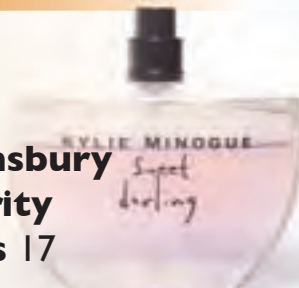


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scanews

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 10, Michaelmas Term, Tuesday December 9, 2008

Sabbatical Review passes at packed GM

• 527 students squeeze into
350 capacity lecture theatre

• Athletic Union turn out in
force to save sports Sabb

• Accusations of ultra-vires as
EWD amendment falls



Full story: 4 >

Packed: LUSU President, Michael Payne, takes the stage in front of over 500 students at the General Meeting last Wednesday. (Photo: Rob Miller)

LUMS alters student CVs without input

Management School students apply for third year placement schemes have had their CVs altered by University staff without their consent.

The most troubling aspect for students in the inclusion of David Simm, the Director of BAA in Management, as a referee. In most cases Mr. Simm has either never taught the student personally, or the student is on a completely different course to that which Mr. Simm is Director. **3 >**

'Quack Attack' fundraiser for homeless

Five students are organising a fundraising event in Furness JCR as part of the YMCA's 'Don't Duck the Issue' campaign, which aims to raise awareness of homelessness around Lancaster. **7 >**

The event will coincide with drinks offers at the bar and will include a raffle for a giant rubber duck.

The five students organised the event as part of an events management short course run by the Centre for Enterprise, Employability and Careers.

Students call for water company boycott

The Lancaster University Friends of Palestine Society plan to initiate a campus wide boycott of Eden Springs mineral water.

The Society has raised issue with the company's (un)ethical trading activities, in particular their sourcing of water from Golan Heights: an Israeli-occupied territory, which legally belongs to Syria. The Syrian population of the Heights have been deprived of water due to Eden Springs actions. **7 >**

£10m Arts' 'Greenhouse' unveiled

Plans for a new central 'hub' for the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (LICA) have been released by the University.

However, despite the £10m put aside for the 'Greenhouse', one of LICA's component departments, the Peter Scott Gallery, has seen its income fall drastically over the past two years. The University has just completed a review into how the Public Arts facilities can be improved on campus. **8 >**

Peeks threatens SCAN with legal action

SCAN WAS "DISAPPOINTED" to receive a solicitor's letter threatening legal action on behalf of a University officer, following a recent headline over the financial state of the Commercial Services department.

The Students Union, as the publisher of SCAN, is also under threat of legal action.

David Peeks, the Director of Commercial Services, filed the claim against SCAN after the paper printed an article with the headline, "Accounts show bars' new boss is a loss-maker", a month ago. According to the solicitor, Mr. Peeks feels this headline in SCAN – which has a distribution of 3000 – was highly damaging to his professional reputation and has therefore sued the paper for defamation.

The disputed headline related specifically to the £20,617 deficit recorded against University Catering in the University's Gold Report.

Clarification: David Peeks

In the issue of SCANews of 30th October 2008, we ran a lead article under the headline "Accounts Show Bars' New Boss Is a Loss-Maker". The sub-headings followed the same theme.

The issue of SCANews of 30th October 20078 contained incomplete and inaccurate information concerning the financial results for Trading (Commercial) Services for the year ending July 2008.

Trading (Commercial) Services made a profit of £824,000, prior to deduction of general charges to other University Departments.

Whilst it is correct that there was a short-fall of profit against budget of £137,000, Trading (Commercial) Services made a net profit of £524,000 after charges. Having regard to this financial information, whilst Trading (Commercial) Services did not hit its targets, it still made a significant profit.

Mr Peeks is Commercial Director of the University and responsible for Trading (Commercial) Services. In our article we incorrectly referred to Mr Peeks as 'A Loss Maker'. Also, it was incorrect for us to refer to Trading (Commercial) Services as "haemorrhaging money". The statements were inaccurate and we withdraw them without reservation.

SCANews apologises to Mr Peeks for the embarrassment caused to him by the inaccurate statement in our issue of 30th October 2008.

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Voters turn out for JCRs, but Non-Sabb elections fail to inspire

- New JCR and Non-Sabbs elected
- Students have “no idea” what they’re voting for

by Chris Davis
News Editor

ELECTION RESULTS FOR both JCR officers and LUSU Non-Sabbatical Officers were revealed last week, following a campus wide vote.

Over 2,500 students turn out to decide on the makeup of both the JCR Executives and the Non-Sabbatical team for the fore coming year.

Following the trend of previous years the JCR elections generated a high level of interest, with all colleges managing to fill the majority of positions on their Executive.

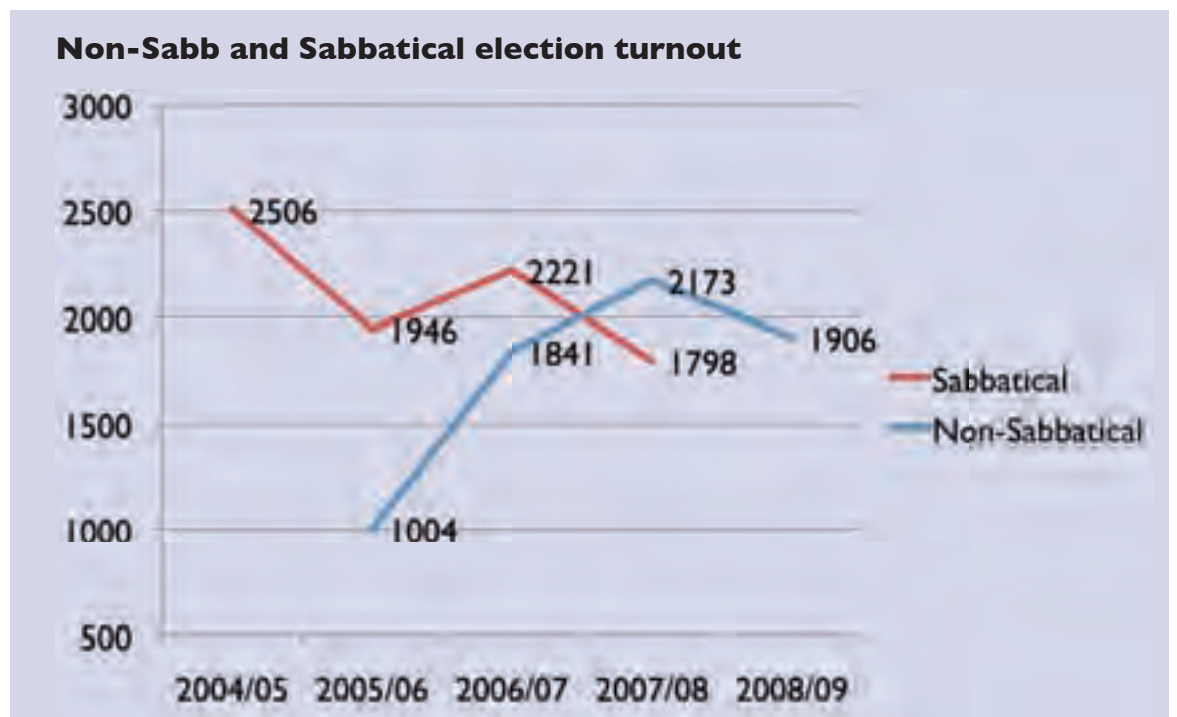
Both Grizedale and Fylde College had their current vice-presidents take on the presidential role, with James Duncan voted in for Fylde and Lauren Emery for Grizedale. Emery, however, will share presidential status with current acting-president Chaz Ginn. Lonsdale is also set to have a shared presidency this year, with Matt Windsor and Katy Bloor both elected to the position.

Elsewhere, Cartmel elected current treasurer Robbie Pickles as president. Bowland elected Tom Sharhoh-Wazynshi, Chloe Themistocleous becomes County president, and Rachel Faulkner will take on the position for GSA. Pendle College generated the closest election race, with Ben Staley closely beating rival presidential candidate David Kennedy by the narrowest of margins.

However, questions are still being asked regarding the active involvement of students with University politics.

Many students admitted not voting in Non-Sabbatical elections, and taking part in JCR elections only at the request of friends standing for Exec positions.

An anonymous Cartmel student ad-



mitted she only voted in the JCR elections because her friends pestered her and that she had “no idea” about the Non-Sabbatical elections at all.

Fylde student David Beverage said that as he lived off campus and “had no lectures that Thursday”, he “did not want to come onto campus just to vote”.

Pendle student Hannah Hardy echoed this, adding: “I didn’t know who to vote for, and I didn’t feel the need to look into it. I figured there were enough people to vote without me, as bad as that sounds.”

The position of University Council Representative was contested between Simon Rimington and Andrew Johnston, with Rimington elected by a margin of 754 votes to 735. Often seen as the penultimate step on the path to the office to LUSU President, the race was on a knife edge, neither candidate having run a proper campaign. Expectations were that Johnston would be re-elected, however due to a largely uncontested JCR election in Johnston’s on college, County (the largest on cam-

pus), his core constituency failed to turn out.

Speaking to SCAN, Rimington said: “[I] always expected it was going to be close, being between two college presidents, [but I’m] pretty happy to have won.”

It was a similarly close contest for the position of Green Officer, with Michael Keegan elected over Gemma Evans by 788 votes to 724. In other contested elections, Vern Shah was elected over Mali Habra for Management School Faculty Rep. Joss Hickson narrowly saw off Beau Martinez for the position of Science & Technology Faculty Rep. Kat Goodling won her contest against Patrick Allison to become the new Chief Returning Officer, and Sue Wynes was elected over Caroline Spratt to become the new AU Non-Sabb.

All of the candidates running uncontested were elected, with no nominations been re-opened. The full list of candidates elected to Non-Sabbatical positions can be found at <http://democracy.lusu.co.uk/current-candidates/>.

Furness JCR accused of ‘character assassination’ of election rival

CRITICISMS HAVE EMERGED over the actions of some outgoing JCR Executives in the elections process.

An anonymous source expressed “severe disappointment and disgust” at events during the Furness JCR Hustings, claiming that the Exec made a “concerted effort” to “embarrass” and “degrade” a candidate running against a current JCR member. The source accused Furness JCR of “protecting one of their own”.

SCAN believes that the source was referring to the contest between Dan Owens and current Furness Social Secretary, Jo Walker, for the position of Vice President, which Walker eventually won. When contacted by SCAN, however, Owens was quick to defend the JCR from the criticisms.

“At the time, I was absolutely fuming,” Owens said. “Looking back though, I don’t think there was any intention to embarrass me. It was always going to be difficult for me running against an experienced and well respected candidate. I get on well with Jo Walker and I look forward to working with her in the future.”

Furness JCR Chairperson Robin Hughes, was equally dismissive of the claims, stating that he did not allow “anything provocative” during the hustings. Hughes maintained that “no one brought any concerns forward” in the aftermath of the event and, when questioned about the accusations of favouritism levelled at the JCR, that he did not allow anything provocative to happen during the hustings. He said that he would take any form of bullying “very seriously”.

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LUMS: use our references, or else

- Management School drastically alters the CVs for BBA placements
- Students told they must use department head as referee, instead of own references

by Lizzie Houghton
News Editor

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS at the Lancaster University Management School have been told they must use CVs radically altered by University staff when applying for placement schemes.

A number of Management School students – all of whom asked to remain anonymous – have said that their CVs have been “completely redone” in some cases by LUMS staff, to the point where qualifications have been dropped and personal statements altered.

David Simm, the Director of the BBA in Management, as also been added as a reference to a number of students’ CVs, replacing the students own, respected referees. This is the case even for students not studying Management courses.

One student explained how she was left feeling “patronised” by the Management School’s actions, adding: “For a university that is supposedly encouraging independence and creativity in students I thought this was a bit off. [It] got me thinking about how much control the University should really have over us.”



At the start of term students were told by staff at LUMS to compile a CV which could be sent off to perspective employers, in conjunction with the LUMS’s work placement programme. Under the placement scheme students spend a portion of their third year in paid managerial employment. When students had their CVs returned to them, they found that they had been “practically rewritten” by staff in the LUMS’s undergraduate office.

These changes were followed up by an e-mail from the Placement and Programmes Secretary, Sophie Smith, asking students to “please use this version when a CV is requested by a potential employer”.

The e-mail added: “If you wish to make any changes to this document you MUST do so centrally on Anne

Welsby’s [LUMS Placement Manager] PC in her office.”

According to Management School staff the only changes made were stylistic, and were done so to comply with “corporate image”. The main issue for students however is the inclusion of Mr. Simm as a referee.

“Many people aren’t happy with this,” one Management School Student Representative told SCAN, adding: “David Simm has never personally taught many of them, just lectured to a class of about 200. People think they could get a better reference off an employer who can comment on them personally and how hard they work, not just about how they are achieving at university, which can be seen from the grades anyway.”

One student commented that Mr.

Simm would “not be able to pick me out in a room of faces”, while another said: “He’s my reference and he doesn’t even know who I am. If he says anything about me he’ll be talking a load of rubbish because I’ve never spoken to him on a one-to-one basis.”

Ms. Welsby denied any changes had been made to Student’s CVs. She said: “We format the form because they’ve joined the scheme. We don’t change any of their words, but we make sure that they fit in with the corporate image.”

On the subject of Mr. Simm’s inclusion she said: “It’s up to them [the students] to change the name on the paper. If they [the students] have any problems they should be coming to see me.”

Leaked BNP member list reveals numbers in Lancaster

by Dan Hogan
Editor

A LEAKED MEMBERSHIP list of the far-right British National Party contains the names of 39 people with addresses in the Lancaster and Morecambe area.

There are 13 names listed in Lancaster, 12 in Morecambe and 11 in and around Heysham. There are an additional 3 names from Slyne, which is to the East of Morecambe.

Among the members contained in the leaked records is Lancaster University PhD student Christopher Hill, who stood as a local election candidate for the BNP three times in Skerton West ward. He was beaten convincingly by Labour candidates on all three occasions.

LUSU’s Race Relations Officer-elect, Kate Fry, said: “This needs to be brought to the attention of students.

“The British National Party are Nazis and attack people because they are not white. It is dangerous for them to be working in an environment as ethnically diverse as this University.”

But according to a spokesperson for the University, it has no policy against the employment or enrollment of members of the BNP or any other dangerous group.

Many names on the list appear next to notes detailing their employment, age and even hobbies. One serving police officer and a prison officer appear on the list as well as 16 servicemen in the Armed Forces. Members of the BNP are banned from serving in the police or the prison service to avoid damaging race relations. Although party members are allowed to serve in the Army, they are barred from any political activity. Additionally, 15 teachers, four nurses and 17 former police officers appear on the list. Former Talk-Sport radio presenter Rod Lucas will not be used again by his now previous employers, following the revelation of his membership.

However, not all the people who appear on the list are BNP members. The list includes details of people who have signed petitions, or whose membership has lapsed.

The name of one member of University staff appeared on the list, but they deny having joined the party.

The information is contained in the list is estimated to be approximately a year old.

Following the insight into the variety of positions that BNP members hold, several trade unions have called for BNP members to be banned from all public sector workplaces.

Train drivers’ union, Aslef, won a landmark case in the European Court of Human Rights in March last year. The court ruled that unions have the right to set conditions of membership based on political beliefs—a right ensured by Article 11 of the Human Rights Convention, which protects freedom of association.

First LUSU International Students night a ‘success’

by Rachael Abrahams

WEEK 7 SAW Lancaster University hold its first International Students Night in the newly refurbished, Fylde bar.

The event - which was made possible with the help of JCR representatives along with the Non-Sabbatical International Officer, Jon Krumbach - saw around 75 International Students squeeze into the bar to enjoy the free food, supplied by Sultans, and a quiz with a ‘money can’t buy’ prize of 5 Platinum Sugarhouse tickets and a free bottle of Cava.

Following this, buses were made available to take those who wished to continue the fun to The Sugarhouse, where DJs entertained the front room with music catering to the tastes of all involved, including R&B, Salsa and Bhangra, providing a fresh change to the common mainstream variety that can usually be found at the Sugarhouse



Included: International students in the Sugarhouse on International night.

on the weekends.

Feedback from the overall event was mainly positive, with many thanks going to the LUSU Women’s Officer, Sara Dunn, for what was described as a night with a “great turn out, really friendly crowd and the chance to have

met lots of lovely new people”.

However, criticisms were raised over the lack of activity within the bar. Ms. Dunn explained how she was already thinking of solving this issue with “a karaoke or dance competitions for next term”.

International Student, Sarah Clark, told SCAN she felt the night was a “really good idea”.

“It gave a lot of international students the chance to interact with people in the same boat as themselves,” she said.

“I think anything that encourages people to mingle and learn something new about different cultures is a positive thing. I would like to see more such events held throughout the year, along with more events aimed specifically at getting national and international students to socialise together.”

However, plans to hold further events maybe hampered by the International Union’s budget. At the moment only £100 is put aside per term for such events.

“We’ll struggle, [with the current budget],” Ms. Dunn said. “Therefore we plan to lobby the University for more money for International Students representation.”

In focus: Sabb Review GM

New Sabb make-up passes after sports VP compromise

by **Chris Davis**
News Editor

Proposals for the controversial 'Sabbatical Review' were passed by an overwhelming majority at the General Meeting held last Wednesday.

Over 500 students turned out to discuss, debate, and ultimately vote on a motion which will dramatically reform the structure of the Union's Sabbatical Team. Next year's Sabb Team is now set to consist of a range of newly created positions which, it is hoped,

will allow for wider and much more effective student representation.

Only one amendment was eventually passed, that which removed the responsibility for societies from the proposed Vice-President (Student Activities) job description, and renaming the position Vice-President (Sports). The position now resembles that of the current Athletic Union President, ensuring that sports teams still have an officer solely dedicated to them. The responsibility for societies will fall to the Vice-President (Finance Events & Democracy), the role equivalent to that

of the current General Secretary who holds the responsibility for societies under the current constitution.

Prior to the meeting, many different opinions were put forward over the likelihood of the proposals being passed by the student body. Future Non-Sabbatical AU Officer, Susan Wynes, had warned that she and other sports teams would be "attending the meeting with a view to vote against the new Sabb positions".

Speaking to SCAN before the meeting, student Kayleigh Thornton said: "I want the AU to win. I oppose Michael

Presidential address:
LUSU President, Michael Payne, speaks from the stage in the George Fox Lecture Theatre to officially move the Sabbatical Review proposals at the General Meeting last Wednesday. (Photo: Rob Miller)



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Payne. The suggestions in the review are ridiculous.”

Indeed, the meeting was increasingly viewed by many as a clear battle between LUSU and the Athletic Union. This theory bore fruit as students began to make their way into the George Fox Building, where the meeting took place. The AU visibly dominated the entire affair, with many of its members having met in Alexandra Square before the meeting began.

Following an opening speech the LUSU President Michael Payne, began the debate by arguing for the passing of the review. He highlighted the need for “democratically elected officers” to have “truly democratic job descriptions”, and claimed that the review would “ensure justice and fairness across the whole union”.

Following Payne’s proposal, students then had the opportunity to debate and vote on the three amendments to the review submitted to LUSU by the student population prior to the meeting. The third amendment, to create a Vice-President (Sports) which would be unrelated to societies was, as mentioned, passed comprehensively. The sheer weight of AU members attending the meeting assured that result. The other two suggested amendments - the removal of the Vice-President titles and making the proposed Vice-Presi-

dent (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) position one open only to women candidates - were voted down by the students.

After several rounds of debate, students finally voted against the proposal which argued for the ‘Vice-President’ titles to be dropped. The ‘Vice-President’ prefix will now remain part of each officers’ title.

More controversial was the failure to pass the amendment resolving to make the new post of Vice-President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) a position which only women may stand for. Supporters of the proposal argued that the replacement of the Women’s Officer by this new position paved the way for the possibility of having an all male Sabbatical Team. After debating the issue students voted against the amendment, meaning the new post will be open to all who wish to stand, regardless of gender.

Speaking after the meeting the current Women’s Officer, Sarah Dunn, expressed her disappointment at the amendment’s failure and with the review in general.

“That room was not representative,” Ms. Dunn stated. “The review should never have gone to a General Meeting. The AU took over, and this review was passed by pandering to them. If it had been passed by a referendum, I would

have accepted it, but it has been passed by less than 2% of the student population.”

After passing the third amendment, Ben Nye, the Vice-President of Bowland College and a fierce critic of the Payne administration, gave a final speech urging students to vote against the newly amended review in which he demanded a cross campus referendum, which all students could vote in, to ensure full student representation.

Despite Nye’s efforts, though, when Chairperson Janie Coleman finally requested the room vote on the passing of the review, it was met with little opposition. The majority voted in favour of the new proposals going ahead, albeit in their amended form. With the issue of AU representation resolved, students appeared firmly in support of the restructuring the Sabbatical Team.

Current Sabbatical officers also expressed satisfaction with the result, General Secretary, Janie Coleman, one of the most vocal supporters of the review, said: “It’s a step forward, which is what we want.” The Athletics Union Officer, Gareth Coleman, claimed to be “over the moon”, stressing how “very, very proud” he was of his AU.

“Seeing them marching from Alexandra Square to George Fox was amazing,” Mr. Coleman said. “It was something else.”



Charlotte Parker
Sports Editor

the existing format of the General Secretary handling society issues and AU President dealing purely with sports.

For the AU clubs, desperate to hit the Carleton or Christmas socials, the discussions leading up to the Student Activities amendment were tedious, but they were rewarded when almost the whole meeting voted their amendment through. With the Sabbatical Review passed, the Athletic Union President will, as of next year become LUSU Vice-President (Sports), but the role remains broadly the same.

The main argument against the amendment was that the members that make up sports teams are in the minority of students at Lancaster. But the Athletic Union proved that it is not quantity of people that matters with but the strength of their views and the passion towards their cause.

AU Non-Sabb, Tan Farrell, said “A lot of people have made the point that societies need this and need that – if they truly needed anything they would have come out in force to vote and raise their issues.”

The overwhelming majority of people supporting the notion of a Sabb role solely for sports shows the importance of the AU at Lancaster. Although other universities manage successfully with a Student Activities Officer, these universities do not have to deal with organising Roses, the biggest inter varsity competition in Britain, possibly even Europe. The inter college sports structure is also a key part of the role that does not take place at universities where there is no ‘sports only’ Sabbatical role.

The Athletic Union gained what they set out to achieve and proved that it is their Student Union too, and that their voices matter just as much as those running LUSU.

THE MAIN STICKING point with the proposed Sabbatical review was the role of Vice President (Student Activities); leaving one person in charge of running both Societies and the Athletic Union clubs.

The main bone of contention was with the AU clubs who believed that their interests would be overlooked if there was not a Sabbatical position solely in charge of running the Athletic Union.

Despite initially supporting the Student Activities proposal, after discussing the matter with the AU and inter-college sports representatives, AU President, Gareth Coleman, realised that the AU would not stand for the proposed changes. It was clearly a matter that the Athletic Union felt strongly about and it showed in the turnout at the General Meeting: almost all of the attendees were sporting Lancaster sports team attire.

Among the amendments submitted to the motion was one to change the Student Activities remit to Vice-President (Sports), with matters regarding societies being handed over to the Vice-President (Finance, Events, Democracy); to effectively stick with

How next year’s Sabbatical Team will look:

President

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

Vice-President (Academic Affairs)

Vice-President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity)

Vice-President (Media & Communications / SCAN Editor)

Vice-President (Sports)



Dan Hogan
Editor

LAST WEEK’S GENERAL Meeting was a culmination not only of what has been a long, drawn out process of reforming our constitution, but also the moment at which several ongoing political battles came to a head.

Unseen to most outside of Union Council, both the current Sabbatical Team and the Non-Sabbaticals, were split almost straight down the middle on the proposals.

And contrary to what many of the people at Wednesday’s meeting thought, there were no clear dividing lines: It was not the AU versus LUSU, any less than it was women versus

LUSU, or postgraduates versus LUSU.

Though some of the opponents of the reform tried to create some grand coalition of objection: A Facebook group called “A Union for Students?” - The Other side fo the Coin’ was set up, declaring “Due to lack of student consultation this group will be voting against the Sabb Review” in some kind of attempt to unite all those with doubts under one banner. But despite its 300 members, the review, once amended, passed by a landslide.

500 people packed into a cramped and stifling lecture theatre for two hours will do anything

It was a mistake for the review’s opponents to assume that any objection meant a complete objection. Advocates of guaranteed women’s representation didn’t all necessarily think that the AU deserved the same privilege. Similarly, most AU members had little time for talk of women’s liberation. And most importantly, they forgot that 500 people packed into a cramped and stifling lecture theatre for two hours will do anything to avoid going through the

same process again.

But it is too flattering to Michael Payne to imagine that proposing to do away with the AU President was an elaborate ploy to boost turnout in order to stitch up the passage of the rest of the review. From inside ‘the Bunker’, it was always obvious that the future of the Women’s Officer was going to be a battle fought only among officers and a few interested observers, but by few others—a theory borne out by the relatively low turnout of women compared to the hordes of AU men at the meeting. But it was less obvious whether the AU would vote en-masse to keep a sports Sabb by passing an amendment, or vote en-masse to keep the AU President by voting down the whole review. With the numbers of sports team members in the meeting following their signals, AU Non-Sabb, Tan Farrell, or AU President, Gareth Coleman, could have done either.

On all sides, there was an assumption that opponents of the review would vote straight down the line to see it off, and that supporters would vote to keep it pure and unamended. But on that, nearly everyone got it wrong.

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‘Quack attack’ fundraiser planned for YMCA homelessness campaign

by Sam Newsham

FURNESS COLLEGE IS set to host a ‘duck themed fundraising event’ on Wednesday 10th December, with students invited to take part in a range of fairground activities and games, including bowling, hoopla, and ‘hook-a-duck’.

Starting at 8.00pm in Furness Foyer, the event has been organised to raise money for the Lancaster and District YMCA. Activities will have a small fee, with all proceeds donated to the YMCA’s ‘Don’t Duck The Issue’ campaign, a strategy to raise awareness of and prevent homelessness in and around Lancaster. Drinks offers will be running at the college bar throughout the evening, available to all students with Purple Cards.

‘Quack-Attack’ has been organised by five third-year students who attended the two day course ‘Insight into Project and Event Management’, ran by the University Careers service. Following the course, the group had a total two weeks to plan and carry out an event that would raise funds in aid of the YMCA.

Much of the funding has come from local businesses. Solicitors Jobling & Knape have donated £100, and £10 has come from both Byron’s Hairdressers and FDUK. In addition, many businesses have donated prizes, including a



In prayer:
A homeless man on a street offers a prayer to God.

litre bottle of Red Square Vodka from Bar Eleven and an hour long ‘luxury manicure’ from Jo & Cass Hairdressers. In addition, the YMCA have supplied a novelty ‘gigantic rubber duck’, which is set to be raffled throughout the evening.

Vicki Cole, one of the students organising the night, said ‘We have worked extremely hard to organise the

event, having only two weeks to plan it. We started off without any funds for the project, and are very grateful for all the donations made.’

She urged students to come along and join in on Wednesday, adding ‘It is really important to come out and support the event, as the YMCA works really hard in our area and any donations can make a real difference.’

‘Don’t Duck The Issue’ was launched by Lancaster’s YMCA in 2006 and has involved a variety of fundraising events including a Giant Duck Race and a Duck Swim in Lake Windermere. In addition to hosting the ‘Quack Attack’ event, Furness College has agreed to donate the proceeds of its Week 9 quiz to supplement the total going towards the campaign.

Council reluctant to fund disabled students

by Fiona Hutchinson

STUDENTS RECEIVING FUNDING from Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council have allegedly had their Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) cut and promised funding for help withdrawn just a week before the start of term.

A member of University staff involved in the University’s Disability Services told a SCAN reporter that whenever someone mentions the Wirral Borough Council she gets “a cold shiver down my spine” and that they are widely known as the council that says “no”.

Wirral Borough Council could not comment on the individual cases, but did report that DSA for most students has increased this year and any decrease in funding will be due to changes in personal circumstances. Jill Gwatkin, the Council’s Press Officer, told SCAN that students should have been given an adequate explanation of why their funding had changed, but would be willing to investigate further any case where students required further explanation.

The DSA is part of a scheme by central government, but is administered by Local Education Authorities, leaving the final say over who gets the allowance with local councils.

The University believes it is “vital that disabled students are empowered to take control of their own living arrangements and not have control diminished as it might be in a school or special college.” The University says their welfare system is available equally to all students, including pastoral and academic welfare, and works with students to enable them to operate as independent adults at university.

Over the years, the University’s Disability’s Service has seen variation in support from different LEAs but hopes it “may be evened out when the Student Loans Company takes over the administration of local authority DSAs”.

Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) is a non-means tested grant, which is available to help students pay for extra costs incurred in education because of their disability, such as specialist equipment or carers. The medical helper support component of DSA can be used for mobility assistance to and from teaching sessions, note-takers, interpreters, library support and specialist tuition etc. There are currently about 600 students at Lancaster University who may be eligible for DSA.

Depending on the nature of the disabilities, some students may also be eligible for Social Care Support, to aid in day-to-day tasks.

Disabled Students Allowance has recently been raised from £12,400 to approximately £15,000 a year. The Disability Service report that the number of students provided with support by their LEAs has not dropped since the introduction of the larger allowance.

Friends of Palestine call for boycott of water from disputed Golan Heights

by Lisa Stallard

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY’S FRIENDS of Palestine Society have proposed a campus-wide boycott of Eden Springs mineral water over the company’s trading activities in the Golan Heights, an Israeli-occupied territory, over which Syria claims legal ownership.

The Israeli-owned water company is responsible for supplying water for drinking fountains all across campus, but it has recently come under fire from the LUFPS for its violation of international laws.

The controversy surrounding the company stems from their activities in the Golan Heights, an area of Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, which was illegally annexed in 1981. Since the take over, 90% of the Syrian population of the Heights have been expelled by Israeli forces.

Eden Springs have been sourcing their water from the Salukia Spring within the Israeli-occupied territory, and have in turn apparently been depriving the Syrian population of a much needed water supply.

The LUFPS believe that by boycotting the company’s provision of water



Desolate: A child looks out toward the Golan Heights, in Israeli-occupied territory

to Lancaster University, peace could potentially be brought not only to the Golan Heights, but also to Syria and Israel - two countries which are officially at war.

The LUFPS’ argument is that Eden Springs, a member of the Danone Group, is violating articles 28 and 47 of

the Hague Regulations, which declares that “pillage is formally forbidden”. The LUFPS hope this illegal activity could be brought to a close by limiting the power of the water company within the UK.

Lately the company was forced to close its East of Scotland depot after

losing “hundreds of contracts” following a boycott at Edinburgh University. Now Lancaster students want the same to happen here.

Tom Hastings, of the Friends of Palestine Society, has recently addressed a letter to the University asking it to terminate its contract with Eden Springs. Mr. Hastings said: “Eden Springs is not just a silent partner in violations of international law, it is itself the active violator”.

Using Article 55 of the Hague Regulations as proof, which ‘limits the right of occupying states to utilize the water sources of occupied territory’, Mr. Hastings added: “The criminal behaviour of a company violates Lancaster University’s commitment to ethical business policies.”

This is not the first time Lancaster’s ethical policies have been brought into question. Controversy over the university’s investment in companies which trade arms has been at the forefront of debates recently, and after a fellow successful boycott by many Scottish Universities, the LUFPS are hoping they too can make a difference in Syria.

Mr Hastings asks if anyone wishes to support the boycott and sign the petition for the removal of Eden Springs’ water from across campus to email him at t.hastings1@lancaster.ac.uk.

£10m spent on arts 'greenhouse' while £18,000 gallery squeezed

by Robert Maidstone

THE LANCASTER INSTITUTE for the Contemporary Arts (LICA), is to receive a new £10m central 'hub', as the University seeks to improve its Arts reputation on an international scale.

The new building, which has been nicknamed the 'Greenhouse', is set to become the public face of LICA. It is hoped that the new building - for which construction is due to begin in June 2009 - will also provide a venue for regional, national and international work to be staged at Lancaster University.

The 'Greenhouse' is to be situated in the northern area of campus, and the University is aiming for it to achieve a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) excellent rating.

News of the multi-million pound project however, comes at a time when the Peter Scott Gallery has seen its income significantly cut. Over the last two years the Gallery has seen its income drop from £12,880 to just over £9000. Unfortunately no one was available to comment on this discrepancy, so it is unknown as to why this has happened, especially as the income for LICA as a whole has risen by about £1.5m.

LICA has also recently undergone an internal review, looking at the Pub-



A architect's impression of what the planned £10m atrium for the Institute of Contemporary Arts will look like.

lic Arts at Lancaster University. The review recommends a big reshuffle to unite the various sections of LICA, and is due to be implemented as soon as Spring 2009. The aim and ambition of the restructure is to make sure that "the Public Arts must have one consistent vision and strategic plan".

Dr Andrew Quick, a key figure in the review process, gave as an example of the benefits of a reshuffle that of an up-and-coming composer involved with music at the University, helping to produce music for a theatre production or provide inspiration for an artist. He said that the review provides an "exciting opportunity" for students from all

areas of the university.

The restructure will also endeavour to strengthen the existing links between the Public Arts and teaching in the University, along with creating new links and giving more opportunity for students to get involved with the different fronts of the Public Arts and LICA.

Dr Quick believes the long term aim of the department is to provide an "incubating area for emerging artists".

The review was carried out over the last academic year and comes three years after the Public Arts were integrated into the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (LICA). Three documents were produced as a result,

which were then sent for review to three leading experts in the field who then all held meetings and took part in further consultation within departments. Other universities have also undertaken similar reviews and used as basis for the restructuring, such as the thriving Warwick Arts Centre.

A final consultation with Sir Brian Follett, who chairs the Government's Training and Development Agency for Schools and was closely involved with the success in Warwick, was then held and a list of recommendations was produced.

Despite this the Public Arts and LICA seem to be at the start of excit-

ing times and this could prove to be a key part of the University in the near future. The aforementioned Peter Scott Gallery, for example, plays host to a wide variety of exhibitions. Currently it is displaying the "Art of China", with prints and paintings from various Chinese artists, and next term will display work from Welsh sculptor David Gilbert.

The Nuffield Theatre and International Concert Series also have a wide variety of theatrical performances and renowned concerts respectively. Part of the aims for the restructure are to allow students to interact and learn from these different establishments.

Tory think-tank: lift the cap on uni fees

by Sam Newsham

RIGHT-WING THINK-TANK REFORM has released a report which states that the country's university system would be far better if the cap on tuition fees was scrapped.

The report, entitled 'The Mobile Economy', was launched late last month by David Willetts, the Conservative Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Suggestions within the report include taking the budget for post-18 education, currently £9.6 billion a year, and using it to set up Individual Education Accounts. This would give each young person £13,000 to use toward their education. There would also be plans for a student loans system but the initial £13,000 would not be means tested.

The report also recommends the complete removal of all limits on tuition fees, thereby giving universities free rein to charge whatever fees they like, to whatever height they like. It claims that British universities need "genuine independence" in order to compete on an international scale. For them to gain this they need the freedom of "independent decision-making over fees, student numbers, curriculum,



Reform and deregulate: *Tory Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, David Willetts MP (left) has been rebutted by his own party for launching the report. The Conservative Party want to avoid making a decision about university fees until the last possible moment.*

and staffing and capital investment". This, the report states, justifies the removal of the current £3,000 tuition fee limit. It also argues that higher fees will give students the responsibility of choosing a course that will be right for them and "an incentive to ensure that their courses are high quality." This, the writers of the report say, will lead to higher education institutions raising the standards of the courses they offer.

Nick Vose, the Chair of Lancaster Conservative Future, told SCAN, "the

policy that is being considered is one that will open up choice in universities by providing competition as each university will seek to offer a better course for less money. In the long term, overall fees could go down."

However, the President of the National Union of Students, Wes Streeting, disagrees with this sentiment. He said: "Against the current economic backdrop, it would be extremely foolish to trust the provision of any major public service entirely to the market. These

proposals would put the long-term security of thousands of vital courses serving our most deprived communities in jeopardy. They would confine the vast majority to a utilitarian education system based on weighing up financial risk."

The Reform report comes off the back of the NUS launching its new campaign, 'Broke & Broken'. The campaign is based on the NUS' own report into the current state of student finances.

LUSU President, Michael Payne,

said of the campaign: "It is a constructive criticism of the student support package for higher education and higher education funding as a whole. [It is] looking at bursaries, tuition fees, how money is distributed around different students from different socio-economic backgrounds."

He added: "It is a criticism essentially of that package. It is calling for a proper review of higher education funding."

The government is due to review the state of HE funding next year, which will include a debate on the tuition fee limit. The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for the Labour Government, John Denham, has already commissioned seven reports on the subject. Speaking at the end of February, Mr. Denham said: "We need to decide what a world-class HE system of the future should look like, what it should seek to achieve, and establish the current barriers to its development."

The Conservatives have been quick to play down the link between the Reform report and their party, especially in light of the infamous Policy Exchange, 'northern cities' report over the summer. A spokesperson for the party said that it did not endorse the findings of the report and they do not represent the party's policies.

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Franziska Bartels

The University's BAE links have bloodied all our hands

For a seat of learning founded by pacifist Quakers, why are we cosyng up to arms companies like BAE?

Fraud and bribery. All the recent news involving the arms giant BAE Systems, Europe's largest arms exporter, always seems to contain those two words. And that is only the recent news. So you would imagine the University might think twice before jumping into bed with such a notorious company, that at the end of the day, deals in death.

Instead, the University's Management School offers a degree programme specifically aimed at securing student employment with the BAE. And as reported in the last issue of SCAN, it also holds several thousand pounds of shares in the company, despite numerous opportunities to introduce an ethical investment policy.

In 2000, strange payments by BAE into trusts named Havana and Yaheeb were discovered. Investigators found more than £100m in these trusts, the ultimate beneficiary of these being the Qatari government's Foreign Secretary, Sheik Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber al-Thani, the uncle of the Emir of Qatar and a man of huge wealth and influence throughout the Persian Gulf.

These trusts, in operation for almost 10 years, were promptly frozen by the authorities while they carried out their investigation. But after the hor-

rific events of September 11, Qatar was an increasingly important strategic ally for Britain and the US. Nine months later, the investigation was dropped.

In 2004, files were seized by Ministry of Defence police alleging corruption on a massive scale by BAE Systems. Payments totalling more than £60m to prominent Saudis were listed.

Previous BAE customers include Saddam Hussein and Chile's Gen-

eral Pinochet, and in 2007, it was announced that BAE contracts in six countries: Chile, the Czech Republic, Qatar, Romania, Tanzania and South Africa, were being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office for "suspected international corruption." And the list goes on.

Now these statistics and facts were not difficult to find. All that was necessary was the ability to type and access

to the internet. After a while, case after case was throwing itself at me. Even the BAE website is not exempt of reproach. In an attempt to widen their audience, they have introduced games, for small children and for teenagers, that are only possible to reach by searching through the whole site, which contain, amongst other things, a list, embellished by photos, of all the things they sell. Lots and lots of weapons.

In attempts to draw attention to this less than shining record, the People & Planet and Amnesty International societies on campus organised a series of events, including a debate and a 'die-in', with students lying motionless outside the Management School, in protest against the unethical standards of this company it is so closely associated with.

Now the holidays are coming up and the affair has, since, been largely kept quiet. But it would be a shame to leave it at that. Just take 5 minutes to look the stories up in detail and decide on your opinion.

So, while the University makes money out of the arms trade, try to have merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Hopefully you will not mind the blood on your hands too much.



BAE Systems' prototype Non-Line-of-Sight Cannon firing its 1,000th round earlier this year.

How can a computer screen be more fun than a ballot paper?

Debate about e-voting must not take for granted that it would be either transparent or remotely enjoyable



Patrick Allinson

Chair, Bowland JCR

The debate on e-voting is simple isn't it? Students get the chance to vote on their computer and we get more people involved and a bigger turnout. Simple.

Or maybe it's a bit more complicated than that. With the advent of the new LUSU constitution and the writing of a new elections bylaw; itself stating polling can "stay open for a maximum of a week", General Secretary, Janie Coleman, has promised a good old "full and frank debate" on the issue. LUSU's Elections Sub-Committee (the body in charge of all elections on campus) has paved the way and it will soon be up to the Union to decide. So, what to decide?

Being a campus university, Lancas-

ter has always had a problem with the off-campus student vote. Moreover, students living on south-west campus, or registered with a college sited there, show little effort in making the trek down to their Porters' Lodge. The largest college on campus, Graduate, have their polling station in the library and with most resident GSA students living in south-west, their turnout is always poor. So e-voting would solve these problems surely? The intimidation of voters, and complicated voting slips can be overcome with a single click, with links to manifestos, pictures and other such gimmicks making voting more accessible and fun for the electorate.

The response comes sevenfold - for

Grad, a new ballot box was set up in the college this year and proved successful following their first quorate AGM for a long time. South West College Cartmel has shown a huge turnout in recent years, with all positions on their JCR contested this term. The fact is that in comparison with other student unions, Lancaster has a high turnout in Sabbatical elections - widely believed to be down to the college system - so would e-voting make any difference? The college system is incredibly important in the elections, with college chairs being the eyes and ears on the ballot boxes. This ensures fairness - it is impossible to stop candidates setting up computers in their room even though the new bylaw forbids it. Or opening 'unofficial'

polling stations - with e-voting, every computer becomes a potential polling station.

Would voting really be more fun? The count wouldn't be at all exciting; it would all be done with the click of a mouse. There would be no ballot box, no checking of the turnout, no exit polls - e-voting would take away all the checks and balances but also the fun of voting.

If the students of this Union decide we should follow Kings College, Durham and the other Unions who employ e-voting, then we have to listen to them - that is democracy. But having co-written the new bylaw, I for one will be making sure it is done absolutely properly, because a lot is at stake.

Fascists do not forfeit their right to free speech

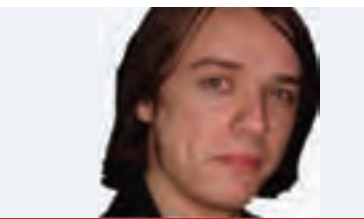
Paul Mill

I'm sure you will agree that freedom of speech is one of - if not the - most important freedoms we in the Western world own. Therefore, when extremist attitudes occur within a society, is it right that they should they be censored? Are we not sacrificing our own freedoms by submitting to censorship? The minority BNP are considered by the public majority to be racists. Put simply, the BNP would like to 'repatriate' any person with the 'wrong' skin colour and/or ethnicity. I hate that they believe such a thing. But is it wrong for them to express those views, if those views are expressed in a manner that does not physically harm or intimidate others?

If we say 'Yes,' we imply that the person expressing themselves is abusing the right to freedom of speech; violating the rights of those receiving verbal discrimination. It could even be argued that some issues are simply undeniable, and that no opposing opinion must be entertained: should anyone be allowed to deny the atrocity that was the Holocaust? The Germans don't think so: Holocaust denial is an offence under German law.

To argue 'No,' however, creates victims: those who cannot exercise free speech - no matter how abhorrent the content - become a silenced minority. And the existence of that minority signifies a censored society. There are so many issues, such as the aforementioned 'Holocaust denial', that could be deemed an abuse of free speech, that it has so far been impossible to create a clear, practical law that prevents both the abuse of free speech, and allow us to speak our minds. As a result, many are afraid to articulate arguments that revolve around racial issues. Furthermore, the ramifications of enacting such a law would be immeasurable. The ever-looming danger of an Orwellian society would be that bit nearer to our door: consider some of the recent laws Parliament has attempted to implement (the proposed 42 day detention terror laws spring to mind). The loss of our right to speak our minds will herald the loss of civil liberties.

Free speech, regardless of the speaker, is the basis of our civil liberties. All other rights and freedoms stem from it, and it is something that we need to cherish. We should be able to speak our mind, with no fear of any consequences, whether it is the danger of losing our jobs, or simply facing the wrath of the majority. Regardless of the ethnicity, race or culture of the speaker; whether it is BNP members, Communists, Islamic Extremists or Tories; we, as a society, should be lining up behind Voltaire to shout, 'I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it.'

**Alex Harris**

No, he can't - Obama has set himself a task too big to complete in eight years

**In the spotlight:** US President-elect, Barack Obama, addresses the crowds on results night in Chicago.

Barack Obama was a better pick than John McCain for the Presidency. Talk of experience is meaningless when you factor in the erratic and dangerous nature of McCain's temperament and his record with regards to national security and elite business interests. He generally tends to serve big business in the same way most of his Republican colleagues do and in matters of national security is on the far right of the spectrum. His lack of knowledge with regards to the economy coupled with his obsession with war would have undoubtedly seen America involved in more armed conflicts in an attempt to jump-start the economy, much like World War II drew the US out of the Great Depression, or at the very least make little actual progress in economic terms aside from bailing out bankers and auto-industries. In terms of national security, which McCain is erroneously considered some kind of demigod with regards to his expertise on the matter, imagine Bush/Cheney on steroids.

So we dodged a bullet there right? Yes and no. Historically speaking, the general population of the US does better under Democratic administrations - they tend to engage more in social planning and social programs and don't rack up record deficits like Republicans seem to be so fond of doing. Clinton left the country with an \$80 billion surplus; Bush II, with a several trillion dollar deficit. In foreign policy terms Democrats engage in less macho rhetoric than Republican administra-

tions, but in practise are only slightly less hawkish, barely enough to notice a difference. Obama, judging on his actual campaign promises and current picks for cabinet, shows all the signs of being a typical centre-right, Clintonesque democrat. Change we can believe in? Hardly.

In terms of the economy, Obama is unlikely to provide the radical economic change that the US desperately needs, even if he wants to do so. Granted, greater regulatory measures are called for on financial institutions and large corporations, but Obama knows quite well that he can ill afford to upset the financial and business sectors, which have become the core constituency of

Washington. His economic plans are accepted by large corporations, even leading to a few endorsements during the campaign.

All of this doesn't compare to the main reason Obama will be unable to deliver on his promises - the damage done is too deep for four or even eight years to undo. Under Reagan, Bush I, Bush II and to a lesser extent, Clinton, the government has embraced its fate, and become dominated by the business sector. Former efficient government agencies have been sold off to the highest bidder. The Environmental Protection Agency is run by anti-regulatory lobbyists, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is a national disgrace

and this is only the tip of the iceberg. In 1928 the President of the US Chamber of Commerce wrote a highly influential article entitled 'The best public servant is the worst one' and the Republican Party has followed that philosophy pretty closely. It is now common practise to place people in charge of government institutions who are hostile to their purpose, all because, as Reagan said in his inaugural address: "Government is not the solution to our problems, government is the problem."

That is the fate of the American federal government. The wheel is already too far in motion for Obama to make a real difference - part of the right's philosophy is to make irreversible changes

to federal agencies so that they either serve the interests of business (the FAA now considers the airline industries its 'customers' as opposed to the public) or to dismantle them entirely, outsourcing their jobs to the private sector. Large deficits allow them to do this with immeasurable public support, because cutting certain programs is deemed necessary when the federal deficit is so high.

Public support is also an important point to consider. Ever since the Watergate scandal, the US population has been inherently cynical. Reagan capitalised (literally) on that cynicism better than any US leader before or since. It's a fate that any Democrat with big plans for the American worker or lower classes ends up meeting. The Republican attack machine instantly characterises any social program as a tyrannical expansion of government power over the people of the United States.

Clinton told us "The era of big government is over" and Obama has been pretty clear that "People don't expect government to solve all their problems". Obama may have run on a fairly liberal platform, but he, like many Democrats before, has to tread on eggshells when talking about any form of large-scale social planning, so that it isn't seen as government growth. It's at these times he tends to fall back on his 'hope' and 'change' rhetoric.

So for all the great things to be said about Obama, he is unfortunately bound by the US business sector's unending assault on government. I get the impression, when talking to people about Obama, that the kind of change they expect him to bring is precisely the kind of change that he has been prevented from bringing before he's even started. A good pick? Probably. Change we can believe in? Not as much as some would like to think.

**Sam Newsham**

No amount of cheap booze is worth the social hangover of our bingeing culture

ain has risen by 50%. The annual cost to the economy of alcohol misuse is around £20 billion; the cost in lives around 22,000. Alcohol was 69% more affordable last year than it was in 1980, and it's advertised exhaustively in the media. It is impossible to go shopping or watch a TV programme or listen to the radio without exposure to some kind of alcoholic marketing, whether it's supermarket shelves stacked high with cut-price wine or adverts for a £6.50 litre of vodka.

Since the early 1990s, when pub attendances began to drop as partygoers opted for the effects of drugs such as ecstasy, a large part of the binge-drinking culture has involved young people. In response to the declining number of drinkers, the alcohol industry relaunched alcohol as a new product strictly aimed at the younger market and increased its strengths to give effects more like those obtained

from ecstasy. The rise of so-called alcopops such as WKD and Reef are evidence of this. Now we're at the stage where we struggle to find a university freshers' week activity that doesn't involve drinking in copious quantities and events such as the recent Carnage bar crawl can invoke such horrifying prospects that the Student Union feels obliged to entirely disassociate itself from it.

The Government's proposals aren't entirely new. In 2004, a report by the Academy of Medical Sciences, Calling Time, called for limitations on the price and availability of alcohol. Raising tax to increase prices by just 10% would cut alcohol-related deaths by 28.8% in men and 37.4% in women.

It goes without saying, especially in the current economic climate that an increase in alcohol prices would lead to a decrease in alcohol sales. Such would be the size of the decrease that the as-

sociated increase in tax would not give any more revenue for the economy. So we can't completely see this as yet another way for the Government to fill its depleted coffers.

We can only hope it will be more successful that the last attempt to curb binge-drinking. The Licensing Act 2003, which came into effect in November 2005, allowed completely flexible opening hours in an attempt to recreate a more Mediterranean drinking culture. On the continent, binges common to most British towns and cities are almost unheard of (though it should be noted that incidences of liver cirrhosis are higher per capita in France than the UK).

But is this all that is needed to change the way we drink? Raising prices and restricting access may force us to cut down, but will it end the culture of drinking to get drunk? Surely in addition to these preventative measures

we have to develop a culture in which we take responsibility for looking after ourselves and our bodies, and it is only through education that this will happen. Current PSHE programmes are full of facts about the effects of too much alcohol, but does this really work? Ask anyone who smokes if they know what cigarettes will do to their body and chances are they will say yes. Health Education should change to reflect the importance of respect for one's self and one's body. During the past ten years attitudes to smoking have begun to alter. This has been brought about by legislation, education and high-profile media campaigns, although it needs to be noted that the tobacco industry has fought tooth and nail to repudiate this. Unless the same effort is ploughed into our binge-drinking attitudes we are unlikely to see the reduction in alcohol-related issues that the Government wants.



‘Decisions are made by those who show up’

Simon Rimington
President, Fylde JCR

So Lancaster students seized their chance to make history this Wednesday, a packed General Meeting voted near unanimously in favour of the much hyped Sabbatical Review.

Personally I am very pleased with the outcome of the General Meeting. Our dedicated sports Sabbatical officer has been retained, though unfortunately, once again at the expense of societies. They have remained in the remit of what was previously the General Secretary, now the Vice-President (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies).

Who however can sympathise with the societies, they have an enormous membership on paper, enough of a base to challenge the AU attendance. Further to the point it would have been great to see them gain a better setup, they had a chance tonight, only societies council chair elect Edwin Burrows was there to defend them.

The mobilisation of the Athletic Union for this meeting is something that everyone should be proud of, the way that a group of people supported something that they believed in shows that there is hope that student apathy has a cure. I hope that the AU clubs show the same passion for Roses and bring it back. If they feel so strongly about this there will not be the teams turning up to events still drunk like last year and that they show the AU can achieve the feat of winning in York.

As for the position of Women's Officer, I was handed a leaflet on my way into the building that told me now was not the time to take two steps back and that only two out of 27 candidates for open places on the Sabb team were women last year. But if we need to preserve the Women's Officer to try and work to stop women being afraid of running; what have consecutive Women's officer's been doing over this period of time, the situation admittedly was not good last year but clearly it is not the Women's office that improved things or it would have been far better after eighteen years.

Also I think it's important to point out that talented women seem to win elections at Lancaster. Janie Coleman at the last round of elections, defeated four males to take her place on the team, two of them being college presidents as well. Lancaster is far from backwards in women's representation, evident in our colleges as well where we have three female presidents.

‘Decision are made by those who show up’ was a line quoted frequently last night and the new Sabbatical team represents what the most passionate groups wished to happen. This morning the AU stand happy, they mobilised and got what they wanted. If the Women's organisations had mobilised as well we could be looking at a very different review to the one which passed

Did the ends justify the means?

Payne wanted the Sabbatical Review to be his legacy, so why did he let it become such a farce?



Liam Richardson
Comment Editor

Last Wednesday I was left with a strange feeling. Despite getting exactly what I thought was right from the Sabb Review, I was left disappointed with how the whole affair was handled.

Ultimately, just over 500 students out of a campus population of over 16,000 have decided the future of our Students Union. That is a tiny percentage of people to have such a massive say. The scheduling of the meeting could have been described as cynical; a Wednesday being a day that AU clubs compete in BUSA. Couple this with the fact that one college (Pendle) had little or no representation due to the timing of their Christmas ball.

In the last issue, I commented on how I was vehemently against the idea of the AU and Societies falling under one remit. The AU President, Gareth Coleman, should be very proud that his people appeared and backed him in such large numbers. The only problem with this is that once the AU got what they wanted they seemed quite happy to go along with the rest of the review and ultimately pass it. Everything else, such as the issue of women's repre-

sentation, the titling of positions and whether the review should be passed at all, was swept through the back door. Conversely, the AU felt they were opposing change; yet their votes have caused the most radical shake-up of the Union in nearly two decades.

My major concern with the review is that it appears rushed. The LUSU President has preached the importance of consultation, yet I feel that the process has not been lengthy or exhaustive enough. How can consultation have been effectively incorporated into the review when two members of his own team, namely the Women's Officer and AU President, have been outspoken in their opposition. Surely consultation begins at home, and without the backing or satisfaction of other officers, how can he convince the majority of student that their views have been listened to as well.

Also, because the debate has been centred on the issue of the contentious Student Activities Officer and the removal of the current Women's Officer role, there has been no public discussion of the changes to the Scan sabbatical position or the creation of an Academic Affairs officer. The review

needed multiple forums to pick over in detail, the new positions and remits, yet the GM merely skimmed over the issues in broad terms without highlighting the many points that should have been considered.

The proposed amendments were sweeping and ill judged. The notion of still having a EWD officer who is represented only by women is clearly absurd and not properly thought out. The Women's Campaign could not have possibly fought for that amendment due to its wording and clearly paradoxical nature. Similarly, once the dust settles people will surely realise that this review has done nothing to gain increased representation for societies or ease the workload of the Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies (formerly General Secretary) position. The proposed amendment satisfies the AU but has done nothing to solve these further issues. The review has failed utterly in this respect.

The Sabbatical Review has been a brave attempt at updating and changing the Student Union for the better by bringing it in line with other students unions and the NUS. Ultimately, the intention to get these changes made in

time for the Sabbatical elections next term has created major areas of contention within the student body and within LUSU and its associated hierarchy. I understand the need and importance of everything proposed but feel that time should have been dedicated to perfecting it with wider consultation. Also, in terms of image, it has looked very unprofessional for an elected team to be so publicly split and divided. Surely our elected representatives should be sending out one clear message, not a multitude of mixed ones.

Finally, for a momentous event such as the systematic overhaul of our Sabbatical Team, the whole campus should have had the opportunity to voice its opinion in a referendum. The apparent haste and narrowness of vision of those co-ordinating and participating in this overhaul, which culminated with the historic General Meeting in George Fox, should be remembered for missing a unique opportunity in creating a long lasting change for the better for our Union and selling democracy down the river in the process.



Michael Payne
LUSU President

Leaks are essential in scrutinising the establishment, whatever its form

Strong-arm reactions to scrutiny and oversight are both outrageous and counter-productive. Surely that wouldn't happen here?

The news last week of a police raid on parliamentary Damian Green's offices has left people wondering whether we are in fact living in Zimbabwe under the Mugabe regime rather than the UK under a supposedly democratic one.

The detention of Damian Green MP, for the terrible crime of doing his job as a parliamentarian, is worse than an outrage. It is insanely stupid.

Leaks, and their use holding the government to account are and always have been part of our parliamentary democracy. Unfortunately, so has the paranoia and bully-boy tactics that are deployed in response. Looking back over our history it soon becomes apparent that without the leaking of information to Winston Churchill by dis-

sident civil servants in the 1930s, the useless appeasement of the Nazis by the then government would have gone unchallenged. In short, we would never have known the true severity of Adolf Hitler's aggression until it came to our own shores.

Paranoia, bullying, censorship, intimidation and strong-arming in a situation like this casts the government in a poor light, the Metropolitan police as totally out of control and the Speaker of the House as feeble and out of touch.

Another dose of hypocrisy is thrown into this melting pot when you consider that it was none other than Gordon Brown himself who was on the receiving end of a string of leaks in the early 1990s. Brown was often found waving secret documents from Whitehall in the faces of embarrassed Tory min-

Brown was often found waving secret documents in the faces of Tory ministers

isters. Following last week's action Brown would have ordered the anti-terror squad heavies to barge into his private office and arrest him at once.

Although, thankfully, none of the information leaked was of significant risk to national security, the Home Secretary has maintained that she would refuse to interfere in police operation and action. The question then has to be asked, if she is not in charge of the police force, who is?

It is also true that the Speaker was not aware that the Met had no warrant for arresting Mr Green. Can the House

truly maintain their confidence in a man they elected to protect their rights as parliamentarians when his reaction to such nanny-state action is to pass the buck to the Serjeant at Arms and wash his hands of any responsibility?

This fiasco has proven that when fury combines with paranoia, the result is never sound judgment. This whole affair has put several reputations on the line. The House has been left feeling uneasy about its independence and MPs have been left feeling uneasy about how to fulfil their roles in public office to a proper standard with the police breathing down their necks.

Never in history has silencing the political opposition or intimidating those who scrutinize you been a sound tactic. More often than not it results in egg on the faces of the paranoid pup-

peteers who try to completely control the arena they operate in. The proper use of leaked information, when it is in the public interest and does not breach or jeopardize national security, is as another check and balance against unbridled executive power, and is the cornerstone of scrutiny in many organizations and institutions across the world.

Those who fear the consequences of sharing information with the public, and place their public reputation before moral principle or respect for those who scrutinize them, often find themselves acting like bulls in a china shop. But more often than not, they leave themselves with no way out.

Perhaps some of those in positions of authority a little closer to home than Zimbabwe, or even Westminster, should take note.

Debate: The point of Part I

Degree flexibility caters only for the indecisive and the cynical

Jacqueline Curley

The major-minor system in the first year is rubbish. Lancaster University is a great academic institution but I simply cannot agree with its approach to subject choices for first-years.

OK, maybe it does provide students with increased flexibility when considering their options before entering the second year. And maybe it does allow students to study subjects they may have missed out on in the past, or not had the option to - but those are not reasons enough for forcing those of us who are not annoyingly indecisive into taking subjects we do not necessarily want to.

You may think it sounds callous, but all the flexibility system does is pander to the pampered poor little ones who can't make up their mind. The University is practically saying, 'let's give them more options and maybe a year from now they might be able to grow some testicles and make a straightforward choice for themselves.' University is supposed to be about preparing us for the real world. When you go out to buy a car, they don't say 'well, since you can't make up your mind, we'll let you take all three home and you

can just bring back the two you don't like at the end of the year'.

Aside from this, there's also the fact that it's slightly twisted. Say you are 17 again and you want to choose a particular subject for University but you know you can't make the grade for it. What Lancaster is letting you do is apply for a degree with lower requirements or fewer applicants, and take on the one you wanted to do as a minor and switch it as your major for part two from second year. That is backward thinking to allow, and undermines everyone who did get the grade to do the subject in the first place. The only people who are advocates of this system are the people that play it.

As for giving students the opportunity to study other secondary things they might be interested in, if they were that interested they would study it of their own accord. If someone says, 'I really like Creative Writing, I just don't have the free time to do it' then I would argue that they do not like it all that much at all. If it interests you, then you should make the time. Do not use it as a reason to defend the system put in place at this University because it isn't not one.

And please don't get me started on the fact that the first year isn't even part of the degree. I'm paying scary amounts of money to do a third subject I didn't actually apply to do, which doesn't count for anything anyway.

Our degree structure opens doors that would otherwise be shut

Zoë Nicholson

I love the degree scheme we have here at Lancaster. Though people moan about how confusing it can be, and how annoying it is for people who take lots of different subjects, for me this is what makes it so interesting.

In the first year of university, or before you have even got there, it can be hard to choose a specific path or degree scheme, especially if you have lots of interests or subjects you are good at. I know some of my sixth form friends have changed degree schemes this year because they were doing subjects in the first year that were not right for them, and were unable to change without starting again in the second year. Rigid schemes such as those can be upsetting when you get it not right the first time and 'waste' a year doing the wrong thing.

This can also have other consequences. At the end of the day, most people have to pay for their own degrees, and wasting a year doing the wrong subject is not only wasting time, but money. It might even be possible that a student would not be able to continue with a different degree due to issues of paying the money back.

Personally, in addition to my interest in litera-

ture and desire to become a writer, I have a great passion for science; specifically biochemistry. This stretches to the extent that I wanted to do forensics at University before choosing English Literature and Creative Writing. So I was overjoyed to be able to take Universe as an Art for the first year alongside my other subjects. In my opinion, it's important to expand your knowledge beyond your specialist subjects at university, because surely isn't that what university is all about? Gaining not only a detailed understanding of a few things, but a keen interest in other subjects too?

The scheme also has the power to open up new doors to other subjects you might not have thought too much about before. I know someone who took Philosophy and English Literature with Creative Writing as a minor in their first year, but hated English. They were glad to drop it in the second year, and even more happy to be able to take Creative Writing forward, as it wasn't a subject they would have taken if it wasn't an option.

Not only this, but a good CV is a broad CV. Knowledge on lots of subjects will be more attractive to an employer than someone who takes one subject in depth. Not to say that either student will have studied harder, but the student who takes a wide range of subjects could be seen as having a larger sight of things. The degree scheme here gives you more options, and can create new ones you wouldn't have thought about before.

Letters to the Editor



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

Furness JCR hustings 'a farce'

I write to express my severe disappointment at the actions of certain members of Furness JCR. Their actions at hustings merely served to reinforce the criticisms that have been levelled at them earlier on in the term.

[Hustings] dissolves into a puerile farce when the persecution of one candidate overshadows the other contenders. While the individuals of the JCR have every right to question the candidates, the concerted effort to embarrass one candidate demeans and degrades the democratic process.

Members of the JCR are banned from endorsing or promoting a candidate yet they are not banned from attempting to character assassinate a candidate. Why is this? Picking up a theme from an article in this newspaper, (14 Oct.), I must warn the JCR that their actions smacked of favouritism. I was given the impression that the current JCR were protecting one of their current members who is standing again for a different position by targeting their main opposition.

With voter apathy high and candidates running unchallenged the JCR cannot afford to become even more of a self-edifying clique. If they do not understand and fulfil the responsibilities of their positions then we should not place our trust in them.

Anon.

Furness Hustings were carried out fairly and democratically.

Questions were disallowed that were unrelated or provocative no matter who they were from or who they were to.

That the behaviour of the JCR Executive has been brought into question surprises me, I'm sure that the behaviour of Furness was one mirrored by exec's across campus; they know how nerve-racking it can be, and show great respect for those putting themselves forward for the task.

Personal attacks did not occur. Bullying did not occur. Outside observers were present, including two Sabbatical officers who raised no concerns with myself or any member of the elections sub-committee.

Complaints about any election matter have a clear and fair process to run if they are serious and that neither myself, the Chief Returning Officer or the General Secretary were contacted strikes me as surprising.

However it is also true that the official procedure does not allow for anonymity and it does require evidence that is so far completely lacking, maybe I shouldn't be so surprised after all.

Robin Hughes
Chair, Furness JCR

Cartmel turn out for democracy

I would like to express my gratitude to members of Cartmel College who turned out in force last night to affect change in our Union and to see the new Sabb Review put into force. At my count we had around 50 members, not including those who turned out with the AU.

On that note, hats off to the Athletics Union who showed that democracy is still relevant to our modern lives by coming down and making their opinion known in such large numbers and with a great solidarity which really paid off for them.

I think it's a tribute to Michael Payne's hard work and effort early in his term in office that he was able to pass this, at times, controversial review and I hope he is as proud of Cartmel as we are of him.

Robbie Pickles
President-elect, Cartmel JCR

Carnage fall out

I really do not see what the fuss, mollycoddling and worrying that LUSU was giving for the recent Carnage event.

I chose to attend this event and I had a really good time. LUSU were worried that the event would damage the reputation of Lancaster University's students and encourage mass drunken behaviour, but on the night it was simply not the case. From what I could see, it was well organised, everyone behaved themselves and throughout the night I did not feel unsafe at all due to the huge police presence.

Whether LUSU didn't like a student event rolling into town without their blessing or involvement, or were worried that the Sugarhouse would take an inevitable hit in attendance and revenue that night I'll never know, but overall I enjoyed Carnage and will be attending it next time they're in Lancaster.

So what are LUSU going to do about that?

Alex Roberts,
Lonsdale College

NUS governance

Dear unbiased SCAN,
As one of the NUS delegates cited in your article, (25 Nov.), I thought I'd send in some points.

a) Those who did not support this governance review want change, but want change that benefits students, not just any change.

b) Those who broke mandate at Annual Conference at Easter were not forced to pay for their accommodation. It was still paid for by LUSU.

c) Mr Welsh and myself did not break mandate. Punishing us for the height of our voting cards (which were counted regardless) is just petty.

d) I think that it is pretty poor showing that I had to find out that I am being punished and what I am being punished with via SCAN rather than LUSU telling me.

Congratulations LUSU, another job well done.

Kate Fry,
disillusioned member of LUSU.

Watership down?

Having read the article of Week 8 Michaelmas term, I was left pondering the welfare of our campus wildlife. It seems unclear whether any cull took place and if it did due to an outbreak of myxomatosis, fair enough, myxomatosis is an awful disease for rabbits to catch.

However, I was disgusted to read the idea of a bunny massacre by pest

control. The wildlife and surroundings of campus (ducks, deer, rabbits, and pheasants) are what attract many students and culling would be unnecessary. What have they done? We should be looking out for the environment; it's not our place to destroy God's creation.

Anon.

Why should a 'watering hole' be just that?

I have been aching to write a response to the deluded anonymous and dare I say cheap student that wrote the article about the availability of Bowland Bar's tap water.

As a member of Bowland Bar staff I was frustrated with the accusations in said article on several matters. Firstly water is available from the toilet taps, it is clean and perfectly safe drinking water and the Bowland Bar Staff, myself included, are more than willing to provide a plastic cup which comes

out of bar funds for you to take and fill up.

'Pissed' or otherwise the rules must apply to everyone and the comment on giving water out at rounds when other drinks are being bought is fictitious.

Secondly questioning Chomper's management and conduct on the grounds that he is 'Scottish' is both incorrect and not very funny. I have been an employee of Bowland Bar for over two years and find him to be humorous, light-hearted and more

knowledgeable than most on the subject of dealing with drunken students.

I therefore suggest that you either fork out for bottled water, swallow your pride and go fill up in the toilets or man-up and have a Guinness.

Alex Denham,
Bowland Bar Staff

Main Rd, Galgate, Just off Jct 33 M6

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War, Huh? What is it good for?

• “Inspirational” Peace Fest highlights global issues

by Alex Lainsbury

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27 saw the arrival of Lancaster University’s first ever ‘Peace Festival’, held in Alexandra Square. The organiser, Nat Walker, said that the main idea of the event was about “spreading awareness” of ethical issues and working towards a future of “peacefulness and equality”. You might think such aims are commonplace these days, with climate change a global agenda, and charities constantly advertising for more money, yet how often do you question every-day moral issues?

The atmosphere at the festival was excited, with brightly coloured banners and passionate stall-holders all trying to convert the typical apathetic student into an ethical enthusiast. Leaflets abounded, while some stalls also had fair-trade chocolate and home-made cake to entice people.

While on a fairly small scale, the event was completely free, and most of the university’s ethical groups had representation present. The Green Committee for example, had large bags to be filled with cans and bottles for an inter-college effort to improve recycling.

The winner would receive money for their chosen endangered animal. There was also the chance to join a petition to save seals by boycotting Canadian seafood products.

The LGBT chose to decorate their stall with handprints, and offered free copies of the ‘Pink Paper’ for interested on-lookers. ‘Speak’, a national charity, were offering the chance to write your own suggestions of how the world could be made more peaceful on a blackboard, with a view to creating an exhibition from the photographs.

Also in attendance were Amnesty International, Stop the War, Students Against Racism, the Labour Club, and People and Planet. The interactive element of many of the stalls made what could have been a slightly intimidating, possibly even ‘preachy’ event into an approachable, friendly gathering of like-minded people.

The second part of the festival occurred later that evening, with an open mic night at Pendle Bar. Despite a late start, the bar was decorated in colourful banners, and politically based leaflets were dotted around on tables. The main attraction of the night was Danny Chivers, a professional performance poet from Oxford, who got into the activity after winning the first Slam Poetry event he entered. He described performance poetry as a “way of com-

municating” to people that the more traditional forms of protest may alienate. Lancaster student Pete MacMillan also performed some of his poetry, while Fraser Welsh played several songs on the guitar. Many other students also volunteered poetry or speeches.

While the audience turnout was low—I got the impression that most people present were already involved in one of the ethical groups—the mix of poetry, speeches and live music helped to ensure there was something to interest most people. The topics were diverse, ranging from light-hearted looks at recycling and consumer culture, to the weightier issues of terrorism and domestic abuse.

Some Lancaster students at the event found it “inspirational” with a “good atmosphere”, and rated the event as a good night out. Others, however, felt slightly alienated by the “overly left wing overtones” of the evening.

Altogether, the two-part peace festival can be concluded to have been a success even if it only persuades one person to act more ethically. In a wider way, it provided students with not only access to information on such issues, but in the case of the evening, a fun and alternative night out. Organiser Nat Walker hopes the event will become an annual occasion, so come along next year and maybe we can bring back the caring, hippie culture of the sixties, at a time when the world really needs a difference to be made.



Activists man stalls in Alex Square during “Peace Fest”, November 27 2008. (Photo: Rob Miller)

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REVOLUTION

PENNY STREET - LANCASTER

The politics, and partying, of the LGBT

by Daniel Ash

YOURlght —the University's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender society—is an often overlooked part of the students' union. An active group, they participate in movements and pressure groups to help raise awareness of issues affecting the LGBT community. The society aims to represent the issues and opinions of the community within the University, from fighting political campaigns for equality to hosting socials which are inclusive of everyone.

YOURlght is not a society in the conventional sense; it works more as an association and as a representative committee within the Students' Union. It has no membership fee and therefore no members, but exists as a legitimate and recognised part of LUSU, allowing them to be able to influence key university bodies and decisions, bringing the concerns of the LGBT community to the necessary people should they see change as being required.

The LGBT often try to influence the highest levels of government, to this end marches are regularly organised, alongside government petitions and pressure groups. One example of which was the work done to promote the cause of Prossy Kakooza from being extradited to Uganda, where she would have faced almost certain incarceration and possibly death due to her sexuality. The case took 15 months and 3 court dates before the Home Office could be convinced into granting her asylum to live, work and study in Britain for 5 years, after which time she can apply for permanent residence. Many cases like this are constantly ongoing and being supported by LGBT communities across the country.

The effect of the work undertaken by active members of the LGBT com-

munity is epitomised when we look at our accommodating and inclusive society today. The radical reform coming into effect in January 2009 is an effective benchmark in showing how far our culture has progressed. From January it will be illegal for adoption agencies to discriminate against a couple on the grounds of their sexuality.

As we can see from the recent passing of proposition 8, societies can move backwards as well as forwards.

Such achievement as this would not have been possible were it not for those bringing such issues to the fore of our country's attention, and were it not for the open and equal-minded mentality of the MP's who voted for the change. Looking at Lancaster University itself it is evident that gay rights and opinions are an important part of our university's make-up. LGBT officers sit on the college JCR's and in the Non-Sabbatical team, representing those who feel they are in a minority and ensuring that their student life is the best it can be. The LGBT can often be seen engaging in charitable and worthwhile causes across the University.

Every year a Pink Team has been present at the 24hr relay for Cancer Research UK and on Thursday of Week 8 they could be seen supporting the Peace Festival in Alexandra Square, despite the less than sunny weather on the day.

Many other campaigns are engaged in which aren't as visible to the casual student eye. Recently they've been actively participating in the World AIDS Day campaign, which tries to draw the world's attention to the AIDS epidemic in Africa. They've also been involved in the 'Donation not Discrimination'



Hello: blah blah blah (Photo: Someone)

cause, which tries to bring an end to the policy of the National Blood Service to refuse blood donations from gay men.

Alongside political activation, Lancaster University's LGBT are also prone to organising nights out and parties, which are aimed at raising awareness of the LGBT itself and to try to get as many people as possible involved in the society. The best known would be the Pride events which take place all across the country, Lancaster being no exception. A frequent event specifically aimed at Lancaster's students is 'Out-

rageous', which is a gay-friendly night on the last Sunday of every month held in Toast. Annual trips are also organised every December to the famously gay-friendly Canal Street in Manchester. On a more serious note, talks are being held every term under the title 'Born that Way'. These talks debate the question of whether homosexuality is genetic or not and are open to the student body at large.

YOURlght can be seen to embody the two core student principles of political activity and partying. The important and ongoing work of making Eng-

land a truly equal society is undertaken with enthusiasm and this open-mindedness is epitomised by their desire to include as many people in their politics and their parties as possible.

As we can see from the recent passing of proposition 8—a measure to make illegal same-sex marriages in California—societies can move backwards as well as forwards. The knowledge that such attitudes against homosexuality exist, however, provides the impetus for the pioneering and vital work of equal opportunities groups such as LUSU's YOURlght.

Celebrity perfumes: a step too far?

by Alex Lainsbury

Perfume: the substance that inspired a best-selling book and a hit movie. And now, as Christmas approaches, every celebrity with an ounce of capitalist sense will be on the lookout for a chance to launch their own perfume. Some have been around for years, others are new additions, and now even television shows are getting in on the act. Yes, it's true: Hollyoaks has launched its own his-and-hers scents.

It's not just soaps jumping on the perfume wagon, though. Children's perfume-making kits have been around for years but now, like most aspects of life, they are celebrity endorsed. This Christmas, your cousin or younger sister could be creating her very own 'Hannah Montana' perfume or even receiving the ready-made 'High School Musical' scent, 'Light Up'.

The success of celebrity perfumes in the adult market is debatable, however.

Leading perfume retailer The Perfume Shop maintains a list of the best-selling fragrances; only one celebrity perfume squeezed into the female top ten—Christina Aguilera's eponymous scent at number 9—and in the male top ten there were none at all. Elizabeth Taylor's scent 'White Diamonds', however, recently celebrated its 15th anniversary as one of the best selling fragrances of the past decade. Is this really all that surprising, though? After all, who would you rather smell like—Paris Hilton, or a Hollywood starlet?

After all, who would you rather smell like—Paris Hilton, or a Hollywood starlet?

Celebrity perfumes do have their advantages, however. They are often cheaper than designer scents, with differences of around £5-10 per 100ml. Celebrity perfumes are also available in smaller amounts, allowing for greater variety and cheaper prices. It could

be seen, therefore, that the influx of endorsed perfumes is a leveller of the market, allowing people of all budgets to experiment with their scent. I carried out a survey to determine popular opinions on the subject. While every participant questioned wore a designer fragrance for everyday use, almost all thought perfumes should be judged on their smell alone. Most replied that they would not buy a celebrity fragrance, yet every one would give the scent a chance if they were given it as a gift. It was agreed, however, that a perfume from a soap opera was one step too far. As one participant mentioned: "who would want to smell like Vera Duckworth?"

So, while the future seems bleak for soap opera perfumes—except possibly in the realm of pre-teen girls—in the case of celebrity scents it seems that brand only influences choice in a limited way. At the end of the day it comes down to only one thing: what it smells like.

Cheeky: Kylie Minogue is just one celebrity to capitalise on her fame—and distinguishing features—by marketing her own perfume. (Photo: Rob Miller)



Michael & Sarah



A Woman who has a never say die, give em' hell attitude and a young man who wishes we could all just get along, rustle up a serving of moreish advice.

Dear Michael and Sarah,

I can't deal with it anymore. There is nothing left usable. Our cupboards lay bare except for a few waxy amber rings that signify where piles of plates used to lie. Our sink is piled to the brim with dishes that have half-eaten spaghetti Bolognese fused to them. **Something needs to be done. But I'm just one man.** Help me.

X

SARAH: Within the confines of your house you are just one man, but in the wider spectrum of university cleanliness you are an everyman figure. This is a frustrating and disgusting situation to find yourself in but take heart in knowing every student can empathise. Perhaps a fun way to clean your kitchen would be to acquire a copy of 'Snow White' and enjoy the musical advice of 'Whistle While You Work'. Also Mary Poppins offers advice through song which could make the task far more light hearted and similar to a childhood game. So approach all of your housemates and organise a time to all help with the cleaning up, pop on a movie that will encourage a friendly and jovial atmosphere and get scrubbing! Failing that watch 'Withnail and I', as a similar scene occurs with a disastrous sink. They however decide the pub is the better option and leave the mess - so take movie advice where you will, and invest in some rubber gloves.

MICHAEL: The young man wandered half-awake into the room. The light caustically flickered on, illuminating the festering mess that had plagued his student kitchen for too long. He had only gotten up to get a glass of water, in the past he would have simply gone to the bathroom and taken a gulp from the tap, but there and then the young man stared at the pile and then he realised. He wasn't afraid anymore. He thrust himself towards the sink lunging his hand straight into the dark heart of the mound, pulling out a hairy sludge that had been bullying the plug hole since the first week of term. He excitedly and vigorously set about his task when another of his housemates blundered awake, eyed what he was doing and silently yet passionately joined in. The two of them continued for a time. Then another housemate joined the fray, then another, then another. The whole flat was united in a common purpose, until before they knew it the sink had been cleared...

Dear Michael and Sarah

Despite my best efforts I find myself morbidly attracted to Deborah Meaden from the popular BBC One program 'Dragon's Den'. All of my friends tell me they find my persistent erection during the program to be both 'distracting' and 'disturbing'. **Is there any foolproof way to dislodge a stubborn crush?**

X

SARAH: Inappropriate crushes can be tricky to dislodge as part of the appeal is the sense of obscurity knowing you are potentially the only person to find your love interest attractive. However, if your crush is spoiling social time with your friends perhaps it is best to slowly wean yourself off of your crush by cutting down on the number of episodes you so avidly consume. If you are primarily "morbidly attracted" to aging

blondes who are power crazy perhaps switch to 'watching Spooks' and ogle the more attractive, younger lady who appears to adopt the same hard faced look there, until you feel confident enough to move onto real such women. In the meantime, perhaps try hiding your erection with a cushion to keep the peace.

MICHAEL: Deborah Meaden syndrome (or D.M.S.) is a widespread af-

Dear Michael and Sarah,

I am in possession of a pet Rabbit that I keep as a pet at my Off-Campus accommodation in town. Recently I took the Rabbit home. I let the Rabbit roam around the family Garden, only to find that he was unaccustomed to the luxury of grass. He nibbled at it tentatively and then was hooked. He bounded around the garden with an energy I'd never seen him possess. Living inside our not all too spacious student digs I hadn't realised that the Rabbit had likely never seen or touched grass before. Now he's back with me in Lancaster and is suffering from Cabin-fever in his cage. **I now feel incredibly guilty for keeping him cooped up.** I want to give him to a home that will treat him the way he deserves, but I have a 'Special' housemate who would be distraught if I were to give the Rabbit away. What should I do?

X

SARAH: I'm wondering if you have any yard space in which you could place a run and some grass for your rabbit to enjoy? Unfortunately I fear your answer will be no so I have to recommend you give your pet to a loving and safe home. Whilst this will upset your housemate the bunny is undoubtedly more upset about being cooped up in doors when he wants to be running free. Perhaps suggest a variety of other indoor pets to your housemate to replace the bunny, I hear fish are charming to watch for hours and require less maintenance than a grass hungry rabbit. Or perhaps fill your house with stuffed toys acquired from charity shops to give your home a menagerie or zoo like appeal. This will probably cost less than the vet bills and the fluff from stuffed toys will not lose you your house deposit: rabbit poo will.

MICHAEL: Firstly you should thank your lucky stars that we at 'Michael & Sarah' promote anonymity above all else or no doubt your Rabbit would have met with a little visit from LUSU housing's patented portable pet-incinerator (If you rent with 'Yellow Door Lets' I am afraid I can't comment on their pet dismemberment policies, I heard that they used a cheese-grater on a Budgie once, but that was most likely an isolated incident). Countless Hollywood motion pictures would tell you that the most righteous course of action would be simply to release the Rabbit into the wild. Do not attempt this under any circumstances. Mother Nature has a harsh unforgiving teal! Some sort of ethical happy medium is needed here methinks. Why not cook the Rabbit and serve it to a hungry tramp? Conscience cleared.

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

Anonymity guaranteed.

fliction among young men aged 16-28 in this country. Many men feel uncomfortable with the sensation as in the words of an anonymous D.M.S sufferer "she looks like she's made out of ham, wrinkles and lipstick". A common occurrence amongst D.M.S sufferers is that they find themselves using Deborah Meaden as a scapegoat for a deep-seated desire for Duncan Banatyne (or

in some extreme cases Evan Davis). If the problem persists the BBC i-player can be used to watch Deborah in the solitude of the bedroom, thereby keeping your erection from causing any further distress to your friends. (Deborah Meaden is aware of the issue and has opened a charity dedicated to helping sufferers and raising awareness.)

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

Note: Wait till the advice cools or you will burn the skin off the roof of your mouth.

Thailand in crisis

by Rob Miller
Assistant Editor

For the last six months Thailand has been splashed across our headlines on an almost daily basis, as its government disintegrated and violent protests gripped the Southeast Asian country. Our newspapers and television news programmes have been filled with stark images of clashes between protestors and the police. But many outside Thailand only sat up and took notice last week, when protestors occupied Bangkok’s Suvarnabhumi international airport.

This is a conflict that has been simmering—and at times boiling over—for nearly a year now, in a country as populous as Britain, that has the world’s twenty-fourth biggest economy, through whose borders pass 750,000 British tourists each year; and yet it remains a situation that the general public has little knowledge of, something not helped by the media’s often shallow coverage of the crisis.

This particular crisis has its roots in January of this year, when Samak Sundaravej became Prime Minister, but its real origins lie with Samak’s former ally, the notorious former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thaksin is famous to many in Britain for being until August 2008 the owner of Manchester City F.C., but is infamous in Thailand for his brutal five-year premiership in which thousands of Thais were murdered, political freedoms were trampled, and govern-

ment institutions were subverted for the gain of Thaksin and his family.

Public and institutional support for Thaksin finally ran out in September 2006, when the military overthrew his government while he was visiting the UN in New York City. His Thai Rak Thai party was dissolved, his assets were frozen, and he was charged with corruption. Thaksin settled in Britain, and pursued an interest in football by buying Manchester City for £81.6 million.

Thaksin returned to Thailand in February 2008, after Samak had taken power, despite facing charges of corruption. He was arrested and released on bail, but fled Thailand for Britain in August 2008. He was tried in absentia and sentenced to two years imprisonment.

In response to Thaksin’s return to Thailand, the People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD) was reformed. PAD had been a thorn in Thaksin’s side throughout his time in office, but had voluntarily dissolved itself when Thaksin was ousted in 2006. The return of their old enemy to a country run by one of his old friends was the last thing they wanted, and in late March PAD threatened to resume their anti-Thaksin protests.

In May, with Samak still in office and Thaksin still free, protests began in earnest. Calls for Samak’s resignation were followed by a vote of no confidence in the Thai parliament, which Samak managed to survive. Things remained relatively calm until late August, when PAD invaded Government

House—the official residence and offices of the Prime Minister.

Violence seemed likely, but Samak promised to pursue only a peaceful solution while steadfastly refusing to resign. A court ordered the arrest of PAD leaders and the dispersal of the protestors, but their occupation of Government House continued.

Tensions rose, and a state of emergency was declared by Samak on September 4 2008. Public assembly was banned, and free speech was heavily restricted. Immediately legal complaints were launched, accusing Samak of tyranny, and the foreign minister, Tej Bunnag, resigned in protest. Samak was found guilty of conflicts of interest—relating, bizarrely, to his hosting of popular television cooking shows while in office—and was forced to stand down as Prime Minister on September 9.

The removal of Samak and appointment of Somchai Wongsawat, another PPP member, as Prime Minister did little to dissuade anti-government protestors. In October, demonstrations became still more intense. Hundreds of protestors were injured in clashes with the police, and several PAD leaders were arrested. Protestors on October 7 attempted to take parliament hostage, and Somchai only barely managed to escape parliament.

Further fuel was added to the flames when, in mid-October, Queen Sirikit apparently came out in support of PAD and the opposition movement. The monarchy is supposed to remain impartial in political matters, but Sirikit

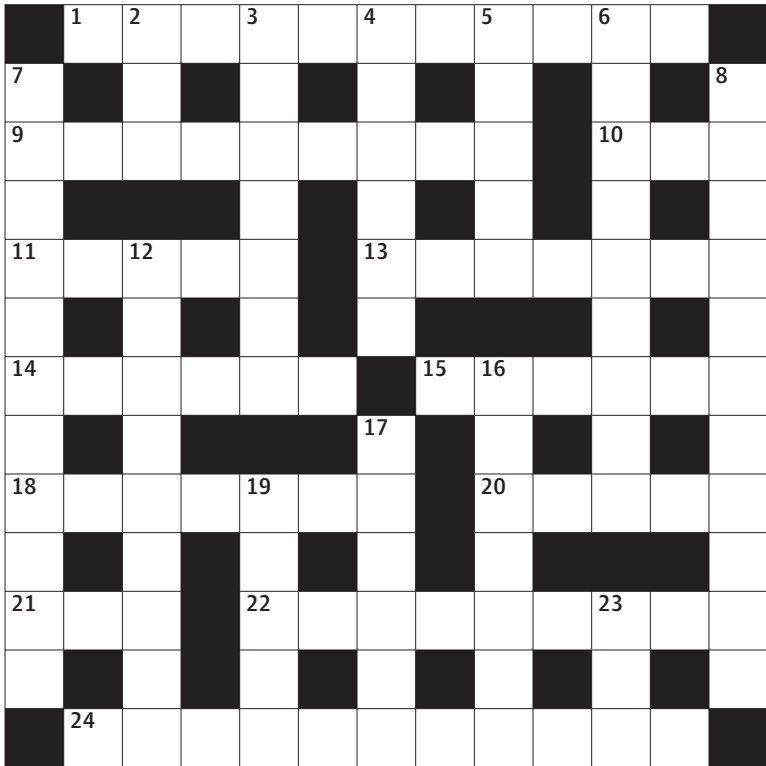
publicly attended the funeral of a PAD protestor and donated THB 1 million to cover the medical expenses of those injured in the clashes. The King has remained largely impartial, but he has the staunch loyalty of PAD, whose yellow clothing is a symbol of their monarchism.

In November, PAD escalated their protests further still by occupying Thailand’s newest and busiest international airport, Suvarnabhumi. Armed with clubs, knives and metal bars the protestors managed to overpower riot police stationed at the airport and took control of roads leading into and out of the compound. Between 100,000 and 350,000 foreign tourists were strand-

ed, unable to leave the country, and the stand-off has so far cost the Thai economy an estimated US\$1 million every day.

The stand-off at Suvarnabhumi brings us to the precarious situation Thailand now faces. At the time of going to press, the PPP has been forcibly dissolved by the Supreme Court and Somchai has been ousted from the premiership. The PPP has reformed as the For Thais Party (FTP) and has launched a protest against the court’s decision, calling it a “judicial coup”. The crisis looks certain to continue and, unfortunately, to get worse before it gets better.

Quick crossword No 11,834



Across

- 1 Tool for checking horizontality (6,5)
- 9 Common meadow flower (9)
- 10 One in a suit (3)
- 11 Come after (5)
- 13 Firmness of allegiance (7)
- 14 Whim (6)
- 15 Bully – hero of Troy (6)
- 18 In name only (7)
- 20 Unresponsive (5)
- 21 Regret – wild shrub (3)
- 22 Number of players on pitch at start of soccer match (6-3)
- 24 Disease common among troops in WWI (6,5)

Down

- 2 Mine (3)
- 3 Antlered woodland creature (3,4)
- 4 Light touch, exciting laughter (6)
- 5 Void (5)
- 6 Shoulder badge or ornament (9)

- 7 Building equipped to view the heavens (11)
- 8 Excessive loss of water from body (11)
- 12 Visitor to famous locations (9)
- 16 Letter (as in bible) (7)
- 17 Describing a delivery in which the baby is inverted (6)
- 19 Divulge (3,2)
- 23 Digit on foot (3)

Solution No 11,833



Thai police monitor a demonstration in Bangkok, August 28 2008. (Photo: Craig Martell.)

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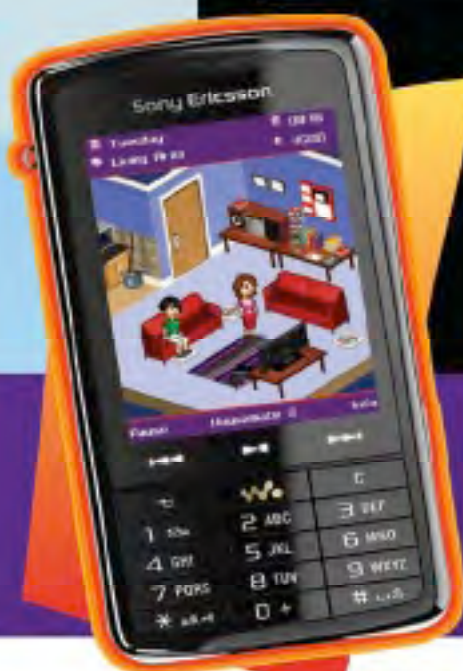
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In fair Blackpool, where we lay our scene...

Masquerade: Although the play had heart, there was little chemistry between Juliet and her Romeo.



Romeo and Juliet Wales Theatre Company Blackpool Grand Theatre

by **Richie Garton**
Arts Editor

SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDY OF the 'star-cross'd lovers', Romeo and Juliet, is possibly his most well-known play.

It appears countless times in pop culture and parody, and the plot is ingrained in the mind of almost every English-speaking person. How can one perform the play today without succumbing to the usual clichés? A question I held firmly in my mind when I went to see the Wales Theatre Company's production in Blackpool.

This was a modern-dress adaptation, which gave the play a chance to demonstrate its relevance to present-day Britain. Knife fights, motorcycle gangs, laptops, it was all there. This worked pretty well; knife fights were exciting and well-choreographed, and with its themes of youth crime and gang warfare, *Romeo and Juliet* lends itself well to a modern setting. Overall, the staging was good; projected backgrounds added extra realism, and an ultra-versatile metal staircase on wheels was used to excellent effect in several scenes.

I found the cast to be a very mixed

bag. Mercutio (Russell Gomer) was by far the most entertaining character to watch. He was played as more of a mentor to Romeo than a peer; an aging, carefree hedonist, and this representation worked very well. Gomer brought a lot of energy and comedy to the role, and the second half was much weaker for his absence. Much of the rest of the cast had a tendency to yell their lines at each other, particularly Gareth Richards as Benvolio, who did this with basically everything he said, in a strong Welsh accent.

Romeo was played by Jack 'Jamie off Eastenders' Ryder, who was convincing as a petulant, sullen, boyish Romeo. Part of me wanted to slap him for being so selfish and reckless, but he was also strangely loveable, like a moody teenage cousin. Juliet (Sara Lloyd-Gregory) was less pleasing. She looked and behaved *exactly* how one would expect, and became boring to watch after a while. The production's main Achilles heel was that the heat between her and Romeo was essentially absent, and I never once believed that the pair were in love. This took away the tragedy of the ending, especially as Romeo's final speech was chronically rushed.

I was able to talk to Jack Ryder after the show, and his perceptions of the character might explain why I didn't feel the romance too much...

First of all, what are your opinions on this interpretation of Romeo and Juliet as a whole?

Well, I didn't know much about the production to begin with. I was gobsmacked when Michael Bogdanov (Wales Theatre Company's artistic director) approached me and offered me the role, but I took it straight away. Later I found out about the modern dress, and the motorbikes and knives. Bogdanov's the kind of guy who makes some odd choices; they don't always work, but this really did.

Laurence Olivier once said that Romeo 'lets an erection rule his life'. Do you agree with this viewpoint?

Yeah, he's completely right. Romeo's a lustful young man who falls in love

easily; look how quickly he moves on from Rosaline to Juliet! I think that if he hadn't killed himself he could have been with another girl a week later. Romeo's other relationships are also very important, like those between his family and Mercutio.

How do you interpret the character of Romeo on the whole? Did you enjoy the role?

I loved playing the part, mostly because I could really relate to the character. He's just a young kid, who falls in love too easily. Also he grew up in Verona which is a violent environment; growing up in South London is quite similar! I could also liken Romeo's family and friends, like Benvolio and Mercutio to my own. I grew up with the story of *Romeo and Juliet*, and I

was particularly influenced by the Baz Luhrmann film version, which is actually quite similar to this one. I'd have to say that this is probably the best part I've ever played.

You've obviously grown up since the days of Eastenders, but is there really much of a discrepancy between soap acting and Shakespeare?

Well, *Eastenders* had its fair share of tragedy too! There were a few hard

times in *Eastenders*, towards the end I was getting a lot of attention, not all of it the good kind. I've been doing theatre for four years now, and it's very close to my heart, I really want to continue with it. It's a lot more 'real' than TV, and nothing beats the feeling of bowing at the end of a show and going back to your dressing room knowing that you've done a good job. Also, I like playing a range of different characters in the theatre rather than the same one, it never gets stale that way.



Jack Ryder of Eastenders fame had very interesting opinions about the character of Romeo.

SCAN Rating:



A festive fairytale

Sleeping Beauty

by Charles Way

The Dukes Theatre

Directed by Kevin Dyer

by **Richie Garton**
Arts Editor

When a show based on a fairytale appears around Christmas time, it's only natural to assume it will be a pantomime. I was assured this was not the case with *Sleeping Beauty*, though, which is apparently classed as 'family theatre'. Sadly, I was already inside the theatre when I remembered that 'family' is usually a euphemism for 'children's' - I was surrounded by gurgling tots and their parents, which was not a promising start for the evening. Despite the unbalanced audience demographic, I resolved to make the most of the situation and watch the play with an open mind.

This version of *Sleeping Beauty*, performed with a small cast and a lavish, dynamic set, draws on Celtic imagery and creates a few new twists in order to re-invent the classic fairytale. It's about as far away from Disney as you can possibly get; for example, the male protagonist, Prince Owain (Ga-

reth Cooper) is not a chiselled demigod who confidently strolls in, rescues the girl and carries her to the nearest wedding chapel. He begins the story as a timid, fairly useless coward, and when the princess Briar Rose (Sophie Trott) is put to sleep he is forced into a perilous quest to wake her up. During his trials he gradually overcomes his failings (including his shyness with girls) and succeeds in the end.

There was something very admirable about what this show aimed to do; it simply presented a classic fairytale in a less stereotypical and bland way. It was humorous, but the humour was never silly and it never resorted to Shrek-style pop culture references or adult jokes. It's very much a kid's thing, but I enjoyed it regardless; there's a lot of Hobbit-esque adventure and action (very good fight scenes), and the actors were fun to watch. If you're a big kid at heart, or just fancy a very quiet evening out, I can think of much worse things to do than check out this highly original production.

Twilight: The new-age gothic romance?

Book Review: *Twilight*

by Stephenie Meyer

by **Amanda Skelson**

“ABOUT THREE THINGS I was absolutely positive. First, Edward was a vampire. Second, there was a part of him – and I didn’t know how dominant that part might be – that thirsted for my blood. And third, I was unconditionally and irrevocably in love with him.”

Isabella Swan is just a normal teenager when she moves to live with her father in the cold and gloomy town of Forks - uncertain, self-conscious, lonely and unable to relate to those around her, she struggles to adapt to her new environment, and particularly to her new school. Her life only becomes more complicated on meeting Edward Cullen and his family. From the moment their eyes meet she is inexplicably drawn to the beautiful boy and the attraction is

intensely mutual. The problem, however, is that Edward is a vampire and has a desperate craving for her blood.

Twilight is a love story between a human and a vampire, but this book is so much more than simply another vampire romance. Meyer excels at characterisation. Edward is beautiful, deeply devoted to the woman he loves as well as being exceedingly dangerous. He is, quite literally, a deadly combination. He both dazzles and mesmerises not only Bella, but the reader as well. Bella is strangely mature for her age but nevertheless Meyer's depiction of a teenage girl's mind is incredibly realistic and relatable, emphasising the confusion and complexity associated with becoming an adult.

Meyer has created a couple whose relationship is a brilliant narrative of young love, exploring the initial uncertainty, burgeoning desire and the depth of sudden and devoted emotional at-

tachment. The chemistry between Bella and Edward is raw, intense, magnetic and erotic. *Twilight* is a modernised version of true romance, the relationship surrounded by an impossibility and desperation similar to that found within Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The Gothic twist on this traditional form explores the vampire myth in new ways, and often eroticises death.

Bella's tale is continued in *New Moon*, *Eclipse* and *Breaking Dawn*, and I highly recommend the entire series. One can only hope that the film, which is released in cinemas mid-December, will be even half as good as the books.



Not at all left in the dark

Black Comedy

Lancaster University Theatre Group

by **Kathi Michaelis**

“Be nice!” – that’s how I was greeted by Michael Holt, Assistant Director/Stage Manager for this LUTG production, as soon as I entered the theatre. There was no need at all for him to be concerned – from the moment the lights went off (or rather, on), I enjoyed every minute of this performance.

Before seeing the play, I was warned that it would be “experimental” – and granted, being led into a completely dark theatre in the light of a torch did have something unusual and slightly eerie about it. But once you got to grips with the lighting concept (that the stage was properly lit when it was supposed to be pitch black, and nearly dark when a character lit a match/lighter), there was really nothing that would stand in the way of any viewer engaging with the play.

That’s not to say that it wasn’t challenging. To keep up with the plot took up so much of my attention that I totally forgot to be annoyed by the person behind me jamming their knees into the back of my seat. For those who missed the performance: “*Black Comedy*” tells the story of the poor artist Brindsley Miller, who is about to meet both the father of his fiancée and a German millionaire interested in buying one of his sculptures. To make a good impression, he ‘borrows’ his neighbour’s furniture

while he is away for the weekend. So far, so good...

That is, until a fuse blows and the whole scene is cast into darkness (so for the audience, the stage is lit up). The unexpected arrival of both Brindsley’s neighbour and his ex-girlfriend further complicate the matter, as he has to (a) move all the furniture back without his neighbour noticing, (b) hide from his fiancée and her ‘Daddy’ that his ex-girlfriend is still very much in the picture. What followed were 90 minutes of pure chaos – highlights included Brindsley’s, (played Robert Cattell) facial expressions as he snuck around the room trying to avoid being heard, Stacey Norris’ amazing performance as Ms Furnival, the drunk neighbour, or Colonel Melkett (played by Jamie Ward) falling off a rocking chair.

While some might have found *Black Comedy* too farcical for their liking, I thought it offered exactly what it said on the cover: light-hearted entertainment, a cast that really seemed to enjoy themselves, and just a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

On a completely different matter: One might think it a rather stupid idea to send the only German SCAN Arts writer to watch a play with two actors putting on a German accent. Can I just say that particularly Ross McNamara, as the electrician, probably managed better than I would have done. Although he did sound slightly Swedish to me.

Porno spoof leaves much to be desired

Zack and Miri Make a Porno

Director: Kevin Smith

Starring: Elizabeth Banks, Seth

Rogan

by **Christine Wilde**

A RONSEAL TITLE if ever there was one, *Zach and Miri Make a Porno* is the latest high concept comedy from *Clerks* director Kevin Smith.

Two housemates are stuck for cash, and decide to make a low budget porn movie together in order to raise enough money to pay their utility bills and rent. It is difficult to know what to say about this film really, as it was such a mixed bag. It offered both the hilariously funny, stomach curdlingly cringe-worthy and just plain awful. When it was good, it was OK and when it was bad it was terrible.

On a positive note, Elizabeth Banks (of *Scrubs* fame) and Seth Rogan (*Superbad*, *Knocked Up*) gave strong performances despite the appalling script, as did many of the other peripheral characters. Their confident delivery of the comic lines made parts of the film

funnier than it otherwise might have been, and made the weaker bits semi-bearable. As a comedy pairing they worked well together, making for an interesting character dynamic.

The comedy was inconsistent, and when the regular laughs failed, shock and gross-out humour were cheaply substituted.

However, things began to fall apart when the predictable and painfully sentimental romantic elements began to push their way through the crass humour. Scenes that were supposed to show a deeper, more emotional side to the characters’ relationship were both cliché and unbelievable, jarring with the rest of the film. The comedy was inconsistent, and when the regular laughs failed, shock and gross-out humour were cheaply substituted. Often highly explicit in content, these scenes just

became farcical and awkward to watch. Though the strong use of language and overt sexual nature of this film rates it a definite 18, the tone and general silliness made it feel more like an extreme, uncut version of teen comedies such as *American Pie*, perhaps signifying that rudeness is not necessarily funnier.

Overall, it was a bad film with a rubbish concept (that some could argue bordered on misogynistic at times). However, the acting was surprisingly strong and despite being predominantly poor, on occasion the film was genuinely funny. It definitely appeals to a certain kind of humour, so people who are fans of comedies such as *Van Wilder*, *Superbad* or other Kevin Smith creations might enjoy *Zach and Miri* in places. Otherwise stay clear, as you will probably find it excruciating.



“I don’t believe in heaven, I believe in pain.”

Max Payne

Director:

John Moore

Starring:

Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis, Chris ‘Ludacris’ Bridges

by Hannah Fearon

MAX PAYNE IS a dark, stylized breath of fresh air in the world of films derived from video games. Director John Moore’s film is visually stunning, and his use of sound and colour is reflective of both the video game and comic book style.

Usually, when a Director takes on the challenge of turning a successful video game into a film, the results are disastrous. *Max Payne* is different. The video game was created in 2001 and was inspired by films directed by John Woo, with a focus on ‘bullet-time’ which was made popular by the box office hit *The Matrix* in 1999. *Max Payne* was always intended for the big screen.

Mark Wahlberg plays the role of melancholic hero Max Payne well, but at times he appears rather wooden and emotionless. However, this may well be the effect that Director John Moore wanted for the character, as it seems to fit in well. Payne is a detective who returns home to find that his wife and baby have been murdered by a group of men with wing tattoos. Three years on, Payne is a dejected shadow of his former self, who spends his time trying to track down those connected with his wife’s murder. When there is an un-



Adaptation: *Max Payne* finally proves that films based on games aren’t all Payne-ful.

canny link between Payne’s wife and another victim, this sparks a chain of catastrophic events in his life.

When first watching *Max Payne* I was very pleasantly surprised. I expected another typical action flick with cheesy one-liners, plenty of eye candy and a clichéd love interest. The plot and narrative is almost identical to the video game, which is a little confusing

at times. When demonic winged creatures start flying over New York, the narrative becomes a little messy. However, this aids the stylistic approach to the film, creating a dark, grim and slightly supernatural atmosphere. The style of *Max Payne* is reminiscent of films such as *Sin City*, with the use of a contrast between the dull setting of snowy New York and the vibrant blues

and reds of the drugs underworld.

Max Payne is extremely successful in creating the idea of a third-person shooter game on the big screen. There are some fantastic shots, and the framing and composition is beautiful. John Moore has certainly done the best he can with the plot set out by the video game, and he creates, in my opinion, a visual masterpiece.



Cowboys and Indians

Classic film:

The Searchers

Starring John Wayne



by Amar Mahmood

BEFORE WATCHING THIS film, my preconceptions were that the plot would revolve around cowboys, Indians and guns.

I have to admit that I was only partially right as the film is much more than that. The basic plot of the film was about a veteran of the American Civil War named Ethan Edwards (played by John Wayne), who visits his brother. Ethan Edwards fought on the side of the Confederacy; he is also a downright racist. This becomes initially apparent when he sees his brother’s adopted son who is part Indian. Afterwards, American Indians kill most of Ethan

Edward’s brother’s family and take his youngest niece as hostage. From this point onwards, Ethan and his brother’s adopted son go on a search to find their last surviving relative.

The film was directed by John Ford, and was his first attempt to try and portray the Native Americans sympathetically. From watching the film, it seems that he could have tried harder in this; they were still the villains as they were in many of his previous movies. The main theme of this film is most certainly racism. The film as released in 1956 when the Civil Rights movement was gaining pace in the United States. The thing I liked most about this film was its complexity which is absent in many westerns. The film did not have characters that could be put

into categories of good or evil. This is because of Ford’s attempt at making a film which would be sympathetic to the Native Americans and having a racist as the main character of the film. The film also confronted issues which were important in the 1950s and which are still important today.



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These Arms Are Snakes The Star and Garter, Manchester

Mark McGlashan
Music Editor

ONE LOOK AT the Star and Garter and its surroundings, you'd think you've made a wrong turn and ended up at the arse end of the industrial revolution. A rather bleak place set within a even bleaker landscape populated solely by prostitutes and the occasional drug fiend. So, the perfect place to sit back and listen to something a little more intense than the usual.

Russian Circles took to the stage. A three-piece instrumental post-rock outfit from Chicago. Despite the gig getting off to a bumpy start (technical issues) RC found their feet and delivered a set possibly better than headliners These Arms Are Snakes. Like their big brothers, Pelican, RC are similar to being punched with a gossamer fist. Schizophrenic movements from the intensely heavy to the some of the most sublime and ethereal passages I've ever heard. From the looped guitars to the crushing bass and the insanely tight percussion RC amount to no less than an aural journey of all you love and hate – cleverly Skillful, beautifully understated. A blinding headwind of restrained vitriol. A kiss from poisoned lips. A trip. Five out of five.

Next came the headliners, These Arms Are Snakes. A four piece of spazzy cock-thrusting rock. Shirtless vocalist (and Kaoss Pad mentalist) Steve Snare took to the stage and surely gave the most charismatic performance ever seen at this little venue. A blinding set of crazed electronics, off kilter rhythms and an attitude screaming 'revel in the decadence'. A great band; out of the ordinary.

These Arms Are Snakes and Russian Circles have just released a split 12" on Sargent House.

Before the gig I had chance to catch up with TAAS:

SCAN – How's the tour going?

Steve Snare (Vox) – Yeah, very well. It's been very good. About 6 weeks now, so it's long.
Ryan Frederikson (Guitar) – Winding down.

SCAN – How many dates?

SS – Around about 40. Not too many days off at all. We haven't had a day off in about 3 weeks.

SCAN – How would you describe your sound? Would you say you've been lumped in with the post-hardcore thing?

SS – I dunno
RF – We felt like we were kinda getting away from it for a while, away from the



Botch, Kill Sadie tag – kinda coming into our own. Then I made the terrible decision to join another band called Narrows that's got another member of Botch in it, and it's more hardcore, so now that keeps coming back.
SS – I'm sick of being sick of it.

SCAN – You've done splits with Pelican and toured with ISIS. Are links with Hydra Head a big part of the band?

Chris Common (Drums) – It's more of a family thing
RF – Yeah
CC – They're all our tight bros
RF – They're all great to us. ISIS are our big brothers
SS – We've learned to be cautious of who we work with and your friends are the best people. I trust everyone I'm

working with.

SCAN – Out of the band, who would you kiss, who would you marry, who would you kill?

SS – Probably marry Brian (Cook - Bass), sometimes I wanna kiss and kill both of you (to CC + RF). But I'd marry Brian because I think he'd take care of me.
CC – I'd marry Brian, but I'd kiss Steve and then I'd kill myself
[All laugh]
RF – I'd probably kill all 3 of them.

SCAN – With the new releases can we expect anything new?

CC – A little like this... [Hawaiian island music plays in the background]
SS – Yeah, a little Margaretville...
CC – ...Piña coladaburgh

SS – The new record is a little...
RF – I think it's less manic
BC – It's not as spazzy as Oxeneers

SCAN – Brian, how do you feel being in both bands on the tour?

BC – I don't get any downtime. I haven't eaten dinner yet.
SS – So, how many months have you been on tour this year?
BC – 2 months... 2 and a half?
RF – We're all feeling the burn a little bit
CC – My hands are, like, as hard as cement
RF – I'm excited about not wearing the same socks 3 days in a row
CC – Booze has been our saving grace. It's been the only thing keeping us going.
RF – Lots and lot's of booze...

'I have no idea if we are a metal band anymore or not'

Opeth Manchester Academy

Mark McGlashan
Music Editor

"I HAVE NO idea if we are a metal band anymore or not. It's not important anyway" – some of what Pers Wiberg (keys - Opeth) had to say about his band. And on a night like tonight, in a packed Manchester Academy, I think his point hits home as clear as it ever could, and with supports from fellow boundary blurrers The Ocean and Cynic, this night is going to be one hell of a show.

The Ocean opened up with a crushing set. Straddling the boundaries of post-metal at points, The Ocean have

quite a modern progressive sound. Touching samples melded with sludgy agro-riden doom passages. Big synths, even bigger soundscapes. And with vocals reminiscent of Mastodon (circa Remission) and intense power grooves (See: Knut, Neurosis, Threat Signal) I thought they kicked the gig into gear rather tastily. Definitely worth a listen. Four out of five.

Following the younger batch were the extraordinary Cynic. Underground legends in their own right, their unique brand of virtuosic technical metal brought the crowd under a spell. Sporadic movement, flawless musicianship and calculated precision all deliver an experience close to spiritual. Music is supposed to make you feel like this.

I had goosebumps throughout the entire set. "It's cool to tour with Cynic because, you know, that's one of the bands I listened to when they put out their first album Focus, in '93 I think. I thought they were a breath of fresh air because it didn't sound like anything else and still it was considered extreme metal." (PW) More than a little good. Five out of five.

Then the lights went down. "OPETH! OPETH! OPETH!" shouts the crowd. They went mental. "It's always a blast to play over here. There's such a good tradition for all kinds of rock and metal music. A lot of the stuff that we listen to like the classic rock bands and metal bands are all from here, you know." (PW) Oh, they know and they know what's good.

Embarking on their hour-and-a-half long, 5 song set, Opeth tore the place up with their epic soundscapes and multifaceted metal journeys. "Our problem

is that we want to be metal but nobody calls us metal. I don't know, it doesn't matter that much. Obviously, this band has its roots in the more extreme side of metal like black metal and death metal. I guess that's the roots but as the band went along lots more influences come. I have no idea if we're a metal band anymore or not." (PW) But who cares about the labels? Opeth manage to blend so many diverse influences into a brand of music they've got their names written all over. They don't need to prove anything to anyone. The sweat dripping from the walls says enough.



Plugged-in

Unleashed into the wild

Cage The Elephant, Manchester Club Academy

James Barker

SWEAT DRENCHED, BRUISED, and loving every minute of it.

This is what a Cage The Elephant gig will do to you. Crammed inside the tiny Manchester Club Academy we waited to believe the hype. Touted as one of the hottest new live bands around Cage The Elephant had to produce, and they certainly did. Charging onto the stage and jumping straight into Voodoo followed without a gasp for breath by Tiny Little Robots, with its choppy stooges style riff, the party was on and it didn't stop. Stomping their way through Lotus guitarist Brad made his first of many dives into the crowd sending the pit crazy. Then everything stopped, like a preacher to his flock vocalist Matt stood pouting like Mick Jagger and went straight into Ain't No Rest For The Wicked to which every word was chanted back at him. Back Against The Wall followed Black Stabbing Betty giving us all some respite, with its quirky drum work and southern drawl. Rested, the band burst into In One Ear sending the 200 crowd

mental, chorus yelled back in full anthemic style. Judas saw the end of part one which found both brothers (Matt and Brad) stuck in the crowd sending us more wild as we jumped around to their punk assault. Now for the encore, "Does anyone here like Iggy Pop?" spat Matt, as his brother burst into I Want To Be Your Dog frenzy ensued as the band pounded away. Jared drumming like a man possessed. Free Love saw the climax and a total mess, Matt and Brad back in the crowd getting mauled, with his T-shirt ripped to shreds Matt finally finds his way back onto stage. Just in time to yell his way through the last verse, his brothers smashed guitar on stage is all that's left of Brad as the band smash their way off stage. That was it an hour of mindless, raucous fun. On this showing punk is far from dead.

Before the gig I had a chance to talk to drummer, Jared Champion...

You are halfway through the tour now, how are you finding it?

Great, we've been living here for about a year, based in London where our record label is located. I love it here, the fans are great.

Why do you think it is that American bands like yourselves find more success here than in America?

Well I can't speak for other bands, but for us it was down to the record deal. We were meant to sign with a major label, but they wanted too much control over us so we signed with a smaller label. Which is why we've spent so much time over here. However, in America we have an indie following, and we've done the festival circuit like Lollapalooza, which was great.

What is it like having brothers (Matt, Vocals and Brad, Guitar) in the band?

(laughs) I've known those guys for ten years and they love each other, but they fight like crazy specially when they're drunk. It's a volatile relationship both have threatened to quit a million times, but they do love each other.

What would you say your main musical influences are?

Pixies, Mudhoney, The Meat Puppets, Nirvana obviously. I love the classic British bands, Led Zeppelin, The Stones, and The Who.

Are there any new bands that are exciting you?

I really like The Foals and Arctic Monkeys and The Wombats are a great band.

Have you started work on the follow up to your debut album?



Yeah we've got half of it done, about six songs, and we are in the studio in September to record. Should be out by fall next year

Few of our readers will have heard of your hometown, Bowling Green, Kentucky. Tell us a little about it?

It's in the south, bible belt. Just a little college town really, in the countryside. And there is only one place for bars.

What's your view on the U.S election?

Oh I was so drunk that night! I couldn't remember the next day who had won then someone was like, Obama won

and I'm happy about that, I like his policies.

Do you have any strange rituals before you go on stage?

We pray, then have a few beers, some jägermeister and listen to Rage Against The Machine really fucking loud.

Will we be hearing any new tracks tonight?

Yeah were playing four new ones, its really exciting can't wait to see the crowds reaction.

Cage The Elephant's Debut Album is out now. For fans of: Iggy Pop, The Clash, and Nirvana.

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Q-Tip
Renaissance
(Universal Motown)

Meer Shah

IF ANY ALBUM title reflected its content so perfectly in three decades of hip hop, it would be this.

It isn't just because of the obvious notion of a 'comeback' from a rapper whose last album was released in the last century. No, the fact is that Renaissance captures very clearly what the Abstract's record could be for the rap world, showing that rap music can still be vibrant, powerful and valid in today's market.

The album's opener, *Johnny is Dead*, oddly evokes memories of Excursions in the way the song begins. And, like the Tribe's catalogue, *Renaissance* continues with esoteric beauty. Q-Tip proves why he is renowned as one of the truly great MCs, with some deft rhyming (as highlighted in Move),

and incredible flow (Won't Get Up). His lyrics are educational as ever, with several observational tracks; yet they refrain from becoming preachy thanks to Tip's playful ability to make listeners bop along, like in sex jam Gettin' Up.

He also manages to take time to rep the game in Life Is Better, giving a shout to everyone from Biz Markie to Bone Thugs-N-Harmony to Ludacris – and that's what this album really is: a throwback to hip hop's past but developed to remain relevant and cool.

The production – almost exclusively by Q-Tip himself – is nothing short of brilliant. There are some beautiful instrumentals, juxtaposed with DJ Premier-esque scratchings. This musical eclecticism is also evidenced with guests ranging from soul man D'Angelo to jazz crooner Norah Jones. The thing is, all this works because Q-Tip makes it work. This album is tightly produced and the transition between tracks is

satisfyingly smooth, so it plays like a real cohesive piece of music – refreshing in itself.

It isn't perfect, however. Aesthetics aside, the content doesn't explore any really original ideas. Also, while most songs are good, nothing matches the outstanding Breathe & Stop from Q-Tip's last album, Amplified. And for all of Tip's great production, there is the occasional slow spot, although this is nitpicking.

Overall, however, Renaissance has enough depth to make you fall in love with hip hop – and Q-Tip – all over again. It is a breath of fresh air. It is hopefully the kick up the backside current wannabe MCs so desperately need. Easily the best rap album of the year.

Similar artists: Kanye West, Blackalicious, Common, The Roots



Brett Domino Trio ***Christmas (This Year) EP*** (The Very Cool Music Company)

AFTER CHRIS MOYLES' lauding of their Youtube video cover of Michael Jackson's Beat It, audio pranksters The Brett Domino Trio have gone and decided to release a few Christmas songs.

The new single Christmas (This Year) is pretty much the quintessential Christmas tune. However, watch the video. It will make

you LOL! The EP rests on the charming lispy delivery of front man Brett Domino, an unhealthy penchant for a certain cult children's instrument and a quite awkward humor... that's just great! Check them out on all your favourite social networking sites, Youtube and iTunes – just search for Brett Domino.



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SPORTS

Big Debate: Freedom of speech

Should players be allowed to speak out against their own clubs?

Players have a right to voice their opinions

Oliver Holmes

THE OUTBURST FROM William Gallas is such a rarity in sports these days that it appears from the moment he opened his mouth, his days at Arsenal looked to be numbered.

After an indifferent start to the season Gallas accused team-mates of not being strong enough, fighting amongst squad members and insulting behaviour. Despite the media condemning his criticism which has resulted in him being stripped of captaincy, I feel the matter has been blown out of all proportion.

As a more experienced member of the squad, Gallas should be able to vent his frustrations and make the fans who support the club aware of such events. It is not the best type of news a fan wants to hear, but nevertheless, as a fan, if there was some sort of unrest going on at my beloved club I would want to know about it. This is what Gallas did. He felt the lack of respect being shown to him and other members of the squad was not acceptable. I have no doubt that Gallas would not have spoken out had he thought the matter was not serious.

However, Gallas showed passion and commitment towards the club in hope of dealing with the matter. It has to be said, the amount of passion apparent within the game appears to be disintegrating. Such outbursts show the player is concerned with the situation, rather than suggesting he is more interested in picking up his pay-package like the abundance of footballers in today's Premiership.

In retrospect, his comments proved a disas-

trous move who has suffered the brunt of abuse from the media and football followers. I cannot help but think that if it John Terry came out with the same line of comments then he would be seen as a leader, a fighter, a player that has the best interests of the club at heart.

Roy Keane was often prone to venting his anger of what was happening at Manchester United, constantly criticising teammates publicly. Was Roy Keane condemned? No. Instead he was praised for keeping the players on their toes. Why should Gallas's comments be treated as any different.

As a more experienced member of the squad, Gallas should be able to vent his frustrations and make the fans who support the club aware of such events.

There is one reason. Gallas has not won anything at Arsenal. Furthermore, when his teammate Eduardo horrifically broke his leg against Birmingham last season, a distraught Gallas could not watch as Birmingham were awarded a penalty, instead he sat on the half-way line.

Admittedly this could be seen as childish, but it also shows that Gallas is human. He was so shocked at seeing a leg break of a close friend he could not concentrate on the game. Any person who plays football would feel the same. Captain or not, such a terrible incident would affect even the most strong-hearted of person. Such double standards are harsh, particularly when you remember that Roy Keane once spoke out about how he intentionally injured Alfe-Inge Haaland in a career-ending tackle. This act was not leading by example. In comparison to this, Gallas's statement is trivial.

What happens behind closed doors should stay behind closed doors

Charlotte Parker

Sports Editor

IT IS NOT so much what William Gallas said about his Arsenal team mates, he is perfectly correct in stating that they have not been playing to their usual standard, but it is the way in which he made his feelings public that should not be deemed acceptable and that has lead to Arsene Wenger making the correct decision to drop Gallas as captain.

The role of a captain has certain connotations. A captain is the back bone of any team, the one that sets an example for all the other players, and who is capable of motivating the team and picking them up when they are down. By airing his views in public, Gallas has acted exactly the opposite to this. If a team who are already lacking confidence hear their own leader belittle their performances, far from improving motivation, their confidence will no doubt dip even further. The comments also created unrest within the fans, who were already uneasy about the poor performances the club were producing, to hear their captain publicly speak out against the club will have only fuelled their doubts about Arsenal's chances of a successful season. The last thing that Arsenal need is their fans getting on their backs; players often rely on the fans support – 'the twelfth man' and by causing unease amongst his own fans Gallas is making matters worse.

Of course it is not the fact that Gallas is a captain that has angered the media and fans – the question has to be asked whether professional sports people should be allowed to speak to the media against their clubs wishes. Players

are at the end of the day employed by their club and should therefore respect those involved. If there are matters that need discussing amongst team members, or between management staff, the board, and players, this should all be done behind closed doors. If a member of a company was to openly and publicly criticise other members of staff then they would expect to be disciplined, professional sports people should receive the same treatment. A quiet word and reasoned discussions can achieve much more than heated outbursts to the whole world.

If a team who are already lacking confidence hear their own leader belittle their performances, far from improving motivation, their confidence will no doubt dip even further

Players speaking out against the wishes of their club is a sign that their egos are so inflated that they really do believe that they are bigger than the club. Take the example of Cristiano Ronaldo over the summer. He openly flirted with other clubs despite being under contract to Manchester United. He should not have been allowed to do this as it sets bad examples to the rest of the players as well as causing unrest within the club and fans. Players may kiss their badges as a sign of loyalty to their club, but if they were truly loyal they would keep their opinions to themselves, and discuss issues with their club – their employers – rather than with the whole of the world through the media.

As finals approach, Carter shield heats up

by Charlotte Parker
Sports Editor

WITH THE FINALS day of Michaelmas term just around the corner, the final two events of for the inter college Carter Shield competition were fiercely competed.

Firstly came 6-a side women's indoor football, which unfortunately saw the first disqualification of the tournament, with Fylde and Lonsdale being disqualified for not having enough players on time; leaving both of the groups with only three teams. The first

group drawn saw Pendle, Bowland and Furness competing against each other. Furness must have been hopeful of reaching their first semi final of this year's competition but they were no match for the other two teams.

Bowland in particular looked strong, going through top of their group and will fancy their chances of beating Cartmel in the semis to reach the final. In the other group there was no-one capable of stopping County, who turned up with enough players for two teams. They went through as clear winners of the group and will be tough competition for Pendle in the semi finals. Grizedale would have been slightly dis-

appointed not to qualify for the semis but will never the less be pleased with a good start to the Carter Shield.

The final event of the term was indoor volleyball. Pendle were unfortunately disqualified for not turning up on time, leaving one of the groups with three teams in. Furness once again could not quite manage a performance good enough to see them reach the semis. The other teams in their group, Fylde and Grizedale were both strong teams but Fylde were dominant, beating Grizedale to go through top of their group.

They will play County in the semi final, who once again had by far the larg-

est amount of players (hardly surprising when they are the biggest college), including AU President Gaz Coleman. County's achievement of reaching three semi finals is their best start to the Carter Shield for several years. However Fylde, who have also reached three semi finals, will, based on the performances in the group stages, surely be the favourites to take the place in the final.

The other semi final sees Grizedale take on Lonsdale. Lonsdale looked strong in the group stages but Grizedale are a good team and it will no doubt be a close encounter as both teams battle it out to gain vital points by reaching the final.

With every college but Furness reaching at least one semi final, finals day of Michaelmas will be an exciting day. With so many points up for grabs, teams will not be taking it as easy as they may have done in the group stages, with every sports rep desperate for their college to be head of the Carter Shield leader board going into the Christmas holidays.

Finals day takes place on 7th December so after this issue goes to print, but for a full round up of the terms events and the results of the finals day, go to the SCAN website.



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A blip in the season for LUWFC

Football: Lancaster Women 0 - 3 Liverpool Women

by Susan Wynes

WITH NEITHER TEAM having yet lost a match, both Lancaster and Liverpool were up for this game and after chasing the geese off the pitch, the referee blew for kick-off.

Lancaster seemed to get off to a good start, opening with a good cross into the box by Jen Murphy, which was collected by the goalkeeper. 10 minutes later, Sue Wynes had a one-on-one with the keeper, but good Liverpool goal-keeping prevented a Lancaster goal.

In the 17th minute Liverpool made their first attack on goal and, with Lancaster starting to look sloppy, Liverpool's efforts were rewarded in the 35th minute with the first goal of the match.

Lancaster then decided to pick up their game and came close to equalising with a one-on-one with the goalkeeper from Caroline Murphy and an excellent opportunity for Sue Wynes being blown offside... at which point the referee appeared to be wearing a Liverpool shirt.

After halftime, Lancaster just



Lancaster and Liverpool played a hard-fought match, but Liverpool ultimately proved too much to handle.

couldn't get back into the game and sloppy defending led to a Liverpool goal in the 71st minute, followed immediately by another straight from the centre. Lancaster managed to hold off further Liverpool goals, but were unable to get the ball into the Liverpool net before the fulltime whistle blew.

Lancaster University Women's Football Team welcomed several new faces to the squad this season, after losing some experienced players at the end

of last year. The team quickly bonded together, however and they got off to a fantastic start to the season, winning their first two games 5-0 and 4-2 respectively. Unfortunately, the next two games did not go quite so well, however the team still occupies a very respectable third position in the table. They also got through to the third round of the cup, with a 2-0 win in atrocious weather over Manchester Women's Seconds and they are looking forward

to beating Manchester Women's Third team in the next round come January.

The team's aims this season are to win both the league (after coming so close last season only to be defeated at the last hurdle) and the cup, proving that they are one of the best teams in the North West. They also look forward to winning against York in Roses, retaining their record of winning all three games. The entire team is training hard to achieve these aims.

Inter College Round Up: Michaelmas Term

- **County and Fylde joint top after impressive start to season**
- **Grad, Grizedale and Lonsdale hope to break into top two when season restarts**

by James Waite, Oliver Holmes

A HAPHAZARD START to the season has seen very few games played this term. However, here is a round-up of the performances of what has gone on so far this season.

County and Fylde are joint league-leaders following their impressive start to the campaign with two wins from two games. County marginally head the table on goal difference after a thumping 7-0 victory last week against a helpless Bowland side. County had started the season by cruising to victory against a Lonsdale side that appear to be struggling for form going into the new season.

Fylde are yet to concede a goal this

season with impressive performances against Cartmel and Furness, running out 4-0 and 5-0 winners respectively. With such a goal-scoring threat, and a rock solid defence it certainly looks as though Fylde will be in contention to challenge for the title again.

Grizedale currently lie third in the league, despite only playing one game due to the rain-sodden pitches. A 2-2 draw against Lonsdale saw them surrender a two-goal advantage before seeing a controversial decision ruling out an all important winner.

Pendle sit fourth in the league following a point against Furness. A late penalty ensured they salvaged a point in a game that saw both teams make their first appearances of the season.

Lonsdale are 5th after playing two games and managing a point. A negative goal difference will need to be turned around for them to make an im-

pression on this year's league but they have shown glimpses of their talent.

Furness are next having conceded one more goal than Lonsdale but will consider themselves unlucky not to have sewn up the game against Pendle in which they will view as two points dropped rather than a point gained.

Cartmel are second-bottom following their disappointing 4-0 defeat at the hands of Fylde but will hope to build an impressive run of form to build on last year's position.

Bowland are bottom due to their seven goal deficit that will take time to be overturned. However, with so many games to go it would be daft to write off anybody's chances of success this season.

At the Christmas break the Inter-College Football B league looks all too familiar with Fylde leading the way, although it must be noted that positions are far from settled with Fylde having played five of eight whilst Furness and Lonsdale have only competed in one single game. The surprise outfit this year have been Graduate, earning a well fought draw against current champions Fylde as well as winning

their other two matches. Contenders for the title County have two victories in two with Lonsdale also picking up a win in their only match, the only two teams left capable of obtaining a 100% record. Grizedale and Pendle prop up the lower end of the table having suffered three defeats each. Bowland are seemingly out of it having accumulated only one point in three

Inclement weather in week eight meant that the possible title decider against Fylde and County was abandoned, but it did little to dampen either college's hopes of claiming the title. With the unprecedented difference in the numbers of games played so far the silverware is still very much up for grabs.

Last year the championship was decided on goal difference, this year could be equally as close. Graduate, County and Lonsdale and outsiders Cartmel will all be especially optimistic about their chances of uprooting Fylde from the top when Inter-College football returns after the winter break.

Table tennis Champs

- **Lancaster promoted to Northern 1A Division**
- **Sights now set on Roses**

by Seth Butcher

AN EMPHATIC WIN over rivals Liverpool Men's 1st (9-8) was subsequently followed by the kind of categorical, vigorous demolishing over Leeds Metropolitan Men's 1st (16-1) that we have now come to expect. At the end of the hard-fought BUCS league season, Lancaster sit firmly at the top of the table, earning themselves promotion to the Northern 1A Division.

These results come as no great surprise to those who have witnessed first hand the transformation of recent years within Lancaster University Table Tennis Club. For years the club was in dismay.

Lancaster has always attracted many great (often foreign) players but holding on to them was never easy; a lack of organisation and poor facilities frequently led to a lack of interest on their behalf. Trying to field teams to play week in week out sometimes seemed more of a chore than an honour.

The revolution of the last year or two, peaking under current LUTTC President Robin Honey, has been nothing short of miraculous. Dedication, passion and the buzz and joys of playing are back.

Under strong leadership the club is flourishing, with both the A and B teams currently topping both the Premier Division and Division One of the highly rated local league and the largely inexperienced C team are currently a respectable 3rd in Division Two.

The clubs internal-coaching programme is also producing a vast amount of sophisticated players; competition for places is becoming fierce. With the core of the championship winning BUCS team (Stephen Arliss, Lok Wong and Antoine Schvartz) only in their first year, LUTTC are only looking forward, hoping to make this year a platform from which to build future success upon, rather than sitting back and basking in a glorious one-off interlude of sporting triumph.

Over the next few months senior club members shall be representing the university at respected national tournaments such as the Nottingham University held BUCS individual contest and the highly regarded Blackpool and Wolverhampton Opens, rubbing shoulders with some of the countries best talent. But there's only one thing on everyone's minds: Bring on Roses!

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Stagecoach in Lancaster

Lancaster Bombers hit by explosive Nottingham

- First away game ends in defeat
- Small squad saw Bombers spread too thin

by Jack Whitehead

A TYPICALLY FROSTY Sunday morning saw a battle of two 1-1 teams striving to improve their playoff credentials in the Bombers first away fixture of the season.

The first quarter saw an impressive showing from both defenses. Each was effective in shutting down the other with high intensity and good line play. Special teams really set the tone of the afternoon with some massive hits, leaving players floored for several seconds after the whistle. Both offences showed potential, but “D” seemed to be the way

of the game early on.

The second quarter saw both coaches trying inventive offensive packages featuring unbalanced lines and the chess match was in motion. After a long drive, the first score of the day went the Outlaws way with a 2 yard touchdown pass. The resulting extra point was good. The Bombers ensuing possession was hopeful but soon stalled, giving the ball back to the in tune Nottingham offense.

After another steady possession, the Outlaws drove to the 1 yard line and proceeded to punch it in the endzone with a missed extra point. The score stood at 13-0. A turnover from Lancaster gifted good field position to the Outlaws, which they wasted no time in



Bombs Away: Lancaster get stuck in against Nottingham.

converting into a lofted 20 yard touchdown pass, with the resulting kick again missing wide right.

At half time the score was 19-0, with the Bombers looking to build on their first quarter performance to start the second half.

However the Bombers lacked the necessary intensity to bring the game back in the second half. The Outlaws continued their efficient rushing attack and capitalized on the performance with two further rushing touchdowns. Nottingham also converted a two point conversion, but missed an extra point, making the score 33-0 at the end of three. Running backs Tim Barton and

Dave Barnett broke some promising runs, but the front eight of the Outlaws penetrated hard to shut down the Lancaster ground attack.

The fourth quarter saw the chess match transfer to the defensive side of the ball, with the Bombers changing to a 5-3 front. The change resulted in two turnovers from the Lancaster “D”: an interception from linebacker Michael McFadden, and a fumble recovery caused by linebacker George Bedford. Nottingham capped an impressive performance with a 32 yard touchdown run to take the final score to 39-0.

The small squad meant many players played multiple positions, which

caused fatigue and in turn injuries to some of the squad. Inexperience was evident, and could not overcome an Outlaw squad which had made the playoffs the previous year.

Club President Tom White had this to say of the defeat: “The size of the squad today made conditions even harder along with the grass pitch we played on. At the end of the day, Nottingham deserved the win, they played hard.”

The Bombers look to rebound against the 2-1 Loughborough Aces next week in their final home fixture before the Christmas break.

Inter-college leagues reach half way stage

by Charlotte Parker
Sports Editor

AS THE MICHAELMAS term comes to a wintry end, one can imagine St. Michael looking back on the past few months feast of sport as an exemplary advert for all that is great about Inter College competition.

George Wyatt round-up

The George Wyatt competition has produced several surprises. The men’s darts league has been largely dominated by one team that over the past few years hasn’t fared too well in the competition, Furness. Their team have managed to win an emphatic seven

out of seven matches, including hammering Grad college 9-0, leaving their competitors with a lot of work if they want any chance of catching them; but it is looking unlikely. Bowland have, as usual, started the league well but even they were no match for Furness, although of course you can never write off Bowland, there is no doubt they, and many other teams, will be looking for revenge against Furness next term.

The women’s darts league is considerably closer, with just four points separating the top four teams at the time of going to print. County once again look on course to be competing for the league, with Fylde also a strong team looking capable of over turning their bad luck of the past few years. Graduate College also look like a team to keep a watchful eye on in the women’s darts; keen to take advantage of their games

in hand before Christmas and climb the table.

Bowland are leading the way in the men’s A team pool competition but with Pendle and County close behind with a game in hand it seems as if this years pool league is going to go right down to the last game of the season. The introduction of new rules to the men’s pool league have been accepted well, after a few minor disagreements at the start of term, and the effect is noticeable as we no longer see games dragging on all night long, with players being forced to make their own decisions rather than rely on their team mates for advice.

The men’s B team pool league is a lot more open, with County five points clear at the top of the table with a game in hand. However, the B league has a great deal of talented players this year, who only narrowly missed out on their college A teams, and with Bowland and Fylde sitting second and third respectively with strong teams, County will be

looking over their shoulder warily.

The women’s pool league shows the same teams as the men’s league dominating the top of the table. With just two points separating Pendle, County and Bowland, the skill from female pool players this year has been impressive. Pendle in particular have been noticeable for their consistency week in week out.

Noticeable performances from the Pendle and Furness dominoes teams see both sides fighting it out for the league along with the possibility of Fylde snatching it from the two with a match in hand.

Inter-college Netball round-up

Michaelmas term has produced only one winner with regards to the inter college netball competition: Fylde. Sitting loftily at the top of the league

with a massive score difference of 91 points, they will definitely be the team to beat next term. However, at the half way stage of the competition, it would be hard to see them losing their grip on the league.

Of course everything can change in a term and with Bowland, County and Grizedale all sitting behind Fylde with 12 points a piece, Fylde only need to slip up in a couple of games before the other teams close in. It is hard to imagine anyone other than the aforementioned teams standing a chance in the league: with Pendle yet to secure a point at the time of going to print, and Furness and Lonsdale both languishing on six points, it would take a massive come back for these teams for be fighting for top place at the end of the season. Anything’s possible, though.