that they have joined the rest of the politorati in the EP. The thoroughly dodgy cadre of people they get elected as local councillors, among them convicted brawlers, wife-beaters and fraudsters, may indicate some interesting revelations ahead, ones which the BNP will find hard to duck with their new prominence.

Whatever the case, the BNP's racist underbelly needs to be exposed, now more than ever. The myriad dirty little secrets need to be dragged into the daylight, and subjected to the full force of public condemnation – a task now suited almost uniquely to the media, now that mainstream politicians only court accusations of hypocrisy when they point the finger at other parties' transgressions.

The BNP thrive on ignorance. Most of the voters who propelled them to Brussels this month would have been loathe to do so had they known the facts about the party they chose to speak for them. The country's media – particularly the BBC, who treat the BNP with a timidity that never surfaces for the mainstream parties – need to take off their kid gloves and subject the BNP to the same degree of scrutiny as they do everyone else. The party's support would crumble in a matter of hours.

Unfortunately, this will never happen. The BNP needs universal condemnation, but the right-wing press is far too keen to use them as the ultimate anti-immigration 'I told you so'. The irony is that it was probably their own fear-mongering about Europe and immigration that helped bring it the party to prominence in the first place.

# Letters to the Editor



Send your letters to [scan@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto: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.

It's Founders weekend. Blue and red T-shirts are marching from the concrete of Bowland quad to the green grass of Lonsdale. It's a spectacle only truly appreciated by the two colleges but its a buzz no-one on campus can deny. Founders has definitely lifted many spirits and inspired the likes of Cartmel and Furness to create their own competition, the Patriots Cup, to get more involved in a bit of friendly rivalry.

However lets not forget that that is all it is. Bowland won convincingly, but at what cost? Captains so focused on winning, dropped their loyal players who had been involved all year, in search of better ones. Trials were even held for one event and the outcome ignored, as the chosen few had already been selected to lead the college to victory. Its a shame such a fun weekend is spoilt by one man's ambitions to lift the trophy.

## Anonymous

I want to thank SCAN for its coverage of the European Elections. Me and my flatmates didn't really know what was going on (apart from one, who's the person who leaves SCAN in the kitchen for us all to read), so having someone actually lay out what the whole thing was about was really helpful.

We all also reckoned the LUSU campaign was helpful. Again, we didn't know anything about how to vote so having someone tell us was great. Although we did have to go up and ask someone, the posters weren't great.

Now that I've voted once though I'm certainly going to do it again.

**Helen Smith**  
County College

## Who is to blame for Nick Griffin's election?

I was disgusted to see that Nick Griffin, leader of the BNP, has been elected to represent the north-west despite the fact that the BNPs number of votes fell. This indicates that a poor turnout was to blame rather than some inconceivable swing to the extreme right. If 1'200 people more had voted UKIP or 5'000 people more had voted Green this horrific day for British Politics would have been avoided.

LUSU, apparently, was running an anti-facist campaign, which as far as I can gather involved the odd poster saying 'Vote anti-facist' and random JCR officers in 'VOTE' T-shirts. No substantial effort to mobilise the vote was made whatsoever.

If LUSU actually followed through on Payne's announcements there would have been a concerted effort to recruit normal students and send them round knocking on doors throughout the day. Often LUSU's failures effect no-one, but the one time they could do something that could actually mean something they failed again.

**Disgruntled Student,**  
Grizedale college

The recent council and European elections brought a sense of urgency about democracy to campus; alas freedom of speech and opinion found itself curtailed.

A piece of Labour Club publicity regarding Eddie Izzard's visit had a quote to the effect of: "If the BNP can have their say then I'm going to have mine" which isn't strictly true. Thanks to a LUSU run smear-campaign the BNP were systematically ostracised from campus.

Democracy works because those who are not accepted by the majority are fairly beaten electorally; fear tactics such as those exhibited by LUSU only strengthened the BNP's position by

not allowing their frankly questionable policies to be openly discussed and held open for what they are.

In trying to alter the course of election LUSU are engaging with a force far greater than themselves; as Winston Churchill said: "Democracy is the worst system of government, apart from all others that have been tried". Democracy's not perfect but it will work. Let it.

**Owen Pearman**  
Furness college

I'd like to defend myself following the anonymous letter regarding ARAF. The writer claims there was nothing stopping me convening ARAF when actually there was: the Union President. I convened ARAF in week one, but was informed by him at the meeting that it should have been the EWD Sabb (Sara's equivalent). This raises two issues: one, it was not my responsibility to convene the meeting but I still took it upon myself when I saw that nothing was being done.

Two, he declared that as the correct person had not convened it, we therefore needed to convene another meeting.

It's worth pointing out that the convening of ARAF was part of a motion to Union Council, a meeting the president attended. If, therefore, he had issues with how the meeting was called he should have raised his concerns then, rather than condemning the campaign to weeks of inertia.

**Kate Fry,**  
LUSU Race Relations Officer

It is ironic that your anonymous correspondent in the last issue complains about union officers not taking responsibility when the whole point of my complaint in ARAF was that officers

had taken responsibility by convening a meeting intent on putting together an anti-facist campaign. This effort was seriously undermined by Michael Payne arriving late, declaring the meeting unconstitutional and requesting the committee leave it to him and the Sabbs to put together a plan.

The problem then was not officers expecting to be "spoon-fed" by the union president, but the union president's own control freakery.

It's worth noting that the plan subsequently drawn up by Mr Payne was not acted upon, he has repeatedly failed to respond to Miss Fry's emails regarding the campaign. I think this firmly demonstrates how seriously our president took the campaign.

**Fraser Welsh,**  
LUSU 'Block of Six' Officer

I first voted in 2007. The Green's policies seemed light-years ahead of anyone else's: a light rail link between town and campus, an NHS dentist and an end to tuition fees. But two years later none of this has happened.

I was reluctant to vote Green again, but the Greens openly said they were the party who could best beat the BNP, whereas other party's simply said, "every vote counts."

I voted Green again, anxious to stop the fascists, so was dismayed to see the BNP gain a seat, ahead of the Greens. A vote for any of the main parties would have actually been better, and the Greens have been very cynical. They're just as motivated by votes as every other political party!

**Jeff Cornwall,**  
Lonsdale college

After the non-sabbatical hustings prior to the recent elections, something occurred to me. A common theme of some speeches and questions revolved around the issue of LUSU being too 'cliquey' and instead of pushing student democracy and opportunity, we alienate them.

But whose fault is it really? LUSU officers appeared to look down on people who were not quite sure about something or actively tried to catch people out with very specific questions. Fair enough, if someone is running for a position, you would expect a certain level of knowledge regarding their post.

Having said that, by dismissing people for not knowing the system inside out we are denying the chance of the average student to get involved in something they have a genuine interest in. It is also quite insulting that by doing this, we therefore imply that candidates do not have the capacity to learn. I hope that next year, we at LUSU take a step back, look at what we are doing, and open the doors to everyone – not shy away in our various committees and councils.

If we cannot achieve this, then we have truly failed our students and our very reason to be.

**Danny Ovens,**  
LUSU Vice President-elect  
(Academic Affairs)

## Corrections

On page 11 of this issue, we make several references to Michael Payne apparently being inspired by God to mess around with LUSU policies. This story is, of course, completely fictitious. It is merely an end-of-year tradition in SCAN. Last year, that tradition manifested itself as a front-page story about plans to build an underground rail network for Lancaster. In this year's last issue, we would like to think we do actually have some real news to report.

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# 20 years of censorship and

Two decades on from the Chinese government's brutal massacre of student protestors in Tianenmen Square, **Daniel Ash** looks at the legacy of one of China's darkest moments

For centuries the right to engage in peaceful protests has been a fundamental prerogative of students all over the world. Today students protest for a multitude of reasons, against fascism and racism or in support of the environment and equality, to name just a few. This form of passive rebellion is seen as a fundamental part of healthy democracies and ethical dissent, crucial to making changes in a world that likes to favour the status quo.

But twenty years ago this month one of the largest and most dynamic student movements in history failed in its bid to assert democracy over despotism. On June 4 1989, the Chinese government crushed a student movement which at its height drew in over a million people and affected all levels of government and all areas of the country. The Tianenmen Square massacre has come to represent both the inherent power of student movements, and their innate fragility.

Many people see the events of June 4 as proving the complete dominance of totalitarian rule over China's democratic movement, a bloody full stop to a popular mass movement seeking to change China's political landscape. In an interview with the Guardian, Bao Tong, a chief aide to the former general secretary of the Communist party, explained that the horrific bloodshed on that one day had washed away all memory of the preceding six weeks. In those few weeks the Chinese people believed that anything could have happened and many saw it as the time when democracy would prevail.

The roots of the protest stem largely from the death of the popular reformist leader Hu Yaobang on April 15 that year. This kick-started student protests for modest democratic reforms, and by April 22 thousands of students had gathered in Tianenmen Square for Hu Yaobang's memorial service. The protest gained momentum over the next few weeks, born out of reactions to attempts by the Chinese authorities to suppress the movement and a large and unexpected level of support from wider Chinese society. Thousands more students joined the demonstration on May 4 and 160 students went on a mass hunger strike on the 13th. By the middle of May a mood of dissent had captivated the Chinese people.

On May 20 martial law was declared in Beijing and troops were moved in to put down the students protesting in Tianenmen Square. The Chinese government didn't expect what would happen next though, as huge numbers of the ordinary Beijing citizenry blocked troops from entering the city in a mass show of support for the students. The majority of the students celebrated this, however some such as Robin Munro, at that point a human rights activist in Beijing, saw this as the beginning of the end. The blockading of the troops was a "huge loss of face for the authorities"; they would now have to forcefully suppress the students to prove their power.

On June 2 the party elders decided to go ahead with a violent evacuation of Tianenmen Square. On the 3rd troops moved into the city, firing on those who tried to block them and on the 4th they cleared out the square with guns and tanks. By June 5, the square was completely controlled by the army. It was on this day that one young man defied the military's dominance by blocking a line of tanks – an image that would be seen across the world, and which would come to symbolise the passive yet powerful resistance of the people to the face of brutal violence from and authority by force.

one young man defied the military by blocking a line of tanks – an image that would be seen across the world

This day has gone down in Chinese history as a key turning point, when it could all have gone one way or another. The west laments the oppression of the key rights which we hold as essential aspects of our society and which allows us to keep in check those in power above us. In China that day is seen in a very different light. The Chinese government has been rigorous in ensuring that any mention of the 'Tianenmen Incident' is erased from the public conscience. No mention of the protest is taught in Chinese schools, whilst books and films about the day are banned and foreign comments on the subject are prohibited.

The enforced amnesia extends to the imprisonment and exile of key protest leaders such as Wu'er Kaixi, a student leader, and Han Dongfang, who led a workers organisation. After the crackdown on the protesters, Kaixi was proclaimed China's second most wanted person and had to flee the country. The presence of these men in China is unacceptable to a state trying to eradicate any memory of these events.

The suppression of all evidence of the Tianenmen Square massacre continues to this day. Police and undercover agents maintain a presence in the Square every year to this day on the anniversary of the atrocity. The wall of the Forbidden City, which dominates one end of the Square, is always covered with scaffolding during this period, so as to avoid rebellious slogans being daubed on the walls. To negate outside influences, websites such as Twitter and Flickr are banned, as well as email services such as Hotmail. The state blocks out all foreign media, blackening BBC and CNN broadcasts,

and even cutting out or gluing together the pages of foreign newspapers.

The attempts by the Chinese authorities to sweep away their bloody past has been effective to a certain extent. Inside China, children are sceptical that the massacre ever took place and adults dismiss the significance of the events. Many in China know that to dig up certain periods of recent history can still ruin a person and their family's life. The president of Lancaster University's Chinese Society will only acknowledge that the issue is still very "sensitive".

The extent of the intrusive tactics of the Chinese authorities is demonstrated by the experiences of Liu Hua, the survivor of a tank charge. Police go to his house and sleep in his room every anniversary to ensure he doesn't talk to anyone about what happened to him.

The experiences of Ding Zilin, the founder of the 'Tianenmen Mothers' support group, also exemplifies the suppression of Tianenmen's history. Her group attempts to seek compensation for those who lost family members in the violence. Her son lost his life during the night of June 4, along with thousands of other students and workers. Any recognition or conciliation is denied to them. To show sympathy would contradict the official party line that less than 300 died, and that tanks were never ordered to drive over civilians.

But despite government crackdowns, the legacy of the protest continues. On the anniversary this year, some Chinese websites subtly criticised the heavy handed way China's authorities try to ensure no reference to June 4 1989 is ever made online. They sarcastically called it a 'maintenance day', maintenance being the transparent excuse the Chinese government gives for why websites are taken down. When the artist and photographer Chen Guang recently released a series of paintings depicting the violent actions of the army 20 years ago on the internet, his online exhibition was closed down after three days.

The legacy of the protests is not confined to China. Political analysts have warned that the contested election result in Iran last week could lead to a 'Tianenmen-type' situation in Tehran. This potential for a mass popular movement breaking out in response to Ahmadinejad's controversial landslide win is, some warn, high. Ominously Iranian officials have warned that the powerful Revolutionary Guard Corps would crush any popular 'revolution' that arose.

Despite happening before most readers of SCAN were born, the Tianenmen Square protests still highlight the important role students take in facing up to unacceptable actions of governments and society. The dissent of student movements are often at the forefront of broader campaigns for change, or protecting core rights or democratic values. Nick Griffin's condemnation of protesters as "a bunch of left-wing students and lecturers", proves the worth of student rebellion with a compliment many of us can be proud of.



## American big business:

**James Anderson** explores the development of empires, from Rome to the Bechtel Group

**LAST WEEK, ON June 6, the anniversary of D-Day marked 65 years since the allies landed on the beaches of Normandy in Northern France; the beginning of the end for the Nazi occupation of mainland Europe. With the eventual demise of fascism in Europe, many hoped that empire-building was a thing of the past. But did empires die out then, or did they merely evolve?**

It started, as many things have done, in Rome. The Roman Empire is often seen as the epitome of imperialism, yet despite the barbarous nature of their conquests, the forerunner of imperialist ventures is rarely condemned. Instead it now provides the modus operandi that any self-respecting empire builder has since followed. Even the term 'imperial' is derived from the Latin 'imperare' (to command).

Early empires were predominantly land-locked, limited by the reach of their military power, but this all changed though with the advent of a new form of imperialism: colonialism, best demonstrated by the global dominance of the European powers in from

the Portuguese and the Spanish in the 1400s through to the British and the French in the 19th and 20th centuries.

But by no means were the European powers alone in their quest for empires and colonies. In 1898 the United States, under President William McKinley, began a war with the Spanish, obtaining control of Cuba, the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam. Despite being a war fought on a humanitarian pretext, these island nations were never granted total independence until the end of World War II, half a century later.

Imperialism became an industry in itself with the British, who established the principles of colonisation being conducted "informally if possible and formally if necessary," according to historians John Gallagher and Ronald Robinson. The primary interest was not to subjugate colonies, but to trade with them, improving Britain's economy and industrial strength.

As well as being the largest empire ever recorded, the British Empire also received some dubious praise for its means of control. Even Hitler expressed his admiration of how Britain's colonial army of just 250,000 men effectively maintained control

# suppression



**Defiance:**  
This photograph of a protestor blocking the path of a column of Chinese tanks in Tiananmen Square on June 5, 1989, has become iconic.

## the new colonialism?



of India, a nation of 250 million people.

The popular conception is that, save for the British one, no empires existed after the WWII, and that no further attempt at empire building were made. But it wasn't until the collapse of the USSR in the early 1990s that the Roman model of empire finally died, just as international business empires were beginning to truly thrive. Now, businesses effectively colonise by other means. Often observed as an erosion of cultures, this is usually exemplified in the modern press by the presence of a Macdonald's in every city. But on a subtler level, it includes the growing trend of multinational corporations buying up smaller, national busi-

**Imperial desires:**  
Both Julius Caesar and Hitler were intent on world domination. Are post-war reconstructions evidence of a similar tendency by today's business superpowers?

nesses, eliminating the competition and growing their own share of the global market.

So when Afghanistan and Iraq were invaded in 2001 and 2003, big business wasn't far behind. Following the invasion, Chevron Texaco became the new marketer of Iraqi oil, whilst Haliburton (formerly CEO'd by then US vice-president, Dick Cheney, and who still had significant stock interests in the company) and the Bechtel Group moved in to provide reconstruction services.

The contractors repaired the damage caused by the US forces and their allies during the conflict. The toppling of Saddam's regime, and the destruction caused by the invasion, left a rich, resource rich vacuum for western businesses to move into and exploit. Tens of billions of dollars of US government contracts were awarded to their favourite companies to rebuild the country, and the winners of the no-bid contracts made massive profits from them - the spoils of war is now an industry.

The empire, it would seem, is alive and well, represented not by national or cultural flags, but by brand names and corporations. Disconcertingly these businesses appear more than opportunistic, with the capacity to enlist help from national governments on an international scale. Even, some would suggest, manipulating wars for their own imperial and fiscal agendas.

# Things to do before you leave Lancaster

Christie Anderson went in search of must-see places to visit in the Lancaster area. Tellingly, she could only find five.

**NOW THAT THE academic year is coming to an end and the workload is lessening, most students will have some spare time during the last couple of weeks. While nights out and barbecues are a good way to spend the final weeks of term, there are other attractions in and around Lancaster, some of which are more well-known than others. So here are some suggestions for things to do and places to visit before everyone disappears for the summer.**

### Williamson Park

Williamson Park is well known in Lancaster and is ideal for those on a tight budget as it is free. As well as the main park, it has other features that are worth a visit.

You can follow paths and walkways to get away from the main park and explore the woodlands and other interesting areas like the ornamental lake and waterfall.

The Park is also the setting for the Ashton Memorial. The first floor has a viewing gallery, with views of Morecambe Bay and the surrounding countryside; you can even see as far as Blackpool Tower and the Isle of Man. There is also an art gallery on the second floor.

You can explore The Butterfly House, which has been made into a tropical rainforest to replicate the natural environment of exotic butterflies.

and then a bakery.

The dubiously named Drop Room was where prisoners were taken to be prepared for execution, before being led to a corner of the courtyard called the Hanging Corner.

### Museums

For the historically minded, Lancaster has several museums that give a glimpse of the past life of the city.

Lancaster City Museum is in Market Square. It displays Lancaster's history from the Roman period to the present day. This includes the successes of Georgian Lancaster, the development of Morecambe's seaside resort and the murderous events of the 1930s.

The Cottage Museum offers an insight into what life was like in Lancaster during the Victorian era. It is an eighteenth-century cottage with five floors, which has been preserved as a Victorian home.

In the Maritime Museum you can learn of Lancaster's history of overseas trade. Lancaster was the UK's fourth largest slave trading port in the eighteenth century and has a rich history of trading from the River Lune.

### Glasson Dock

For an alternative to Lancaster, you could visit the pretty village of Glasson Dock, which is located south west of the University. This is particularly good if you like cycling as you can get there via the Lune Estuary Cycleway from town or along the canal from campus.

Its harbour was originally the largest port in the Northwest and is still in use. You can walk around the harbour, as well as the surrounding countryside and along the coast of Morecambe Bay. There are also shops and cafes in the village itself.

### Arnsdale and Silverdale

This area of Morecambe Bay has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is a good place to go walking or cycling without having to go as far as the Lake District.

The village of Arnsdale also has a Victorian parade of shops on the promenade and pubs and cafes overlooking the bay.



### Lancaster Castle

Everyone here knows Lancaster Castle. However, if you want to see it close up and discover its history, you can take a guided tour.

You are taken to the old prison cells, where prisoners could be kept in complete darkness. They even lock you in one of the cells so you can see what it was like for the prisoners (don't worry; it is only for a few seconds).

You can see Hadrian's Tower, one of the original structures of the castle. Around the walls of the tower there is a display of shackles, manacles and chains that were used to transport prisoners. It wasn't always so gruesome though; it was originally used as a mill



*Michael*

&amp;

*Sarah*

A woman who is about to graduate and a young man who should really drop out of the 'university of life', take on the relationship issues of Lancaster University for the last time.

(Never gonna give you up; never gonna let you down; never gonna tell a lie, and hurt you.)

**I'm scared. I'm at the end of university. All of my exams are finished, all my coursework handed in. I have no job lined up and I'm going to have to move back in with my parents until I can find work. After the independence and freedom of university, the prospect of going back to my rubbish one-horse town until I can reasonably pay my way is one that I am dreading. Any advice?**

## Flying back to the nest

**MICHAEL:** 'You gotta fight... for your right... to migrate!' Don't just passively accept what you think is inevitable; by being a timid wimp you simply make it inevitable. It's not healthy to keep yourself dependent on the parental teat.

There are always options. Find a group of like-minded friends who are in a similar situation and get them to move out into the real world with you; club together to find a dirt-cheap shithole that you can all move into. It might smell like cat's piss or have fresh chalk outlines of the recently deceased still imprinted on the front room carpet... but it'll be a start. 'But what about the credit crunch? It's making it difficult to be employed.'

Shut your jabroni mouth! There's always work! Even a stripper, a drug mule or become (shudder) work at a garage. Anything! Just don't crawl back into the womb!

**SARAH:** Every final year student I know says exactly the same, so on the plus side you are not alone. Think about the positives of home life: you can pay minimal or no rent; you get fed; the washing machine won't inexplicably lose, mar or stain your clothes and you will remember what a balanced diet looks like. However, I do completely agree with your point that after three years of freedom now is not the time to return home to the familiar and comfortable ways of

your adolescent past.

Set a time limit on your home stay, get a part time job and work your socks off in order to save enough for a deposit. If you can convince siblings, university friends or home friends to do the same then you can look to move out together, even if it is only down the road. In the meantime you need to be applying for grown up jobs, so get your CV together and persuade everyone you know to do the same so that you can all support each other. That said, it will be remarkably hard so be careful not to slip into home comforts for too long; it will make it harder to adjust to your stripped down existence when you go it alone.

## Relationships in focus #∞

### God

#### Michael Holt Beast-cloud waste

**MANY PEOPLE CLAIM to have a relationship with God. God can be a pretty neglectful partner. God, at times, can sit back and allow some pretty shocking things to happen whilst he just looks on unfeelingly; like war, genocide or the continued success of Fearn Cotton. Also the bastard never texts back!**

Still, despite his shabby track record people still put their love and faith into him, like battered wives, hoping that they can still change him.

I am a Catholic and have spent the vast majority of my Sundays in Church. Despite this, I have not believed in God for about as long as I can remember. But I still continued to go to church, just in case. However, I used to just zone out and not listen to the priest at all and would find myself randomly fantasizing through most of the service, not paying any attention and standing at awkward angles trying as stealthily as possible to conceal my secret Church boners through the duration of the Lord's prayer. The 'peace be with you' section took particular dexterity.

I still continue to go to Church. Luckily, I have matured to a level where I can make it through the average service without cultivating a concealed erection.

I wish I could believe in God; to some extent I am open to the fact that something could exist outside of us, putting our silly little existences into context. But all of the world's religions seem somewhat stunted when you look at how vast and incomprehensible the Universe is. If there is some kind of deity that brought about our being, it is hard to believe (and somewhat vain to think) that we were his primary concern.

I think God is probably some giant slug-like beast-cloud that exists outside of time and is slowly shitting out our Universe by gobbling up some other outdated Universe. But of course we'd have to ask that slug-like beast-cloud itself if it believed in itself.

This is a shame because we can never properly communicate with slug-like beast-clouds as they generally have a mouth full of some other Universe and can't stop to chat because they have a hunger that is infinite; if they stopped eating, even for a second, that hunger would remain unsated and they would die of hunger probably meaning our Universe would cease to exist. Until the day that we can work out a solution to this hopeless situation our current conception of God will make a decent makeshift substitute, as long as we all accept that it is just temporary.

**Every time my flat-mates come round to watch a film they can never control their farting urges. At first it was funny but now it's getting beyond the joke. My love of films is slowly being eroded and my room, which used to smell of perfume and vanilla, is now a haze of cabbage and beans. I don't want to be a party pooper and mention that it's seriously affecting me, but the joke is wearing thin. Please help!**

## Flatulent film-lovers

**MICHAEL:** Farts are pretty much always funny; even in death you can't escape the hilarity of farts. I've heard that as your corpse begins to disintegrate any trapped gas is forced out the body, giving the illusion of spooky, undead farts after you've passed on. Working in a morgue must be an absolute riot!

That said, a misplaced fart can really ruin the emotional heft of a film. If anyone was to fart during the scene where the Grandma has to dump the fox in the woods in *The Fox And The Hound* I would throttle the heartless, gaseous cretin until they were forced to exhaust the last of their farts in a morgue.

Before watching the film I suggest serving up a platter of slightly burnt toast; in my experience car-

bon-heavy foodstuffs are very useful in curbing the ability to fart. Watch them strain in vain trying to cheekily squeeze out a film-ruining fart but finding themselves with a mute anus, or if they really went for it, unceremoniously crapping themselves. Feel free to stand still in the centre of the room with the empty toast platter in one hand, a thumbs-up displayed on the other and a big cheeky wink and a smile. They will be fuming; and not in the methane way.

**SARAH:** Stop inviting them! Perhaps offer some dietary advice as you ask them to leave. Who on earth eats cabbage and beans and then goes out to socialise? Man alive, you know how to pick the charmers

when making new friends.

Practically though, have you tried telling them that this is horrible and in a confined space having three of them farting is probably detrimental to their health? Relocate the movie night to a friend's house and conduct a retaliatory attack. Take boiled eggs, cabbage and any other potentially smelly food and distribute it in hidden areas of the room (behind radiators or under the bed could be good) and force them to endure the slowly decaying smells of their personal space. Obviously that is incredibly mean but, frankly, compared to the scents they are forcing into your bedroom it really is on par in the nasty behaviour stakes.

**For the last two years I have had very strong feelings for one of my tutors and now that I have completed my degree I would like to ask him on a date. We have always got along well and I think he likes me too but is asking him out for a drink advisable? If he knocks me back I guess it won't matter as I am leaving but I can't help but think it is worth a try. What should I do?**

## Lecturer lust

**MICHAEL:** I would say that this is almost definitely a great idea. All university tutors are sexy by default, even the ugly ones; such power they possess! Just imagine the ramifications of being the tutor's gal; you could get invited to alienating in-depth academic conferences, or get first say on which books should be put in the short-loan section. If you get rebuffed it shouldn't be too embarrassing. You will most likely never have to see them again, unless you intend to do a post-grad, in which case the taboo is instantaneously broken; academic concubines are one of the job's main perks.

However, it might be for the best if you wait until you've got all your marks back first; if he says yes, you wouldn't want to find out that he

marked you terribly in an exam as it might make for an awkward and humbling situation if you have to talk about "where it was you went wrong" as he fumblingly takes off your bra.

**SARAH:** Of course you should go for it! I have spent the entirety of my academic career wanting to have a relationship with a teacher (not from infants clearly, just the years I have been serious about). Teacher-pupil relationships always seem like urban myths, but tabloid papers frequently display moral outrage at fourteen year old girls shacking up with forty-eight year old men, so it must happen. Jeremy Kyle has made a living from it (the moral outrage, not shacking up

with teenagers).

Having done a quick internet search I couldn't find any definitive laws about over 18's and teachers, and presumably if you are leaving university now there is no conflict of interest on either part. I would perhaps conduct your own research into departmental rules about extracurricular teacher-pupil time, or ask in a roundabout way, perhaps asking where your tutor goes in his spare time? But ultimately yes, do it; I'm incredibly curious to find out if this is a good idea. So, turn up at his office and attempt to seduce him. If it goes horribly wrong just think what a hilarious anecdote it will be for your friends and should he opt for a restraining order you are leaving anyway. DO IT.



# How high street brands are killing the rainforests

## Homeless:

The destruction of Borneo's rainforests (above) is depriving many species of their natural habitats, including orangutans such as Sogo Sogo (left), who is in the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre due to deforestation in northern Borneo.

As Greenpeace releases a report of its three year study into deforestation in Brazil, **Daniel Ash** examines the growing problem in the world's tropical rainforests

**LOOKING AROUND, you could be forgiven for thinking that we are among some of the luckiest people on the planet. Practically every commodity and luxury you can think of is available for us to purchase. Big brand names dominate our lifestyles, supplying everything from what we wear to what we eat.**

But what is the price of these luxuries? We are often told of the harmful side-effects of what we buy, and in a bid to minimise this harm we are told to stop and look at what it actually is that we are purchasing. Organic food and Fair Trade products are fashionable for this reason; they attempt to harness the power of mass buyers to do some good in the world.

Greenpeace has recently released a three-year report into the cattle farming industry in Brazil called 'Slaughtering the Amazon'. Their report highlights themes of exploitation, illegality and mass environmental damage, all of this fuelled by consumer demand. These themes are repeated across the world, wherever natural resources are abused to provide the western world with the luxuries we crave.

Brazilian cattle farming is responsible for 80% of the deforestation of the

Amazon rainforest and it is the single largest driver of deforestation in the world. Materials from these farms are used in a vast array of products; meat is canned, leather used for shoes and clothes, fat is rendered to make toothpaste, face creams and soap, Gelatine is squeezed from bones, intestines and ligaments to make sweets and yoghurts.

Many top brand western manufacturers rely on the various by-products of cattle from the Amazon. A very long list of recognisable names including Adidas, Nike, Reebok, Walmart, Honda, Gucci, IKEA and Clarks to name only a few, buy products from these cattle farmers. The list is so long that a Greenpeace spokesperson reckoned it was more than likely that the average individual would have at least one item in their house that came from the Amazon area.

Greenpeace has called on consumers to show their disapproval by abstaining from buying anything that has been suspected to have been made using materials from illegal Brazilian cattle farms. Greenpeace hope that western companies will go further to ensure that the products they are selling have been made from legally sourced components.

Mark Taylor, the Manager of GreenLancaster reinforced these sentiments. "Whilst the threat of deforestation in some far-off land can seem too enormous and remote a problem to us, there are actions that everyone can take to help tackle it". He urged people to "think about the food you buy. Where possible, try to buy local produce and choose British meat. For vegetarians and vegans, try to look into where any soy products you buy have come from; Brazil is one of the main producers of soya bean, often being grown on deforested land".

The problem of cattle farming goes further than merely deforestation. The pollution caused by farming Brazil's 70 million cows has been condemned as being worse than the entirety of the worlds transport systems. The land the farmers use quickly becomes worthless, with the only plant able to grow being a weed that becomes a major fire risk in the hot climate of Brazil. Human rights abuses are also commonplace, with many farms using slave labour, exploiting indigenous peoples and violently intimidating anyone else who gets in their way.

The cattle farmers are willing to flout all kinds of laws to increase the profitability of their farms. Brazilian law dictates that farms must retain 80% of the rainforest on their land, but in reality they only retain more like 20-30%. The frontier regions suffer from ineffective governance, with inspections being inadequate and with many farms

**"the single most immediate threat to the greatest number of species"**

being unregistered and so therefore unchecked. In many ways the Brazilian government are complicit in the deforestation and cattle industry, as they part own three of the major cattle farming companies: Bertin, JBS and Marfrig.

The island of Borneo is similarly exploited, largely through the expansion of large palm oil plantations. One in three food products on our supermarket shelves includes palm oil, including chocolate, margarine and peanut butter; it is also found in many cosmetics, shampoos, detergents and even in products like animal food and engine lubricants. Another driving force behind the growth of the industry is the production of biofuel, palm oil being an incredibly productive source of biofuel compared to other natural sources. Some companies are heeding the call to action; LUSH for example has developed an alternative to palm oil to use in their products.

Ecology experts Lian Pin Koh and David Wilcove warn that palm oil

production may constitute the "single most immediate threat to the greatest number of species". Two of the world's major producers of palm oil are Malaysia (producing 51% of the world's palm oil) and Indonesia. The concentration of palm oil plantations in these countries threatens what is seen by many to be one of the world's most biologically diverse areas, with 361 new species being discovered in the past decade.

In Borneo there are also the same themes of environmental and human exploitation. 80-100% of all wildlife is wiped out on the plantations, and the huge fires that clear the rainforest contribute significantly to carbon in the atmosphere. As in Brazil, the plantation owners violate human rights, displacing indigenous peoples and paying labourers a pittance. The face of this environmental catastrophe is the Orangutan, an ape whose habitat is being systematically destroyed to make way for uninhabitable palm oil plantations. In parts of Borneo the Orangutan population has plummeted by 90% over the last five years.

The emphasis on consumer buying to help save the rainforests highlights the importance of everyone within society. The government may be telling us to spend our way out of the recession, but if you want to help ensure that the rainforests and everything they encompass are still here in ten years time, then there are a few more things to bear in mind on the high street.

## LUTG's Summer Term productions



**'Mark me':** The Ghost, portrayed by Ben Bibby in full-body make-up, was one of the most memorable aspects of this production of *Hamlet*.

## 'The rest is silence'

### Theatre Review: *Hamlet*

LU Theatre Group  
Nuffield Theatre

Christine Wilde

DESPITE THE PRESSURES of exams and revision, the Theatre Group still found time to draw this academic year to a suitably dramatic close with their latest production, *Hamlet*.

One of Shakespeare's most popular and frequently adapted tragedies, director Paul Sellwood nevertheless managed to give the play a fresh twist, creating a distinctive and successful performance.

While to start with, some lines of dialogue were rushed and occasionally unclear, the delivery soon smoothed out as the actors settled into their roles. The unique entrance of the deceased King Hamlet bursting out of the floor to accost the startled watchmen, provided an early highlight. The use of lighting, which suddenly washed the stage in brilliant red, and his ingenious costume and make-up made this scene, and the character of the Ghost, much more foreboding than is often presented in adaptations of *Hamlet*.

This version of the play also varied from the norm as it focused more on the energetic dialogue and wit invested within Shakespeare's language

to infuse some of the lighter scenes with greater comic potential. Though known primarily for its tragic finale and dark scenes of madness, grief, murder and despair, some skilful acting, particularly from Iain Black as Polonius/Gravedigger 1, lightened the tone of the play. His parts provided timely relief from the overall darkness whilst enabling the development of more credible relationships between the characters and drawing attention to the intricacies and flexibility of the language.

Depicting Hamlet's uneven state of mind well, Rob Cattell was passionate and contemplative by turns, linking the fluctuating moods well to give a fluid, even performance. Despite having to deliver the most famous lines of the play, the 'To be or not to be' speech in Johnnie Bravo Pyjamas, Rob managed to give the speech the gravitas it deserved, presenting it in the poignant and thoughtful manner which such a crucial and well known speech demands to keep it from sounding clichéd. Faced with the demanding job of commanding the attention and focus of an audience whipped into joviality by the previous episode of humour, Rob managed to recapture the audience's attention effectively and proceed with the darker, more serious aspects of the play.

A consistent, even and fresh portrayal of a Shakespearian classic, this performance was humorous where appropriate yet managed to retain the dark edge of tragedy for which the play is famous. This gave a well known play a touch of unpredictability making it well worth seeing.

## Greene with envy

### Theatre Review: *The Compliant Lover*

LU Theatre Group  
Dukes DT3

Richie Garton  
Arts Editor

I HAD TO look in my dictionary for 'compliant' before seeing this play. It turns out it actually is a word, not just poor spelling.

The play is a lesser-known work from the author of *Brighton Rock* and *The End of the Affair*, Graham Greene, and its plot closely mirrors that of the latter novel. Victor and Mary Rhodes' stale marriage is undermined by the charismatic Clive Root, who persuades Mary to run away with him. But before this can happen, Victor learns of the affair, and in his desperation strikes an unusual bargain with Clive.

The play treads the line between tragedy and comedy, containing ample amounts of both. The humour is sharp and witty, while the sad parts are harrowing. But even the tragic scenes were laced with a certain grim humour, masterfully blending of the two genres. But I am not reviewing the writing; but LUTG's production.

The play itself was performed in a wonderfully intimate space, which let the audience appreciate every nuance of the performance. Only a few props were used, but they suitably gave the impression of an authentic 1950s living room. Gentle '50s tunes made waiting for set changes less tedious.

The entire cast were excellent. It's been a while since I've been so impressed with a cast as a whole, with no weak links whatsoever. I lavished praise on Sarah Pearce (Mary) and Jamie Ward (Clive) last issue, and they did not disappoint on the night.

Richard Moxon, who played the jilted husband Victor, left me wanting at first; but on observing the immense change that came over Victor upon learning of his wife's 'liaison' I came to realize how brilliantly the actor dealt with such a broad range of emotions. But it was the strength of the supporting actors that made the play such a hit. David Lewis, who rationally must be at least 18, never failed to convince me that he was a 10-year-old boy, while Leo Patel, who perhaps had only 14 lines of dialogue, raised great laughs in the farcical hotel room scene through stunning delivery and interplay with the other characters.

The whole polished professionalism of the show bowled me over, and the talent of everyone involved was obvious. Congratulations to the cast and crew, and to anybody who missed this: you missed an exquisite piece of drama.



## Trashy horror

### Film Review: *Drag Me to Hell*

Alison Lohman,  
Justin Long  
Dir: Sam Raimi

Richie Garton  
Arts Editor

THE PLOT OF this hyped-up horror from the director of the *Spiderman* films is incredibly self explanatory.

It begins with a young boy who

dared to steal from gypsies being dragged to Hell, and the rest of the film concerns the protagonist, bank clerk Christine Brown (Lohman) trying to avoid being dragged to Hell after denying a gypsy a loan.

She is pursued by a 'Lamia', a goat devil intent on taking her soul (I must add that the film is very poorly researched. The writers seem to have used the name of this mythological creature and completely altered it to fit to the film they wanted to make) and desperately tries to appease the creature to escape damnation. A simple yet original idea, the story is nice and straightforward. It doesn't exactly push any intellectual boundaries, but who really cares; *Drag Me to Hell* isn't trying to be the next *Sixth Sense*, it's just a good-old-fashioned gruesome, shock-based, trashy horror movie. And



**Curse:**

*It has to be said, Drag Me to Hell doesn't portray gypsies in a particularly favourable light.*

# by numbers

there's nothing wrong with that.

Admittedly, a lot of the terror in the film is more predictable than I would have liked. A lot of the big scary moments are done in the long-period-of-erie-silence-broken-by-a-very-loud-noise style, and more often than not it is easy to see what is coming. However, a couple of moments did cause me to jump out of my seat in genuine fright. The moments of horror are also pretty well done; there is a refreshingly small amount of gore, but many unsettling scenes where violations and distortions of the body are used to create discomfort in the audience. A sequence near the end where Christine digs up a grave in the pouring rain is particularly harrowing.

Unfortunately, it is quite difficult to sympathize with Christine; Lohman acts badly using a below-average script

*Drag Me to Hell isn't trying to be the next Sixth Sense, it's just a good-old-fashioned gruesome, shock-based, trashy horror movie*

(lines like "I'm scared" and "It's so sad" are laughable, especially in the way she delivers them), and her actions in the film give the impression that she partially deserves to be dragged to Hell.

Nonetheless, she manages to scream and look terrorized reasonably well, and ultimately this is all you really need from a horror film actress. Like I said before, *Drag Me to Hell* doesn't exactly reinvent or transcend the horror genre, and it's unlikely to do down in film history as a classic, but it is suitably entertaining, and what's more, it doesn't leave you with that nasty taste in your mouth that comes with watching several scenes of graphic torture and slaughter.



# Capriciously comic



**Bourgeois charm:** McIntyre's stand-up eschews satire for more down-to-earth observational humour.

## Michael McIntyre at Lancaster Grand Theatre

**Hannah Fearon**

A TINY THEATRE over two hundred years old, filled to the brink with eager eyes awaiting one of the biggest comedy newcomers in the past five years. On Monday June 8, aspiring comedy superstar Michael McIntyre appeared at the Lancaster Grand Theatre to test out some of his new jokes in preparation for his tour later this year.

McIntyre performed a fantastic show bursting with outstanding new material, quick-witted improvisations and charm. The simplicity of McIntyre's jokes is often what makes him so effortlessly funny. Much of the comedy comes from his universally accessible observational humour. What I have always loved about McIntyre is the physicality of his performance, from his infamous funny walks to the various methods of vacuuming. Never standing still, his shows are always visually hilarious which is not common in the more popular satirical style.

During the first half of his 'warm-up gig' McIntyre gave the impression that he was even nervous. Often looking to members of the audience for inspiration, there didn't seem to be much structure to the show and it seemed largely improvised. This actually heightened the comedy and added

to the raw style of the show. The comedian dealt with any annoying hecklers excellently, often turning their own comments on themselves.

The second half of McIntyre's performance was fantastic. He became much more confident and charismatic, his witty charm shining through. He got past the typical jokes about northerners and focused on embarrassing anecdotes, perfectly encapsulating everyday experiences. His skilful use of words is aided by his bourgeois charm.

At times, the material represented more mainstream areas of comedy. Rarely delving into political satire and cynicism, his show consisted of observations of common human behaviour. Those everyday things we have never really given much thought to, he made hilarious. One of my favourites was his observations on the methods of using a Hoover, one of his more physical and dynamic parts of the show. McIntyre managed to turn something so simple and everyday into what I imagine will soon be a classic comedy moment.

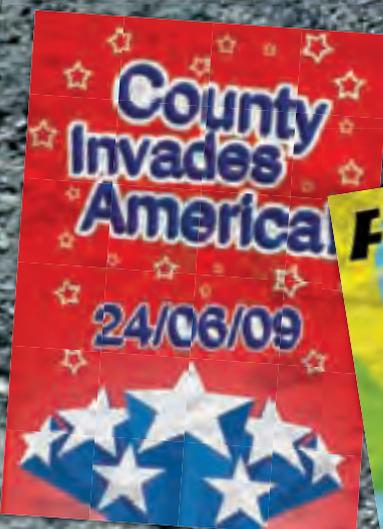
The show at Lancaster Grand Theatre was a fantastic night. A chance to see a newly emerging comedy genius in such a small venue was a rare and outstanding opportunity. McIntyre held the audience's attention for every second, almost struggling to talk over the continuous laughter that flowed around him.

Michael McIntyre begins his tour on September 23 and will be performing at venues in the UK until early November. He is currently performing warm-up gigs across the country and his Comedy Roadshow can be seen on BBC1 on Saturdays at 9.30pm.

If you get the chance to see him live, I assure you, you will not be disappointed.

# ENTRANTS WALK

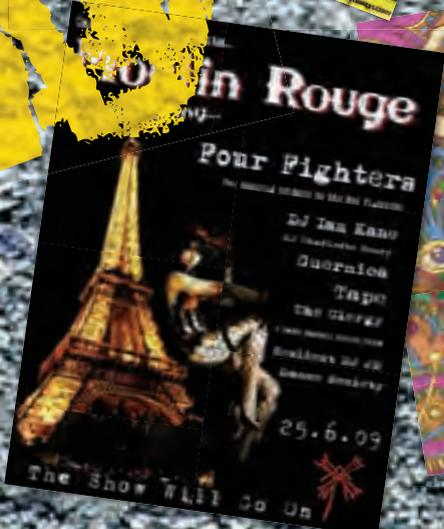
## TUESDAY



## WEDNESDAY



## THURSDAY



# Let them read Cake

**Elizabeth Louise O'Brien**  
Arts Editor

POETRY IS USUALLY sidelined to the literary supplements of highbrow newspapers, or tucked away in its own specialist magazines, or taught to scores of bored and uninspired schoolchildren in classrooms. It might break through into our everyday life in the occasional advert or movie (W.H. Davies' *Leisure*, for instance, featured in an advert for Center Parcs: "What is this life if, full of care/ We have no time to stand and stare?"), but for most of us poetry simply is not part of our everyday lives.

We don't care about it anymore, and we certainly don't make time for it. I both love and study poetry, and yet I barely seem to be able to find a quiet minute to sit down and read it in. There has been a flurry of media attention on the subject, no doubt brought about by the recent election of Carol Ann Duffy as Poet Laureate. But the most notable spade of media attention probably comes from the BBC's poetry season. Featuring well-known faces such as Ian Hislop and Robert Webb, poetry is

defended, its bizarre traditions such as the laureateship are explored, and the presenters desperately attempt to justify why poetry is still relevant.

But is it still relevant? It certainly looks dubious on the face of it. Poetry sales are poor, and the only people who read poetry tend to be budding writers themselves. It is seen to cater to such a small academic minority, unable to connect with the person on the street. Robert Webb, in the BBC production *My Life in Verse With...* notes that "apart from school, I suppose people's most frequent contact with poetry is at weddings and funerals. It's like poetry is this expensive thing that we can only afford to bring out on special occasions." A couple of creative writing students, armed with an idea for a new Lancaster-based literary magazine called *Cake*, are hoping to bring poetry back into the lives of more people.

Martha Sprackland and Andy McMillan are co-editors of *Cake*, which will be an eclectic mix of both amateur and professional poetry. They have already lined up some big names in the poetry world to donate some of their work free of charge in an effort to help



start up the magazine. *Cake's* masterminds hope to create something that will both provide a credible academic supplement, whilst simultaneously engaging newer, younger readers with a bit more fun and quirkiness than your average poetry magazine. The magazine, which invites anyone to submit their work, will publish the best of the amateur poets alongside the established professionals, in a bid to broach the gulf between entry-level and serious poetry.

Andy, who has dubbed himself a "blind optimist" when it comes to poetry, believes that *Cake* could really get a lot more people reading poetry, and wants to destroy the idea that it is all written by "men with white beards in ivory towers". He wants to give people a medley of contemporary verse, a veritable taster course and whirlwind tour of the best stuff out there, so that they can choose what they like, and continue reading and exploring their chosen poets for years after.

My only problem with *Cake* is the hefty price tag attached to it. At £5, the publication is worth the best part of an hour work for most students. I wouldn't pay a fiver to get into the Sugarhouse, so I doubt that as a student, I would be able to afford the same amount for a poetry magazine, when there are so many other things I need to buy, and limited funds to buy them with. *Cake* wants to be accessible, and part of that accessibility needs to be in the price, otherwise the only students buying it will be the ones whose work is published in it, and *that* won't reach out a whole lot further than the people who are already writing poetry anyway.

Andy and Martha defend the price tag by saying it needs to be financially viable, and that a similar-sized anthology in book-form would cost a good couple of pounds on top of what they are charging. *Cake's* launch is going to take place next year, with the objective of making poetry relevant to more people than it is currently able to reach out to. It is a fantastic idea, and the fact they already have some major poets agreeing to help is a huge success for the young duo.

The launch is set to take place amid an explosion of cake and verse sometime around Intro Week, possibly with events and readings from some of the leading contributors; as a graduating student, I am sorry to miss it.

If you want to find out more, or submit your work, find Martha and Andy on Facebook under the group 'CAKE Lancaster Literary Magazine'.



GOOD  
LUCK to all final  
year students

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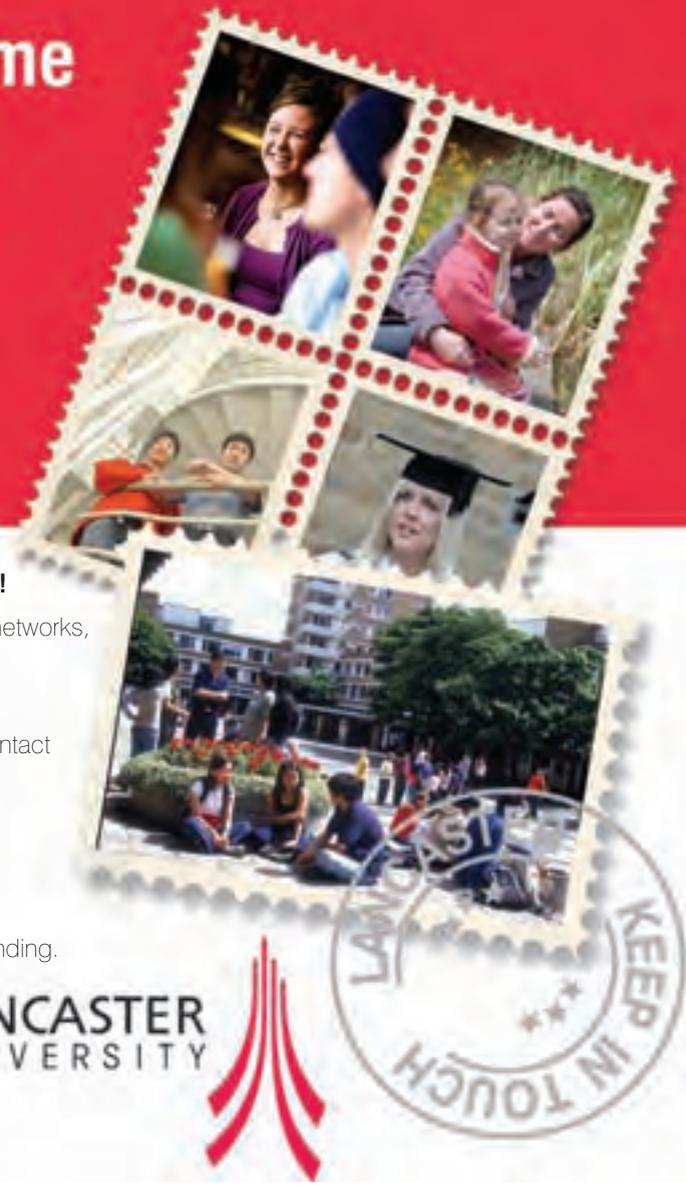


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# The last sermon

## Manic Street Preachers *Journal For Plague Lovers* (Colombia)

James Barker

NOVEMBER 2008, THE country finds it self facing economic crisis, Barack Obama becomes the first black president of the United States, and Richey Edwards, original member, guitarist and lyricist for The Manic Street Preachers is declared as presumed deceased. The lyrical extraordinaire who vanished on the February 1 1995 was dead in the eyes of the law.

Shortly before his great Houdini act, Edwards left his three band mates a journal of scribbles, drawings and lyrics. Fourteen years later, *Journal For Plague Lovers*, the Manic Street Preachers ninth album, uses the lyrics Edwards left for his friends. It would be easy to take this album as a piece of hype from a band whose recent material has been of a mediocre standard. However the Manic Street Preachers are four individuals who form a collective which each submit to equally, it just so happens that *Journal For Plague Lovers* contains a bit more of 'The lost Manic' than the other three. This is the final chapter in one of the great rock'n'roll romances but will open up a new one for the remaining Manics who can only build on this cornerstone album.



an NME journalist about the Manic's punk authenticity and values he carved '4 Real' into his arm with a razorblade. His injuries required 17 stitches.

In between political fashion statements and self-mutilation, Edwards read anything he could, especially political texts and gained a 2:1 in political history from the University of Wales. The Welsh valleys had created a monster, a rock star with a brain and a mission alongside personal suffering and eccentricity. It was Edwards' lyrical prowess rather than his musical talent that gained him a place in The Manic Street Preachers, his average guitar playing utterly surpassed by his ability to weave thoughts of himself and others into pop lyrics.

Songs such as *Motorcycle Emptiness*, *Faster* and *Small Black Flowers* showed a being totally un-restrained in expressing what he wanted to say. Works by great writers including George Orwell, Sylvia Plath and Albert Camus went side by side with Edwards' own grievances, thoughts and visions. The overtly political *Holy Bible* was to be Edwards' last contribution bar six songs on 1996's *Everything Must Go* that he and bassist, Nicky Wire, had written before his disappearance. The success of *The Holy Bible* had taken its toll on Edwards; his disillusionment and depression no more obvious than on his great work. On the eve of an American tour, Edwards simply disappeared. Police found his empty Vauxhall Cavalier on Valentines Day.

"The more I see the less I scream," broods Bradfield on opener *Peeled Apples*, a stomping, angsty rock number in which we see the Manics immediately returning to their best. Single, *Jackie Collins Existential Question Time* sees more of a pop approach, with sing along chorus "Oh mummy what's a Sex Pistol?" showing a lighter side to Edwards. The wonderfully played title track is a classic Manics song, with the threesome crafting melodies that could easily go alongside *Little Baby Nothing* from *Generation Terrorist*. Other

### Missing man formation:

The remaining members of Manic Street Preachers saved most of the lyrics left behind by Edwards until after he was declared presumed dead.

rockers include *She Bathed Herself In A Bath Of Bleach* and *All Is Vanity* with Bradfield shouting "it's not 'What's wrong?' its 'What's right?'" It's the facts of life sunshine" while the three give it their all to live up to their friend's lyrics.

It is on the acoustic numbers that the album becomes a more rounded effort, and re-emphasises the band's desire not to make *The Holy Bible Part II*, but to create an entirely new being. *Doors Closing Slowly* and *The Joke Sport Severed* are beautiful pieces, with Edwards' lyrics given center stage in *Severed*, which includes the brilliant line: "jealously sews rejection with a kiss". Final song, *William's Last Words*, is sung by Wire, the man closest to Edwards. He can't sing, but it only feels fitting for his best friend to close the album with "I'd like to go to sleep and wake up happy."

The wonderful thing that makes *Journal For Plague Lovers* so good is the levels it works on. It sounds fantastic even if you have no idea of the band's past, and if you do, you feel attached to this album further through Edwards contribution to it. This album however, is so much more than his last will and testament. This is the Manic Street Preaches as a four piece. From Edwards' lyrics, Bradfield's soaring voice and great melodies, Wire's bopping bass and Moore's pounding drumming, all four of work at a level higher than they ever have attained previously. It is the most rounded effort the Manics have produced, forging not only their great cries of despair and revolt but also somber conclusions that show the state of Edwards' mind.

*Journal For Plague Lovers* is a wonderful piece of art for so many reasons, not least because it will be the last we hear from one of rock's greatest lost souls.

"We just wanna mix politics and sex, look brilliant on stage and say brilliant things"

Richey Edwards, Manic Street Preachers debut TV appearance January 1990



## Never mind the bullshit



## Busta Rhymes *Back To My B.S.* (Universal Motown)

Meer Shah

ASIDE FROM BEING one of the most charismatic and energetic performers in pop, Busta Rhymes is known for being one of the most respected and consistent (if rarely spectacular) artists in hip hop. Yet he's struggled somewhat to maintain his own high standards for the best part of the new millennium. His eagerly anticipated return, unfortunately, doesn't quite turn things around; in all honesty, there is an alarming truth to the album title.

To be fair, much of the problem is less to do with outright weaknesses as so much lazy mediocrity. The Dungeon Dragon's rhyming and trademark force is prevalent, but most songs are forgettable. Case in point is the boring *Hustler's Anthem*, which features tired content and a predictable club-friendly beat (though, when T.I is the guest, what else would you expect?). Another example is the pointless *Respect My Conglomerate*, where the only saving grace is that Busta isn't out-rhymed by his guests; though considering Jadakiss has only ever been 'OK', and Lil Wayne still makes me laugh in disbelief at his 'greatest alive' claims, that isn't saying much.

High points include the catchy *Arab Money* – funnily enough, a Middle-Eastern influenced sound – and the fact that the album at least ends strongly, with the guest overload *Decision* (Jamie Foxx, Mary J Blige, John Legend and Common all appear) and the closer *World Go Round*. This last song is actually really good and perfectly highlights the extent to Busta Rhymes' emceeing ability.

Song for song, *Back To My B.S* is incredibly hit and miss, but the stronger tracks, coupled with Busta's retained vocal presence, makes the bullshit slightly more bearable, at least for a couple of spins.

Similar Artists: Lethal Bizzle, Ol' Dirty Bastard, Redman



**Trapped:** Richey Edwards disappeared on February 1, 1995. Lyrics he left behind feature strongly in the Manics' latest album.

*Journal For Plague Lovers* is the first Manics album to feature lyrics mostly written by Edwards since 1994's monumental *The Holy Bible*, a masterpiece littered with intellectual quotes, brooding with anger and suffering, and serving as a huge kick in the teeth to Britpop. It is the strength and severity of Edwards' lyrics in *The Holy Bible* that make it understandable that the three remaining Manics did not use the lyrics given to them before 2009, with frontman, James Dean Bradfield, describing them as 'really scary'.

To use the phrase 'troubled rock star' to describe Edwards would be ridiculous; he was and could well still be simply a very troubled human being. Introverted and alienated, Edwards strove to be noticed, hence his flamboyant dress-sense with statements such as "spectator of suicide" spray painted onto his many white shirts. His most notorious bid for attention came in 1991 when after an argument with

# History FC dominate to lift summer cup

**Oliver Holmes**  
Sports Editor

IN THE FIRST of the three summer cups, History took the honours as they beat Fylde 1-0 in the final of a football-filled day to take home the B-Active cup.

The much anticipated tournament organised amongst a select few of the football captains consisted of two groups of five B-Active league teams, from which the highest placed two would go through to the semis.

The action began at 9:30am with the games playing over three pitches simultaneously. Group A, arguably the group of death, saw Fylde race away as leaders as they won three and drew one of their games. History also went through as runners up on seven points picking up the notable thrashing of County 4-0. The Core could count themselves unlucky as if results had gone their way in their final set of fixtures they could have sneaked through. Grad were rooted to the foot of the table as they only managed to pick up a single point through the whole of the group stages. County were also unable to make it to the knock-outs as they salvaged one win and a draw.

Group B was eventually won by Bouchcroft FC as they picked up three victories and drew their other against second placed Red Star Cartmel who also went through to the semis as they remained unbeaten in the process. Bowland finished bottom on goal difference just behind the Christian Union. Bailrigg AFC finished third as results went against them despite some impressive performances early on in the competition.

The group standings meant that Fylde would play Cartmel while Bouchcroft



**Historic:** History FC's final against Fylde was a game of endurance. (Photo: Ben Robins)

played History in semi finals. Fylde comfortably booked their place in the final as they stormed to a 3-0 victory with two of the goals crucially coming right before the interval. Meanwhile, History took the lead before Bouchcroft equalised with a penalty. The game was eventually decided five minutes from

time as a free-kick crashed against the bar before dropping to a grateful History player to notch it home. The goal stood despite strong claims by Bouchcroft for the goal being offside as their defence stepped up while the free kick was taken.

The final turned out to be a contest

heavily determined by fatigue as much of the game was played through midfield without any real cutting edge. The History defence were allowed to bring the ball forward but Fylde were good at charging their opponents down. The game and the tournament was eventually won by a great finish from the

tournament's golden boot winner, Matt Hinton, who notched up an impressive five goals throughout his appearances.

The day of football was successful and served to wet the appetite for the upcoming B and A league summer cups in the next week that will round up yet another fantastic year of sport.

## Spirited Grizedale A see off cup favourites as Pendle B stroll through to final

**Lonsdale A: 0**  
**Pendle B: 3**

THE SEMI-FINALS OF the inter-college cup gave the opportunity for Pendle B to reach the cup final – all they needed to do was overcome a Lonsdale A side brimming with confidence after their impressive cup run.

In the opening stages, both sides failed to test their opponents as glorious sunshine created unusually dehydrating playing conditions, something of a rarity in Lancaster.

Pendle were first to threaten, but their unmarked attacker saw his header go harmlessly wide after three minutes. Lonsdale were playing a high-line and were coping comfortably with any balls over the top. A handball 25 yards from goal from Lonsdale allowed Pendle to test the Lonsdale keeper but he held on comfortably to diffuse any danger.

Lonsdale then got their foothold in the game, taking their time on the ball before releasing it to a free teammate. They threatened on 15 as a header went sailing over before they lashed in a free kick that went inches over the bar. Lonsdale could sense they had the advantage, and must have thought they had scored when the attacking midfielder flicked it over the onrush-

ing keeper only to see his effort hooked away masterfully by the covering defence. This was to be the most clear-cut chance of the opening 45 in a fairly uneventful contest.

Pendle came out after half-time with a plan, and a punishing ten minute period allowed them to book their place in the final. A simple long ball over the top of the Lonsdale defence allowed the Pendle striker to rush on and slot the ball home with a controlled side-foot finish. Pendle wanted more and were awarded a free kick to the left of the area towards the by-line for a fairly innocuous challenge. A curling cross into the box evaded everyone, only for the Pendle centre-back to lash it home. Lonsdale's heads dropped and despite a series of good corner kicks failed to take advantage and claw their way back.

Instead, Pendle went up the other end down the left. The Lonsdale defence backed off allowing an accurate pass to the striker. The Lonsdale keeper was reluctant to come off his line and was duly punished as Pendle wrapped up victory with a third.

Pendle secured the win by closing down the remaining minutes before rushing over to see how their fellow College players were coping in other semi-final.

**Grizedale A: 3**  
**Pendle A: 2 (AET)**

PENDLE A'S WENT into this game seeking revenge against Grizedale as it was this corresponding fixture in the league that retrospectively shattered Pendle's title hopes.

Pendle set the tempo with a sustained period of early dominance but failed to pose much worry for the Grizedale keeper. Grizedale were eager to dampen the pressure with counter-attacking football and could have taken the lead, as the lone striker out-muscled the Pendle defence only to lash his effort over the bar.

Pendle took the lead though as a long throw was hurled into the box to be headed in. From this point onwards, it was clear that there would be more goals. Pendle did not rest on their advantage and called the Grizedale keeper into action with a shot from the left which he did well to hold.

Grizedale countered once more and won a free kick at least 25 yards out, to the left of the box. The result, a wonderful curling effort that beat the outstretched diving hand of the Pendle goalkeeper, sent the Grizedale following into raptures.

Grizedale were now brimming with

confidence and were playing quality football, switching the play from left to right. Pendle were rattled and only a tremendous save from their keeper kept the scores level at half-time.

Pendle looked the more dangerous after half-time, but had to be cautious as Grizedale's counter-attacking ability was one that could not be ignored. This ability was illustrated further as a last ditch blocking challenge from Pendle thwarted any Grizedale threat and notched up the level of noise from the watchful crowd.

With so much at stake, challenges began to become a bit more heated. The Grizedale left back was booked for bringing down the attacking Pendle player who appeared to be in behind the defence. Grizedale were holding on as Pendle were finding the form that had seen them do so well in the league and went 2-1 up with a goal after being knocked in from the right.

This sparked a frenzy of attacking play from Grizedale as it became an all or nothing affair. Grizedale forced Pendle back and sent a ball into the box which struck a Pendle player; screams of handball were instantly dismissed by the referee – a big decision to call. This riled Grizedale and their supporters as the vocals off the pitch were mirrored on the pitch too. Time was running out,

but with four minutes left Grizedale got a much deserved equaliser with a powerful header. This sparked a mini pitch invasion that illustrated how much college spirit is involved with these occasions. This sent the tie to extra time.

Cynical tackles were flying in from both sides as the referee had no option to get his yellow card out on more than one occasion for both sides. Pendle, as they had done for the majority of the game had most of the ball but failed to score.

A thrilling second half of extra time saw Grizedale have a goal disallowed as it was judged that the ball had been kicked out of the keeper's hands before rippling the back of the neck.

The Grizedale fans vented their anger, but this soon changed into mass celebrations as an absolute screamer of a left footed curling shot flew past a despairing hand of the Pendle keeper to give Grizedale the lead for the first time. With little time left Pendle sent their keeper up in a desperate attempt to send the tie to penalties but the final whistle blew to set up a final of Grizedale A v Pendle B.

Grizedale had prevented Pendle from success twice in the same season in which the sheer passion and willing to fight for one another on the pitch had been the catalyst to such a victory.

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# Grizedale's persistence pays off



Scenes of competitiveness: (Photos: Ben Robins)

**Liam Richardson**  
Editor-elect

GRIZEDALE CLAIMED A second Carter Shield triumph following a dramatic final day of the tournament earlier this month. It was the college's first success in the competition since 2005 and broke Bowland's recent stranglehold that has lasted the past three years.

Fylde and Grizedale headed the table going into the finals day with Bowland and Pendle retaining an outside chance of victory. Four events were contested in total, which included ultimate frisbee, tag rugby, rounders and tug of war.

The first event to be played in the scorching sunshine was ultimate frisbee. Bowland, containing many university team players, reached the final after triumphing over Fylde 4-1 and were inspired by former ultimate frisbee captain Max Moujaes. They were joined in the final by Pendle, also made up of several university players, after dispatching Grizedale in the other semi-final. The final was a one-sided affair, with Bowland triumphing 3-1 over Pendle. The result meant that Fylde, Grizedale and Bowland were all tied at the top of the table with 90 points.

Tag rugby proved to be a brutal affair with some players appearing not to grasp that it is supposed to be a gentler game than normal rugby. Grizedale and Fylde contested one semi-final

which always appeared likely to boil over. Passions were certainly running high in a game in which, after the scores were locked at 1-1 after full time, Grizedale achieved a sudden death win to reach the final. Meanwhile, Bowland cantered to victory by beating a valiant Cartmel side 5-0 and were aided by the performances of Gavin Reid and Adam Free. The final was a tight affair with the first try being scored by Grizedale. Bowland began to exert some control over the match and levelled things at 1-1 directly before half-time. Bowland added John Bekalo to the mix for the second half and seemed much fresher than a Grizedale side which appeared jaded after their epic semi-final against Fylde. Energy levels eventually told as Bowland added three further tries to claim the 15 points on offer in the competition.

Rounders was dominated by one team alone: Lonsdale. They comfortably beat Bowland in the semi-final and Grizedale in the final. Their success relied upon backstop Alex Stewart, bowler Luke Fielding, and batsman Lee Osbourne. For Lonsdale, it was the first Carter Shield event they had won this year and it set up a nailbiting tug of war with both Grizedale and Bowland heading the table going into the final event; both teams with 114 points.

Tug of war was split into two groups of three. Bowland, Lonsdale and Fylde were drawn into a group of death whilst Grizedale always appeared

likely to finish top of a group containing Cartmel and Pendle. Lonsdale and Fylde went through to the semi-finals with Lonsdale effectively eliminating their great rivals, Bowland, from the Carter Shield and preventing them from a fourth successive title. As expected, Grizedale emerged from the other group with Pendle leading to a Carter Shield decider between Fylde and Grizedale. There was great drama as a whole year of sport came down to two teams pulling a length of rope. Grizedale were too strong for Fylde and their support went wild as they celebrated their success. Lonsdale went on to win the final of the tug or war but this did not seem to bother Grizedale too much.

For Grizedale sports reps Lauren Forrester and Leanne Marland, the victory was particularly poignant with the pair dedicating the win to Vicky Stockton, their previous Carter Shield winning sports rep who tragically passed away in 2005. Forrester claimed the win "was the best feeling in the world" and paid tribute to Fylde and Bowland who "put up a good fight". Marland meanwhile, was "not confident at all" going into the final day. Grizedale's success was richly deserved and can be put down to their incredible consistency throughout the year, only missing out on one semi-final; although only winning one event outright compared to the four successes had by Fylde and Bowland.



There is no doubt the drama of this year's Carter Shield will have a positive effect on next year's competition, although concerns have been raised about the number of university players drafted into college teams to guarantee success. No action has been taken presently, but the situation will surely

be monitored and reviewed again next year.

The 2008-09 Carter Shield will be remembered for its close finish and for its champions, Grizedale, who showed unbelievable spirit despite the difficulty of lacking a college bar and social space this year, to still emerge as victors.

# Bowland retains Founders glory



**Losing battle:** Despite winning the rugby, Lonsdale couldn't escape their drubbing at the hands of Bowland. (Photo: Ben Robins)

## Oliver Holmes Sports Editor

THIS WEEKEND SAW the return of the coveted Founders series between the two founding colleges of Lancaster University. Bowland and Lonsdale went head to head in 20 events ranging from football to chess in the three day spectacle.

Lonsdale went into the series seeking to finally overturn what has been dubbed 'the curse of southwest' as they have failed to win any of the previous four tournaments since their move to their current home on the new campus.

Now in its sixth year, Bowland sought to continue their dominance and had the series in the bag by Saturday night. Despite the event being over as a competitive contest, Lonsdale and their legion of Lonsdaliens played their part in what was an amazing weekend of sport overflowing with college spirit, good humour and sporting talent.

The action kicked off on Friday evening with the male and female boat race events in which the colleges shared the spoils. The women's race was won by Bowland while Lonsdale men drew the scores level. Next up saw women's darts take centre stage. In a close con-

test, Bowland emerged as winners with a 4-3 victory. The night was rounded off by a quiz in which Bowland marginally won 30-25 to take the scores to 7-1 to Bowland overnight.

The event started again early on Saturday morning in a day crammed with football. The women's match saw Bowland beat Lonsdale 2-0 to earn three points while the Lonsdale's C team clawed back some points with a 2-1 win. The B team game was closely fought, but a pivotal penalty just before half time was converted to see Bowland on the way to a 2-0 win. The A teams played out a goalless draw over 90 minutes to force the match to be decided by penalties. Bowland, aided by terrific saves from their keeper ran out as 4-2 winners overall.

On the netball courts, Bowland again showed their class as their A's won 23-17 while the B's followed suit with a thumping 43-14 triumph. The day was wrapped up by a 3-2 win for Lonsdale in the dominoes before Bowland took the honours in a 6-3 success in the Men's darts. With the scores standing at 26-5, Bowland lead was insurmountable; they had won the sixth series.

Nevertheless, Sunday saw Lonsdale fight hard and they began to get points on the scorecard. A 4-1 victory in dodgeball to Lonsdale was crossed out

by a 46-20 win in basketball for Bowland. Hockey was next on the agenda with Bowland's men winning their game 3-2 while Lonsdale's women netted well in a 4-2 win.

Time constraints meant that aeroball could not be played with the points being halved. Rounders was won by Lonsdale in both the men's and mixed events while the points were shared in the women's match.

The much anticipated rugby match soon followed and in a pulsating display, Lonsdale thrashed Bowland 38-8 which went a long way in regaining some of Lonsdale's lost pride.

The closing of the series ended in a nail biting contest in the men's pool. A test of nerve and character in front of the big screen and a packed Lonsdale bar was eventually won by Bowland 6-4 despite a resilient comeback from Lonsdale after being 3-1 down. Bowland women outplayed Lonsdale's to further add to their points tally while the president's chess was won by Lonsdale. Bowland won the normal chess, despite Lonsdale's man playing naked in front of an amused crowd.

Finally, Bowland lifted the trophy to make it five successive victories with a final score of 38-15 in what was a truly memorable weekend for all those involved.

## AU awards pay tribute to university's sports teams



**Recognition:** The Canoe Club were presented with the AU's Club of the Year award, after a highly successful year in which two of their members represented Great Britain in canoe polo.

## Dan Hogan Editor

CAPPING OFF A mixed year for the Athletic Union, the AU awards last Wednesday shone a positive light on the achievements of the university's sportsmen and women over the last 9 months.

Opening with a montage of photos of Lancaster's competitors at Roses in May, provided by SCAN, the (slightly overlong) slideshow was punctuated by occasional cheers from the assembled teams on recognition of familiar faces.

AU president, Gareth Coleman, made a clearly heartfelt speech on the AU's achievements. "It's been a year of ups and downs," he said. "But everyone in this room will have their own personal memories from it."

The procession of inter-college sports captains collecting their trophies was a list mostly dominated by Fylde and Bowland in the Carter Shield, the inter-college leagues and cups, and County in the George Wyatt.

The Mike Speak award, for contributions to sport in the university beyond mere participation, was awarded to James King, AU tournament secretary and former president of the Cricket Club. King was clearly overwhelmed as he spoke to SCAN. "I really wasn't expecting this... I really didn't, you know... I'm speechless!" Composing himself, he said: "My four years have been excellent. Sport at this university has definitely come on, it's definitely going places."

The much sought after accolade of Club of the Year, was elected by the 29 clubs of the AU. This year, the Men's Basketball, Women's Football, Fencing, Canoe and Volleyball clubs were all nominated. But, having seen two of its members represent Great Britain, and being one of the few clubs to return from Roses 2009 on a high, the Canoe Club were awarded Club of the Year for the second year running.

Club president, Charlotte Bloom, was ecstatic. Asked what had been the

source of the club's success, she said: "I think it was because, not only did we do well in the competitions, but we also pushed club spirit as well. We always stand up for each other at everything we ever go to."

The winner of the President's Award, was hand picked by the AU president for being "quite simply outstanding". Gareth Coleman awarded it to the Fencing Club, who have known almost limitless success this year, with the men's team winning their BUCS division this season unbeaten.

Aaron Gardner, the Fencing Club president, told SCAN: "It feels great. It was a complete shock. We were after [Club of the Year]... but no, this is even better. It's fantastic."

**"Not only did we do well in the competitions, but we also pushed club spirit as well. We always stand up for each other at everything we ever go to."**

He added: "I'm happy to have anything, just to be here; to be on the map, particularly for a minority sport."

The AU president was pleased with how the event, which was the first time it had been attempted as a celebration of the AU's year, as opposed to just a presentation ceremony, had gone. "It's fantastic, it really is. It rounds off the year, it's a brilliant, brilliant celebration," Coleman said. "We tried to do something different this year and have a bit more of a big event, and across the room, the response I've had so far is that they really enjoy it."

He added: "Obviously I'd have liked to have had a more successful year, but we have had fantastic success on and off the pitch."

Angie Park, formerly LUSU's training and development manager, and a key part of the student activities office, also received recognition. The surprise unveiling of a new trophy, named the Angie Park Outstanding Achievement Award, was presented by Coleman to Park herself. She now works for the university.

## Cup final extra time battle ends with Grizedale win

Grizedale A: 1  
Pendle B: 2 (AET)

Oliver Holmes  
and Matthew Todd

FOLLOWING IMPRESSIVE performances three days earlier in the semi-finals, Pendle B's and Grizedale A's fought through the hectic fixture pile up to play out the intercollege cup final.

In a competition that has thrown up a few shocks along the way, Grizedale surely would have fancied their chances of lifting the trophy before the game as they were playing against lower league opposition. However, on reflection, this was certainly no walk in the park for the battling A team as Pendle looked to pull off what would have been a mighty cup upset and achieve a feat that their A team could not accomplish.

With both teams playing a similar style of football, the opening stages of the game were fairly scrappy. Pendle threatened first after three minutes due to confusion in the Grizedale back four but were unable to punish the situation with Grizedale relieved to avert the danger.

Grizedale then seemed to settle themselves into the game with some neat possession play utilising passing triangles and trying to find a way down the flanks to beat the organised Pendle side. Grizedale forced a few corners that were dealt with comfortably but thought they had taken the lead on fourteen minutes as a long throw from the left was flicked on but somehow stayed out of the net, hitting the post.

Pendle soon counterattacked and called the Grizedale keeper into action as a shot from the left wing was well saved after eighteen minutes. Grizedale were looking comfortable having the better of the possession and winning the majority of second balls that were going astray while Pendle were clearly relying on the long ball through to the isolated lone striker.

Long throws throughout the remainder of the first half were causing some threat to both sides, but Grizedale were delivering some dangerous crosses that were evaded on several occasions.

The second half began in similar vein to the first. Grizedale were happy to play possession football with Pendle willing to hit back on the counter attack. Fitness levels and injuries due to the fixture congestion began to become noticeable as several Grizedale players



Put in their place: Grizedale's higher league team used the flanks to get around Pendle's B league pretenders. (Photo: Ben Robins)

here on in it was a game of who could hold their nerve and hopefully get the winning goal in the cup final.

The first period of extra time was incident free as both teams had efforts at goal that were blocked off. The crowd were also playing their part in what was turning out to be a cagey affair.

After the interval, Grizedale raced out of the blocks as they looked to take the initiative. A mazy run and a low shot caused concern for Pendle. With eight minutes left Grizedale had the ball in the net but it was ruled out for deliberate handball and the inevitable booking soon followed.

Nevertheless, the disallowed goal proved premature, as Grizedale got the decisive winner five minutes from time. Another long throw was flicked across the box to be headed in by the right back to send the Grizedale players and fans alike into mayhem. However, the tie took a twist as the scorer whipped off his shirt in celebration which brought with it his second bookable offence.

Grizedale had to play out the remaining five minutes with ten men and managed to hold on as Pendle went close on three separate occasions in the dying moments but were thwarted by the Grizedale shotstopper.

The whistle blew and Grizedale deservedly lifted the trophy to demonstrate how a hard working, battling side can all work for each other to achieve glory.

Semi-finals: 32 >

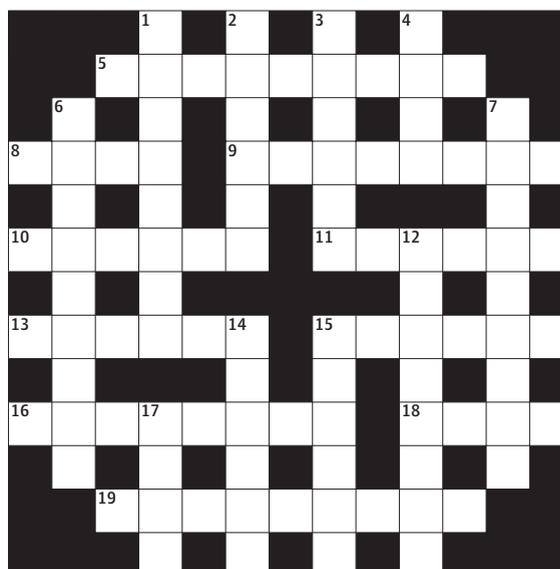
limped gingerly throughout the second half.

Nine minutes into the second half saw a melee as a push on a Pendle defender brought out the tensions that were evident in both sides as they spurred on for the victory they craved. Five minutes later, Grizedale could have taken the lead after a low shot was blocked and went out of play. The resultant corner was met by the free header of the Grizedale frontman who headed over from six yards.

Both sides began to make substitutions and tactical switches to try and outdo the opponents as the clock ticked down. The Grizedale right back received a yellow card minutes before the Pendle keeper was forced to race off his line to close down a Grizedale chance. The vocal supporters from both sides could sense that it would only take one goal to bring home the trophy.

The minutes wore on with neither side able to break the deadlock which forced the game into extra time. From

### Quick crossword no. 11,844



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#### Across

- 5 High-flying Olympic event (4,5)
- 8 Flower – part of eye (4)
- 9 Without company (8)
- 10 Hoax – hock of hog (6)
- 11 Short, coherent group of words (6)
- 13 Group of singers (6)
- 15 Source of divine prophecy (6)
- 16 Small watertight opening in ship's side (8)
- 18 Very fine grains of rock, as on beach (4)
- 19 Martial art Olympic event since 2000 (3,4,2)

#### Down

- 1 Very fine gauze (8)
- 2 Single period of instruction (6)
- 3 Fastest pace of horse (6)
- 4 Small residence – lacking sparkle (4)
- 6 Multi-disciplined Olympic event since 2000 (9)

- 7 Graeco-Roman and freestyle Olympic events (9)
- 12 Irregular and emotional musical composition (8)
- 14 Eerie (6)
- 15 Spotted New World feline (6)
- 17 Side in sporting event (4)

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#### Solution No 11,843

