

**Isn't it about time we took another look at the law on euthanasia?**

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# scanews

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 4, Michaelmas Term, Tuesday November 11th

# Controversial Sabbatical Review comes under scrutiny

- **Proposals for sabb team to be changed to a President and five Vice-Presidents**
- **Creation of Equality, Welfare & Diversity portfolio**
- **Athletic Union and Societies Union to be run by same sabbatical**

**Rob Miller**

**Assistant Editor**

**THE make-up of LUSU's sabbatical team could be up for radical reform following an extensive review into the roles of the officers.**

The sabbaticals are six elected officers, who work full-time in the Union during either a year out of their studies or after their degree.

The proposals were submitted to LUSU's governing Union Council for scrutiny and debate last week. The final proposals will be put to a General Meeting of the Union membership following the forthcoming JCR elections after further consultation and amendment by Union officers.

Leaving the equality-focused role open to all Union members is the best way to lessen the dominance of white, heterosexual sabbatical officers and open the door to greater inclusion of minority groups.

LUSU President, Michael Payne, hoped the approach to the review would allow a "full and wide consultation" with the general student population. Last Thursday, however, allowed the first discussions to take place amongst

the Council. Most Union insiders expect the review to provoke debate and controversy both inside and outside Union Council.

The current sabbatical team consists of the Union President, General Secretary, Education & Welfare Officer, Women's Officer, Athletic Union President, and SCAN Editor. The review proposes a restructured team, with responsibilities being reallocated among the newly created roles.

Alongside the Union President (the position left most unchanged), there would be five Vice-Presidents, each with specific remits dedicated to Finance, Events & Democracy (FED); Academic Affairs; Equality, Welfare & Diversity (EWD); Media & Communications; and Student Activities.

The greatest area of contention centred on the EWD role. Although the Equality role incorporates many of the functions already unofficially performed by the sabbatical Women's Officer, proposals are for this position to be open to any candidate, unlike the existing Women's Officer role, which is restricted to women candidates and voters.

Before the Council met, the current Women's Officer, Sara Dunn, said she "applauded the way the new position has been worked out" but felt the Union still needed a position that "guaranteed women's representation". She felt that the creation of the new role left open



**Shedding coats:** The roles and titles of the sabbatical team will be changed as a result of the review.

## Existing Sabbatical Team:

- President
- General Secretary
- Education & Welfare Officer
- Athletic Union President
- SCAN Editor
- Women's Officer

## Proposed Sabbatical Team:

- President
- + 5 Vice-Presidents, responsible for:
- Finance, Events & Democracy
- Academic Affairs
- Student Activities
- Media & Communications / SCAN
- Equality, Welfare & Diversity

## What happens now?

A Union General Meeting will be called for Week Nine, at which the proposals will be debated and, it is hoped, passed.

# National Student Forum sets out vision for future of HE

**Lisa Stallard**

**A 'student jury' set up to suggest improvements to the experience of students across the country has delivered its recommendations to the government on higher education policy, after months of surveying the national student population.**

Earlier in February this year, a National Student Forum (NSF) was set-up to feed back to the government the issues in higher education students would like to see resolved. The eighteen-strong group is comprised of representatives from the National Union of Students (NUS), National Postgraduate Committee (NPC) and National Bureau for Students with Disabilities (NBSD).

The NSF has delivered its recommendations to the new Minister for Students, Lord Tony

Young, with the aim of improving Higher Education Establishments throughout Britain. The Chair of the National Student Forum, Maeve Sherlock, presented the suggestions, saying: "This report offers our views on some of the key issues facing British students today. I hope it will be of some interest to ministers and policymakers, universities and students alike."

One major problem highlighted was that of providing better infor-

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# Dissenting delegates given 3-line-whip by Union Council

- Council mandates Conference Delegates to support NUS reform
- Delegates who break mandates face fines

## Rob Miller

### Assistant Editor

**LUSU'S Union Council voted this week to support proposed reforms to the National Union of Students (NUS) and to mandate its delegates to vote in favour these proposals at November's NUS Extraordinary Conference.**

The proposed reforms are the second attempt to overhaul NUS governance this year: attempts to pass similar reforms failed in April, where they failed to reach quorum at the 2008 Annual Conference. The proposals fell by just 25 votes, four of which were members of the Lancaster delegation who broke from their mandate.

Following the defeat, NUS consulted with students unions around the country in an attempt

to develop the reforms to a state where they would pass this year. LUSU and other constituent unions called last month for an Extraordinary Conference to debate and vote upon the proposals, which has now been organised for November 12th.

The reforms aim to increase participation in NUS and to bring more diversity to those who get involved. NUS's existing four 'policy zones', covering welfare, education, union development, and society and citizenship are to be expanded to be more inclusive to Further Education students—those in colleges and sixth forms—who have long been felt to get a raw deal in NUS in comparison to Higher Education students.

Also targeted in the proposals are the currently-low levels of influence wielded by part-time and international students; the proposals including better funding and staff support for these groups and

a dedicated officer representing international students.

There will also be significant structural changes to NUS as an institution, with the aim of creating "greater transparency, accessibility, clarity and the type of effective balance of power which should be at the heart of any democratic system."

While Lancaster's delegates have now been mandated to vote in favour of the reform package, they will still have free votes on amendments to the proposals. Some are not happy about this, however: conference delegate Fraser Welsh, for example, argued at Union Council that the very fact that there will be amendments meant that the Council's vote to approve the measure could not be fully informed—since the constitution they have approved might be significantly different to the final version.

Also raised was the concern that the process of mandating was undemocratic, given that some candidates for the delegation stood on a platform of opposing the reforms

NUS aims to create "the type of effective balance of power which should be at the heart of any democratic system."

and yet would now have to support them as a result of the mandate.

LUSU President Michael Payne stressed that what was needed was reform, not an argument over procedure and mandating which has the potential derail this year's negotiations as it did last year's.

NUS delegate Kate Fry, whose breach of mandate as a delegate last year earned her a fine from LUSU, spoke to SCAN after the meeting. She felt that, while reform was needed, the current reforms did more harm than good and took power away from students.

Some delegates, including Fry herself, "were elected on a platform of 'I don't like the constitution'." To deny such delegates a free vote was, she argued, to deny a voice to the students that voted for them.

Dan Hogan, one of the motion's

## Sabbatical officer roles under review

the possibility of having an all-male sabbatical team.

She cited the lack of women standing in previous sabbatical elections as evidence that, despite making up 54% of the student population, "women don't feel involved in Union politics" and that the removal of the Women's Officer position would only heighten this problem.

Advocates of the new proposals, however, argue that far from limiting representation within the Union, the creation of a non-gender specific EWD Officer would broaden the scope of diversity within the organisation. It is their view that leaving the equality-focused role open to all Union members is the best way to lessen the dominance of white, heterosexual sabbatical officers and open the door to greater inclusion of minority groups.

Moving the responsibility for welfare issues into EWD frees up an officer to focus on Academic Affairs. However, some feel that the fields are too closely linked to be divided.

Of the other newly created positions, much of the job description of the General Secretary would fall to

the Finance, Events & Democracy role, with the current responsibility for the Societies Union passing to Student Activities, along with the Athletic Union. The proposed Media & Communications post has largely the same role as the existing position of SCAN Editor, with added responsibility for overseeing other student media, such as Bailrigg FM and LUTube.

Introducing the new proposals, Mr. Payne said the Union had "a moral obligation to meet the new demands of all our members in a modern day Students Union". He went on to urge LUSU to "discover dynamism, be ready & able to adapt when necessary, and most of all be pioneering in the activities and services we provide."

The LUSU President challenged sabbatical, non-sabbatical and JCR officers to engage students in discussion on the issue.

He spoke of the hopes of a General Meeting which would include over 500 members of the student body sharing their opinions of the review. A website has also been developed for students to voice their views on the issue. It can be accessed at: <http://sabbreview.lusu.co.uk/>.

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# Do you want to write for scan?

Email [scan@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto: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.

## LUSU warns students to avoid 'Carnage' porn star event

**Dan Hogan**

Editor

**THE Students Union have issued a rebuke to the controversial student-targeted bar crawl Carnage.**

The Union, in a motion passed unanimously by Union Council, claims the event will encourage "heavy drinking and bad behaviour" and that it "may undermine the reputation and good name of Lancaster students."

The LUSU President, Michael Payne, has been mandated to join the President of the UCum Students Union to put clear water between the Unions and the Carnage event in the local press.

They are joined in these sentiments by NUS President, Wes Streeting. Speaking directly to SCAN, Mr. Streeting commented that "[the NUS] are totally opposed to Carnage. It's Carnage by name, Carnage by nature. They're putting a lot of students and the general

public at risk with the kind of excessive behaviour they are promoting, giving student unions and students generally a really bad name."

Carnage argue that the event, which is due to take place on 20th November, will be "a well-organised and fun evening designed to give different groups of students the opportunity to socialise halfway through the term".

The self-proclaimed "best student event ever", has been the cause of controversy up and down the country. In October, eight people were arrested after taking part in the pub crawl in Swansea. The event was also recently been axed in Blackpool, where the council acted to pull the plug on the 'Dirty Porn Star' party.

Back in Lancaster student staff have been tasked with taking down any Carnage posters that appear on campus. Their efforts though may be thwarted by Carnage, who have taken it upon themselves to employ students to put up posters in campus residents.

However, not quite all members

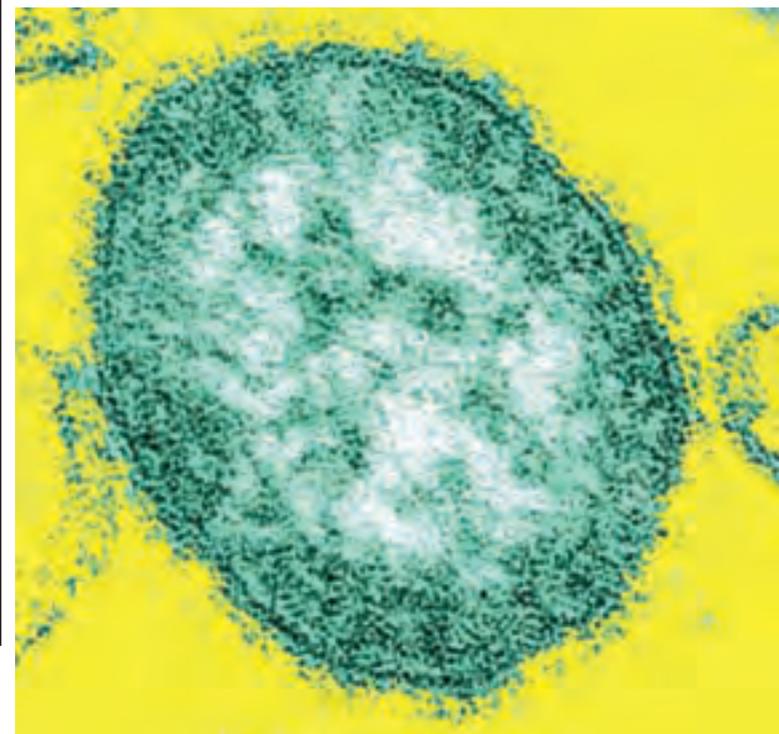
of the Students Union are opposed to the event. Block of Six officer Charlie Ross, who was alone in his defence of the party at Union Council, said in a written statement: "Carnage is a nationally accepted event that has proven successful in various universities... I don't think we should bad mouth the event. Students should have the right to make up their own minds."

In terms of policing the event, Licensing Officer for Lancashire Constabulary Graeme Cheetham explained how "[the] police have met with all the participating venues and indicated that although we do not support this type of event there is no legislation available to prevent this event-taking place."

He added: "There will be a police operation on the night to prevent crime and disorder issues and to facilitate a safe and enjoyable evening for all the participants. The venues have been advised that specialist-licensing officers will be on duty during the event and any breach of licensing regulations will be dealt with robustly."

## Fears of campus measles outbreak: students urged to get MMR jab

- **Highly contagious virus sweeping country**
- **No cases in Lancaster yet, but 30% of students not immunised**



**Three Cs:** The normal symptoms of measles are a cough, coryza (runny nose) and conjunctivitis (red eyes) combined with a fever. It is transmitted by air and is highly contagious.

### Keziah Nassiwa

Students have been urged to get immunised against measles, amid fears that outbreaks of the virus across the country could be repeated in Lancaster.

A number of cases have been reported across the North West, including Cheshire, Manchester and Blackpool. So far there have been no cases of the highly contagious bug reported in Lancaster, but Blackpool has seen over a hundred cases, including three GPs. Due to the highly transient nature of Blackpool's population, and its popularity as a leisure destination for students, there is a risk of a measles outbreak on campus. Lynne Jones, Practice Director at the Bailrigg Health Centre, said: "We want to get as many students as possible immunised so that [the virus] doesn't fly through the halls like wildfire"

Due to widespread worries about links between the MMR (measles, mumps and rubeola) vaccine and autism around a decade ago, many current students

did not receive the full course of vaccine. An estimated 30% of the student population lack an immunity and are therefore susceptible to the virus.

Symptoms of the highly contagious virus include coughing, a runny nose, red and painful eyes, and loss of appetite. A rash tends to follow three or four days after the first symptoms. Refusal to receive the vaccine can also increase the risk of mumps which cause infertility and also Rubella.

GPs have been trying to persuade parents that the MMR vaccine is safe. Although the rate of MMR vaccination has risen to 85% nation-wide, doctors say at least 95% of the population need to be vaccinated in order to protect against an outbreak.

According to Ms Jones, taking more than two doses of the vaccine will not cause any ill effects, so people who are unsure if they have had the booster before should book an appointment at the Health Centre to have one. Students do not have to be registered with a GP in Lancaster – all they need to do is call the health centre (01524 5)94130 and book an appointment to have the MMR booster jab.

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**"We want to get as many students as possible immunised so that [the virus] doesn't fly through the halls like wildfire"**

# No shagg-ing please, we're students

- Chaplaincy Centre condemns 'Get Shagg-ed' T-shirts as 'promoting promiscuity'
- Marketing campaign most successful ever, Union claims

**Lisa Stallard**  
**Lizzie Houghton**

**A marketing campaign by Students Union nightclub, The Sugarhouse, has come under fire for allegedly promoting promiscuity among students.**

The campaign, which uses T-shirts featuring the words "I got shagg-ed at the weekend," has caused a stir among the Chaplaincy Centre Welfare Group, who claim the slogan is beyond the realms of acceptability.

With Sugarhouse profits being a problem for the Union in recent years, Union staff have been under pressure to create a campaign that would grab the attention of new students. The Union developed

the idea of using the slogan "I got Shagg-ed at the weekend," playing on the nightclub's nickname, 'the Shagga'. 2,500 t-shirts bearing the slogan have already been given out, with more being reportedly requested by eager students. Badges and posters advertising the club have also been given out, generating a mixture of amusement and dismay among students and staff.

Addressing a letter to the LUSU President Michael Payne, The University Chaplain, Reverend Steve Charman, explained his concerns. He argued that although the slogan may have relevance to students' familiar with the name of 'the Shagga', the T-shirts were "promoting promiscuity," which he said was "not a concept that I imagine the Student Union would like to be seen to be promoting." Concerns over the impact on the wider Lancaster community were also raised.

On behalf of LUSU, General Secretary Janie Coleman responded at length to the criticism, stating "the word 'shagged' has a variety of meanings, and does not necessarily mean to be promiscuous". She also pointed out that Freshers Fair 2009 saw the launch of a safe sex campaign by the LUSU Women's Officer, Sarah Dunn.

Replying to the claim that the slogan would create negative perceptions of students in the wider Lancaster community, Janie said; "nowhere on the 2,500 T-shirts distributed does it say 'student', 'Sugarhouse', or 'LUSU' on them."

Latest figures from the Sugarhouse show an increase in attendance from this time last year. In 2007, 20,774 people passed through 'Shagga's' door in the month of October. This year that figure was up to 21,260.

This increase in attendance has largely been put down to LUSU's successful marketing of the club, which includes, but is not limited to, the 'Get Shagg-ed' campaign.

However, although overall attendance is up, the amount students are actually spending in the Sugarhouse per head has fallen.



## 'Get Shagg-ed': Reactions

"I feel the slogan adds to the irresponsible, removed 'bubble' that university creates. No such advertising ploy could ever exist in the real world."

- Daniel Gunson

"This slogan has been taken out of context. It's a simple advertising campaign aimed at capturing attention."

- Isuri Ambrosu

"The phrase 'I got shagg-ed' does promote promiscuity, and could offend people who aren't into the whole idea. It is the student union club – but this won't represent all students."

- Ruth Chew

Spending is down by roughly 50p per customer. If every person passing through the Sugarhouse's doors this October had spent that extra 50p at the bar, it would have meant an additional £10,000 in revenue for the club.

While more people are attending the Sugarhouse than at this point in the previous two years, those customers are not spending as much while they are there, reflecting a pattern across the entire licensed trade industry.

However, the decreased bar take

per head might also be explained by the simultaneous success of the Easy Tiger campaign, which promotes responsible drinking, and provides free bottled water to anyone needing to pace themselves.

As Ms Coleman explained: "We have been able to hand out free 'Easy Tiger' bottles of water to students on their night out at the Sugarhouse which encourages students to have fun, but pace themselves at the same time so they can get the most out of their night and really

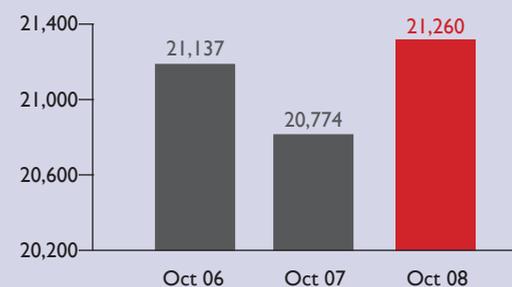
enjoy it."

It is also possible that Sugarhouse attendees are simply having too good a time to bother spending money at the bars.

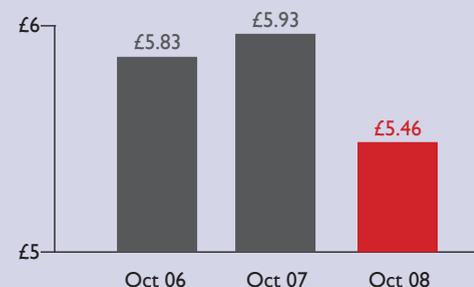
Ms Coleman also pointed out that the Students Union remains an institute "run by the students for the students."

"We aim to listen to what [students] want and put it into action," she said. "That's what the Union and the fantastic team at the Sugarhouse have tried to do, and so far it's been a great success."

## Sugarhouse attendance



## Bar spend per head



### Partying or promiscuity?

Fylde Vice-President, James Duncan, throwing free 'I got shagg-ed' at the weekend T-shirts to the crowds at Freshers' Fair. (Photo: Rob Miller)



**Packed:** Faithless' Maxi Jazz (bottom left) and DJ Simba (bottom centre) on stage in the Sugarhouse in front of a fully packed main room in Week 3.

(Photo: Ben Evans)

# University plans award scheme to recognise student achievements

**Robert Maidstone**

**AN award scheme aimed at helping students recognise, acquire, and record the skills and experiences that graduate employers are looking out for is to be set up by the University, it has been revealed.**

The 'Lancaster Award' is to be run as a pilot this year for a small number of students before being rolled out across the University in 2009/10 if the pilot is successful.

The programme is intended to provide a much needed boost to Lancaster's lacklustre graduate employability, which was reported in SCAN recently. Only 60.9% in the graduate prospects category of the Times University Guide 2008, which was significantly lower to similarly ranked Universities.

Part of the idea behind the award is to provide a record of the wide range of skills and experience that students gain through their time spent at university which are not currently recognised formally. Activities that students participate in during their first and second years will be judged against the criteria required to gain the award. The activities will cover a range of different areas and skills in four main sections.

As part of the award criteria, students will be required to attend careers workshops, run by the University's Centre for Employability Enterprise and Careers (CEEC). These will include the two-day "Insight into Business and Management" course and at least one other workshop on, for example, CV writing or interview techniques.

The second area for assessment shall be "Community and Social Activities". This section will

include recognition of volunteering work (e.g. work done through LUVU) and involvement on JCRs, in LUSU, in clubs or societies or in other similar areas. The third of the four sections is used to recognise work experience gained by the student and the fourth will be dedicated to miscellaneous skills not covered by the other three. Examples could include courses in languages, IT, or first aid.

At the moment it is still unclear as to how this award would be assessed or how many extra administrative staff will be needed to administer the scheme. The financial cost to the University in implementing this scheme would depend heavily upon these staffing issues. Worryingly, the University are cannot say how much money will be needed or where it will come from.

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# Nottingham win Debating Society's annual inter-varsity competition

**Christina Anderson**  
**Alex Lainsbury**

**NEARLY 80 competitors from thirteen universities descended on Lancaster University for the Inter-Varsity debating competition on Saturday 1 November, each vying for the coveted Princess Alexandra Cup.**

Lancaster's Debating Society were spectators for this event, since by tradition the host university does not compete, but the event is just one in the societies' packed schedule. Universities around the country host their own events throughout the year, and events have also been held further afield in Paris and the USA.

The teams had competed in preliminaries throughout the day. In the grand final, four teams competed for the chance to win 'Best Team', 'Best Speaker' and 'Best Novice Speaker' awards: after a day of competing, it came to S.O.A.S and Manchester University to argue for the proposition, with Nottingham University and the University of York opposing them.

Formal debating has a rigid structure: each team member has five minutes to deliver their argument, and during the first and last minute 'points of information' (objections) from the opposing teams are not allowed. Otherwise, interaction is encouraged—making each debate an often confrontational and intense experience. Recently at a Cambridge Union debate the contestants came to physical blows, but thankfully Lancaster's event avoided such controversy.

As the final began, the motion was proposed by Liz Ford, chief adjudicator: 'The burden is on governments, not multinationals, to find alternatives to oil and gas'. Competitors were given fifteen minutes to construct their arguments.

First up was Manchester, who presented a convincing opening argument in favour of the motion. Richard Robinson, a fresher competing in his first IV, argued that it is the government's responsibility to protect its citizens, likening finding alternative fuels to "having enough policemen on the streets." His team-mate, Ciaran Prendeville, proposed that governments are better equipped to co-ordinate such a large-scale operation. At this point, it seemed that Manchester had a good chance of winning over the judges. However, while both speakers won individual trophies, they did not win overall.

Also arguing for the proposition were SOAS, contending that global warming affects economics, not just weather, making alternative fuel is the concern of governments. They illustrated the Philippines, where companies bought rice crops, forcing up prices, leaving locals starving. As the government has previously repaired companies' damage, nations place more trust in their government than multinationals.

York, on the opposition, contested that multinationals they should fix things themselves, given that the damage was caused by them. They added that if an alternative fuel, such as solar power, were developed it would become a commodity. Therefore, multinationals would be the best people to deal with it. Countries like those



## Rebuttal:

Jordan Anderson of SOAS argues the proposition side during the finals of Lancaster University's Inter-Varsity debating competition. Speaking to SCAN after the debate, the Young Republican apparently recognised the irony of wearing a McCain/Palin t-shirt while advocating big government and alternative energy. (Photo: Rob Miller)

in the Middle East, are not short of sunny weather. If governments bore the burden, alternative fuels like solar power would create the same problems as oil.

By far the liveliest reception was for Nottingham, whose speakers were accompanied on stage by a chant of Kings of Leon's 'Sex is on Fire' from supporters in the audience. They argued that multinationals have profit incentive so are more likely to find a solution.

They highlighted the Pharmaceutical industry, happy to spend decades developing medicine in return for high profits, and added that multinationals competing is preferable to governments competing, as there is no chance of escalation into war. Despite the audience's initial amusement at their

vocal support, they argued their points well, eventually winning the Lancaster IV. They were presented with a trophy for 'Best Team'.

Debating is not always so formal; amusing team names and a debating drinking game kept the mood light among the audience. One rule was to drink every time the phrase 'ladies and gentlemen' was used—a common occurrence.

The judges were impressed with the quality of the debate. The competitors did not let their nerves affect them, impressive considering the pressure of the final.

Speaking to a delighted Richard Robinson after the trophy presentation, he said he had "learnt more today than in two years debating at school". He added that he felt Manchester had a good chance before

Nottingham delivered their argument, but seemed pleased enough with his trophy for 'Best Novice Speaker'. 'Best speaker in the Final' was awarded to Ciaran Prendeville and 'Best Speaker Overall' went to Bryn Gough from Birmingham University.

Afterwards, a fresher in the Lancaster society, Jenny Arding, related her feelings: she was "inspired" by the friendliness and good atmosphere of the event, and couldn't wait to compete in an IV herself.

If you want to try debating, the Lancaster Debating Society meets every Monday in Fylde Lecture Theatre 1 at 7pm, with training sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays.

## Government errors to cost students

**Lizzie Houghton**  
**News Editor**

**DUE to miscalculations by a government department, students starting university in 2009 will see their funding drastically cut.**

Students from middle-income households who had previously been told they would receive a

larger grant than those who started in 2008 will now in fact receive the same amount. Families with incomes over £50,020 will no longer be entitled to a maintenance grant. The threshold had previously been set at £60,000.

It is believed that up to 40,000 new students will lose out on grants that would have been worth up to £524 a year.

The error was noted when the Department for Innovation,

Universities and Skills admitted it had underestimated the cost of increasing student maintenance grants by £200m. The department, which came into being eight days after Gordon Brown entered No 10 Downing Street last year, had originally only expected a third of students to qualify for the new grants. The actual number was 40%.

The Department had also underestimated the number of university applications put forward this year. The annual cap on new university places has been lowered to 10,000. That limit was originally set at 15,000 new places, and most commentators believe demand for

places will outstrip availability.

Speaking in *The Guardian*, an aide to the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, John Denham, said: "The issue arose because we underestimated the number of students who would apply. It is the result of our drive to widen participation being so successful that has meant we have had a rise in student numbers."

But Liberal Democrat spokesman Stephen Williams attacked the government. "A significant number of students hoping to enter university next year are no longer going to be entitled to the grants that they were counting on. This will come as a shock to many young

people," he said.

President of the National Union of Students, Wes Streeting, said: "Obviously, it very good news that more students from lower income families will be going to university. However, the measures laid out by the government to compensate for this will inevitably hit new students from middle income families at a time when they are struggling to cope with the impact of the credit crunch. The government needs to stop tinkering with grants and fees every year."

The University said that it was "too early to tell if or how this news will affect Lancaster."

# Government-commissioned report contradicts position on ‘studentification’

- Rugg Review at odds with Housing Minister’s plans
- National Union of Students praise “victory for common sense”

**Lizzie Houghton**

**News Editor**

**AN independent report published last month has undermined government efforts to tackle ‘studentification’ in University towns around the country.**

The Rugg Review, which was originally commissioned by the government, found that any changes to the law limiting the number of HMOs in an area could be damaging.

‘Studentification’ is the term coined by Universities UK – the higher education lobby group – to explain the impact of mass student accommodation on towns and villages. The Government plans to tackle what it sees as the problem of ‘studentification’ in university towns and cities by introducing new laws and legislation.

Julie Rugg’s report argues that far from harming the local economy, the money that students and Higher Education Institutions bring in actually helps to ‘prop-up’ many areas. This to the extent that the Government is actually looking to establish 20 new higher education centres across the country in order to aid regeneration in certain areas.

Ama Uzowuru, NUS’ Vice

President (Welfare), explained how the Union “welcome this independent review, which is a victory for common sense.”

She added: “The report acknowledges that higher education institutions are a catalyst for regeneration and job creation and that although there are some problems, these should not be taken out of proportion. Out of over 8000 wards in England, only 59 have a significantly high density of student residents.

“It is important to remember that students often contribute a great deal to their community – not just through boosting the local economy, but also through their charity and fund-raising activities.”

But in another government report, published by the Housing and Planning minister, Caroline Flint, the government seems determined to enforce stricter regulations on houses of multiple occupation (HMOs), the most common form of off-campus student accommodation. According to Flint’s report, a high concentration of HMOs in one area can have a negative impact on the local neighbourhood. More empty residences during the summer mean more empty shops, businesses and pubs which have a detrimental effect on the local economy. During term time the problems are mainly those of litter, noise and parking.



**Ghost Town:** Two student houses owned by Yellow Door Lets on Oswald Street. Some streets in Lancaster, particularly around the University of Cumbria, become almost entirely vacant outside of term-time due to the highly concentrated student population.

“[The] report has identified a series of proven steps councils and universities can take to reduce the dramatic effects of ‘studentification’ where Houses of Multiple Occupation cluster too closely together,” Flint said.

“It is not acceptable that current rental practices allow unplanned student enclaves to evolve to such an extent that local communities are left living as ghost towns following the summer student exodus.”

Measures which could be introduced by the government include monitoring the number of HMOs in any given area, as is already the case in Nottingham. There they have established a HMO threshold of 25% per neighbourhood.

The issue is not just a national one. At the time it was first highlighted in 2006, Dr Darren Smith, urban geographer at the University of Brighton, stated: “Studentification is now becoming an interna-

tional phenomenon. In Australia, Canada and Ireland, students also cluster in particular areas, and universities are increasingly seeking to enable purpose-built communities to accommodate students. In some contexts, this has led to the emergence of student ‘ghettos’ where students can be isolated from locals and not fully immersed in the local community.”

## Better advice and increased funding the key to improving student life, Universities told

information and advice to help students make correct course choices. This includes requests for universities to publish contact hours and assessment styles students can expect, as well as a breakdown of how tuition fees are spent. Another suggestion was to provide grants for prospective students from poorer backgrounds, allowing them to be able to visit at least two universities before making a final decision.

Ms Sherlock said: “These days it’s a big decision to invest the time and money needed to come to

**“These days it’s a big decision to invest the time and money needed to come to university”**

university, so it’s really important to know not just what your course is called but what it will involve.”

Recommendations regarding Student Finance included increasing the amount of maintenance loan available, as students felt it was insufficient to fund university life. Another suggestion was to introduce a choice of loan instalment

options, providing flexibility on when they are received.

NUS President Wes Streeting, who also sits on the forum said: “NUS is pleased to have contributed to the NSF, and as the representative voice of students, we look forward to working with the government in order to find solutions for the issues raised.”

Until those solutions are found, students across the country will be left wondering how seriously the Forum’s suggestions will be taken by the government.

## Council votes to support NUS Governance Review

proposers, and also a delegate, had challenged this view in Council. He argued that none of the delegation had made any real effort to convey to voters what they would do as delegates: no posters had been put up, and no manifestos had been published by any of the candidates. Combined with the fact that the seven candidates stood unopposed for the seven delegates’ positions, and that the student body is largely ignorant to the specific issues, Hogan argued that conference delegates had less of a democratic mandate than they claimed.

Fry does not believe, however, that Union Council is informed enough on the issue. Their support

for the reform and the mandate was, she argued, merely toeing the line set by the proposers of the motion, Dan Hogan and LUSU President Michael Payne, “who know about the reforms and are in favour of them.”

Hogan disagrees with this assessment. “Though I am surprised to hear that I set ‘the line’ in Council and flattered to hear that anyone toes it,” he said, “I do not believe councillors would have issued a mandate to support NUS reform unless it felt confident in its own understanding of the issue. I give Union officers more credit than to assume they are just puppets of the sabbatical team.”



# Where now for the American right?

Alex Harris

It's a story 28 years in the making. Perhaps it started when Reagan and Greenspan sowed the seeds for the demise of the American financial system, or as soon as Karl Rove first laid eyes upon George W. Bush and imagined a new, permanent-campaign-style of governmental philosophy in America. Maybe it was the moment Clinton decided to co-opt the right in order to make the Democratic party electorally viable. Wherever it begins, it's over now. We have our grand finale, the happy ending - the inevitable public repudiation of the right-wing domination over US politics has come. Its name is Barack Obama.

It may be too premature to fully announce the defeat of conservatism in the United States, but the collapsing scenery of perhaps more honest Republicans jumping ship and declaring the party all but dead is encouraging. The 2008 campaign represented the cynicism of the Republican brand all too well this time. Whether it was the absurd, politically calculated and dangerously irresponsible choice of Sarah Palin for Vice-Presidential nominee, or the brutal, base attack ads that would have been more in a 19th Century US campaign, the erratic and cynical nature of today's GOP was on full display. Perhaps this election was less Barack Obama's victory, and more the Republican party's loss.

The past 8 years of failed government, stolen elections and un-kept promises has all culminated in

a coup, of sorts, by conservative intelligensia. In the final weeks of the McCain campaign, moderate Republicans either flocked to endorse Senator Obama's campaign or reverted to speculating on the future of the GOP brand. The 2000 election was by any reasonable standard stolen and 2004 was won by appealing to the base desires of what were thought to be a fringe evangelical movement, but which demonstrated themselves to be a very powerful and frankly terrifying political force.

The big question is, where does the conservative movement go from here? It's no real secret that McCain's campaign was hoping for a repeat of 2004 - an election in which swing voters could be set aside in favour a core base of 'values voters' - who vote mainly on issues such as abortion and gay marriage than foreign policy or economics. It didn't work this time. Whilst the so-called Republican base is fiercely loyal to any candidate who promises to bring an end to abortion and overturn Roe v Wade, the stakes were just too high. It's entirely likely that behind closed doors the Republican campaign managers are convinced that they didn't go fringe and crazy enough, and a 2012 Palin, Huckabee or even Romney Presidential run is a real possibility, but there is another scenario that could prove to be interesting and potentially transformative for US politics and politics in general.

It took the Tory party in Britain a long time to realise that simply

moving itself further to the right wasn't going to sway voters in the era of New Labour. Cameron's rise has been a triangulation just as Bill Clinton's and Tony Blair's was before - the fringe, irrational and borderline racist elements that made the Tory party so unattractive before have now either gone, or been silenced. Instead it has been replaced by a relatively liberal platform that threatens to make the two-party system in Britain more homogenous than ever - but perhaps it will be worth it for the sake of a more calm and rational political right in Britain.

Republicans have a lot to learn from Cameron. While he stands a better chance of becoming Prime Minister than any Tory leader in over a decade, it's unlikely that the Republicans will re-brand themselves with a significant movement to the left - the term 'liberal' in the US is just too toxic. Instead, what they would do well to consider is the positive message that has been characteristic of Obama's campaign. If they can re-invent themselves as the smiling face of calm, rational, forward-thinking conservatism, as opposed to the snide, sarcastic and borderline insane conservatism of the past, then they stand a chance of regaining their former dominance. And whilst I may not be a conservative, we could all do with a bit more calm, rational politics after the past 8 years.

# The salvation of Obama

Liam Richardson

Comment Editor

It has been a long journey. The US election and its accompanying media coverage have portrayed the human side of politics and the extraordinary steps one must take to achieve the Presidency. From the primaries, through to the Presidential debates and finally to the election night; the world has been witness to political theatre at its finest.

As Barack Obama, the 44th US President-to-be remarked in his victory speech, "a new dawn of American leadership is at hand." For too long, the rest of the world has sneered at America, embodied by the deeply unpopular George Bush. An ignominious fate for the most powerful country on Earth: eight years of bitterness, recrimination and hatred. Obama has a tough task to prove "America's beacon still burns as bright" and although there are still lingering doubts of his substance, I believe Obama has the intentions and the intelligence to restore his nation's trampled reputation.

The signs of recovery are already evident if this tumultuous period is anything to go by. First time voters, ethnic minorities and young people flocked to vote in their millions, ensuring a record turnout and creating history. Meanwhile, British politics is dogged by voting apathy and, as Simon Schama pointed out on Question Time, at no point soon will a "Sikh from Southall" become Prime Minister.

Perhaps, after years of claiming superiority over our cousins over the Atlantic (evidenced most recently by our mocking disregard for Sarah Palin), Britain should wake up to the fact that our political system is backwards looking, inaccessible and archaic. It's time to follow America's example and use the media more effectively to engage with the electorate no matter how distasteful and entertainment driven many may find it. Our leaders should show warmth and compassion; a sense of humanity instead of maintaining that alienating stiff British upper lip at all costs. Ordinary Americans have been able to identify with Obama and John McCain - how many of us could say that about Brown or Cameron? America is about to embrace change, perhaps not immediately but over the next four years. While they are exiting the dark ages, Britain remains rooted in the past.

# Marketing aimed at students has to be edgy, but caution is needed

Samantha Newsham

It was, one supposes, inevitable. The Sugarhouse's decision to run their Freshers 2008 advertising campaign under the slogan 'I Got Shagg-ed at the Weekend' has generated complaints from the Chaplaincy Centre that students find its sexual undertones offensive.

So is this just another edgy slogan or is it an encouragement to casual sex? Are the complainants making a fuss over a harmless bit of marketing or should we be asking ourselves whether a nightclub owned and run by LUSU ought to be making implications, however mild, that a night out and a careless sexual encounter go hand in hand? Wouldn't the Students Union - an organisation committed to looking after student welfare - be better off finding a way to promote safe sex and respect for one's body?

With 2,500 'Shagg-ed' T-shirts given out since Freshers Week, and students still demanding more, it cannot be denied that the campaign has been anything other than a huge hit. But time and again it has

There is a fine line to tread between creating a talking point and causing contention

been shown that an advertisement deliberately designed to shock will bring the most success. Consider the furore caused by French Connection's FCUK logo back in 2001: it generated hundreds of complaints to the Advertising Standards Agency from offended shoppers but a rise of over £12m in profits for the company thanks to the attention and discussion in the media that followed.

The bottom line is this: in a world where we are constantly bombarded with advertisements the use of shock tactics is almost necessary to get noticed.

But can we go too far in our desire to avoid being bland? We need look no further than the current scandal involving Russell Brand, Jonathan Ross and the offensive messages left on actor Andrew Sachs's answer phone to

see that it's all too easy to overstep the mark. Brand and Ross's assault was no result of overexcitement or split-second thinking during a live show; it had been pre-recorded and accepted by a BBC editor before its broadcast. There is no doubt that it was given the go-ahead by a director fully aware of the potential for controversy, but Georgina Baillie's relationship with Brand and the name of her dancing troupe are irrelevant; the comments left on her grandfather's answering machine were entirely inappropriate.

There is a fine line to tread between creating a talking point and causing contention. Brand and Ross crossed the line and are paying the price.

As for the Sugarhouse, they will not suffer a similar fate. However, the debate over their campaign serves to remind us how something that at first seems harmless can quickly escalate. Perhaps next year, LUSU might consider using 'I Shagg-ed Safely.'

# All part of the Masterplan?



**Liam Richardson**  
Comment Editor

People often joke about Lancaster's ultra-functional architecture, a product of its 1960s origins. In recent years, there has been a concerted effort to update the look and feel of campus to something more akin to the 21st Century. This has met with mixed results however, as I shall detail in my views on the new residences, bars and academic buildings that have been springing up over the last few years. These developments form part of a so-called Masterplan, a strategic outline of how to improve the campus.

In terms of residences, the new County and Grizedale townhouses have been successful for multiple reasons. They are innovative and well designed and cater for students by being more affordable and containing social space for housemates to interact with one another. Lessons have obviously been gleaned from the Alexandra Park developments which formed the earliest stage of the Masterplan. South West Campus or Toy town

as I prefer to call it is a constant reminder of a trip I made to Legoland Windsor in about 1995.

The new bars are also a mixed bag. Whereas County and Graduate bars have developed an identity all of their own, the new Fylde bar characterises the vulgar minimalist style favoured in many new buildings, complete with its gaudy furniture. To my eye, it resembles an airport departure lounge. In all fairness though, it has been very successful since opening so there is obviously no accounting for the taste of some. Cartmel bar is similar in that the architect must have been on hallucinogenic drugs when they thought it was a good idea to stick a cavernous and perpetually deserted food court onto the actual bar. These new bars require you to wipe your feet and shake off your soul before entering them. There is little sense of atmosphere or homeliness which Furness and Bowland bars, though ageing, have in abundance.

In terms of new academic and recreational buildings, the credit

crunch has already contributed toward delays to the new Sports Centre and has forced the University to hunt out financiers willing to invest in Phase 5. This perhaps highlights the ambition of the Masterplan. Perhaps the University was over-reaching itself and buying into the Brown philosophy that boom and bust no longer existed. If only they paid attention to Vince Cable they could have assessed their plans in accordance with the probability the credit bubble would eventually burst. Another new development is the Learning Zone which is to be situated at the heart of Alexandra Square. It has been designed to support group learning, provide a venue for informal meetings and to make space available for off-

**the architect must have been on hallucinogenic drugs when they thought it was a good idea to stick a cavernous and perpetually deserted food court onto the actual bar**

campus students. However, this will take business away from bars where students traditionally go and also remove off-campus students from their colleges. I'm yet to be convinced that the development will be a success and the space will be used efficiently. There's the possibility it could be the "white elephant" of the Masterplan and development work at the university in general.



So that covers what the Masterplan is doing. However, what about the things it does not do, such as essential student amenities? What about an NHS dental clinic? What about a modern, accessible and well advertised pharmacy; preferably situated somewhere near to the medical centre? What about proper space for societies? What about a designated place of worship for all faiths (other than portakabins)? What about laundrettes that function properly and are big enough to cater for large numbers of students? The laundrette near County bar covers not only the biggest college on campus, but Bowland as well. There have been many issues with washers swallowing money and dryers not drying clothes.

To their credit, after speaking to the University, there is movement to improve facilities for all the basic amenities I have mentioned and I appreciate their efforts. However, it would be nice if these simple but crucial amenities were given the attention and finance that developments in the Masterplan were given even though they may not have the same aesthetic appeal as a new bar or residence block, or the impressiveness of a Learning Zone or Sports Centre.

## Frills and baubles will not do, we need real change in our Students Union



**Michael Payne**  
LUSU President

The sabbatical review is a fundamental reform to make sure LUSU is representative of all its members, whatever their age, gender, sexuality, race or academic status. It is with this in mind that I propose a full and thorough discussion and debate about this reform.

I would ask and urge all students to involve themselves in this process and wherever possible speak to our officers to participate in and move this reform forward.

It is clear that only if we dare to

grasp the nettle of change will we ever clear the path to student led reform at the heart of our Union.

I realise that there will be fear of change amongst students, but it is not upon the worries or speculation of change & progress that we should build the future of our Union. We must discover dynamism, and be ready and able to adapt when necessary, but most of all be ever pioneering in the activities and services we provide.

This sabbatical review is a proposal for equal rights and opportunities for all and special privileges

for none. It is on this premise that we must, with the limited resources we have, open our doors to all students not just a select few.

The intention is that final proposals for this review of our Sabbatical make-up will be put to a General Meeting after the elections this term so that there can be a detailed and proper debate with our members, allowing amendments and questions.

Following extensive research the recommendations as they stand at the moment are for the Sabbatical team to consist of a President, Vice-President Finance, Events and Democracy, Vice-President

Academic Affairs, Vice-President Equality, Welfare and Diversity, Vice-President Student Activities and a Vice-President Media and Communications.

It is important that people understand the roles that these Sabbatical officers will be fulfilling and do not become overly concerned with the titles.

To truly represent all our members and focus on being an outcomes and achievements based Student Union we must tackle the controversial and contentious issues surrounding our own internal structures and get on with doing the job our students want us to do – representing them.

It is true that our everyday decisions are bound to be nuanced, steeped with complexity and full of controversy in a Union that is far too big to be improved and re-

formed by ten word solutions or ten word answers. It is also true that I am the President of the Students' Union not the President of those who agree with me and it is for that reason that I urge all students to make their voice heard, talk to officers about the proposals, read the information and get involved with the debate.

I truly believe we have a moral obligation to meet the new demands of all our members in a modern day Students' Union; a Union which focuses on enhancing & developing the student experience for all, whilst continually being put under pressure from government and University Management. Have your say, it's your representation.

**We must discover dynamism, and be ready and able to adapt when necessary**

# The debate: The license fee

## The license fee prevents us from deciding for ourselves what is worth paying for

**Mia Bleach**

Let's be honest. No one really wants to pay a TV license but we do it because it's the law and it's only £11 a month anyway and we like telly and then we stop thinking about it. But that's how they get you, because as Tesco say, 'every little helps to make money for the BBC to spend on foreign broadcasting that the British public don't have access to and expensive advertising to threaten us if we refuse.'

A standard licence costs £139.50 per year which is fine for most of us. Still, this is two weeks income for a woman on benefits. TV Licensing is hot on the trail of the 200,000 (primarily poor) people they prosecute for evasion every year.

**The foolhardy but endearing idealism of Noel Edmonds' admitting he cancelled his TV Licence on the BBC News is ill-advised.**

The main issue with TV Licensing is that it's sneaky. This is not about having a second-rate 'why should I pay' attitude. This is about law-abiding people being presented with a moral dilemma, since as consumers we are entitled to choice. Ironically, the BBC's opinion that the license fee is good value, deprives us of our chance to come to that opinion, or otherwise, ourselves. Trying to scare people into paying with their 'It's all in the database' advertising campaign perhaps had the reverse effect to what they'd hoped for, rattling the cages of those who'd just accepted the payment beforehand. "Get one or get done."

Now, it's not just what the BBC bullies do, it's the way they do it. "A court appearance and £1000 fine - is it worth the embarrassment?" We should all pay our bills, but watching TV is surely no cause for wasting court time and placing citizens in already overcrowded prisons.

The foolhardy but endearing idealism of Noel Edmonds' admitting he cancelled his TV Licence on the BBC News is ill-advised. It's unfair but pay it to protect yourself. A criminal record stays with you for life. The fee will be scrapped in 2012 anyway.

## If TV licensing is the price of quality television, then I'll gladly cough up

**Sam Wicks**

Rules and laws are a bit of an odd subject for me. Sometimes I feel like an anarchistic nut and break as many as possible, and sometimes I feel like an authoritarian dictator and that rules should be imposed all over the place. In this case, I feel like I'm leaning more towards the latter category unfortunately.

**Those of you who complain that you don't watch BBC: why not?**

A lot of people don't seem to enjoy TV licensing for one reason or another. Some people think it's too expensive, some think it's too bureaucratic, and some people are just offended at the very idea of having to pay money for entertainment. I, on the other hand, think it's actually quite a good idea. Thanks to licensing we have a company that brings us great shows, relatively unbiased news and, of course, no

advertising whatsoever.

Ok, so that last point might sound a little facetious, but look at it. It is one of the most mentioned points about the BBC channels; when I'm watching TV and I'm really enjoying a show or movie, one of the worst things that can happen is something ruining the suspense - someone walking in the room, a phone ringing or, an advert break. It can really spoil the mood, and that takes the enjoyment out of watching something. This is not a problem I have with the BBC. Ok, so they may have a form of self-advertising, but in between shows, not during. I've never been watching a BBC show, waiting for the hero to defy the villain by escaping from his intricate trap and been suddenly interrupted by someone telling me how greasy their hair is and how much it needs a shampoo (ok, so maybe once, but that guy was a bit strange).

It's all about quality entertainment, and if you want quality stuff you're going to have to pay for it. TV licensing just seems to be the most sensible way of paying. And for those of you who complain that you don't watch BBC: why not? You're missing out on some quality entertainment.

# Broadcasters breach public trust at their peril

**Andrew Hayhurst**

When Jonathan Ross and Russell Brand finished a recording of the latter's eponymous Radio 2 Show, which included their now infamous messages left on the answering machine of Andrew Sachs (best known for his role as the hapless waiter Manuel in the BBC sitcom *Fawlty Towers*), they could scarcely imagine the media storm that was about to be unleashed upon them, prompting one to resign and leaving the other with a twelve-week suspension without pay.

That such a story (of what is, at its most fundamental level, two men leaving less than courteous messages on a pensioner's answer-

ing machine) should receive the attention that it has is the most baffling aspect of the entire saga, demoting the present crisis in the Congo, and the US Presidential elections from the front pages, and commanding them for a similar length of time managed by the current financial crisis for one extraordinary week in September.

But this scandal is in no way unique - merely the latest in a series of controversies to engulf the BBC. The row over the misleading editing of the documentary *A Year with the Queen*, and the fallout from Hutton Inquiry, in the aftermath of Britain's invasion of Iraq, are the most high-profile examples. Echoing *Sachsgate*, as it has come to be known, in both cases the corporation came in for severe criticism from newspapers across the political spectrum, and competing television channels.

When the BBC is involved



editors need little encouragement to spin a low-key scandal into front page news. Their ruthless manner is best exemplified by the current controversy, when the Daily Mail alone published no less than thirty articles on the subject within the space of seven days, inciting a wave of latent indignation among the public; due in no small part, one

feels, to the corporation's mouth-watering annual injection of £3.4b from the license fee, the envy of every commercial broadcaster and newspaper in the country.

It is not just the BBC, however, which finds itself in the eye of these media storms - the Big Brother race row and pan-network spat of TV phone-in scandals from earlier

this year blighted not just the commercial channels, but the entire medium; nor is it coincidental that TV scandals attract the greatest coverage. It is, after all, by far the most popular source for news and entertainment, in the living rooms of almost every home in the country; and, more pointedly, in the bedrooms of impressionable children. In such an influential position, the trust placed in the channels' controllers and producers, and their regulators, is enormous. And this is no more true than in the case of the BBC, the closest thing we have to a state broadcaster. As an impartial organization, and with the level of public funding it enjoys, our expectations of transparency and integrity are at their highest. When this trust has been breached the repercussions are profound, as Jonathan Ross and Russell Brand have recently discovered to their detriment.



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## Kids are not that innocent - tell them to the truth about sex

Chris Blackburn

It was to be expected, that when the government announced that sex education would become a compulsory part of the curriculum for children as young as five, that outrage would follow shortly after. But a more liberal approach to sex education is exactly what we need.

No one is saying that five year olds should be told every intricate detail, particularly not the government. However, it is hard to believe that there are still people alive today who believe current standards of sex education is sufficient.

My own experience of sex education consisted of being told things I already knew by tongue-tied science teachers who, at best, wanted to move the lesson on as quickly as possible, and at worst, had no knowledge of what they were talking about. But it's not going to happen at home either – it is always going to be a difficult job for parents to perform when they have at least a subconscious desire to preserve their child's innocence.

Our levels of teenage pregnancy and abortion are shameful. STIs are rife amongst both teens and adults. And yet, the Catholic MP for our neighbouring town of Morecambe, Geraldine Smith, argues that the plans would rob children of their innocence. But the sad truth is, many of them lost it some time ago. The sexual climate has changed and it's up to us to adapt. Schools exist to turn their pupils into individuals, prepared for the life outside the school gates. A less naïve approach to sex education must be part of this process.

Children are experiencing things they can't fully understand or deal with, and adults are too nervous and conservative to explain them. This wall of silence must be brought down so children feel they can ask the questions they need to and adults can answer them without panicking about preserving innocence. If people want a society with fewer abortions and thirty-five year old grandmothers, a verbally sexually liberated society is now what we need. Conversation not repression, knowledge not guesswork, and adaptability instead of a desire for a society we no longer have.

# Our mental health provisions are insane

Alexandra Ross

Gone are the days when men in white coats had the power to drag you kicking and screaming from your family and lock you up in the local lunatic asylum if you exhibited the slightest signs of failing to cope with the enormity of life. As recently as the 1980s, these notorious institutions were surrounded by a dark cloud of mystery and dread. Looking back, it is all rather frightening to think how people were treated with such appalling ignorance – the infamous Howe Report of 1969 revealed squalid living conditions, ill-treatment and neglect of patients, drawing deprecated of the standards of the institutions and their barefaced disregard for human rights from social activist groups of the time. Pitifully little was understood about mental illness, from relatively minor conditions such as anxiety to major depression and severe trauma.

The prejudices and misunderstandings that feed the stigma surrounding mental health issues are not appealing to the most stable of characters, let alone the vulnerable; inevitably many in need of care would choose to go without,

if in the knowledge of the way they would be treated. It is only relatively recently that mental health issues have begun to gain more acceptance and acknowledgement in society.

Perhaps it is not so shocking to learn that a quarter of students will suffer from some form of mental health problem or another during their studies. The transition from home to uni-life, living away from parents for the first time (who might be on the other side of the country, or the world), lack of emotional support, independent study, exams and financial pressures can amount to a huge ordeal for the average student to contend with. Helen Symons, executive member of the National Union of Students, says: "Student life is becoming more and more stressful, largely due to the ever increasing debt and hardship that students face." So instead of panicking that the rates of insanity are on the increase let's realise that more people coming forward to seek mental health services is in fact good news.

While a physical illness or injury (take for example a broken leg) can be openly seen by others who will undoubtedly offer their sympathy and support; a troubled mind or a person in emotional turmoil can easily go unnoticed or denied the sympathy and concern that is so desperately needed. Although



friends provide a great deal of emotional support, downloading your feelings on them may not be the best idea and can be met with insensitivity or even irritation, of course this is not to say they don't care, just that they are not counsellors or psychologists competent in handling such matters.

It is absolutely vital that students are aware of the services that are available and that they feel comfortable and unashamed in seeking help when necessary. The risk of suicide is unsurprisingly heightened for virtually all mental health problems and substance abuse; 90% of people who commit suicide are thought to have at least one diagnosable mental health problem at the time they take their own lives. According to studies carried out by the Samaritans, the more suicidal young people feel the less likely they are to seek profes-

sional help. It is estimated that there is an attempted suicide once every 20 minutes in England and Wales alone. Distressingly, suicide remains the most common cause of death in young men (under 35) in the UK. If you recognise signs of emotional disturbance or depression in a fellow student, it is advisable to encourage them to make an appointment with their GP and look into attending counselling. People suffering from major depression are 20 times more liable to commit suicide. On a more uplifting note there has been a 10% decrease in suicide in the UK over the last 10 years and mental health issues have never before raised so much awareness and communication with the public, there is even a day to celebrate mental health. World Mental Health Day is officially commemorated on 10th October every year.

## Freedom to life, freedom to die

Zoe Nicholson

I was compelled to read the story of the 23 year old rugby player who, a year after he was paralysed from the chest down following a scrum that dislocated his spine, took his life at an assisted suicide clinic in Zurich, Switzerland. I was understandably saddened at the news, but I also felt that what he did was right.

At the risk of sounding insensitive to people who have spent their lives incapacitated, I consider that it is harder on someone to be paralysed later in life, especially if they have lived in the prime of health, than to be born with such problems. It is harder for someone to come to terms with something

as life changing as paralysis, more so if you have been used to running around on a rugby field. You can only sympathise with the young man: it must have been soul crushing to be denied the movement and freedom he had enjoyed for his whole life.

On the other hand, I also agree with euthanasia in general, though I don't agree that everyone should be entitled to it. I believe in the concept of dying with dignity. No-one should have to suffer needlessly if they have indicated they want their pain to end. Though if they just see death as the 'easy way out' rather than a release from suffering, then they don't deserve it. Death should not be a cop-out, it is something final and in the cases of those truly wishing for assisted suicide, a catharsis.

However, I can understand

the opinion of people who think euthanasia is wrong, that a choice like that cannot be made by anyone of a sound mind. Death is hard for anyone to cope with, and the friends and family are often more hurt by suicide than any other kind of death, as it implies that they could do nothing to help. Even worse, some people see it as a fundamental weakness in personality. I see it instead as an act of incredible bravery, not only of the person wishing to end their life but also of their friends and family who support them. It takes a great dedication to a person's wellbeing to be able to support them in such a decision, as well as a respect for their wishes, no matter how painful they may be to accept.

Opposition to euthanasia is often the product of a belief in the sanctity of life. But those opponents do not have a monopoly on

those beliefs. Life is precious, and for all we know it could be the only one we get. But that doesn't mean that prolonging a life of torture is a moral imperative. What kind of a life is it that one feels nothing but pain, and a desire to end that life? Not one I would like to live, that's for sure.

It is unfair to say that people cannot think for themselves when coming to such a decision as euthanasia. Some people think that the decision is void, simply because they believe no-one can come to that conclusion with a sound mind. That is an unfairly judgemental and dehumanising view to take. One of the luxuries we enjoy as human beings is the ability to make our own choices in life, and indeed in death. Who has the right to take that away?

# Forcing people to learn against their will just doesn't work

Tom Hollingworth

I'm meant to be writing you an article about changes to education. I decided that, to begin, I'd go online and do some research to make sure that what I'm ranting about is actually what's happening because otherwise I might end up feeling stupid. Only thing is, I got distracted and what began as reading an article on human rights in education ended up chatting about exclamation marks at 3 in the morning. So obviously I found out lots of information very useful for my article.

Or not. The reason I tell you all this is not for filler but because it perfectly illustrates the point I'm about to make: that is, raising the school leaving age to 18 is quite frankly going to do no good at all.

Because to put it simply, I choose to be here and I still don't do half of what I'm supposed to. I voluntarily put my hand up and opted to write this article, and I still spent at least three days procrastinating. How do they think they're going to motivate students that are being forced into it?

It's not even the motivation that a student needs to deal with further education. It's also the fact that the education system just isn't for some people. I personally flourish (usually) in my chosen subjects because of my aptitude for writing pages of nonsense and making it sound vaguely intelligent, but not everybody is academically minded.

This is, I suppose, why the plans include training courses or apprenticeships as alternatives to further education. Which does make it sound better; except for the fact that if a young person aged 16 is doing something just because they have to do it and not because they're actually interested, chances are they either won't do it very well or won't care enough to continue. Forcing them to do something for

the sake of doing something isn't the way to do it. Make sure their options are clearly stated, sure, but leave it up to them whether or not they choose to take them. Making them do it will build up resentment, lead to poorer quality of work, raise the dropout rate, create shallow meaningless qualifications and just generally make a mockery of the education system.

And I honestly don't see what's wrong with young people taking some time out. The policies are set up to stop young people from sitting round playing on their game stations for a year or two - but why is that so wrong? Young people need time to figure out who they are and where they want to go and rushing them into decisions will only lead to a lot of unhappy people.

Plus, if we needed any more reason, there's been some debate about whether or not it breaches human rights laws. Apparently the government forgot this bit, but using criminal law to force young people into going to school seems to me a little wrong. The offence would be cleared after two and a half years, so I can see many defiantly opting to accept the punishment. And it's curious because although I chose higher education, I think that if it was something I was forced into doing then I'd have probably taken the punishment too, if only out of protest.

I pity the children of the people who come up with this rubbish.

**If a young person aged 16 is doing something just because they have to do it and not because they're actually interested, chances are they either won't do it very well or won't care enough to continue.**



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A mid-terraced property situated in a quiet cul-de-sac with good access to Williamson Park & City

# what we offer

LUSU Let properties are student houses where the majority of management functions are undertaken by LUSU Housing rather than a private property owner. We take care of everything from the managing your lease and dealing with contract related issues through to attending to any repair requests and processing all rent payments.

Our housing team are friendly and approachable so you're guaranteed a reasonable landlord. We are here to help with our Lancaster City Council Accredited properties offering a high standard of accommodation. LUSU Let tenants sharing a typical shared house can expect to pay an average rent of £69.50 per person, per week for 2009/10.

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We charge NO Deposit or Retainer and offer a FREE Summer License so you may store belongings in the property before you move in.

Our houses are 3,4,5 & 6 bed roomed and provide a shared kitchen, a lounge and a bathroom as standard. Our Undergraduate houses are available on a standard 44 week lease and because we manage more properties than anyone else we also offer you more choice.

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\*Comparison relates to annual inclusive rent charges as quoted by: Yellow Doors, LPN Limited & the University

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-  Moorlands is just behind primrose and covers the area stretching up to the Ashton Memorial. Many properties benefit from great views across the bay and Moorlands offers something for everyone.
-  Fairfield is just behind the Train Station providing easy access to the city's shops, restaurants, pubs, cinema etc there's also a regular bus's from the Train Station to Uni.
-  Aldcliffe is the area by Chancellor's Wharf and Lancaster Canal. Close to the city - a fantastic location, providing good public transport to the University, larger properties for larger groups.
-  Primrose is next to Bowerham and backs onto the University of Cumbria campus. The area has a great mix of students and families - offering a selection of 2 - 4 bed houses.
-  Greaves & Scotforth offers a good selection of 2-5 bed houses. Greaves at one end is near town and Scotforth at the top end is near the Uni.
-  Bowerham's just 10 mins walk from the city center and is currently Lancaster's most popular student location due to it's proximity to the University of Cumbria.

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### PRIMROSE

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56 Scotforth Rd  
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A mid-terraced house that has recently been refurbished to include double glazing throughout.

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121 Scotforth Rd  
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A great house in a great location. This house offers something for everyone & is close to booths.

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This charming listed property faces Williamson Park has a garden and a large utility room.

#### **BOWERHAM**

95 Bowerham Rd  
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A superb house in an excellent location. Large bedrooms and a good sized lounge.

#### **BOWERHAM**

55 Bowerham Rd  
4 bed  
£71.50 per week  
(utilities included)



A nice mid-terraced house on our most popular street. Great location for larger groups.

#### **BOWERHAM**

44 Golgotha Rd  
4 bed  
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(utilities included)



Typical of Golgotha this property is one of nine we have on the street, perfect for larger groups.

#### **BOWERHAM**

5 Bowerham Ter  
5 bed  
£69.50 per week  
(utilities included)



Situated in very popular location this house offers a high standard of accommodation

#### **BOWERHAM**

1 Golgotha Rd  
6 bed  
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(utilities included)



This property is always in demand. Decorated to a high standard and in a great location.

# The personal side of Remembrance Day

**Daniel Ash**

The 11th November 1918 saw the end of four years of what was arguably the most devastating war to have ever occurred. The First World War raged across Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa with an estimated 40 million people being killed or wounded in the fighting. Whole cities and landscapes were decimated in the fighting and the world would be changed forever by the consequences of the war.

In commemoration of the bravery and heroism of the many men who fought and died, and to remember the horror and futility of the war, the 11th November was designated in 1919 as a day of observation and remembrance. This tradition continues to this day, and the occasion has even grown over time. This growth is emblematic of the powers of England and the public recognising that the lessons learned from 1914-1918 are just as

necessary today, as we reach the 90th anniversary of the signing of the armistice, as they were when the war ended. Perhaps this recognition is due to people seeing that the lessons aren't just consigned to the pages of history, as today we see stagnant wars and growing death tolls still occurring.

Dr. Alan Warburton, Lancaster University's resident specialist of the period, said that the annual Remembrance Day is of 'fundamental importance, as it demonstrates the special nature of the armed forces within society, not only during the world wars, but before, and after them. It is important to realise and remember the personal connections that we have to these periods in history and to think of it in these terms.'

The importance placed upon discovering and remembering your own personal relationship with the past wars is emphasised by programs currently being shown by the BBC. One in particular revolves around Dan Snow and Natalie Cassidy investigating the roles played by their ancestors in

the Great War.

Nowadays the Sunday nearest to the 11th November is dedicated to the many people who fought in not only the First World War but also in the many wars since. This year on the 9th November, the Queen will place a wreath on the Cenotaph in London as part of a service attended by religious leaders, politicians and both current and former members of the armed services. The service itself has changed very little in all the time that it has been conducted, various hymns are sung and prayers are read and most famously a two-minute silence is observed at 11 o'clock. The ceremony is concluded by a march past of war veterans.

Across the world the First World War and the many people who died are commemorated in similar ways. Australia and New Zealand, countries which volunteered men as members of the British Commonwealth, both remember the war on the 25th April, known to them as ANZAC day. This date is remembered as it was on this day in 1915 that the Australian and

New Zealand Army Corp landed at Gallipoli, both nations see this event as a moment of great national pride due to the gallantry of the men involved and their heroic achievements during that day.

In Canada Remembrance Day is a national holiday and is celebrated in a similar fashion to the UK. America holds Veterans Day on the 11th November, which is designed to commemorate the men who fought in both of the world wars. These days of observation are seen in many other nations which fought throughout the war, however they contrast significantly with Germany which holds religious days to commemorate the dead, but has no dates of national significance for remembering fallen soldiers.

Remembrance Days the world over are crucial dates, as they remind us of the respect deserved for those who fought and died in horrific circumstances, they allow us to reflect on the cruel lessons of war and they even contribute to a countries identity and national pride.



## the foodie

St George's Quay, Lancaster  
Reservations: 01524 843199



## Quite Simply French

**Fiona Hutchinson**

*Quite Simply French* overlooks the River Lune on the newly renovated St. George's Quay, only a 5 minute walk from Lancaster bus station. The restaurant, established in 1996, advocates authentic French cuisine using only fresh, seasonal ingredients.

Upon entering, a host leads you past a fresh lobster tank to your table, leaving no uncertainty that the ingredients are indeed fresh. Depending on your attitudes to food this may leave you salivating for your grilled whole lobster, or like me, sympathetic for the next of these obscure pets heading for the pot. The restaurant is neutral in decor with rustic wooden tables and interesting, yet absurdly overpriced photographs lining the walls. The soft lighting and low tones of Amy Winehouse playing in the background give the setting a relaxed, welcoming yet expensive feel.

*QSF* boasts a menu that is constantly changing so that customers are guaranteed variety, even on repeat visits (Considering this I might excuse them for the fairly

obvious spelling mistake in the menu title!). The appetiser tasters are delicious, attractive and nicely take the edge of your hunger. The steamed plaice and smoked salmon main course is beautifully cooked, with a texture that melts away in the mouth, and is perfectly accompanied with french beans, peas and a buerre blanc sauce. The venison burger is an interesting twist on a classic dish and is also highly satisfying to the palate. The presentation is chic and upmarket, whilst resisting the temptation to win the next Turner art prize. If your idea of good meal is a huge portion that fills you until you are at bursting point, then this may not be the restaurant for you. The value comes not from the portion sizes but from the high quality of the ingredients and choice of dishes on offer.

This restaurant may not be affordable for a regular student outing with main courses ranging from £9.90 to £24.95, but it is definitely worth considering for a special event or as a treat every now and again. Alternatively you may consider taking advantage of the Early Bird discount (Tue-Sat 6-6:30pm) or 'Simply Squiffy' evening, offering 3 courses and a bottle of wine each for £18.95 (Sun/Mon).



# Michael & Sarah

A woman with a hearty bosom and a young man with a small penis tackle relationship issues that they didn't actually just make up themselves this week.

### Dear Michael and Sarah

Worms don't mock you when you're not looking; neither do they verbally abuse you in front of others. I have always loved worms - I have books, DVDs, I even have a worm farm in my room! But at 20 years of age, there are so many things I feel I'm missing out on - I've never been on a date, never had a girlfriend, never even kissed a girl. **I feel its time to choose between my worms and my life.** Can you help me?

X

**Sarah:** Whilst I would personally advise you to choose society over worms, I would be more sympathetic if it were a rabbit or hippo obsession. From a female perspective I find your interest in worms unnerving, and perhaps even a little phallic. Are you sure it's a girlfriend your after? Whatever it is you are seeking in a relationship I would suggest perhaps spending more time out of your room, of course leaving the worms well fed and wiggly. Moving on from what is clearly a big part of your life is going to be tricky but in your search for a partner first try the gym club. They will be flexible may well make the transition from worms to humans easier.

**Michael:** Worms do not mock because they are a glorious hermaphrodite life-form that can see both sides of any issue and the inherent good in even the most socially maladjusted or smelly person. They have no need for such mortal vices. Would that we were all as perfect as worms. However there are many human traits that a worm colony is just not a substitute for, do not look upon a potential relationship with a human female as being a hindrance to your Annelid love: Worms are fairly quiet, so if you go out with a blind woman you can decorate your house, shelves and bedroom with all manner of worm paraphernalia and she need never know...

### Dear Michael and Sarah

I love my boyfriend very much, but **I came home early from shopping last week to find him wearing my knickers and bra.** Do you think this means anything? What shall I do? The worst of it was they were my best pants!

X

**Sarah:** I think it means your boyfriend enjoys cross dressing. Perhaps he was trying to better understand the tempestuous female psyche, or maybe he just likes the feel of lace knickers. Either way, it is probably best to discuss this with your boyfriend and see how he feels about the whole fiasco. If he is keen to make cross dressing a regular thing you could perhaps suggest branching into make-up and full female attire to see how

comfortable he feels. Go shopping together, advise one another on fashion and try to accept him sharing your interests. Is there perhaps a deep seated jealousy of his overall appearance in your best pants? Of course he may just have been drunk, curious or confused, and as you do not mention his response to being discovered you should try addressing all potential avenues that led to him rifling through your knicker drawer.

### Dear Michael and Sarah

I recently developed feelings for someone I only just met, and he said I'm a lovely girl but said he doesn't want a girlfriend, though I didn't ask him out or anything. I can understand his point, I am indeed lovely, but I text him like any other friend and he never responds. I feel like he was just being polite and that he rejected me because I'm actually NOT lovely at all but he just didn't want to be horrible. I love talking to him, he is intelligent and funny and **I just find it so disappointing that someone I want to spend time with and get to know just ignores me.**

Mend my achy-breaky heart, please.

X

**Sarah:** He may well be 'intelligent and funny' but clearly he is also a bit rude to ignore your texts! Do not lose faith in your own loveliness, tell yourself everyday just how fabulous you are, or find another man who will tell you. Flattery and reinstating your own self worth will mend your heart in no time! Whilst I don't doubt that you have strong feelings for this boy you need to accept that he is not interested in anything more than friendship. The best option is to stay on the lookout for a man who won't ignore your affection. Most importantly, stop texting this boy; you don't want him to misconstrue your good intentions as stalking.

**Michael:** First of all, cut down on salt intake as this could be exacerbating your achy-breaky heart problem. Aside from that there is little you can do in this situation except wait it out until the man in question comes around to your charms. Men who are intelligent and funny are oftentimes too good to be true. I am both intelligent and funny, yet spend my leisure time wanking and crying in the dark.

Men are dense creatures who do not notice affection until it's gyrating against their thigh. Gyrate against his thigh and see what happens. If this does not work he's most likely gay or something.

**If you have an issue you'd like to ask Michael & Sarah about, write to them at [michael\\_unt\\_sarah@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:michael_unt_sarah@hotmail.co.uk).**

**Anonymity guaranteed.**

**Michael:** I think your worry is misplaced; the little tyke was probably just curious and if he let you find him so openly he probably does not see anything shameful in his behaviour, have you never tried to have a piss standing up just because there was nothing else to do? We humans are naturally very curious as to how our opposing gender operates hence the existence

of this column. Obviously if they were your best pants you should broach the issue with him and designate a set of underwear that you wouldn't mind him despoiling, or better yet try to encourage his interest by taking him to buy a set of underwear that would give him better back support.

Michael personally refers to his penis as being 'subtle'

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# Barack to the future



**Michael Holt**

No-one does a live spectacle quite like the BBC. With their sprawling hordes of correspondents and hastily assembled interviews, they always manage to capture a sense of occasion, helped by the BBC's almost uncanny ability to attract weirdos like moths to a bare light-bulb; the amount of seemingly irrational people intoxicated by the scale of the event made for utterly compelling viewing as the BBC managed to speak to a bizarre cast of characters from (a seemingly pissed) Nick Robinson wobbling around outside 10 Downing Street to (for some unknown reason) singer Tracey Chapman.

The event was chaired with characteristic peevishness and wry laughter by deservedly smug national treasure David Dimbleby; he sat bemused in the eye of the

storm as sheer madness unfolded around him.

During the opening stages of the coverage, the face off between McCain and Obama paled into insignificance compared to the clash occurring in the studio between the eccentric, gesticulating, ever-so-slightly camp historian Simon Schama and the hideously mustachioed former US Ambassador to the UN (as appointed by George Bush) and serial knob-head, John Bolton. As their exchanges in the studio became increasingly heated, Schama began to sway wildly and lean affectionately on a rigid emotionless Bolton; the sexual tension between the two was palpable.

Throughout the evening we were treated to an atrocious CGI lair, inhabited by Jeremy Vine, all crookedly-eye-browed. Every time

he was cut to, he would walk like a diva dramatically down a flight of stairs towards a screen that emerged like a cuckoo-clock with a PowerPoint on the end. Half of the licence fee must go towards funding research into finding increasingly laboured ways of showing psephological statistics. Jeremy conducted the United States to do his numerical bidding by making gestures with his hands like a demented mime, demanding at one point that the USA respond to his 'morphing-device'. It was unnerving.

The hilarious live segment from the Republican's celebration ballroom was almost tragic, with the weedy little room seemingly populated by only a handful of doddering old women wandering aimlessly, while a band tuned up on stage, unaware that they would never get to play a note of celebration. A CNN report from the same event revealed that the Republican organisers had turned the live news feed off in an effort to keep morale up.

Back in the studio, a deflated

John Bolton became increasingly erratic; lashing out at BBC correspondents like a petulant child, demanding at one point that a reporter, for asking fairly standard-issue questions, be fired, before mumbling about the liberal bias of the BBC. When Obama finally hit the magic 270 electoral college votes, Bolton burst into cringe-inducing fury, flushing red and shouting: "That doesn't make us racists anymore! Satisfied?"

It wasn't just Republican ex-diplomats that made fools of themselves, Obamaniacs were just as prone to eyebrow-raising behavior. A brief interview with Eddie Izzard made uncomfortable viewing as he declared, with no hint of irony, that "The Third Millennium starts today!" The BBC reporter inched away from him looking cautious.

I was particularly tickled by an interview with living legend Gore Vidal, who refused to face the camera whilst being interviewed, all the while rambling irrationally with very little idea of where he was, who Dimbleby was and what he was being asked. It was car crash television but it seemed to fit in comfortably with all that came before it.

The procession of madness and

fevered speculation that led up to the climax of the evening reached fever pitch when Obama finally emerged onstage with his family to claim victory. Despite all the hyperbole that had been flying around all night, with quasi-mythical talk of 'transcending race' or 'redeeming America's original sin', it could not obscure the simple fact that Obama is an excellent politician.

Without stumbling over so much as a syllable, Obama acknowledged the almost religious faith that people had placed in him attesting honestly that: "There are many who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as President. And we know the government can't solve every problem. But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face. I will listen to you, especially when we disagree." After all the incoherence and fervent speculation that had led up to that point it became clear that this had no bearing on the man himself. The right man had clearly won and the thought of having such a sensible compelling man on the world stage became strangely comforting. Just so long as we don't lose the weirdos entirely.

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# Exercise: How much is too much?

**Emma Glover**

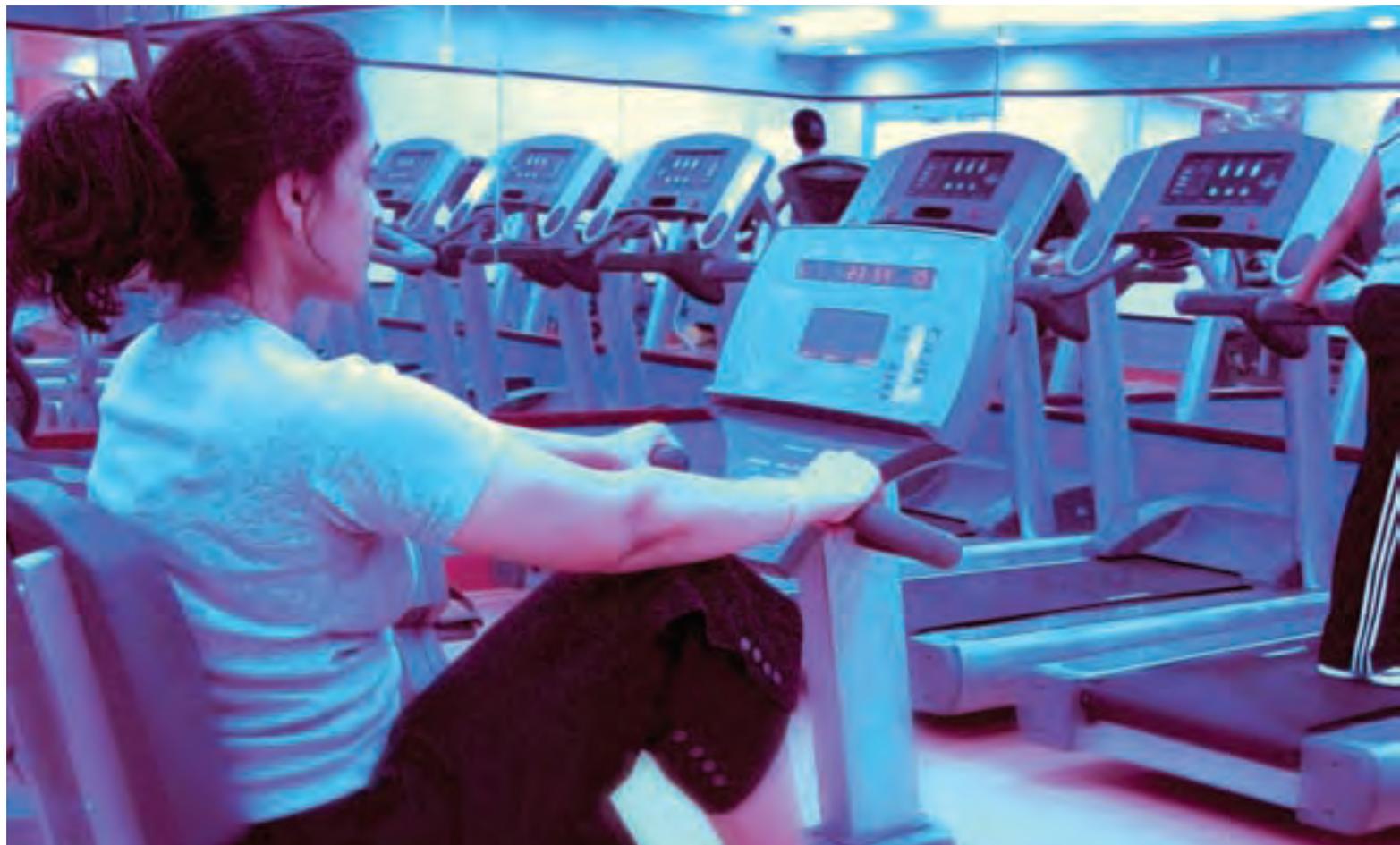
**HOW often do you go to the gym? Once, twice a week? Or is it every once in a blue moon, when your trousers are becoming that little bit too tight as you reach for the third can of beer that evening, oh and a pizza is on its way?! It may seem that very few of us actually have this exercising-to-healthy-eating ratio sussed.**

When going away to university for the first time, many people find it extremely difficult to cope with the new pressure of having to cook for themselves, and so resort to the take-away menus shoved under their doors. I mean, who can resist that 10% discount, and free delivery? So going from a svelte size 10 to a slightly podgy-around-the-edges size 14, you might feel it's time to, literally, get your ass in shape. Forking out £160 for the all-inclusive gym membership, you can get into a habit of regularly attending the gym to burn off those piling pounds, if not only to get your money's worth. It is at this point that we should all stop and think, how much is too much?

Exercise is a good thing if it's done for the right reasons—that is, to improve or maintain physical fitness and overall general health. As with everything in life, exercise needs to be taken in moderation. Some people however, don't seem to be able to grasp this concept, and are as a result putting their health, and ultimately their lives, at risk.

According to Cardiac Risk in the Young, eight fit and healthy young people die every week in the UK from undiagnosed heart conditions. I don't want this to be completely morbid, but what I'm trying to say is: know your limits. If you've had a heavy night, and you decide you should hit the gym in the morning, then take it easy. Walk instead of run on the treadmill, or even opt for a leisurely dip in the pool. Of course I am not condoning exercise, but for those of you who spend hours in the gym, day after day, just think about the long term damaging effects it could have on your body.

Recently there were reports in the news that women who go to the gym more than twice a week using the cardiovascular equipment (the treadmill and cross-trainer) are running the risk of having hip and knee joint problems in later life. Excessive exercise can also greatly affect your hormones.



Madonna's obsession with the gym has damaged her body. She now has to wear her leg strapped up a lot because of the damage she has done to her knees through over exercising.

For those of you who think your friend may be a compulsive exerciser, the signs to look out for are exercising at length (perhaps for one to two hours or more); exercising most days or every day, sometimes several times each day; exercising regularly at a vigorous intensity; exercising even when feeling unwell or injured; exercising in unusual places and at odd times, such as the bed or shower, to hide the amount of exercise; and being withdrawn due to exercising interfering with everyday lives.

People who exercise excessively often suffer from anxiety and depression, low self-esteem, and worry about their weight. Exercise becomes a way of dealing with these emotions and gaining a sense of control over their lives. Once you start this exercising binge, it is hard to get out of it. It may take a while, but once the problem has been identified, gradually cutting down on the amount of exercise and even varying the exercise should help. Maybe try a team sport, such as netball or rounders, where the emphasis is on team spirit and making new friends - rather than body image. That way you'll still be exercising and keeping fit, but in a much more relaxed, healthy and fun way.

**People who exercise excessively often suffer from anxiety and depression, low self-esteem, and worry about their weight.**

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# In focus: Litfest

## Poetry in Motion

• Poet Laureate Andrew Motion Performs at Litfest

**Lizzie O'Brien**

**I don't know what on earth it is you expect a living-day poet to look like, but I can honestly say that when Andrew Motion took to the stage, it wasn't him.**

I suppose I still had that dreamy idea of poets being all Byron-esque, bohemian and rebellious. I knew he was the Poet Laureate, and must therefore have had a degree of sensibility about him, but the man who took to the stage looked far more cosy Granddad than revolutionary poet.

He walked under the spotlight, dressed in a grey suit and a grey cardigan, and thanked us ever so politely for our warm, Lancaster welcome. I was initially a little suspicious of the fact he was the Poet Laureate. Any poet who agrees to this role is commissioned to write

poetry for state occasions (e.g. Royal births, deaths, marriages, etc) and arguably has to sell out on their own poetic ideals in order to take on the role. Surprisingly enough, this was the very issue Motion chose to combat first. I had half expected him to shy away from it. I thought I would have to thrust the issue upon him in the question and answer section afterwards.

He began by talking about how he disliked being commissioned to write anything most of the time. He jokingly mentioned that he was once asked to write a poem for Lemsip, and was sent an entire box of the stuff for free, with a note attached saying something like "We're not really supposed to do this..." (Motion did not, I am afraid to say, accept this commission). He then moved on to talk about one commission he was very glad he performed, and that was to write the story of Harry Patch, the last living British soldier to have fought in the trenches of the Western

Front in World War One, now 110 years old. The poem was called \*The Five Acts of Harry Patch\*, and was comprised of five unrhyming sonnets. Motion read beautifully, compassionately and melodically. His sense of consideration for his subject was both poignant and heart-warming.

The reading continued to hold delightful surprise after delightful surprise for me. Motion simply crackled with intelligence, enthusiasm and wit. But there was something more to him than this. Motion writes about what he knows, about things which have affected his own life, and for this reason he creates something which is \*real\*. His poetry has a definite, solid feeling about it. We are not left gleaning for some sort of hidden message at the end of it. His writing is both simple and eloquent; you do not need a PhD in English Literature to understand it.

One thing I would say to anyone planning to go away and buy one of



**Reflection:** Andrew Motion meditates on the changing face of the Poet Laureate

his anthologies, is that his writing comes alive in such a vastly different way when it is read aloud, so find yourself a quiet room and make sure you do just that! The Andrew Motion feature of Litfest was not like any other poetry reading I have ever been to. There

was no element of showmanship to Motion, no stand-up comedy routine to help his work go down well with the audience. He had a natural grace and connection with people, and his work stood up of his own accord. An altogether refreshing experience.

## Performance poetry

### Digital Remix

Helen Farish, Shamshad Khan, Wonder, Emma McGordon

**Christine Wilde**

**THE power of performance poetry was at the heart of 'Digital Remix', one of the last features in Lancaster Litfest.**

Four writers with an eclectic mix of styles, thematic influences and modes of delivery, joined together a few days prior to the event to 'remix' poems into performance pieces, which they showcased to an enthusiastic audience, alongside selections from their individual collections.

Farish and McGordon introduced the collaborative efforts with their poem, *Sphinx*. Set in a busy restaurant in Casablanca, the two voices emphasised the excitement and energy of the atmosphere sug-

gested by the location. McGordon and Wonder's performance was particularly strong, the mixture of their voices enhancing the presentation of the ideologically torn, multilayered persona of the poem. Khan and Farish's work also stood out as they each seemed to become the main voice rather than an echo of one another as they read their lines.

Though the poetical pairings were among the most interesting pieces performed, it was ultimately the individual performances that carried the evening. Khan began the evening with an arresting performance, combining speech and actions that made her pieces taken from *Megalomaniac* powerful both visually and aurally. Her use of sign language as well as fragments spoken in Urdu reflected the political and cultural themes of her



**Arresting:** Shamshad Khan using sign language to augment her performance.

poetry, which explored origins and ethnicity.

This was followed by a confident performance by Farish, who read a few new pieces that continued themes of cultural diversity introduced by Khan, before reading from her acclaimed collection *Intimates*. Though less visually expressive in her style than Khan, Farish never the less emphasised

the poignant, reflective grace of her poems in her considered, contextualised readings.

The variety of the evening was maintained by Wonder's arrival to the stage. Inspired by a mix of poetical and theatrical mediums, Wonder performed selections from her album *Desdemona Died*, over rhythmical sound effects, giving the readings an extra dimension and

exaggerating the musical quality of her passionate poetry.

McGordon concluded the evening by reading from her newly published second collection, *Those Who Jump*. Having never heard of her before booking my ticket, her energy and enthusiasm for poetic experimentation was instantaneously engaging, and the highlight of the evening. Though hugely entertaining and often humorous, McGordon did not shy away from challenging topics, which she approached with such honesty and consideration that it is easy to see why her poetry has been described as 'devastating' in the past.

Although I immensely enjoyed the performances of each of the four writers, it wasn't quite the evening I had expected. Despite some strong collaborations, the main focus of the evening lay in the individual performances, meaning that the 'remix' aspect of the show was over-shadowed and the 'digital' overlooked, excepting Wonder's effects board and the promotion of an album featuring the writers' work to follow the event. Inappropriate titling aside, the engaging, highly recommendable poetry made for a richly diverse, hugely entertaining evening.

# A very different sort of halloween

Stella Duffy and Jo Baker

**Richie Garton**

**Arts Editor**

**WILD party animal that I am, I decided to spend my Halloween listening to two female authors read bits from their own books.**

This event was intended to display 'writing that looks at our relationships with place', but I found this to be a very loosely applied theme. In reality, it was simply an enjoyable evening where the two writers gave life to their work by reading it aloud in an intimate venue. I didn't really notice anything that tied the pair together; in fact, it was their individual styles

of writing and reading aloud that made the event such a treat.

First up, Jo Baker, a Lancashire-born novelist and professor of Creative Writing here at Lancaster Uni, read several extracts from her third novel, *The Telling*. This modern ghost story (appropriate for Halloween), follows a young woman who has to clear out the home of her deceased mother, and is visited by the spirit of a girl who lived in the house 150 years earlier. The story flickers between the present day and the nineteenth century, making the book an interesting blend of contemporary fiction and Hardy-esque Victorian novel.

Taking the mic next was Stella Duffy. A somewhat more prolific

**Stella Duffy (left) and Jo Baker (right):**

*Two very different, but equally compelling authors. (Copyright Ben Smith)*



author (with eleven novels under her belt), Duffy read extracts from two of her novels; 1998's *Singling Out the Couples* and this year's *The Room of Lost Things*. The first reading was intriguing and amusing, being a monologue from someone who detests with a passion the tedious habits of people in long-term relationships. The second was about Dan, a Londoner who enjoys being homeless, and his daily life.

Duffy was warm and witty in her performance, addressing the audience jovially throughout. However, I felt that she spent far too long setting up her work, telling us far too much in the way of personal background and how it affected her writing. There was also a rehearsed quality to her reading; every movement, every pause and every change in vocal tone seemed pre-meditated in order to try and give her writing more depth.

This is why I enjoyed Jo Baker's reading more. She was friendly without being overly personal, and simply read from her book, letting the quality of her ethereal prose speak for itself. There was a bedtime-story feel to her reading, while Duffy's was more like listening to a radio play. Duffy's energy was impressive, though. All in all, a very pleasant, cosy evening!

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# Bond Bourne again?



## Quantum of Solace

Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko,  
Judi Dench

**Richie Garton**

Arts Editor

**I'VE never been a tremendously big fan of the Bond films; while fun, they tend to be a bit samey and predictable.**

There's always a car chase or two, a feisty female sidekick, a betrayal and a deformed villain. Last year, though, *Casino Royale* gave me new faith in the franchise with its slick, modernised feel and fast pace. Also, Daniel Craig's reinvention of James Bond made the film very compelling. So I was curious and excited to see the direct sequel,

*Quantum of Solace*, regardless of its silly title.

Now, it's not that *Quantum of Solace* is a bad film. It's entertaining enough, and I can honestly say I was never bored by it. The story is well thought-out, and there's a lot of action crammed in there. It is beautifully shot in places; images of Mediterranean cities and South American deserts are breathtaking. On top of all this, Craig's portrayal of a callous, seething Bond still works very well; he is a magnetic lead actor who manages to look and act very smoothly in the role. Simply put, the film has all the makings of a great action thriller, yet for some reason it fails to be nearly as captivating as its

predecessor.

Director Marc Forster seems to have taken a 'no girls, no gadgets' approach to the latest Bond adventure. He strips away most of the series' trademarks; there is little focus on shiny cars, and Bond has no consistent love interest (he is too busy brooding over Vesper, who died in *Casino Royale*). The film's villain, Dominic Greene, is cool but doesn't have any sort of hook (like a scarred face for instance, or a gold fetish), as most Bond villains do. This was a brave decision, but in effect all it does is make *Quantum of Solace* feel like a generic action movie rather than the latest Bond instalment. Why is Bond copying Bourne all of a sudden, surely it should be the other way around?

The film doesn't come across as particularly original either; there's nothing in here that hasn't been seen before, either in or out of Bond. There is no iconic moment that sticks out as being especially gripping and memorable. The film opens with a high-adrenaline car chase, which looks promising, but



then the camera becomes extremely jerky and no single shot lasts longer than two seconds, making it very difficult to watch. This method of filming recurs, regrettably, throughout. Also, time has told us that Bond films need catchy theme tunes in order to be remembered, and the duet *Another Way to Die* is just rubbish. *Quantum of Solace*

seems to be playing it safe, and in doing so ends up firmly in the shadow of its older brother, *Casino Royale*. Not to say it isn't worth your time. Fortunately, it doesn't go on for too long, and I can think of far worse ways to spend an evening; just don't expect too much post-film discussion.

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# The cheese has matured

school worried about their college



## High School Musical 3: Senior Year

Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens,  
Ashley Tisdale

**Gill Hulse**

**UNLESS you've been hiding underground with the doors locked, the chances are you will have heard about High School Musical. After the success of the first two movies (originally made for TV), this last instalment of the saga went straight to the big screen. I for one couldn't wait to return to East High.**

I will be the first to admit the storyline is a tad predictable. Senior class of an American high

choices, their futures, and leaving their high school sweethearts behind. We all know it's been done before. This time however, it's a bit different: the senior class are putting on a spring musical ('mus-e-cal'). Cue 112 minutes of pure cheese, the characters we have grown to love, and those characters we love to hate.

*High School Musical 3: Senior Year* did not disappoint. The first few scenes were more than slightly dodgy, as the cheese seemed to have matured a little since the last instalment. Having seen the beginning, it would be totally forgivable to dread the rest of the film... I was, however, proven wrong. It was still



**Dazzling:**

The students of the most attractive fictional high school in the Western Hemisphere: (From left) Ashley Tisdale, Zac 'Loaf-head' Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, Monique Coleman and Corbin Bleu

as corny as ever, but anyone paying good money to see *HSM3* will know what they are letting themselves in for. What else can we come to expect from Disney and Zac Efron?

The acting was fantastic. The chemistry of real-life celebrity couple Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens transferred to their on-screen counter parts Troy Bolton and Gabriella Montez, who were once again the main stars of the show. However, they had a little more to contend with this time. Stealing the limelight was Lucas Grabeel (Ryan Evans) and Olesya

Rulin (Kelsi Nielsen) with some stunning performances.

The funniest character in East High is undoubtedly Sharpay Evans, played by Ashley Tisdale. There has never been a more accurate representation of Paris Hilton; in fact it is quite possible that Tisdale plays a better Paris Hilton than Hilton herself. Corbin Bleu who plays Troy's best friend Chad Danforth also gets more screen time in the third instalment and arguably uses it well. The duet with Efron 'The Boys Are Back' was one of the highlights of the film.

In short, *HSM3* is rather like marmite. You'll either love it or hate it. The songs are fantastically catchy little numbers, and the dance routines are all pretty awesome. They will have you dancing out of the cinema, or at least attempting to! Yet, rather sadly, it is the end of an era - there is now a new class at East High. There is some talk of a *High School Musical 4* already. After all, you can't have too much of a good thing. For now, we once again have to say Goodbye East High, but hey, GO WILDCATS!

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# Gore, but no guts



## Saw V

Tobin Bell, Costas Mandylor, Scott Patterson

Hannah Fearon

THE *Saw* franchise kicked off in October 2004, and each year since then another part of the story has been told. What started off as a relatively new breed of horror film has become rather hollow and tedious.

After the death of Jigsaw two movies ago, it would be common sense to end the story there. However, *Saw IV* managed to get away with just about enough gore and unusual plot twists to keep the fans entertained. After that, the *Saw* team should have just left it

there before getting too greedy.

In *Saw V*, it is the turn of Detective Hoffman to continue Jigsaw's work and play a game with five new victims. Just when Hoffman thinks he's got everything covered, it turns out that a familiar face has survived his game. Whilst the five victims are playing their game, this survivor delves deep into Hoffman's past and discovers that he is the new Jigsaw. The majority of the film is comprised of flashbacks of the previous films therefore there isn't much new material.

The overall plot of the film is quite messy and it doesn't follow the usual *Saw* style. The change in directors could be the reason for this. The first film was written and directed by James Wan and

Leigh Whannel who have now both taken a backseat as producers. Darren Lynn then went on to direct the next three instalments, with David Hackl taking the director's chair for *Saw V*. The new film is neither as sharp nor as gory as its predecessors and seems more like a disappointing rewrite of the *Saw* mythology.

Whilst the plot is rather dull, the methods behind some of the traps are quite clever. The Pendulum trap in the opening is perhaps the highlight of the film and is particularly gruesome. However, most of the traps in *Saw V* are very basic and uninteresting. This is where the storyline gets messy as most of the traps do not seem to follow the same twisted rules as in the previous films, and both traps and plot lack the imagination and the creativity that the others had. Also, the tagline 'You won't believe how it ends' is very misleading as *Saw VI* is out in October 2009.

Overall *Saw V* was rather disappointing but it did have the rare gory moment that seemed to thoroughly disgust many members

**Flogging a dead horse:** The makers of *Saw* just won't let Jigsaw die...



of the audience. With the film sold out and the cinema at maximum capacity, the most horrifying

moment in the film was my expectation of having someone throw up on me.

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# What will you become?



## Fable II X-Box 360

**FABLE II is a refreshing change in the world of RPGs with a unique gaming experience for each individual, as every decision made has an impact on your character and the world around you.**

The world of Albion is much bigger than that of the original Fable game and the level to which you create your own destiny is astonishing. Every single decision you make, from the clothes you wear to your social interactions affects the whole game. Pure or corrupt, good or evil, ugly or attractive; \*you\* decide. The graphics are beautiful and the both the soundtrack and voice acting are enjoyable.

You begin the game as either a young boy or girl, and after a relatively short amount of game play and a series of tragic events, time shifts and you have become an adult, on your way to glory or world domination. You do not simply decide whether to be good or evil, every one of your actions determines your next choices. These choices are perhaps the most difficult aspect to the game as combat is quite simple. Characters acquire skill, strength and will orbs from each fight, which you can use to purchase abilities. Will orbs allow you to gain certain powers, such as time manipulation or chaos. Weaponry is simple but the

will abilities are much more fun to use.

A character can have a family, career or do as they please with plenty of places and people to interact with. Characters can have sex, get married, have children or simply kill everyone around them. One of the highlights of the game is your trusty companion, a stray dog that you meet as an orphan. The dog is a key part of the game and remains at your side throughout,

helping you to find treasure and defeat enemies. The Co-Op option allows you to play with friends online, inviting them into your world.

Fable II cannot be fully described by any amount of words, as the detail put into this game is unbelievable. Only by playing the game can you truly understand what a fantastic RPG it is. Currently topping the charts, it most definitely does not disappoint.



# But wait, there's more

## Storey Gallery Talks on Art The Dukes Theatre, Lancaster

**Robert Spragg**

In the first talk organised for the 'talks on art' series at the Dukes, Jason Simon, a contemporary multimedia artist, gives an insight into his practice entitled *But wait, there's more (affective economies): sooner or later we will all end up in retail*. As part of the Orchard gallery, Simon has collaborated with various other practising artists in the New York lower east side region in establishing a modest storefront that functions as a gallery space, operating against any Contemporary 'Wall Street' discourse, as well as enormous institutes such as M.O.M.A.

Simon works alongside such contemporaries as Rhea Anastas, Moyra Davey, Alan McCullum and Andrea Fraser. The main focus of the evening is the duality of buyer and seller and the vast field of capitalist driven markets, a pertinent subject in light of the current situation. The 'talk' ironically consisted mainly of two feature videos; one by Andrea Fraser (a co-founder of Orchard) who entrenched herself within the field of performance particularly focusing upon multiple forms of institutional critique whereby she constantly questions the conventions and characteristics of how an institute functions. Within this particular piece, Fraser works under the guise of a gallery

employee, satirically covering all variations of the seller. It's an interesting piece that questions identity and all senses of it within art, as well as the dynamics between buyer/seller.

The second video was a piece of Simon's own work entitled *Vera* featuring a single woman talking at length of her obsession with acquiring new items and a constant state of retail dissatisfaction. In hindsight it was a tad too long and its purpose was reached five minutes in, yet it ran for twenty additional minutes. What Simon's work seemingly does is leave an objective stance on the subject matter; subsequently, by not imparting any subjectivity you lose any artistic input. The one thing it does do, however, is the leave the viewer to his/her own devices in reflecting and formulating an opinion on the topic.

The talk questions what we as consumers are so loyal to, and that's consuming; constantly searching for validation and inclusion within the market. Ultimately it becomes a case of being with or against the commoditized monolith. Any form of practice therein becomes about survival, or more accurately, commercial accessibility. There is a real sense of the magnitude of the topic and how it is disconcertingly so much part of contemporary society. It's just a shame Simon did not discuss to a further extent his personal opinion, or very much else in the way of dialogue for that matter.

# 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.

## Wings or The Lament of a Distracted Student

Anon.

Mrs. Hopkins just told me to see her after class. She caught me drawing wings in my exercise book again, and she's going to tell me for the fourteenth time that I need to concentrate during lessons. She'll remind me how bright I am, and how I could do well at maths \*if I only tried\*. But I don't want to try. There's no point in trigonometry, why should I bother trying?

Wings are just so much more interesting.

I look at the wings I just drew. They're dark, leathery little bat wings with claws on the ends, like the kind I would have if I had wings. Only I think mine would be scaliier, like a dragon's. Still a pretty good drawing, though. Mrs. Hopkins is standing at the front of the classroom, showing us how to use our scientific calculators. I imagine her with brown, tattered, dusty moth wings. She has huge glasses on,

which make her look like a bug. Her voice drones on, and I've already lost interest in what she's saying. I look around the classroom to see what other people are doing; most are bored too, whispering to each other and making rude words with their calculators.

Then I see Charlotte. She's looking right at me, and \*smiling\*. Why is she smiling at me? I panic, and look down at my desk. When I look back up, she's facing away. \*Stupid\*. Why couldn't I have just smiled back? She wouldn't have minded. Would she?

I wonder what kind of wings

Charlotte would have? I bet they'd be great, beautiful feathered wings, coming out of her shoulders. Not white angel wings, though. They'd be a glossy goldish-brown, like an eagle's (that would match her hair). If she had wings maybe she'd pick me up and fly me away from here, far away. We could live in the mountains or something, and be free from Mrs. Hopkins, and sin, cos and tan. Actually, I don't think she would. She'd probably fly off with some other great eagle and leave me struggling behind. Me, with my ugly little bat's wings.

I start to draw Charlotte's wings.

# Gash?!



## Maxi Jazz

### Live at The Sugarhouse

#### Sam Fresco

**IF I learned anything from this gig it's that Maxi Jazz has discovered how to use the shuffle feature on iTunes.**

I, like many others, were bitterly disappointed with the Faithless front man's performance. Hugely hyped up, and with the supporting act having successfully whipped the crowd into an excited frenzy, Maxi started off so well. But when the Christina Aguilera came on we knew he'd hit rock bottom. Dragging out old, generic dance tracks that we have all heard a hundred times before – the set was frankly

boring.

At the end of Maxi's set I gave up and headed home with the majority, so as far as I am aware there were no signs of any Faithless tracks, not even the beloved hit *Insomnia*, which we were all dying to hear. Gash Disco in the front room, however, were awesome! Everyone was up and raving on the sofas, tables, stages, chairs, even the DJ's were standing up on their decks going mental with the crowd. Cohesive mixes and fresh tunes; the under-dogs next door got mine and many others vote. Overall, it was a good rave and a brilliant night, but nevertheless, I left feeling dissatisfied and fairly cheated out of a much needed ten pounds.



**Boredom:** The lethargy evident on Maxi Jazz's own face reflected that of the crowd. (Photo: Duncan Monteith)

## Cabaret the waggish way



## Kriss Foster

### Live at The Golden Lion

#### Mia Bleach

**I'M watching a full-grown man dressed in a leopard suit singing songs about Vimto and shagging his Grandma (in a pub that appears to be the latter's living room) and I like it.**

Local singer/songwriter and general hoot Kriss Foster aces the oxymoronic task of sounding both polite and perilously obscene

with his regional schoolboy lyrics and simple but effective guitar construction (his acoustic's strap is made of string which predictably snaps but only adds to the bumbling charm that mantles the whole affair). This wittier George Formby is going places having performed at the Latitude and Kendal Calling festivals this summer. But his big break is really due as he prepares to play County Bar this month. As NME so rightly say, 'Kriss Foster – he's dead good'.

Kriss's CD is available at HMV. It has a picture of a cat on it.

## I (kind of) Heart Hiroshima



## I Heart Hiroshima

### Tuff Teef

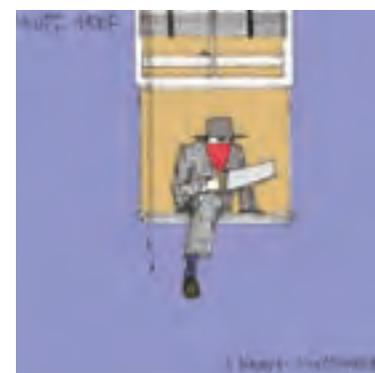
#### (Valve Records)

#### Becky Macklin

**OKAY, so they're nowhere near as political as the name suggests, but hey it sounds kind of cool so you can't blame them for that.**

'I Heart Hiroshima' are just three Aussie kids who formed at a

house party and love to play music, and this is surprisingly a dynamic that really works. You can tell that they feed off each other's energy, as it builds up in each song, from the overlapping vocals and intertwining guitars. The pop-indie mix on 'Tuff Teef' is chaotic, and filled with so much energy you just have to dance. Think 'Pixies' with no bass. Susie Patten's vocals are soft and delicate and yet a perfect match for



Matthew Somers' harsh wailing, kind of Brandon Flowers in a blender. The only problem is that without a bass some of the songs really don't develop in the way they have potential to, and the lyrics aren't exactly inspired. Definitely fun, definitely easy to listen to and definite potential for the future. Let's see what they throw at us next.

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# Trivium show us their guns



## Trivium *Shogun*

(Roadrunner Records)

**Mark McGlashan**

Music Editor

Over the past four studio albums, Trivium have gathered quite the legion of critics. Noticeably on previous album, *The Crusade*, Matt Heafy (lead vocals) went a bit James Hetfield-esque and Trivium lost a lot of respect from the metal heads. However, with a new producer, Nick Raskulinecz (Foo Fighters/Rush), the Floridian quartet have come back more mature, more complex and so bone-shatteringly powerful that they demand respect at the very least.

*Shogun* opens with set-up track *Kirisute Gomen*, which begins peacefully as a slow Spanish-influenced classical guitar riff. It then explodes with a heavy double bass pedal and a dual guitar lead which develops into a thrash riff. With heavy driving and harsh sounding vocals that combine the new and old style of Trivium.

Along with this track, *Into the Mouth of Hell We March*, *Insurrection* and *Down from the Sky* are easily the best songs on the album. All three of these tracks switch

elegantly from a cheesy sing-a-long chorus - that could have easily been written for Lost Prophets, to a quick, sub-thrash metal riff.

The theme to the album is Japanese and Greek mythology. Hence the name, *Shogun* which according to Heafy is made to "... spark all this vivid imagery and storytelling, it's the highest ranking military general in Japanese times. We really dug it."

Despite this, Trivium never really enter the realm of extreme metal territory, with drummer Travis Smith sticking to generic fills and on-beats that blend gently into the background rather than the full-throttle off-beat workout. The expected solos are as dazzling, crazy and as slashing as ever, with an epic eleven minute instrumental solo outro on title track *Shogun*. With expected tempo changes and heavily layered choruses the album is technically and compositionally brilliant yet nothing we haven't seen before. If anything is to be focused upon it's defiantly Heafy's vocals. Whilst his melodic singing has clearly come a long way, there are still a lot of similarities to Hetfield that Trivium can't seem to shake. Although he often sings with a cleaner, more mainstream



style on a lot of the songs which is showing more positive signs of progress amongst the fans. Clearly assisted by their sparkling new producer for such sections many have said it 'greatly' helps in making the more 'intense' parts more manageable for the majority. The screaming however is standard 'metalcore', typically angry and not very distinctive.

By the end of *Shogun*, their newly found recipe is seen to be getting rather old. With more fast galloping riffs piled on top of a lump of shredding solos the songs begin to slowly merge. But with a decent balance of the old and new Trivium it's easy to see that the band have grown a lot and their evolution is most apparent on this CD than any other of their previous

ones. Overall this is a good album and I think any Trivium critics should defiantly give it a shot, it converted me and if anything at least they may have finally found a sound that is theirs and theirs alone.

If you like this listen to: Thrice, Bullet for my Valentine, 36 crazy fists, Machine Head, Mastodon, and Dragonforce.

## 'Wire to Wire'



## Razorlight

(Mercury Records)



**James Barker**

After a brief, though much publicised blip Razorlight return with *Wire To Wire*. A gorgeous piano number that has Mr Borerll in full poetic flow, "What is love but the

strangest of feelings, a sin you swallow for the rest of your life". Who cares if the melodies knicked off Lou Reed, this is simply a great song. The boys, it would appear, are back. We just have to pray in our white skinny jeans that the album is as good as this.

## 'The Thrill of 30 Seconds'



## Skint and Demoralised

(Another Music = Another Kitchen)

**Alicia Bennett  
Catherine Wells**

If The Jam made sweet indie love to any member of The Kooks and by some divine miracle a baby resulted - *Skint and Demoralised* would be said love child. *The Thrill*

*of 30 Seconds* lacks quality vocals (in fact we found them faintly embarrassing), but does however make up for it with a chirpy intro and feel-good instrumental throughout. It'll be a hit for those who enjoy commercial indie pop. If you like this, you should have a sneaky peak at Jack Penate's "Torn on the Platform".

singles

# Round-up: BUCS

## Mixed results for Lancaster's tennis teams

**Dave Vance**

The start of the tennis season has been a mixed one. The Women's 1st team and Men's 2nd lie mid-table after both victories and defeats. The Men's 1st team lie bottom of the table after two consecutive defeats.

This week saw the Women's 1st team travel to Manchester, who stood second in the league. The doubles shined no light on the outcome, with each winning one rubber to tie the game going into the singles. Each of the girls battled fiercely to upset the Manchurian team but only Irma Rekić wrestled two points from them in an impressive 7-5 6-3 win making it a 7-3 match loss overall.

The Men's 2nd team unfortu-

nately followed in the same vein, losing 9-1 to UCLan - the outright favourites - who went on to claim the top spot in the league and gain promotion. The initial doubles win couldn't spur the team into life to claim their second win of the season with the dominant force of Preston's second tier being too strong for our boys.

The Men's 1st team looked to finally get their season back on track and assert their intentions for the league by drumming Manchester 3rds 9-1. The doubles once again saw a 1-1 tie going into the singles but attempts to mix the order by Manchester failed, with all four players outplaying their counterpart to secure an emphatic win.

A mixed week for tennis but with much of the season to be played, the triple promotion of two years ago is still on the cards.

## Lancaster win against Manchester 5-3 in Badminton

### Lancaster Men's 1sts V Manchester Men's 2nds

**Phil Roberts**

This was a strange match in many ways, not least because Lancaster were forced to bring two players in from the men's second team to fill the vacancies left by their top two singles players.

This was to have a negative impact on the strength of the second team in their prospective match. Neil Rylander and Gavin Boyd came in to replace the missing Rick Wallbank and Rohit Murthy. The new singles players for the match were James Mullarkey and Johnny Kyffin.

The game started off tensely with Mullarkey and the partnership of Ben Kyffin and Niel Rylander winning their opening games against tough opposition.

**Lancaster turned it on in the reverse fixtures with the Roberts/Boyd partnership strolling past their opponents**

However Johnny Kyffin and the partnership of captain Phil Roberts and Gavin Boyd narrowly lost their matches making the score 2-2 at the half way point.

This was not to dissuade Lancaster however, who turned it

on in the reverse fixtures with the Roberts/Boyd partnership strolling past their opponents to win their match and both singles players contributing to the win with fine performances.

The eventual score was 5-3 leaving Captain Roberts very happy indeed and sitting pretty at the top of their division after their 100% start to the season. He commented that he was very proud of his players especially the guys who played up for them because this was a match they didn't expect to win.

The next match for Lancaster is against Salford at home with the showdown against high flying Keele coming later this month.

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# Top of the table

Lancaster Men's 1sts 14 – 3  
Durham Men's 2nds

## Robin Honey

With another win this week against Durham 2nd's, Lancaster Men's 1st Table Tennis team continue to hold onto their position at the top of the league table.

With results so far being 17-0 and 16-1, the 14-3 win against Durham – even with a weakened side – shows Lancaster's strong impact on the league this year.

First years Stephen Arliss, Antoine Schvartz and Lok Wong have proven vital in the success of the team having played every match so far.

Due to unavailability of A-team players this week, Rob Browne filled in as 4th player.

Whilst being the weakest player on the team, Browne was still able to win one set, and this experience in BUCS will prove valuable in his continuing improvement in his Local League results.

Next week sees Lancaster play Liverpool 1sts in what will be the biggest match of the season yet. With only one team being promoted, and both Lancaster and Liverpool being undefeated so far, whoever wins is sure to go up.

For this match Lancaster will pull out all the stops fielding their strongest side consisting of the undefeated Thomas Hamborg who will play as first player alongside Arliss, Schvartz and Wong.



**Wiff-waff:** Stephen Arliss and Lok Wong form a winning doubles partnership.

## 32> Inter-college football under way

### County 3 – 0 Lonsdale

After a very successful campaign last season, County went into this game knowing that nothing less than a win would do to set them on their way to another title challenge. After several key departures from the County squad, doubt lingered as to whether they would live up to such expectations. If this performance is anything to go by, they certainly will be there or thereabouts towards the end of the season.

County bagged their first goal of the season to take the lead and

looked comfortable in possession. Lonsdale tried to chase the game by switching to tactics which involved playing an adventurous four up front in hunt of the equaliser. This attacking threat soon left gaping holes in midfield which were torn apart resulting in Eddie Wileman grabbing his first goal of the season and County running out eventual 3-0 winners.

### Cartmel 0 – 4 Fylde

A cagey start led to a fairly uneventful opening twenty minutes, with both teams trying to utilise their natural passing game in order to break down the other's defence.

Fylde looked the more likely to score as they used their height advantage to their benefit, going close with several headers from set-pieces that the Cartmel keeper Tom Edginton did well to keep out.

Cartmel held their own and went close when the Fylde keeper flapped at a cross but were unable

to put the ball into the gaping net. This scare certainly rattled Fylde as it was not long before they took the lead. Another corner was whipped into the box which Cartmel struggled to deal with, unfortunately looping off the centre back's heel for a spectacular own goal.

Cartmel pushed for an equaliser, but a sustained period of pressure at the end of the first half and the beginning of the second failed to pay off. Fylde soon punished this as they counter attacked and took a

shot that deflected off the luckless centre back to make it 2-0.

Substitutions were made by both teams as fitness began to falter. However it was Fylde who pressed on, scoring a well taken third before another corner resulted in a fourth as the scorer was left unmarked.

The 4-0 scoreline did not do justice to the way Cartmel played but Fylde fully deserved their victory which puts them top of the league.

## Inter-college football finally kicks off

**Charlotte Parker  
Oliver Holmes**

**THE inter-college football league finally got underway this week, after several matches had to be delayed due to water logged pitches.**

The postponements have affected all of the inter-college A and B teams, as well as the B-Active leagues, leaving many of the footballers frustrated.

Despite their poor condition however, people have continued to use the pitches, even in light of warnings from the Athletic Union (AU) that this would only delay the season further.

The University owns the rights to the pitches and no one is allowed to play on them without the permission of the AU for these reasons. No one can help the bad weather, but informal kick-a-bouts on the pitches has only worsened their condition.

AU President, Gaz Coleman, told SCAN that he is as keen as anybody to get the leagues underway but urged the footballers to be patient, warning that there will be punishments for teams caught using the pitches without consent.

Thankfully, the bad weather has begun to ease up, and the pitches were in good enough condition for fixtures to re-commence on Wednesday of Week Five. A typically cold, Lancastrian afternoon saw Fylde As and County As start their title challenges impressively with comfortable victories against Cartmel As and Lonsdale As respectively. Meanwhile Pendle As and Furness As battled it out for a share of the spoils.

For now, the inter-college leagues are back on track, but with the weather set to worsen over the coming months, it has to be remembered that playing on pitches which are already in pool condition will only make the situation worse.

The Athletic Union is keen to stress that the postponed fixtures will take place. The fixtures will be moved to the bottom of the fixture list and played out where possible in Lent term, and if necessary in Summer term – as has always been the case in previous years when matches have been postponed.

For now though fingers will remain crossed that the dry weather will hold out and that we can continue what will no doubt be a close and exciting season for inter-college football.



**Quagmire:** Furness and Pendle play on one of the tortured pitches. (Photo: Duncan Monteith)

## Furness 2 – 2 Pendle

With County and Fylde being the main challengers last year, Pendle and Furness looked to grab an early win that would instantly put pressure on last year's dominant two.

Pendle had the better of the early exchanges, striking the woodwork twice but found it hard to break through the strong Furness defence.

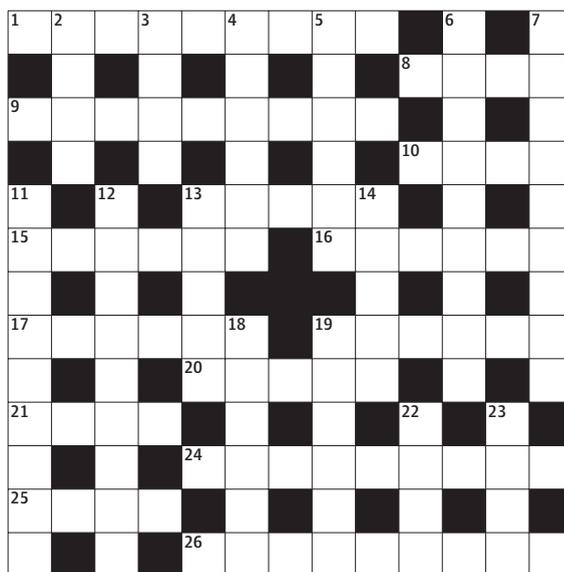
However, it was Furness who broke the deadlock midway through the first half after a deadly through ball was finished with aplomb giving Furness the lead at the break.

eventually broke through the resistant Furness defence to duly grab an equaliser making it 1-1. The search for a winner was on.

A few minutes later Furness hit a blistering 35 yard strike that smashed into the back on the net. Furness tried to hold on to the win but in the closing stages the referee awarded Pendle a penalty and chance to take a point after a hand-ball inside the Furness area. Pendle made no mistake from the spot and the remaining two minutes saw Pendle nearly snatch a winner, sending a header from 6 yards sailing over the bar.

31 >

### Quick crossword no. 11,832



#### Across

- 1 Unmarried woman cohabiting with a man – secondary wife (9)
- 8 Contented sound of cat (4)
- 9 Construction in hive (9)
- 10 Notion (4)
- 13 Domain (5)
- 15 Creator of written work (6)
- 16 Castrated male, often guard in harem (6)
- 17 Persistent resentment (6)
- 19 Mariner (6)
- 20 Nut tree (5)
- 21 List assigning turns of duty (4)
- 24 Bribe – sugar substitute (9)
- 25 Geek (4)
- 26 First class (9)

#### Down

- 2 Woodwind instrument (4)
- 3 Principal cook (4)
- 4 Squabble (6)
- 5 Light and quick in movement (6)
- 6 Multiply by two, twice (9)

- 7 Betrayal (9)
- 11 Butter substitute (9)
- 12 Building (9)
- 13 Unpolished (5)
- 14 Large wall painting (5)
- 18 Secretion from aural glands (6)
- 19 Hard to endure (6)
- 22 Metal ringer (4)
- 23 Intend – miserly (4)

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