

scanews

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

Read more at scan.lusu.co.uk

Week 1, Lent Term, Tuesday January 13, 2009

140 LUSU, JCR officers draw line in the sand on college bars

- Union and college execs unite to issue list of demands to University
- Labour Club's bars campaign to run parallel
- Officers to organise ongoing boycott of University Catering outlets

140 STUDENT OFFICERS have called upon LUSU to support their efforts to campaign to save the college bars from centralised control.

In a strategy session involving newly elected JCR, GSA and LUSU Non-Sabbatical officers last Friday, delegates at the New Officer Training conference demanded action, spurred by growing frustration with the lack of progress being made through negotiation with

the University. Among the suggestions for potential campaign stunts was the idea of boycotting University Catering. Officers will encourage students to avoid spending money in catering establishments such as The Venue, Fylde Coffee Shop and The Hub Cafe, and instead eat in any of the many independent restaurants and take aways on campus.

4 >



Loud and clear: JCR and LUSU Officers call attention to their top priorities. The causes of the college bars and college autonomy easily commanded the greatest support. (Photo: Dan Hogan)

Knight of the Union - new LUSU Trustee Board contains a 'Sir'

LUSU is the only students union in the country to have a 'sir' on its trustee board, after appointing three new external trustees last Friday.

The external trustees will join the five current Sabbatical Officers and two elected student trustees on the board. It is responsible for the overseeing the financial and legal wellbeing of LUSU and for making decisions about how the £5.5m turnover organisation is managed. All of the external trustees are Lancaster University alumni.

The appointees are Sir Bill Taylor, who was knighted in 2003 for his service to local government, having been leader of Blackburn Council and a councillor for two decades; Tim Perkins, a senior manager for specialist home-delivery supermarket Ocado, who graduated from Lancaster in 2006; and Tom Cheesewright, who runs a strategic marketing consultancy

in Manchester.

There is capacity on the board for a fourth external trustee, which has been left empty with the intention of filling the position with a woman. Only one woman applied for the post despite LUSU advertising the position in the

Sir Bill Taylor's record in local government and youth work earned him a knighthood.



Guardian and emailing every Lancaster alumni to call for applications. Intentions are to find a suitable woman candidate for the board by the time of its first meeting, on January 23.

Alongside his career in community and youth work, Sir Bill is also the elec-

tion agent of government Justice Secretary, Jack Straw MP. While he was a student in the early 1970s, he helped to set up campus radio station Bailrigg FM, and was a Vice-President of the predecessor to LUSU, the Student Representative Council.

Tim Perkins was President of Fylde JCR while studying Accounting & Finance at Lancaster, and is often said to have been the best chair of LUSU's governing Union Council in recent memory.

Tom Cheesewright graduated from Lancaster in 2000, having studied Engineering. He was president of Lonsdale JCR and LUSU General Secretary.

Five people made it onto the shortlist for appointment to the board, but the numbers were whittled down to three. The appointment of the three trustees was approved unanimously by Union Council.

Friday Fury returns to campus

FRIDAY FURY WILL be returning to the University next week.

The campus-wide bar crawl, which began this time last year, is being brought back after collaboration with LUSU and the college JCRs.

The format is set to be the same as last year: students who buy drinks from the college bars will receive a wristband bearing the name of that college. Three wristbands from different colleges will grant the wearer free entry into the Sugarhouse before midnight. For entry after midnight four different wristbands will be needed.

With the additional drink offers at both the bars and the Sugarhouse, it is hoped that Friday Fury will once again provide a cheaper alternative to the average Friday night out.

It is also hoped that it will encourage more students to spend time in the college bars, and facilitate the inter-college mingling that was seen in Freshers' Week.

Janie Coleman, General Secretary of LUSU, was one of the brains behind the return of Friday Fury. She said: "The event has been a great success in the past, the students really seem to love it. It's a great chance to spend some time in the college bars, as they are in desperate need of support."

Students who are already familiar with the concept welcomed the return of Friday Fury. "It's a great way to get everyone together in all the bars again," Stuart Spencer, a former Fylde resident and now member of Graduate College said.

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

Editor

Dan Hogan
scan@lancaster.ac.uk
01524 592613

Assistant Editor

Rob Miller
r@robm.me.uk

News

Chris Davis

Lizzie Houghton

scannews@hotmail.com
Meets in Furness Bar,
Mondays, 2pm

Comment

Liam Richardson

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

Features

r@robm.me.uk
Meets in Furness Bar,
Fridays, 1pm

Arts

Lizzie O'Brien &

Richie Garton

scanarts@hotmail.com
Meets in County Diner,
Wednesdays, 1pm

Music

Mark McGlashan

scanmusic@hotmail.com
Meets in Pendle Bar,
Wednesdays, 1pm

Sports

Charlotte Parker

Oliver Holmes

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

Adverts & Marketing

Martin Ennis

m.ennis@lancaster.ac.uk
01524 593422

More proof of CV meddling in Management School

- Management School chiefs attack SCAN after week 10 exposé
- CVs show altered references, employment history and personal statements

Lizzie Houghton
News Editor

NEW EXAMPLES OF Management School students' CVs being altered have been found by SCAN, amid accusations by staff that the paper is waging a misinformation campaign against the school.

Following the article that broke the story in our last issue, Management School students have contacted SCAN, providing copies of both their original and altered CVs, demonstrating how the LUMS Placement Office had changed content without seeking permission or consent.

The issue first came to light last term, when a number of second year LUMS students contacted SCAN with complaints that their CVs had been "changed quite dramatically" by Placement Office staff. Staff in the Placement Office, and within the wider Management School, have since protested that this is not the case.

In the CVs shown to SCAN however, the changes made by the Placement Office are clear. In one CV, the section

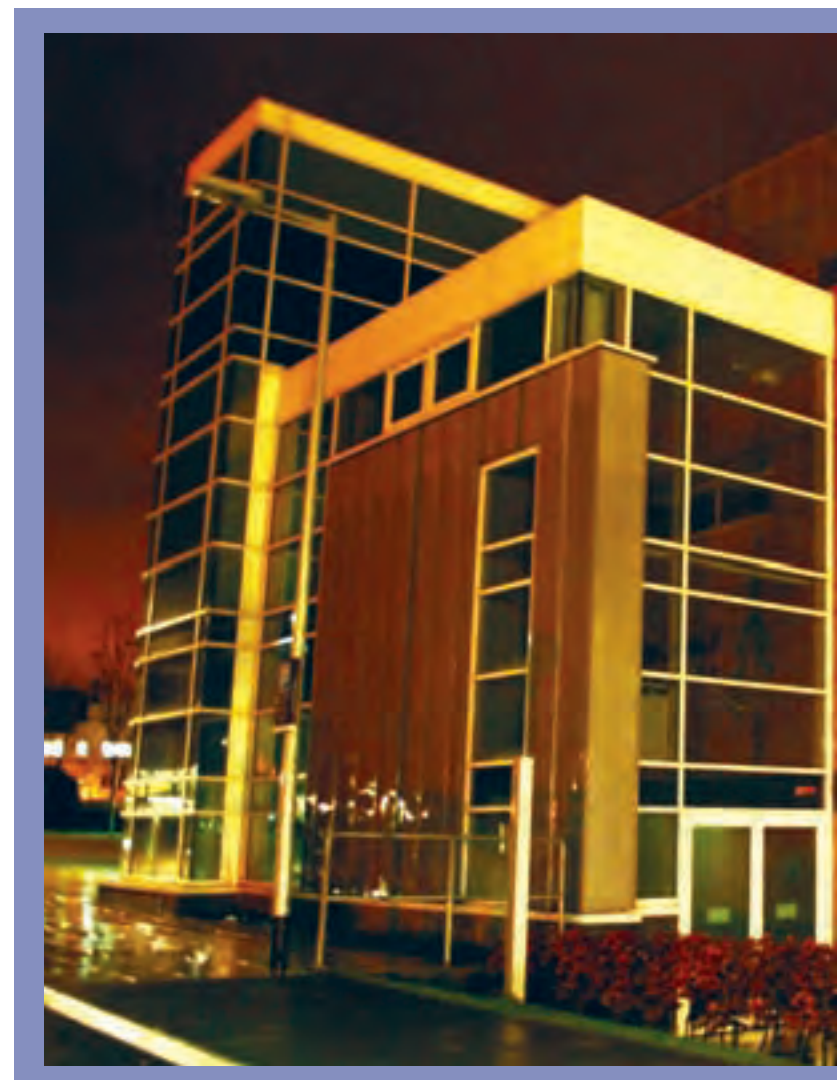
headed 'Profile', which is a personal statement, had been rewritten, and quotes from individuals they identified with, had been removed. This was also the case for a list of achievements that the student originally put in.

The student, who wished to remain anonymous, for fear that their placement would be put in jeopardy were their identity known, told how: "In the areas [of the CV] the LUMS staff had changed, there were spelling mistakes and it was very clear where someone else had wrote bits because it didn't flow at all."

Areas of work experience had also been omitted from CVs. In one case, parts of a student's employment history were deleted by the Placement Office, despite the fact that the student still works at the deleted company.

On another CV, the student's qualifications from the Open University have been removed from the returned draft, despite appearing on the version submitted by the student.

Upon starting their second year, LUMS students are expected to compile a CV as part of the school's placement programme. Students are given a



template CV that they are expected to follow. On this template David Simm is given as, in his words, the "default setting". This is a hangover from when the template was originally used for only BBA in Management students, the course for which Mr. Simm is the Director.

Recently this template has been extended to all LUMS second year students arranging work placements through the school. Mr. Simm's name

"They said everybody's CV needs to be the same, which I believe sort of defeats the object a CV"

remains as the default, but students who are not on his course were expected by staff to replace his name with their own Director of Studies, as an academic referee is needed to confirm a student's placement on the course, as

Protestors take to streets to call for Gaza ceasefire

Jonathan Starr

PROTESTORS TOOK OVER Lancaster city centre last Saturday to protest at the ongoing violence in the Gaza Strip.

The demonstration was organised by the Lancaster Friends of Palestine, with support from the Quakers, and the Stop the War Society from campus. Approximately 60 people attended the demonstration, to voice their concern over the conflict and the loss of civilian life.

A representative of the Lancaster branch of Amnesty International commented that they were disgusted with the "horrendous use of force by Israel in one of the most densely populated areas in the world," and that a continuation of the conflict would only succeed in creating "greater levels of anti-Israel feeling" making any notion of peace in

the Middle East ever harder to attain. With regards the demonstration they told SCAN that they were glad to see that it had brought a lot of different groups together which shows a great desire within the community for the conflict to end.

The conflict began on the 27th December 2008, and since more than 800 Palestinians have been killed, many of them civilians along with 13 Israelis as the hostilities enter into their third week.

Of those who have died it is believed that more than 250 were children with more than 3250 individuals suffering injuries of various degrees. One Israeli attack has killed at least 43 people taking refuge in a UN school. In the Zeitoun district, at least 30 people were killed after Israeli troops repeatedly shelled a house to which more than 100 Palestinians had been evacuated by the Israeli military.

in this scan

News

In Focus: Call for action on college bars. **4,5**
Uni fiddles figures to appear 9th in own research tables. **7**
Lecturers strike may be averted. **9**
New pool tables for JCRs as Gamestec lose contract. **11**
Royal Society public affairs director speaks to Science & Tech faculty **13**

Comment

Michael Payne: College bars **15**
Alex Harris: Nixon's other crimes **16**
Kyle Patterson cartoon: Inauguration. **17**
Liam Richardson: Prostitution **17**
Paul Gauteng: Israeli invasion **18**
Letters **19**

Features

Return of the underground press **21**
Michael and Rachel **22**
Michael Holt: Nightclubs **23**

Arts

Film: The Spirit **25**
Book: Aunts Aren't Gentlemen **26**
Theatre: LU Theatre Group - 1984 and Othello **27**

Music

Live: Damnation Festival **28**
Feature: 2009 Preview **29**
Singles **29**

Sports

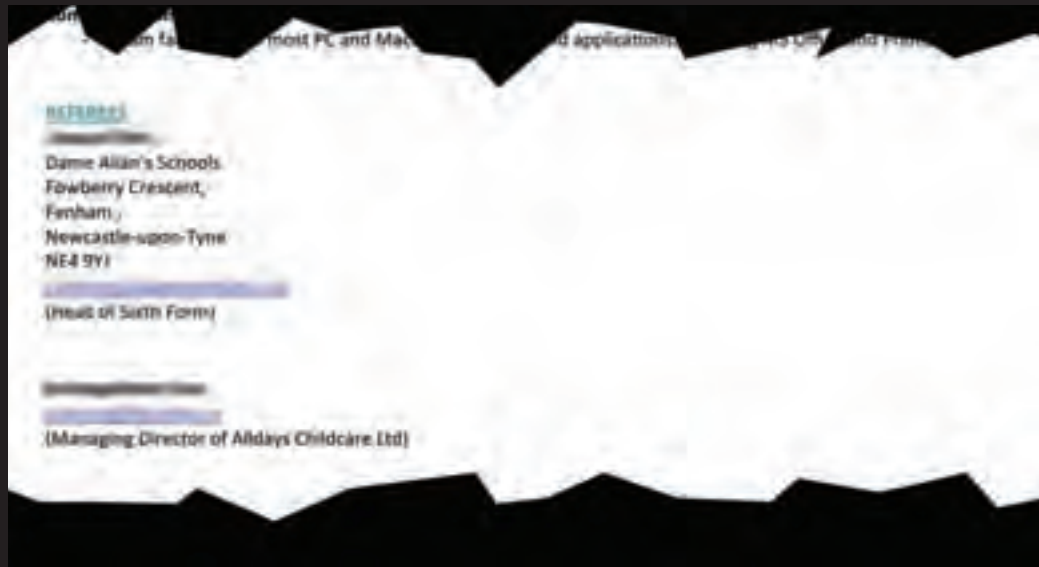
Men's Rugby **30**
Predictions 2009 **31**
AU President's column **31**
Karate team win golds in national competition **31**



Left: The Lancaster University Management School, at the heart of the controversy. (Photo: Dan Hogan)

Right: The referees on this student's CV have clearly been changed. Also, achievements and interests listed above the referees have been reordered. Other CVs that SCAN has seen have been far more radically altered.

Before...



After...



well as referees of their own.

However, having done this a number of students found that, upon having their CVs returned to them by the Placement Office after being checked, their own referees had been taken off to be again replaced with Mr. Simm.

In one of the original, unchanged CVs shown to SCAN, the student had replaced Mr. Simm with an ex-employer as referee. After the CV was returned by the Placements Office, the original referee had once again been changed for Mr. Simm. The upset student had never had any interaction with Mr. Simm and felt that he would not be able to give them an honest reference.

Another student added an ex-employer alongside Mr. Simm as referees. When the CV was returned the ex-employer had been removed and only Mr. Simm's name remained. Neither of these two students were on the BBA course and therefore had nothing to do with Simm.

Simm himself claimed not to be aware that this had happened, although he was keen to stress that "with the issue of references we [the Management School] are very careful about what we say."

He added: "Clearly they [references] have major implications for all concerned, not least of all the student and not least the institution".

As well as those who showed SCAN their CVs, least three other students have said that they have experienced similar problems. While all have expressed misgivings over Simm's inclusion as their referee, he would also be placed in an awkward situation were any employer to ask him for a reference for a student not on his course.

"What one then does in that situation is concentrate on the factual", Mr. Simm said. "I would be able to make comments about their modules, and

their performance as a student." However, that is all Simm would be able to comment on. "I wouldn't therefore be able to go into the more fine detail of saying 'this is an honest and reliable student'."

Another issue of concern for some students was the apparent uniformity of LUMS CVs. "They said everybody's CV needs to be the same," said one student, "which I believe sort of defeats the object a CV... It's very impersonal."

Professor Mike Wright, the Associate Dean (Undergraduate) of the Management School, said however that the "standard CV format" is used because it "provides the content and clarity of information required". He added that a number of employers had commented on the quality of the LUMS CVs, saying that many companies say that the "CVs they receive from Lancaster are the best of all those that they receive."

One final year BBA student also argued the merits of the standardized CV. She said: "This template has worked for many years, and is recognised by employers who highly regard Lancaster Management School."

Indeed, within minutes of speaking with LUMS officials SCAN was contacted by a number of third year and former Management School students, who all spoke in defence of the school's staff and complained about SCAN's original investigation into the matter.

Richard Hardaker, a BBA Management graduate said: "LUMS offers excellent support to students trying to acquire an industrial placement within a professional organisation. I had a very useful year's work experience."

Despite numerous attempts by SCAN to speak to Anne Welsby, the Placement Manager, who runs the LUMS Placement Office at the centre of controversy, she could not be reached for comment.

This isn't rabble rousing, the rabble roused themselves

Comment, p15

In focus: Call for action on college bars

Student fightback commences over college bars

by Fiona Hutchinson

GROWING PRESSURE FROM students and JCR Officers has sparked a LUSU campaign to return control of the college bars back to the colleges themselves.

A strategy session was held on last Friday afternoon as part of the three day New Officer Training conference for JCRs and Non-Sabbaticals. With over 120 student officers in attendance, the meeting discussed the specific issues they wanted to campaign on. The top priority for the vast majority of officers was the college bars.

There was a unanimous call from officers for immediate action, in order to speak up on behalf of students who are unsatisfied with the University's

behaviour towards the Colleges and the lack of appreciation for the work that JCRs, Union officers and SCRs do for the College system at Lancaster.

Some officers commented that the University's top-down vision of the colleges in recent years had damaged the importance of the college system for students. Key issues raised were the significant price rises in college bars and reductions in college administrated space. Many asked why it was appropriate for University bosses to dictate to the student body the character and management of the colleges.

The call for more campaign action follows events which began last summer when Cartmel, County, and Pendle bars were taken under the operational control of the Director of Commercial Services, David Peeks. A decision was made for all college bars to come under



HAPPY WITH EVERYTHING
LUSU DOES? REALLY!
OH, WELL LETS TALK
ABOUT IT

bubble

what do you think about what we're upto.

IT'S OUR
NEW BLOG :)

<http://bubble.lusu.co.uk>



Sanctuary:
A busy Fylde Bar
during New Officer
Training last week.
(Photo: Dan Hogan)

the control of Mr Peeks in the future.

Following the strategy session the President of LUSU, Michael Payne, promised to compile a student written report on 'Colleges for the Future', which he intends to deliver to the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Colleges and Student Experience, Amanda Chetwynd, and to the Vice-Chancellor. The report will outline the students' vision for the colleges and give constructive suggestions on how the University could better support the college system.

Mr. Payne told SCAN: "With issues of top-down vision of the colleges having long been simmering under the surface at Lancaster University, students have now decided they can no longer remain silent. Their passion for the college system and the social spaces within it has driven them to take the argument to the University's doorstep. Too long they have been knocking for a discussion and for too long their calls have gone unanswered!"

Student societies have also voiced anger at what they see as the University's lack of understanding about the importance of college controlled bars and their ignorance about how their own student population feels.

The Lancaster University Labour Club has committed themselves to resurrecting last year's 'Save The College Bars' campaign and will spear-head

efforts to distribute information to students right across campus. There will also be efforts to further increase the list of signatories on the Labour Club's petition to keep the college bars under college control, which reportedly already stands at over 1000. Last year's combination of 'drink ins' and cross campus bar crawls was said to have "shaken" the Vice Chancellor and inspired LUSU to launch its highly successful 'Friday Fury' socials.

Richard Bennett, Campaigns Officer for the Labour Club said: "Our message is simple. To the University, we demand 9 college bars, 9 college licensees, 9 colleges. We will continue the campaign and take whatever action is necessary to secure the long term college future of the college bars."

This coalition of student officers and societies has increased pressure on LUSU's Sabbatical Officers to stand up for them and support their efforts, including suggestions of boycotts on University catering outlets and mass poster campaigns.

Mr. Payne added: "Our [LUSU's] primary concern is for the students of this University and their experience, however we will stand by, support and champion the efforts of our friends the college Principals, the college staff and the college licensees, after all it is they who have stood by us."

Peak-A-Boo call for action to save bars

By Jonathan Starr

A GROUP OF students have decided it is time to stop talking and to start taking action to save the college bars.

The collection (for that is what they like to be known as), who go by the name of Peek-A-Boo, have called for all students to make a stand and let the University know what they think about the 'company bars' (those bars under the management of David Peeks – Cartmel, Pendle and County) and only visit the few remaining College controlled bars, which they have dubbed 'sanctuary bars'.

Within their manifesto, Peek-A-Boo ask that students boycott all the 'company bars' as well as all the vending machines on campus, to deny David Peeks' Catering department the revenues they bring in. They also call for the University to return the running of the bars to the colleges and for a lowering in the prices so that they are more in line with those charged by other university bars across the country. They also view the attitude and alleged ineptitude of Mr Peeks, who is in charge of the 'company bars'.

Whilst the identity of those involved remains unknown, with the person I spoke to announcing herself only as Jenny, their message is clear and they urge all students to "support them in the cause through the boycotts and displaying the anti-Peeks posters." They also emphasise the tactic of spreading ideas for action amongst their friends and colleagues. Peak-A-Boo believe that everyone has the opportunity to influence this campaign through their participation as consumers, and that this action will continue until the bars are returned to a state of normality.

Centrally-run bar figures show sales decline

Dan Hogan

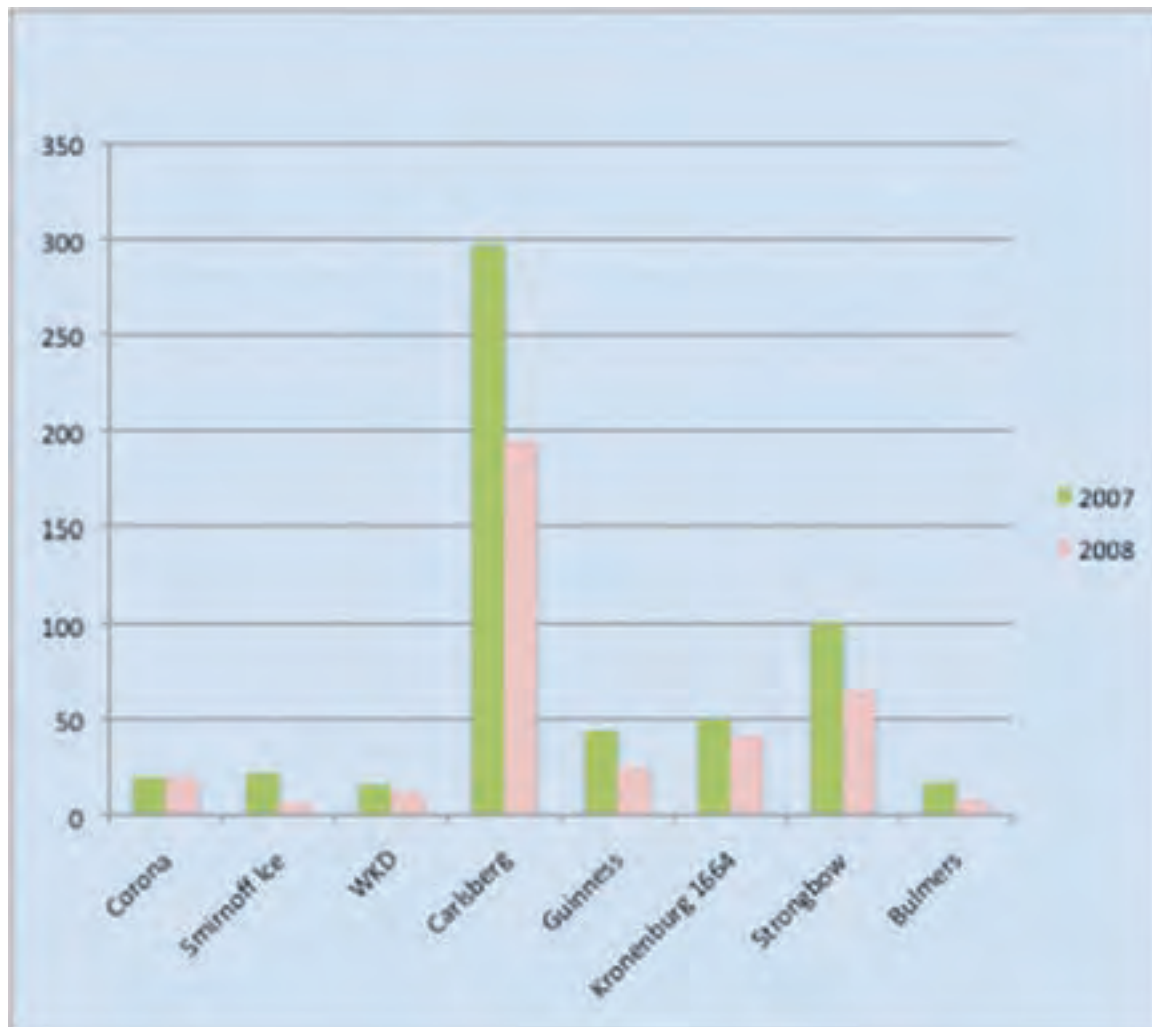
ONE OF THE three bars now run by the University's central management is selling less alcohol than it was last year, according to leaked sales figures obtained by SCAN.

The figures present a comparison between bar sales in the latter half of Michaelmas Term 2008 and the same period in 2007, before management took control of the bar in question. They show how students are buying less from the bar than they were before they changed hands. In order to protect our sources, precise details of the bar in question will not be released.

Spirits consumption in the bar dropped from approximately one 70ml bottle of spirits a day in the Michaelmas 2007 period to less than half a bottle a day in the same period in 2008.

Sales of Carlsberg similarly dropped from an average of more than 40 pints a day, to less than 30. Guinness sold over six pints per day in November/December 2007, but less than four per day in 2008. Overall, draught beer sales fell from approximately eight gallons (64 pints) a day to just over five (40 pints).

The only area where alcohol sales have increased in the bar is bottled cider, from approximately 17 bottles a week to 40. But on closer examination, this is due entirely to the introduction of the popular Kopparberg to bars. While sales of Bulmers halved from 17 bottles a week to just eight, Kopparberg sales hit 32 bottles a week in their first year.



In decline: This chart shows how sales of some of the most popular drinks have decreased between 2007 and 2008.

Pantomime puts Peeks in a world of Payne

ONE OF THE short pantomimes performed by new JCR Executives as team-building exercises at New Officer Training last week, satirised the ongoing controversy over the college bars.

Cartmel JCR Exec, tasked with preparing a performance of the fairy tale The Three Little Pigs, opted to characterise each pig as one of the bars taken over by Commercial Services Director, David Peeks. To the delight of the student officers in the audience, Peeks himself was satirised as the wolf, with a penchant for calling his porky adversaries "slandorous bastards".

In a deviation from the normal plot of the fairy tale, The David Peeks wolf was defeated by a sword-wielding, scarf-wearing Michael Payne, played by Cartmel JCR President, Robbie Pickles.

The winner of the performances was determined by the volume of the audience's cheers. Cartmel's satirical tale won hands down.

Camp America 2009

MANCHESTER RECRUITMENT FAIR

SUN 1ST FEB 2009, 2PM

MANCHESTER TOWN HALL, ALBERT SQUARE,
MANCHESTER, M60 2LA

FROM THE UK TO THE USA IN ONE EASY STEP!

- * MEET CAMPS FROM ALL OVER THE USA
- * GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED
- * PICK A CAMP AND GET HIRED ON THE SPOT

www.campamerica.co.uk

LANCASTERS OFFICIAL
STUDENT NIGHT LUSU

FREE BUSES AVAILABLE FROM CAMPUS

MONDAY
MADNESS

2 FLOORS

2 DIS

8PM TO 3AM

Management reserve all rights to refuse entry

FREE

Vodka
SHOT
with this voucher

Bottle VK
£1
with this voucher

COCKTAILS
2-4-1
with this voucher

£1 OFF
ENTRY
with this voucher

PENNY STREET - LANCASTER

Revolution®



Green power: Winning Voltage team, Go Green, celebrate at the gala. (Photo: Andrew Hardman)

LUVU see hard work pay off at Voltage gala for schools' projects

Dan Hogan
Editor

STUDENTS IN LANCASTER University Volunteering Unit saw the fruits of their efforts last term at a gala for school sixth formers who took part in their project to foster social entrepreneurship in schools.

The schools were part of a larger scheme, called Voltage, which gives 16-18 year olds the opportunity to set up their own social enterprises to raise money for charities or local projects.

The project is financed with grants awarded by a charity called V, which aims to encourage more young people aged 16-25 to get involved in volunteering. V's aim is to create a new generation of young volunteers.

At the gala, which was held in the James Hargreaves Suite at Burnley Football Club, were students from Blackburn Sixth Form College, Burnley College, Thomas Whitham Sixth Form, Clitheroe Royal Grammar School and Nelson and Colne College. As well as students and staff from LUVU, who organised and set up the event, LUSU president, Michael Payne and the mayor of Burnley, Ida Carmichael, were also in attendance.

Mayor Carmichael told SCAN: "Schemes such as these show that young people aren't all drunken hoodlums causing trouble, and do some really good work in their communities.

"Anyone thinking of getting involved in volunteering work such as this should go for it."

LUVU was launched in 2002 to develop community-based volunteer-

ing projects. Last year, it won the National Council for Work Experience's award for 'Work Experience Provider of the Year'. Other opportunities possible with LUVU include volunteering placements in local schools through the Schools Partnership, and motivating hard-to-reach young people categorised as NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) through social enterprise courses.

The LUVU Project Co-Ordinator for East Lancashire, Sidone Richardson, was pleased with how the Voltage project had gone.

"It was so nice to see them develop their ideas from the beginning, and seeing them all the way through the project and how they've all really gained something out of it," she said.

By 2011, LUVU plan to have engaged 1000 young people in the Voltage project. Its office on Alexandra Square is open for anyone wishing to get involved to go in and speak to the staff.

Four of the nine teams involved this year in the East Lancashire area received awards for their efforts. The awards were for exceptional teamwork, exemplary presentation, innovative social enterprise and outstanding social enterprise.

Winners of the award for innovative social enterprise, Ethic of Thomas Whitmore Sixth Form in Burnley, raised money to pay for better recycling facilities in their college. They sold knitwear, which they made themselves in a more positive take on a sweat shop, intended to draw attention to the ethically unsound nature of how many big name brand clothes are made.

Ethic's team leader, Janie, thinks

projects like voltage demonstrate the social conscience of young people: "This shows that are willing to do good and we're not just about getting drunk. We put a lot of hard work and a lot of dedication into this project."

Project Ice, another award winner, wanted to do something about the lack of activities for young people in their local area. They organised a party for under 18s in a nightclub in Blackburn for their shool. The £800 profits from ticket sales for the night, which over 300 people attended, went toward buying pool tables for a local youth club.

Leader of Project Ice, Kyle, told SCAN about the problem facing his home town of Clitheroe, which inspired them to act: "We had a big problem with a lot of kids on the street, in the castle, the park and all over the place causing trouble.

"If we could get them off the streets and into a nice, warm, contained place, they can be controlled, as opposed to on the streets."

Teachers in the schools were involved throughout. Alex Kay, of Blackburn Sixth Form College, told SCAN how one of their three teams had issues adapting to the idea of a 'social' enterprise.

"[One team] were all business studies students and they had a bit of difficulty at first adapting to the premise of 'you're not in this for profit'.

"But certainly, this has a positive effect on the college. People got involved, and staff have been aware of it - even if they've been annoyed because the kids have been having days off to go up to Lancaster University."

Uni fiddles figures to appear 9th in own research tables

Chris Davis
News Editor

THE LATEST ASSESSMENT of University research standards has placed Lancaster 15th in the country, with 92% of the University's academic staff considered to be undertaking research of 'international quality'. However, there are doubts about both the accuracy of the exercise and the potential impact of the results on students and staff.

The Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), which last took place in 2001, also ranked Lancaster's Physics department number one in the country, whilst the department of Bio-Medicine and LICA, The Lancaster Institute for Contemporary Arts, were similarly ranked joint first in their fields of study.

The RAE is arguably the most important factor influencing the funding of higher education institutions, with an estimated £1.5billion allocated by Hefce, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, according to the results of the exercise. Every department submitted for assessment by the universities is graded from 4* down to 0. An average is then calculated giving a score for each department and for the University as a whole.

Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, Professor Trevor McMillan, expressed delight with the results of the assessment. He hailed Lancaster's performance as a "tremendous achievement" that "gave credit to the hard work done across the University," and called the success of the Physics department and LICA "stunning". Professor McMillan also singled out other departments for praise. According to the RAE, 100% of the research by the Computing department is considered to be of international quality, whilst Geography and Environmental Science also ranked very highly. This, the Pro Vice-Chancellor pointed out, justified the "big new initiatives" taken by the University in recent years, such as the construction of the Infolab and the Lancaster Environment Centre.

However, the exercise has suffered criticism from a variety of sources claiming that the results do not accurately reflect universities' overall performance. Many institutions have

been accused of selectively choosing which academics they enter for assessment, thus effectively hiding weaker researchers from critical evaluation. The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) has been unable to provide official figures showing the number of research-active staff excluded from the exercise, leaving official data open to scrutiny.

Indeed, Lancaster has provided its own alternative ranking system, adjusted to take into account each of the universities' 'research intensity'. In the adjusted table, the position of many institutions alters significantly, with Lancaster's own rank moving from fifteenth up to ninth. Some critics have pointed to this adjustment as evidence of the University using 'spin' to exaggerate its success.

McMillan defended the RAE 'league table' produced by the University, which places Lancaster higher than other tables such as those produced by the Times and the Guardian. "While clearly the table does benefit us" he stated, "it also brings out other interesting advances, not only for newer Universities, but also for older, more established institutions."

Despite the expected benefits of the RAE results for Lancaster, there are those who maintain a more sceptical view. Whilst top performing departments look likely to receive more funds, other departments may gain very little. Speaking to SCAN, one senior member of University staff said that it was unlikely the funding received would be spread evenly across departments, as "the very nature of the RAE is about selectivity, and money going to the best."

Professor McMillan was more circumspect about the impact that the exercise would have on the levels of funding that the University will be set to receive in the coming academic year. "Government funding is very tight at the moment" he stated, "but we should expect a bit more next year. We certainly shouldn't receive any less than we do now."

Figures regarding the funding received by Universities as a result of the assessment are expected to be revealed in spring this year, possibly in early March.

New all-you-can-eaterie opens

A new restaurant, specialising in 'all you can eat' buffet food, has opened in Lancaster, on the site of what used to be the Chicago Rock Cafe, on New Street. Mr Jones' Restaurant serves a mix of English, Italian and Chinese food. Because it is a buffet restaurant, there is only one price, regardless of how much customers eat.

One other Mr Jones' exists in Grimsby, and the chain is owned by restaurant company China China. The restaurant's manager, Johnny Li, said: "the building itself is perfect for our restaurant. We're looking to develop the Mr Jones' brand across the country."

The new restaurant has to wait for a license from the City Council before it can serve alcohol.

Chaplaincy to host Guantanamo poems

An installation by artist Christine Dawson, commemorating the seventh anniversary of the creation of the US prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, is being displayed in the Chaplaincy Centre until this Friday.

The installation consists of paper cups, upon which poems written by inmates in the prison camp have been written.

Poet Seamus Heaney said: "Poetry has been defined as the imagination pressing back against the pressures of reality, and these poems from Guantanamo are a vivid proof of the rightness of that definition."

The installation coincides with an LU Amnesty International event to mark the seventh birthday of the camp.

'Quack Attack' raises cash for YMCA homeless campaign

by Rob Maidstone

The last Wednesday of last term, saw various forms of rubber ducks taking over the foyer of Furness College. This was Quack Attack, a fundraising event thought up by five Lancaster University students with the aim of making money and raising awareness of the YMCA in Lancaster.

The event raised £248.17, all of which went towards the local YMCA.

Various duck related games were on offer for students to take part in for a small fee, with prizes on offer for those with enough skill. The games included hook a duck, duck hoopla, duck bowling, pin the beak on the duck and duck basket ball, a "creative use of ducks" according to one participant.

In addition, each student who took part in the evening's games was entered into a raffle. Prizes were kindly donated from local businesses such as Bar Eleven and Booths.

A separate raffle for gigantic duck was also held. Alexander Chevalier, the lucky winner of the highly sort after prize, told SCAN that he was "overjoyed" with his prize and that it was 'very unexpected'.

Quack Attack was organised as part of the Centre for Enterprise, Employability and Careers 'Insight into Project and Event Management' course. After

attending the course students were given a variety of charities for which they could organise events for in order to "put theoretical business skills into practice".

Team leader, Laura Blakeley, and her team chose the YMCA Lancaster and then had two weeks to plan and deliver a fundraiser.

The duck theme for the event came from the YMCA's 'Don't Duck the Issue' campaign. The campaign hopes to deal with homelessness in the Lancaster area and all the proceeds of the night went towards helping the YMCA care for local people.

Vicki Cole, the events PR officer, explained: "Often many people donate to the national YMCA and forget about the local branches, so more local fundraising events run by Lancaster students would certainly be welcome."

According to the campaign's website - www.dontducktheissue.org.uk - the campaign solves "local problems" by using "local people to find local solutions".

Ms. Cole said: "As a team we were proud to have done so well, having literally started with nothing."

Both the event's organisers and the local YMCA hope that this will be the start of successful relationship between students and the YMCA. In particular the YMCA hopes to start a society at the University in which students can create and run similar fundraisers.



Quack: The Quack Attack team pose with their rubber ducks in Furness Foyer (Photo: Rob Maidstone)

THE ONLY WAY TO RUIN WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

FUSION TUESDAYS AT CUBA LANCASTER

JOIN US EVERY WEEK FOR THE
**BIGGEST, MESSIEST
STUDENT NIGHT**
LANCASTER HAS TO OFFER
BUY A BOTTLE GET A SHOT FREE!



**PARTY GAMES
DRINKS OFFERS
EVERY WEEK**
SEE YOU THERE
YES?!



UCU, UCEA deal means lecturer strike may be averted

by a SCAN reporter

A DEADLOCK BETWEEN two of Higher Education's biggest power blocs, the University and College Union (UCU) and the Universities and Colleges Employers' Association (UCEA), has been broken after the UCEA have agreed to talk with the Union about pay and conditions for university staff.

It is now hoped that the strike action that was mooted over the Christmas period will be rendered unnecessary.

The UCU, which represents academics, researchers and lecturers, has been trying to initiate talks with the UCEA since February last year. Until now they have been unsuccessful. Last Thursday however, the UCEA finally agreed to negotiate with the Union, via the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

In an e-mail sent out at the start of last month to UCU members Sally Hunt, the Union's general secretary, outlined the Union's main bones of contention with the Employers' Association.

Top of the list is pay negotiations. With the current economic climate the way it is, the UCU are understandably eager to achieve the best deal possible for their members. In her e-mail Ms. Hunt seeks to reassure members that they will "not be faced with the nil percent increases suggested in recent editions of Times Higher Education magazine".

The trouble started after a 2006 lecturers' pay dispute, when the body responsible for bargaining and negotiating pay deals was reviewed. The UCEA was created from the Joint Negotiating Committee for Higher Education Staffs (JNCHES).

However, the final proposals from the UCEA after the 2006 negotiations (now described as 'new JNCHES') weakened the position of the unions within JNCHES and were unacceptable to UCU members, so UCU opted out. Their objections were mainly due to the UCEA having set up a restrictive timetable for negotiations, where unions would not be able to take industrial action before June each year, minimising the effect of strikes as the students have gone home, and giving employers the upper hand.

The pay increases won by UCU in 2006 have, according to Alastair Hunter, UCU's President-Elect, benefited all staff in the sector, but the new arrange-

ments would make a repeat simply impossible, even where employers simply refuse to negotiate.

Because other unions for academic staff have signed up to the new deal, the UCEA had refused to talk to UCU, even though its membership accounts for 98% of academic staff across the country. Mr. Hunter had said of the UCEA's silence: "Refusing to negotiate with us is plain silly and undermines national bargaining". According to UCU, new JNCHES simply cannot work effectively and have little credibility unless the UCU is part of it.

Since the UCU accepted a new pay offer in 2006, its members have seen a 10.37% increase in their salaries. However this has been somewhat countered by the UCEA's 'opt out' proposals, which would allow individual universities to decide on whether or not they wish to comply with nationally agreed pay schemes. In a separate e-mail Ms. Hunt claims that "the 'opt out' facility endangers the stability of national bargaining and undermines the credibility of negotiated pay awards."

So far only 13 universities have said they promise to pay the nationally agreed pay deal in 2009. According to the UCU website Lancaster University has not yet stated whether it will comply with the national deal or choose to opt out, but it hasn't until the end of March to decide, when the UCEA has set the opt out deadline.

At the start of December the UCU warned universities who were planning to opt out that they could face strike action. The UCU's Higher Education Committee had planned to ballot members for strike action had progress with the UCEA not been made by the end of this month.

Ms. Hunt however now hopes that "UCEA's belated agreement to engage with UCU via ACAS...will lead to an agreement which will render this ballot unnecessary".

Although strike action now looks unlikely, the Lancaster University Students Union has stated that, were any industrial action to affect the University, it would endeavor to put the needs of students first.

"LUSU is a membership organization with students at the heart of its activities, therefore it would be wrong not to put their welfare and interests first," said the LUSU President, Michael Payne. "However, we realise the important role Trade Unions have to play in protecting the staff of the University and will consider any such situation very carefully."

Walkabout bans stripy jumpers

A gang of uniformed troublemakers has led to a bar on Dalton Square, Lancaster, banning the wearing of stripy jumpers on its premises.

Walkabout banned the item after a group wearing a combination of stripy jumpers, hoodies and tracksuit bottoms, repeatedly behaved aggressively toward bar staff and customers.

The ban was posted on a list of more commonly prohibited items on

the door to the bar. A spokesperson for Walkabout said: "We wanted to make it clear that this group was not welcome in the venue so put the sign up about the dress code."

"However, this code was completely at the discretion of door staff and management and the only people not allowed in were those that had previously caused problems."

Hindu Society join Mumbai citizens in peace vigil



Solemn: Children in Mumbai hold candles at a peace vigil after the attack.

by Ashutosh Kumar

FOLLOWING THE TERRORIST attacks on Mumbai at the end of last year, the Lancaster University Hindu Society held a peace meeting to reflect on the destruction and remember those whose lives had been lost.

The meeting was held on Saturday 6 December and was attended by over 50 people, including students from countries as diverse as Greece and Pakistan. Also in attendance were staff from the Chaplaincy Centre, where the meeting took place, and the Islamic Society's Vice President, Ammad Siddiqui, and Welfare Office, Aban Hussain.

Speaking at the peace meeting was Suprateek Roy, President of the Hindu Society, who spoke of the destruction India had suffered at the hands of the

terrorists. Other committee members also put forward their views on terrorism and the destruction that Mumbai suffered.

The attacks, which began in late November of last year, were the worst India had ever suffered. Over 200 people lost their lives, and more than 300 were injured. Amongst the dead were British, American and Australian citizens, some of them tourists, as well as the Mumbai residents.

At around 9:20pm on 26 November 2008, gunmen opened fire in a busy train terminal in Mumbai, shooting indiscriminately. Afterwards attacks were reported in hospitals, cafes and at the offices of the Times of India.

The largest attacks took place at two major five star hotels, the Oberoi-Trident hotel and the Taj Mahal Palace hotel. Terrorists entered the hotels, taking people inside hostage. Only after a two day long siege and gun battle

in and around the hotels did Indian commandos managed to kill nine of the terrorists inside the hotels and arrest one more.

Inside the Taj Mahal Palace hotel, 30 bodies were reported to have been found. Bodies of executed hostages were also found in Nariman House, a Jewish Centre.

The peace meeting in Lancaster was followed by the burning of candles with a one minute silence and the chanting of peace mantras.

Speaking of the event Mr. Siddiqui said: "Terrorism has no religion, no nationality. We all have been affected whether Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Pakistanis, English or Arabs. It was good to see a night organised by the Hindu Society that shows solidarity amongst all races against terrorism. Hopefully with initiatives like these, other similar issues can be highlighted by Lancaster's strong student body."

Graduate and Furness help muster spirit of Christmas on campus

by Davey Garland

Though most students left for the Christmas holidays, some students and staff were actively pushing the spirit of providing for others by arranging activities for students and families who would be staying over the holiday period. Others engaged in community activism, collecting food from Central Stores to distribute to the St Thomas's Church Christmas Homeless shelter in Lancaster.

For the second year running, 2nd year Social Work student Jill Hehir from Pendle college, who is also a volunteer at the St Thomas's shelter, organised a pick-up from Central Stores on their last night of trading, with the help of Graduate students. This year saw eight crates of thrown away food

go to the shelter, including of cakes, desserts and pizzas. Jill announced that she was pleased with the Student Union support and that the shelter really appreciated this response from the University. More importantly, those using the shelter were treated to good quality food, with most of it fresh, not tinned.

Reaching out to the community, in this case the campus community was also an aim of the Graduate Students Association and graduate activists who wished to cater for the many families and overseas students, as well as the few remaining British students on campus over the holidays. For the families and children, a special children's party was prepared, with cake, nibbles, party games and presents. Santa Claus made a special appearance for the children with many being thrilled (and the odd one terrified) by the experience. Some

families expressed their relief that they have been considered and that this kind of event was being organised.

A few days later on Christmas Eve, Graduate Common Room was decorated for an afternoon party, with all students being invited to eat, drink and meet others. Nearly 70 students turned up. On December 27, a full coach left Lancaster for the Trafford centre sales in order to provide some escape from the campus. Again this was organised by the GSA and Graduate college.

With nothing sadly being organised for New Year's Eve this year at the University, Furness college tried to fill the gap, organising an event in its bar on New Year's Day, with food, games and other activities. The turnout was good and many children were introduced to the pleasures of 'Dangermouse' videos and games.

Main Rd, Galgate, Just off Jct 33 M6

The Plough

COUNTRY PUB & DINING ROOM

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PURPLECARD SPECIAL OFFER...
20% OFF - MON-FRI 5.30PM-8.30PM

FIND THE PLOUGH CASH
IN SCAN AND INCREASE YOUR DISCOUNT

GREAT FOOD, GREAT DISCOUNTS...
STILL THE ONLY PLACE FOR SUNDAY LUNCH

One Plough Pound per transaction

Tel: 01524 751337 www.the-plough.co.uk

JCRs get new pool tables as Gamestec lose contract

Chris Davis

New pool tables and gaming facilities are set to be introduced into a number of College bars and JCR's throughout the beginning of the lent term. The previous term had seen a variety of problems emerge, with the standard of College gaming facilities receiving extended criticism from students. Crucially, these problems were also serving to disrupt pool matches in the 'George Wyatt' bar sports league.

The troubles experienced by colleges are thought to stem from the takeover of the company providing the facilities, Leisurelink, by new company Gamestec.

"Gamestec took over Leisurelink earlier this year" LUSU General Secretary Janie Coleman told SCAN. "We'd had fantastic service up until that point, and were promised this level of service would not change, but unfortunately it did."

For many colleges, the major difficulty was the maintenance of facilities. Some pool tables had fallen so far into disrepair that they were making it impossible for college pool teams to compete for the George Wyatt.

One college that suffered particularly from the poor service offered by Gamestec was Fylde. The JCR had hoped to have newly refurbished pool



On cue:

A student tries out the new Sceptre Leisure pool tables in Fylde Bar. (Photo: Dan Hogan)

tables available for the reopening of the bar at the end of the last academic year, but had to wait until a week before this year's fresher's week for Gamestec to deliver them. Furthermore, JCR members were not impressed with the qual-

ity of the tables. James Dodd, former President of the college, called the tables "run down and second hand", stating that they would "break down after three games, and no one would come to repair them." One table in Fylde re-

mained broken for over four weeks.

Some colleges took an alternative route to combat the problem. Lonsdale College JCR bought two of the three pool tables in its common room, choosing to independently finance

them themselves. However, few colleges have been in a position to follow the example set by Lonsdale. Considering the amount of money the pool tables actually make, for many colleges the independent route taken by Lonsdale was financially unfeasible.

The company replacing Gamestec as the University's provider of gaming facilities is Sceptre Leisure, whose clients include Moorhouse Brewery and the 'Marstons' chain of pubs. Both LUSU and various college Presidents have had extensive consultation with Sceptre to discuss the requirements of individual bars. James Dodd, after suffering at the hands of Gamestec, has had no complaints with the level of service offered by Sceptre, stating that they have been "really co-operative so far", and expressing satisfaction at the "properly refurbished tables". Sceptre, the provider of bar sports and gaming facilities for a number of student unions, have established a reputation for working effectively with Universities.

LUSU were hoping to have installed all new equipment by the first week of Lent term, although it is expected that there may be some delays in delivering and installing electronic equipment. To avoid any further disruption to the George Wyatt leagues, however, LUSU are aiming to have at least two pool tables in each college ready for use by the beginning of term.

the
**National
Student
Survey**
www.thestudentsurvey.com

BE HEARD
www.thestudentsurvey.com



Are you a final year undergraduate? Do you want your opinions on your student experience to be heard?
Take part in the National Student Survey.

Stagecoach Uni Services



just girls Female only bus takes you to your door*

'Justgirls' is unique to Lancaster University. Operated only by Stagecoach, it is designed to transport female only passengers in safety. The bus will take you from the Underpass to your door* or wherever you want to go in Lancaster, Skerton and Galgate. It's just like having your own personal minibus!

The bus runs from Monday to Friday, at the following times from the Underpass

17:30 18:30 19:30 20:30 21:30 22:30 23:30

The bus is marked: **Private 66X**

The single fare is **85p** (the service is **FREE**, with a valid unirider ticket).

* as close as possible, road layout and parking permitting.

early morning

nightrider

Your ticket home at the weekend

Thanks to Stagecoach, you can enjoy a good night out in Lancaster, without having to worry about getting home. Our **early morning** service operates until 3.20am every Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning.



Bus times from **Lancaster Bus Station**

Fri	Sat	Sun	Fri	Sat	Sun
0130	0130	0130	0108	0108	0108
0200	0200	0200	0152	0152	0152
0230	0230	0230	0222	0222	0222
0300	0300	0300	0252	0252	0252
			0320	0320	0320

Times apply during term times only

Bus times from **University Underpass**

rail connection

unilink

Your connection from the University, direct to Lancaster Rail Station



Bus times from **Lancaster Rail Station**

Mon-Sat	Sun	Mon-Sat	Sun
0810	1310	0834	1336
0825	then every	0910	Then every
0840	60 mins	0929	60 mins
0905	until	0949	until
then at	2210	then at	2236
25		09	
45		29	
05		49	
until		until	
1405		1449	
1425		1509	
1445		1539	
1510		1609	
1540		1639	
1610		1709	
1640		1739	
1710		1809	
1740			

Times apply during term times only

On Sundays, the X1 also departs from the South West Campus 5 minutes earlier



Don't forget, you can purchase your Unirider in advance on-line at www.buymyunirider.com

 **Stagecoach** in Lancaster

Royal Society director tells science & tech faculty to chase media spotlight

by Sam Newsham

A SENIOR BOSS at the Royal Society recently told a group of Science and Technology students to “engage with the political process” at the faculty’s fourth annual Christmas Conference, last month.

Peter Cotgreave, Director of Public Affairs for the Royal Society, made a speech on the subject of “Why should scientists bother getting involved with public affairs?”

Representatives from seven of the faculty’s departments also gave talks about their current research projects.

In his hour-long keynote speech, Dr. Cotgreave argued passionately that it is essential for scientists to involve themselves in public affairs. He put forward the case that in the current economic situation the shortage of funding money for funding means that it is those who make the best and most forcible arguments who receive the lion’s share.

Dr. Cotgreave went on to speak about the influence scientists can have, not only on the Government, but on the media. Whilst he acknowledged that there are certain fundamental differences between science and policy making, he argued that these could be

overcome. Indeed, the importance of indirect media influence on the public’s perception of science-related matters cannot be overrated – as was demonstrated when a lecture theatre full of Science and Technology faculty members failed to identify a photograph of Minister for Science, Paul Drayson, yet could easily recognise BBC economist Robert Peston.

Dr. Cotgreave also cited the example of animal experimentation as a way that scientists have served to influence debate and inspire change. Previously, scientists using animals in their research had suffered violence and abuse at the hands of a small minority of extreme animal rights activists. However, through speaking out collectively against the actions of extremists, researchers were able to persuade the Government to change the law, giving the police additional powers to prevent scientists from being abused.

This, Dr. Cotgreave stated, showcased the importance for those in the scientific community of being co-ordinated and proactive. The need for scientists to work together to influence the issues that matter to them, he said, has never been more important.

The departmental talks were an opportunity for faculty members to learn more about the full range of research being carried out. Joe Finney of the

Computing Department gave a demonstration of his new project, Firefly, the system behind the flashing snowflake window display that was in Dalton Square over Christmas.

Both Kostas Dimopoulos of the Physics Department and Richard Carter from Engineering spoke about how their research related to the recent experiments with the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. Professor Carter described some of the ways the Engineering Department at Lancaster is involved with the designing of particle accelerators, whilst Dr Dimopoulos discussed the observation of particles in colliders.

Speaking after the event Dr. Cotgreave told SCAN: “As a university, Lancaster has shown how to focus on investing in excellent science and it’s clearly paid off in the calibre of research. But if those excellent researchers want to see continued funding for their work, policies that support their ambitions, and a media that shows science in a positive and intelligent way, they have to think about getting involved in public affairs.

“We in the science community can’t just assume that politicians and the public will support us, we need to take the many opportunities there are to engage with the political process and make a difference.”

Security concerns after Learning Grid vandalised



Repairs: A man from Estates Maintenance holds up a piece of the damaged hoardings on Alexandra Square. (Photo: Dan Hogan)

by Dan Hogan
Editor

THE VANDALISM OF the wooden hoardings surrounding the site of the planned Learning Grid on Alexandra Square has led to concerns over security on campus.

The damage, caused on the last night of Michaelmas term, appears to have been caused by students, returning to campus after a night in town. Four of the panels were pushed over.

University Security had a foggy idea of the incident, claiming the boards had come down on the morning of Monday December 15th, when in fact the damage had been done at least as early as the previous Sunday morning. According to Security, the CCTV camera in Alexandra Square does not monitor the square itself, but the sculpture in front

of University House, deemed to be valuable enough to justify surveillance by a camera at all times, while the rest of the square does not.

The vandalism again raises questions about how the Learning Grid will be protected from abuse, once completed. Intentions are for the 24 hour group work facility to be policed primarily by part-time student monitors. However, in a recent presentation to LUSU’s Union Council, Director of University Estates, Mark Swindlehurst, expressed his own worries that the facility could not be adequately protected by a team of students.

Other measures, such as library card locks for out-of-hours access to the Grid are reportedly being looked at, but these would only prevent non-members of the University from entering, not the very real possibility of drunken, rowdy students.

Theatres awarded £30,000 to give free tickets for young people

Two theatres in Lancaster have been awarded funds to provide free tickets to 6,000 young people over the next two years.

People under the age of 26 will be able to obtain the tickets for the Dukes Theatre in Lancaster and the Nuffield Theatre on campus from February 16 onwards. The tickets will be available online from a website which is yet to be launched.

The free tickets, which are to be funded by the Arts Council England to the tune of £30,000 between the two theatres, are intended to boost the 18-26 age range in theatre audiences, which are currently very low.

The national free theatre scheme is supported by £2.5m additional funding to Arts Council England’s core grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Joe Sumsion, Director of The Dukes Theatre, said he was delighted with the scheme.

“We know that when people get a taste for live theatre they often come back again and again. This scheme gives us the chance, working with our colleagues at the Nuffield Theatre, to offer thousands of young people the chance to see great theatre in Lancaster at no cost to themselves.”

A weekend of student theatre.

Arts, p27

FREE

FAIRTRADE

WINE & CHOCOLATE

TASTING NIGHT

PENDLE BAR

7PM TUESDAY WK1

IN ASSOCIATION WITH...

The co-operative

central



THE sugarhouse
www.thesugarhouse.co.uk

**GET SHAGG-ED
EVERY WEEK!**

scan:COMMENT



Rob Miller
Assistant Editor

All this hot air and condemnation plays right into Ahmedinejad's eager hands

Channel 4 oversold Mahmoud Ahmedinejad when they introduced him a 'dictator' for his televised Christmas Day rant

Channel 4 has a long tradition of being an alternative, and frequently controversial, voice among Britain's five terrestrial television channels. It was the first terrestrial channel to show 18-rated films, in 1986; it showed the prime-time British TV audience its first lesbian kiss, in 1993; it gave Chris Morris a platform for his hugely controversial—and incisively hilarious—Brasseys in 1997 and again in 2001; it showed a live autopsy, conducted by Professor Gunther von Hagens, in 2002; it aired an ostensibly live game of Russian Roulette, played by Derren Brown, in 2003; and, since 1993, it has aired an “alternative Christmas message”, a competing broadcast to the Queen's annual Christmas Day address.

The speech, usually delivered by a contemporary celebrity, almost always attracts considerable controversy. The first, in 1993, was delivered by raconteur and author Quentin Crisp—an obvious reinterpretation of what type of “queen” should deliver the annual message—and in 2006 a British Muslim woman, Khadija Ravat, delivered the message from behind a full niqab in an attempt to draw attention to the plight of British Muslims.

This year, Channel 4 made their most controversial choice yet: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran. Ahmadinejad spoke in Farsi for over five minutes on a variety of subjects, from the need for brotherhood among nations to what he saw as a crisis of faith in the world. Most controversially, he slammed “ill-tempered and expansionist powers”, “warmongers, terrorists, and bullies”—and said that, were he alive today, Jesus would agree.

Unsurprisingly, the channel's choice of broadcaster earned it a full broadside of criticism from both the press and the government. The Times's Rod Liddle slammed Channel 4 for giving airtime to a “madman” whose country was an “Islamist hellhole”. The Daily Mail, not usually one to care about the wider world, condemned the broadcast as having caused “international offence” and called it a “cheap stunt”. The British government condemned the choice of speaker, citing his possibility to cause “offence and bemusement”. The Israeli ambassador to Britain reacted with predictable disgust. The whole nation, it seemed, was outraged.

It seemed to me a similar—and similarly bizarre—furore to another of this year's inexplicable rows over

broadcasting standards: the Russell Brand and Jonathan Ross prank calls. I cannot fathom why anyone could possibly get offended by this. Not only did Ahmadinejad not offer up a single one of his many genuinely offensive viewpoints, the speech was wholly mundane, a series of trite platitudes that gave us no insight into his views on the world and brought us no closer to national reconciliation with Iran.

Don't get me wrong: Ahmadinejad is a genuinely reprehensible person. He's a populist who isn't even popular in his own country, a homophobe, a Holocaust denier, a general nutcase who holds some genuinely distasteful views. Iran has serious human rights problems. And yet I still find it difficult to get worked up about his appearing on British TV. What relevance does he have? “In referring to him as a dictator,” said American Broadcaster CBS's respected Middle East Analyst, Reza Aslan. “You're giving this man far more credit than he actually deserves. This is a completely powerless person. He's not in charge of the army. He's barely in charge of the budget... He has no power. He's a completely powerless figurehead.”

This is precisely why I cannot fath-



om it. This man is essentially a professional ‘troll’: his primary interest is in bolstering his self-image in order to galvanize public opinion at home, and his primary method of doing this is by making controversial public statements at or in the West. Demonized there, he then presents himself domestically as a defender of Iranian interests against their Western opponents, and I'm sure he enjoys a periodic boost in popularity each time he does so.

So why do we keep indulging him? Why do we constantly present him as some tyrant, some dictator against whom we must all unite, when the only thing such a strategy achieves is the maintenance of his position and a reinforcement of his statements? It seems that many in the British and American media are quite content for Ahmadinejad to occupy a demonic place in the public imagination, quite content to bolster his fictional power, quite content to aggrandize what is in reality a quite pathetic figure. It seems to me that the only thing at which we should be outraged is that Channel 4, ordinarily at the media's cutting edge, chose to support this hackneyed view instead of presenting us with a message of genuine importance.



Michael Payne
LUSU President

This isn't rabble rousing, the rabble roused themselves

It is entirely understandable that some groups of students have suggested LUSU has been little more than a lame duck on the college bars. This is not entirely the case, but I understand the frustration, because I share it.

We have now seven months worth of negotiations and talks with University officers, which have bore little if any fruit. It is not surprising that students are now demanding more direct action. They are calling for a campaign, and they are right to do so, for the time for talk is over. After all, this is a Union that should listen to its members and not pander to the diktat of top-down managers. This Union's policy and campaigns should be driven by the tenacity of its students, not by the desire of University Management to live in a world where no-one complains, protests or disagrees on issues of contention.

At fear of sounding like a broken record, students do appreciate the recent investment in college facilities and the improvement in consultation with student representatives over the

designs of social spaces, a marked improvement on previous efforts by the University to engage students in these processes.

However, a few meetings regarding colours of walls, types of furniture and style of decoration for college spaces will not appease a student population who are witnessing the centralisation, re-design and of college facilities they care about so much by rooms of people all over the age of forty.

Despite the months of negotiation and niceties, I am at loss to see much progress; there is still reason to the repeated complaints from students about bar prices, the lack of freedom to organise and publicise socials, and the willingness of the University to allow external functions in college spaces. So, the calls for action from the grassroots of the student body must be met by corresponding action by the Students Union.

Activism on this issue from the student body should not just be viewed by the University as typical rabble rousing, nor as students beating drums, making noise, as they are often seen as too ea-

ger to do. This is the result of students reaching the end of their tether with the lack of response to negotiations and mature discussion by the Students Union with the University.

The terms of debate about the future of the colleges should be set by the people who live, eat, sleep and socialise in them; suggestions from our student population should be listened to and facilitated by the University. Whilst popularity may not be at the top of the priority list for most University Managers, they would do well to listen to as well as hear the calls of students about a system they know so well.

At New Officer Training last week, over 140 student officers – ambassadors of the student population – called for an active, unified campaigning effort on the future of the colleges, particularly the bars. In light of this, it would be remiss of me to behave as the University's fireman; hosing down the students to dampen the appetite for action. LUSU should be moving to protect, support and champion the merits of the college system.

Time and time again I have warned

that the future of the colleges and particularly the restructuring of the college bars are very hot potatoes for students, and time and time again my concerns and warnings have been ignored by management. The view of certain University officers, who claim they ‘don't do politics’ and that they are merely concerned with business and figures, has left a glaring void between the students' vision and the one which is implemented by the University.

The truth is that without the vital ingredients of student opinion, strategic direction (led by those most sympathetic to, and involved in, the system) and realistic compromise from the University, the college system at Lancaster will have lost its entire *raison d'être*.

Having explored all other channels within the University, the students, led by the JCRS, Lancaster University Labour Club, and various other groups, have now made it clear they are only one path left toward securing a student focussed future for the colleges. I for one will stand by them every step of the way.

After seven months of fruitless negotiation, students are at the end of their tether

COMMENT



Alex Harris

The worst political crime of the 20th Century? Spare me

The Watergate scandal was small fry compared to other crimes orchestrated from the Oval Office

Mark Felt, better known as 'Deep Throat' and remembered as the informant in the 1970s 'Watergate' scandal, passed away on December 18, 2008. For many people it brought back memories of what were, in a lot of the public's mind, the worst years in US politics in the 20th century. After all, the Nixon Administration committed great crimes that even Nixon himself admitted 'let down our system of government'. While Watergate was undoubtedly a real crime (breaking and entering, conspiracy to burglar, obstruction of justice, etc.) - it pales in comparison to the crimes of not just Nixon's administration, but other presidencies before and since.

Consider this, most people have heard of Watergate, but how many people have even heard of something like COINTELPRO, an FBI operation that officially operated under every administration from Roosevelt right up until Nixon? Its basic idea was to infiltrate, disrupt and sabotage legitimate political movements that were deemed 'dissident'. This term was stretched so far as to include women's rights movements, the NAACP, virtually every single anti-Vietnam war campaign and even Martin Luther King Jr's non-violent civil rights organisations (President John F. Kennedy's late brother, Robert; the then-attorney general, bugged King's meetings with microphones). In other words, virtually every single 'New Left' organisation was in the firing line, its operations

ranging right up to the remit of political assassination.

Another example would be Operation Menu - the illegal carpet bombings of Cambodia conducted by the Nixon Administration. As indiscriminate death reigned down from the skies of Cambodia, between 100,000 and 600,000 civilians died, the country became a wasteland soon to be taken over by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge. The purpose of the bombings? To signal to the Vietnamese that Nixon was a 'tough guy'.

It doesn't take long for anyone to find countless instances similar to this. The outgoing Bush Administration has committed crimes under the banner of 'counter-terrorism' that were effectively the same sort of criminal activities which went on during Nixon's era, as well as torture, secret prisons, extradition and an erosion of justice and civil liberties that would make any dictator weep with pride. Yet where is the political exposure, the journalists bringing down an entire presidency? The best we can hope for nowadays is a slightly angry op-ed in a few newspaper columns, met with scoffing and derision at any notion of the Bush/Cheney thugs being brought to justice.

With Watergate there is a real blurring of perception and reality. Nixon and his administration had committed crimes, but the worst was surely not Watergate. After political assassinations, subversion of democracy and illegal carpet bombings, the worst political crime of the 20th century is a break-in to the offices of the Demo-

cratic National Committee for reasons that nobody is really sure of? It's hard to believe that with a straight face.

So why the discrepancy? There is usually a method to this sort of madness, and one can be found if you consider the victims in each of the aforementioned crimes. In all of them, it's people with no real political power of which to speak. Left-wing radicals, civil rights activists, third world inhabitants, prisoners of war. The notion of these people ever being able to achieve any real justice is unlikely. Yet in Watergate the victim was the Democratic Party - which itself represents around half of the

political power in the United States.

Angering that much power of that magnitude is sure to provoke a response.

The real lesson of Watergate is this: that powerful people like Bobby Kennedy, are free to engage in as many brutal and illegal acts as they want, and simultaneously be praised for their brilliance as long as they have a good smile and don't annoy the wrong people, while uncharismatic figures like Nixon who disrupt organisations with political clout can expect to be brought down with all the might and fury of the western world. Maybe there is some brilliant reason for the double standard, but if there is I've yet to hear about it.



Pete Wharton

LUSU LGBT Officer

Mankind has plenty of other ways to destroy itself aside from gender theory

New Holy Father, old homophobia

Following the passing of Proposition 8 in California on 5th November (which defined marriage exclusively as a union between a man and a woman), it seems that the world has taken the biggest step back for LGBT rights since before 1967, when homosexuality was still not legalised in the UK. In a world where the main message is for inclusive rights for everyone, no matter of race, creed or sexuality, it seems that LGBT rights are falling by the wayside. Of course, in the UK, LGBT people are extremely lucky - the last 30 years has seen slow but sure advances in LGBT rights, meeting practically every demand except same sex marriage. LGBT people in other countries around the world do not have these rights.

This is surely not a situation that will be helped by the Pope's latest offering on the subject. Saving humanity from homosexuality, and gender theory, is as important as saving the rainforests, apparently. These were the sentiments proclaimed by the Pope Benedict XVI at his end of year speech.

Gender theory is the study of sexu-

ality and gender, and the socio-political views of both. As in, answering such dangerous questions as what roles people of different genders are assigned within society, and what people think about their own sexuality and gender and what it means to them. The Pope's claims that such theories are leading to a 'blurring' of the lines between genders can be interpreted as much as sexist as it can be homophobic. and in terms of gender theory causing the 'self-destruction' of man, it would, most likely, be one of the last things that the majority of people think of when considering how mankind could be its own downfall.

Having said this, most Christians believe that the bible states that homosexuality is a sin, but then again, the bible also says that everyone should be treated equally and that, when the time comes, everyone will be judged before God. From this perspective, surely it is God's duty to judge the people, not for the people to judge themselves and others. If the Pope truly believes that God is almighty, omnipotent and all loving, then it is not the Pope's deci-

sion to make decide who goes to hell and who doesn't go to hell, that decision is for God to make. In addition to his, surely the individual is accountable for their own actions solely before God, and therefore, not before the Pope.

LGBT communities worldwide do not need important public figureheads speaking out against gay rights when it is still illegal to be homosexual in more than 80 countries. In Iran homosexuality is punishable by the death penalty. In Sierra Leone being an open and 'out' homosexual will leave you ostracized from your community and more often than not, beaten and raped by your family members and neighbours. Now that one of the most influential people in the world has sent such a strong message about homosexuality and gender theory, followers of this doctrinal homophobia may see this as an acceptable reason to discriminate against LGBT people further.

The Pope is a well-respected leader of people, so it saddens me that he is so quick to damn LGBT peoples for traits which are purely biological, not matters of choice.

But you don't really care for music, do you?

Sony BMG are the only ones with reason to cry Hallelujah, writes Carys Hepworth

A Facebook group threatened X Factor's annual Christmas Number One this year by urging fans to buy or download Jeff Buckley's classic 1994 version of Hallelujah. Buckley fans sought to stop this year's X Factor winner Alexandra Burke from reaching Number One with her hastily rushed out version. Despite the world domination of Facebook, Alexandra took the crown with 576,000 copies sold. Buckley's version stormed up the download chart, selling 81,000 copies and finishing at Number Two. This is the first time in almost 52 years that the same song has held both top spots in the weekly charts (pub quiz freaks might like to know that the last time was Tommy Steele and Guy Mitchell's Singing The Blues in 1957).

Granted, it was an outrage that the lovely, yet rather depressing, Hallelujah was murdered by each and every one of the X Factor finalists, but for the masses to rush out buying Buckley's version of the legendary tune seems excessive. Especially when one considers that Sony BMG owns the rights to the song and so the only achievement is to feed the record bosses' grossly obese wallets and the estate of the deceased Buckley. And why is Leonard Cohen missing out on all the action? Despite being a huge Buckley fan myself, even I can admit that all he did was regurgitate Cohen's brilliant lyrics. Why not go all the way and get Cohen's original version to Number Three?

According to the Buckley Facebook group, no attack on Alexandra Burke or on cover versions was intended, but simply to raise awareness that a great version of the song already exists. A valid point, but, who really cares? Great original versions of cover songs exist; otherwise nobody would bother covering them. The example that springs to mind is Kate Bush's Hounds of Love, which was mercilessly destroyed by The Futureheads. On hearing the Futureheads' version, I remember feeling agitated that a bad version of a great song was being celebrated, but a few rants and a couple of quid in the local pub jukebox satisfied my discontent. Never did I feel the need to stamp my foot in a Facebook protest to get Kate's song to Number One.

Rather than focusing energies on pushing Alexandra off the Number One spot, shouldn't we be protesting at her winning in the first place? Admittedly I would see anyone take the X Factor crown, the Fast Food Rockers or the Teletubbies included, rather than wimpy Eoghann Quigg - but Alexandra is scarily unoriginal. The girl can sing, but remains a less talented clone of Leona Lewis, whereas runners-up boyband JLS seemed to have something more about them.

Both versions of Hallelujah have their own merits, with Alexandra's beautiful voice adding to the haunting melody and Buckley's version remaining simply irreplaceable, but anyone losing sleep over it really needs to get out more.



Don't call us careerists

JCRs are still relevant and crucial in 2009, writes **Robbie Pickles**

Every year, students at Lancaster are known to pour criticism onto the JCR Execs in their colleges; whether for arrogantly abusing their positions, failing to take their job seriously or for just being a pointless institution that no-one is that interested in anyway. To these people, I say that they are failing to take into account the positive effects of these teams and how things might be different without them.

After a cautious start to the year, Cartmel has achieved a number of successes which has shown the advantages to a team who are prepared to give a lot of their time to benefit the students who elect them. This has been shown in our Carter Shield success, rising up the table from the previous season, partly due to the dedication of our Sports Reps who have put in the effort to encourage people to come out and play- no mean feat at 11.30 on a Sunday morning. And at this year's Extrav, we might not have sold all the tickets, but no-one who made the effort to come down to Cartmel that night regretted it. This sort of night takes a huge amount of organisation, and it is only through the efforts of the Execs that such a night, is possible on campus, and no one can deny the positive effects they have.

Our year was capped off with a hugely enjoyable and well organised Fresher's Week, with our large intake settling in very well and complemented by a number of smoothly run socials. It is important for those who criticise the Exec to remember that the University provides no entertainment during this week and all the activities which take place are organised by LUSU, with the Execs playing a leading role in these activities.

Our Exec must have made a good impression to Cartmel's new intake – over 40 people applied to run for this year's team and we had a campus best vote turnout. People really do care what their Exec does and wants to play a part in that process themselves.

I think that if an Exec is to avoid criticism, it is important that they remain as transparent in their dealings as possible, keeping the students who elected them informed about what they are doing and giving them input into the nature of the socials which are organised- especially Extrav. Last year we held a vote to determine the theme for Extrav and I think this definitely helped lead to its success. Experience shows us that student participation usually does lead to better student satisfaction, and an Exec needs to remember this if it wants to stop disinterest and general apathy.

Overall, I would say that the benefits of the JCR Execs far outweigh the views of those who would label officers as arrogant or CV-hunting. Although it is inevitable that anyone prepared to take a public position is going to have to be self-confident, this is not reflected in their selfless and tireless pursuit of what is best for their college, and I think that Lancaster would not be the University it is without them.

Prostitutes need protecting from the clients they attract

The law should not banish prostitutes to the underground, it's the traffickers who are criminal



Liam Richardon
Comment Editor

The 1st of October 2000 heralded a new era of sexual liberalism in Holland with the licensing of brothels. This move, coupled with an earlier law passed in 1988, legalising prostitution meant that Holland, in the 21st Century, was now at the epicentre of sex tourism. The stigma attached to the world's oldest profession was also lessened, as prostitutes were removed from the fringes of Dutch society, becoming unionised tax paying citizens, the same as any other self-employed person. In fact, in a poll conducted less than a decade ago, 78% of Dutch people considered prostitution an occupation like any other. The Dutch model views prostitution as victimless.

However, Dutch attitudes are hardening. The mayor of Amsterdam, Job Cohen has ordered the closure of some red-light district brothels. There is a genuine fear that people traffickers importing illegal immigrants into the country to feed the sex trade are becoming more violent and aggressive. It appears that no matter how much work is done to normalise the commodification of sex; it will always orbit in a criminal fraternity.

It is difficult to imagine British attitudes veering so far to the left of the political spectrum in considering this thorny matter. Before Christmas, the Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith declared that a tough new stance would be adopted in the fight against prostitution and its associated crimes of human trafficking and pimping. This new approach is the latest in a long line of indecisiveness in how to deal with prostitution as police forces either preach zero tolerance or turn a blind eye. There has even been speculation of adopting a Swedish system whereby the selling of sex is legal, but the buying is not. The ECP (English Collective of Prostitutes) maintains that this will increase the risk of harm and threat of violence towards their number by criminalising their clientele. A grey area of toleration but inaction therefore has continued to exist.

This minefield of inertia and contradictory stances has merely exacerbated the problem. It doesn't matter whether prostitutes or clients are targeted by police; the core issues of vulnerability and risk will remain. Prostitutes are more likely to be victims of crime than anyone else. The most mythologized serial killer of all time, Jack the Ripper, preyed upon the street workers of Whitechapel in 1888, killing at least five people and probably many more. Fast-forward to 2006 and Steve Wright gained notoriety by murdering five prostitutes in and around Ipswich. Prostitutes live on the margins of society, slipping through welfare support networks and remaining absent from any official record of their trade. They are at great risk of disease such as AIDS, and are subject in many cases to violence and imprisonment at the hands of the pimps and human traffickers who exploit them for financial gain. Thousands of people in this country are vulnerable, but successive governments continue to victimise them, and portray them as criminals, instead of offering support, assistance or an escape from their perilous profession.

Despite the most recent problems in Holland, their handling of the issue has been exemplary. If prostitution was legalised in Britain then the thousands of sex workers in the country could be re-integrated into society and the whole industry subject to the type of regulation common in any other employment sector. Prospective brothels would have

to apply for licenses and become viable business enterprises. Better health care facilities could be put in place, and routine check-ups made available to avoid the current situation where sexual disease is rife.

Critics will argue that prostitution is immoral and can never be normalised, but they forget that it will carry on regardless of public opinion. It will also continue to become more dangerous and violent; as more cities become host to illegal brothels, which in turn, attract other criminals from the lawless fringes of our society. Legalisation will hopefully stem the flow of this market, as prospective clients will surely go to licensed venues that are government regulated. Acceptance would gradually follow as it has done in the Netherlands while society would become accustomed to the new laws.

This sequence of events is a mere pipe dream however, as no government would dare attempt to get such a controversial law passed in Parliament; especially in the current state of political flux. Such a measure would, to my mind, be a progressive and intuitive step towards potentially resolving an age old problem.

COMMENT

Swap Hamas for al-Qaida, and we would do the same

Paul Gauteng

As I write this, Israel has unleashed its armed forces upon the Gaza Strip, and the prospect of a ground invasion looms. The death toll presently stands at 374 Palestinians and 4 Israelis. Israel's utilisation of its military has been described by much of the media as excessive, and has been condemned by the vast majority of the Western world. Only the USA seems to have total support for Israel in its aims and means. I am sure that unless the violence stops, the people of Britain will begin to sign petitions and complain about a situation for which we can do nothing; our options are simply to condemn or support the Israeli cause.

The vast majority of my fellow students - or at least the ones with which I converse - are anti-Israel, believing that Israel should be another nation: Palestine. They argue that those who run and maintain the only nation within the Middle East which does not have an Islamic majority have occupied the land illegally; that it was stolen from the Palestinians. Israel is the only nation wherein one can worship without the level of persecution that can be found in other Middle Eastern nations, such as Iran. I ask those who oppose Israel this question: would those who adhere to the Jewish faith be allowed to practice within Palestine under Hamas? Would Jerusalem, (a city which is home to not just one, but all three of the major monotheist religions; a city where all religions, no matter how much they disagree, can be practised

in peace; a peace that is seen so rarely within multicultural societies) even have a Christian - never mind Jewish - population under Palestine?

Israel has stated that it has only one goal in the Gaza Strip: to stop those who would harm the citizens of Israel, regardless of the religion that those Israeli citizens may hold. Hamas, the group openly responsible for these attacks, will never stop fighting, and are willing to drag the citizens of Gaza down with them. Hamas place their own facilities near those people they are purportedly fighting for; but instead, they put their fellow countrymen directly into the firing-line. Hamas has armed itself within crowded sections of the city. From the actions Hamas have taken, they seem to have set out to provoke Israel into an attack, if only to increase the martyr line for their Recruiting Stations. Sufferers convert their grief into anger and hatred, and aim their passions against Israeli citizens in acts of vengeance. Acts which have begun to intrude into our own society, perpetuating violence within the Middle East.

If we, in Britain, were in the same situation, would we negotiate with Hamas, as many on the left-wing of the political spectrum are advocating, and attempt to end the violence on both sides? And then what? Are we so quick to forget that it was Hamas who broke the last ceasefire, and consequently began this new conflict? Terrorist organisations do not stop attacking their perceived enemy: they ignore ceasefires to prosecute their agendas.

Inevitably, Israel took Hamas' bait, and attacked. Hamas - shamefully, a UN-recognised terrorist group - expected a proportional response, and has been taken by surprise. Israel seems determined this time to purge



Hamas from Gaza, and put an end to the aggression that affects both Israelis and Gazans.

This use of force has been seen as excessive; yet what is Israel to do? Accept the UN calls for a ceasefire? Should Israel allow these attacks to continue jeopardising its citizens? Israel is the victim of bullying here; and the bullies have not only guns and missiles, but children strapped to bombs.

The only language the terrorist bullies who are Hamas understand is

force: brutal, barbaric force. They dish it out to Israel, but run crying to Western sympathisers when they receive it back in equal measure. They cannot be negotiated with, as the Israelis have learnt to their cost.

Israel should not be scorned for its actions; it is defending itself. We would do no less. Israel has the right to protect its citizens from the actions of terrorists; just as we, and any other nation, would do. Hamas is Israel's version of al-Qaida.

How to be a US president

by Liam Richardson
Comment Editor

BARACK OBAMA'S PREPARATION for his January 20 inauguration last week involved a dinner with all the living former US Presidents. This was the first time such a meeting had occurred since 1981, when Ronald Reagan took over the White House. The usefulness of the meeting is questionable. Obama himself believed he would 'learn about the pressures and possibilities of office'; or rather: learn how not to mess up. Here's a few pieces of advice that Bush and co. may have imparted on the president-elect...

1. Don't Mess With Iran: Jimmy Carter lost the 1980 election after fumbling his response to armed Iranian revolutionaries taking over the American embassy. Obama wants to improve diplomatic relations with Iran; but has to tread carefully. He may be a friendlier face than Bush Jr but the Middle East countries will continue to be wary and distrustful of the US regardless of who occupies the Oval Office.

2. Don't make promises you can't keep: Whilst campaigning for the presidency in 1988, George Bush said "read my lips, no new taxes." This sound bite became particularly memorable when Bush proceeded to raise taxes to tackle the budget deficit. Obama would do well to remember that with his popularity rating at an unprecedented level of over 80% he has a long way to fall if he fails to deliver a rapid exit from Iraq and universal health insurance as he promised during the campaign.

3. Don't get caught with your pants down: Clinton's presidency will forever be remembered for his affair with Monica Lewinsky and his botched attempts to cover it up. In January 1998 Clinton denied he had "sexual relations with that woman." By August, Lewinsky had testified, and Clinton was impeached and tried by the US Senate for perjury (lying under oath) and obstruction of justice. Although found not guilty, Clinton had to deal with the wrath of his wife, Hilary. Obama has become a role model and icon overnight. As the first elected black president he has a unique responsibility and does not want to provide the bullets for his opponents to shoot him down by doing anything inappropriate.

4. Think before you speak: George W. Bush has provided fabulous entertainment value over the last eight years but he was elected as a President, not a slapstick comedian. The gurning, walking into doors, choking on pretzels and blathering incoherently in any number of major speeches is not behaviour befitting the 'leader of the free world'. Obama currently commands respect and does not want to leave the White House years down the line like his predecessor—with the lowest approval rating of any President ever and a scrapbook of gaffes that will be remembered above all else. Apart from Iraq, of course.



Charlotte Parker

Under Labour we have become a society obsessed with consumerism and spending

Where is your morality, Mr Brown?

The Christmas period saw the age old differences between the Church and the state flare up once more as five Anglican bishops criticised the Labour party; questioning the morality of some of the government's policies. The criticism was specifically aimed at the way in which Labour are dealing with the economic crisis, as well as their social policies regarding the family unit.

The five Bishops were unhappy with the way in which the prime minister, Gordon Brown, has been urging the public to continue spending despite the troubled financial times, in order to boost the economy. There was also the suggestion that rather than protecting society in the long term, Mr Brown's policies regarding the economy have been designed purely to gain votes in the next general election. By allowing such a debt to build up over Labour's reign of government, and by doing little to help the future of society now - the Bishops argued that Labour are failing to help mend Britain's broken society.

Although the branding of the Labour party as morally corrupt may be slightly harsh, there is no doubt that the views of the Anglican Church carry some truth. The majority of society does not fully understand the compli-

cations of the economy; if the Prime Minister advises society to carry on spending, then that is what it will do. However, although this may give the economy a temporary boost, to advise people that are already deep in debt does not bode well. We live in a consumer society, for some people shopping is almost an addiction, and with rising rates of unemployment, 'keep on spending' is not sound advice for the individual members of society, and will not in the long term improve Britain's debt problems.

Another point of criticism of the Labour party was the breakdown of the family unit that has occurred whilst Labour have been in power. This was backed up by a recent study by Civitas that found that on average, married couples are 20% worse off than families whose parents do not marry due to the tax system. This seems to clash with Mr Brown's promotion of family values. With the economic climate as it is, people are not going to be encouraged to marry if they know they will lose out on certain benefits because of it. This will lead to further break down of the family unit, which may not be 'immoral' but will no doubt have a negative impact on society.

The criticism by the Church is not

merely concerning the way in which Labour are dealing with the economic crisis. Their criticisms are based on the state of society under the Labour rule. We have become a society obsessed with consumerism and spending, addicted to buying the latest technology, faster cars etc. The availability of credit cards has led to the rise of instant gratification, if we see something we buy it—no matter how much debt we are already in—creating the image that we can all have what we want when we want it. To encourage such a society to keep on spending; shows no concern to the actual people of Britain. The economic crisis is not going to go away just because the people of Britain carry on spending, to instruct people to do so gives them an excuse to land themselves in even more debt, and whilst this may not be immoral, it is certainly not good advice from a figure we should be able to trust. The 'credit crunch' should instead be used as a time for society to realise the values of hard work, that we cannot just expect everything to be handed to us on a plate. Mr Brown should care more about the members of his country than winning the next election, he has epitomised the greed that has taken over society in the past few years.

Letters to the Editor



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

LUMS CV backlash

Given the current economic climate where businesses have begun closing applications for schemes earlier than usual, I would have thought that any student lucky enough to be enlisted with the management school, rated as one of the top four in the country, would be grateful for all the help and advice they can get?

With regards the use of Mr David Simm as a referee, a referee from the University is commonly expected on an applicant's C.V as proof they are indeed enrolled. Secondly, the listing of Mr David Simm on any student's C.V should be treated with nothing but appreciation, given his academic standing and the knowledge, of what employers want to see. Having just returned from an excellent year in industry myself, and hearing only good things from those on my course, clearly any "radical" alterations that were made to my C.V did nothing but increase my chances of initially obtaining a placement, before then being able to enjoy it.

Rick Bithell

I have never heard such crap in all my life. David Simm and Anne Welsby do everything in their power to help us find placements. Nobody ever said we must use David Simm as our reference and the accusation that Anne purposefully altered our CVs is utter lies.

We had to alter them on her PC so that there was only ONE CV. Imagine the nightmare when everyone has various edits and versions of the same person's CV.

I am disgusted at this article and I am also annoyed somewhat at the biased side SCAN has taken. LUMS is almost the backbone of the uni, you could do a lot worse than be on the BBA I can tell you.

The stupid bloody students who have come to you should realise they have only hurt their relationship with LUMS. Why on earth did they not just go straight to Anne Welsby and tell her or talk to her? Instead they chose to splash it around in a 2 bit paper written by so called 'writers' who need to learn to proofread.

A totally disgusted 2nd Year BBA student and LUMS Ambassador

For those who don't know college bars are being taken out of college hands. Last year Labour Club were the first to fight back. We staged a series of hugely successful 'drink-ins' that highlighted the issue and allegedly left University boss-man Paul Wellings 'shaken'.

Recently, however, three of the bars were taken over by University Management, whilst the others had a new pricing structure forced on them. As a result drinks are now more expensive, student staff are under threat and in the long run the very existence of our bars is still in danger.

Therefore, Labour Club is resurrecting our campaign to save our college bars. If you want to get involved join our Facebook group and keep an

eye out for events this term. It's time to start fighting back!

Fraser Welsh
Labour Club Publicity Officer

Paul Mill showed a lot in common with another Mill when he quoted Voltaire in his piece on the BNP right to free speech (SCAN, 9/12/2008, p11). This should serve as a caution to all those who seek to censor Nick Griffin and co, particularly in the coming Europe elections. By seeking to preserve one of kind of liberty you may end up instilling a new form of tyranny.

LUSU Officer-elect Kate Fry believes that students need to know about about thirty nine known BNP members in Lancaster and More-

Editor's response

While occasionally, SCAN has made mistakes - inevitable, with the amount of content in every issue - we are not reckless enough to get an entire story completely wrong, as you allege. We had a number of sources for the LUMS CV story, and we have more now. To begin with, it was mainly just stories of references changing and certain details disappearing - that could reasonably be attributed to blunder rather than design, however we now have a number of sources that have provided us with evidence that LUMS knowingly altered CVs.

Those that argue that changing the CVs is helpful - perhaps so - but what would undoubtedly be more helpful would be to advise any student in need of it, in order to let them make their own CV better. Students should not be mollycoddled, and staff can stand up for themselves. So far, a denial from the staff directly involved has not been forthcoming.

Dan Hogan
Editor, SCAN

day, so that I would be able to hand it in and go home for Christmas. I was trying to print an A2 poster at the ISS service desk.

However, due to the Sugarhouse printing 40 posters off I had to wait until those had been printed. These posters were from previous weeks from the term. Eventually it did get printed at 3.30pm, however due to fault with the plotter, I had to send it again. Even though this was the fault of an ISS service desk member I would have to wait an hour for a reprint.

It is horrific that in week 10 of term, old and out of date Sugarhouse posters are being printed that takes priority away from academic works. I am appalled that my union has such a blatant disregard for education issues.

Thanks to the Sugarhouse I had to wait an extra day to go home.

Dan Harrow

In response to our Barman's view on tap water, do you know that in Scotland it is illegal to refuse to serve tap water to customers, paying or not. Although we are not in Scotland, the same rules should apply. The comment about 'Chompers' being Scottish was wrong. However, we shouldn't have to pay to sit in our own JCR. Not everyone wants to drink exorbitantly priced fruit juice, or sugary juice or alcohol. Not everyone believes they should pay over the odds for bottled water, and are happy with tap water. Not to mention that toilet taps are not the most sanitary of places to fill up a drink. As for supplying a plastic cup, which costs, why not serve in a pint GLASS which you can wash. Whatever happened to 'Doing your bit for the environment'. Finally, it seems more a case of being lazy, it's not often that Bowland bar is busy, and when it is, so what?

Do your job and serve people what they ask for.

A different, yet still thirsty Bowlander

Correction

In an article in our November 25 issue, (Uni forced to reveal its £72,000 share in global arms trade), we said "it would appear the University has also been frantically selling off its shares portfolio, likely motivated by the current lack of confidence in the economy."

It has since come to our attention that the £4.7m figure upon which that speculation was based was not the University's total shares, contrary to what we were told by the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, but its total endowments. SCAN therefore retracts the final paragraph of the story in question, and apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Further to the recent article in SCAN re the University's shareholdings in certain companies, we wish to point out a gross inaccuracy reported in your final paragraph in which you report that the University has been frantically selling off its shares portfolio, likely motivated by the current lack of confidence in the economy. This is completely untrue; the University has never had a share portfolio of £4.7m. The £4.7m quoted in your report was actually the gross figure of Endowments granted to the University as at July 2007 and was made up as follows; Equities (£1.2m), UK gilts and other fixed interest stock (£0.2m) and Endowment cash balances (£3.3m).

The updated Endowment figures to July 2008 show a total of £4.9m comprising Equities (£1m), UK gilts (£0.2m) and Endowment cash balances (£3.7m). The reduction in the value of equities of £0.2m is entirely due to stock market performance and is not a result of the University selling any shares.

Peter Fielding
Head of Financial Accounting

ONE PLOUGH POUND £1 off any Main Course Menu Item. Does not include starters, desserts or lighter bites

£1

The Plough COUNTRY PUB & DINING ROOM

£1

ONE PLOUGH POUND

The Plough COUNTRY PUB & DINING ROOM

Main Rd, Galgate, Just off Jct 33 M6
Tel: 01524 751337 www.the-plough.co.uk

MORE THAN 200 3-6 BED PROPERTIES



**OUR INCLUSIVE
RENTS ARE AT
LEAST £500 p/a LESS
THAN MOST OTHER
LANDLORDS***

AVERAGE RENT: £69.50

INCLUDES UTILITIES, PHONE & BROADBAND

NO DEPOSIT OR RETAINER

STUDENT FRIENDLY LOCATIONS



For more info contact 01524 592170
or visit www.lusu.co.uk/housing

Going underground

The clash of Lancaster's student press

‘Underground’ news sheets are reappearing around campus. Is this a result of recent controversies around campus, asks **Sam Newsham**

RECENT EVENTS SUCH as the takeover of college bars by University central management and the much-discussed LUSU Sabbatical Review have created an environment where students are becoming increasingly vocal in voicing their opinions, prompting a resurgence of independent ‘underground’ publications.

The concluding weeks of Micheal-mas term have seen the emergence of two separate underground newspapers: UMAG and Spineless. Both have been widely distributed across campus, grabbing the attention of the student population. These publications claim to be completely independent of both the University and LUSU, therefore offering an opportunity for students to explicitly criticise actions they disagree with.

The first publication, UMAG (Uncovering Mishaps and Gaffes), attacks the University's Central Management, paying particular attention to David Peeks, Director of Commercial Services, who recently threatened SCAN with legal action after it was reported that the college bars, for which he is responsible, were drastically losing money.

The writers of UMAG list numerous complaints against Mr. Peeks: the rise in drinks prices since he took control, the way the bars had become “homogenized” now they are no longer run by

individual college, and the prioritising of University-set profit levels above the wishes of students.

Their main issue, however, is Mr Peeks' attack on SCAN. The newspaper was forced to publish a retraction in its 9th December issue after Mr. Peeks threatened the publication with legal actions. But UMAG has printed figures backing up SCAN's initial claims. It calls for the University to do something about Mr Peeks' actions and for LUSU to reassess their dealings with him.

The second underground newspaper is Spineless, which emerged as a reaction to last term's LUSU Sabbatical Review. In it a variety of contributors give their opinions on the organisation of the review, some of its more controversial proposals, and SCAN's supposed editorial bias.

Spineless, which describes itself as ‘a way for students to communicate ideas and events free from censorship, bias or control,’ claims that SCAN's editorial team selectively publish reports that support their own views and suppress those with which they disagree. This, in one writer's view, has led to a student newspaper which does not reflect the views and opinions of the whole student body.

Another article criticises the way the review was organised and the level of student consultation. It suggests that



Sign of the times?
A copy of UMAG, found in a college bar.

students did not care about the review because they didn't know enough about it, or LUSU itself for that matter.

The decision to hold the General Meeting regarding the review on the same night as Pendle College's Christmas ball, and in a lecture theatre whose capacity of 350 was less than 2% of the student population, also came under attack.

LUSU President Michael Payne states that he supports the rise of the underground newspapers, saying that they encourage ‘independent thinking’ and give students a medium in which they were ‘free to say what they want’.

Lancaster has traditionally had a strong history of underground student newspapers. Within weeks of the University's first term starting in the au-

turn on 1964 ‘Carolynne’— named after the girlfriend of the boy who began it — and the ‘John O’Gauntlet’ went into publication. SCAN, produced by what was then the Student Representative Council, was not created until January 1969. The current Spineless is a reincarnation of a publication from two years ago, though is no longer in the hands of the original creators.

Welcome to the flock

Connected:
Most people are never out of reach of a means of communicating across distances.



Instead of making communication easier technology is becoming a barrier, writes **Edwin Burrows**

ISN'T TECHNOLOGY MARVELOUS? I've just been introduced to a web browser known as Flock. It's called Flock as it has been designed specifically to optimize online socialization. Its Media Bar allows you to search the likes of YouTube and Flickr, putting the increasingly familiar Google toolbar to shame. But it's the sidebar which is likely to gain even more interest; it is capable of integrating with email services such as Gmail, Yahoo and AOL, your blog editor to let you update your blog from any web page or any number of social network profiles you may have. With Facebook the sidebar allows you to immediately upload photos, links and change status on your profile, keep track of new messages and notifications, and lets you track whenever your friends updates their status, profile or media; all whilst surfing other websites. This browser elevates the pastime of ‘Facebook stalking’ to Facebook spying.

Text messaging, email, instant messaging, web cams and smart phones are

amongst a growing list of technologically aided socialization, but are they as beneficial as they seem? Researchers are now beginning to ask whether our daily exposure to digital communication can alter how our brains work. Dr Gary Small, a psychiatrist at the University of California, Los Angeles, suggests that as the brain spends more time on technology-related tasks and less time exposed to other people, it drifts away from fundamental social skills like reading facial expressions during conversation. If under-used, the brain circuits involved in face-to-face contact can get weaker; potentially leading to social awkwardness, an inability to interpret nonverbal messages, and isolation. According to Dr Small, the effect of responding “more to emoticons than real people” is strongest amongst teens and people in their twenties who've been digitally hardwired since toddlerhood. Problems with face-to-face socializing experienced by this age group is compounded by the increasing binge drinking culture that has become ingrained in face-to-face socialization.

With the rise of technologically-aided socialization it appears people are getting lonelier. Britain now has more people living alone than ever before with the total exceeding 7 million people (that's around 30% of households).

Research from Scottish and Australian universities have found one in three adults report being lonely and that the levels start to rise from the age of 20 until peaking between the age of 40-49, although the Sunday Times Education supplement has reported that loneliness is higher amongst university students; a group perhaps more likely to rely on technology as a means of socialization than the general population. It is estimated that by 2031, one in five women between 45 and 50 (women between the ages of 23-28 now) will never have married and will have no partner, knowing only short-term, informal relationships.

In the end, it doesn't really matter how many friends you have added on your profile, it's about how well you know them. If not very well then go talk with them find out a bit more about your friends but if I catch you doing by instant messenger however I'll send you a Facebook slap. The Facebook/socialization conundrum seems almost prophetically summarized by Sir Frances Bacon when he said, “Little do men perceive what solitude is, and how far it extendeth. For a crowd is not company, and faces are but a gallery of pictures, and talk but a tinkling cymbal, where there is no love.”

Michael & Rachel



A Scouse Woman with a fun lovin' attitude and a Hartlepudlian young man with a can-do spirit explore the thoughts, feelings and romantical dealings of Lancaster University

Dear Michael & Rachel

My friends next door have sex very loudly and often. It is driving me to distraction, what should I do?
X

RACHEL: Firstly I would just like to say good for them! It is a well known fact that a healthy sex life is the key to success. As for you, I feel the best option would be to confront them and make them aware of the issue; it is more than likely that they will be extremely embarrassed and endeavor to be slightly less noisy during future bedroom based antics. The only danger of course is that they may revel in the fact the other people are aware of their wonderful sex-life and do it with even more frequency (in both senses of the word!) If this were to be the case I suggest ear-plugs would be a wise investment. They are fairly inexpensive and available at most good pharmacies.

MICHAEL: The communal living arrangement at University makes anything like privacy very hard to achieve. Hearing a friend orgasm is a wonderful thing, nothing let's you get to the soul of a man quicker than hearing his elated gasps; After a while however the constant humping can start to become tedious (and there's only so many times you can pump helium underneath the door to liven it up), also there may come a point where the wall-to-wall humping starts to intrude on your studies; I recommend buying a paddle ball and play with it whilst making loud groans in synch with your horny friends. You'll find that they will wait until you aren't in before they do it again.

Dear Michael & Rachel

I am in a long term relationship but my boyfriend doesn't attend the same university as me; sadly he can only come up to visit every so often... I have no intention of breaking up with him but **sometimes the nights can be very lonely.** Have you got any advice to let absence make the heart grow fonder rather than weary?
X

RACHEL: Long distance relationships are incredibly difficult, if the relationship is worth it however, you can combat the distance and make it work; You have highlighted loneliness as the main issue so my suggestion is to keep busy! Fill the lonely nights with outings, spend time with your friends, maybe even start a new hobby. If it is physical contact rather than distraction that you crave, a handy tip is to buy a large teddy-bear and spray it with your boyfriend's

favorite after-shave... then you can snuggle up with it in bed and pretend it is him. This may sound a little strange but I assure you, it works a treat! Hope this helps, if the relationship is meant to be then...it will.

MICHAEL: Lancaster University is the home of the 'commuting relationship'. It seems that all of the most attractive people are tied up in committed and loving relationships... you sometimes

Dear Michael & Rachel

There is a girl in my seminar that makes my heart skip-a-beat whenever I see her. However she never contributes to discussions and slips away quietly at the end of each session... **how can I get to know her a little better?**
X

RACHEL: There are two phases to plans of entrapment. Phase one The first thing you need to do is find out a little bit more about her so that when the time comes to speak to her, you have plenty of 'things in common'. Do a small bit of Facebook stalking, find out who her friends are, what she enjoys and most importantly where she goes. Once you feel you have acquired sufficient information it is time for Phase two- Hopefully you will now know her venue of choice for nights out, all you need to do is be there too! Dress to impress and drag your mates along for moral support, once you spot her (before consuming too much alcohol) approach her casually with something like 'hey you're in my seminar' and let the conversation flow from there, remembering to drop as many 'coincidental' similar interests/hobbies as possible. This plan is fool proof; she will fall for you instantly! Just remember that girls love confidence and whatever you do... DO NOT let it slip that you have stalked her.

MICHAEL: Seminars pretty much act as an inversion of what a person's real world persona is... for example the people that are the most vocal and argumentative in seminars are usually studious loners whereas those that adopt a tactical silence are closet party animals who are only keeping quiet and motionless to disguise the massive hangover from the previous evening at the Carlton. As always 'Facebook-stalking' is the only reasonable course of action. Try to take a sneaky glance at the tutors register and attempt to put a name to the closest resembling face on the sheet (LUVLE photos for some reason seem to make everyone look like sex offenders). Track her down on the internet and if her profile picture is her with a wine bottle up her fanny or simply a picture of her camping with her family you will get a reasonable estimate of what she is like.

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.

wonder why people are quite so selfish. Lancaster University is ideally suited to this form of sexual solitude, its monastic placing on a hillside makes it the ideal place to discover your inner-nun and icily focus on your studies. Having said that there are many ways you can

stave off the loneliness, menopausal women seem to find solace in joining societies or taking up hobbies, why not befriend a menopausal woman? If all else fails, whilst doing your weekly laundry load, phone your partner sit on a tumble dryer and hope for the best.

Note: Sarah is absent in order 'to spend more time with her family'

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)

Positively caked

Blood, sweat, tears and semen. What else would you expect from a night out with **Michael Holt**

NIGHTCLUBS ARE SHIT. You may not think so now, reading SCAN simply as a distraction to stave off doing that seminar work you promised yourself that you would do. In your rose-tinted world, nightclubs gain a complacent nostalgia and you find yourself yearning to go back to that beautiful instance immortalised in your Facebook profile picture where all of your friends were there and everything was beautiful and seemed like it could last forever.

You conveniently forget that moments before that photo had been taken, everyone in it had been dancing half-heartedly in a circle with each other all scanning the surrounding area for anyone or anything to give themselves a pretext to wander off. But when that camera comes out, it's smiles all round, mouths agape and hugs by the barrelful. Then when the flash fades, everyone crowds round the camera to take a vain glance at the moment only just passed, then once the hubbub dies down everyone goes back to maintaining as little eye-contact as possible and doing a half-hearted shuffle masquerading as dancing.

Yes the anticipation is still strong, even in the queue to the club you have the slightest niggling sense of apprehension, but you're still determined to make your way inside; then when you've finally turfed over your money and crossed the threshold... you remember. You remember that the club only possesses the ability to play music that people stopped liking over a year ago. You remember the chilling sight of a gaggle of girls dressed up in synched pink cowgirl outfits. You remember grown men drinking VK. You remember the dense queue around the bar surrounded by people who have remembered what you have remembered. You can feel the awkwardness as people gently jostle for position at the bar, holding money out, desperate for something to lubricate the fear as the repetitive thud of Please Don't Stop The Music vibrates through your skull.

The ideal nightclub would have a policy whereby they can only play the beginning thirty seconds of any given song, as everyone is always happiest during the first thirty seconds of a new song, refreshing the dancing that had

gone stagnant and excitedly recognising and mouthing along to the intro. Just imagine the unceasing chain of ecstasy that would commence as people excitedly climaxed every 30 seconds as a new tune fades promptly in before the last has even got to the chorus. The floor would be positively caked in sweat, tears and semen.

If your evening wasn't going badly enough just through general irritation, nothing caps everything off like a good dose of guilt, a sensation provided most adeptly by the eager hand-drying and aftershave-spraying of the washroom attendant (it's as if slavery never went away) or more commonly by the selection of homeless that adorn the streets of Lancaster blurting out 'sparennychenjmater' at you when you least expect it. As if the amount of money you wasted on the night out didn't smart enough already, the sight of a dishevelled tramp always makes that sweet hum of self-loathing burn a little deeper in the throat.

As you wander home from your night out you wonder why it is that you put yourself through this every time. But you realise that sooner, rather than later, you'll be back. Your curiosity will get the better of you and you'll be back. You'll be there in that room full of people who feel precisely the same way you do, and just like them you'll be back same time next week.



Getting freaky with it: Michael administers some lovin'.

COYOTE UGLY

THURSDAY WEEK 1

8 30 PM

@ ELEVEN

Cafe • Bar • Lancaster

LIVE MUSIC

DRINKS DEALS

CORONA 22

DESPERADOS 22

TEQUILA 21.50

COCKTAILS 2 FOR 25 (SELECTED)

COBRA PITCHER 28

GIRLS DANCING ON THE BAR

FREE CORONA HATS

Cafe Bar Eleven 60-62 Church Street - 01524 33354 - www.bar-eleven.co.uk

THIRST

EVERY THURSDAY

LADIES
FREE ENTRY
ALL DRINKS £1.50

GENTS £3 ENTRY
ALL DRINKS £2.50*

*ON SELECTED DRINKS ONLY.
THE MANAGEMENT RESERVE THE RIGHT
TO WITHDRAW THIS OFFER AT ANY TIME.

coast
BAR • SNAC • CLUB • LOUNGE

RESIDENT DJ
MIXY
PULLING YOU FROM
ONE DIRECTION
TO THE NEXT!



JOIN US EVERY FRIDAY. FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.CUBALANCASTER.CO.UK



cuba
fridays

DRINKS FROM £1 ALL NIGHT
R&B IN THE SMALL ROOM FROM 9.30
PARTY ANTHEMS IN THE MAIN ROOM
FROM 10.30 TIL 3
FREE BUSES FROM THE UNDERPASS
ENTRY JUST £3

Spirited away

The Spirit

Director: Frank Miller

Starring: Gabriel Macht, Samuel L. Jackson, Eva Mendes, Scarlett Johansson

by **Richie Garton**
Arts Editor

THE SPIRIT IS a film with a serious identity crisis.

Directed by Frank Miller, who wrote the original graphic novels of *Sin City* and co-directed the film version, the film copies exactly the same visual style; almost every trace of colour is drained from each shot, except for red which tends to show up vividly against the greyish backdrop. I expected *The Spirit* to be a similar kind of movie to *Sin City* because of this; I have no knowledge of the comic, and the film posters as well as the opening moments of the film made me assume it was going to be equally gritty and gory. But *The Spirit* is actually quite a light-hearted picture; it is fast paced, humorous and only violent in the way that an episode of *Tom and Jerry* is violent. I can't understand why Miller would choose a cinematic style that clashes so

much with the tone of the film. Maybe it's because he's relatively new to the art of film direction, or maybe it's just his 'thing', but it really doesn't work.

In fact, there is a lot about this film that doesn't work. Huge sections of the film are shown in flashback, and a lot of scenes go on for far too long without anything happening. Not all, but a lot of the dialogue is melodramatic, cheesy and clichéd. There are a lot of annoying and pointless characters, such as a spunky rookie policewoman. The plot lacks complexity and subtlety, and the 'science' underlying it is utterly ludicrous (but this can be overlooked). One of the most upsetting things about *The Spirit*, though, is the lack of a charismatic main character. The eponymous Spirit is played by a relative unknown, Gabriel Macht, who acts reasonably well but fails to do anything else. He makes the character seem generic and uninteresting; you wouldn't want to go for a drink with him in real life. He ends up getting completely upstaged



Loud, eccentric and effortlessly cool: Samuel L. Jackson predictably steals the show as *The Octopus*.

(*Dark Knight* style) by his nemesis, The Octopus (Samuel L. Jackson).

Jackson plays this part with customary vigour; he is loud, eccentric and effortlessly cool. Yes, you've seen him do the same thing in about seventy other films, but somehow it doesn't get old. I can't imagine anyone else playing this part; the Octopus is a deranged megalomaniac who is constantly re-inventing himself. He goes from pimp, to samurai, to mad scientist, to Nazi, then

back to pimp. The scenes with him in are funny, lively and by far the most entertaining to watch. Because he is so much more exciting than the Spirit, I realised that towards the end of the film I actually wanted him to succeed in his evil plan, which can't be right. On the whole, this film is average; Mr. Samuel Leroy Jackson just saves it from being mediocre.

I realise I've come across as quite harsh to *The Spirit*. In fairness, despite

all its shortcomings it is pretty funny, quite exciting and no longer than it should be. It's not a bad way to kill an evening, but the film is let down by a lot of silly choices in writing, performance and direction, and is ultimately forgettable.



'Let's put a smile on that face...'

by **Hannah Fearon**

PERHAPS ONE OF the most highly anticipated DVD releases of 2008, *The Dark Knight* broke the world record for most DVDs sold in a single day at over 3 million in the US alone. Heath Ledger's death caused the film to be the most talked about of the year which led to arguments over the reason for its success. However, whilst Ledger's performance as the psychotic Joker is outstanding, the film has so many elements which have made it one of the biggest box office hits of the year.

The Dark Knight is certainly nothing short of brilliant. The film is a constant climax and every frame keeps the audience watching without a moment to breathe. Christian Bale adds depth to Bruce Wayne and there is a darkness to his character that hasn't been portrayed in any earlier Batman films. Michael Caine reprises his role as the loveable Alfred and Maggie Gyllenhaal replaces Katie Holmes as Rachel



Why so serious? Heath Ledger's performance as *The Joker* (not seen until after his death) has already become iconic.

The Dark Knight (DVD release)

Director: Christopher Nolan

Starring: Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart, Michael Caine, Maggie Gyllenhaal

Dawes. However, Gyllenhaal's performance as Rachel is not much of an improvement to the character and her role in the film is quite small. This was a good choice by director Christopher Nolan as the love interest takes the audience away from the action which almost slows the pace of this high energy action spectacle.

Whilst the cast give stunning performances throughout the film (with the exception of Maggie Gyllenhaal that is), they are all completely upstaged by Heath Ledger who gives a mesmerizing performance as the Joker. Ledger's portrayal of the character takes us away from the Jack Nicholson style approach in Tim Burton's *Batman* into a much darker and more sinister performance. Ledger is the focus in all of his scenes and is frightening, sadistic and anarchic in a way that I never thought he could be.

The writing, directing and cinematography of *The Dark Knight* is incredible and makes the film much more than a high paced, male driven action flick. The film reflects Nolan's

best work and is a huge improvement on the first film, *Batman Begins*. Wally Pfister's cinematography is beautifully executed and he presents Gotham in a wonderfully dark and disturbing way. The action sequences are amazing, particularly the car chases and the scenes in Hong Kong.

The special features on the DVD are interesting and include a very realistic set of 'Gotham Tonight' news programmes that coincide with the film. There are also IMAX sequences, trailers and several 'creating the scene' features.

It has been extremely difficult to condense everything that I want to say about *The Dark Knight* into this review because the film is absolutely fantastic. It has been one of the biggest successes of 2008 and was definitely the film of the year in my opinion. Utterly incredible.



ARTS

Thank god aunts aren't gentlemen

Aunts Aren't Gentlemen

P.G. Wodehouse

by Kathi Michaelis

THIS WAS THE first Wodehouse novel I've ever read, and from the comments that all my friends made when I mentioned I didn't like it ("but it's Wodehouse, it's FUNNY!"), I felt almost pressured into appreciating the story. Mind, it really is a shame that Wodehouse insists so on over-lexicalising it, though. Because, as he would probably phrase it, it truly does have some splendid potential.

It definitely could be funny when someone goes away to the country to get some much-needed peace and quiet, but instead finds himself in the middle of an affair involving a stolen cat with a very mad owner, an ex-acquaintance with a very mad boyfriend

suddenly wanting to marry him, and the honour of two aunts at stake.

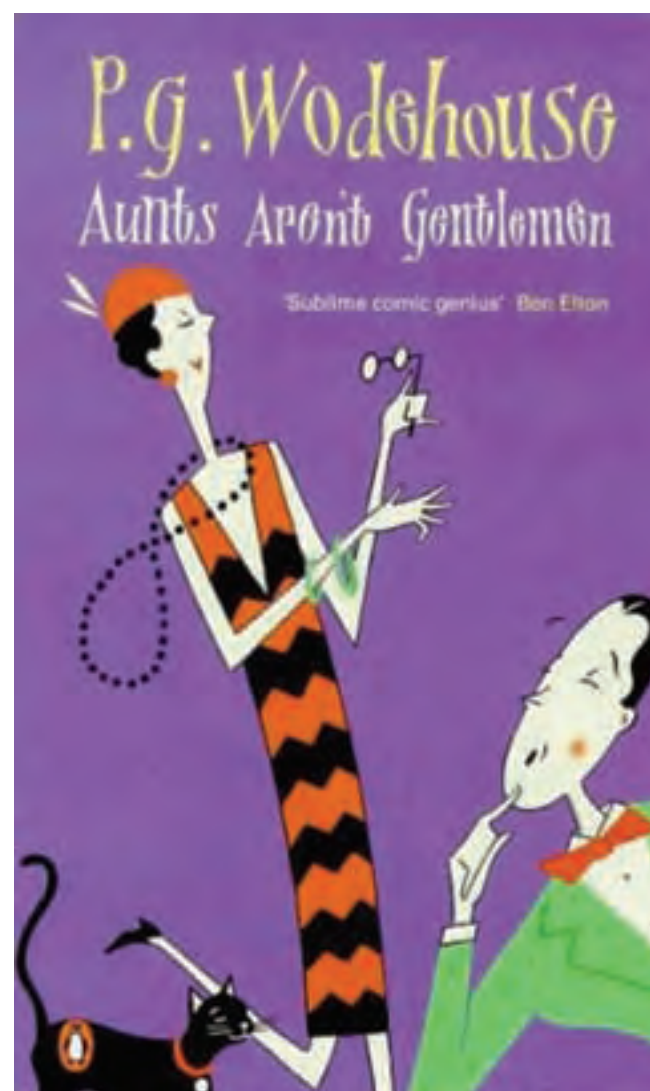
But instead of concentrating on this rather intriguing plot, I found myself reading the story with that little voice in my head saying with every line, "No-one talks like that!"

And the voice in my head is right. Not even upper-class twits talk like Bertram Wooster, the narrator in this story. Or if they do, I wouldn't go listen to them for longer than I absolutely have to.

Sadly, overusing Latin expressions (that nobody knows the meaning of anyway) and other amazingly annoying words like "aged relative" for "aunt" seems to be the central theme of this book. The mix of overly posh words, a tendency to shorten previously used words to 'first letter + full stop' and, on the other hand, Bertram Wooster's

apparent ignorance when it comes to literature (surely, someone who knows the word "centenarian" would at least have heard about Dostoyevsky or Tolstoy), makes me feel only one thing towards Wodehouse's "jovial" narrator – annoyance.

And it could have been so interesting – I'm afraid the tone ruined the book for me completely. Some people might find it entertaining to read about some rich, totally clueless prick with a clever but emotionless butler (who fits perfectly into the rather clichéd image I had of a butler) wiggling himself out of yet another episode potentially leading to some minor catastrophe – for my part, I would have preferred to hear the aunts' viewpoint. From which the story would probably only have lasted half a page.



purplecard offer of the week

OFFER WK1 BAR ELEVEN
DOUBLE VODKA &
RED ALERT ONLY £2



T&Cs apply

check out www.lusu.co.uk/purple for all offers

A weekend of student theatre

TOWARDS THE END of the Michaelmas term the Lancaster University Theatre Group (LUTG) mounted three full-scale productions. The farcical 'Black Comedy' has already been covered by SCAN, but after this came two rather more serious shows...

1984 at the Dukes Youth Arts Centre



Undercover lovers: Winston and Julia struggle against the oppressive government's regime in 1984. (Photo: Ben Robins)

By Kathi Michaelis

SCARY. THAT'S THE first word that jumps to mind when dealing with George Orwell's dystopian novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Most people don't seem to be aware that the idea of "Big Brother" as developed in the book has little in common with the attention-seeking wannabe celebrities who submit themselves to 24/7 TV surveillance.

And scary was what the Theatre Group made this performance of *1984*. Right from the beginning, when the audience scrambled into their seats, supervised by ushers wearing blank white masks, the issue of facelessness in a society where every individual is subject to absolute control and forced equalisation, dominates the piece. It tells the story of Winston and Julia (impressive performances by Olly Trumble and Charlie Hanson), two workers for the Ministry of Truth ('Minitru'). They both have doubts about the rightfulness of Big Brother's totalitarian regime, about the right of "the Party" to destroy or amend historic facts. Their fates are sealed when they fall in love and get married – a capital offence in Oceania. They join the resistance, only to be betrayed by their trustee, Comrade O'Brien, - the rest is torture, brainwashing, more betrayal.

It was really a shame though that the audience knew quite early on what

was going to happen – the evil laugh of Comrade O'Brien (Richard Moxon) was just a dead give-away. Nevertheless, really well acted by the whole cast, I believed every bit of it (apart from imagining Winston as middle-aged and not very good-looking maybe). At one point I was actually so enticed that I nearly got out of my seat to get a better view of what was happening on stage.

There were a few points where I felt the story moved a bit suddenly from one bit to another (like, for example, how Winston and Julia go from not knowing each other to wanting to marry practically without transition, or a few too many scene breaks later on in the piece). I wasn't sure about the music that was played in between the scenes – silence would have been a lot more oppressive, the music (which, for some reason, reminded me of the Bourne Trilogy theme tune) just seemed out of place and unnecessary.

Still, I feel like I'm being a bit too nit-picky even while writing this review – I thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and I found myself entertained and adequately freaked out.

And most importantly: I guess that in our world today, where it is impossible to walk through any city centre, even to get on a train, without being caught on CCTV, Orwell's vision of the future is more topical than ever. It really gets you thinking as to how much surveillance and control are actually necessary in modern society. Might make you a little bit paranoid as well...

Last summer, LUTG performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with *The Revenger's Tragedy* to critical acclaim. Following this success, they will be returning to the Fringe this year with *Much Ado About Nothing*, which will also be performed in Lent term right here in Lancaster. Auditions for this show will be held on the Saturday and Sunday of Week 11, at 12pm in Furness Foyer. Other plays this term include another Shakespearean comedy, *Twelfth Night*, and a specially-written new play, *The Perfect Gift*.

Othello at the Nuffield Theatre

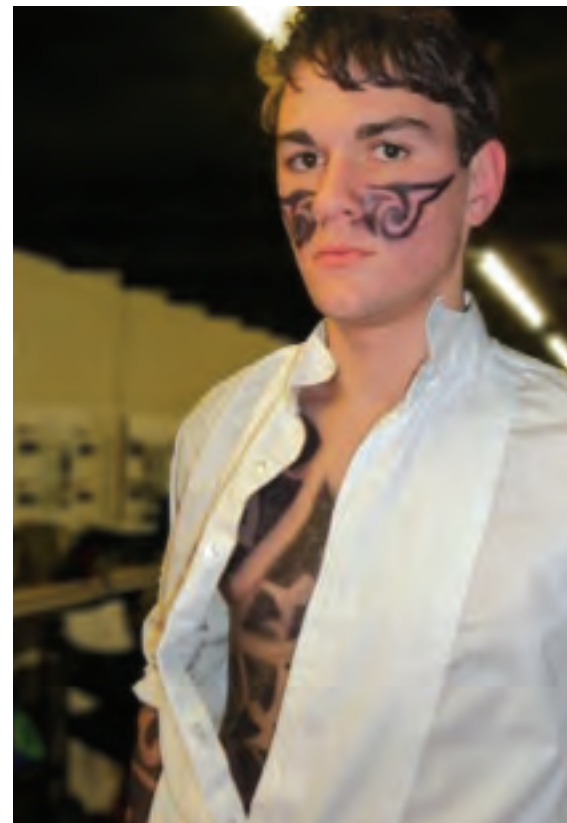
By Christine Wilde

FROM THE LITTLE I knew of the multilayered themes of *Othello*, involving jealousy and deceit, I wondered how such a complex venture could have been assembled in less than a term. Being unfamiliar with the story and never having seen a performance by the Theatre Group before, I was unsure what to expect.

But on entering the Nuffield Theatre, the scale of the commitment to the production became evident. Simple but effective, the hand-painted house front and the archways provided a versatile base for the performance, establishing

deadlines, the work and commitment that went into creating the play was evident in the cast's professional performances. The main roles of Othello (Jon C. Stanhope) and Iago (Paul Sellwood) were outstanding. Othello spoke his lines with confidence and emotion, making his anger heartfelt and the agony of doubt convincing. Iago too made the role his own and was a pleasure to watch. Humorous and dastardly, he crafted the villain believably as Othello's enemy disguised as his friend.

Often interpreted as submissive in the face of the untruthful allegations against her, Desdemona can be a difficult character for modern women to relate to. Despite this, Ellie Forrester did well to convey the difficult role of



Outsider: Othello's cultural difference was represented by a lot of intricately tattooed flesh. (Photo: Alexander Leonard)

the setting, leaving room for the actors to use the rich Shakespearean imagery to expand upon the details and allowing for audience imagination.

Though many traditional re-enactments of *Othello* focus on racial differences between the main protagonist and his peers, director Ben Bibby chose to approach the play from an alternative angle, using tribal tattoos to represent Othello's social and cultural differences instead. Initially, the difference was superficial, small designs across his cheeks merely drawing attention to his character. However, as Othello's character began to unravel and doubt broke his composure and his confidence apart, more tattooed skin was revealed, making the difference more marked until his entire torso was revealed to be covered with an intricate tribal design. This subtle but powerfully effective motif worked well to emphasise the disintegration of Othello's character as well as the differences that make him the target of others' jealousy.

Rehearsed around lectures and

devoted but determined wife trying to preserve her dignity.

The roles were enhanced by a strong supporting cast, particularly Emilia (Sarah Pearce) and Cassio (Leo Patel). Though the actors managed the heavy Shakespearean language well, the speech occasionally became a bit garbled during moments of rapid, angry inflection. However, the tone of these scenes did not suffer. Occasionally, I felt that the ambiguous context made it more difficult as a member of the audience to respond to the characters, as the lack of a specific value system (either Elizabethan or modern) meant it was more difficult to interpret their actions. However, the consistent individual performances meant that this was did not impede greatly on the play overall.

Strongly acted, interestingly directed and emotionally engaging, I was immensely impressed by the quality of the performance. An enjoyable evening's entertainment.

MUSIC

Damnation Festival

by Clay Garland

BACK IN MY hometown of Leeds for the weekend, but this time with a better reason than just accident of birth - Damnation Festival, the independent fan-run day of metal now in its fourth year. Leeds University Union wasn't built for this many people, and it's not unheard of to miss the starts of sets, getting stuck in between stages, if you're not prepared. Logistical problems aside though, Damnation this year was a very well run and friendly event with an unbelievably impressive lineup.

The day started out Welsh; we caught the end of Taint's set (fans of Kyuss should definitely check 'em out) and then the start of Desecration's (uber technical grindcore) before the first big band. Sigh, from Japan, were bringing their avant-garde blackened death metal to England for the first time in 13 years and it was worth the wait. The sound left a little to be desired, but the band's furious energy made up for that with even the lead vocalist rocking the stage from behind his keyboard. I wasn't familiar with these guys before today, but judging by the reaction of the crowd in the neck breaking pit, I wasn't the only new fan they gained.

My Dying Bride were next up, and

proved that doom metal, not uranium, is the heaviest naturally occurring element. Vocalist Aaron Stainthorpe gave a passionate performance, writhing around on the stage as he sang about whatever melancholia it is that makes heavy metal bands sad. The set was wide ranging, with a few of the band's earlier, thrashier tracks interrupting the funeral pace, but overall it left me wanting to watch the petals fall of a flower by candlelight, which I think is the right reaction. Definitely the best band of the night if it hadn't been for the next couple of hours...

For the whole day, Carcass's only show in the UK since their reunion last year had been the subject on everyone's mind, and in minutes the main stage at the Refectory became more packed than I've ever seen it before. Jeff Walker and co made it worthwhile, tearing through a lengthy set covering ample material from all five of the band's albums and still having time for banter in between. Everything from the grinding guitars to Walker's brutal vocals was reassuringly heavy, and it's easy to see why any extreme metal band today still respects the old masters. Getting to see Mike Ammott (Arch Enemy) unmistakably shred up the guitar was a cheeky bonus too. Good to know Carcass have no plans to call it a day just yet, because bands this relentlessly heavy are just what the UK needs.



Dead heavy:

A member of headliners, Carcass as they play the Jagermeister Stage at the Damnation Festival at Leeds University Students Union.

(Photo: Mark Latham
Copyright www.marklatham.co.uk)

Lancaster University's Biggest Mid-week night

The Legendary

Carleton

Home of the Stiff'un!

The only official student Wednesday Night

Get your bus tickets from the LUSU Shop all week or Walkabout on Wednesday nights

Register on-line for photos & special birthday offers • Sponsored by WKD, Carlsberg, Red Square & Smirnoff Ice

www.footking.co.uk



Musical femmes Kate Nash (left), La Roux (centre) and Tori Amos (right) are all set to release albums in 2009.

Here come the girls

Preview of a year in music

by Mark McGlashan
Music Editor

2009 PROMISES TO be a fantastic year for music in every sense, tonnes of great new acts and the return of some of the best bands around.

With 2008 seeing Kings Of Leon, The Killers, Ryan Adams and Cage The Elephant all release great albums, the boys ruled the roost. However, 2009 will see a reversal as the girls are set to dominate the charts, with some new faces and the return of some old.

The new crop of talent is superb. Florence And The Machine are set to be at the forefront with her melodic guitar parts and haunting voice; she resembles a much more interesting KT

Tunstall. Elsewhere, The Asteroid Galaxy Tour give us their take on sixties pop with a Danish electric twist. Little Boots is going to give Ladyhawke a scare as she attempts to steal the Electro queen's crown with her danceable indie beats. La Roux is my personal favourite from the newbies, a female Prince she has a bag full of great tunes, single, and *Quicksand* is a gorgeous slice of electric pop with sing along chorus and hip shaking beat. Returning for the girls is the songsmiths. Lily Allen is back, as is the wonderful Kate Nash. Also the great Tori Amos is set to release a new album.

But it's not all about the girls as the old guard return for the boys. U2 are set to release a new album in March, which sees them take on a new direction, apparently. Everyone's favourite

grumpy old man, Morrissey returns in February; *Years of Refusal* is set to be as miserable as ever. Franz Ferdinand are set to release album number three this month, It has taken the Scots four years to find a more techno sound, but it should only take them four minutes to retain their crown as the best British indie band, after hearing their single *Ulysses*, the album is set to be superb.

On the harder side, the legendary Kiss are set to release a new album, as are metal gods Slayer and prog masters Mastodon. Further, 2009 could see a grunge, resurgence as Alice In Chains and The Stone Temple Pilots release new discs, along with Chris Cornell's latest solo outing and Pear Jam's monumental *Ten* gets the deluxe edition treatment.

On the up and coming front for the

boys, White Lies release their debut album spreading Joy Division-esque gloom across the land. Also Frankmusik follows in Sam Sparro's steps with more pop electronica.

The rumour mill has been spinning with news that maestro Prince is set to release 3 albums this year; the pint size guy's last effort was in 2007. Radiohead are also rumoured to release a new album, though how they'll release it is anyone's guess.

So there we are, 2009 should be a great, great year for music. All that's left is two small questions: will there be a *Chinese Democracy 2*? 'Yes' appears to be the reply (but we've heard that before), and will the most anticipated album ever involve a Plant?

Singles

Ladyhawke
My Delirium
(Universal/Island)

by James Barker

More sing along electro from indie girl of the moment, Ladyhawke. *My Delirium* sees Pip Brown in her element, staccato guitar riff, poppy keyboards and lyrics about insomnia. More complex than the Ting Tings but less retro than the Long Blondes, Ladyhawke combines the balance of eighties electro with modern indie perfectly. If you love the likes of Depeche mode and New Order this is bound to get you dancing.



Boys Like Girls
Thunder
(Sony BMG)

by Clay Garland

Fetch me my lighter, this track is just screaming out for it to be waved in the air. It's also screaming out to be the next "Wonderwall", and probably the feel good hit of the summer if they'd got their timing better. The result is a predictable four minutes of pop-rock by numbers - ah, here comes the impassioned chorus again. Admittedly, I guess it's the sort of song that'd grow on me if I kept hearing it, but I hope that doesn't happen.



The Tunic
Cost Of Living
(Manta Ray Music)

by James Barker

Generic indie but pleasant enough from Croydon's The Tunic. *Cost Of Living* is Jamie T meets The Arctic Monkeys, with accent vocals and chunky guitars the only thing that separates The Tunic from their counterparts is how utterly depressing the lyrics are "as you wish to God you'd be saved by the bell" whines Joe Costello. Too sum up if you like Jamie T and The Arctic Monkeys, you and 95% of the population will enjoy this. Just don't expect any surprises.





Rugby club's season picks up after shaky start

by Mark Davies

An injury hit Lancaster 1st team got off to a shaky start to their season. Losing the first game of the season 7-10 to Liverpool on the last play of the game. This was followed by defeats to strong outfits UCLAN and MMU Cheshire. Since then Lancaster 1st team are unbeaten, winning five games in a row, propelling them to joint third in the

league and also into the third round of the BUCS cup. The winning streak has included two wins over Liverpool, 25-7 and 12-8 respectively, the later been in very difficult and boggy conditions at the Vale of Lune rugby club. The wins continued with a convincing win over Manchester (22-7) and Salford (20-0). A major highlight of the season so far is a 100-0 thrashing of Liverpool John Moores in the second round of the BUCS cup, where the majority of the side crossed the try line, with some un-

likely scorers. Lancaster 1st team have a very important second term of rugby coming up, which see's them challenge for both the league and also the BUCS cup. Key games against nearest rivals in the league will hopefully allow Lancaster 1sts to leapfrog further up the league. With players returning from injury and a solid squad that is playing well, Lancaster 1sts are confident of successful second term of rugby.

Lancaster 2nd team have had a mixed first term of rugby that has seen

them win three out of their six league games resulting in them being placed joint third in the league at the Christmas break. They got a hard draw in the first round of the BUCS cup, drawing Salford 1st who are in the league above them. They lost 19-0 to the league 2A side, which wasn't a bad effort. Highlights of the 2nd teams season so far, would be their narrow 31-26 win over Liverpool John Moore's 2nds and a convincing 41-3 win over league strugglers Edge Hill. Lancaster 2nds

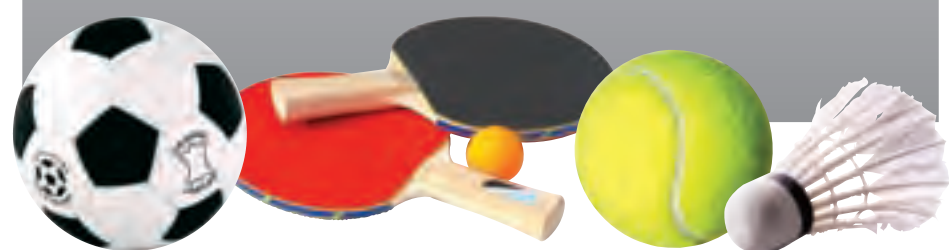
will be looking to challenge the teams above them in the second term. Lancaster 3rd team have had a hard time in the first term. They are yet to win a game but have been putting out large squads each week, which is encouraging. Despite not winning a game they find themselves in the third round of the BUCS cup along with the 1st team due to byes and walkover's. They have a difficult fixture against Keele 1st team in the third round who happen to be in Lancaster 1st team's league.



sunday sports leagues

badminton and table tennis;
sign up now

www.lusu.co.uk/sports/bactive



Facilities provided by Lancaster University Sports Centre

"spurred on by his recent gold in the individual category; Gareth dominated his opponent with a flurry of punches, winning his fight easily"

Karate team bring gold home for Lancaster

the torso of his opponent, leaving him the winner bringing the overall score to **32 >** 2-1 to Lancaster, moving the team into the second round.

The next opponent was Cambridge, and after a great performance, Lancaster men emerged victorious, moving them into the finals.

The only thing standing in the way of a gold medal for the men's team kumite, was York University. Chau stepped up first, and within ten seconds landed a solid head punch on his opponent, leaving him the winner. Gareth was next, spurred on by his recent gold in the individual category; he dominated his opponent with a flurry of punches, winning his fight easily. Craig was up last, and like his team mates before him, won his fight, leaving Lancaster male team the winners by 3-0 and the gold medal winners; beating York was no doubt an added bonus.

The women's individual competitors were Samantha Charlton, Lauren Bell and Becky Clark.

This was Laurens first ever competition and she got off to a flying start giving as good as she was getting from a much more experienced fighter. Lauren kept within the KUGB's tradition of strong hard punches but was eventually beaten in this round. Samantha was also unfortunately knocked out in the first round.

Becky Clark stormed through the qualifying rounds in the ladies black belt kumite, coming up against some of the most known hardest fighters within the KUGB. Becky dominated the first two rounds with some excellent head punches. Becky went on to fight two girls from Cambridge in the finals of individual kumite and continued Lancasters winning streak against their squad – earning herself a well deserved Gold medal.

Ladies team kumite was up next. First up was Aberystwyth who Lancaster beat 3-0, getting off to an excellent start. Next up against Exeter and Lancaster continued to storm their way through to the finals once again winning 3-0.

The final of the women's team kumite was Lancaster vs. Cambridge, in what is becoming a regular match in competitions. Cambridge changed their team order for this competition hoping to beat Lancaster, however their dreams were squashed by the Lancaster Ladies as they went on to take Gold and the title of National Student Champions.

Overall an excellent performance by the Lancaster Karate Squad, who can now call themselves the KUGB Student National Champions and are surely in contention for Team of the Year and the AU Awards.

SCAN Sports predictions '09

How we did last year

	Who we expected/wanted to win	Who actually won
Barclay's Premiership winner	Manchester United	Manchester United
Euro 2008 Winner	Croatia	Spain
Olympic Medals Table	USA	China
Formula One Champion	Lewis Hamilton	Lewis Hamilton
Boat Race	Oxford	Oxford
Roses	Lancaster	York
Lancashire Cup	UCLan	UCLan

What we think this year

	Who we expect/want to win	Why?
Barclay's Premiership winner	Manchester United	United generally perform better in the second half of the season and I don't believe Liverpool have the quality of the consistency to go all the way.
Formula One Championship	Felipe Massa	Massa will be out for revenge after last year and despite Hamilton's raw talent, he is too prone to error to be able to keep hold of the Championship.
Wimbledon	Andy Murray	Murray is constantly improving. Having proved himself capable of beating both Federer and Nadal there is nothing stopping him.
Roses	Lancaster	The majority of Lancasuter's BUCS teams are performing well and everyone is out for revenge after last years agonizingly close defeat.
Lancashire Cup	UCLan	UCLan always have the home advantage in this competition, and for them it is the main event of the year, whereas it is a warm up for Roses for us.
Carter Shield	Fylde	Some people may call me biased, but I honestly do believe Fylde have a real chance of taking what will be a very close competition this year.
George Wyatt Cup	County	County look strong in all of the pool leagues, and moderately well in women's darts. Furness may be ruling the men's league, but in order to win the George Wyatt a college needs to be good across all bar sports and Furness don't have this consistency.

Carter Shield round-up

Lacrosse) are to be showcased. Quite a good selection, if I say so myself, as I did...but what happens if you're not good enough or you've never heard of, let alone played, any of those sports??? Well the only respectable response I could give is come to a Taster Sesh on the Sundays of Week Two and Three (25th Jan and 1st Feb) down at your friendly neighbourhood sports centre between 1pm and 4pm for some sporting delight, why not?

For those nurturing a bud of interest beginning to blossom here's a timetable of how the competition will work this term.

All you need to get involved is to follow these simple steps:

1. First find out what college you're in.
2. Find out who your sports representatives are.
3. Become their buddy/mate/facebook friend/acquaintance.
4. Check out the website: www.lusu.co.uk/sports/intercollege.
5. Turn up with the expectation of being both entertaining and entertained.

Whether it is the handling of balls synonymous with Basketball and Aeroball, the sublime elegance of Table tennis or the divider of adults and children, Pop Lacrosse, that has you curious, don't be shy, come and say hello.

Finally a personal note from me, I know that some people look down on the Carter Shield or think for numerous reasons they can't or shouldn't get involved and I'm sure those are reasonable opinions. In truth it is actually quite fun, and whilst I could reel off the list of it being a way to keep fit, meet new people, learn new sports blah blah blah, at Lancaster we are incredibly lucky to have a college system here for people to get involved with. So think of the Carter Shield as just another means to get involved with your college, because if we don't use it we'll lose it.

It's time to pick ourselves up off the mat...



Gareth Coleman
AU President

Hello and Happy New Year everyone. 2008 was ultimately, a good year for sports at Lancaster. After picking ourselves up after the disappointment of losing Roses by 2 points last May, and with ideas of avenging Inter-College league and cup defeats, the sportsmen and women of Lancaster began proving their mettle against not only other universities, but against each other.

Regarding BUCS, with Lancaster's Michaelmas term starting 'late' in comparison to other Universities, this arguably put some of our teams on the back foot. However, after the first 2 weeks, results picked up and teams began to pick up points; Basketball (Womens), Fencing (Mens), Table Tennis (Mens) Tennis (Women) and Volleyball (Womens) sit atop of their respective leagues (special mention for Table Tennis, who have now won their league undefeated)! Besides the above, plenty of our teams are sitting in 2nd place (both Badminton Mens 1sts & 2nds and Hockey Women's 1st & 2nds).

Alongside these league fixtures, BUCS has implemented knockout cup games this year, taking place every few weeks between league fixtures. These cup games will continue into Lent Term, with some of Lancaster's teams still battling their way through, with Rugby Union 1st (Mens), Hockey 1sts (Mens), Hockey 2nds (Womens), Football (Womens) and Table Tennis (Mens) to name a few – so fingers crossed, they will continue to do well in 2009.

Aside from the BUCS Conference Leagues, several of the University teams have been competing in one-off championships over Michaelmas Term, and example of which being the Canoe Club finishing 6th/25 in the Wild Water Racing Championships held back in November, earning some valuable BUCS points for Lancaster. However, on a University-level, there was one club in 2008 who excelled and has put down a benchmark for the rest of the AU to follow – the Karate Club took part in the KUGB (Karate Union of Great Britain) Student Nationals, and are now the 2008 KUGB Student National Champions! Congratulations to all those involved in the Karate Club.

Looking ahead for University sport in 2009 means continuing the good form shown by some of the AU Clubs, whilst others will be looking to use the New Year to start afresh, and compete

in the last remaining (if any) league fixtures and cup games. For some University teams, 2009 means a chance to actually play some regular fixtures (e.g. Cricket, who only really get going in the Summer Term) – so good luck to those teams.

Beyond the remaining cup/league fixtures, competitions, 2009 will also mean one thing – ROSES. That painful loss in May sticks in my mind and I'll be doing everything I can to ensure we win this year. The York opposition are no different from the students we have here, when it comes down to it, form will go out the window, previous games won't matter; it will simply be a case of who wants it more – and I'm fully intending on bringing back the Carter-James Trophy.

Moving onto Inter-College Sport, competition is always fierce and 2008 was no exception. The Carter Shield has been won by Bowland for the past 3 years, but this year, after 4 events, only 6 points separate the top 5 Colleges!

The Football 'A' and 'B' leagues have suffered this year due to the horrendous weather, with the College 'A' teams playing at most 2 fixtures. Currently, County and Fylde sit joint-top of the 'A' league, whilst Fylde and Graduate are currently 1st and 2nd in the 'B' League.

The Netball League is also currently topped by Fylde with Bowland with Grizedale, County and Lonsdale following closely. I anticipate a close finish this year, as last year's undefeated champions Grizedale are still in the hunt.

2009 will be a very important year for Inter-College sport, especially for the Carter Shield, as there will be a review of the current structure this year. The IC leagues form the backbone of this campus – and there should be no reason for this to change in 2009, so I anticipate close finishes in all competitions and leagues.

Good luck for 2009 everyone.

LU Kara- te squad crowned na- tional cham- pions

- Both men and women's teams crowned champions
- Team wins two individual gold medals and one bronze on top of team golds

by a SCAN reporter

When the members of Lancaster University Karate Squad traveled across the Pennines, to compete in the annual Karate Union of Great Britain (KUGB) Student National Championships they how successful their day would turn out. Whilst knowing they had a strong squad, Lancaster University Karate squad were also aware of the fierce opposition they would face from karate squads across the nation.

The first event of the day was the individual kata. Captain Tim Cottis was up first for the men and got off to a bad

start when the judges announced a major rule change for his category. This meant that he would not be performing any of the katas that he had been practicing in the run up to the competition. However, he did an extemporaneous, but no less impressive kata and narrowly missed out on the final by a mere one tenth of a point.

For the ladies, it was Samantha Charlton who took to the mats and, despite an impressive performance, was knocked out in the third round by the eventual winner.

After the kata, it was the individual kumite events. First up was Tim and won his first fight against an opponent from York. However, Tim succumbed



Golden glory: The LU Karate Team pose with their medals.

to a fighter from Cambridge, and lost his second fight. Next up was Craig Noble, and after winning his first four fights, he entered the semi-finals. Unfortunately a knee injury, meant he ended in third place overall.

In his first ever KUGB competition, Gareth Dunkerley stormed through the preliminary rounds with a series of fantastic punches and roundhouse kicks to secure his place in semi-finals of the men's senior kumite. There followed a nail-biting moment in the semi's when

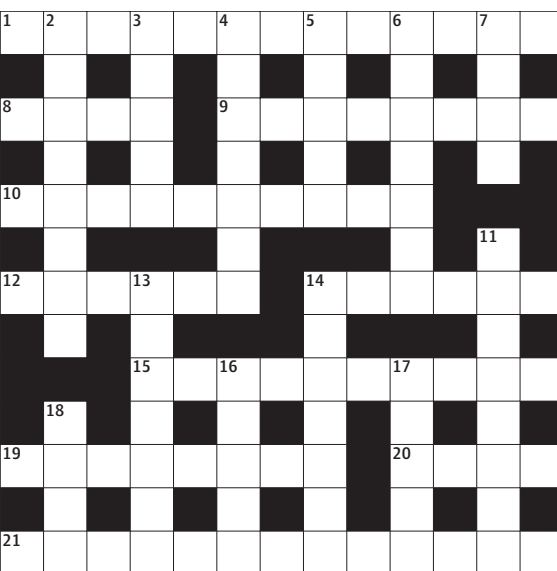
Gareth conceded the first point to his Cambridge opponent. However, his reply to that was a superb head kick which took him straight into the finals. Being new to this style of karate, Gareth started his final fight blissfully ignorant of the fearsome reputation of his opponent. This didn't seem to matter though as Lancaster's newest member took a decisive victory and became men's student national champion.

The male team kumite event was up next. Although tired and bruised

from the individual eliminations, Chau, Craig, Gareth, and the team reserve Tim, were called up for their first round fight against Warwick University. Unfortunately, after two minutes of intense fighting, Chau eventually lost his fight, but with Gareth's opponent being a no-show, Gareth was awarded an automatic win, levelling the score at 1-1 apiece. Soon after the start of the fight, Craig landed a brutal head kick, followed shortly after by a solid punch to

30 >

Quick crossword no. 11,839



Copyright Guardian News & Media Ltd 2008

Across

- 1 Safety with tabernacle (7)
- 2 Fresh and vigorous (8)
- 3 Part of heavenly body (5)
- 4 Snaggy (7)
- 5 Down (5)
- 6 Passed on from hand to hand, station to station (4)
- 7 As well (2)
- 8 South Asian republic (5)
- 9 Board (8)
- 10 Ordinary but unspecified number (7-5)

- 12 Member of Japanese ad (5)
- 16 Walking through (5)
- 17 Daily bedtime cleaning of (6)
- 18 Simple (6)
- 19 Got up (5)
- 21 Tribal group with common ancestor (4)

Want more? Access over 4,000 archive puzzles at guardian.co.uk/crossword. Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 09068 338 248. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times. Service supplied by ATS. Buy 10 great Guardian puzzle books for only £20 inc p&p (save over £50). Visit guardianbooks.co.uk or call 0870 836 0749

Solution No 11,829



Carter Shield resurrection continues

By Colin Hudson
Inter College Chair

THIS TERM 'THE Carter Shield: Resurrection' continues. In 2008 there was a rise in the competition's participation as well as a colossal increase in unadulterated enjoyment, certain shocking results and a pinch of controversy.

As the table stands only six points separate the top five colleges, confirming early thoughts that this year's competition would be extremely close. With Fylde leading alongside Grizedale, Bowland and County are both well

perched to attack the top spot. However, there are so many sports left to play that all colleges still have something to fight for. So with a quietly impressive start to the year, 'pray tell, what fun and frolics is on offer this term ICC?'

I hear you murmur in a polite, slightly interested manner. Different people like different sporting activities, whilst others like to stay in their comfort zone others prefer to indulge their curiosity, try something other than the norm. With that in mind: Men's Basketball, Aeroball, Table Tennis and Pop Lacrosse (the indoor version of

31 >