

# scanews

## STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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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.

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**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.