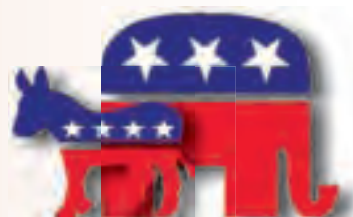


US Elections: Your verdict

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scanews

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 2, Michaelmas Term, Tuesday October 30th, 2008

Accounts show bars' new boss is a loss-maker

- Commercial Services haemorrhaging money
- Bars now run by loss-making David Peaks

Rob Miller

Assistant Editor

University Commercial Services – the department behind the recent takeovers of Cartmel, County, Grizedale, and Pendle bars – fell a massive 20.7% short of its target profit last year, SCAN can reveal. This leaves their finances with a £137,196 shortfall on their budget, which is an even greater variance than the college bars' £113,866 shortcoming on their own target of £290,000 set by the University last year.

The Director of Commercial Services, David Peaks, took over four bars this summer apparently in response to not meeting their profit target. Although the bars were in most cases turning a profit, the University felt they should be making more. Commercial Services' failure to meet its own targets, however, calls into question Peaks's ability to turn around the bars' financial fortunes and indeed

whether financial considerations were adequate grounds for the takeovers.

Facilities that fell particularly short of their profit targets include University Catering, £71,976 under budget and with a £20,617 deficit; the Conference Centre, £66,022 below budget; and the Graphic Design service, Folio, which came in at £13,281 below budget. Of all the facilities under Peaks's responsibility, only the pre-school centre managed to meet its budgeted profit target.

That University Catering incurred the biggest losses is of particular concern for the college bars, as Catering is the closest to running bars that Peaks had been, until the takeover. This raises the question of Peaks's suitability to run the bars, when the most similar service previously under his control fell £72,000 short of its budget.

Drinks prices are now set centrally by David Peaks and his department, **2 >** the cause of the substantial price increases that have earned the ire

Tony Benn speaks at Lancaster's annual peace lecture

4 >

Commercial Services budget shortfall 07/08:

£137,196

Total college bars budget shortfall 07/08:

£113,866

No contenders for Ed & Welf byelection

Vicki Cole

The Student Union's Sabbatical team looks likely to face serious challenges this year as no candidate has stood for the position of Education & Welfare Officer in the planned byelection. The nomination deadline for the position was

6pm last Thursday, but no student put their name forward. The position became vacant after the original officer-elect, Dan Ratcliffe, failed his degree, leaving him unable to take up the position.

The Education & Welfare Officer is often said to be the most important post in LUSU, as the elected officer deals with issues from tuition fees and housing, to mental health. The **5 >**

County JCR officer pushed into resignation amid double standard accusations

Dan Hogan

Editor

COUNTY JCR's Female Education & Welfare Officer has resigned after a vote of no-confidence in her was passed at a meeting of the JCR Executive.

Lisa Cox, who has now left the Executive, was the subject of a special meeting of the County JCR Exec where her alleged misconduct and absence during Freshers Week were discussed.

Ms Cox is said to have been brought the JCR into disrepute by drinking while wearing her JCR Exec T-shirt during a Freshers Week social, and to have neglected her duties throughout the rest of the week.

According to the County JCR Constitution, only a JCR General Meeting can remove an officer from post. **7 >** Therefore the vote of no-confidence from the JCR had no formal



The Chief: LUSU Chief Returning Officer, Sandeep Banwait, who manages elections, at hustings last Thursday.

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

Editor

Dan Hogan
scan@lancaster.ac.uk
01524 592613

Assistant Editor

Rob Miller
r@robm.me.uk

News

Chris Davis
Lizzie Houghton
scannews@hotmail.com
Meets in Furness Bar,
Tuesdays, 4pm

Comment

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

Features

scanfeatures@hotmail.com
Meets in Furness Bar,
Fridays, 1pm

Arts

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

Music

Scott Al-Zobaiydi
Mark McGlashan
scanmusic@hotmail.com
Meets in Pendle Bar,
Wednesdays, 1pm

Sports

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

Adverts & Marketing

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

Go green to save endangered species, colleges told

Lizzie Houghton

Deputy News Editor

FOR those students who need a slightly grander reason to do the recycling than just keeping the kitchen clean, a new project by LUSU's Environmental Committee may just have the answer. The project, entitled Lancaster University Goes Green, will see 'Green Comm' keeping a record of which college recycles the most, with the greenest college winning a £200 donation to their elected charity.

Each college has been allocated its own endangered species, which the donation will go towards protecting. The winner of the competition will be announced early in the summer term, although the group hopes to announce interim results in January to indicate which college will be leading the race in the countdown to the final weeks.

The animals elected for each college are as follows: County are charged with looking after the Silver Backed Gorilla, Bowland the Spectacled Bear, Furness the Tasmanian Devil. Fylde have the Sumatran Tiger, Grizdale have Giraffes while Pendle have Giant Pandas. Lonsdale are looking after the Lemurs, Graduate College the White Rhino and finally Cartmel have Spider Monkeys.

The majority of colleges have the WWF (World Wildlife Foundation) as their nominated charity, however Furness and Fylde are paired with 'Devils in Danger' and 'Tiger Trust' respectively.

For most of these animals, the reason behind their dwindling numbers is human interference, with many animals suffering from deforestation, hunting, and the impact of civil warfare. Despite these problems though, there is still hope for many of the animals, and it is this hope that Lyndsey Michael, Lancaster's Non-Saab Green Officer, is clinging to.



Endangered:
The Brown Spider Monkey (left) is 'Critically Endangered' according to the World Conservation Union. Numbers of Brown Spider Monkeys are predicted to decrease by 80% in three generations.

(Photo: Tom Friedel)

"I really hope this scheme is picked up by the students of the University," she told us. "I think its results can only be positive because it works on so many levels, encompassing the idea of 'reduce, re-use and recycle' along with encouraging students to take an active role in helping endangered species.

"I'm hoping that the campaign will also go some way to raising awareness of our effect on the global environment without consumerist and disposable culture."

The Facebook group set up to

publicise the campaign (Lancaster University goes green) has over 220 members.

Last year saw a 20 percentage point increase in the amount of waste recycled on campus from the previous year. Overall met by a 7.8% decrease in the amount of non-recyclable generated within the University also. The increase in recycling was partly put down to student led recycling projects, and here's to hoping the trend can be continued.

New bars line-manager running loss-making department

of many students this year. With huge Commercial Services losses to make up for, it seems inevitable that Mr Peeks will seek to increase prices yet further, a move that could potentially alienate students even more. Indeed, it was only through Union negotiation with Peeks that the price increases were limited to the extent that they were.

Each commercial services department has its targets set co-operatively by Mr Peeks and the Director of Finance, Andrew Neal. The targets are designed to be reasonable and capable of being met, yet despite assurances throughout the year that he would remain on budget, Peeks failed to do so by huge margins.

The news has alarmed LUSU President, Michael Payne, who believes that college ownership of bars is vital for the student population.

"In the interest of fairness and accountability I would be interested to see whether Mr Peeks is scrutinised and monitored as closely as the colleges bars have been for

falling short of their budget.

"A lack of consistency will only indicate to students that college services fall below other trading activities on the University's priority list."

At the time of going to print, SCAN was not able to reach Mr Peeks for comment.

University Catering losses 07/08:

£20,617

University Catering budget shortfall as a percentage of budgeted amount:

140%

in this scan

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Do you want to write for scan?

Email scan@lancaster.ac.uk or come along to any weekly section meeting. Meetings are open to anyone.

You can find the meeting times for each section in the left-hand column of page 2.

£150m city centre development given go ahead

Planning committee votes 15-4 in favour of Centros' plan

Impression:
An artists
impressino of
Centros prosed
development.



Jason Brown
Keziah Nassiwa
Chris Davis

Development of the ‘Canal Corridor North’ site by urban regeneration company Centros has finally been given the go ahead by members of the City Council’s planning committee, with councillors voting 15-4 in favour of the project.

The £150m plan consists of a Debenhams outlet, retail spaces, a public open area, cafes, offices, and up to 179 houses and apartments, 25 per cent of which Centros promise will be ‘affordable’ housing. The developers aim to bring up to 1,000 full and part-time jobs to the area. Centros Associate Director, David Lewis, said: “This will regenerate an underused and part derelict site in the city centre. Lancaster is the biggest city in the country without a department store - this will satisfy the demand.” He added: “To do nothing would be a backwards step.”

The plan has caused controversy

in recent months due accusations of a lack of consultation on the project, concerns over the increased level of traffic congestion and the potential implications for Lancaster’s status as a ‘historic city’, as well as the effect on local and independent high street shops.

Green Party City Councillor Anne Chapman, who voted against the proposals in the Planning Committee, feels the proposed plan is too big, and would take away too much trade from smaller businesses, suggesting that developing the existing city centre would be more beneficial.

“Something more sympathetic to the area, developing existing derelict buildings for either retail or office use would be more what Lancaster needs” she claims.

The main concern of opponents to the plan are the potential effects the new development might have on the already struggling traffic system in Lancaster, an issue Centros has said it would try to improve. There are also fears that trade may also be taken away from neighbouring towns and markets in the area from the influx of locals choosing to travel to Lancaster for their shopping.

Most other City Councillors on the Planning Committee disagreed with Cllr Chapman’s position on the issue. Labour Group leader and Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee, Eileen Blamire, said: “This is just the first stage. The next stage will be the difficult one, to make sure the developers do an excellent job, using good design and good materials, to make something that Lancaster can be proud of.”

Supporters of the proposals say the development will improve Lancaster’s prospects, with the creation of 1,000 new jobs and an increase in tourism which might potentially lead to greater investment in the city. Centros claim a similar one of their projects, in Carlisle, has proven highly successful, bringing affordable brands into the city and bringing more customers.

Centros must now apply for ‘reserved matters’ permission to determine the final layout of the project, and is due to finish the site in 2012.

Centros approval: reactions

“It would make Lancaster much more interesting for students as well as providing us with jobs. However, I can see that traffic congestion in the city centre would be a massive problem which would need to be solved before the development got underway.”

Emilie Stevenson

“As someone who has been looking for work in Lancaster for 5 months now, and who is not a professor or high-powered executive, I welcome development that will offer jobs to ordinary people like me.”

Daniel Ratcliffe
(former student)

“I am appalled to hear that Lancaster City Council has granted any level of acceptance to Centros! As a resident of Bath Mill I object completely to the proposals to build this ‘new city centre’.”

Cat Smith-Gillies
(nearby resident)

“I think on the whole I can see how some may see this as a good idea as it creates job opportunities and the residents of Lancaster are able to find another reason to enjoy Lancaster. But at the same time, with the economic crisis do we really need a big spending venture?”

Fungisai Chavunduka

“It’s a great idea. Anything to make Lancaster a bit more exciting to local residents and foreign students alike. It is crucial to the town’s development.”

Kanitha Pal

“I think it will be a good thing for students and for Lancaster. It is great that Lancaster is still such a historic city, but it has to develop and modernise just the same.”

Andy Ryan

“I think the development would be a good thing for Lancaster and the location shouldn’t affect the history of the city too much either.”

Daniel Mowat

“I like the idea of getting more public space. I’m not sure Lancaster really needs a Debenhams though - it already has a lot of high street shops, as well as the market.”

Sarah Coote

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Veteran Labour renegade Tony Benn speaks at Lancaster Uni peace lecture

Tony Benn answering a question on the need for a written UK Constitution:

During his time in Parliament, Benn proposed a the Commonwealth of Britain Bill a number of times, which was intended to abolish the British monarchy and make the UK a republic with a written constitution.

(Photo: Rob Miller)



Rob Miller
Lizzie Houghton
Samantha Novak

Tony Benn, “national treasure” and possibly the most famous name in British leftwing politics, came to Lancaster University last week to speak at the Richardson Institute Annual Peace Lecture.

The Richardson Institute, part of the Department of Politics and International Relations, deals with peace and conflict research. Mr. Benn’s talk, entitled “Peace or War: the Choice for Humanity”, is the third of such lectures to be organised by the Institute. Last year’s speaker was former BBC Foreign Affairs Correspondent Martin Bell, following the inaugural lecture by the Independent’s Middle East correspondent, Robert Fisk, a alumni of the University.

Testament to Benn’s enduring popularity, the Faraday Lecture Theatre was crammed with old and young alike. Decked out in the red of his beloved Labour Party, Mr. Benn didn’t waste much time in declaring which side of the ‘Peace or War’ fence he sat on.

“I was trained as a terrorist” was his simple description of his time in the Home Guard during the Second World War.

“I was taught to use a bayonet.” Mr. Benn continued. “I was taught to fire a pistol, to fire a rifle, to throw a grenade. If the Germans had arrived after invading Britain I would have thrown a grenade into a restaurant where they were having food. I have to admit that. The question is: was I a terrorist or was I a freedom fighter?”

It was this question which underscored a great deal of what Mr. Benn had to say. How can we in the West blame those in the East when so much of what we have done can be seen in a negative light? Similarly what is the definition of ‘terrorist’ when people like Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela have been tarnished with that brush?

“If the Germans had arrived after invading Britain I would have thrown a grenade into a restaurant where they were having food. I have to admit that. The question is: was I a terrorist or was I a freedom fighter?”

Mr. Benn was not just concerned with the past. The 83-year-old dedicated a good deal of time to talking about the responsibilities held by younger generations not to repeat the mistakes of their elders. “Although technology changes

at a phenomenal rate, moral questions don’t change. If it was wrong to kill somebody with a bow and arrow it’s wrong to kill the number of people killed in Hiroshima.” Mr. Benn said.

He continued: “[This] is the first generation in human history which has the technical capacity to destroy the human race. With chemical, nuclear and biological weapons it is literally possible to obliterate the whole of the human race. And that has never, ever been true before.

“But it is also of course the first generation which has the know-how, the technology and the money to solve the problems of the human race, and that has never been true before either. This is a massive choice that has to be made by younger people.”

“The most revolutionary idea in the world is when people who don’t have power get power through the democratic process.”

Mr. Benn also touched upon the frightening possibility of an Orwellian future. A staunch believer in civil liberties as well as every person’s right to free speech, he denounced the BNP without calling for their censor, hinted at the Government’s tactics of control by fear and, talking to SCAN, described ID Cards as a way of knowing who’s “got HIV/Aids, who failed their 11 Plus, did you attend a lecture by Tony Benn at Lancaster University? And it might not be true. They might muddle you up with someone with a similar name who really was a supporter of Al-Qaeda or has got a criminal record. And when they’re there the Government will lose them all.”

As a man who’s been in politics for the past 58 years, Mr. Benn is better positioned than most to say what effect the Government can have on ordinary people’s lives. But while a future of war, fear and control may be on option, Mr. Benn was keen to stress that it is not the only option.

“The older I get the more I come to the conclusion that the most revolutionary idea in the world is not socialism,” he said. “It’s when people who don’t have power get power through the democratic process.

“Remember this: there is no final defeat and no final victory. No one generation can put it right for all time if they do the right thing. No defeat can be the final defeat for all our hopes. If you are pessimistic you’re in a prison of your own making, and if instead of saying ‘oh there’s no hope’ you say ‘another world is possible’ then you can change the world.”

Uni is teaching young Kosovans to help build thier fledgling nation

Samantha Novak

In an attempt to help with its integration into the European Union, the nation of Kosovo has sent 35 young students to study in a handful of specially selected EU Universities, 19 of which are studying at Lancaster.

The move comes after the Kosovan Government identified certain skills, which, following Kosovo’s declaration of independence, will help with its drive for full assimilation into the EU. This EU funded programme has been devised in cooperation with the Agency for European Integration at the Kosovo Government

Prime Minister’s Office. It aims to increase skills in a number of areas including agriculture, corporate governance, statistics, energy and the environment.

This is the fourth year that the scholarship programme has been implemented, and it is claimed that over 60 Kosovan students and Civil Servants have so far benefited. This is the first time that Lancaster University has taken part in the scheme. It has been selected to provide education through the form of masters degrees covering statistics, energy, and the environment through the Postgraduate Statistics Centre and the Lancaster Environment Centre.

Recipients of the Young Cell scholarship are being sent to the UK, Germany, Denmark and

Estonia, and, upon completion of their studies, these young professionals will be set to begin working for the Kosovo Administration. The scheme marks an important step in helping to rebuild Kosovo, after dealing with years of unrest within the country, to move closer to achieving European standards.

Kosovo, which declared its independence in February of this year and is recognised as a sovereign nation by 51 United Nations member states, will hopefully continue to benefit from the scheme. For Lancaster, the project fully cements the University’s reputation as an internationally renowned institution, whilst also serving to boost its ethical credentials.

Conference Delegate candidates clash over NUS governance review

Robert Maidstone

Seven candidates are standing for election to be delegates to an NUS Extraordinary Conference in the election to be held this Thursday, October 30th.

The conference, to be held on November 12th, is on proposals for NUS governance reform that could radically alter the structure of the organisation. As LUSU gets seven delegates to NUS, the election will effectively be uncontested, but the hustings still served as a forum for debate about the proposed NUS Governance Review and the stance LUSU should adopt toward it.

First to stand was second year politics student, Pete Macmillan. Although still undecided whether he supported the reforms, he stated there is "no better place" to represent students than at a NUS conference. He was followed by Dan Hogan, who claimed that the



Head to head:
Fraser Welsh (left) and Janie Coleman (right) debated whether Union Council should be allowed to mandate delegates to vote a certain way. 5 other candidates also spoke at hustings. (Photos: Rob Miller)



NUS was "dying for reform" which would allow it to tackle more "relevant" issues. Another current sabbatical officer, Janie Coleman, also supported reform. She expressed a desire to ensure that the "focus is put back on the things that really matter to the students."

Richard Bennett was undecided on the reforms, but focused his speech firmly on criticising the

factional arguments that he felt had dominated previous NUS conferences. Also undecided, Fraser Welsh hoped that if he was elected that he would bring a pair of "fresh and objective eyes" to NUS.

The only candidate to express major concerns over the proposed changes was Kate Fry. Having attended the NUS conference this year, she felt that the reforms "took

power away from the students".

Last to speak was Gemma Evans. Neutral on the reform issue, she felt that student politics was "clogged up with the same old faces", and claimed that she could act as a genuine student voice.

The election will be held on Thursday, October 30th.

LUSU still to be one sabb short

role is vital for maintaining communication between colleges and departments, as well as promoting change at an institutional level.

The role will now go to a second byelection in week eight, as a non-sabbatical position, as university rules do not allow a sabbatical officer to be elected after week four of term. As with all non-sabbatical positions, the elected officer will be unpaid and work on voluntary basis, meaning that they will have to juggle their responsibilities alongside their full-time degree.

Although non-sabbatical officers are an important part of LUSU, volunteers simply do not have the time to tackle the demands of what should be a full time position. However, there is a possibility that the post could be split between two officers.

A byelection will now be held alongside other non-sabbatical and JCR elections, leaving students without an Education & Welfare Officer for Michaelmas term.

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Uni Dean warns pirates: download illegally and face £250 fine

Lizzie Houghton
Deputy News Editor

SIXTEEN Lancaster University students have been fined as much as £250 for handling copyrighted material.

The students were called for a disciplinary hearing before the University Dean early last week following complaints from MGM, Universal and EA that Lancaster students had breached copyright by downloading their products. The University's ResNet system, it is claimed, has been used by the students to facilitate peer-to-peer downloads. It is because of these downloads that the companies claim their rights as owners have been negated.

The University and all users of ResNet must abide by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and the Ja.net Acceptable Use Policy. The University has a responsibility to take action against those who breach the Acceptable Use Policy.

Lawyers have already issued cease and desist orders against the University for previous copyright infringements.

If the companies are not satisfied with the course of action taken, or if the illegal file sharing persists, then the next step would be identifying the offenders to the relevant companies and possibly legal action.

Until recently, outbound traffic on ResNet has been restricted, preventing programs like Skype and most online games from being used online. The demand for Skype as a means to staying in touch with family, led to the restrictions being eased. Consequentially, peer-to-peer software was also enabled, making it easier to download larger files, like films and games, through ResNet.

Steve Warren-Jones, one of ISS's Network Specialists explained: "If [peer-to-peer downloading] carries on we'll have to look at a way to stop it, and programmes like Skype might end up not working. The only way to stop it would be to make ResNet like it was before."

Derelict cinema set for Travelodge takeover

Regally obsolete:
The Regal Cinema in Lancaster has been left unused since early 2007.
(Photo: Duncan Monteith)



County JCR officer resigns after vote of no-confidence

constitutional weight, but it would have been very difficult to continue

working amongst an Executive with so little support or backing.

In a letter sent to the Exec after hearing of the no-confidence motion, Ms Cox offered her explanation for her absence during Freshers' Week. She claimed to have been severely ill and unable to leave home throughout Freshers Week, yet still attempted to resolve a number of issues from her home. She also apologised for drinking while representing the JCR Exec.

Ms Cox told SCAN, "I worked very hard for the college and am regretful that one incident led to people believing I could not carry out my job fully."

12 members of the Executive voted in favour of the no-confidence motion, one voted against and three abstained.

One member of the JCR Executive, who did not wish to be identified, said "None of [the Exec] were prepared to be convinced by anything she said... they wanted her gone"

The same source told SCAN how other members of County JCR had missed just as many meetings or had brought the JCR into disrepute

on previous occasions, yet had had no reproachment from fellow officers. "There have definately been double standards applied throughout the year."

The President of County JCR, Andrew Johnston ('AJ') refused to name the officer who moved the vote of no-confidence to either the Exec or SCAN. In a statement issued by the President, on behalf of the whole JCR Executive, he said: "We stand by our decision as after lengthy debate we felt that it was the last available course of action open to us in order to ensure the smooth running of the Exec and the college itself.

"We would like to thank Lisa for her contributions over the past two terms and we feel that the parting was both amicable and necessary.

The minutes of the meeting show that 12 members of the Executive voted in favour of the no-confidence motion, one voted against and three abstained. Ms Cox was required to leave the room during the ballot, so could not have participated in the vote.

Mr Johnston defended the process of the vote: "according to the County College constitution the VNC [vote of no-confidence] was carried out properly and after worries had been expressed that it may have been incorrectly exacted the minutes and constitution were cross referenced and we can ensure

that the process was constitutionally correct."

Speaking of the tone of the meeting, County JCR Exec member Sandeep Banwait, also LUSU's Chief Returning Officer and Chair of Union Council, told SCAN "it was one of those days that makes you realise just how brutal JCR politics can be... It was a very uncomfortable situation.

"A lot of time and effort is invested into the County JCR and without that commitment and sense of purpose by elected officers, the concerns and interests of the college would not be served... Despite the recent internal JCR politics, the role and work of the JCR Exec will continue to make a positive contribution to the college."

County JCR's Female Education & Welfare post has been filled by co-opting Myfanwy Lloyd and Laura Hounsborne into the position as joint acting officers until the new JCR Executive take over in January. Ms Lloyd and Ms Hounsborne were previously the JCR Women's Officer and International Officer respectively.

Myfanwy Lloyd was elected as LUSU Welfare Campaigns Officer last year, but was later deemed to have resigned after missing a number of Union Council meetings without apologies.

Jason Brown

MANCHESTER Development Company Kempton LTD have announced plans for Hotel chain Travelodge to purchase the derelict former ABC Cinema and Gala Bingo Hall, located in the heart of Lancaster's city centre.

Permission to demolish the existing Cinema and Bingo hall was granted earlier this year by Lancaster City Council. However, a replacement building must be agreed upon before development can go ahead. Further conservational consent will also be required in order to begin development. The

proposed site development will include a 115-bedroom hotel situated between the second and fifth floors, with the ground and first floors being used for retail.

A Kempton Ltd Spokesperson commented both on the level of interest from hoteliers in the marketplace and on the company's pride in improving the City Centre, stating;"We are looking forward to helping to improve the overall amenity of Lancaster by taking a run down old building and turning it into something that's useful. From what we understand from the marketplace, hoteliers would fight to have such a location."

Concerns have been raised about the increased congestion that may result from the increased volume of traffic. A similar criticism was levelled at the 'canal corridor' development project recently approved by the City Council.

Conservationists have also opposed the demolition, claiming that the area is protected by government planning policy, and shouldn't be demolished.

The Regal Cinema originally opened in 1936 with 1,592 seats. Since 1971 it served a dual role as both a Cinema and a Bingo club before finally closing in February 2007.

For students, the construction of a Travelodge in a central Lancaster location may well be something to celebrate, offering visiting friends and relatives a budget alternative to the more expensive hotels within Lancaster.

Average cost of one night in a single hotel room in Lancaster:

£67.20

Price of one night in a Travelodge single room:

£56

Successful year for RAG, with £4,600 raised for charity



RAG-band:
(from right) RAG's Louise Cleary, President Keileigh Tomlinson, and Emily Campbell hand over a cheque for £1,519 to Lancaster Royal Infirmary's Baby Care Unit.

Rob Miller
Assistant Editor

The university's Raising and Giving society celebrated a successful 2007-08 academic year this week with a ceremony handing over cheques to representatives of their chosen charities. The chosen charities for last year's RAG Week were Morecambe's Baby Care Unit, orphan charity S.O.S Children, and cancer support charity Macmillan; each received a share of the £4,558 raised during the week of fund-raising activities that took place in February of this year.

Events in RAG Week included: a gunge tank in which RAG members and union officers were gunged; an inter-college, cross-campus quiz; themed nights in both Cuba and the Carleton; a fancy dress competition; the sale of RAG bands, which gave discounts and special offers at many local and campus businesses;

and general collections. RAG Week is the biggest charity event on campus and typically raises the bulk of RAG's total donations.

Since RAG Week, however, the team have put on several other events---such as a fund-raising drive for Oxfam in Week 2 this term and another for children's

charity Whizz-Kidz in Week 3---and there are plans for many more, to disperse fund-raising activity throughout the year as well as in the annual RAG Week. Highlights include major events around Halloween and a big end-of-term party.

This year RAG hopes to help

more charities, and more local charities too; it welcomes any suggestions of deserving causes on which RAG can concentrate its fund-raising efforts. It also welcomes any new members to its weekly meetings, which take place on Mondays at 6:30 in Furness Lecture Theatre 3.

Where the money went

S.O.S. Children is the world's largest orphan charity. Established in 1949 and based in the UK, it supports orphans and abandoned children around the world and currently helps over 70,000 children in 473 special "Children's Villages", and in particular helps those suffering from the loss of one or both parents through HIV/Aids. In addition to these villages it helps with the education of over 100,000 children in its own nurseries and primary schools.

One of the largest British charities, **Macmillan Cancer Support** provides education, healthcare, specialist nurses and financial support for those affected by cancer, one of the leading causes of death in the UK. Founded in 1911, its primary aim is not only to support those affected by cancer but to change the way cancer support is offered across the country, and by 2010 it hopes to help every single person diagnosed with cancer in the UK.

Morecambe Bay's **Special Care Baby Unit** specialises in the treatment of ill and premature newborn babies. With the aid of the latest medical technology such as incubators and breathing apparatus, ill and premature babies stand a much higher chance of survival in the SCBU than they do in an ordinary hospital, and RAG's money will help ensure they continue to be able to do this.

LUTube.tv call for student TV stars

Chris Davis
News Editor

THE campus based internet TV station, LUTube.tv, is searching for contestants to take part in two gameshows that it plans to produce and shoot over the course of the

term.

The student television group, whose internet TV channel has broadcast footage of University events such as the Roses sporting tournament and Freshers' Fair, is now looking for "couples up for a laugh, adventure and unique experience" to get involved in their latest projects. The first project is billed as a "cross-campus adventure

gameshow", with couples who take part having the opportunity to win "an all expenses paid night out". However, applicants are warned that there may be also be a possibility of experiencing the effects of LUTube's infamous gunge tank, although the group guarantee that they will "cover the costs of dry cleaning" should this be the case.

The gunge tank will be in use

again in the later project, which the group are comparing to children's TV favourite Get Your Own Back, in which contestants take part in a range of challenges, with the losers getting liberally 'gunged'. LUTube promise this show will provide the chance to "settle a score with a friend."

Anyone interested in taking part in either gameshow, or who wish to find out more about these projects or LUTube in general, can e-mail lutubetv.entertainment@hotmail.co.uk before Tuesday 4th November. There will also be a meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 5th November, details of which can be obtained by e-mailing the address.

Students left struggling as loans 'lost' in computer system



Lisa Stallard

STUDENTS across the University have suffered a difficult start to the new academic year due to late payments of their student loans, forcing many to delay payments of residence fees, or finding a shortfall in funds to cover living expenses.

The Student Loans Company (SLC) have been unable to explain the escalating problems. Students have been told that there is no obvious reason for the delays. Further inquiries have revealed that some loans have been 'stuck' between Local Education Authorities (LEAs) and the SLC, preventing the company from transferring money into students' accounts.

Those affected seem mostly to be those who applied for loans online. According to an SLC representative, some loan applications completed online had been "lost then rediscovered," a problem that is likely to have delayed loan payments.

In addition to preventing rent payments and paying the host of other bills due at the start of the academic year, the delays in loan payments have left many students without the funds to cover day-to-day living expenses. Students who are having problems due to the delay of their maintenance loan have been advised to contact the LUSU Advice Centre or Student Support in University House. Both financial aid and help in negotiating with the SLC is available.

Local councils lose £16m to collapsed Icelandic banks

Lizzie Houghton
Deputy News Editor

LANCASTER City Council has been revealed as one of a number of local authorities who have savings in the now collapsed Icelandic banks – Landsbanki, Glitnir and Kaupthing.

Lancaster City Council has £6m invested in the banks. They are also joined by Lancashire County Council, who had savings of £10m in Landsbanki, along with Chorley Borough Council who had £2m and South Ribble Borough Council who had £5m saved away.

According to the BBC all of these funds have now been frozen.

In a statement, Lancaster City Council's Chief Executive, Mark Cullinan, explained how: "as part of its investment strategy Lancaster City Council currently has a portfolio totalling £24m spread across a number of financial institutions.

"Around £6m of the current portfolio is invested in three Icelandic banks."

He added: "At the time of making these investments, the banks concerned were reputable institutions with high credit ratings.

"These investments are not due to mature until 2009, and so, in the short term, the council does not face any financial difficulties or expect any impact on service delivery.

"We are monitoring the situation very closely and will be working with other councils and the Local Government Association to seek protection for our investments and prevent any loss to council taxpayers."

Iceland's financial crisis began earlier this year when the national currency, the Icelandic Crown, plunged to a record low against the Euro. As a result many of Iceland's biggest banks struggled to payback the large amounts of foreign debt they had taken on in order to

finance global expansion. Glitnir, Iceland's third-largest bank, was the first of the three to be nationalised with the Icelandic Government buying up a 75% stake.

It is believed that local authorities across the UK could have had as much as £760m tied up in the Icelandic banks. The Government has put together a "rapid response unit" to look at individual council cases. However they have not promised to guarantee this money in the manner of individual savers'.

Although there are fears that the cash lost will have to be recovered through tax increases and cuts to public spending, ministers are under pressure from opposition parties to keep this to a minimal.

Speaking to the BBC, Chorley Councillor Alan Cullens said: "I would reassure residents that we are doing everything possible to bring this issue to a positive conclusion during a very uncertain and unforeseen time."

Night life trumps funding in comparing universities, study finds

Chris Davis
News Editor

STUDENTS are more likely to base their choice of University on 'good nightlife and entertainment' than 'access to funding and grants', new research has revealed.

A survey by the student funding website studentcashpoint.co.uk questioned more than 2,000 16-24 year-olds on the factors that would most influence their choice of university. Whilst the top three factors: course choices, academic reputation and location were expected, researchers were concerned to see 'entertainment' placed fourth, ahead of seventh placed 'funding availability'. Of those questioned, only 42% stated they found access to student funding including grants, bursaries and scholarships important.

The results have led to a call for

institutions and authorities to make clearer to students the level of additional funding that they could be eligible for. Jeremy Philips, speaking on behalf of studentcashpoint.co.uk, cited "lack of awareness" as a major problem.

"All our research repeatedly highlights the problem that despite millions of pounds worth of funds and grants available, too few students know about them, or are actively finding out how much cash they might be eligible for" said Mr Philips. "We believe hundreds of thousands of UK students every year could be missing out on funding."

The studentcashpoint.co.uk website aims to challenge this knowledge gap by allowing students to compare the amount of funding available to them at different universities, thus aiding their choice of where to study. The website lists over 3,000 government grants, industrial sponsorships, educational trusts and university bursaries.



ELECTIONS

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New degree classification scheme to take into account the 'full experience' of University life

Samantha Newsham

STUDENTS from eighteen universities across Britain will be receiving new-style 'report cards' alongside their standard degree classifications from 2009.

The Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) will include a breakdown of students' marks on individual modules and assignments, as well as details of voluntary work undertaken and involvement in student societies.

The new system, proposed by Professor Robert Burgess of the University of Leicester, has been designed with the aim of providing potential employers with a

wider range of information about a student than they are given from the existing classifications. Currently, two-thirds of graduating students obtain either a first or a 2:1. One purpose of HEAR will be to allow employers to distinguish between a range of highly qualified students, identifying those with skills most relevant to the workplace.

It is hoped that the scheme will encourage students to participate fully in all areas of university life. Carl Gilleard, chief executive of the Association of Graduate Recruiters, told the Guardian: "Employers are very interested in the full experience students have of university. Running a university society, for example, does help a student develop important skills."

Other advantages to the scheme

would include students receiving a fuller official acknowledgement of their successes at university than a bare first, second or third.

The development of the report cards was due to a report by Professor Burgess in 2004 stating that the current classification system needed a complete overhaul. This was followed by a second report in 2007 which found no superior method of classification to the one used at present, and so concluded that providing more information about results was a better alternative to leaving the system as it stood.

HEAR will be piloted in English, Biology, Accounting and the Creative Arts at various institutions, amongst them St Andrews, The University of Manchester, and University College London



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Letters to the Editor



Send your letters to scan@lancaster.ac.uk together with you 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.

In your 30 September issue, you carry items defending the college system – rightly. Yet on page 12, Susannah Chadwick argues that campus accommodation should be made a first year ghetto. What makes the college system distinctive is that our colleges aren't merely student accommodation, but living communities. To maintain this sense of community and continuity, we need a significant element from every year resident in college.

Virtually all universities reserve their accommodation guarantees for Firm acceptances. This is to

provide predictability but also acts as an encouragement to make the university in question their Firm choice.

By the way, when I was a first year undergrad at Leeds in 1986, my hall of residence was 5 miles from campus, three others were about 4 miles away and 3 more between 2 and 3 miles away – so bus trips from accommodation to campus aren't a new phenomenon.

Dr Richard Austen-Baker
Admissions Tutor, Law

In the previous issue Phil Miles poured scorn over the desire of smokers to smoke in the privacy of their own, rented, smoking bedrooms (where they exist). As a non-smoker living in the Pendle studios I should be royally peeved by my "filthy" neighbours. Many in my building are smokers yet I have not whiffed upon a puff of smoke in my two years here.

Smokers simply enjoy a little sinful pleasure, just like all you drinkers, pie-scoffers and, in Mr Miles' case, ear-splitting music players. Mr Miles in his grace does

not plead for a soundproof room for his music. His music is not being banned.

In a liberal society we should have the right to enjoy a diverse range of pursuits; but the diversity of Huxley's nanny state means conformity. As a non-drinker, I don't complain about the boisterous howlings of the alpha-drinker, the intimidation and the rowdiness, but then I am, as Mr Miles most charmingly put it - the minority.

Kyle Patterson,
Pendle College

I was shocked when I arrived to pick up a paper to find the suicide of a student being reported in such a tabloid fashion ('Student page-3 girl commits suicide', 30th sept 2008). The style of reporting was sensationalist, and the piece didn't seem to have a grave tone befitting the tragedy. An obituary written by one of her closest friends would have been more respectful. I thought the photo used was insensitive, as it seemed to be a 'page 3' picture.

I was irritated that another student with my point of view received such short shrift in the last issue. Please be more sensitive in further articles as SCAN seems to be a pertinent and interesting paper in other respects.

Charlotte Watson
Cartmel College

Is it just me, or is the work ethic of UPP "don't know and don't care" or "Bodgit and Scarper"?

Arrogance reigns supreme among the ranks; not only do they fail to carry out their work commitments but they hinder others from doing theirs. Why are they employing young boys to do the work of supposed craftsmen; is it to with cost cutting - e.g. minimum wage?

I for one have had enough of their mentality, or lack of it. It's about time maintenance was handed back to the University's own staff and UPP were gotten rid of.

How long does it take to replace the lock on a block's front door? One day, or over a fortnight - and still waiting.

Anon.

Response: T-shirt tyrants

A response of indignation in regard of last issue's article deriding 'rude, ignorant and arrogant' JCR members.

As a committed member of our college JCR, I have yet to experience any arrogant abuse of position from any of our Exec, who have tirelessly served our college, inducting this year's freshers in a professional manner.

Commenting on how low the prestige of the JCR Exec has sunk with a misinformed article can only cause further lack of respect.

Cartmel College does in fact run a very thorough Kitchen Rep interview process and so far this year there have been no reports of Reps abusing their position- instead we have heard only reports of excellent, professional and caring conduct.

I invite the editor, who this morning I specifically helped choose a better location for the distribution of his newspaper in Cartmel College, to think carefully who he alienates.

Robbie Pickles
Cartmel JCR Treasurer
(printed for truth, not vanity)

I found it incredibly funny to see the reactions of some JCR officers upon reading Liam Richardson's piece on 'T-Shirt Tyrants' in the last issue of SCAN. Watching them react in outrage as they read the article demonstrated exactly what Liam had said: some JCR officers are more concerned with their image and their reputation than they are concerned for doing a good job.

You would hope that these officers would ask themselves how they can improve the attitudes of their Execs and their Kitchen Reps so that there would be no grounds for criticism in future - but no. Instead, they get angry at SCAN for publishing an article that dares to criticise their conduct, as if SCAN should be there to massage their egos.

SCAN exists to provide honest news and comment, not to bow in deference to these puffed up egomaniacs. Keep it up.

Disillusioned,
Lonsdale College

In response to the 'T-shirt Tyrants' coverage, I think the points were absolutely spot on. Many kitchen reps are encouraging a reckless attitude towards the whole point of Fresher's Week, manipulating new students into thinking they will only be accepted at University if they are the loudest and most drunk member of their college. It is intimidating and inappropriate, with some students feeling isolated and bored. Drinking and having a good time is fun, throwing up everywhere and humiliating yourself is not.

Some kitchen reps are clearly abusing their role, which is to be responsible and approachable. This doesn't mean offering them your bed and providing the condom! I think those standing for the next JCR positions need to take note of the points highlighted by both Liam Richardson and Lizzie Houghton in last week's SCAN and make amends for the embarrassment of this year's Fresher's Week.

Michelle McShane
Furness College

I am writing in response to the story 'Lancaster students satisfied, but graduates left grieving'. I am a Lancaster graduate, who has now returned to do a masters, and the statistics certainly match up to my experience. After I graduated I had the daunting prospect of going home and looking for a graduate job. It is near impossible! I don't know anyone who graduated from Lancaster, or any other university, who has landed a graduate job yet.

My advice is look at your options and do something about it now to give yourself the best chance because before you know it, you have graduated and are left in the wilderness of the graduate job market, lost and bewildered.

Lindsay Morgan
Graduate College

Following the SCAN report that plans for the new Sports Centre have been "shelved", can I let readers know that the University is still progressing the project.

The Sports Centre project is linked to an agreement on "phase 5" of the Residences Project. Previous phases have allowed us to build and refurbish 4000 student rooms. Phase 5 aims to bring remaining rooms up to a high standard and to raise money for further investment in facilities. Despite the current turbulence in financial markets, discussions on phase 5 are moving forward which reflects the underlying strength of the scheme. Bradford and Bingley have never been involved in these discussions.

Lancaster University is in a sound financial position. We have substantial cash reserves

that have not been affected by the credit crunch and we are able to move forward with our capital program.

Andrew Neal, Director of
Finance and Resources

May we take the opportunity to thank all the officers of the Students Union and societies for a wonderful Friday at Freshers Week. Our members had a stall for the first time and recruited lots of new members, had great fun and were truly impressed by the efficient organization of the event.

Thanks to you all,

Janet Ross-Mills
Secretary,
Senior Learners Society

Your verdict: US Elections

The whole world needs the change Obama will bring

Kerry Floyd

As an American citizen who actually gets a say in this most publicized election (assuming they don't disenfranchise the overseas voters yet again), I am frequently asked which candidate I will be supporting this year. At home in the People's Republic of Boulder, Colorado (actually a 'swing state'), the answer goes without saying: Barack Obama. I have been a registered Democrat from age 18, and I have attended the Party causes every year. Barack Obama, as the Democratic nominee, gets my vote not least because he is the leader of a party with which I am very much involved. But aside from his party affiliation, why Obama?

In terms of foreign policy, it's obvious that the Bush Doctrine has made us more enemies than friends. I am all for Obama's plan to build alliances through open, aggressive, personal discussions. Peace won't happen if we continue to refuse to speak to people who disagree with us. It's time America stopped using force and ignoring our allies and time we started backing UN peace processes and respecting other countries.

It's appalling that America has no universal healthcare system. My family has private insurance through my father's employer, and as a family we still pay close to \$5000 a year for prescription medications alone. My mother and sister have rheumatoid arthritis, a condition that will likely shut my 18-year-old sister out of medical insurance because of her expensive "pre-existing condition." Obama will put an end to insurance racketeering and make sure that all Americans will be covered by insurance.

But since the media likes to focus on personality, I can't leave that out. Obama speaks to me as a young person. He is not a 72-year-old white guy trying to insist that our "core values" are the same. On a generational level, Obama thinks the way I do. Granted, 47 is not the same as 22, but Obama has consist-

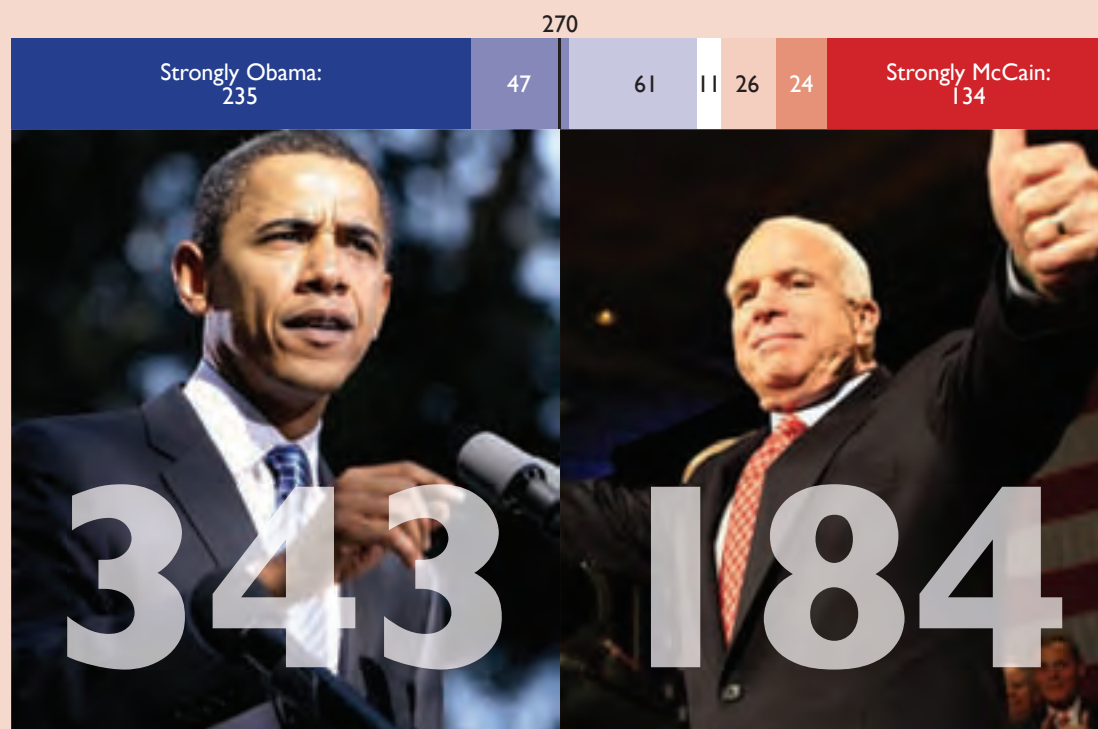
ently spoken to the power of young voters and to our importance in his campaign, whereas McCain has not. He is the first candidate in my memory to have insisted that Americans believe in their own capacity to affect the democratic process. That idealism, combined with Obama's clear plans to achieve those ideals, make him an incredibly appealing candidate to an equally idealistic young liberal.

One of the key street-level Republican quips for the last 8 years has been "I like McCain/Palin/Bush because they're the type of person I could sit down and have a beer with." Quite frankly though, I don't want my drinking mates running the country. Obama is indeed a very personable guy, and I would happily join him for a cup of coffee if he asked. But he also has his Harvard Law degree and his Presidency of the Harvard Law Review. He has been trained to make good, fair decisions with the most equitable outcome in mind.

Obama is a candidate who represents balance, progress, education, hope, integrity, and idealism; values America has forgotten and abandoned in the last 8 years. It's time we cleaned up our image.

John McCain has the experience to lead the US in troubled times

Projected electoral college vote (270 needed to win.)



Source: electoral-vote.com. Correct as of 12/10/08

634 - No. of days Barack Obama served in Senate before announcing his candidacy for President.

7782 - No. of days John McCain served in Senate before announcing his candidacy for President.

\$454,056,322
Barack Obama's fundraising total.

\$230,039,822
John McCain's fundraising total.

\$150,000

spent by the Republican National Committee has spent on clothes and cosmetics for Sarah Palin and her family since joining the ticket.

Sam Wicks

I don't get to talk about politics often. Most of my friends tend to find it boring, or don't know enough to make for a decent conversation. When I do talk about it though, I've noticed a tendency in them to support Obama, a trend I've noticed in quite a lot of people. Where's the love for McCain?

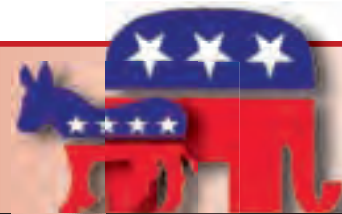
There are plenty of reasons why McCain would make a good President. Skipping over economic matters (because I'm tired of hearing about them, and I'm sure you are too), let's look at some of his promises. First up, climate change. Unlike the sitting President, McCain is willing to accept that maybe the climate is a bit messed up, and that maybe America could afford to be a little greener. He's prepared to do something about it, and if America shows willing, it can only help to lead the rest of the world into doing similar.

Next, let's look at his views on war. As you might expect from

someone who used to be in the military, McCain has supported the war from the start, and still does to an extent. But he also knows when it's time to do something about the mess that's been made. Yes, McCain is in favour of pulling American troops out of Iraq, and while it may not be an immediate thing - because let's face it, that really wouldn't work - it's certainly an improvement over the current position on things. I'm willing to bet that McCain at least knows how to leave occupied territory sensibly, and I'm not sure I could say the same for Obama, considering their different backgrounds.

You can point out McCain's flaws, and I'll admit to some of them, but Obama isn't faultless himself. First, let's look at the age; Obama is young. David Cameron gets a lot of flak in this country for his age, and Obama is only a few years older. The question has to be asked (and yes, it already has been asked), does he really have enough experience to be in charge of one of the most powerful countries in the world? Compare him to his rival; with over 4 times the years in experience, won't John McCain be a much safer bet for the job? Especially in their current circumstances, in an economic crisis and after 8 years of President Bush, isn't it quite important to get the job right? This isn't something you want to mess up and no-one can really be sure that Obama can make it work. In this sense, McCain seems like a much stronger candidate, we can be much surer of his ability.

Obama's main campaign message is 'Change' and it's plain to see that America is in need of some change, but Obama seems to advocate a complete overhaul of everything, and that doesn't seem like the best idea. Once again, I'm not sure that Obama can handle what he wants to do, and it's worrying to think what might happen if he does things wrong, which seems like it would be all too easy to do. Simply put I don't think Obama is fit for the role of President yet, and in these circumstances McCain seems like a much better option.



Why can our political process not generate the same excitement?

Jacqueline Curley

God bless Americans. No, really. Months and months of balloons, banners, hysteria, intrigue, excitement, controversy, and my favourite factor: real unadulterated passion. If the Americans know how to do anything, it's put together a damn good political rally. The closest thing I've ever seen to a rally in UK politics is the 32 second standing ovation Brown got at the latest Labour Party conference. Even then I'm almost certain that most people were applauding the fact that he'd finally shut up.

I know we're British and all, and thus it's against our way of life to get overtly excited about anything, but I can't help thinking we should be making an exception for politics. It's one of the most important pillars of everyday life, right up there with media, religion, and cake. We all seem to be able to build up an acceptable fuss about religion (usually in attack-mode,

these days), and the media is always part of one ruckus or another, but when it comes to politics, nobody really seems to give a damn.

Why are the majority of us so apathetic when it comes to elections, of any scale, while the Americans jump into it headfirst with all the grace and delicacy of an elephant (or donkey)? The election this year is probably not a good indicator, because of the shock and horror of a black man running for President, but the point stands nonetheless.

A great deal of it is to do with the fact that the Americans are involved in more of the process. In a general election in the UK we are, theoretically, voting for a political party. Unless you are a party member that's about all you can do. But in America, there are caucuses, primaries, conventions, and campaigns that last up to two years. Our campaigns last about four weeks. Not much time to drum up the kind of shenanigans that America seems to revel in.

Of course, there's also the fact that we would appear to only have one party in the UK. Nobody can be bothered trying to differenti-

ate between the parties when the parties themselves don't make any effort to do so. Essentially we pick blue or red (heaven forbid anyone should consider the rest of the colour spectrum) and if all it boils down to choosing a bald man or a balding man, you can understand why nobody is particularly interested. That said, the Americans still manage to get the flags flying over what are essentially the same choices we have, so there is no excuse for us not to bother. Perhaps if one of our political leaders invested in a toupee, we would all become much more excited and interested.

What it comes down to is a matter of pride. Americans are proud of their country, their political system, their beliefs, their status in the world. The British, in contrast, are proud of their dignity, their attitude, their customs and traditions. To act as the Americans do would be to compromise our integrity as a nation. Show emotion? In public? No chance. Plus we're all probably afraid of finding out that political campaigning is just something else the Americans can do better than us.

The real test of Obama's mantra of change will be turnout on election day

Dan Hogan

Editor

Change. It's a powerful message, and one that Barack Obama has effectively captured from America's political right throughout this election.

If the polls are to be believed and Obama has indeed convinced the majority of the American public that he would bring positive and substantive Change to Washington DC, as well as the country as a whole, then the first road test of that mantra will be in the post-election analysis.

For Obama's message to survive until his inauguration then the predictions of record turnout need to be followed through.

Because of Obama's candidacy, both young and black voters in the US are feeling more engaged with politics: The primaries saw record numbers of African-Americans turn out to vote. Not only does a relatively young - Obama is 47 - black man running for President mobilise young and black Americans alike to get out and vote for him, but his message chimes with sections of the American populace

that have not had their issues spoken to by the political elite for years.

If the African-American turnout in the Democratic primaries earlier in the year is anything to go by then this theory may be borne out.

According to Harvard University's Institute of Politics, Senator Obama is leading Senator McCain by 55% to 32% among young voters, who make up roughly a fifth of the electorate.

By the same token the African-American vote is also a crucial deciding factor. The primaries were fortunate for Obama. Not so fortunate is the 8m eligible African-Americans who are not registered to vote on November 4th. That accounts for roughly 32% of eligible African-American voters.

If Obama wins, without a substantial boost in numbers of black and young voters turning out, then his victory will be down to disaffection with Republicans and the economy. But for the longer term, Obama needs to show that he carries more than just the diehards with him. He needs to demonstrate, by turning out votes from demographics who feel disconnected from politics, that he has made that vital reconnection.

Explaining Palin

Tom Hollingworth

There's a lot of anger and worry, not to mention confusion, being flung across the Atlantic in the direction of Sarah Palin recently, and I find myself having to agree with most of it.

Being liberal-minded, I find it very worrying that John McCain's running mate in his bid for the US presidency views American involvement in Iraq as a God-given mission, and that she is vehemently opposed to abortion rights for women, even in cases of rape or incest. And she hunts moose. If McCain wins the election, she will

be only one heartbeat away from becoming the President of the US, which (given US global power and influence) means that she may become the most powerful person on the planet. I'm sure a lot of people are wondering why the hell Americans are supporting her.

But think about this for a moment: even though what happens in America will affect the rest of the world to a greater or lesser extent, we are not the ones making this decision. For it to be any other way would be like giving a vote in a local council election to a Deep South redneck - how would we feel about living by the kind of laws and government they would approve of?

I am by no means condoning Sarah Palin's political views, but

you cannot escape the fact that they reflect the views of a huge number of Americans. A lot of them must be a little annoyed at us darn Europeans telling them what's right for their country. But then of course, you could say the

To your average redneck, Obama – a liberal, educated, black Democrat – must seem like the East Coast devil

same about the people who support Robert Mugabe.

Sarah Palin is not a good politician, and she would make an awful Vice President. The Republicans may crow about her experience as Governor of Alaska, but what kind

of a political trial-by-fire is governing over a backwater? I don't mean any offence to the inhabitants of, say, the Outer Hebrides, but I wouldn't expect a Prime Minister to come from there. Would you?

The difference with America, and especially with Republican 'Red' states, is that it seems that this small town, backwater mentality is seen as a kind of advantage. To your average redneck, Obama – a liberal, educated, black Democrat – must seem like the East Coast devil. The number of times I have heard the Democratic candidates described as the 'Washington elite' is absurd. To some, Palin is seen as some kind of fairytale figure, a Robin Hood going to the castle to mete out justice. And no matter how regressive her politics, and

how incompetent she seemed in the Vice-Presidential debate, she at least appears to be the embodiment of that magic word of the Republican campaign: a maverick. For the Americans who are fed up with what they see as 'liberal media bias' and the 'Washington elite', Sarah Palin must seem like a breath of fresh air.

So if you were ever wondering why Americans aren't flocking to the Democratic cause after 8 years of George Bush, that might just be your answer. A significant number of Americans still actually think he was right. And although we largely disagree, what right do we have to tell them what to think about their own country?

Nuclear power is the answer to our energy needs

No nuclear power plant has been built in the UK for decades; the existing network is a disparate smattering of ageing reactors limping towards decommission. Everyone knows it's an industry stymied by uncertainty, both regulatory and economically.

And yet, there was a sense of ebullience in the room when the National Nuclear Laboratory's Kevin Hesketh addressed the assembled science delegates in the Cavendish Colloquium recently.

So what has changed to warrant this new found optimism? In short, everything. The UK energy market is unrecognizable from a few years ago. Energy tariffs have risen sharply, we're increasingly reliant on oil and gas imports, and when you consider Britain's commitment to CO2 reductions, there is large hole in the energy market for a proven, emission-free source of energy which needs to be filled. Of the possible contenders, nuclear energy is the only one able to deliver on all fronts.

But what about Britain's substantial legacy of nuclear waste? At present, all the of the UK's 'High Level' nuclear waste is stored at Sellafield, in Cumbria. For many years the issue of how to deal with this has been the biggest stumbling-block for the expansion of Britain's civil nuclear capacity. But gone are the days when government policy was dictated by ideology; now the corridors of Whitehall are run to

the mantra of 'the path of least resistance.'

Two major factors have forced policy-makers past the once insurmountable issue of waste-disposal. The first is Britain's reliance on imports of natural gas (currently generating the lion's share of domestic electricity), which since 2007, have been rising year-on-year. Over time we are likely to import more from politically unstable areas, such as Nigeria and the Caspian, and an increasingly resource-aggressive Russia. By contrast, our nuclear fuel is mainly sourced from politically sound countries, including our allies: over half the world's production of uranium comes from mines in Canada and Australia.

The second factor are emissions reduction targets. Although nuclear power already plays an important part in Britain's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol, the lengthy process of fully commissioning a reactor means the 2012 Kyoto deadline comes too soon for nuclear power to do any more to meet that target. However, the industry's role will come to be far more integral to meeting the EU's targets for 2020, and Britain's own highly ambitious goal of 80% CO2 reductions by 2050. Indeed, if the cost of wind power is not substantially reduced, and carbon-capture and storage cannot demonstrate practicality on large scale, this target is simply unachievable without nuclear power's emissions-free energy.



The implications of these targets for the nuclear industry have not been lost on the board of EDF Energy (now effectively responsible for Britain's entire nuclear network after its takeover of Britishnrgy), who recently announced plans to build four new reactors at existing sites in Somerset and Suffolk – the first of which is due to begin operating by the end of 2017. Already, nuclear reactors currently generate around 15% of domestic electricity supply; if EDF's plans come to fruition this market share is destined to rise significantly, and for the

Number of homes powered by each of Heysham's two nuclear reactors:

1.5m

Health service cynics ought to spend some time abroad

Carys Hepworth

It is easy to criticise the National Health Service: Many would seem to consider it a hobby. Complaints of insufficient funding, ridiculous waiting times and general incompetence go hand in hand with the endless grumbles about government taxes which, ironically, pay for the somewhat unique British luxury of the NHS. In order

to discover whether the situation really is all that bad, I took a closer look at other European systems.

Health care in Germany has a reputation as being one of the best in the world. Hospitals are clean, well-run and plentiful, even in the more remote areas. However, a survey carried out by the Commonwealth Fund found that 55% of Germans are pushing for reform. Having lived in Germany and experienced the German system firsthand, I was stretched to find any advantages over our NHS which really stand out.

For example, doctors' surgeries

in Germany close on Wednesday afternoons, so the smallest complaint is directed straight to casualty. I witnessed a young lady having a rather violent reaction

A pharmacy on every corner with queues forming all the way to the next pharmacy suggest a national plague outbreak, rather than the mere hypochondria that grips the land

to a horsefly bite as she waited in casualty for 2 hours, before being

prodded and told she'd be "right as rain" (or the German equivalent). This invaluable advice set her back £28. And heaven forbid you should fall ill at the weekend, as the privilege of a hospital visit on a Saturday or Sunday could double your bill for this reason alone. A little short on cash? That ruptured spleen will just have to wait until Monday.

Of course, health insurance companies foot a large proportion of these bills, which simply makes it is a question of whether one would be happier protesting the NHS' shortcomings or those of the insurance companies – not always known for fast or eager payouts.

Other fine examples of a good idea gone wrong are evident in France. A pharmacy on every corner with queues forming all the way to the next pharmacy suggest a national plague outbreak, rather than the mere hypochondria that grips the land. If a pharmacy is closed (as they tend to be on Sundays, Mondays, lunchtimes and whenever they fancy "une verre" 2), there will be a sign on the door directing you to the emergency services' phone number.3

On entering any pharmacy seeking cough medicine I would invariably leave, confused and afraid, with £40 worth of medicine for



We must rediscover leadership in order to effect any kind of change for students



Michael Payne
LUSU President

As an elected student officer you can often be left thinking whether the decisions you make and the campaigns you launch are what the students really want.

The old Abraham Lincoln cliché regarding government of the people, by the people, for the people seems increasingly irrelevant in modern day Student Unions. This cliché of change for the students, by the students would perhaps be better replaced with the mantra of change *with* the students. There are key issues or campaigns that officers may overlook, which students are desperate for their Union to lead on.

No longer will it suffice to utter the mantra we said, we did, you gained, the common parlance of a relevant Student Union should be you said, we all did, we all gained.

A Students Union without followers, supporters and activists is a Union taking a walk. A Union with

all of the above is one which leads and delivers for the many.

It was when I was sitting on several delayed trains back from Conferences I was left thinking about what we could realistically do as a Union to engage more with our membership; I came to the conclusion that an Obamaesque named campaign that would enable us to truly engage with our membership is what's called for.

It is with self-deprecation and frustration in mind that I plan to launch a campaign called Lead to Change. I shall be making my way round JCR Executive Committees, Union officers and releasing a direct survey to students challenging members to give me three key issues or campaigns they believe LUSU should be covering that we currently aren't. This process will culminate in a conference for students and officers to lay out a clear policy for the future of LUSU and

the Colleges.

Gone are the days of kneejerk politics and drifting leadership, 2008 and beyond requires a collective, engaging and pro-active approach from Student Unions which are constantly under pressure from government agendas.

In the interest of students we must also rapidly complete the reform of our structures, end the naval gazing and dedicate our time to outcomes rather than process. Whilst process is important to effective operation of a Student Union, it is by no means top of the priority list for students walking round campus.

My challenge to you as members of LUSU is to vocalise your opinions, hold your officers to account and work with us to create a student experience that is specifically tailored to our needs and requirements.

If, as students we are to shape the agenda of the University we must step up to the plate and deliver our thoughts coherently, collectively and constructively.

Only a concerted effort of activism, discussion and solidarity will lead to change. Join the debate, participate in the discussion and watch this space.

first time nuclear power could become the UK's primary source of electricity.

Given nuclear's chequered history in the UK it seems fitting that the onset of a global recession should coincide with its apparent rebirth. While a growing number of EU countries show signs of buckling under the burden of the current financial climate, and make no secret of their opposition to ambitious green goals, the UK has shown remarkable determination, encapsulated by the Energy and Climate Change Secretary's recent

speech to the House of Commons: "In tough economic times, some people will ask whether we should retreat from our climate change objectives," Mr Miliband said. "In our view, it would be quite wrong to row back." Despite the confidence of policy-makers in Whitehall, it remains to be seen how treacherous the waters of this recession will prove, and how sturdy the hull of the UK economy. And so it also remains to be seen how long nuclear powers fortunes will be favoured.

illnesses I had never heard of: most of which having to be administered in the most unthinkable ways (the French national fondness of suppositories strikes again). The common cold seems not to exist in France, it is always a symptom of some sinister "illness". A "disease" more often than not cured only by a trip to a health spa, prescribed of course by your doctor and involving a good month off work and, as also in Germany, the consumption of many cream cakes.

Every system has its shortcomings and complaints can be found about anything when one is determined to find fault. I believe that

the characteristics of each nation can be found at its core: the health system. In France, the obsession with pampering and hypochondria (although I am intrigued by these spa trips...) and the German speed and organisation at whatever cost. In Britain we enjoy a great health service which, in my experience, is just as good as that of France and Germany. These "annoying" taxes are the very reason we enjoy a free health service: might this perhaps reflect the British love of complaining?

These "annoying" taxes are the very reason we enjoy a free health service: might this perhaps reflect the British love of complaining?



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Postgraduates needs are not the same as undergrads: at last this has been recognised



Liam Richardson
Comment Editor

Sometimes it appears difficult to establish where the 3,500 postgraduates at Lancaster University fit into the grand scheme of things. Before becoming a postgraduate myself I had noticed that postgraduate students on the whole were quite a disparate, almost invisible presence.

There are many factors to take into account as to why this occurs. Many students come from other academic institutions and spend only one year here making it hard to integrate fully into the University. The extensive workload and financial difficulties due to lack of a student loan also contribute heavily. Another major issue is that 50% of postgraduates at the University are international students which means there is added pressure in attempting to unify diverse nationalities into the college system; exacerbated by the other problems listed above. So in short, postgraduates have quite a hard time of it in a social sense, and seem to struggle to slot into the collegiate system. Part of the problem is that Graduate College has not previously differentiated itself enough from the undergraduate colleges, when their target demographic is starkly different.

Graduate College was the last college to be created at Lancaster, only established in 1992, and so maybe it does not quite have the rich history of say a college like Bowland. They have never, for instance, won the Carter Shield and have traditionally struggled to field teams for sports events and although this has not yet shown much in the way of improvement, many other aspects have altered dramatically. A fortnight ago the college passed a new constitution, which dramatically restructured the GSA (Graduate Student Association). The new exec has been

streamlined to fewer members and specifically caters for postgraduate needs instead of focusing on social secretaries which are perhaps less relevant in a college of postgraduates with a lot of work to do. This brand new constitution was passed in the first quorate meeting that Graduate College had seen in many years. Postgraduates are now better represented in LUSU and at Union Council, which is essential as the postgraduate community pumps a lot of money into Lancaster University, and as such deserve to have their individual issues and concerns addressed at a level where the University has to listen.

The new sense of optimism is best encapsulated by the many GSA posters which adorn the spine and the success of the Wednesday curry night (the food provided by the excellent Sultan), as well as an upcoming cider festival. The Herdwick (formerly known simply as Grad Bar) is one of only two college bars to have setanta sports and has an excellent range of real ales; it must certainly be one of the most bustling bars on campus. LUSU has definitely taken an active role in driving the GSA forward and the appointment of Jo Hardman (a member of staff in LUSU) as the college Principal certainly means there is good communication and a shared vision as to how to improve the college. It seems that this new found unity and college spirit have been achieved by identifying and differentiating itself from the undergraduate colleges and listening to the views of its postgraduate membership. Perhaps, one day this increased representation could ultimately manifest itself in the form a Postgraduate Sabbatical officer. Who knows?

How to better Beijing in 2012

Chris Blackburn

On the 27th of July 2012 the Olympic Games will begin in London, and the rest of the world will look on as we strive to show we are capable of hosting the oldest and most famous sporting event in the world. London's predecessors were brilliantly run, successful games. Sydney was acknowledged as one of the most exciting Olympics ever; there was the emotional homecoming to the Olympic birthplace in Athens, followed by the spectacular display this summer in Beijing.

The way for the 2012 games to escape the shadow of the Beijing event is to demonstrate greater honesty and awareness of the values and ideals behind the ancient games. Whilst nobody can doubt the value of the previous event as a spectacle, the determined

protests along the torch route – a journey designed to celebrate the value of the games rather than draw attention to the human rights record of the country of destination – reminded everyone it was going to take more than a flashy opening ceremony to erase the memory of Tiananmen Square. Then the fakery of the use of a 'prettier' child miming in the opening ceremony, and unacknowledged date of birth alterations to add to the Chinese medal haul. While we Brits may not be famed for winning, we are famed for fair play. A sense of transparency and decency would certainly mark an improvement on the Beijing Olympics.

One thing the Chinese must be complimented on was their enthusiasm for the games. Athletics can be a difficult sport for spectators; so a wildly excited crowd is crucial, for both the stadium atmosphere and the television: nobody wants any yawning at a multi-billion pound party. For our event to be successful, English cynicism needs to be

put to one side for a few weeks. A two thousand year old sporting event is coming to our shores. Any grumpy cockneys complaining on the television they can't get to the off licence quickly enough should be deported. This is an opportunity to take back national pride from aging royalists and the BNP, and we should take it while it's there.

Certain factors are beyond the organiser's control. China were extremely lucky in that they had Michael Phelps on his unbelievable eight medal quest and the superstar that is Usain Bolt, which generated an added sense of climax to the games. We may not be so lucky, which is why we need to ensure that we do everything we can to ensure our games are the best yet. No messing about with bad logos and creeping politicians trying to ride the wave. No negative press about the weather and apathetic Brits. Just great support so that the British competitors and public alike do themselves justice on the world's biggest stage.

Students are not immune to the global credit crunch

Sam Novak

With the world economy in turmoil and the constant barrage of doom and gloom reporting from the media, it is little wonder that people are more concerned about their personal finance than ever before. However, a largely unconsidered question in this debate as to the effect of the 'credit crunch' on the UK population is the effect this economic downturn is having on the country's student population.

Contrary to popular belief that we students are a happy-go lucky bunch, whose days are filled with liquid lunches, day time television and the occasional lecture to attend, we have serious financial concerns, and look set to be hit hard by the ever-increasing cost of living. A recent survey, set to be published at the end of November and conducted by the National Union of Students (NUS), found that 78% of students undertake some form of paid work whilst studying for their degree and a staggering 46% of students who work during term time, do so in

order to supplement their loan because it does not cover their basic living costs. As a result of this students feel that their studies are suffering. Around 45% of students who work whilst at university claim this has a negative impact on their studies and despite the NUS recommendation that students work not more than 10-15 hours a week, a third work more than 17 hours a week during term time with 3% of them working more than 33 hours a week. Clearly the 'Credit Crunch' is not just having a financial effect on students, but an academic one as well.

However, whilst the financial support that students receive could be said to be inadequate, there is a bigger question to consider here. The problem perhaps, is not the lack of financial support for students, but the lack of financial education for students.

It is quite possible to progress through the education system of this country, right through to university level, without having received any education or knowledge about how to deal with basic financial matters. For a government that was elected on the promise of 'Education Education Education', this could almost constitute a claim for gross negligence. In everyday life, a

person has to deal with budgeting their incomings against their outgoings, applying for a mortgage, keeping up with mortgage repayments, filling in tax-return forms and for university graduates there is the additional burden of repaying student loans. How can students be expected to tackle all of this and to do so effectively, without having been introduced to even the most basic principles, such as how to budget? When you sit back and think about the importance of monetary matters and how essential money and finance are to the running of the modern world, it is astounding that such an important part of education seems to have been overlooked.

It seems as though things do not look to improve any time soon. Not only have students to worry about the rising costs of living and the lack of education that has been provided for them in matters of finance and the economy, the impending economic crisis also means that competition for jobs amongst university graduates, is now tougher than ever. In light of this, we really need to demand more from our education systems, and surely there can be little doubt that in terms of finance and economics the answer lies simply, in 'Education, Education, Education'.

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Leaflet and let live



Michael Holt

They are the scourge of the campus.

You give them so much as a tentative glance of eye-contact and they swoop upon you with oppressive glee to ‘gettooferrwoncock-taiilll’. You find the ability to speak coherent sentences escape you as vague words of politeness get snagged like Velcro in the back of your throat; eventually being born into the world as a timid ‘thanks’ as you take the garish slab of cardboard that is violently thrust at you and cram it away into a pocket that you had no prior knowledge of and that only seems to make itself known again when you find the leaflet’s discoloured remains in the washing months later.

I am of course talking about the jolly nuisance that is the revolving set of promotions staff that oc-

cupies the entrance to Alexander square. Theirs is a curse that blights all of the creeds and colours of this Campus (in particular bewildered Chinese students).

Well now I’m making a stand... The molestation has got to stop.

Leafletters come in many forms, they can usually be identified by a strange breed of waterproof track-suit-top or some sort of tenuously-linked fancy dress. The female of the species can be identified by a neck that looks as if it has retracted causing them to forever appear as if they are looking awkwardly upward at something (even when they are talking directly to you). The Males will usually have immaculately gelled hair and lizard-like eyes that are helpful for pinpointing prey.

Pay especial caution if one of the Leafletters looks like a friend.

They will walk, sound and look familiar but this is merely a ruse... inside that husk beats not the heart of man. Leafletters that resemble friends have the uncanny ability to make you take a stack of leaflets rather than just one under the pretense that ‘they’ll be able to finish earlier’.

All is not lost though fans-of-avoiding-interaction, I’ve been testing techniques to avoid Leafletters that I am positive are on the way to being foolproof. Memorise these prescribed techniques to disarm your leaflet spewing foe the moment they implore your attention with calls of ‘wonpowndoffentree!’...

- (in as cravenly British an accent as possible) ‘Sorry old bean. I don’t speak English’ then walk away looking smug.
- Re-enact the scene from Rain-man where he refuses to get onto the plane but change the wording so it is applicable to leafleting (i.e. ‘Definitely. Definitely don’t want no leaflet. Anghh. Anghh.’)
- ‘Sorry I’m allergic’

- Create your own leaflet with this article on and hand it out to Leafletters... Ironically they will most likely just stuff it into some cranny and never read it.
- Hug them tenderly and whisper in their ears: ‘It’s alright. We are all scared. We are all human. You don’t need to do this any more.’

With these techniques under your belt you will be able to elude even the perkier of Leafletters.

I must say, I feel singularly able

to highlight this issue as I myself am a recovering-leafletter. My actions were wrong, I can see that now and it is with the benefit of hindsight that I approach such a contentious issue in order that I may help others who have faced my affliction and help them on the road to rejoining the human race.

We must all make a united front and say ‘no more’ in triumphant unison. We will build Jerusalem here in Lancaster’s green and pleasant land. Mind you three-for-one at hustle is pretty good value.

Michael has leafleted in the past; according to sources ‘he didn’t like it very much’.



Panting, painting and parachuting ‘in the pink’

Daniel Ash

Throughout October, Breast Cancer Care has been running their In the Pink campaign. This is a campaign which runs over the entire month and is dedicated not only to fund raising for the charity, but also to raising awareness of the realities and issues of breast cancer. The charity’s aim of making the public more conscious of the disease is achieved through getting companies to run nationwide fund-raising projects, such as the Breast Cancer Care products for sale in shops such as Dorothy Perkins and ASDA. Alongside this the charity aims to encourage individuals to run their own events to help raise money and promote their cause.

This is a call that the students of Lancaster have responded to with evident enthusiasm. Jenny Smith, the Furness Female Ed and Welfare officer even went so far as

to organise a sponsored skydive from 14,000 ft, despite a fear of both flying and heights, to promote a cause which she feels passionately about. Jen has so far raised an impressive £550 for the jump, which is scheduled to take place early November. Another Furnessian, treasurer Lucy Barnard has traipsed around Furness bar, added a ‘pink’ round to Trev’s bar quiz and, painted from head to foot in pink, has sold badges all to raise £150 for Breast Cancer Care. Jen said of the In the Pink campaign that whilst breast cancer is of course a year long concern, it’s a very good way of making charity work and the accompanying message “more personal, with the emphasis being on individual people in the community”.

Keeping both feet firmly on the floor, the Adidas Women’s 5K Challenge is a fantastic way to get involved in promoting awareness of breast cancer, as well as in raising as much money as possible for a long list of worthwhile charities.

Falling slightly before the official start of In the Pink month, this year’s run was hugely successful, with 24,000 runners taking part in Liverpool, Birmingham and

“breast cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer affecting both men and women. Raising awareness and fund-raising for breast cancer research and encouraging both sexes to check themselves is hugely important in catching cancer early.”

Torri Crapper

London. One of the two thousand participants of the run in Liverpool was Lancaster University student Victoria Astridge. The run gave her the motivation to get “fit and healthy,” whilst also meaning that she could help others by raising some money for her chosen charity Diabetes UK. Vicki claims that

the “amazing atmosphere” of the day and the stories of some of the women running were inspirational, helping her to finish the race. In the end, Vicki managed to raise £130 for her chosen charity and is planning to run in the event again.

Those passing through Alex Square last week might have seen numerous pink-painted people. Tuesday and Wednesday saw the helpful pink people handing out vital information regarding breast cancer for both men and women, and a stall on Thursday distributed more detailed information to the student body about breast cancer. The pink people could also be seen in Bowland bar on Friday evening, painting peoples face, hair and nails pink, and dispensing helpful advice and information with reckless abandon, before the newly painted pink party brought chaos (and information) to every corner of the campus on a uni-wide bar crawl.

Torri Crapper, the LUSU Non-Sabbatical Women’s Officer, who

has been instrumental in organising the awareness events said that dispensing as much information as possible was a vital activity: “Breast cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer affecting both men and women. Raising awareness and fund-raising for breast cancer research and encouraging both sexes to check themselves is hugely important in catching cancer early.”

Whilst improved treatment and an improvements in detecting cancer early have led to a fall in the death rate of breast cancer by a fifth in the last decade, breast cancer still affects over 44,000 women a year. Unfortunately an average of 12,400 people die of breast cancer each year, with the disease being the second biggest killer of women. While the events and activities organised by Breast Cancer Care and people in the community are meant to be light-hearted and fun for everyone to get involved in, these unhappy figures underline the importance of the fundraising and awareness events which go on throughout the year.

Information on checking for breast cancer and tackling the illness can be obtained from LUSU’s Women’s Officers.

Michael & Sarah

Dear Michael and Sarah

Lately I have been having feelings for one of my closest friends, I don't know if I should tell them how I feel? **I don't want to ruin the friendship but I also don't want to miss the chance to make our relationship something more.** What should I do?
X

SARAH: This is a confusing situation to be in if you do not clearly know how your friend feels. A declaration of your feelings could cause a massive ruction, or it could lead to something more: you have to decide which is more likely and act accordingly. Presumably there have been some signs that have led you to believe you could be more than friends, so try spending more time with this person one on one to see if there really are feelings there. You may be confusing friendship with lust, especially if the friend is good looking! If you feel that revealing your feelings is the best thing to do then of course you must. If however, your friend does not feel the same do not despair, whilst it will be incredibly awkward for a while, true friendship can undergo such problems and survive. You may even look back and laugh at that hilarious anecdote!

MICHAEL: Loud embarrassing drunken declarations of love are always the best way to go in this situation. Life is a mercurial thing and every stupid impulse should be acted on. Whatever the result of your outburst you will have broken up the dull uncertain rut that you have fallen into. If it works it will be a glorious romantic plateau you will be able to eventually reminisce about to your future-children's embarrassment at Christmas dinner and if you decimate the friendship entirely at least you went down in a blaze of ill-conceived glory. Relationships are smothered now in the convoluted process of putting crosses at the end of texts and wondering what a 'poke' on Facebook really means. What happened to the sonnet or the good old fashioned killing spree? I'm the last Romantic left alive I tell's ya!

Dear Michael and Sarah

Both my friend and I like the same boy and we are arguing about what to do. **I want to date him and I think he wants be with me, but this will upset my friend.** Shall I date him anyway?
X

SARAH: That would largely depend upon who you think is more important, your friend or this boy. If you honestly think you can share as many great times with this boy who is potentially stringing both of you along then do it. If you can live with hurting your friend and showing not only her, but all of your other friends that a boy will always be paramount in your life then sure, where's the harm? Perhaps invoke a little common sense and think how you would feel if this situation were reversed. Could you stand by and watch this boy you like date your friend? Me neither, so perhaps the best thing to do is to leave it and both find someone else.

MICHAEL: Well, after consulting the bible and the story 'The Judgment of King Solomon' I should probably come round and threaten to chop the gentleman in question in half... which is patently terrible advice... always take the bible with a pinch of salt as it can lead you to do some very silly things... just last week I threw over the stall of an old woman selling Christmas cards in Church in accordance with 'the story of Jesus going apeshit in the temple'... and they had the audacity to throw ME out... unbelievable! What was the question again? Oh yeah, I don't know, you'll figure something out.

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

Anonymity guaranteed.

Dear Michael and Sarah

I recently found out my best friend is cheating on his girlfriend, I am good friends with her and feel I should tell her. Obviously this will affect my relationship with my friend though. **Who's side should I take?**
X

SARAH: Take neither side in this as it will only lead to more bother. These situations are always tricky to navigate and you risk

losing both of your friends if you say something. You could attempt talking to your friend and telling them you are aware of the cheat-

ing, but don't make threats or give an ultimatum. This is one of those situations best left alone until the girlfriend finds out for herself, things like this will always come out, so let your friend have his illicit fun and stay on the sidelines.

MICHAEL: This is always the most awkward situation you can be put into as a friend, but really you should not be expected to take the responsibility in this situation. Just feign ignorance until the full

thing comes to a head. There are some perks to be had while in posession of such knowledge: try to appreciate the taste of the bitter irony when your friend talks about the boring day-to-day details of her and her boyfriend's relationship, preciously unaware of the infidelity that lurks beneath her innocuous tale of their shopping trip to Preston. It is secretly quite funny.

A Woman with a voluptuous common sense and a 'confused' young man ruminate over romance, real issues and relationships.

Ruminating is the process by which cattle break down food, but it also works in this context

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



Cha-cha-cha:
Lizzie O'Brien and
Liam Richardson
from the SCAN
team at one of
LUBDS's introduc-
tory dance classes.
(Photo: Rob Miller)

Two Left Feet

A Review of LUBDS: the Lancaster University Ballroom Dancing Society

you still can! This is, however, most probably the poor unfortunate partner you have managed to coerce into going along with you. I managed to ignore this voice in the name of hard-hitting journalism, and dragged both myself and him on to the dance floor (AKA the minor hall).

We started off with a waltz, supposedly nice and easy, or so they said... the dance teacher showed us all the moves incredibly slowly, explaining each tiny little thing rather kindly, as he quite rightly gathered that most of us didn't have a clue what we were doing. Both my dance partner and I happened to have two left feet, and we were both so nervous I kept trying to do his moves while he kept trying to do mine. The music went on and we both panicked a little because we were still pretty oblivious as to exactly what it was we were supposed to do, and it was about

to become obvious to the whole room... However, LUBDS has a little trick up its sleeve for novices like myself... And that is the exec.

There must have been at least 8 seasoned ballroom dancers on the exec, who were all wearing bright red T-shirts and were sprinkled about the room amongst all of the beginners. Within seconds of catching someone's eye, they had dashed over and were correcting my badly interpreted movements into something which looked vaguely like a dance routine. In all fairness to the teacher, I was shockingly bad, whereas everyone else seemed to be getting the hang of things rather quickly. After finally getting a hold on the routine (with much thanks to the lovely exec team!), we were off on a moving waltz around the dance floor, swapping partners every minute or so, which was a brilliant way to meet new people, especially if you turn up by yourself and are looking to make some new friends!

Having mastered the waltz, the dance teacher decided to move on to the jive, a slightly more difficult routine as far as intricacy and foot-

work goes. My dance partner and I, although we really were shockingly bad, had a fantastic time attempting all of the various little sashets and pirouettes involved (I am sure they used a lot more technical names for them but I can't remember what they were for the life of me). I can't tell you how much we laughed at ourselves as we tried to get the hang of the routine. With much help from the President of LUBDS herself, we finally cobbled it together, perhaps a good fifteen minutes after everyone else.

All in all, the evening was an absolute hoot. Even my unwilling dance partner begrudgingly admitted he'd had a good time. Although we were not very good ourselves, most people did seem to be able to pick up on the routines fairly quickly, and anyone who is stuck will always find a friendly face to help them out. There are lots of different classes every week for the different skill levels, the details of which are posted on the LUBDS group on Facebook. Alternately, you can email Steph, the President at ballroomd@hotmail.com. Pop along for a laugh, if nothing else!

Lizzie O'Brien

ing to start on ballroom when I can't even remember the Macarena?

These are some of the thoughts that might be whirling around your head if you happen to be nervously approaching the room in which you will be learning how to waltz for the next hour or so. A small, dark voice says run, run away now while

OK. So I can't dance. Anyone who has seen me 'strutting my stuff' in the Sugarhouse will be able to vouch for this fact. So why on earth am I bother-

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James Titterton

**President,
LU Christian Fellowship**

EVERY winter, people across the country are placed in life-threatening danger because they have to sleep rough.

In Lancaster, they are more fortunate. From October to Easter, the Lancaster Christ Church Night Shelter provides the homeless with warm food and a place to spend the night. It gives safety, security and comfort to the most vulnerable people in our community.

Not only has it been saving lives since 1992, it is the only such place in the Northwest of England. In past years, clients have been sent there from as far afield as Liverpool and Carlisle because it is the only place that can take them. As such, it can become very busy. Last year, the Shelter was serving over twenty five people in a single night. This placed a heavy demand on its limited resources. Food supplies ran out on three separate

occasions.

This term, Lancaster University Christian Fellowship will be co-ordinating a campus-wide Canned Food Drive, to try and ensure that this does not happen again. We will be setting up stall in Alexandra Square on the Thursday and Friday of Week Five (6th – 7th November). We invite all students and staff to come along and donate an item of canned food to the Night Shelter and the homeless of Lancaster. Most kinds of food would be welcomed, however people are asked not to donate any baked beans, soup or any family-sized tins (individual sized tins only, please).

There will also be a bucket on hand for any donations of loose change you would like to make.

Please give as much or as little as you feel able. According to lancs.ac.uk, there are 19,000 staff and students at Lancaster University. If everyone donates just one tin, that's 19,000 meals. If everyone donates two tins, that's 38,000!

You can help to save a life this winter. But please, no beans!

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Stellar cast disappoints slightly



Tropic Thunder

Jack Black, Ben Stiller, Robert Downey Jr

Christine Wilde

Having been seduced by a cast list including the likes of Ben Stiller, Robert Downey Jr. and Jack Black, I went along to see *Tropic Thunder* expecting a stitch from the hilarity of it all. Whilst the film did make me laugh a few times, *Tropic Thunder* just wasn't the rib-tickling experience I had hoped for.

A parody of both Vietnam War movies and of the Hollywood mmovie/money-making system in general, *Tropic Thunder* begins with the disastrous attempts of film director, Damien Cockburn (Steve Coogan) to shoot his movie due to his spoilt cast's inability to co-operate. After a severe berating from the studio head (a barely recognisable Tom Cruise in a bald cap and fat suit), Cockburn decides that the best way to shoot the movie would be to drop the 5 lead characters in the middle of the Vietnam jungle and, using remote cameras, capture their real fear and genuine struggles. Things don't work out as expected however, and the clueless

actors are left to fend for themselves uncertain what is real and what is part of their movie.

The film begins with 4 mock film trailers that follow almost seamlessly onto the end of the real ones, which introduce the cast in an original and very funny way. From this we are launched straight into the action: We are taken on location to the set of the latest Vietnam War movie, *Tropic Thunder*, where anyone with a basic film interest will quickly pick up on the references to *Platoon* and *Apocalypse Now*. This is very funny and includes some very astute observations not only of the genre but also of the world of celebrity and the culture that surrounds the movie industry.

Despite being quite entertaining and a movie buff's dream game of guess-the-film-reference, it just isn't as funny as it ought to be. There are definitely funny moments in it: most of Robert Downey Jr's lines as 5-time Oscar winning actor, Kirk Lazarus, (a man who is so serious about the roles he takes on that he goes to extreme lengths in order to become the character) hit the satirical nail on the head. Ben

Stiller's character is very funny as an actor who has recently made a lot of bad career choices. He drives the story along quite well, but it sometimes feels like you're watching him in *Dodgeball* or *Zoolander* as he doesn't really develop anything new. Tom Cruise's role as the head of the studio is entertaining if a bit random, especially the point at which he starts to dance along to Flo Rider's 'Low'. Those with a low cringe threshold may want to look away at this point, though it is entertaining to see him in a role like this, especially following his more serious recent films such as *Lions for Lambs*. The biggest disappointment for me was the tragic under-use of Jack Black, who is left with limited comic potential in his portrayal of the stereotypical drug addicted star gone off the rails, who, after a while, merely becomes a bit of a whinge.

Overall, I thought the film was generally entertaining and good for a few laughs, but it just wasn't as funny as it ought to have been considering the comic achievements of its cast in the past.



War Zeros:

The overpaid, sometimes underused stars of *Tropic Thunder*.

Simply unpleasant



The Strangers

Liv Tyler, Scott Speedman

Will Shelmerdine

***THE Strangers* is not a pleasant film. Nor is it for the faint of heart. But it is exquisitely frightening, disturbingly real and worthy of your time.**

The effectiveness lies in the simplicity. The plot is extremely straightforward: a young couple are terrorised by three masked attackers. That's it. No frills, no complex motivations, no twists, turns or gimmicks. In fact, there's virtually no dialogue. Admittedly

there's also little originality, but to be fair, it's not trying to be original. It just wants to frighten you, and in that it succeeds admirably.

The leads, Liv Tyler and Scott Speedman, are very convincing and deliver impressively intense performances. The up-close hand-held camera captures every nuance of fear in their eyes. It's all very intimate, very claustrophobic and constantly emphasizes their very human vulnerability. Usually with films like this you feel alienated from the characters due to their uncanny ability to do exactly the wrong thing, but not in *The Strangers*. There's no 'up the stairs instead of out the door' foolishness here; it's very difficult to criticize any of their actions. They do everything right. They do what you might do...

There are predictable shocks, sometimes you just know there'll be a face at the window, but bi-

zarrily, they are all still effective. Instead of tiresome plods towards foreseen events the film manages to turn them into excruciatingly tense crawls towards agonizing inevitability.

Unfortunately though, despite doing everything well and showcasing what a true horror movie should feel like, *The Strangers* is likely to be forgotten for the very things that make it work. It may overcome predictability and unoriginality for the 90 minutes it has you in its grasp, but in the end it's still predictable and unoriginal.

It's a shame, because it is cracking stuff, but it's also the kind of film hype could kill. So maybe it should just remain what it is; a nasty, simplistic, insidious little film that allows you to temporarily feel how horror so rarely makes you nowadays.

WRITE Stuff

Please e-mail your ideas to us at scanarts@hotmail.com. Please keep stories to no more than 600 words, and poems to no more than 30 lines.

Apologies to David Stanier, whose poem, *If I Was a Blackbird*, was printed in the last WRITE Stuff without a byline.

Tree Frog

Anon.

Today, I will be a tree frog.

Enough of the offices
And of the photocopy machines
And of the unworking computers of it all.
Enough of this Monday-morning desk,
And this claustrophobic cubicle.

Today, in the scummy city air
That enfolds my every breath,
I will become my true self.

I will sit on my beautiful jungle-green leaf
With such infinite stillness
That nature could not help but
Re-initiate me into her lost good graces.

My true self. Not some dirty human
Unable to perform without the flicking
Of a thousand switches.
Not some two-legged fool,
Who, with no ultimate knowledge of the universe
Has taken this precious jewel
And wired it up to a motherboard.

I will become that perfect extension of nature
Lost in some lush and leafy rainforest.

Today, I will become a tree frog.

Google and giggle: a recipe for success

Jackie Kay: *The Adoption Papers*

Christine Wilde
Lizzie O'Brien

THE Adoption Papers is a quasi-autobiographical work, based on Kay's own experiences of adoption, and the implications of being black whilst being raised within a white Scottish family.

It explores the adoption and issues surrounding it from three perspectives; the birth mother, adopted mother and the child, at different points in their lives. The division of the poem into three separate voices does nothing to fragment their meaning. If anything, they only make for a stronger, more powerful, more real presentation of her subject matter. The three narratives interweave with one another, providing a very honest and emotive examination of not only adoption, but also issues of race, nationality and biology. With such sensitive subject matter on the table, it would have been easy to over-sentimentalise the issue of adoption, but is instead presents an engaging and refreshing dialogue that is at times hilarious, and at others, poignant.

Kay creates a space for the story of motherhood and childhood, which is all the more problematic and captivating within its adoptive setting. She succeeds in her optimistic approach to adoption by addressing the mix of the 'real and strange, ordinary and extraordinary', that people with no experience of adoption can also respond and relate to. When asked what she thought it was exactly, that made *The Adoption Papers* so universally popular, Kay simply said: "You're aware of this other story, and we all have other possibilities: if we'd fallen in love with different people, grown up in different houses, been brought up by different parents in different cities with different tongues, accents, languages, we'd all have different lives we could've potentially led."

The message of her poetry might be conveyed through the medium of adoption, but the message is the same. Each person's life could have, at one stage or another, gone in another direction totally, and that is something we're all aware of. The adoptive child in the poem is living the alternative life that could have belonged to any number of children, and this invokes both a tension and an empathy that is simultaneously haunting and

heartwarming.

Speaking at the English department's annual lecture last week, Kay added an extra dimension to the poem when she read an extract aloud, filling it with her enthusiasm, sense of humour and desire to convey what she calls a "positive adoption story." This was something which she felt was sadly lacking in literature and popular culture in general. "I grew up with a head full of tragic adoption stories... most experiences of adoption in literature, soaps and magazines were all negative... I wanted to write something positive about it as it didn't really exist."

No one was writing what she felt she wanted to say, and out of this grew the three distinct voices of *The Adoption Papers*, and what becomes a heartrending, relevant, and witty narrative of adoption. Not just the struggles, not just the negative or dubious moments, but the happy, positive, absolutely buoyant moments of adoption.

Kay has a natural connection with her readers, but this is nothing compared to the way she interacts with an audience. Those who want to see Kay in her element, need to see her reading at Litfest at the end of October. Her down-to-earth, amiable attitude adds to a per-



Natural: The poet Jackie Kay is warm and accessible in performance

formance that is like a strange mix of stand-up comedy, having tea at your mate's house, and a performance poetry reading.

There were moments when she shocked the audience into silence or contemplation, and moments when she had the whole lecture theatre giggling on the edges of their seats. When talking about how she researched or came up with ideas for her poems, her listeners found Google came highly recommended, much to their amusement. "Google and giggle, Google and giggle!" was her last emphatic advice to us before the end of her lecture. She certainly did have everyone in the room chuckling before the end

of the hour, and if she is such a good speaker in George Fox 1, you can't possibly even begin to justify missing the performance she is bound to produce when you give her a proper stage.

Jackie Kay will be performing on Thursday 30th October at 6pm at the Dukes Lancaster. Tickets for her performance are £6.50/£5.00 and are available from the Dukes Box Office on 0845 344 0642 or online at www.litfest.org

*You can find copies of Jackie Kay's *The Adoption Papers* in the Waterstones on campus. Just look out for Scan Recommends.*

Come with us now on a journey through time and Space...

Hannah Fearon

FUTURE sailors, a dance workout with Bob Fossil, aliens from the planet Camden and Howard Moon in silver hotpants; this years live tour certainly has it all.

Noel Fielding and Julian Barratt are perhaps the only two comedians on earth who can get away with riding a giant hairdryer onto the stage. Whilst Noel and Julian have been heavily criticised for the lack of structure to the live show this year, they still manage to get away with pretty much anything.

The show kicks off with Noel and Julian, as Vince and Howard, entering in sailors costumes



Future Sailors: Howard Moon and Vince Noir remain pioneers of fashion.

singing 'Future Sailors' to an ecstatic audience. Vince enters on a magnificent Boosh sailboat whilst Howard wanders onto the stage in

a dingy. The duo then introduces themselves with their usual front-of-curtain act, similar to last year's show before introducing characters old and new with a series of sketch-like scenes in the first half. This is a definite crowd pleaser as there are most certainly no disappointments with the line up. One of the great things about the show is that it does not only focus on their newer material, but also on classic characters such as the much loved Bob Fossil and the mutant army from the first series. Bob Fossil teaches the audience some dance moves and Tony Harrison hosts his own chat show. There are also appearances from the bizarre 'Crack Fox', the Moon, the loveable Bollo, Naboo the enigma, and everybody's favourite Cockney, 'The Hitcher'.

The second half of the show

focuses on Howard's futuristic play, set in 2009, about the impending apocalypse, 'It's not science fiction, it's science faction'. Vince decides that the play is too dull, and injects it with some true electro spirit by introducing Sunflash, an alien from Camden.

The props, costumes and set itself are amazing and unlike anything seen before in their first tour. They're gone from a basic set with very limited props to pyrotechnics, spaceships, a 6ft hairdryer and a live band on stage – The Ungrateful Dead. This year's show is more musical than ever before, with plenty of songs old and new which included the Moon's own rendition of rapper Jay-Z's 99 Problems. One of the highlights for me was a Crimp medley including many much loved crimps such as *The Soup Song* and *Bouncy Bouncy*. Perhaps another of the best moments was the mocking of the Honey Monster for the plagiarism of the Mighty Boosh's crimp song style in the Sugar Puffs adverts.

The finale for the show begins with *Nannageddon* which was most definitely popular with the entire audience. The cast came on dressed as old women and began a medley of many of their classic songs including *Mutants* and *Charlie*.

Both Noel and Julian deal the hecklers excellently, with quick and witty comebacks. After a group of screaming girls repeatedly yelled out "Tony Harrison!" Noel replied "well done, you managed to name a character from the show." There are many memorable quotes and whilst the show seems sketchy and much improvised at times, this just adds to the experience; an experience which, in my opinion and seemingly the opinion of the rest of the audience, was an unforgettable one. *The Mighty Boosh Live Tour* certainly lived up to my high expectations and was truly spectacular.

The Mighty Boosh are currently on tour until late January and tickets are still available for many venues. See it now, or, as the advert says 'Throw your eyes in the bin'.

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Fringe benefits

Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2008

Daniel Jarvis

THIS summer I was granted the enormous privilege of being able to work over at the Fringe festival, widely recognised as the world's biggest arts festival.

Not only did I work on get to be a part of this prestigious event but another I was perfectly positioned to enjoy a month of viewing many works of theatre, stand-up comedy, music and even artwork.

Much of the theatre viewed was with one of the Fringe's super venues - C Venues, which dedicates itself to promoting lesser known theatre companies and experimental performances, including many student groups. Though I managed to clock seeing a total of 20 performances at C Venues, a few really stood out.

Perhaps C Venues' biggest hit was the Tim Burton-esque fairytale, *Clockheart Boy*, by the company Dumb Show, a group of Warwick theatre studies graduates. Following the bittersweet story of a boy with a mechanical heart who meets the stars and even loses his heart, it was performed with such a finely tuned balance between children's entertainment and a dark gothic element that kept all members of the family not only entertained, but enthralled. After the performance the audience would leave with tears in their eyes at the play's heart-breaking ending.

When talking about the C Venues repertoire it is impossible not to mention the student company Belt Up from York University. Their secret shows selected audiences from phone numbers voluntarily given in their other performances, and took place in the dead of night. Staging both *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet*,

these promenade performances took their audiences racing around Edinburgh from scene to scene with performances ringing with such vitality and enthusiasm and fight scenes so realistic that in one instance authorities mistook it to be genuine! Belt Up was student theatre at its best - vibrant, energetic and refreshingly new.

Of course the Fringe festival incorporates so much more than theatre. For me, the highlight from the festival's music had to be the fantastic Patti Plinko and her performance act *Dada Noir*. Patti Plinko reawakened what it sounded like to hear truly fresh, original and experimental music that hasn't been heard in decades. Exploring the darker side of human nature, she often performed blindfold with her musical partner known mysteriously only as 'the boy' looming ominously behind her in a black boiler suit and gas mask. Her rousing and angry song *Deepest of*



Burtonesque:
Clockheart Boy was one of the big hits at the Fringe this year.

the Darkest definitely became the festival anthem for me.

I admit I sold out slightly when it came to the stand-up comedians, as I bought tickets to see both Tim Minchin and Mark Watson. Tim Minchin was, in a word, flawless. His musical precision and sense of timing when it came to his wry observations through the medium of song were spot on as he fine tuned the audience into a quivering mess of silent, stomach-cramping laughter. Displaying not only prodigious talent but also a vast intelligence as he condemns hippy philosophies and American hypocrisy (seemingly unconcerned at the prospect of alienating half of his audience), Tim Minchin has to rank as the most

professional comedian I have seen to date. I mean, who couldn't love a man who writes a love song like 'If I didn't have you, I'd probably find someone else'? Mark Watson showcases his new show to positive reviews and much laughter, and though I thoroughly enjoyed the show I could see it needed ironing out slightly, with some of the jokes appearing rushed or disconnected from the performance as a whole.

Overall my Fringe experience was certainly one of the highlights of recent years, and my biggest regret was that sinking feeling as I travelled home that I would have to wait a whole year for it to start again. Fringe 2009, roll on!

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Mind gone Blind

Liars and Preachers

★★★★★
(Rising Records)

Ewan Waters

ADMITTEDLY, I was a little pessimistic on receiving the promotional poster for Mind Gone Blind's debut, 'Liars and Preachers'.

Marketed as possessing "An eclectic mix of musical influences" in a "powerful melodic rock" mould, the publicity felt very generic, and I sat down for a first listen to the album with subsequent caution. I needn't have been. Having given the album several listens, the poor promotion only serves to do the band a genuine disservice.

Attention grungers and heavy

rockers alike. Gary Moyes' cavernous and assured vocal is by turns both Eddie Vedder's aqueous baritone and Chris Cornell's wild-animal falsetto. Shane Younie's rootsy, bluesy, dynamic, technical fretwork conjures a list of influences: Thin Lizzy, Van Halen, Soundgarden, Biffy Clyro, Rage Against The Machine and Queens of the Stone Age, not to mention flashes of John Frusciante, while Rob Hendry's drumming is steady, consistent, and varied, providing a confident foil for Moyes and Younie. Needless to say, this is a predominantly heavy rock/grunge album with a blues twist. Impressively, Mind Gone Blind have managed to fuse their influences together already, and created a largely rewarding debut.

It opens strongly. *Say You Will* clinches an atmosphere: it's brooding and prowling, with Younie's clean, muscular, Tom

Morello-esque chops, and a solo John Frusciante would envy, that matches Moyes' soaring voice for composure. *Somebody Else* is delicate and stately, with Moyes yearning for the fulfilment of his ideals in order to combat a sense of dislocation.

Unfortunately, dislocation becomes an omnipresent theme on the album, and Moyes' lyrics (presumably) increasingly self-pitying and self-indulgent. Vedder was once dubbed "Grunge's Mr Conscience" by Q magazine for his keen social awareness, while Cornell had the world of Science on its knees in devising *Black Hole Sun*. It is unfair to compare Mind Gone Blind to Cornell and Vedder, but they could learn a lesson or two from them so far as lyrical breadth goes. A little sunshine never hurt anybody, and the band would, I feel, benefit from investing more hope, and less despair, into their music.

Lyricism aside, *Redline* finds Moyes in supreme form, locating both soft and harsh tones to encompass a variety of emotions; resigned and accepting yet utterly

impassioned and intense, with Younie's guitar and Hendry's drumming ever sympathetic and sensitive to the changes. Its chorus stands aloft from any other on the album, and if you're a fan of Pearl Jam, this one's for you - feverishly earnest, and executed with a determination that sets Mind Gone Blind apart for sheer integrity. It's something they should look to preserve, alongside their instrumental precision, if they're to achieve popularity and success.

It's testament to the band's strengths that the album didn't even need to 'grow' on me. Interestingly, bands that seem to have influenced Mind Gone Blind, such as Biffy Clyro, Queens of the Stone Age, and Rage Against

The Machine, all required several listens before I began to appreciate them. Perhaps there's more to be said for our first impressions than meets the eye. Perhaps they are in fact where the true worth of a band is to be found. I don't know. But what I do know is that Mind Gone Blind are a band with significant potential. They can only mature in time.



Singles

CSS - Move

★★★★★
(Sub Pop Records)

It's very hard to go wrong with a track from this eccentric Brazilian six piece. Their new single makes for another great addition to their catalogue of success. Full of happy sounding synths, memorable guitar riffs and an infectious chorus that's impossible to forget, I challenge anyone to not dance when they hear 'Move'. Despite this, I can't

Tasmin Barlett

help but think 'Move' lacks the energy of previous releases and is slightly repetitive. This is more like a track you'd give to a friend in need of an introduction to the world of electro, as opposed to a blinding electronic

Anthem, such as 'Off the Hook.' Don't write it off completely though, it's still well worth a listen.

Wild Beasts - Brave Bulging Buoyant Clairvoyants

★★★★★
(Domino Records)

I never thought the day would come when I found a falsetto voice more irritating than Mika's, but Wild Beasts' latest single is certainly a strong competitor. Put off from the offset by the decidedly silly title of the single, I braved lis-

Daniel Jarvis

tening to what I can only describe as a painfully retro sounding jingle, trying and failing to mimic T-Rex's style. NME and Steve Lamacq however have tipped the band to become something big, so perhaps I am mistaken. I severely hope not.

Goldfrapp - Caravan Girl

★★★★★
(Mute Records)

If Goldfrapp wanted a song to blur them into the background and make fans question their loyalty, this is that song. The latest offering from the band, 'Caravan Girl', is the third release from the album 'Seventh Tree'; and sees them taking a more lax approach to music, with a generically steady melody and electro undertones.

Lucy Kitson

You can't help but find yourself singing along to the repetitive and catchy chorus, but its no anthem, which is a shame as they have previously had some corkers (e.g. 'Ooh La' and 'A&E'). I'm aware the duo are aiming for a new kind of sound, however I can't help but feel like they should have stuck to the old stuff.

IAMX - The Alternative

★★★★★
(No Carbon Records)

'The Alternative' is a depressing three minute trudge through synth-pop convention. Chris Corner (Sneaker Pimps' vocalist - this is his solo project) kicks things off with some absurdly pretentious, echo-filled vocals and then it all

Clay Garland

goes downhill. The pace never quickens past a dreary gothic crawl, and without anything interesting going on in the background the song is forgotten almost as soon as it's over.

Live review: Oasis at the Birmingham NIA

Andrew Almond

IT occurs as regularly as clockwork; every three years the Gallaghers return with a new album, new haircuts and ready to tour the nation's arenas and stadiums.

But in this age of young indie upstarts, falling gig attendances, and fractured ribs (thanks to on stage assault last month), do Oasis still cut the mustard as a live band?

If ticket sales are anything to go by then yes, all 190,000 tickets initially released sold out in under an hour. However, anyone who saw Oasis in Birmingham will agree that there is more to the Oasis road show than merely lining the pockets of the band. Opening with the swaggering escapism of 'Rock 'N' Roll' one thing is clear from the outside; Oasis has arrived in Birmingham with a point to prove. With Liam's voice sounding as fresh as it did at the hedonistic

peak of their mid-nineties success it would take a very cynical person indeed to go home dissatisfied having witnessed this performance. In front of giant screens that show montages of images from heavy weight boxing bouts, police riots to more abstract views of the earth spinning in space and giant butterflies, Oasis seem reinvigorated, hungry and ready to please their fans.

'Lyla' follows, before the instantly recognisable opening chords of latest single 'The Shock of the Lightning' chug into life resulting in a sing along on an unprecedented scale. It's a relentless assault that only lets up with Noel's ever-perceptive words of wisdom; "All you gotta do is pick someone up if they fall down. We don't want anyone going home injured before they've had a chance to buy a t-shirt!" he quips, tongue, as ever, firmly in cheek before launching into a raucous 'Slide Away'. Perhaps the likes of 'To Be Where There's Life' and 'Waiting for the Rapture' didn't quite get the same

ecstatic reception that the classics such as the anthemic 'Masterplan' or the snarling classic 'Cigarettes and Alcohol' but one has to remember these are still new songs which are relatively unfamiliar and, consequently, will take a while to build up the rapturous reception they deserve.

An encore of 'Don't Look Back In Anger' and 'Champagne Supernova' (which despite Liam failing to sing the final verse of, still hits the spot) ensues before they come full circle closing with the Beatles' 'I Am the Walrus' that climaxes into an apocalyptic feedback drenched jam. And then it's over. Faults? At the risk of sounding pedantic, 'Live Forever' and 'Acquiesce' would have been nice additions to the set list but it's testament to Oasis as a live spectacle that they are able to omit such favourites and still leave their fans desperate for more. Long gone are the days of petty sibling squabbles that result in mid-tour disintegration. Oasis are still here and, like it or not, they're not going to be leaving us anytime soon.

Skilf - Slow Me Down EP

★★★★★
(Sub Pop Records)

Sam Fresco
Alex Perry

HIS name is Greg Rose and he is Skilful G and as he says "You need anaesthetic if you ain't feeling me".

His title track and EP is *Slow Me Down* which must be a wish for someone to hit him over the head with a blunt object, followed by a wok. Skilf has unfortunately, like many, fallen prey to the cliché that is the 'hip-hop' image and in turn has transformed his personality in to that of many other wannabe rappers - arrogant. Clearly half of what's needed in order to make it big in this genre is a large flat-billed cap and a well-practiced pose.

However, despite our reservations towards his demeanour, he quite musically talented and his beats do have a broad appeal. His rhyming in all three tracks is well structured, but his lyrics, however,

are clichéd. This becomes most apparent on tracks one (the same title as the E.P., *Slow Me Down*) and three (*Dead Ender*). *Slow Me Down* sees Skilf rapping about his attempts to make it in to the music business whilst in *Dead Ender* his rhymes regard the humdrum of a 9-5 job in a call centre. How boring; he's saying a lot without a lot to say. We were looking for tracks about some 'ghetto bitches', 'drive-bys' and 'pimp love', but sadly (as far as our entertainment goes) that isn't what Skilf is about.

Besides his image, which we will touch on further in a moment, Skilf does have a certain appeal reminiscent of Dizzee Rascal's early days. You can't deny the line "...you got knowledge and a rocket in your pocket..." or "I was born to rap not born to work!" Sadly he goes on to rhyme 'work' with 'perk', 'berk' and 'jerk-off'. Yes, we're serious and so is he. Not to lay the sarcasm on too heavily, but we really feel his gem of a chorus line "Waking up is so annoying!" is as skilful as they come in hip-hop. Thanks for that insight Skilful 'Shakespeare' G, what would we have done without you?

Maybe our opinion is a tad

bias. Skilf must surely have some credentials, having supported well-established bands such as Ghostface Killer and the Wu Tang Clan. His EP is well produced, with Toni Toolz the official remixer of NERD's *She Wants To Move*. Still, this brief praise is once again interrupted by more criticism as the mixing is nowhere near perfect. Previously mentioned track *Dead Ender* harbours a nasty thirty seconds of mixed in call-centre phone conversations that are poorly executed and frankly, not entertaining at all. Title track, *Slow Me Down*, does in fairness have a funky beat and a nice cowbell backing, with Californian singer Michelle Ericson lending a nice, likeable retro 80's. It's not a bad track and if Skilf looks to be part of your musical scene, this is the track I would recommend, albeit the song's uncanny resemblance to S-Club 7's *Reach For the Stars*.

This is definitely one for the apple tree to scare off the squirrels. The only good to come of this E.P. is that we will be recycling it in to a nice tea coaster. So if anything, thanks for helping the environment Skilf. Peace Out!

Saint Etienne London Conversations - The Best Of Saint Etienne



★★★★★
(Heavenly Records)

Andrew Almond

FEW of us remember Saint Etienne; they came and left with the rest of Britpop that didn't quite fit in.

But that was then and now their back with a two disc 'Best Of...' and a new single. The word used most often to describe Saint Etienne has been pioneers. In the nineties, when anyone could play guitar, Saint Etienne stuck to drum loops, ambient and piano riffs. They infused eighties technology and sixties sound to create something unique and atmospheric. This thirty-five track 'Best Of...' is sixties pop with added kitsch to give Saint Etienne their indie dance sound.

Not one-song sounds the same but the band holds onto the principle sound of sixties pop, modernised.

If you think you might have heard something by Saint Etienne, it's probably their first ever single, a cover of Neil Young's gorgeous *Only Love Can Break Your Heart*. The band gave the song their dance treatment and it sounds good,

odd, but good. Although the cover is their best known song, it's far from their best. The band effortlessly change gears throughout the record from the beautiful calm of *Hobart Pavement* to the electro beat of *He's On The Phone* and onto the café nouveau sound of *Spring*. Not one-song sounds the same but the band holds onto the principle sound of sixties pop, modernised. Even new single *Burn Out Your Car* follows the same path without sounding outdated. Sarah Cracknell's voice is perfect for this sound; her Debbie Harry whispers work in perfect sync with Bob Stanley and Pete Wigg's piano melodies. *Heart Failed* is a perfect example. A hypnotic number that sums up all the best elements of Saint Etienne, clever piano, dark vocals, and a head nodding beat.

It could be argued that 35 tracks is too much for a band of Saint Etienne's size but it's such a pleasure to listen to that it would be a harsh judgement. Even though it's a 'Best Of...' it sounds like an album, the tracks fit so well together. *London Conversations* might finally give Saint Etienne the recognition they deserve after eighteen years. If you're a fan of New Order, The Long Blondes and even Kylie go and get this treasure chest from one of Britpop's lost, but best bands.

SPORTS

Hockey results mixed, but Lancaster thrash UCLan women and Salford men

Laura Fernihough

After a mixed performance last season, both the women's and men's hockey teams are looking to improve things this year. With a decent intake of freshers, the women's club have been able to bolster their first and second teams whilst the third team has a completely new look with eight freshers making the starting XI.

Week one's results varied

with both 3rds teams getting the best results. The women won 8-1 against UCLan with star Carly Davies scoring six and the men boomed Salford 12-2 thanks to some great work by Steve Sutcliffe, which did wonders for 'Third Team Pride'. The men's first and second teams have some promising games ahead which might improve their respective league positions.

Impressive at Roses 2008 after average league runs, the women's 1st and 2nd teams both have much to prove this year. Two draws in two games for the 1sts is a steady

start but they have their sights set high for a good cup run and a decent league finish, both in BUCS and the LCWHA. The women's second team are currently jostling at the top of the table after back to back solid wins under Natalie Dixon's captaincy.

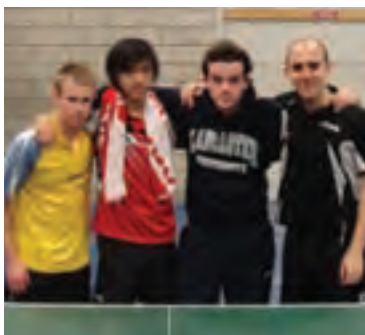
With numbers at training consistently high, regardless of location or time, all looks well for the 2008/09 season for LUWHC and LUMHC thanks to some decent in-club coaches and great team commitment.

Newcastle demolished in Table Tennis

Robin Honey

Lancaster Men's 1st Table Tennis team travelled to Newcastle this week expecting a tough BUCS league fixture against a Newcastle 2nd team who had thrashed Leeds

Met 1st's 16-1 in the previous week. However, with a strong team consisting of 1st years, Stephen Arliss, Antoine Schvartz and Lok Wong alongside 3rd year and LUTTC President Robin Honey, Lancaster stormed to a 17-0 win. With all the singles games all going in straight sets to Lancaster, this bodes very well for the rest of the season.



Victorious: (from left) Stephen Arliss, Lok Wong, Antoine Schvartz, Robin Honey

Tennis team beaten by rival league favourites, Liverpool

David Vance

While the new year brings new competition and challenges for those representing the Uni in sport, the first challenge for men's tennis team, the challenge was to find a team. With last season ending in relegation and the majority of the first team graduating, the men's first teams' hopes of bouncing straight to back league 1 looked bleak with hope resting on new talent arriving this year. Fortunately the unlikely overseas arrivals from Latvia and America delivered much needed talent to Lancaster in the forms of Gurts Gutmanis and Dale Beshore respectively. Former 2nd team player Dan Dugmore was also given his chance after being promoted to the nose-bleeding heights of the first

team after impressive performances in training to accompany old boys David Vance and Craig White in the team.

The season kicked off with a tough match against Liverpool 1sts, undoubtedly one of the favourites along with Lancaster to win the league. The match started badly with Lancaster losing both doubles to go down 2-0, both matches ending 8-6 though both pairs had chances to reverse the scores in their favour. The singles unfortunately followed in the same vain with number one, Dale, losing 6-3 6-4 and Dan losing 1-6 6-4 6-1 at number 2. Team captain Craig White also came agonisingly close to winning at no.4, bravely fighting back from a set down only to lose 6-3 5-7 6-4. The only win of the day came from David Vance, coming from behind to secure a 1-6 6-3 6-4 win, to make the overall score a flattering 8-2 to Liverpool.

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The big debate: Cricket

The Stanford Twenty20 Cricket match: Winner takes \$20m

Next month, a cricket match will be played for the worlds highest ever stakes ever, take place in Antigua between the Stanford Superstars and England. The Twenty20 match will earn the victors a staggering \$20m. Such investment within cricket was unheard of until recently, but many fans are worried that cricket may follow the path of investment which has plagued Premiership football. And in times of such financial uncertainty, should such a match go ahead?

Stanford's Twenty20 vision is a boost for all forms of cricket

Oliver Holmes

The \$20m match will revolutionize cricket, allowing older spectators of the sport to enjoy it just as much as the inevitable new wave of supporters. Cricket, particularly the test match format, has been deprived of the attention it deserves and is therefore struggling to survive in the increasingly money centred world of sport.

The introduction of the Twenty20 game has changed the face of cricket and has put the entertainment factor back into the sport. It has caused an upsurge in investment while at the same time treating the fans to some of the most spectacular stroke play in the world.

Innovations within any With dwindling crowds in the test match game, perhaps the attention drawn to cricket by the \$20m Twenty20 game will get a few more people through the turnstiles for all types of cricket.

With such financial backing, cricket as a whole, not just the Twenty20 game, has been exposed to more media coverage, which can only be a good thing. This interest has allowed clubs to attract bigger sponsors to establish their club. In turn, cricket is becoming more popular amongst today's fans, with many children getting involved

in cricket initiatives rather than other sports such as football. Gone are the days where every child stereotypically says "I want to be a footballer when I grow up."

The \$20m Stanford match will act as a catalyst to enhance the popularity of every form of cricket. The sense of pride for our country and excitement the Ashes series generates is mirrored in the Twenty20 game, but on a much more regular basis. The Twenty20 game involves skill, intricacy, courage and daring tacticians. Taking the game to countries it has never been before will allow the game to grow, demonstrating the evolution of cricket.

Traditional fans of the game will say Twenty20 is no more than slogging the ball as hard and as fast as you can but new superstars are being created and the game is much more accessible to wider audiences. Such innovations within any sport, let alone cricket, need to be embraced in order for them to survive. With dwindling crowds in the test match game, perhaps the attention drawn to cricket by the \$20m Twenty20 game will get a few more people through the turnstiles for all types of cricket.

Of course, promoters of the controversial \$20m match stand to make a tidy profit, but the real winners will be cricket supporters. More money means better players and assets which will only raise the standard of the game.

To reject such a revolutionary transformation within the game would be disastrous, not only to cricket but to you, the fan.



This expensive gimmickry has no place in cricket

James Waite

On November the 1st 2008 a Twenty20 Cricket match between England and the so called 'Stanford Super Stars' will exacerbate everything that is currently wrong with sport. Up for grabs, a cash prize total of \$20m, the most lucrative for any single match, which will be split \$1m (£577,500) between each player on the victorious side. Why? Because a rich man has a lot of money, too much time on his hands with nowhere better to put it. Sound familiar?

Sir Allen Stanford, the financier, made his fortunes in real estate investment and hails from Texas, (like most people orientated around the sport of cricket then). The match he has organised between England's most talented and the 'Super Stars' in fact means nothing in competitive cricket terms, a sentiment reiterated by none other than England opener Alistair Cook who was quoted as saying "the actual cricket is quite unimportant, apart from financially." He obviously has his eyes on a new Bentley. Although, the players are not to blame for being offered ridiculous amounts of money, it's the organisers who are misallocating precious funds.

There are obvious parallels here with the state of affairs in the Premiership and football world. This Twenty20 fixture, or more accurately England, are the Robinho of cricket, they'll go anywhere if

the price is right. This seems to be an overall unanimous essence of current sporting exploits, whether it be teams or players. England venture off to Antigua, Robinho to City, New Orleans Saints to London. The question is whether these excursions are for the good of the game or for financial betterment? The latter being a more persuasive stance.

The thought that such a youthful concept can compete with the World Cup or test match Cricket is almost laughable.

The expectation of this fixture is ultimately to spread the globalisation of the relatively new Twenty20 format. Although, surely it will never be able to compete with the likes of the Ashes or other established major sporting events. The thought that Stanford and organisers expect such a youthful concept, only integrated in 2003, to compete with the likes of the World Cup or even test match Cricket, both steeped in history, is almost laughable.

Stanford undoubtedly has an interest in the game, but his affluence would perhaps be designated with more prosperous affects within other areas of Cricket rather than on a one off gimmick. Shouldn't the beneficiaries of this bounty be the various under privileged countries that have a legitimate passion for Cricket and in youth development in these countries? It seems, as with most sports, in the world of Cricket the rich get richer while the poor get poorer.

Lancaster worn down by UCLan to a late 1-0

Rob Parsley
Susan Wynes
Charlotte Parker

Lancaster set out to attack early having taken heart from a speech delivered by their absent captain Lewis Rowlands who will unfortunately miss the majority of the season with an injury. Good link-up play between James Hall and Taylor upfront created chances, notably with Hall exhibiting physical strength and quick feet to drive forward from the half-way line and beat two defenders before laying off to his strike partner Taylor who applied a finish underneath the keeper and into the bottom corner. However, the celebrations were short-lived, with the referee disallowing the goal at the sight of the opposing linesman's flag, held more in sheer embarrassment at

his side's lacklustre start than in recognition of Taylor straying past the last defender.

Far from inspiring Lancaster into grabbing an early lead, the incident seemed gave Central Lancashire determination to raise their game, forcing Lancaster back into their own half continuously. The two fullbacks were forced to defend just outside their own box as UCLan tried to utilise the pace of their wingers. Lancaster defended torridly and keeper Daniel Zimmerman was forced into action regularly, thankfully saving each effort comfortably before ordering his players forward. With much of the play within Lancaster's half and the opposition sending wingers and full-backs forward with each wave of offence Phil Collinson and Rick Marshall were able to make use of the space afforded them on the two flanks, Collinson coming close as he was thwarted whilst rounding the UCLAN goalkeeper.

The second half started less promisingly for Lancaster who found themselves on the back foot, UCLan spurning a couple of opportunities due to the dogged-style defensive play of Si Curtis. Lancaster soaked up the pressure well, calming the play in the middle with Si Thompson and Alex 'Pires' Baldwin. With the ball down to feet more Lancaster were able to play.

However, fitness played a large part in the remainder of the fixture, UCLan looking a fitter and more prepared outfit having benefited from extra match-practice than their counterparts. Despite substitutions Lancaster were unable to match their opponents in the final half hour, tired legs forcing mistimed tackles, and offering UCLan two penalty appeals. Lancaster clung on until the 85th minute when a cross dropped in the box and was half-volleyed towards the net, Rob Parsley unable to prevent the ball crossing the line despite heading it onto the cross-bar. That was the way it stayed at one-nil to UCLan, Lancaster unable to force an equalizer.

Lancaster have the makings of a strong squad for this year, but require more fitness to match other Universities at this level.



Clash: A Lancaster player attempts to tackle one of UCLan's team during their week two clash.

Lancaster 2-2 ManMet

The following week saw the first time draw 2-2 against Manchester Met Seconds Team with goals from Phil Collinson and James Hall.

The game could have gone either way but Lancaster will be looking forward to beating them in the home fixture later on this season.

Lancaster 4-5 Manchester

The Men's Second Team have had an exciting goal frenzy start to the season. They kicked off the season against Manchester University Thirds and with several new faces, along with the return of the old ones of Stuart Lancaster and Olly Ball after a year out, no-one knew what to expect. With both teams displaying excellent passing

and an eye for the goal, Lancaster went into the break 2-1 down, and despite fighting bravely in the second half and scoring two goals in quick succession, legs began to tire and Manchester took advantage firing home three great goals. The final score was 5-4 to Manchester but Lancaster will not be too disappointed with the display.

Lancaster 2-3 Bangor

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Lancaster 5-0 Keele

Lancaster Women's Football team got off to a flying start in their first match against Keele University, beating the visitors 5-0. The game started off with confident play by Lancaster in the opening 15 minutes which led to an early goal for the home side in the 16th minute. A great through ball from Jen Murphy meant that Sue Wynes was able to easily slot the ball into the back of the net. Although

there was lots more chance, the game remained 1-0 at half time. However, the second half saw 4 more goals added to the Lancaster tally, with debutantes Danielle White and Emma Leahey netting their first goals for the club as well Wynes scoring her second. It was an extremely positive win for the side that has a lot of new additions and their hopes for the rest of the season are very optimistic.

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Lancaster have the makings of a strong squad for this year, but require more fitness to match other Universities at this level.

Inter-college sport gets 'old-skool'

Charlotte Parker
Sports Editor

INTER-COLLEGE sport commenced on the Sunday of Week One with the annual University 'Old Skool' Sports Day.

On a fortunately sunny day, members from different colleges turned out on the football pitches for some fun and games and a cheeky ice cream or two. With exhibition games of rounders, Ultimate Frisbee and volleyball going on throughout the day there were plenty of chances to get involved and ease Saturday nights' hangers-on. Freshers remarked that it was good to be able to mix with people from other colleges, in contrast to the college-focussed activities that took place in Freshers Week.

The real fun was to be had with the 'old skool' races; from the egg and spoon race to the wheel barrow race, there was amusement had all round. Competition was not fierce, but the banter was good, serving as a reminder that sport is meant to be something to be enjoyed. The eventual winners of the day were Grizedale, but whether they can

triumph in the Carter Shield in more traditional sports remains to be seen.

For those that were at the sports day, it was a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon. However, turnout was low for the second year running. The question of whether holding a University event at the start of term when many are suffering the effects of 'freshers flu' is the best idea is one that must be asked. While the 'Old Skool' Sports Day has all the ingredients to be a great event for the University, it is perhaps better suited to Summer term, when the stress of exams is over and people are more willing to spend time outside.

Turnout was thankfully better at the Carter Shield taster sessions, the following weekend. The taster sessions are part of the new format of the Carter Shield, introduced last year, to give people a chance to try new sports and to give the college sports representatives a chance to find a winning Carter Shield team.

Women's indoor football kicked off the event with individual teams comprised of players from different colleges, again giving people the chance to make friends beyond their college. The event was well attended, with members of the Uni-

versity's football team turning up to show the freshers how it is done. If the tasters were anything to go by then this years Carter Shield event will be highly competitive, although at the moment Fylde are looking the strongest with seven University players coming from the college.

Dodgeball's display wasn't quite as good as the film by the same name, but it was definitely good fun. Dodgeball is a sport that requires little skill, just luck and the courage to have hard balls fired at you, and is the most popular of the Carter Shield events. Inter-college Chairs, Colin Hudson and Chris Houston, gave it a go, only to find themselves humiliated.

The final taster was korfbal, a sport that most people are unaware of before they come to university. A taster session was definitely needed for this sport as korfbal is tricky to pick up. It is often described as a cross between basketball and netball but a bit more complicated. There was once again a good turnout for the session, suggesting that the new Carter Shield format appears to be gaining popularity, and will hopefully lead to the best Carter Shield tournament for a few years.

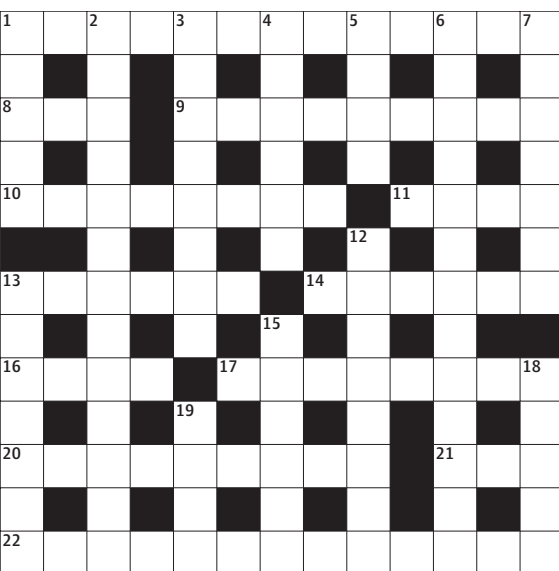


Barrow-in-Cartmel: James Cornish (a.k.a. "Pasty") supports Phil Miles during their wheelbarrow race.

The Carter Shield kicks off in earnest on November 9th with dodgeball. Korfbal, womens football and volleyball will also be competed in by the colleges throughout the term. More information regarding how to get involved check out the lusu.co.uk or contact your sports reps.

Inter college sports are a great way to meet people from other colleges and this year could be the most exciting yet. Apart from the poor attendance of the 'Old Skool' Sports Day, the inter-college tournaments are enjoying their best attendances in recent years. Roll on November 9th!

Quick crossword no. 11,831



Across

- 1 Temperature at which a liquid solidifies (8,5)
- 8 Destiny – auction item(s) (3)
- 9 Thin edible sheet (4,5)
- 10 Part of the Atlantic between Britain and Scandinavia (5,3)
- 11 Refuse from grain (4)
- 13 Parcel (4,2)
- 14 Freedom from danger (6)
- 16 Dispatch (4)
- 17 Accumulated debris (8)
- 20 Quavering (9)
- 21 Storage container (3)
- 22 Bad catcher (13)

Down

- 1 Criminal (5)
- 2 Diversion (13)
- 3 Time to launch attack etc (4,4)
- 4 Metallic element (6)
- 5 Tube for conveying gas or liquid (4)
- 6 Too small to be noticed (13)

- 7 Despotism (7)
- 12 (Soldiers stationed to guard) fortified place (8)
- 13 Large container for cleaning clothes (7)
- 15 Excuse – explode (3,3)
- 18 Cavity in body (connecting to nose) (5)
- 19 Unadulterated (4)

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George Wyatt Cup kicks off

The bar sports tournament, George Wyatt Cup, began in week two. After Bowland's domination of the tournament in recent years, everyone is keen to take the bar sports crown. In darts, Pendle produced a shock nine-nil win over County, only to lose their next match seven-two to a strong Furness side. In both men's and women's darts, Fylde are looking to be strong, having hardly lost any players at the end of the last year. Cartmel have also upset the works, following disappointing performanc-

es over the past few years, both the men and women's darts teams are looking to be stronger competition this year. After finishing second in both the men's A and B pool tournaments last year, Fylde started off the year with victories for both sides. It's a long season ahead but Fylde definitely seem to be the team to beat in the George Wyatt league this year, with County and Bowland struggling compared to recent years after the loss of several key players across all the sports.