

**The Interview:
SCAN Speaks To
Stuart Langhorn**



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LUSU Sabbatical Officers 2007/08

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THE INTERVIEW: STUART LANGHORN

Rebecca Rieley
Deputy News Editor

With instinctive wariness about talking to an active political party member, let alone a Liberal Democrat, University Ward Councillor Stuart Langhorn proved to be a bit of a surprise. Being Councillor, husband, dad, Head of Religious Education at a school in Morecambe, as well as the newly appointed Lib Dem candidate for the new Parliamentary Constituency of Lancaster and Fleetwood, his schedule appears to be a demanding juggling act and to accompany all this he's a man who advocates the old BT motto 'It's good to talk'.

I couldn't help but ask what attracted him to politics. "Well, largely because I work in education. Certainly in my time we had a Conservative Government who thought that education was for all and made a complete pig's ear of it. We've had a Labour Government who said "education, education, education," and they haven't really made much of a stand by it. So I suppose having been through education and worked in it and wanting to be involved in the end of the makings of the decisions that were affecting people's lives. That's why I joined politics."

It was near impossible to find out exactly what the role of a University Ward involves and what it actually is. I was quite disappointed to hear that the University Ward is just a designated area with allocated councillors on the city council. But more interestingly Stuart (as we were by now on first name terms) informed me that, "The University Ward is the old campus before the south-west area was built. The boundary commission decided that there were enough people living on campus to warrant a Ward. So, basically, it's everything up to and including Graduate College, so Cartmel and Lonsdale aren't in the University Ward." I asked Stuart why and he laughs, exclaiming, "Why? You might want to ask the Boundary Commission because we've asked them that too... it does seem ridiculous."

Moving away from boundary lines, I ask him about the details of his role as a councillor. "The unusual thing, compared to other areas of Lancaster, is that the ward was really 90% of the services you get on campus. Where as elsewhere in Lancaster- if you take for example the bins, people contact us when their bins aren't empty or that there's not enough re-cycling- these sorts of things we don't pick up at the University because all that is the responsibility of the University itself. So, yes, we don't do that but we do deal with a lot of other things. Looking at the abolition of slavery and looking at how the town is going to commemorate that. Also looking into issues of homelessness where the emergency shelter- that one of the churches provides, closed in January and how is that mission going to be taken forward. We speak to various people on campus to see how that is going to be carried forward-], so lots of interesting things at the University."

I was eager to ask about Alex Stone's early

resignation from the Council. Stone was his fellow ex-councillor on the Ward and I'd read some derogatory pamphlets about the two distributed on campus.

"It's fine; he's a good friend. I mean people move on and I think that some people like to, how do I say this, political opponents like to make big issues about things, that they like to play political games, but the reality is with local politicians that we are there because we want to change things locally. Alex is no longer in the Lancaster district and so he's no longer qualified to stand as a Councillor. Being Councillor isn't a job, it's something that you want to do and if you're job changes or your family decides to move then why not, that's just the way it is really."

Considering though the University Ward is supposed to have two representatives, I ask how is the Party compensating for that?

"You've got me!"

So, you're doing double the work? "Yes."

We move on to discuss the 'Lancaster Says No' campaign against the removal of the cap on top-up fees. I'd heard that Alex Stone had voiced his support for the 'Lancaster Says No' campaign. Did Stuart share his support?

"Actually it was me who voiced my support for the campaign and Alex seconded me. He did support it but it was me who put the motion to the City Council and then Alex seconded it."

Inevitably, the discussion on top-up fees developed and I asked Stuart if he was 18 today, and in the same financial and family circumstances as he was when a teenager, would he have attended Lancaster University?

"No. Well this is what I've always said even at the last election, I wouldn't have come, [to university]. My dad's a lorry driver and I'm the first one in my family to have gone to university and I think a lot of people's attitude might be that you don't want to go into debt."

"For people who are doing it for the first time, the whole system is confusing and doesn't help them. It just causes a lot of panic and some people that I've taught think that it's just not worth the bother. I think that is a worrying trend and if you look at the national data, you will find that the students from the lower end of the bracket are being put off much more than the higher end of the bracket."

"I think there is always a danger with politicians: they look at the policy and they say the policy is there and it's there to help people but what they miss out on then is just the general experience of just what it is living life."

One of the 'Ten Reasons to Vote LibDem' is that they promise to scrap tuition fees and top-up fees. I asked Stuart about the realities of this actually being done and the concern that universities may run out of money if these fees were scrapped. "Well the simple answer to that one would be: No, they wouldn't run out of money. The more complicated answer to that one is, well, the

obvious thing to say is that tuition fees have been stopped already and if Scotland can manage it and Wales can manage it as well, it is a question of political will and the financing for it.

"As part of the Party's policy we were proposing to not do some things that the current administration is doing. To give you some examples, one that would raise quite a considerable amount of money would be to get rid of the Department of Trade and Industry because a lot of economic development now is done regionally and we consider having a big department there not sufficient for the job."

"And we would not introduce ID cards; that would save huge amounts of money that could then be used for universities and for free social care for the elderly. I think clearly that there is an area where if we changed and shifted the plot, everything else would benefit and one of the reasons we want to do that is because education is not a cost, it is an investment so you're investing in the future and the future economic severity of the country, as well as individual opportunities. We don't see that as a bad thing."

With Stuart being an R.E. teacher I wondered if he thought the University should review its funding contributors and assess what has become coined its 'ethical shares'?

"The simple answer is 'yes', I think so. It's becoming an increasing factor in universities as they're spending public funds but they're also getting a lot of private investment which is a good thing but you know there have to be questions asked. The University has now got an Ethics Committee who are beginning to look at these issues and I think that it's a step in the right direction."

After discovering that Stuart would choose 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road' as his party's theme tune, I thanked him for his time and I left him to fight off his flu symptoms whilst I was left to condense 40 minutes of conversation into 1400 words.



CAMPUS NEWS IN BRIEF

University Fined!

The University was recently fined £1,000 for not following its own procedures. The Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) operates an independent student complaints scheme, which is free to students. The scheme endeavours to draw to a close issues that students feel have not been dealt with satisfactorily by any university.

In this case it was ruled that the supervision provided had been adequate, however Lancaster University had not followed its own procedure with regards to annual postgraduate appraisals and were thus duly fined.

Becky Heard

Campus Vandalism

Acts of vandalism have recently been occurring on South West campus. Lights have been damaged in Alexandra Park and signs have been stolen. These facilities are for the safety of everyone who live and work on campus and the resulting vandalism will be costly to replace.

LUSU Education and Welfare Officer Becky Heard said: "It is our collective responsibility to ensure that mindless acts of crime and vandalism are reported. The money spent on correcting the damage could be spent on improving other facilities.

"Campus Watch is being re-launched and its aim is to highlight the importance of watching out for the

things that go on around campus."

Students are advised to report any suspicious behaviour to security on internal number 444, or if you have any information about the recent damage please contact Becky on edandwelf@lancaster.ac.uk

Ben Bailey

Boat Club row to Paris

Between 7pm Wednesday 24th January and 7pm Friday 26th January, Lancaster University Boat Club (www.lubc.co.uk) attempted to row, on one rowing machine, the distance between Lancaster and Paris (700km). Sadly the Club narrowly missed the very ambitious target.

Club Captain, Theo Millward, commented: "Sadly it looks like the cold got the better of the club in the end. Nevertheless the performance was not to be taken lightly, the Erg "travelled" non stop for 650km, just over 400miles in 48hrs! I am delighted to be able to say that spirits remained very high throughout a bitterly cold 48hr period. Despite ice covering Alex Square for most of the event, generosity was as high as ever from everyone at Lancaster. The event was a resounding success, almost doubling last year's performance! I look forward to sending a cheque for well over £500 to the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust. Once again, on behalf of the Boat Club, a massive thank you to everyone who supported us."

Currently LUBC have raised over £800 and is still collecting pledges. £200 of this has been added to funds raised at another LUBC event back in

September, which means that LUBC will now be sending the total of £1,000 to The Anthony Nolan Trust. The Trust is a charity which helps fight leukemia and also conducts vital research into the treatment of bone marrow disorders and transplant procedures.

TV Licence Crackdown

University College and Residence have been inundated with letters requesting that students obtain valid T.V. Licences. Simply thousands of letters are flooding into residences as a campus T.V. Licence crackdown has begun.

The letters, which are appearing in droves, are, in many cases, second or third offence warnings. While the T.V. licence inspectors are not allowed to roam about campus as freely as they would like, the crackdown is threatening that warrants will be issued, leaving the University no choice but to allow inspectors access to University residences.

Students are encouraged to obtain a valid T.V. Licence or they will perhaps incur the wrath of the inspectors and if caught they will face a fine of up to £1,000. Alternatively, wrap your T.V. sets in tin foil- that'll foil 'em!

Ben Bailey

Union Council

Union Council, held on the 1st March, opened in the same way as every other Union Council does. It was over ten minutes late and the council passed a large amount of

minutes from meetings that very few of them had actually attended. On the plus side it was revealed that the Union has more money than they predicted they would at this stage of the year.

Dave Greenshields, AU President, then gave a presentation on a review of Inter-College Sport. The findings suggested that there is very low participation within Inter-College Sport with only 50% of the people interested in competing actually doing so. The report also found Inter-College Sport to be a very exclusive with only a minority actually regularly competing. The Carter Shield was a main area of concern with only Fylde and Bowland managing to field sides every week.

The recommendations from the report are to create new ways for the average student to access sport, e.g. the Dodgeball trial that was started last term; a way for colleges to opt in and out of certain events rather than encouraged to do them all. There was also a proposal for the Carter Shield to be organised through 'Tournament Days' so the 'Sunday Morning issue' is reduced. The A.U. do not want to try and eliminate College sport or the Carter Shield but want to make sport less exclusive and more available to students.

As Union Council headed towards a close there was a small terminology change to the Academic Council Constitution and an application to the Union Council reserve fund giving £1000 to help with the costs of Roses for participants.

Tony Barron

Grad Ball 2007

Ben Bailey
& Will Veitch

It has been revealed that this year's Grad Ball is going to be held in Lancaster, as opposed to last year's venue, Blackpool Winter Gardens.

In a radical move to massively reduce costs to our students and put a fresh face on Grad Ball, sources close to LUSU indicate that the event, scheduled to be held on Monday 25th June, will take place in Lancaster City Centre.

One of the main reasons cited to hold the event in Lancaster was to increase access and to appeal to a wider audience. Ticket costs are estimated to be around half those of last year. Extra costs for transport have also been removed.

Feedback from last year indicated that students would be happier celebrating their graduation in the city in which they had spent their previous three or four years living, working and studying.

Speculation has arisen over the location; there were fears that the Grad Ball would return to the Great Hall as in previous years, but thankfully these fears can now be allayed.

The organisers of the event have confirmed it will be split over several venues. The Sugarhouse and Liquid will be individually themed, playing host to various entertainment genres. The area in between the two venues- usually seen as a faceless car park, will be transformed into a grand and elaborate setting.

While acts are yet to be confirmed the choice of entertainment will almost certainly extend beyond that of Rachel Stevens.

Student Union President, Sooz Palmer said: "I think it is about time we brought Grad Ball home again. There has been much debate about the location and whether this is the right way forward. We should be brave and embrace this new move and focus on the positives. It will increase accessibility to all our students and allow you to celebrate your graduation in your own little corner of the northwest. I hope to see you all there."

More details coming soon...



Can You Be Bothered to Read This?

Ian McLofaint

Would you prefer a free snack or to free an innocent person from torture? Students wandering through Alexandra Square earlier this week were given that precise choice by a campus group called 'Student Apathy...Meh'. With one of their number, Gemma Stoddart, taped to a chair, passers-by could either avail of a free cookie and see her get a glass of water tipped over her, or they could choose to forgo the biscuit and free her from one of her bonds.

"It's a radical theatre project," explained Emily Cole. "We've been doing different performances this term focusing on student apathy and what makes students so apathetic."

"We're trying to bring back the radical spirit of the sixties," added Sarah Harrison, "We're trying to point out that students don't protest anymore and, if they do, they're not listened to."

The stunt was one of several by the group, over the last eight weeks, aimed at highlighting why students should care and showing them how easily they can make a difference. One such stunt involved a public protest featuring blank billboards and leaflets while the sabbatical elections have seen the group stepping up their efforts, including collaborations with various political societies on campus.

With such crazy public feats, the group is bringing

their message to the masses - Their FaceBook group (www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2235489467) already has almost 100 members. But are they spreading the importance of democratic participation or simply proving that it has died? At the point SCAN spoke to the group, 63 people had opted for the cookie over a meagre 15 choosing to help Stoddart.

"We're not saying apathy is a bad thing - People have a right not to care," admits Harrison "But it is their uni, it affects them and they should care what's going on."



ROCA ROLLS HOME

LUSU PRESIDENT 07-08: TIM ROCA



Ben Bailey
Editor

As tradition states, the presidential results come last. As the end of the evening drew near and tensions were rising through Furness Foyer. The telling sign that all was to be revealed came when those from within the count room joined the masses in Furness Foyer.

Straight faces and limited eye contact made up the characteristics of this group of excited yet exhausted students. Sooz Palmer waited on stage until dialogue from Bailrigg FM had ceased and prior to announcing the winner, she thanked all those

who had been involved in the election process for their time and dedication, especially Graeme Poulton, General Secretary and Andy Payne, Chief Returning Officer.

After threatening the audience with her memoirs, she proceeded to call out the results. The three candidates standing for LUSU President were County student Hetty Wooding, ex-Bowland president Tom Halstead and ex-Fylde President Tim Roca.

Quota for winning the election was 1074.5 votes, with 1102 votes cast in his favour Sooz Palmer Proclaimed Tim Roca LUSU President Elect. The crowd ruptured with applause as the sabbatical team for 2007/08 was complete. After a brief interview with Bailrigg he rejoined his friends and fellow sabbatical officers as the celebrations began.

Before heading off to locate his celebratory night Roca had just one message for his electorate and the University, "Thank you to all who turned out to vote today and to those who have supported me. Consultation means one thing to students and one thing to the University; let's see if we can bring them together."

Sooz Palmer, LUSU President said she believed the fight for Presidency had been fair and good natured and had just a few final thoughts on the evening, "I can remember this day a year ago; the newly elected Sabbs and those past and present will always remember this day and the year that lies ahead. Do me one thing- enjoy it. I have every faith in Tim, in both his motives and his actions. Do me proud. Good Luck, be brave and never be complacent. PS Take care of my office."

NO NONSENSE FOR SMITH

GENERAL SECRETARY 07-08: JOHN SMITH



Stephen Vittles
Deputy News Editor

The position of LUSU General Secretary was one that attracted mass attention this year. With five initial candidates- though sadly Pendle man Tom Sharman dropped out of the race last week leaving Matt Carey, John Smith, Rachel Lewis and Jackie Bowen and were left to battle it out.

Still, with four candidates standing the scores looked like it was going to be a pretty close affair and unsurprisingly the count took a long while. When current LUSU General Secretary Graeme Poulton took to the stage to announce the results

a nervous hush fell over the crowd.

In the first round, Matt Carey achieved a respectable 654 votes, 152 of which were from his home college of Pendle. Secondly, John Smith could count for a total of 757 votes, topping Carey's home-college record with 225 votes from Lonsdale. Next announced was Rachel Lewis, who accumulated a total of 454 votes, and finally, candidate Jackie Bowen managed an aggregate total of 171 of the electorate. Since none of the candidates reached the round's quota [the number of votes necessary to win] a second round ensued.

Matt Carey, again, scored a respectable 658 votes, whilst John Smith achieved 759. Rachel Lewis, having scored 455 points over Jackie Bowen's 171 meant that Jackie could not participate in the next round, due to none of the other candidates reaching the

quota to win outright..A third round was called.

In the third round, Matt Carey could count 686 votes, Rachel Lewis had 488 votes, leaving John Smith who was still in the lead with 801, and again, since no-one met the requisite quota, a fourth round followed, though Rachel Lewis could no longer be counted.

Quickly announced to save the audience's baited breath any longer, Matt Carey missed the set quota of 835 votes by a hair's breadth (with 833 votes) meaning John Smith, with 937 votes, will be LUSU's next General Secretary. After a round of applause, Smith magnanimously thanked both his supporters and fellow candidates after what has proved to have been a nail-biting finish to a tough campaign.

COTTAM CRUISES TO VICTORY

EDUCATION & WELFARE 07-08: CHRIS COTTAM



Anita Vukomanovic
News Editor

With only one candidate standing for the position of LUSU Education and Welfare Officer, Chris Cottam's only contender with RON. With a significantly low percentage voting their priority vote towards RON, Chris Cottam was elected as the Education and Welfare Officer for LUSU 2007-2008.

An ecstatic Cottam told SCAN: "I'd like to thank everyone who came out to vote for me.

"I'm absolutely over the moon. I was obviously

nervous before the elections, which is why I bothered to do the campaign, but I was feeling quietly confident." Aiming to work closer with College JCRs in order to 'tackle the issues affecting students' Cottam dominated the voting in a single round, winning 1830 votes, and beating both the necessary quota of 1039 with a RON total of 223, thus reaching quota immediately. Current Sabbatical Education and Welfare Officer, Becky Heard said: "Chris is in for an absolutely amazing year. I hope that he stands by his words in his manifesto, and I hope that he continues to give the university a run for their money. I have every faith that Chris will do well, and will be an excellent addition to the Sabbatical team. Congratulations, and good luck!"

Cottam has also become somewhat renowned

for his passionate approach to the issues regarding Top-Up fees, and his objection to the removal of the cap on Top-Up fees. Future LUSU officer, Cottam previously told SCAN of his wish to build upon campaigns such as 'Easy Tiger' and the 'Lancaster Says No' campaign, and has consistently put across in his campaign his strong beliefs in the advantages of the collegiate system at Lancaster, and believes that his ability to both listen and take actions on issues that are important to students are key in embodying within his role.

A delighted Cottam said he was "very excited" and couldn't wait to 'take up office' prior to a possible future in either the Probation Service or the Police Force.

YOU REACHED FOR THE BEECH

SCAN EDITOR 07-08: JOE BEECH

Ben Bailey
Editor

Around about midnight the crowds continued to gather in Furness foyer for the results of the next SCAN Editor. The four candidates were apparently all “bricking it” in the build up to the result, but they had also all agreed to go for a pint, whatever the outcome.

The candidates included Tom Leslie, ex-Furness College Magazine Editor whose previous design experience and JCR background made him a strong option for the job. Also standing was Joe Beech, a current SCAN Music writer

whose highly visible campaign with a laid back and friendly demeanour made him a possible favourite. Christian Wakeford, a Politics student from Grizedale was also in the running along with another current SCAN man Will Thacker whose policies included increasing recruitment as well as eradicating bad grammar.

There had been initial fears for a RON victory as all four candidates appeared to be lacking in some serious policies as well as having a very limited idea of how SCAN was run. However, to their credit as the campaign progressed they all learnt from their mistakes and improved greatly. As with most four way races, the vote went down to the wire. Joe Beech narrowly won the first round to Will Thacker, with Tom Leslie coming in third and Christian Wakeford getting

reallocated after R.O.N. Leslie was the next to fall and while his reallocations could have given Thacker the boost they needed to push him over the top, Joe Beech was just too strong and was elected with 847 of the votes.

Afterwards a delighted Joe Beech told SCAN “I’d like to thank my Grandad. He died on the sheet that is now hanging outside Pizzetta.” He continued with “Didn’t expect to win and always thought it would be a close race.”

Current SCAN Editor Ben Bailey said: “Joe is a highly amusing and genuine chap who will continue to take the paper from strength to strength. I will hopefully be working with him closely next term where I will train him in the ways of the force. I’m sure he will do a great job.”



MARENGHI SCORES

A.U. PRESIDENT 07-08: JAMES MARENGHI

Tony Barron
News Editor

After a near two hour wait which was agonising for the gathered masses awaiting the results which can only have been worse for Mark Appleton, James Marengi and Matt Keppie, the candidates for AU President. The image of Dave Greenshields, AU President, then appeared on the horizon of the Furness Lecture Theatres, his walk to the stage had the audience in bated breath as they awaited the result.

Once on stage Dave started by thanking all the voters for their support and all the candidates for

running. He followed this by saying that he had worked with all three and that he thought any one of them would have been good for the job. With such an exciting time coming up in the Athletic Union he said he would have been happy to leave it in any of their hands.

He then moved onto the results, first round the total numbers of voters was 2195, across campus RON scored a total of 138 votes, Mark Appleton gained 671 votes, James Marengi had 975 votes and Matt Keppie 287 votes. However with a quota of 1035.5 votes no-one was elected in the first round, RON had to be re-allocated. With the re-allocations complete, Mark Appleton had 685 votes, James Marengi had 990 votes and Matt Keppie had 289 votes, with a quota of 982 votes James Marengi was duly elected Athletic Union

President 2007/08.

After he composed himself he took to the stage and said that he was “completely over the moon and didn’t really know what to say” but he continued “as he said during hustings, it means everything to him” he then went on to thank everyone for turning out and to all those than voted for him. He didn’t even realise his victory until Dave Greenshields announced he’d won.

Dave Greenshields commented that “he was ecstatic for James and that he had shown a good work ethic through his work as Inter-College Chair and other experience” and finished by saying “I’ll be happy to leave the AU in his capable hands.”



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

WOMEN’S OFFICER 07-08: LAURA MCGHEE

Tony Barron
News Editor

Following on in very quick succession from AU President both Becky Heard, LUSU Education and Welfare 2006/07, and Sooz Palmer, LUSU President 2006/07, took to the stage in the anticipation of the LUSU Women’s Officer 2007/08 Result. After they were stood on stage for a while waiting for the arrival of the two candidates they opened up this part of Results Night with Sooz Palmer congratulating the candidates for excellent campaigns and a fantastic election.

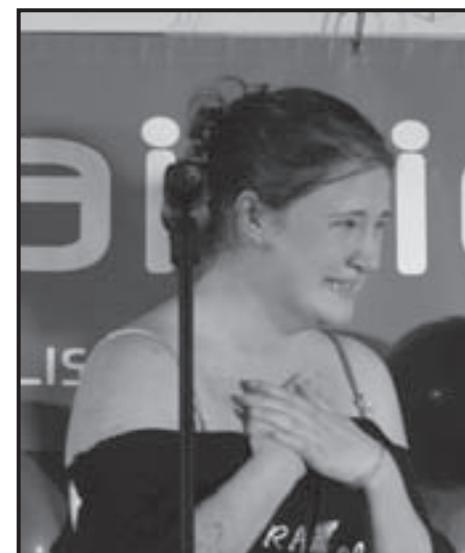
She then handed over to Becky Heard for the results part of their presentation. Becky then went through the College Breakdown detailing which ways they all went. RON achieved 34 votes, Laura McGhee got 520 votes, Cat Smith gained 477 votes across campus and 43 votes were spoilt. With a quota of 515.5 Laura McGhee was duly elected as LUSU Women’s Officer 2007/08 in the first round of counting.

At the point of announcement massive cheers and high pitched screams echoed around Furness foyer signalling a result and after many hugs and tears Laura took to the stage to make her comments. The first thing she screamed down the microphone was “Oh My God!” clearly extremely happy with the result. She then went on to say thank you to all of her supporters for standing by her. She

continued by saying she “loves everyone for giving her this chance, and thanks to everyone who voted and helped her achieve her dream.” She was in a state of sheer disbelief about the result and at this point broke down into tears of joy.

She then moved into the crowd and passed through the queue of people that had appeared to congratulate her unable to contain her happiness at the opportunity.

Sooz Palmer LUSU President said: Both women should be congratulated on running remarkable campaigns and be proud of their efforts. On behalf of the Sabb team 06/07 let’s wish Laura and all the Sabbatical elects the best of luck for next year.



gradball

two
nightclubs
and a
tent...

...look at
it that
way if you
want!



grad**ball** two thousand and seven

The biggest
entertainment
event in
Lancaster for
40 years!

celebrate in
the **city**



DEAR SCAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“RE: DISAPPOINTING DEPARTMENT”

Dear SCAN,

I have been reading some of the letters in recent editions about student dissatisfaction with mounting alarm. I have to say this is mainly because I have a horrible feeling that all teachers at the University are getting tarred with the same brush.

I'm hoping, as a postgraduate student and tutor, that I can maybe speak from both sides of the fence, and perhaps give your readers some information that they would not otherwise be privy to.

To begin with, Lancaster University is a research institution- this is what it builds its [sic] reputation on. Oddly enough, this isn't a fact that University House enjoys telling prospective undergraduates. Call me a cynic, but I think that is because they want your tuition fees.

What this means is there is a disparity between the impression given to you, and how they employ tutors. They employ staff on the basis of a high research output- and then tell them that they have to do a pile of teaching too. For example, they give staff sabbaticals (which should mean that they have no students to look after) but there is little or no provision made for the students left behind. Essentially, the staff member is put in an awkward position (left doing two jobs, and being complained at for being unable to do both properly) and the student is left high and dry.

This isn't meant to excuse staff who see students as a pain. There are some, I know, I've been taught by them too! Normally, however, they are very senior members of staff who still have cast iron contracts. Believe me, those staff with such jobs are a dying breed. The rest of us just don't really know where to turn.

There are very few members of staff that I know who enjoy having to do their job at less than their full capacity- but what can we do? The University requires more and more fee paying students (for important stuff, you know, like wasting shedloads of money building bars and accommodation that no student can afford) but they aren't quite as keen on employing more staff to cope with the teaching demand.

The net result is that the teaching groups get bigger, the contact time with individual students goes down, the time for marking has to be pushed down and the quality of feedback suffers. We know. We hate it. Students and staff alike.

And no-one points this out. Want to know why? Well, personally speaking, I'm scared of losing my job. I'm on a short-term contract. If they don't want to employ me next year, they just don't have to. The moral of the story: don't rock the boat- you might be the one who falls out.

So my plea isn't that we should just all just say nothing, indeed my plea is: complain. But please, make it an informed complaint, and complain about the system. Make a stand against the divide and rule strategy that most universities seem to be employing against staff and students. If we all complain together, maybe they'll have to listen.

Yours Sincerely,

A concerned postgraduate tutor.

“RE: PRICEY DISCO”

Dear Mr Karl Wilson

I thought I would take a moment to reply to your letter from the last issue of scan. Thank you for expressing your view and concerns, however there was a lot of erroneous points made in your letter that I would like to clear up for your information and everyone who read the article.

Firstly, Juicy is run by the Sugarhouse and not the LGBT association, so ultimately we can only advise on important decisions on behalf of the students with regards to the night. In response to your particular complaint concerning week five's club Juicy, this event was organised by the Sugar House as suggested by the Lancaster Pride Committee, a community lead initiative that has no formal connection with Lancaster University. As 'Pride' events are a way of bringing the community together the Sugar House became the obvious venue for this event as an LGBT friendly space. Your LGBT merely advertised the event for the Sugar House and Lancaster Pride and helped setting up on the day to show our support to the local community. An impressive line up of acts were booked (including a comedy set by famous lesbian comedian Rhona Cameron, an up and coming gay singer, a local LGBT friendly rock band as well as music from the resident

Letter of the week

“AN ELECTIONS THANK YOU”

Dear SCAN

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in this year's sabbatical election. It takes a huge amount of effort from a lot of people and the effort was rewarded by a successful set of elections. Special mentions have to go to Andrew Payne, Chief Returning Officer, and Claire Geddes, Deputy Returning Officer. Both worked exceptionally hard and for that I am extremely grateful. Thanks must also go to Bailrigg for

their hard work in covering the event and to Furness for their hospitality on the election results night.

Congratulations to all the winning candidates, I wish them every success in office and well done to all the candidates for standing.

Finally, a big thank you to all those who came out and voted.

**Graeme Poulton,
LUSU General Secretary**

DJ) in order to make that particular night an event rather than simply a club night. In light of the fact that February was LGBT History month and to participate in Lancaster Pride, creating an event to mark such occasions seemed more than appropriate. Although we would all like something for nothing, this is not the case and consequently the ticket price reflected the 'content' of the night. A great time was had by all that attended, and it allowed LGBT members of the community as a whole to meet, socialise and celebrate .

The construction of an internet group titled 'I refuse to pay £9 for Juicy', in my opinion was not the most appropriate way to air your views or indeed actually achieve anything. Comments made by myself and two other committee members were merely explaining the reasons for the price of the event. In no way were the comments of an aggressive nature and nowhere did they state that your views were wrong. Comments on the groups wall such as 'thieving b**tards' and 'I've never been to juicy and defiantly wouldn't for £9' by non LGBT members seemed a little childish and unwarranted, in my eyes invalidating the whole point of the group.

You refer to the LGBT committee as being unwilling to listen to you voice, yet you did not air your voice in an appropriate manner. Our meetings are open place and held in the Errington room off Pendle TV room every Friday at 5pm, and we welcome any student or member of staff. Should you have raised your issue at our meetings prior to Juicy then the committee would have willingly contacted the Sugar House to speak on your behalf.

I'm sorry if you and your friends feel unwelcome as a result of people airing their own views to you about the event. You refer in your letter to a social 'time for change' had you looked into

this further, you would have realised that these advertisements were in fact invitations from the LUSU LGBT officer, to our weekly meetings and were a consequence of, for example your internet site, to encourage people to get involved and have a say about socials and campaigns run by YourLGBT association. As you are the only member of the university that has spoken about this topic we do not feel that we have alienated the LGBT community at Lancaster university and indeed our events are attracting more and more people each week who give highly praised feedback! We would like to formally invite you to all of our meetings, campaign activities and socials and apologise for any confusion, but not for the price of a one off community orientated event that helped people celebrate being proud of who they are.

Yours in Pride

**Beccy Marston
Grad Student & LGBTa Chair.**

To submit a letter e-mail: scan@lancaster.ac.uk or post it directly online at scan.lusu.co.uk All letters must include name, address and contact details but these can be withheld upon request. Letters are printed verbatim and should be kept concise. All letters are the personal opinion of the author and should not be taken to reflect the views of the SCAN team, LUSU staff or officers.

WANT TO WRITE FOR SCAN?

NEWS FURNESS BACK BAR: 2PM, WEDNESDAYS

FEATURES 3PM, WEDNESDAYS, FYLDE COFFEE SHOP

MUSIC 2PM, WEDNESDAYS, BOWLAND BAR ARTS 1PM, WEDNESDAYS, FURNESS BACK BAR

SPORTS 6PM, MONDAYS, FYLDE BAR

WE NEED PHOTOGRAPHERS AND PROOFREADERS AS WELL! EMAIL SCANASSISTANTEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

FEATURES

Rocking the crib since 1867

FREELoader? THUMBS UP!

Ben Evans

I met a lady the other day who had worked here at Lancaster University for the past thirty-two years. When I asked her what had changed (it seemed the obvious question), she mentioned that as recently as half-a-decade ago, strange queues of students would appear daily to wait patiently at the strange pseudo-bus stop/ taxi rank next to the uni's roundabout. Now, they are gone, and have taken their secret with them. Why were they standing there? For what purpose did they brave Lancaster's infamous weather? Is it possible that they knew of some esoteric aspect of university life, passed from student to student for generations? Is it possible that they had found the secret of the Free Ride?

Any bright-eyed Fresher who had thought it would be pretty cool to venture into the Lake District from time to time and had brought their car with them to uni will no doubt have realised that as well as being expensive in petrol, parking and maintenance, it's very difficult to find anywhere on campus to park the bloody thing. Then, there's the difficulty of keeping it unmolested by over-avid wardens who certainly take care to earn their pay-cheque. It's a hassle, and when you find out that as you're a student, you can't really be bothered to go to the Lakes, the car becomes a taxi for your friends, and you stay sober far more often than is good for anyone trying to get a degree.

In my second year, older, wiser, and in the middle of my hour-long trek home through yet another deluge, I was overtaken by the most impressive bike I'd ever seen. I stopped, tried to think of

a bike-equivalent to Toad's "poop, poop", failed, and instantly resolved to copy that lucky rider. It seemed like a perfect idea; free, quick, healthy and even 'green'. I had no idea where to look, and almost fell into the pitfall of buying new - a great burden on the environment (too expensive). However, serendipitously, I found a used bike shop near the Barracks, and endeavoured to buy one inside. I was welcome, I was told, but would have to put my name on their six month waiting list! No chance. In the end, I answered an advert on campus, and under cover of darkness bought a second-hand wreck out the back of Sainsbury's. When I got it home, it betrayed suspicious markings of "Budgie Bikes" and "Bowerham School", leaving me in a constant fear of the reality of serious jail-time.

The "great breaks" (sic) weren't, and I rode around without for some time, when, after a near miss with a 42 on it's way to Preston, I realised the error of my ways. I'd turned up fifteen minutes late, drenched to far too many seminars now and the bike was duly resigned to a corner of the living room (an all boy's house...).

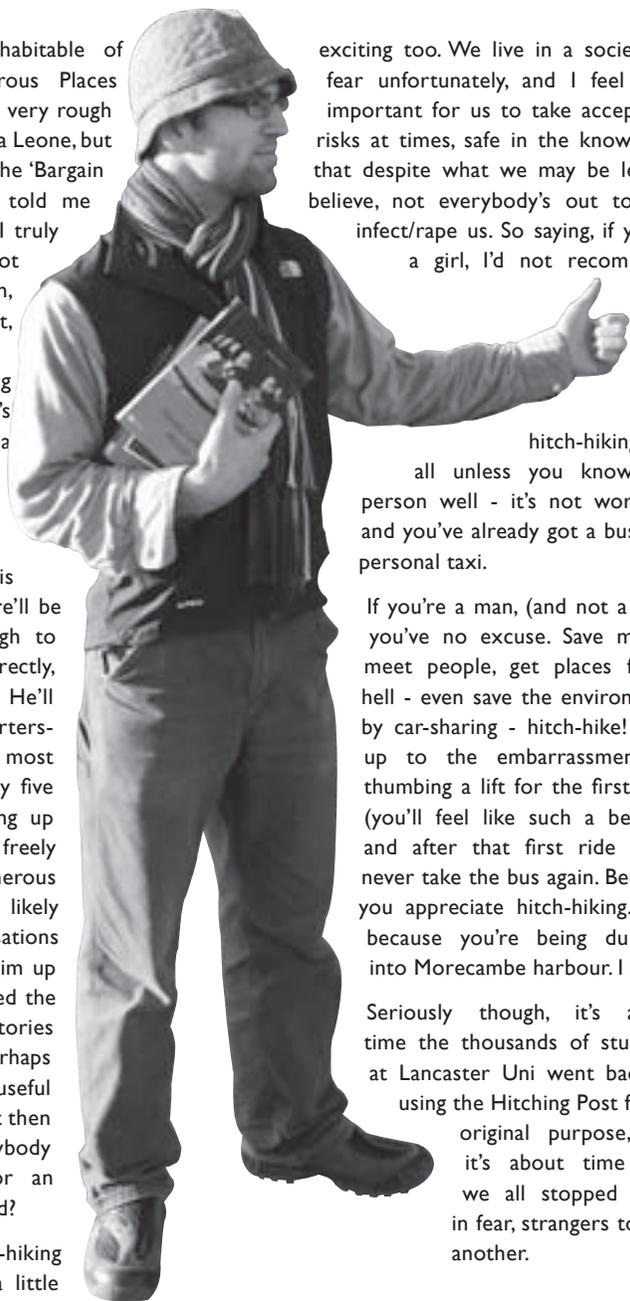
But what to do? Walking's preposterous; it's far enough from Cartmel, let alone town, and so that leaves only "the bus". Public Transport. Of course your mother's warned you about it, but face it you must. And so, with the shamed face of defeat, you fork out three months' food allowance, (most of which goes to fund the Woman's Taxi!) in return for the experience of waiting hours for a bus that may or may not appear - I almost died of man-flu the last time they secretly cancelled the '3' service! Henceforth, cramped and uncomfortable, you are destined to contemplate the desperation of your travel situation. It's bleak. And expensive. And you can't even moan to the weirdo sitting next to you in case he licks you.

But what's this? As you lurch past the uni roundabout to begin your winding trek through

a selection of the less habitable of the World's Most Dangerous Places (seriously, I've been to some very rough bars in both Bosnia and Sierra Leone, but the last time I was passing the 'Bargain Booze' and a ten-year-old told me he was going to shoot me, I truly feared for my life), you spot a man with a stupid hat on, standing with his thumb out, a big grin on his face. He's Thomas, and he's waiting at the 'Hitching Post' (so that's what that bus stop's for!) for a Free Lift.

And he'll get one. What he knows is that for every chav who'll beep to announce his presence to the World, there'll be someone who's kind enough to take him to town, quickly, directly, and for absolutely nothing. He'll wait a maximum of three-quarters-of-an-hour at night, but at most times he'll be there for only five minutes before he's warming up on his way to Town, talking freely with yet another person generous to share a spare seat. He's likely to have interesting conversations with the people who pick him up (do pick him up, he's travelled the world, has some interesting stories and's even single), and perhaps even make friends or useful contacts for the future. What then is his secret? Why isn't everybody exchanging their £1.90 for an upturned thumb? Why indeed?

I concede though, that hitch-hiking is a little dangerous. And a little



exciting too. We live in a society of fear unfortunately, and I feel it is important for us to take acceptable risks at times, safe in the knowledge that despite what we may be led to believe, not everybody's out to kill/infect/rape us. So saying, if you're a girl, I'd not recommend

hitch-hiking at all unless you know the person well - it's not worth it, and you've already got a bus as a personal taxi.

If you're a man, (and not a boy), you've no excuse. Save money, meet people, get places faster, hell - even save the environment by car-sharing - hitch-hike! Face up to the embarrassment of thumbing a lift for the first time (you'll feel like such a beggar), and after that first ride you'll never take the bus again. Because you appreciate hitch-hiking. Not because you're being dumped into Morecambe harbour. I hope.

Seriously though, it's about time the thousands of students at Lancaster Uni went back to using the Hitching Post for its original purpose, and it's about time that we all stopped living in fear, strangers to one another.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GHANAIAN INDEPENDENCE

Mark Twain is away...

Ghana began celebrating 50 years of independence lavishly last week with festivities and street parties costing the government £10.4m. Ghana was the first sub-Saharan country to cut its ties with its colonial masters prompting many others to follow suit.

Ex-President Jerry Rawlings though has boycotted the events amidst complaints from Ghanaians that the country has not progressed nearly as much as expected these last 50

years and that whilst an educated few help the country towards what the world sees as economic stability, many of their countrymen are without even the most basic of services.

Attendees though have flown in from all over the world. Amongst those helping to put Ghana firmly on the map now are Pele, Stevie Wonder (performing a specially adapted version of 'Happy Birthday'), the Duke of Kent, South African President Thabo Mbeki and even Robert 'Evil Bastard' Mugabe, which is a shame.

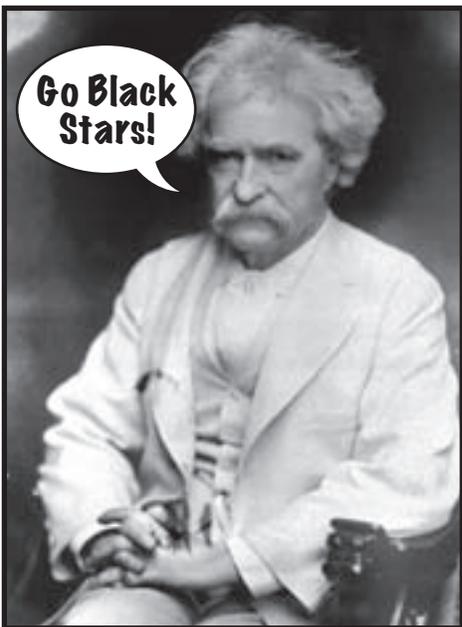
Hopefully this amount of exposure though, alongside the recent discussion about Ghana's strict schooling prompting many Ghanaian expats to send their children back to the motherland, will encourage current President John Kufour to take a firmer stance on the issues his country is facing. With the world watching he will want to exude nothing but

national pride and surely the scrutiny will be closer during and after this year-long commemoration.

After all, back in 1957, Ghana was on GDP level with that of South Korea, and whilst the latter have gone on to greater things through technological advancement and the like, Ghana have struggled somewhat due to its reliance on fluctuating cocoa and gold markets.

However Ghana still stands proud in a continent besieged by civil war, drought and famine and their recent performances at the men's football World Cup, the women's football African Cup of Nations, and the men's amputee football team's qualification for the Amputee World Cup show that Ghana is forward thinking and successful already. Here's to another great 50 years!

Go Black Stars!





Weird Lancaster

Weird Dan Investigates... "Racist Hell"

Weird Dan

Petrol bombs, live ammunition, arson. And not in Baghdad or -Lebanon. Lancaster. That's right, Lancaster. And you thought it was such a nice little place. But across the river Lune, away from the safety of campus and the cobbled streets of our historical city centre lies Ryelands, a struggling council estate. At the heart of this vortex of deprivation is the infamous Mini Market, which from 1991 to 2005 was the target of our country's most horrific racial abuse in recent history.

Pakistani, Mal Hussain and his white partner bought the business in 1991. He received a warm welcome: His very first customer called him a 'fucking black monkey.' On the same day, he was hassled for protection money. As Hussain refused, the men returned months later with knives. After being forced into a corner he defended himself, but ended up in court on a GBH charge! Things got worse. He was subjected to frequent verbal and physical abuse, as well as being shot at with live ammunition. They don't fuck about in Ryelands. In 1995 the attacks triggered a national scandal when a BBC camera crew filmed a petrol bomb attack on the shop. In total, Hussain reported four thousand attacks on himself and his property in thirteen years.

The abuse has resulted in various convictions. In 1997 five young rascals aged twelve to fifteen were detained for a total of twenty-four



years following a petrol bomb attack on the premises. An older man, Craig Wareing, described by the press as a 'notorious racist,' received a five-year sentence for arson and wounding, and was ultimately banned from entering Lancaster for life.

But despite years of abuse, Hussain was reluctant to give in, and his resilience has made him a hero. In 2001 he was invited to address the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, where he compared conditions in Ryelands to the American deep south and Apartheid. 'I died a thousand times in this racist hell.' I remind you

once again, this is Lancaster.

But Ryelands is indeed a Hell. Its claustrophobic streets reek of poverty. It is so enclosed within itself that you can hardly breathe. As I am probably the hardest man in Lancaster I didn't have much to fear. I strode into the estate, ready to fight anyone who was up for it (although, the fact that my photo was clearly taken from a moving vehicle may expose me as a liar). It really isn't the most welcoming of places. As you enter the spiral of bleak grey houses, it feels as though you are sneaking into Mordor. Bored teenagers gather on every corner, and as with anywhere, the shop is the focal point. It isn't hard to imagine how an outsider could feel threatened. A sinister vibe pollutes the air, and the shop's outward appearance only adds to this. Its windows have been bricked up and pebbledash, desperate measures against vandalism.

The Hell ended for Mal in 2005 when a deal with local authorities assisted him in selling his property. This in itself has sparked controversy with civil rights groups. As well as allegedly being forced to pay their own legal costs and the existing mortgage on the property, Mal and his partner have been permanently banned from living or working in Lancaster. They were also supposedly given an eviction deadline, and forced to sell at a loss. But still, it's a miracle they're not leaving in coffins.

Current Indian owner Paramjit Singh seems to be coping alright, and says he is 'happy to be on the Ryelands Estate.' If anyone has metallic gonads it's that man...

The Rise of the Machines...

Jonathan Starr

If you were walking around Lancaster what do you think would happen? Little children running around screaming? A business man in a rush as he barges past you? This is what I would expect. I'm sure you can understand my surprise when an elderly man started to talk to me. Shocked by this interesting development in my day I stood and listened to what he had to say. He began to tell me how a friend of his had died from eating too much chocolate. This revelation took me by surprise and I started to envisage some kind of chocolate assassin going round poisoning chocolate bars when no one else was looking. However, as the conversation progressed it became clear that his friend had been a diabetic and had ignored his doctor's advice of doing things in moderation.

The conversation moved quickly from chocolate related deaths to how the man I was talking to had worked in paper mills and how it had all changed. He told me about how he followed his father into the business and had worked in mills all around the country ranging from Scotland to Wales. The conversation came to an end with him cursing how the rise of technology had changed the world. Admittedly, I had thought at this stage that I was stuck in the middle of a revamp of Monty Python's 'Four Yorkshiremen Sketch' and half expected someone to come up behind me and say 'You thought you had it bad! Back in my day ...'

As we parted something the old man had said struck me. Are we really that dependant on technology? I look around my room and I



can see many electronic items. My computer, lava lamp, games console, television, desk light, alarm clock, mobile phone and my radio. Eight things in one room. As I think about what the old man said to me I find myself wondering could I go a week, or even a day, without the technology that surrounds me? I would like to say "yes, I must be able to" and I would guess that the majority of you reading this article would say the same. However, when push comes to shove could we really do it?

Take a minute to consider your answer. No television. No fancy games console or music system. No mobile phones. Do you still think you can do it? Me neither. This poses another question. Are we slaves to technology? Has society changed so much that the power that man has developed over years now depends on whether or not the computer will do what we want it to?

I am not saying that technology, on the whole, is a bad thing. Thanks to technology lives have improved greatly. But where do we draw the line? Where does technology stop being a help and start being a hindrance?

If there is one thing I have learnt about technology over the years is that it inevitably fails. What then? Does the world stop until we are all back online surfing the web or until all our mobiles are charged up? I sit here thinking; 'is the old man right?' Are we now so dependant on technology that we are losing the skills our ancestors spent years perfecting?

As I switch off my lava lamp I start to think about the impact technology has had on our society. Technology is everywhere, from the cars we drive to how we communicate. The rise of technology has led to text messages, instant messaging and Facebook. Of course all of these can have positive affects on our lives as they shorten distances between one person and another but what about the other side of the coin? The dark side of instant communication? How has technology affected our ability to interact on a face-to-face basis with fellow human beings? I look at my flat, seeing all the closed doors hiding people away, and yet I can talk to them online. I do not mean to say that when we go out to the bar, for example, we do not sit by ourselves, but next time you are in a social area take a closer look and you can see the separations from one group to the other like the networks on Facebook or the groups on MSN Messenger.

I will go as far to say that I am the worst culprit for this. This brings me back to the old man from the beginning of my article. We were talking for about fifteen minutes and I don't know his name, and yet when I look at MSN Messenger I know exactly who 'A being in search of meaning' is. As I walked away, checking my mobile for any messages, I couldn't help but wonder, is this what our society has become?

Want to join the features team? scanfeatures@hotmail.com

“The Last Taboo...”

Craig Burnett

“When you're older, they tend to just give you medication.”

Andrea's analysis of the support offered to 630,000 people in the UK with severe mental health problems is worryingly bleak.

Her first-hand experience of the care offered to sufferers reveals the obstacles they face – particularly the ignorance, confusion and fear that cloud many people's understanding of mental illness.

Today, Andrea is using this experience of the mental health care system to try and improve it, hoping her unique insight will improve the lives of sufferers in the future.

She was, in her own words, “a pretty normal 15 year-old” until her growing depression lead her to begin self harming. She began treatment with her GP, eventually spending three months in a specialist Young Persons Unit. And although Andrea is grateful for the support she received when she was battling mental illness, she felt that a haphazard approach to care risked letting vulnerable people slip out of the system.

She was “passed around” a host of different departments and agencies to receive her treatment, and she worries

that sometimes this process leaves the patient having to manage their illness themselves. And if patients do not have the energy to keep directing themselves to the right treatment, they can give up on the process altogether.

Andrea describes living with mental illness as a downward spiral, in which “the longer you go on without doing something about the problem, the harder it is to get help.”

Her experiences suggest that the reaction of those close to sufferers can be almost as important as the treatment offered by doctors and nurses.

“Friends and family are important” she says, going on to describe how her illness – and particularly her self harming – proved hard for certain people around her to understand. “Some friends started to ignore me. They just got scared.” She sounds remarkably free of bitterness as she says this, but her words show just how isolating the stigma of a mental illness can be. And given that many people's understanding of the issue is drawn solely from lurid tabloid headlines about celebrities ‘going nuts’, it is no surprise that mental illness is viewed by many as a problem that will never affect them or the people around them.

Sufferers of mental health problems often feel ashamed and abnormal, and that they are in some way to blame for their illness. Their problems are often less obvious and harder to explain than physical illnesses, leading to the belief that their condition is less serious.

This feeling of shame is seen by experts such as Jo Loughran, head of campaigns and media at mental health charity Rethink, as a huge problem for sufferers. They are reluctant to seek help for fear of being rejected by their friends and loved ones.

She describes mental health as “the last taboo”, adding that “the stigma prevents people from accessing services, so they miss out on early intervention.”

Making sure sufferers get help at the earliest possible opportunity is absolutely vital in treating mental illness effectively. Unfortunately, there are concerns that this might not always be happening. “Some GPs surgeries are not set-up to support people with mental health issues,” says Loughran.

Lynn, a Samaritan volunteer who provides emotional support to those in distress and despair, spends a lot of her time talking to people with mental health problems. She is amazed by the varying standards of care her callers describe: “Some people feel really well supported, while others fall through the cracks. It seems long term care is a real problem.”

She describes mental health as an issue “society doesn't really take seriously”, and says that this often leaves sufferers with “real problems seeking help and seeking support”.

These problems can have tragic consequences. Young men, who are far less willing

to discuss anxieties and negative feelings than older men or women, are more likely to die by suicide than any other cause. In total, 90% of people who commit suicide are experiencing mental illness when they end their life.

However, cases of mental illness do not have to end tragically – Andrea is now completing the first year of a mental health nursing degree at the University of Northumbria.

She is driven by the belief that her previous experiences as a sufferer mean she can offer a genuine understanding of what her patients are going through, and make sure they get the sort of care they need.

She is confident that changes are already being made, and speaks approvingly of a new approach to patient care that will “focus on the whole person”, hopefully preventing sufferers from feeling embarrassed and isolated because of their condition.

Talking about her time as a patient, Andrea says “a lot of the things people said to me sounded like they had come straight out of books.” She is hoping that her first hand experiences can bring a much needed reality check to the way Britain treats people with mental health problems.

Need More Info?

Every year, around a quarter of people in Britain experience mental health problems of some kind. If you're looking for somebody to talk to about how you're feeling, these organizations can help.

The Samaritans

Provide confidential support every minute of every day for anyone in distress or despair. Call them on 08457 909090, or visit their website at www.samaritans.org.

University counselling service

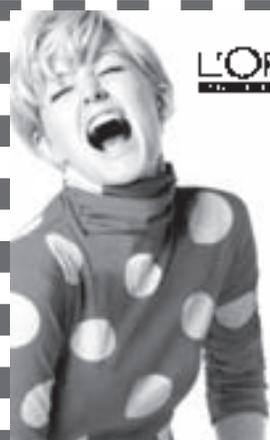
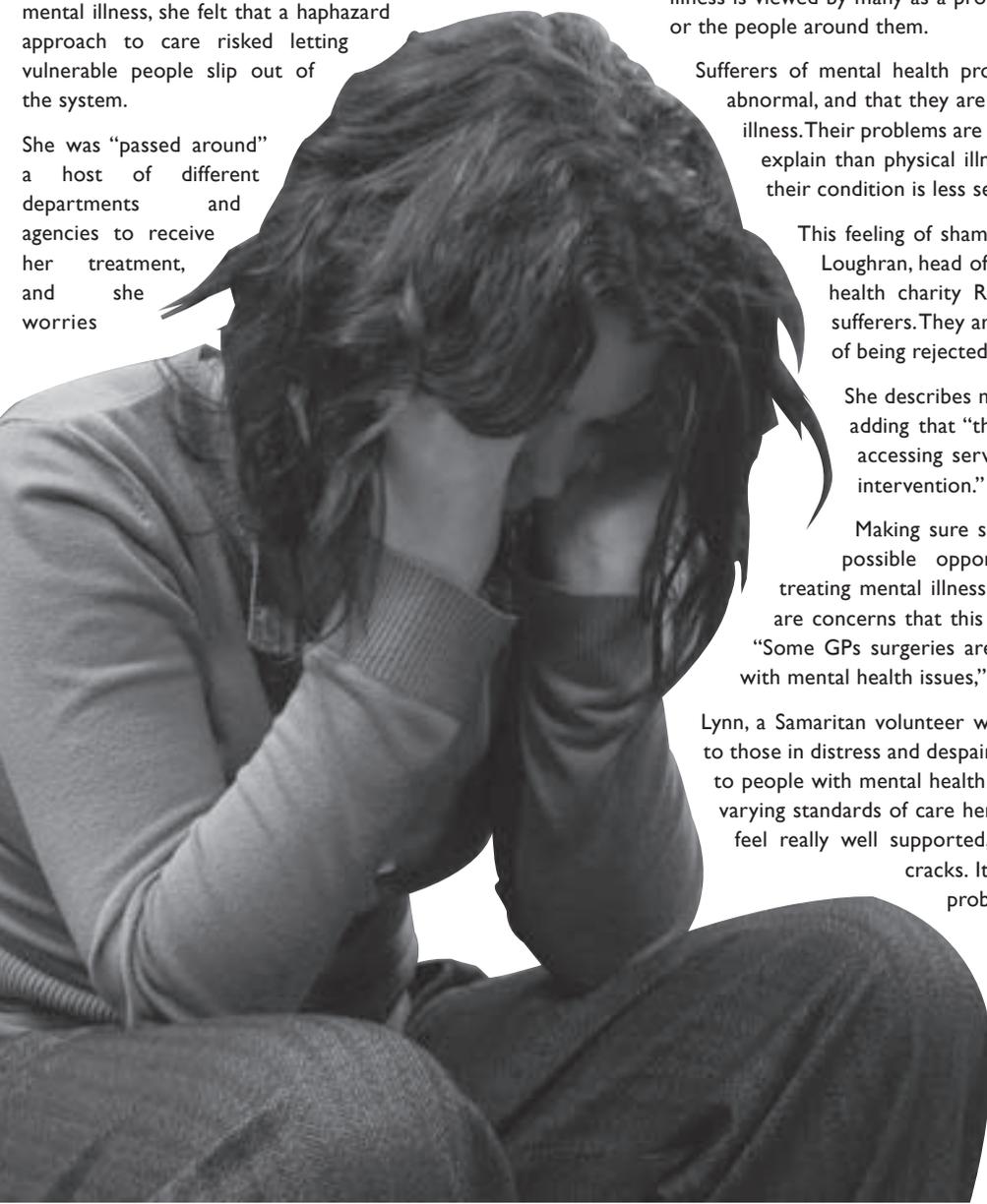
The University counsellors can help you talk about how you're feeling, and suggest ways to put things right. Find them in Furness College, room B105, or ring them on 01524 592690.

Mind

Campaigns to improve the lives of people with mental health problems, by challenging discrimination and educating the public about the realities of mental illness. You can ring them on 020 8519 2122, or visit their website at www.mind.org.uk.

Nightline

Lancaster University's confidential listening service, run by students for students, is open 10pm-8am 7 days a week throughout term time. The number is 94444 and external 01524 594444.



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| <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to not leave appliances on stand-by | <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to cook using the right pan size for the food and cooker and to use lids on pans. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge not to over-fill the kettle | <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to top up my loft insulation to 250mm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to make my light bulbs energy efficient | <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to switch to a green electricity tariff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to set my thermostat / radiator to a reasonable level (18°C and 21°C or 2/3 on your radiator) | <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to install a micro-generation technology (Solar thermal, photovoltaics, turbine, ground source heat pump) |

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One World Week

One World Week is fast approaching and there is quite a line-up...

What is it?

One World Week is a week long programme of student led events across Lancaster University. Its mission is to celebrate the global diversity that exists across the campus whilst simultaneously raising the profile of global environmental and social justice issues that impact upon us all.

When is it?

12th - 16th of March with activities on the weekends as well

Themes:

Climate Change - Trucking with climate change - Confused? Come and see the exhibit in Edward Roberts Court!

Social Justice and Anti-Slavery - It's the bicentenary of the abolition of slavery yet 12 million are still in slavery of some kind.

Fairtrade - Fairtrade fortnight is here, help out and help the Uni get the status.

Diversity - celebrate our diverse student mix

What's Happening?:

Leo Hickman the Guardian's Ethical Man

Alastair Humphries - Cycled around the world!

Jason Torrence - Transport 2000

Village Aid speaker

Homeless Action speaker

The Cartmel Fashion Show

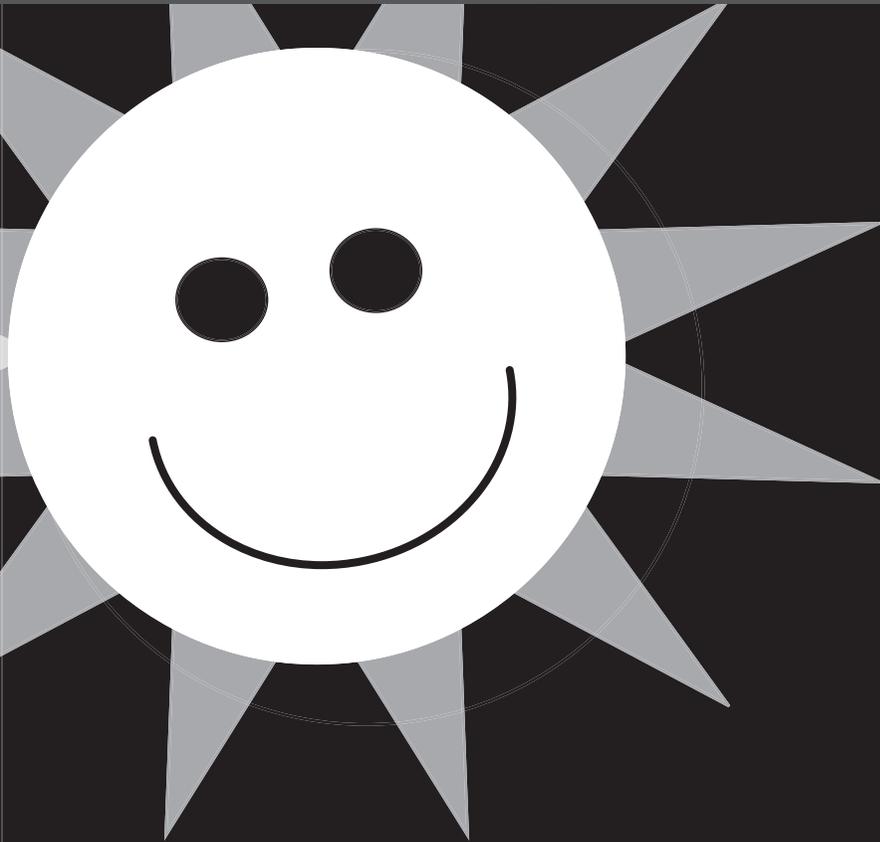
And much much more...

Got an idea for an event? Want you or your society to get more involved?

Come along to the OWW Committee, student led open to all every Wednesday Chaplaincy Centre Lounge 4pm

The website will be updated soon:

www.lusu.co.uk/oneworld



looking for a job next term or over the summer?

lusu marketing are looking
to recruit new members to
their teams

check out www.lusu.co.uk/jobs

PG Tips: Postgrad Sabb A Year On

Andre Oboler Looks At The Need For A postgraduate Sabbatical Officer And Lancaster's Need For One.

Andre Oboler

It's 12 months since a referendum took place on creating a postgraduate sabbatical. Referenda are the most powerful tool of our union, the most democratic and the only time outside of elections when all students are consulted about major change. This particular referendum achieved quorum, and more significantly voted YES with a large majority – 88% of the valid votes. The National Postgraduate Committee issued a press release congratulating Lancaster. Only the logistics seemed to remain. Would we move to a special election, or would it be put off until the following year's sabbatical elections? A year with no apparent movement, we re-examine the question and reflect on the campaign, delays, issues and future

of the postgraduate Sabbatical Officer.

On this page we provide you with thoughts from two postgraduate sabbatical officers, the General Secretary and full time sabbatical officer who heads the National Postgraduate Committee (think NUS for postgrads) and the President (part time Sabbatical) of York University's Graduate Student Association. We also wrote to both LUSU and the University asking their views on postgraduate representation, and their take on why a democratic decision taken by the student body appears not to be being implemented. As far as we can tell it boils down to a dispute on money, i.e. who pays for this new sabbatical. While places like York provide for their students and grow in reputation as a result, Lancaster seems more concerned with playing politics. LUSU's comments are provided, the University (which was contacted first) was not able to comment.

Last year's referenda took place at the same time as sabbatical election, and 1929 students

cast a referenda vote. Significantly, 187 postgrads voted, and Graduate College (quite unusually) had more people vote than either Fylde or Pendle. The postgraduates, given a chance to support themselves voted 92% yes, the highest vote of any college. The lowest level of support came from Fylde with only 81%. Like Graduate County, Bowland and Grizedale all supported the move with around 90% agreement. With postgraduate representation being seriously looked at, apathy dropped not only amongst postgrad voters, but also amongst candidates. Graduate college members were contenders for half the sabbatical posts (though none got in).

With an almost guaranteed lack of continuity (most postgrads being new each year), it's possible that some in University House are hoping the referenda will simply be forgotten. In the short term this is unlikely with both LUSU and the GSA backing increased postgraduate representation. LUSU President Sooz Palmer told SCAN that now is the time to "reinvigorate the campaign

for a postgraduate sabbatical officer", and a GSA spokesperson told us that "the GSA fully support any measures that improve things for postgraduate students." For the first time in a while the GSA also have a number of officers on long term courses, and with LUSU's continuing and active support this may just provide the continuity needed to see change through.

Last year's referenda result came about because the student body stood together in unity, union officers engaged with postgrad issues. LUSU invested in a very solid postgraduate report, learning how much more there was to be done. It is only in unity and through the support of officers at LUSU and college level that the issue of postgraduate representation will be kept on the agenda. At this point in time Lancaster's postgrads are lucky to have this unity and future students will more than likely see the benefits. As we wait for the University's reply, the question we ask on behalf of our postgraduates is no longer "if", but rather "when". SCAN along with the student body awaits the University's reply.

A PG Sabb's Remit...

An interview with Jennifer Winter, President of York University's Graduate Students' Association.

AO: You're a postgrad Sabb at York, how does that work?

JW: We have three part-time sabbatical officers; The president (myself) is contracted to work 20 hours per week. Our welfare officer who handles academic appeals, supervisor conflicts and financial issues, is contracted for 15. Our "internal officer" in charge of social provisions is contracted for 10 hours. The reality is that we all work far more than contracted, but we decided to maintain part-time status so officers could continue to be full-time students. It is a difficult balancing act, but convincing completing post-graduate students to suspend their career progression for a year is also hard.

AO: What does a postgrad sabbatical officer do?

JW: The president of our Postgraduate Students' Association (the GSA) has equal standing in the university to the president of the Students' Union. Supported by our other officers, we sit

on every university committee, voicing the needs and concerns of post-graduate students. As GSA President, I am a member of the University Council and court and play a very active role in the Board for the Graduate Schools (on which we have three seats). I am involved in any negotiations between the University and the student body (e.g. the Lecturer's strike), oversee the day to day running of the organisation and provide the public face of our postgraduate students. I am currently working to change the status of writing up students to "registered" to gain council tax exemptions and limit the visa charges to overseas students.

AO: What issues does sabbatical postgrad representation solve?

JW: The needs of postgraduates are very different from those of undergraduates and the traditional university sabbatical officer has little or no experience of them. Post-graduates have a perceived lack of time and resources to dedicate

to representation, and the structure of University Students' Unions exacerbates this problem. Post-graduates also do not feel they are represented by recent graduates (as indeed they are not). As an example, York University was recently reviewing its on campus accommodation rent structure. It was discovered in discussion that students in 51 week lets (i.e. postgraduates) were paying a far higher margins. An undergraduate sabbatical, even with the best of intentions, is unlikely to notice the issue and would have faced a very real crisis of conscience if forced to decide between fighting for the postgrads' right to fair prices and fighting to keep undergraduate prices down. Undergraduates and postgraduates were both represented and a solution that suited both groups was found.

AO: How are your postgrad Sabbs paid for?

JW: A percentage of fees at the University of York is put towards "capitation", this money funds our student organisations. For undergraduates, this money goes directly to the Students' Union. For

post-graduates, the money is split, half goes to the Students' Union, and half to the GSA. We work together to provide for the needs of postgraduate students; the Union represents them in the ways that they are the same as undergraduates (the need for student societies, free condoms, and athletic activities); and we represent them in the ways that they are different (e.g. the need for adult company, academic advice on research intensive programs, and social activities out of term time when the other facilities are closed). Capitation covers our costs, our goal is to provide a service, not to make money.

AO: Final comments?

JW: About a quarter of our students are postgrads. We wouldn't let any other group that big go unrepresented, and postgrads shouldn't be any different.

Lancaster's Position On The Issue

We asked Sooz Palmer, LUSU President, why the postgrad Sabb still does not exist and what was being done to resolve this problem.

"Back in 2006 a referenda decided that your Union should become home to a postgraduate Sabbatical Officer. This followed the postgraduate Report which outlined both the urgent need and union's desire for such an officer, along with several other recommendations to improve postgraduate representation and Lancaster Postgraduate Student Experience. Progress on the report is continually being monitored and both the Union and the University have been making progress through several committees and working parties.

The major hurdle which faces us is the creation of the Sabbatical officer. LUSU is not willing to create a position which is detrimental to other areas of the Union, we therefore seek to have a seventh sabbatical officer alongside the existing six. To do this we not only need the funding for a seventh sabbatical officer, we also need the University to agree to the constitutional amendments (approved by the referenda) that would create this post.

The experiences of the sabbatical team are almost always solely through undergraduate studies, it is therefore an up-hill struggle for us to relate to and properly represent postgraduate students. We do try though, and we work closely with staff members of the Union and staff of the University to share knowledge and constantly try to build on

the services we offer. Our resources are however limited both by the experience of our officers and due to our funding. We have only two Postgraduate Officers in the Union, though our current reps are proactively involving themselves in the GSA and the post graduate community. They also relay important information back to the Union through various LUSU committees. This is a positive for postgraduate representation.

Although the GSA and Union postgraduate representation is present, the time demands for committees and collaboration is set against the intense course demands of postgraduate degrees. Postgraduate degrees often lack the flexibility we find in undergraduate degrees, leaving our voluntary representatives with little time and

what time they do have is often in small chunks at odd hours. This actively works against the proactive nature that elected officers need to be highly effective. Having specific officer time (e.g. through a sabbatical) dedicated to these issues is both urgently needed and has now been democratically demanded. We have to reinvigorate the campaign for a postgraduate sabbatical officer and start making demands that all our students are properly represented – and that includes our many postgraduates."

The LUSU Sabbatical team are currently re-addressing the situation of the Postgraduate Sabb and Posatgraduate Report, and are hoping to re-launch this fundamentally important campaign.

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One World Week

WELCOME WORLD

On behalf of everyone involved in the organisation of One World Week, I would like to welcome you all to this very important event.

This years One World Week is based around the themes of Climate Change, Social justice, Anti – Trafficking, Fair Trade and Diversity.

It is clear that there are many problems in the world. Every three seconds someone dies because of extreme poverty, and in 2006 alone there were 2.9 million AIDS-related deaths. At least 12.3 million people are victims of forced labour world wide and of these 2.4 million are a result of human trafficking. Climate Change is set to make these problems even worse.

Meanwhile, the UK government is set to waste billions of pounds on replacing Britain's Nuclear deterrent, when this money could

be spent on tackling real threats to humanity such as world poverty and global warming.

Even though it is easy to be down hearted about the state of the world, there are many things to be positive about as many changes have been brought about by ordinary people. An example of this is the marking of the 200th anniversary of the abolishment of slavery this year. There are also many other movements which bring the world hope such as the progressive social movements in Latin America, which are helping to bring sweeping progressive changes across the continent and the World Social Forum which recently took place in Nairobi, Kenya.

One World Week hopes to bring people together to learn about global issues and to take action locally on things which have an

impact on the whole world. We have a responsibility as human beings to ensure that we share and care for the earth and its resources so it is preserved for future generations and to ensure that justice, equality, peace and fullness of life are rights that are enjoyed by the many, not the few.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken part in the organisation of One World Week – you have done excellent job- and also to encourage as many people as possible to get involved, as it is you who can make a difference and make One World Week a true success.

Enjoy One World Week,
Richard Wyatt

Chair of One World Week
Organisational Committee

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CLIMATE CHANGE

DIVERSITY

ANTI SLAVERY

FAIRTRADE

SOCIAL JUSTICE

For more articles and additional information, please visit:

www.lusu.co.uk/oneworld



One World Week

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10 Good Reasons to Buy FAIRTRADE

With Fairtrade now being made available at a wide range of outlets across campus, Lancaster University is tantalizingly close to attaining the much sought after Fairtrade Status.

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What's the deal, with arms trade?



By Christopher Matthews

The term 'arms trade' basically means that there is an exchange between arms and weapons between two or more parties, which doesn't necessarily have to be exclusive to sovereign nations. This article will focus

upon the fourth-largest arms trade multinational in the world, which happens to be, British Aerospace Engineers (BAE) Systems. BAE Systems is based in Farnborough and in 2005 its' revenue was around £15,411 million. One of the main arguments for the 'arms trade' is that it creates jobs and is good for the UK economy, however this is not the case. Two thirds of BAE employers derive from the UK, however this will not last long if recent trends are anything to go by, as BAE systems are constantly relying on cheap labour and so are finding jobs abroad, which is why jobs are being lost in the UK. For example, in 2002 around a thousand jobs were lost in Glasgow and a few months later BAE Systems created a thousand new jobs for workers in the USA. According to the governments' own figures, more jobs can be created in less risky sectors such as health, education and transport etc, than can be made from investing in the 'arms trade'. The costs to society far exceed

Homelessness

'Dirty tramp; he should just get a job. After all, it's probably his own fault. He got himself into that mess'.

Ever thought that? Shouldn't we be facing up to the uneasy reality of an issue which has no easy answers.

Many people associate homelessness with those people who sleep on the streets. However this conceals the scale of the problem; many individuals and families are temporarily staying with friends or being temporarily housed in hostels or B&Bs. A home isn't just a roof over your head; it's a place that provides security and privacy. Homelessness brings none of these and instead leads to disempowerment, isolation, and poverty.

Each night as many as 15 people will sleep rough in tents, in shop doorways, or in makeshift shelters in Lancaster. Many more are technically homeless but sleeping on the floor or the sofa of friends' houses or in temporary accommodation.

There is no permanent night shelter for the homeless in

Lancaster. The floor of a local church is used as a place for Lancaster's homeless to spend the night during the coldest months of the year. Due to rebuilding work this has not been open in 2007. The council turn a blind eye and have no plans to provide a permanent night shelter.

The disparity between the allocation of resources to relieve poverty and those devoted to other projects such as Britain's nuclear trident is outrageous. Moreover, inadequate and incoherent social-welfare policies don't do enough to move the homeless from the streets and shelters into jobs and permanent housing. We don't need to look to poverty-stricken countries in Africa to see extreme social injustice; it's right here on our doorstep. No home, no justice.

- Buy food or a hot drink for those who beg for money.
- Make local councillors and MPs aware of the situation.
- Support Big Issue vendors.
- Volunteer your time to help the homeless and those on the margins of society.

any form of benefit in terms of economy and employment.

BAE Systems do seem to have a very poor employment record when it comes to UK workers, however the term 'poor' can be used adequately to describe many of their actions. To start with, BAE Systems had been economically involved with Augusto Pinochet and have recently been involved in an inquiry regarding a 'slush fund' to Saudi Arabia regarding the Al Yamamah contracts. However, this inquiry by the Serious Fraud

Office (SFO) has been terminated rather controversially. BAE Systems have also sold weapons to Saddam Hussein, also to Israel, Indonesia, Turkey, South Africa, and pressurising to be first in line to sell weapons to embargoed countries.

The 'arms trade' encourages conflict, is unreliable in terms of economy and employment and BAE Systems have a huge list of 'poor' conducts to add. So I ask you; what's the deal with arms trade?

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FUSION

CASABLANCA
STARRING: HUMPHREY BOGART AND INGRID BERGMAN
AT THE DUKES

Cinema



“We’ll always have Paris,” again!

ANDREW BAIN

Since its release in 1942, *Casablanca* has often been hailed as a pinnacle of cinema, one of the greatest achievements of Hollywood. Those of us who missed this gem of a film the first time around have now been given a second chance to see it on the big screen, where it belongs.

The story is set in World War II. *Casablanca* is a port town from which refugees are fleeing to America and a new life, and the film is

essentially about this desire for escape, the desire for a new world or time. Any ideas of a lifeless documentary-style film created by the word ‘refugee’ are expelled as soon as we are introduced to ‘Rick’s’, the stylish hot-spot bar owned by the main character (played by Humphrey Bogart). Rick’s is a catalyst for the mingling of a myriad of fascinating characters, all of whom, no matter how briefly on screen, give the sense that an entire movie could have been made about them. From here on in the film is practically flawless.

From the shot that pans around Rick’s, displaying the plethora of characters on show, each scene

to follow is perfectly set up, from piano-side recollections with Sam to that famous last scene at the foggy airstrip. Bogart and Bergman are fantastic as equally torn characters, both strong and weak simultaneously, and their back-story hits exactly the right tone of romance without becoming soppy. On top of this there are numerous exchanges of hilarious witticisms throughout, all of which are delivered with enough flippancy and cynicism to put modern comedies to shame, and lift the film to a higher, more memorable, level.

Overall, what is there to be said about *Casablanca* that hasn’t already been said? It is,

without doubt, a must-see for everyone. If you consider yourself a film fan, then even more so; it is utterly essential that every movie buff has seen this movie (preferably more than once). However, the film is not just the preserve of the movie-buffs, it is a completely accessible and utterly pleasurable cinema experience for almost anyone, and an education for those who shy away from the black and white oldies, as the colours seem only to give extra vitality. If nothing else, go just to hear Bogart say ‘here’s lookin’ at you kid’. It’ll give you goosebumps, I promise.

A very real tragedy, close to home

GHOSTS
STARRING:
AT THE DUKES

Cinema

Tony Pinkney

On a good day the view across Morecambe Bay can be stunning indeed, with the Lake District Mountains vivid and beautiful in the background. On a less good day, with the tide out, you can enjoy the vast populations of diverse sea-birds that feed in the mud, or watch the diminutive figures of the cockle pickers far out in the Bay. But on February 5th 2004 we realised with a shock what human tragedies this inspiring seascape can contain, when twenty-three young Chinese cockle pickers were drowned by the night tide, which always surges into the Bay with frightening speed.

What were they doing there in the first place, so far away from home and family? That is the story which the Channel Four film 'Ghosts' (shown recently at the Dukes) sets out to tell, tracing the tale of a group of Chinese immigrant workers from their rural villages back home across Europe to the brutal and exploitative world of illegal labour in England. After amassing huge debts to Chinese human traffickers they find themselves not in the land of milk and honey they had expected, but in a world of crowded and unsanitary accommodation, of harsh gangmasters and corrupt Job Office employees, of back-breaking labour in the factory-farms and food-processing industries of Norfolk. If you wonder why food in British supermarkets is cheap, it is because it relies systematically on the abuse of such people.

At every stage of their English experience this group of young Chinese men and women is cheated, cajoled and attacked, though they try to sustain



each others' spirits as best they can. Eventually, hearing of better money to be made in the cockle fields of Morecambe Bay, they head fatefully up the M6 in their minibus. Idyllic shots of the green and pleasant countryside they drive through only makes the impending tragedy the more disturbing. For a Lancaster audience, the closing scenes of the film

are particularly gruelling, as we witness the horror and injustice taking place on our own doorsteps.

But the death of these twenty-three people was not a one-off incident, far from it. A recent study by Hull University has shown how dependent the British economy now is on the forced and

exploited labour of tens of thousands of immigrant workers, legal and illegal. If you get the chance to go and see 'Ghosts', by all means do. It has eerie resonances if you know Morecambe Bay, and it powerfully exposes the dark underbelly, the sheer toll of human suffering and despair, of our neo-liberal globalised economy.

ROSE KEMP
AT THE YORKSHIRE HOUSE
SALIMA PUNJANI

Live

NINE YEARS
EMMA SPIRES AND CHLOE BOULTON
LUTG PRODUCTION

Theatre

Hypnotic is the best way to describe the performance given by 22 year old Bristol based female soloist Rose Kemp on Saturday February 10 at the Yorkshire House.

All eyes were on Kemp as her powerful, unamplified voice filled the silent jam-packed upstairs room backed up by the instrumental masterminds of Leeds band 7 Hertz. They were so impressive that even a mob of drunken Lancastrians were quiet, now that's talent!

The two entwined and adapted with each other so perfectly that you'd think they had practiced it that way, but in an interview with Rose Kemp she describes how her performances, "change daily as the gig turns out, especially when collaborating...[you] never really know what to expect."

Kemp describes her musical style as "non-bland" and "riffastic." She feels that for the most part her music is really random and depends on the gig. Although she grew up on tour with her parents of folk band Steeleye Span, in response to any influences on her music, Kemp described how "some bands go out of their way to sound like the Rolling Stones. I've never really been like

that, if it's ever happened, then it happened by accident."

Rose Kemp is currently on an English tour promoting her new album 'A Hand Full of Hurricanes', which has been recently toured in France, Italy, Germany while a trip to tour the USA is in the works. Although her music is getting increasing attention in England and abroad Rose Kemp loves to play intimate shows. In regards to Lancaster she said that "gigs like this are a joy! LAWMM really looks after you and knows what you're about. They really understand what is involved."

For such a young successful artist there is not a trace of arrogance on Rose Kemp. Some words of advice she recommends for young artists is, "you have to do the work and gigging. You have to work hard and pay your dues- get good at what you do. Being good at music is a lifelong thing."

To read more and listen to Rose Kemp visit www.myspace.com/rosekemp. Rose Kemp was presented in Lancaster by the Little Argument With Myself (L.A.W.M) company. To keep updated on local gigs visit www.lawm.co.uk

“Is this happiness? No this is shitness.” – The beginning of the monologue that opened the seemingly unrehearsed and low-budget production Nine Years. Initially, we thought we had mistakenly wandered into a stand-up comedy!

However, as the play progressed we not only became seduced by the astonishing charisma of the actors, but also of the spontaneous humour and poignancy within the narrative. This poignancy derived from the actors' characterisation of the mundane, the nostalgic and the lonely existence of the nomadic traveller.

With simplistic props, and a backdrop of a fragmented video recording, a minimalist stage design was created. The two actors (if we could call them actors; after all, conventional 'acting' did not take place) relied solely on wit, and a flair for naturalistic humour.

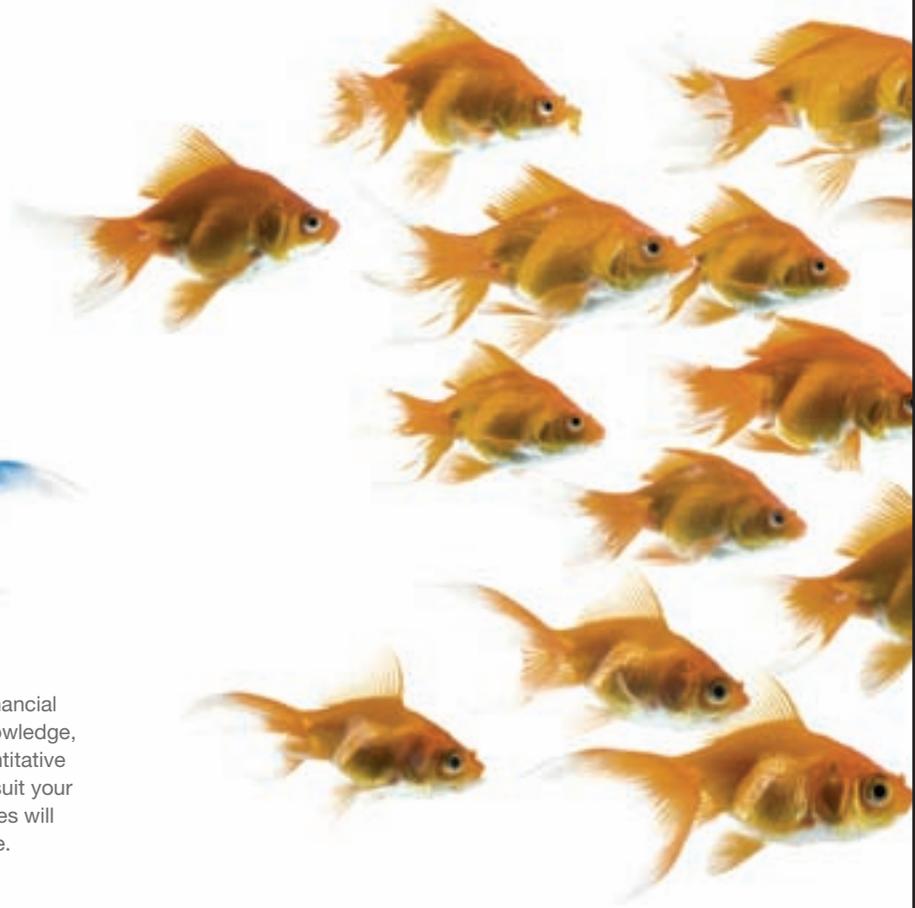
There was a resonance of loneliness and an underlying sense of tragedy in that even characters with as much charisma as these twins can still find themselves in a state of solitude. It is here, that one may draw parallels between this play and texts such as *Roscrantz* and *Guilkenstern*

Are Dead, and *Waiting for Godot*, for these narratives also illustrate close travellers and the centralised theme of existentialism.

The narrative of the production was somewhat unconventional, due to its 'scrapbook' quality, consisting of little more than random, abstract memories. These memories were made affecting by the twins' sentimental attachment to them; one such memory portrayed the mundane event of a stranger lightly touching the arm of one of the travellers. This illustrated the significance of human interaction which seemed to be at the heart of the play.

However, one negative aspect about this play's abstract style was its tendency to rely upon repetition, both visually and within the narrative. For example, one such monologue was recited over four times. Despite this, the protagonists were evidently irresistible to the audience both comically and due to their touching honesty and willingness to reveal their own insecurities in relation to human existence.

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It's an Idle-wild world

IDLEWILD
MAKE ANOTHER WORLD
CATHERINE FEARN

Albums

It was during my college days that I got to meet Roddy Woomble, Idlewild's iconic lead singer, at an album signing in Manchester and it was the first and last time to date that I have ever been star struck. This may sound like a digression but after losing their distinctive sound on their last album 'Warnings/Promises' in favour of whimsical ballads, Idlewild and Roddy lost some of their charm. Thank god for comebacks though, if *Take That* can do it successfully, then so can Idlewild as the opening chords of their new album, 'Make Another World' immediately recall the glory days of breakthrough album '100 Broken Windows' when

the Scottish rockers made anthemic tunes.

The album which opens with 'In Competition For the Worst Time', a crashing tune that begins with a deluge of distinctive Idlewild chords that break out into a rough torrent of guitars and drums that screams out that this band are back to make rock music. The euphoria of the album's opening is carried on throughout 'Everything (As It Moves)', ending on a guitar riff that would make *The Edge* envious. It's a bit surprising then when forthcoming single 'No Emotion' swaps riffs for bouncing chords. The tune honours New Orders 'World In Motion' firstly because its the tune, secondly because of the title and thirdly because of the lyrics: 'When we kick back into a world of motion', it seems that this tune would be at home on the soundtrack to an

X-Box football game.

On the title track, the band have once more swept across the landscape of Scotland for musical inspiration and Woomble's singing rival's any of the current *Damien Rice/James Blunt* types, his voice is as thick and comforting as a bowl of Scottish Oats. What results is a melodic tune that at times sounds distinctly influenced by the *Manic Street Preachers*, but Idlewild are no mere imitators as 'Arcade of Ghosts' suggests. Ending on 'Finished It Remains', will ensure that 'The Bronze Medal', and 'Scottish Fiction', fans of Idlewild's more 'epic' tunes will not be disappointed and with a forthcoming tour starting in March, for any Idlewild follower this return will be rapturously greeted, it has convinced one at least that comebacks are possible.



BEANGROWERS
DANCE DANCE BABY
CATHERINE FEARN

Albums

Could've Bean Better



Beangrowers are a female-fronted indie three piece led by Alison Galea who has a sweet, indifferent singing voice which at times sounds rather British, very surprising as the band hail from Malta.

Their third album opens with 'The Farewell Party' during which Galea sings like a slightly sedate Shirley Manson over the top of Joy Division styled guitar melodies, that hum and murmur into a ditzzy chorus. Further on, 'The Priest' begins with a base line recalling early *Green Day* material but the punk elements are discarded when the tune

breaks into a sweeping chorus that makes this track a standout.

'I Like You', another track with the potential to ripen into something tasty, has Galea's vocals offset against breaks and skips in its catchy, impulsive indie-pop melody. The title track is another to "boogie in the park", fused alongside more electro pop, organs and drum machines that move with a ferocious pace making you want to "dance dance". Its tracks like these that make you think, 'well if indie music can conquer Ibiza then maybe *Beangrowers* can capitalise on the Brit-led electro-pop scene.'

Unfortunately though the album tails off with 'Lucky Luca' being one of the most uneventful songs I've ever endured, at three minutes into the song the lack-luster baseline, which sounds like a fat man plodding around, is finally broken up with the hushed singing of 'Lucky Luca', not exactly inspiring stuff. 'Analyze,' the album's closing track, is a similarly numbing experience that melts down into a murky haze of distortion that tries to cover up its blandness, a bit like when you have to mix a bit of Worcester sauce in with baked beans.

Singles

Singles

Gisli: Long Down
Vix Roberts

The intro to the song made me think they'd be a *Snow Patrol/Coldplay* kind of band, but they seem to miss the mark somehow. It sounds like one of those songs that is trying a bit too hard. After a few more listens it'll no doubt grow on me, but it's too instrumental towards the end.



Howling Bells: Low Happening
Nick Gilmer

Sensually smart, in a way not heard since *PJ Harvey*, *Howling Bells* have everything required to be true heroes of the underground (no pun intended, as this four piece hail from Australia). Jaunita Stein's vocals carry you, dream-like, to a land literally, down under.



The Horrors: Gloves
Penny Lawton

'Gloves' is the fourth single from the über mod/gothic group *The Horrors*. Screeching guitars and a haunting keyboard accompany Faris Rotter's incoherent mumblings to make this a punk rocker kid's wet dream. Some catchier lines could inject the colour they lack and your laptop speakers don't do justice to what would be amazing live.



No better than Norah

Burn the Witch

THE HOURS
NARCISSUS ROAD
NICK GILMER

Album

YOKO ONO
YES, I'M A WITCH
PENNY LAWTON

Album

This album starts on so very well. Don't be fooled by the gothic skull artwork, *The Hours* try hard to be uplifting indie-pop music well written and well delivered, with essences of Doves and with a generous helping of optimistic pop hooks.

Some would call opening single 'Ali In The Jungle' a "grower", and that "some" would be right; its infectious hammering rhythm could be compared to *The Walkmen's* indie anthem 'The Rat', only in place of their driving guitars *The Hours* opt instead for an ostentatious, pounding piano, the sort of grandness *Arcade Fire* first brought to our collective ear over two years ago.

Unfortunately, the rest of the album is something of a damp squib. Well, that's not entirely fair, but when a band sets their shop window up as well as *The Hours* do with 'Ali In The Jungle', it's always somewhat disappointing when your taken out the back to find nothing but second hand goods, and cheap imitations. Where 'Narcissus Road', and 'Back When You Were Good' are soaring majestic creatures, the rest of the album is left flailing, and clutching at straws even *Keane* and *Snow Patrol* would turn their noses up at.



This album will take its place on the coffee table alongside *James Blunt* and *Norah Jones* marked "Music for dinner parties". After the first few tracks it becomes background music - easy on the ears, and easy to talk over.

Yoko Ono had the clever little idea of inviting some artists to pick their favourite of her songs and rework them and, therefore, alter her reputation as the misunderstood, primal screamer she is thought to be by the modern listener.

The intro track doesn't promisingly open the album, leading us unwillingly to 'Kiss Kiss Kiss' sounding like what I can only describe as a *Pokemon* on a trip. Fortunately, 'Peaches' make a seriously cool backing track, but by this point her vocals have you crawling mercifully to the stop button. Alternative indeed.

'Everyman Everywoman' is one of the best tracks featuring 'Blow Up'. Her vocals are smouldering and hypnotise your consciousness into a chaos equal only to her own. The tone is ever shifting as 'Revelations' is brutally honest and stops you in your tracks to merely listen, proving that this album could not be anymore diverse if it tried.

The Flaming Lips' take on Lennon/Ono's 'Cambridge 1969' is possibly the most bizarre bit of 'music' I have ever heard. Fans are stifled in awe at it, but I have no idea on what premise, it's disturbingly unsafe. Murderous screamings against dull swirling beats aren't my bag.

Ono gives the word eclectic a new meaning; one moment you're entranced and the next, it is an ear

piercingly painful listen. Kudos to her that she is 74 and still bashing them out, causing controversy in her wake, but it's only worth a listen for the talented mix of beggars such as these collaborating with her.



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“It sounds so gay”

LARRIKIN LOVE
@ MANCHESTER ACADEMY
WILL THACKER

Interview

“There are fitties in France and Ireland”, says Larrikin Love guitarist Micko Larkin. “There are so many hot girls. There are hot girls in England but its more spread out.” He pauses for thought. “Leeds is full of hotties though.” Doubtless to their dismay, the Academy audience contains precious few women. An inflated condom floats through the air, and chubby little men shout ‘there’s only one Jade Goody.’

Larrikin Love’s literary leanings mark them out as an extraordinary band in a musical age that knows no lack of ordinary bands. Their relative youth was spent frequenting South London pubs armed with a guitar, a distortion box, and the works of Roald Dahl.

“We all sat on this bus once reading George’s Marvellous Medicine” Larkin says. “We like a bit of Roald Dahl.” A successful stint at the Reading/Leeds Festival and a top 20 album has seen their star rise, and now the new darlings of indie have achieved the honour of speaking to SCAN Music.

“People who play music and go ‘yeah I’m not all about being successful’, they are chatting out of their arses” says Larkin. “I think being really commercial and being ridiculously successful has never been an issue for us. To be honest, if our single came in at number one it’d be fantastic.” “It’s not how many people buy our music” says bassist Alfie Ambrose. “It’s the kind of people who do, and whether they understand and enjoy it.”

Their willingness to play the game stands at variance to songwriter Edward Larrikin’s middle-finger-

up, anti-establishment lyrics. On ‘Downing St. Kindling’, he croons “I will burn a fire in Westminster using the door of Downing Street / And when Tony rushes out complaining of a draft, I’ll let him warm his feet.”

“What he’s really saying is that he’s claustrophobic and fed up with England” says Larkin, his friend on make-up duty. “And it always gets twisted into this ‘Edward Larrikin hates England, and hates everyone in it’ and all of that’s just shit. It’s the biggest load of bullshit and just people not listening to the song properly.”

On stage they pummel through their debut album ‘The Freedom Spark’, a professional rock opus of high-octane pop songs. Looping drums and hooky guitars drown out a violinist who seemingly performs for display purposes only. Stand-out single ‘Happy as Annie’ raises the



roof, and the hushed acoustics of lighters-out closer ‘At the Feet of Ré’ are a nod to *The Pogues*, *The Smiths*, and a fabled Irish-folk background. In a live setting *Larrikin Love* are in their element, producing the sort of ramshackle virtue that at times

is lost on the tempered, *Warner Brothers* produced Disney-punk of their debut.

To win the battle of hearts and minds, *Larrikin Love* will need to up their game for album number two. “The next album will be completely different” says

Ambrose. “We’re maturing quite a lot.”

“It sounds so gay” starts Larkin, as if to contradict his friend. “But rock-indie is the new pop. Does that sound really gay?” he checks. “We’ve all got girlfriends anyway.”



Fat pop-punk crap

BOWLING FOR SOUP
THE GREAT BURRITO EXTORTION
VIX ROBERTS

Albums

So, this is the ninth album that Bowling For Soup have released and it’s completely different to what I expected. When I think of this band I hear ‘Punk Rock 101’, ‘Girl All The Bad Guys Want’ and ‘1985’.

The lyrics are still classic *Bowling For Soup* with some examples including, “Getting in her pants wasn’t really that hard”, questioning Tom Cruise’s sexuality on ‘High

School Never Ends’ and a song called ‘I’m Gay’, but some of the songs seem a bit tamer than before. For a bunch of thirty-something guys they seem to have kept their upbeat sound and jokey lyrics, while finally calming down a little.

If you like *Bowling For Soup* you’ll enjoy it, if not just for ‘Os’ in ‘High School Never Ends’. They say, like every band, the new album is the best one they’ve done, but even if this one isn’t your favourite album,

it’s still worth a listen or two.

I can soon see some of the songs appearing on my most played list, and I’m loving their work, but then again, any album with a mention to *Jack Black* and *Harry Potter* in, (in the song ‘If You Come Back To Me’), I’m happy!

Look out for the next issue of SCAN when we keep the *Bowling For Soup* theme rolling with an interview with lead guitarist Chris Burney, out next term.

Singles

Singles

Joss Stone: Tell Me ‘Bout Me
Christine Wilde

Its simple, smooth sound shows off her voice, whilst the sexy lyrics highlight her growing musical maturity. However, it lacks the emotion of her previous singles and the backing music, whilst upbeat is a little uninspiring. It seems that she is gently easing her way back into the music scene in time for the summer.



Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly: I Spy
Metal Mark

Soaring rock stripped down to it’s most touching qualities. Sam Duckworth, nominated for NME’s best solo artist deserves any and all accolades he gets. Beautiful, delicate, touching and ambitious. “It doesn’t matter that this song is a simple tune” it makes it all the more enthralling and worth listening to.



Mumm-Ra: What Would Steve Do?
Nick Gilmer

What WOULD Steve do? A Steve of class, a Steve of respectable opinion, say – Steve Irwin of *Crocodile Hunter* fame, would flush this tame indie-pop-happy-clappy nonsense down the dunny. Sadly, Steve Lamacq is more likely to thrust *Mumm-Ra* on us until we all remember why we hate *The Kooks*.



Taking the Mika

MIKA
LIVE @ MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1
WILL VEITCH

Gigs

The tickets said Academy 3. The website said Academy 2. And when we arrived in Manchester the bristling and expectant queue was snaking its way out of Academy 1; such is the rise of MIKA, real name Michael Holbrook Penniman. By half past nine the room was packed and the support band were already forgotten as the man himself bounded onto the stage, tearing off his braces and grinning like the (infinitely better looking) bastard offspring of Freddie Mercury and Stevie from Shipwrecked.

He and his effortlessly talented band launched into 'Relax, Take It Easy' and already the crowd was won. MIKA seemed genuinely touched as he thanked them for having bought their tickets

before "the hype got silly" and the rapport on stage was electric, not least between MIKA and guitarist Martin Waugh.

MIKA treated Manchester to the whole of his #1 album and even included b-side 'Over My Shoulder', a lo-fi ballad which had almost every individual rapt, and a brave cover version of 'Everybody's Talkin' by The Beautiful South; the majority of the crowd being in their teens.

What surprised and impressed me was MIKA's ability to make his incredible vocal talent sound so effortless. He sounds even better and more confident live, if this is indeed even possible, than on record. MIKA was lost in his music in the best possible way; not a shoe-gazing introspective performer but one who thrives in front of an audience and truly believes in his songs.

Manchester loved MIKA. If his

vibrant and engaging personality hadn't come across during the songs it certainly did between them, the rapport he established so quickly second to none. Cries of 'Lollipop' went up at every opportunity and whilst current hit single 'Grace Kelly' is clearly already a classic, the reaction reserved for the aforementioned 'Lollipop' was incredible.

Coming as an encore, ticker-tape rained down, huge balloons bounced about and MIKA grinned like a loon throughout. It seemed like he had enjoyed the show almost as much as we all had, and as the assembled throng drifted reluctantly outside (to the strains of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang's 'Truly Scrumptious'), the phrase "already a legend" was, not unjustifiably, bandied about. MIKA has arrived, and he's here to stay.



Wincing from a kick in The Shins

THE SHINS
WINCING THE NIGHT AWAY
NICK RENSHAW

Albums

This is The Shins third and final album on the Sub Pop label. 2001's 'Oh Inverted World' and 2003's 'Chutes Too Narrow' saw them build a loyal fan base that increased rapidly after exposure in the film Garden State. After a four year wait this is one of the most anticipated albums of the year and sees The Shins trying to live up to the standards they set with the first two albums.

Opener 'Sleeping Lessons' starts off like a lullaby; a looped synth line accompanying songwriter James Mercer's fractured vocals. The song slowly builds before bursting into life half way through and ending like a runaway mine train. It's the most urgent thing they have done and a great start. 'Australia' is unadulterated Shins; all shiny, jangly guitar pop and threatens to break *The Manic Street Preachers'* monopoly on having the best song named after the country.

'Turn on me', 'Girl Sailor' and 'Phantom Limb' can be filed under

'classic Shins', harking back to the sound that made them so popular. 'Phantom Limb' starts with a distorted bass line before kicking in to the best song *The Beach Boys* never wrote, all sunny and spangly and full of 'ooooos' and 'arrrrs'. For a second 'Turn on me' sounds like the *Big Breakfast* theme tune, but it quickly sorts itself out and delivers a peach of a pop tune.

It's not all a return to past glories though, Mercer stated he wanted to 'stretch' things with this album and he certainly succeeded. 'Pam Berry' is 56 seconds of Mercer warbling over

a distorted guitar and not much else, whilst the biggest departure in sound is found on 'Sea Legs'. A funky groove is overswept with strings whilst Mercer does his best *Morrissey* impression. It's like a poor *Smiths* B-side and competes with 'Red Rabbits' as the weakest song on the album.

When the old and the new come together best we get 'Split Needles' arguably the best song on the album. It sounds a bit like *The Shins* mixed with *Duran Duran* and has some of the best noises you will hear on a song anywhere.

'Wincing the Night Away' is not quite as immediate as the previous two albums, but repeated listens reveal hidden subtleties and complexities. You sense *The Shins* were trying to please too many people; hardcore fans, new fans, and those who wanted a change in direction and the album comes out somewhere in the middle of all those expectations. Still there are some genuinely great



tracks and the fact that it gets better with every listen means this album should be on your wish list.

Singles

Singles

Love Is All: Nothing To Be Done
James Owen

'Nothing to Be Done' is a cover of a song by cult band *The Pastels* and is enjoyable enough except for the annoying female co-singer. She takes lead vocals on 'Ageing Had Never Been His Friend' and ruins that as well. *Love Is All* has one of the most irritating singers I've heard in a while. Avoid.



Six Nation State: Where Are You Now?
Vix Roberts

A great fast-moving song that you'll love if you're a fan of bands like *The Fratellis*, *The Clash* or *Kings of Leon*. They sound like a weird fusion of the three. But they do have a unique sound so they don't just sound like a copy of any other band. Definitely a winning first release.



The Answer: Be What You Want
Charlotte Woolley

The Answer are supposedly one of the rock successes of 2006, surprising considering no one has heard of them. 'Be What You Want' is overly Americanised in sentiment and not an appropriate song to represent the band. B-side 'In the Gutter' does a much better job because that's exactly where *The Answer* should be.



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THE BIG DEBATE: SHOULD VIDEO REFEREES BE USED IN FOOTBALL?

No: Football should be left as it is

Ian Waterhouse

When will you learn to stop fiddling with our game Mr. Blatter? Admittedly this is one of Sepp's more plausible ideas compared to football being played in quarters and the women's game being sexed up with the introduction of tighter clothing. However, the notion of introducing video technology into football would undoubtedly be a bad move.

Whilst almost every other sport has now made its first faltering steps into the multimedia world of video replays, football ought to keep its powder dry. Whilst cricket, tennis and both codes of rugby have regular natural breaks in play, the fast-flowing game of football does not. There must come a point at which play has to be interrupted by the whistle-blower, or is it appropriate to carry on until the next natural break, which may take a minute or longer?

Video replays are also not a guarantee that the correct decision will be made. Often camera angles prove inconclusive due to players getting in the way or problems with perspective. Even when such difficulties do not exist – as with Jonny Wilkinson's "try" in the recent Six Nations match against Scotland – the wrong decision can still be made. This is because, even with video replays, the decision still comes down to the interpretation of one individual of what he/she sees in front of them.

A further issue with video technology is the expense involved, and the extent to which it would be implemented. Would it only be used in live televised games? Or just in the Premiership? Or in every game in the football league from Manchester United to Macclesfield? A partial implementation would only contribute to the feeling that football at the top end is becoming ever more distant from that played lower down the ladder.

However, surely the most persuasive argument is the amount of talking points produced by the human capacity for error in decision making. Without questionable decisions, marginal offside and the erroneous awarding of penalties, much of the entertainment would be taken out of the sport. It is these perceived injustices that fuel pub-based conversation across the land, filling the barren space until the team next takes the field.

It is the right of every football fan to feel – on a weekly basis – that the referee is an ardent supporter of the opposition, and not to have that right taken away from them by video evidence, for which the game would have to be stopped every five minutes. That vast influx of players from warmer, dryer climes who have come to ply their trade in Britain comment frequently on the speed of the British game, which would surely only be negatively effected by the utilisation of video technology.

So the next time that you feel aggrieved when a decision goes against your team, just think of how much richer the game of football is for the controversy.

Yes: Technology should be introduced

Heather Roberts

The benefits of using video technology in sport have been seen in cricket, rugby and American football. So why is it that video referees are not used in football? Currently we rely primarily on the first human instincts of the referee and surrounding officials on the pitch. But if their instincts turn out to be wrong, which in some circumstances they have been, they can then greatly influence the final outcome of the game.

In 2001 Newcastle United's Alan Shearer voiced his support for bringing the use of video referees into the Premiership after he received a red card for elbowing Jon Fortune in their game against Charlton Athletic. However, his request was overturned by the FA, despite the fact that the video evidence that was reviewed after the game showed referee Andy D'Urso's decision to be wrong. It is in circumstances such as these where the use of video technology would be well served. After all, the main job of the fourth official is to keep time and help in the substitution of players, so why not make them watch a video screen as well to help aid the referee in any difficult or questionable decisions.

Also the use of video technology in football would be beneficial in cases where there are dubious calls as to whether a player is offside. If the referee and officials get decisions like these wrong then they can

arguably greatly upset the outcome of the game. The most recent example that I can think of this happening was during the Carling Cup final between Arsenal and Chelsea a few weekends ago. During this game Chelsea's Didier Drogba was able to equalise with an offside goal because the linesman failed to flag. After looking at the video evidence during half time many previous footballers and commentators noted that nine times out of ten Drogba would have been called offside. If video refereeing was introduced, and managers or players were able to challenge the decisions of the referees like they do in American football, then the likelihood of illegitimate goals being awarded would be greatly reduced.

This has also already proved to be the case in rugby. During the Ireland vs. England Six Nations tie a few weekends ago, French referee Joel Jutge called for the use of video evidence during the game a few times in order to determine whether or not a number of tries should be awarded. If such use of technology was used in football then the blame that is sometimes placed on the referee for not allowing a questionable goal would be slightly removed and thus the extent to which the referee can influence the game is reduced.

In rugby, cricket and American football the use of video referees to bring more order and discipline to the ways in which games are refereed has proved to be extremely successful. So why can this not be the same for football now? Let us bring in the use of video referees and stop letting officials have too much of a negative influence over the outcomes of matches and the way in which they are played.



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SCAN Sport Does... Ultimate Frisbee



Paul Collins
Sports Editor

The last time I tried out a new sport for SCAN, we received a letter of complaint, accusing us of lowering our standards and becoming almost pornographic. So, the 'disgruntled sports reader' will be pleased to know that last Wednesday, I was fully clothed down at the rugby pitches trying my hand at Ultimate Frisbee. Previous to this, my experience of frisbee throwing consisted of tossing one around on the beach with mates in Bilbao.

With a big regional tournament taking place at the weekend, there were a lot of drills to be worked on in this two hour session. After a brief warm up of running up and down the boggy hill (I'd wondered why my fellow sports editor Ian hadn't taken this one), we were into our first drill- zoning.

This involved three members of the squad holding a bunch of plastic bags stuck together with tape, and forming a triangle around the man with the Frisbee. The aim was to block any attempted passes, whilst holding the zone formation. Perhaps the A.U. could splash out on a piece of rope or something for the Ultimate Frisbee Club. A piece of string would be an upgrade on current equipment!

Next up were a series of drills aimed at improving passing and movement. A lot of new terminology was used, all of which went straight over my head, as did plenty of frisbees in my valiant attempts at



catching them.

Ultimate Frisbee combines the rules of American football and netball. You can only score a point by catching the frisbee in the end zones, and if holding the frisbee you can not run, but swivel and look to pass to a team mate. If the frisbee hits the floor or is thrown outside the boundary, possession is lost to the opposition.

I was delighted with the fact that I scored a point in the match. The highlight however, had to be the final event of the training session, diving in the mud attempting to catch. Mud is good for the skin as they say, and believe me I was about to find out.

Our Ultimate Frisbee team rank as probably the friendliest team I've come across in my time at uni. A great bunch who love their sport. Off the field their talents have been recognised too. Having qualified for the national finals during the day, they picked up the friendliest team award, and the party team award. Check out the website at <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/socs/ultimate/>. Also if you fancy taking part, head down to the rugby pitch by the pond at 1pm on Wednesdays.

Badminton

Women's Badminton 1sts 2-6 vs Edinburgh 1sts

Ian Waterhouse

Lancaster University Women's badminton team came unstuck against their counterparts from Edinburgh in the quarter finals of the BUSA National knockout. The final 6-2 scoreline was somewhat flattering to the maroon-clad visitors, although in the end they held the slight edge over the battling home side.

Having received a walkover against Glasgow University two weeks ago, the Red Rose side were again faced with Scottish opposition, this time in the form of the girls from the capital institution. With the four opening ties all beginning simultaneously, the action

was fast and frenetic right across the sports hall.

The first game to finish involved Lancaster's number two seeded doubles pair of Linda Thornborrow and Amy Blakemore, who went down 21-9, 21-13. The second doubles ended equally disappointingly, with Katie Wright and skipper Emmeline Cosgrove suffering a 16-21, 21-13, 21-12 loss. These games - as much of the action during the remainder of the afternoon - were characterized by extremely skillful play and a number of high quality pick-ups following smashes.

In the singles, Lancaster took both matches to ensure that the score was level going into the mid-match hiatus. Lauren Thomas comfortably won her match in straight sets, whilst Amy Ashrafi was pegged back in the second set of her game before taking the final set 21-7.

The reverse matches saw both the partnership of Wright and Cosgrove, as well as Ashrafi, defeated in straight sets, leaving the overall scoreline precariously poised at 4-2. Lancaster had already taken the opening set in both of the remaining matches, but both the partnership of Thornborrow and Blakemore as well as Lauren Thomas eventually went down in three sets, so that the overall score ended at 6-2 to the girls from Auld Reekie.

At the conclusion of the match, Lancaster captain Emmeline Cosgrove was full of praise for her side despite the loss. She told SCAN that "everyone played well, especially the second doubles, I'm proud of them. Edinburgh were just better." In spite of this defeat, it must be said that the team have enjoyed an excellent season and should look forward to next year with optimism as the vast majority of the squad will still be with the team.

The BUSA Trophy



Photos by Ian Waterhouse



Women's Hockey

The BUSA Shield



Women's Hockey 1sts 1-3 vs Birmingham Women's 3rds

James McLaughlin

Having destroyed Cambridge, Lancaster took on Birmingham University in the quarter finals of the knockout competition. Despite two fairly evenly matched teams, it was Birmingham who emerged with a slightly flattering 3-1 victory.

Lancaster came out all guns blazing, with some penetrating runs from Ilka Krieger opening up the Birmingham defence. These resulted in goalmouth threats, many of which were stopped on the line. The pressure continued as Krieger finished a good run with a pass across goal, almost turned home by the diving Lois Nightingale.

Meanwhile, the defence were cleaning up Birmingham's attacks with ease despite the physicality of the game. Lancaster searched for the opener, with Fran O'Neal playing some devastating balls. Their pressure continued, earning penalty corners that were only stopped by good saves.

Despite Lancaster's dominance, Birmingham took the lead after 20 minutes as a scramble in Lancaster's area was stroked home unexpectedly. They started to press and were unlucky not to double their lead with Amy Foggo breaking down a number of attacks. As the half drew to a close, O'Neal was unlucky to see her impressive shot stopped on the line after some good build up from Emma Collette.

Birmingham started the second half strongly, nearly capitalising on a couple of Lancastrian defensive mix-ups. Lancaster, however, earned a penalty corner which Cat Vose clinically finished for the equaliser. The frustration of Birmingham was evident as the game swung in Lancaster's favour, characterised by the visitors' winger being cautioned for dissent.

Lancaster continued to press, Nightingale forcing a save as she latched onto a through-ball from O'Neal. Frustration started to show with some rash challenges from both teams. Birmingham pushed on, earning a string of penalty corners and it was third time lucky, as a well worked routine saw the ball passed around the keeper and dispatched into Lancaster's empty net.

Shortly after, Sally Ware was unlucky to see her reverse stick lob go slightly wide of the goal as Lancaster battled on. Unfortunately, Birmingham pushed ahead as an excellent pass put an attacker through on the goalkeeper. Having taken the ball around the keeper with her first touch, she dispatched the ball despite being impeded by the goalie's challenge. Lancaster fought on and with 10 minutes left, Kim Hicken unlucky not to finish a fast cross.

Captain Lois Nightingale was gracious in defeat, "Fair play to Birmingham, they won fair and square on the day, though the game was a lot closer than the scoreline. I am proud of all my players, they worked their socks off. Well done to the players, we have had an awesome season". Nightingale was quick to thank Michael Badger for his support and coaching. "He has been amazing."



Photos by Duncan Monteith

Men's Volleyball

The BUSA Trophy



Men's Volleyball 1sts 1-3 vs MMU Cheshire

Samantha Walsh

Manchester Met Cheshire turned up in their specially made t-shirts, decorated in 'war paint' and made so much noise that the sports hall rang. Yet despite Lancaster losing 3 sets to 1 in a hard fought contest, nothing MMU Cheshire tried could make up for the team spirit and solidarity shown by their opposition. Whilst the visitors had noise, Lancaster had determination and passion.

The first set began evenly and Matiss Ansuiesulis scored a brilliant point to take the score to 8-8. A long rally followed, resulting in the visitors drawing a few points clear but the deficit was kept to a minimum and the home team pulled the score back to 22-24. Ultimately, however, MMU Cheshire took the first set. Lancaster started the next set well though with some smart team work and took the lead 8-4. The work of Matthieu Rouviere blocking shots at the net was impressive and the home team eventually won 28-26.

Early on in the third set, Lancaster took control with Jordan Hume and Polis Michaelipes helping to take the score to 5-0. The home team had gained an 11-point advantage before MMU Cheshire got their first point on the board, incidentally after appealing to the referee. However, after a long and gritty battle, the score eventually came back

level and remained this way until the end, the deciding two points coming at the death as the visitors completed their comeback to take the third set. They then took a fair advantage in set four, however the home team clawed them back to bring the contest down to the wire. MMU Cheshire took the final set though to leave the final score at 3-1.

After the match Lancaster's coach Stefan Bauer said, "We shouldn't have lost" but he was proud of his team and commented on how the match was closer than the score suggested. He also nominated Zac Rubio Grundell as the man of the match and added, "We're looking forward to the Roses match against York where we're hoping to kick some ass." All the players deserve credit for their performances, but it can honestly be said that the level of teamwork and unity was such that has scarcely been seen in a side before.





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A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Lancaster Rugby League 36-0 vs MMU Cheshire

Dave Greenshields A.U. President

Last Wednesday Lancaster Rugby League took on MMU Cheshire in the BUSA National Plate. The day may have been perfect for Rugby, but the pitch was not; waterlogged in multiple areas.

In the opening minutes this did not seem to affect Lancaster as, after solid defence, the backs were unleashed with several incisive breaks from captain Tom Lever, and James Lampe left them encamped upon Cheshire's line. However, Lancaster were left pointless after a classic 'daft offload' commented injured party Scott Forrest.

The game threatened to spill into a scrappy and somewhat bad-tempered affair with one Cheshire player seeming obsessed with grabbing the Lancaster players' sensitive areas'. Lancaster quickly dismissed the threat and after some excellent offloads, winger Fred Mack was unleashed to score. Although the conversion was unsuccessful this set the tone for the remainder of the match as Lancaster's brand of flowing rugby, with Union converts loan Lewis, Mike Mudd and Dan Hitchlock, as well as regulars Ian Molyneux and Paul Romsbottom making good yards at every opportunity.

The ball was soon fizzed out wide on the right by Hitchlock to unleash Mack for his second try. Lancaster hadn't quite fill their boots for the first half and, as the clock ran down, Lewis burst through midfield and scored beneath the posts. The half time whistle blew and Lancaster were cruising.

As the second half commenced any fears that Cheshire would come out fighting were quickly dismissed. The Lancaster forwards once again made excellent progress in midfield and the gain line was broken consistently. The resulting breakdown released the Lancaster backs and James Lampe, a third year veteran, powered over the try line. Cheshire were a beaten side and the Lancaster lads ran in three more tries, with Tom Lever, Paul Romsbottom and Matt Kirk scoring respectively.

Captain Lever commented, "I'm happy with the lad's performance today, especially how we kept our heads in the game after disruptions from the opposition and managed to keep them off the score sheet with some superb defence. Big thanks to the union lads who helped us out due to injuries, all of them put in great performances, including our very own porn shorts wearing A.U. President."

A.U. President Dave Greenshields later said: "The League lads have been consistently plugging away all season and they often don't get the plaudits they deserve; they were cracking at Lancashire Cup and are now in the last 8 of the National Plate. Good luck to the boys, I've got every faith in them."



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- Across**
- 1 Insincere support (3,7)
 - 7 Bleak style of movie (4,4)
 - 8 Part of egg (4)
 - 9 Long walk (4)
 - 10 Flask – restaurant attached to institution (7)
 - 12 Talk in a pompous and dogmatic way (11)
 - 14 Chair containing chamber pot (7)
 - 16 Lump of material (4)
 - 19 Page (4)
 - 20 From the US (8)
 - 21 Distinctively shaped shark (10)
- Down**
- 1 Port of Edinburgh (5)
 - 2 Big squash (7)
 - 3 Greek god of love (4)
 - 4 Word for word (8)
 - 5 Underground chapel (5)
 - 6 Part of clothing covering arm (6)
 - 11 Group of aerial rotors generating electricity (4,4)

- 12 Fake (6)
 - 13 Greed for wealth (7)
 - 15 Criminal organisation (5)
 - 17 Sedate (5)
 - 18 Low river dam (4)
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Solution No. 11,348

S	A	F	E	J	U	N	C	T	I	O	N
A	I	N	O	O	O						
L	U	G	E	M	I	L	L	I	N	E	R
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