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All the latest albums, singles, gigs, DVDs, books, films, TV, theatre, magazines, and interviews inside...

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# WANTED: PIED PIPER



*RATS JUST LIKE THIS HAVE BEEN SEEN EVERYWHERE!*

**By S. P. Linter**

SCAN Rodent News Correspondent

**R**ats! That, and other choice words would I'm sure be used if you, like five Grizedale students did this term, came back from the Easter holiday to find your flat taken over by four foot long dark grey critters.

When Leo and Raph arrived in Lancaster they were "disturbed to say the least" to find one of the pests cooking pizza whilst another played darts. When asked to "clear off!" the rats scarpereed, but the damage was done. Much of their food had been eaten, the rats hadn't taken the rubbish bags out and had clearly been sleeping in the students' beds. Leo and Raph phoned their flatmates to find out if any of them had allowed the rats to stay over the break but all three of them answered in the negative.

Michael, Angelo and Donna, the other residents in the flat, returned the next day to assess the scene and were "more than disappointed" to find that there were "not very funny" scribbblings in all of Donna's textbooks and that "someone - blatantly those rats" had turned everything in Angelo's room upside down.

This was not the only rat-based incident to occur on campus over the Easter holidays. A group (perhaps even the selfsame 'Grizedale Rats') were spotted playing cricket by the pond and leaving crushed beer cans strewn about after they had finished for the night. A witness told SCAN: "They weren't bad players some of them, their bowling wasn't up to much but a couple made some good runs before one rat pouched a catch like a marsupial at mid-off. After that the batting fell apart."

Mr. Dullashell, who we have recently ascertained has nothing to do with Spar, assured us that reports that the rats had been shopping in Spar

were "absolute balderdash", going on to say that, "we check everybody's ID regardless of how old or how hairy they are. It's offensive to me and my staff the suggestion that young rats could have left undetected with a crate of Castlemaine."

SCAN went on a campus-wide search but came back empty-handed. A black cat we spoke to near County, who declined to be named told us that she'd "bagged a few more than normal for this time of year" but thought that it was "probably something to do with global warming." Furthermore, a group of very scared and intimidated rabbits admitted they'd heard rumours and had "kept the bunnies in after dark" but had seen only ominous shadows in their neck of the woods.

SCAN Health Correspondent, Gert Grumfeld told us, "I hate the little b\*stards, I hope I don't see any of them!" So do we Gert, so do we. But keep your eyes peeled readers, otherwise it might be you crying "Rats!"



# SCAN

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# More Money For Management School

**Rebecca Rieley**

Deputy News Editor

**L**ancaster University Management School has been awarded a £266,000 project. The project will be led by Professor Mary Rose of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development (IEED) and will investigate how to advance and support change in the UK economy.

The project, called 'Knowledge and Technology Transfer, Innovation and Competitive Advantage: Past and Present', enters the IEED department that has already reported to have increased the sales of companies attending their courses by £200,000. Prof. Rose states that such business models and Knowledge Transfer is "not just about giving out advice but also enabling peer to peer interaction so they can learn from each other."

The project is being funded by the Advanced Institute of Management Research (AIM) that supports only seven others in the UK and AIM deputy Director, Prof. Andy Neely, reported that "AIM is pleased to be supporting such talented scholars."



The project is likely to increase the already prestigious status of the School that was recently ranked in the top ten for Business and Management courses by *The Times*. Lancaster students who work

within the school should benefit from having the opportunity to witness the new project's process as well as learning from their scholars who are developing the innovation.

# Fellows Get Royal Seal Of Approval

**Ian Waterhouse**

Royal Correspondent

**L**ancaster University enjoyed a royal visit during Easter as four members of the local community were awarded with honorary fellowships in recognition of their distinguished service to the institution.

HRH Princess Alexandra - who served as Chancellor of the University for forty years from its opening in 1964- returned to the University to see her successor, mountaineer Chris Bonington, hand out the four awards to individuals who have each offered long periods of service to the University.

The ceremony was conducted during the course of a special dinner at the Lancaster Leadership Centre, which was also attended by family and friends of

the recipients, as well as previous Fellows. It was the second year in which Lancaster has decreed to award fellowships to deserving recipients.

Sir Christopher Audlang has been a member of University Council for twenty years and also served as University Pro-Chancellor during the 1990s. He has additionally served the Lake District National Park Authority, playing a leading role in conservation activity. Professor Eric Evans recently retired from his position in the Social History department after thirty-five years, having received a National Training Fellowship - amongst other awards - for his services to the subject.

Fellow Professor, Terry Mansfield, became Head of Biology in 1986, having worked at the institution since its inception. His research on plant physiology led to his election as a Fellow of the Institute of Biology. Last but not least, Clare Hensman has given long service to the University's finance committee, and has also played a key role in building up health services that are available on campus.

LUSU President, Sooz Palmer, commented: "The event as a whole was a glamorous occasion, fit to celebrate the awarding of honorary fellowships of the university, especially in the company of such esteemed guests." Palmer used the opportunity to speak to the Princess about her desired career in the probation service, and it is reported that Palmer then glanced at the University Management, before joking to the Princess that having worked within the University hierarchy she already has plenty of experience working with criminals.



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# CAMPUS NEWS IN BRIEF

## Campus Smoking Ban

**From 1st July 2007 all the buildings on campus will become non smoking areas. The only exceptions will be designated bedrooms in the Colleges while all communal areas in the Colleges will become smoke free.**

Any area which is "substantially enclosed" is required by law to be smoke free so shelters for smokers will not be built. The majority of the covered ways such as the Spine, around the quadrangles will not be considered to be "substantially enclosed" and people may therefore smoke there.

On a similar note 165,000 smokers in the northwest officially quit for last month's No Smoking Day (14th March). Well done to all who completed the mammoth challenge.

## Security Warning

**A recent rise in thefts at the University has prompted police to issue a warning to all students and staff alike. Laptops and computers have been the primary items targeted by thieves who have been operating in colleges, bars, offices and the library.**

The police warning has been posted on the University security site and the warning advises everyone "to be particularly vigilant and not leave property unattended at any time." The security officers on campus have conducted "extra patrols over the holiday period in places where we have been vulnerable such as the Library, Infolab, the Chaplaincy and the College areas. There was no

problem and no further thefts have occurred."

Tony Evans, Head of Security, also told SCAN that when the police visited campus they were "concerned about the significant amount of opportunity" for thefts and that may have been their main motive for issuing the security warning.

David Summers, Deputy Librarian, also informed SCAN that there has 'only been one laptop theft reported to us this year' and like Tony Evans, he too advises students to just be careful with their belongings.

The police ask that "Anyone seen acting in a suspicious manner on campus should be reported to the Police via Security immediately."

Security can be contacted on any internal line on 94541.

Rebecca Rieley

## Chancellor Backs Staff Mountaineers

**Lancaster Chancellor Sir Christian Bonington has given his backing to two members of staff at Lancaster University who aim to climb the three highest mountains in Britain within three days.**

The Chancellor is sponsoring Ian Mercer and John Statter, who not only plan to climb Ben Nevis in Scotland (1344 metres), Scafell Pike in the Lake District (977m) and Snowdon in Wales (1085m) but also aim to cycle the 460 miles between the three peaks.

Sir Christian said: "I wish Ian Mercer and John

Statter the very best of good fortune in their challenging undertaking. Climbing Snowdon, Scafell and Ben Nevis, cycling in between, all in the space of three days, is a huge undertaking, but having talked to them, I have seen the thoroughness of their preparations and training and believe they have a very good chance of success."

The Three Peaks Challenge on May 18th is to raise funds for the Coronary Care Appeal at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary. Anyone who wishes to sponsor them should contact Ian Mercer at i.mercer@lancaster.ac.uk or j.statter@lancaster.ac.uk.

## University Quiet Period

**Once again that time of year is upon us - the University Quiet Period! Please be aware that this term you are asked to keep the noise down as much as possible to enable people to study undisturbed.**

Fines are given for noise disturbances so please be considerate to others.

Tony Barron

## Great Grant for Postgrad

**Lancaster postgrad, Michael Aspinall, has received an award from the Royal Academy of Engineering to help him continue his studies and his training for the next Olympics. The PhD student is to receive a grant of £5,000 - one of only five Student Development Fellowship grants to have**

**been awarded across the country.**

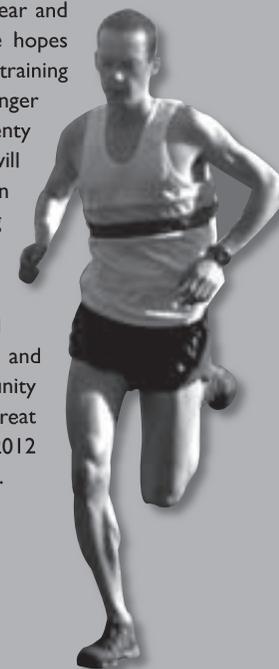
Aspinall currently juggles the challenges of his research on the detection of concealed explosives, with an energetic commitment to long distance running, demanding around 90 miles a week.

Aspinall's training award will help him conduct and present his PhD research as well as help him to improve his running strength by funding intense training regimes in Kenya's high altitude camps. He has already made one trip to the country and combined the training efforts with voluntary work in local schools and communities.

The Lancaster postgraduate ran the fastest UK 20 miles time last year and told SCAN that he hopes that "Using altitude training in the future for longer periods and plenty more hard work will without question benefit my running and help me run PBs."

Hopefully this will further his success and give him the opportunity to represent Great Britain in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Rebecca Rieley



## Webmail Beats Wing

**Ben Bailey**  
Editor

**In the beginning there was UNIX mail (very few of you will remember this, you're lucky) then came wing a vast improvement at the time. Things have moved on again and in October ISS launched webmail. Wing was kept running whilst they ironed out any bugs and improved the service.**

During this transition time you could switch between the two, run one on Tuesdays and the other the rest of the week - or you could just stick to either. However continuing to run both services is surprisingly expensive (and pointless) as well as being rather confusing to boot. Thus the time has come to close wing down. It will no longer be available after the 3rd of September, though don't panic as all your mail will still be available through webmail.

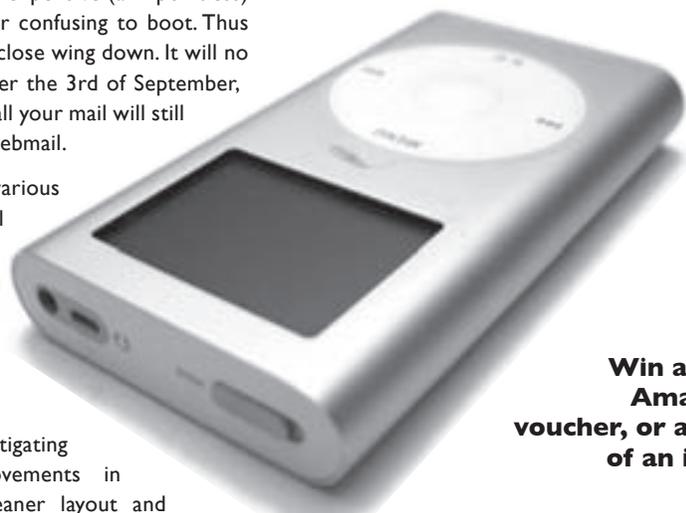
Webmail offers various benefits; from the vital ability to delete all your SPAM easily (and a spell checker) to the ability to change the colours - wahoo!

ISS are currently investigating even greater improvements in message handling, cleaner layout and

larger attachments. These features and many more have been born out of an ongoing process, based on feedback and interaction with students. Therefore webmail should never become stale and dated in the same way that wing did.

In the spirit of this, ISS are giving away a £20 Amazon voucher for the best suggested feature and in true *Blue Peter* style you're feature might actually make it into webmail.

So logon to <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/iss/email/contest> and tell them what feature you'd like to see. Name a benefit of webmail and have ISS pay for your next course book (movie/CD). Submit your suggestions by May 7th for a chance to win.



**Win a £20 Amazon voucher, or a 5th of an iPod**

## All the fun at NUS Conference

**Dave Greenshields**  
A.U. President

**Last month's annual NUS Conference was opened by NUS President, Gemma Tummelty, who described Conference as "the opportunity to hold real debates on a number of important issues". She went on to declare that it was high time the NUS withdrew from it's previous position of "doing everything for everyone all of the time" and began to focus it's attention on the battles that it could win.**

The Rules Revision and Finance motions were the first areas to be debated by Conference. The only issue of any consequence concerned a reform of Affiliation Fees, a move that will hopefully create a fairer system and save LUSU rather a lot of cash.

The Education zone was the next up with Higher Education funding dominating debate. Conference eventually passed a motion that did not insist on a national demo against the raising of the cap on top-up fees but promised to continue to lobby and pressurise the Government on the issue using the appropriate channels and actions. This was much to the chagrin of the Respect faction, and the Socialist students, who insisted it was high time we invaded lecture theatres like our comrades on the Continent. Aside from this key issue motions were passed on Equality in Education concerning liberation campaigns and the specific effects of student debt on

said areas, fairer treatment for medical students and to support the FE Bill & White paper.

Conference moved on to discuss the Welfare 'zone' with a number of issues debated. Thankfully, due to the nature of the motions submitted, predominantly combating racism and discrimination and defending student's rights concerning the Housing Act and TV licenses, Conference moved relatively rapidly through the motions. The Union re-emphasised its commitments to campaign in all of the above areas with a motion concerning 'Religious Dress: Not a Political Football' particularly important.

The talk turned to NUS Governance. While a large swathe of Conference, led by a number of members of the NEC including the National President, supported the motion, it was not without vocal opposition. The opposition, predominantly based in the far left of the political spectrum, claimed that the Review would only serve to create more bureaucracy and detract attention and funding from more important areas such as education funding. The motion was eventually passed, mandating the NEC to conduct a far ranging review and will hopefully result in a far more effective National Union. Conference also voted to campaign and work with relevant bodies on Climate Change.

In the elections to the NEC Gemma Tummelty was re-elected President, Stephen Brown re-elected National Secretary, Ama Uzowuru elected VP Welfare, Wes Streeting re-elected VP Higher Education, Dave Lewis elected National Treasurer and Beth Walker elected VP Further Education. Further details are available at [www.nus.co.uk](http://www.nus.co.uk)

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# The Interview: Leo Hickman

Anita Vukomanovic speaks to Leo Hickman about Footprints, Uranium and his 3,000 worms...

**Anita Vukomanovic**  
News Editor

**Leo Hickman is a journalist, editor, the consumer expert at *The Guardian*, and author of 'How to Buy'. He is also the editor of 'A Good Life: the guide to ethical Living'. Originally from Cornwall, Mr. Hickman now lives in London with his wife, two small children and curiously, 3000 worms. Speaking exclusively to SCAN, he discussed various ethical issues ranging from the individual's carbon footprint, with suggestions that even Marx would have been proud of, to the distribution on nuclear resources.**

**SCAN: As green-living happens to be on the agenda of the three main political parties, who do you currently trust the most to deliver the best solution?**

LH: Traditionally of the main three parties, obviously the Lib Dems have been going on about this a lot longer than the other two parties who have come to light with it a lot later, if a lot louder. I don't know, you can cherry pick really, each have had

good policies, and you can say you've got the luxury of being an opposition as you can say what the hell you want by and large. The Tories for the next year or so, say what they want without having to come out with any firm policies and in a sense get their feet in the water which is what they've been doing recently. It's a lot easier being an opposition.

**SCAN: Do you think that the UK should invest in nuclear energy?**

LH: Personally, I think that should be the absolute last, last option, and we should explore all other avenues first. The problem is that we don't really have the time to do that; we have to make a decision quite soon, and because nuclear takes the best part of two decades to design and build, my instinctive decision is not to go down the nuclear route.

**SCAN: Why is that?**

LH: It's a legacy issue really. One generation creates it and enjoys it, but you're essentially handing on one incredibly duff ticket to your children. We know how to get power and energy from nuclear, but we still don't know what to do with the waste which is the fundamentally big problem.

**SCAN: It seems clear that you're**

**initially against the idea of nuclear, but do you think it would be better for the Western nation, such as the States, the UK, possibly France etc. to take control of nuclear resources before perhaps countries that the Government are less sure of, such as Iran, do?**

LH: That is another fundamental problem with going down the nuclear route. Of course you're going to send the wrong messages around the world by doing that. It is inherently arrogant, if not hypocritical, to do that which is another very good reason to have a long hard think about whether you're going down the nuclear route because you can totally pull the rug from any argument you've got. It's almost a Sci-fi vision of what could happen. Anywhere where you get the transit of Uranium or enriched Uranium or waste or anything that someone can make a dirty bomb with, you're always creating a danger, even when you're moving it by train there's a danger. And to throw in the threat of potentially volatile countries is a threat that we don't need in our world right now

**SCAN: Do you think that the UK should invest in trident?**

LH: No, I don't. My answer is a simply no, and I think the argument's quite well rehearsed.

**SCAN: How can we effectively tackle carbon emissions on a national and global scale?**

LH: What I think would be a good idea, and has been touched on by David Miliband is the idea of a personal carbon footprint. So I would actually

benefit if you were to buy carbon off me. If people do want to blow their energy on cheap flights then they're going to have to pay for it. For me, that's probably one of the best solutions. And also, everyone in China, India and Africa would all have exactly the same allowance, and it would be very good for progressive tax, where we are redistributing wealth in a way.

**SCAN: So if that was going to happen, do you think that every person in the world should have exactly the same carbon emission allowance?**

LH: Well yes. That would be wonderful but the chances of that happening are very low.

**So if we all had the same amount of carbon that we were allowed to emit on a global scale, do you think that it would act as a hindrance to countries such as New Zealand who largely have an agricultural economy? And despite producing Sulphur Dioxide, their carbon emissions are relatively low. Would we not be penalising these countries and preventing them from developing further in the future?**

LH: Well I see what you're getting at, but I suppose hypothetically if we were going to have this system then we'd have to have some sort of currency whereby we could trade off, but I suppose there won't ever be a day when all six billion of us keep within our footprint.

**Leo Hickman, thank you for your time.**



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# The Other Interview: Gary Titley



Anita Vukomanovic  
& Tom Currie

position, as well as a position the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party, Mr Titley comes across as a sweet man who is a very caring representative. A fact that was echoed in what was a rather limp, but very endearing handshake. Just don't get on the wrong side of this man when he has a cushion to hand.

**SCAN: Why did you actually become involved in politics?**

GT: Because I got fed up sat around complaining about things and not doing anything about it. One day I got so angry with what was on the TV that I threw a cushion at it, and then decided that it was probably better and more constructive to do something. Obviously you get involved in local politics and the issues about the organisation of education of where you're living at the time and one thing led to another. I'd always been interested in politics. I come from a strong working class conservative background from Salford, so not a Labour background at all. I went to York University which was then obviously, relatively new, the problem was politics was relatively disillusioned. You've got all of these middle class people pretending to be revolutionary. I was the first child in the family to go to University, so I was obsessed by working and eventually I wanted to get involved and do things.

**SCAN: You said that you were actually from a conservative family, what made you change to Labour?**

GT: You could put it down to adolescent rebellion. York University was very middle class and in a sense up to then I'd believed that there was equality in education. When you go to York at that time twenty percent were from public schools, you realise that things weren't quite equal.

**SCAN: Why are you supporting Hazel Blears for deputy leadership?**

GT: Because she comes from Salford like me. Hazel is extremely able, very committed, very direct, she's the sort of politician who gets stuck in in the streets, talking to the community, she's done a tremendous job in Salford. She speaks the way that other people speak, not one of those intellectual politicians.

**SCAN: Who are you supporting for party leadership?**

GT: Gordon Brown. Absolutely.

**SCAN: Outline why you think the EU is advantageous.**

GT: It is a good thing because what it has done is something that has never been done before. The sovereign nation states cooperate; work together on a democratic and voluntary basis. It works on the basic principles that we all work together and cooperate with each other, and we're all stronger. It's brought great prosperity, great stability. Joining the EU has been a very successful peace process. It is a single market that is bigger than the States, it's bigger than Japan. It will expand, and become very strong.

**SCAN: One of the most recent, more controversial things in Government has probably been the Working Time Directive. Why are you in favour of it?**

GT: When I first got elected, in 1989, somebody came to see me, a woman, who was very distressed about her son who was working for a local warehouse. He was working seven days a week, for very long hours, and he got no holiday. She said to me "surely this is illegal" and I said "well no". Most holidays come as a result of agreement. Working Time Directive states that you get four weeks holiday a year which for most people is important. When John Major was Prime Minister, the Tories negotiating it decided they were going to challenge it on a legal basis and so commissioned to the European Court. They lost that and of course they lost all that time trying to shape the directive.

**Gary Titley, thank you for your time.**

## SCAN Takes A Look At The Local Elections

**O**n May 3, the Lancaster City Council elections will take place. The University Ward includes every College within the Perimeter Road, as well as the original

Graduate College buildings, while the rest of South West campus is included in a separate ward called the E11e1. The candidates for this ward can be found at [www.scan.lusu.co.uk](http://www.scan.lusu.co.uk)

The candidates featured are standing for the University Ward. Also standing for election in the University Ward are the UK Independence Party. At the time of going to press, SCAN were unable

to make contact with UK Independence Party's candidates, however, it can be confirmed that William Potts will be running as the UKIP candidate. Don't forget to vote!

### The Conservatives

Candidates: David Bonner & Alex Law

**H**i we are David Bonner and Alex Law, two Lancaster University students who want students and young people to be listened to and not be ignored. We want to provide effective, efficient representation and we will listen to your views.

We want a better deal for residents at the University, working to make sure every effort is taken to provide a pleasant environment for residents to live and work in. We are dedicated to combating the challenges of climate change and working towards achievable goals to improve our environment. We oppose cuts in NHS funding. Find out more about us visit [www.luwc.org.uk](http://www.luwc.org.uk)

### The Green Party

Candidates: Ian McCulloch & Morgan Trolinger

**M**ac works on campus in the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, and is President of the local branch of the Prospect trade union. Morgan is a student in Environmental Science and the Mature Students' Rep on LUSU.

They want to increase the Green presence on the Council (already 7 elected Greens) and to persuade the University and Council to take urgent action on climate change - e.g. by offering students and staff cheap bus passes and incentives to conserve energy. In line with the Green commitment to stop the privatization of the NHS, they will also campaign for an NHS dentist on campus. Find out more at [www.lancastergreenparty.org.uk](http://www.lancastergreenparty.org.uk)

### The Labour Party

Candidates: James Groves & Cat Smith

**W**e hope as many students as possible will vote on May 3rd. As Labour candidates we are focusing on local issues. We will:

- Work with the police to improve your safety on and off campus.
- Set higher standards for student housing in Lancaster.
- Support later licensing hours for pubs and clubs.
- Back schemes like the University Science Park which will create local jobs for students and graduates.
- Keep students informed of what we're doing and listen to their concerns.

James lived on campus for four years as a student and now works at the University. Cat is LUSU Women's Officer and lives on campus.

### The Liberal Democrats

Candidates: Ryan Bate & Gavin Barrass

**W**e will continue to work hard for the students of our area in particular Lancaster University and St. Martin's College, recognising the importance of both institutions and their student communities for Lancaster and the wider area.

The interests of students have been considered in all our commitments to Lancaster's economy, communities and environment. In particular we want to ensure people coming to study in our area can do so in a welcoming atmosphere, with a wide range of opportunities both as students and as graduates should they remain in the area.

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# DEAR SCAN

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### “Gradball Goofball”

Dear SCAN,

**I thought it was very apt that the two articles ‘Grad Ball 2007’ and ‘Can you be bothered to read this?’ appeared alongside each other in the last issue of SCAN. I’m usually an apathetic student but when I read about the diabolical plans to hold Gradball 07 in the sugarhouse (a place I avoid at the best of times) and a carpark, I couldn’t help but get annoyed enough to want to do something about it.**

The article claimed that following student feedback the Uni had decided to try and cut costs, feedback from who? Last years grads? I certainly haven’t been asked my opinion on what I want from MY gradball, unless I’ve missed some big campaign for our ideas? Thought not.

Judging from the swift and overwhelmingly negative response to the article (I have yet to talk to a 3rd year who thinks this is a positive idea) it seems that once again LUSU is out of touch with the very people it is meant to represent.

I’m sure organising the grad ball is a stressful and expensive task, but I do think we should have a say, I for one would be happy to be involved in some sort of committee that organised gradball, maybe there is one already, but if so it has been poorly advertised.

Whilst holding the ball in the city we have lived in for 3 years is a nice idea, what about those of us who after 3 years are sick of Lancaster and sick of going to the same 3 nightclubs week after week. I was looking forward to getting OUT of Lancaster for gradball, doing something different, special, having the chance to get dressed up.

I don’t about anyone else but so far these plans don’t measure up to the grad ball I had imagined and to be honest the ball we all deserve.

Gemma Walters

### “Great Gradball”

Dear SCAN,

**I am writing in response to the numerous comments on the Facebook website in particular the “GRADBALL REVOLT” Group. I, for once am genuinely happy with the**

arrangements made by our Students Union.

I am lucky enough to be able to afford either scenario (traditional Winter Gardens option or tent and a car park, as your adverts so glamorous stated) however I know a lot of people that would not and for this I am grateful. To celebrate in the city that I graduated in does not really interest me, but celebrating with my friends who have graduated alongside me does and this option allows this to happen.

To the people who have started this group, I say get over it and to those who have made their minds up not to go long before seeing the fruits of the Students’ Unions labour, I say, you don’t deserve the toys you have thrown out of your pram.

The decision that has been made has quite clearly upset a few people, but lets face it, change always would. Status quo is not always a good thing and considering the sheer amount of complaints of the Winter Gardens a change was certainly well over due.

I am certainly looking forward to this year’s Graduation Ball and I hope a lot of people will join me in welcoming this decision by the Students’ Union.

An excited  
Dave Stevens

### “Them Good Old Folks At Central”

Dear SCAN,

**I am just writing in acknowledgement of the opening hours of LUSU Central this Easter Holiday period.**

Imagine my dismay when I approached SPAR shortly after the break on a warm Sunday evening and found it to be closed. The walk from South West campus is surely not a short one however when faced with that same walk without my usually Sunday sundries, it seemed a lot longer.

To my relief I found the LUSU Central shop to be open and stocked for a full days Sunday trading. The staff were happy and helpful, not a hint of resentment of there Spar counterparts languishing in the Springtime afternoon.

I managed to successfully pick up my shopping plus a few luxuries, albeit the price was a little higher than usual, something I was more than happy to get

## Letter of the week

### “IT’S PREJUDICE, DAMN PREJUDICE!”

Dear SCAN

**C**all me mental but is it true that campus has a massive right-hand bias? Being a leftie I find myself constantly having to reach across my body to open doors, press photocopiers and operate mouses (mice?). Seeing as left-handers now make up up-to 15% of the population,

shouldn’t the University be doing something to cater for us?

And is Left-Handers’ Day (August 13th) in the University holidays just so educational establishments aren’t forced to celebrate it?

There’s surely something dark going on...

Yours,

Gertwind G Gertwind

over considering the convenience of it.

A big thanks to all the folks down at Central Stores, hoping you had a pleasant Easter break, if in fact you had one.

A Happy South Wester

### “Exam Disruptions”

Dear SCAN

**I am writing in disgust at the University, do they deliberately wait until the exam period before starting major construction on campus?**

It begs the question, do the University really care about its current Undergraduate students or do they care more for fleecing prospective students by building yet another Research Centre of Excellence?

No response needed, I think I already know the answer.

An Irate Examinee

### “Procrastinated Soul”

Dear SCAN,

**L**ong time reader, first time writer. It is with utter disgust, that I find myself three years into my tenure in Lancaster, fast approaching my finals and having never written for SCAN.

The paper deserves quality writers and I always believed this would be my downfall, but as a summer job at Maccy’s stares me straight in the face I have decided to pick up my quill and pen a letter.

Some might say I am going through a latter University-life-breakdown. I would agree. Having gone through a relatively subdued academic life, watching friends elected to JCR’s, playing for College sports teams, even going on *University Challenge*, it is only now, in the winter of my higher education that I wish for more. If I could offer one golden nugget of advice to the young freshlings that are tottering about the place it would be this: Actually do something with your time here.

So please SCAN, make an ol’ third year proud and print this, least of all just to make my Mum proud. Got to be worth a 20.

Alliteration fails me,

Anon

## SCAN Apologies

SCAN would like to apologise for any offence caused in the previous issue of SCAN dated 12/03/07. The issue contained a headline that has offended some people and for this we apologise. It was a direct quote from an interview and we in no way meant to cause harm or discriminate. Apologies.

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

*Misunderstood since 1867*

## SCAN Features Explore... Cumberland Pencil Museum

(One for a very rainy day)

the museum which advertised a “Secret Wartime Pencil,” causing us to realise that even the most exciting concept can be dulled by the suffix of “pencil.” Nevertheless, we entered hopeful, not quite sure what to expect, and speculating on just how much one can write about pencils.

I left the room (because that’s all it was, a room) feeling slightly cheated at the entire wall devoted to pens, but I am sure the museum curators really had explored all the possibilities pencils have to offer. They’d arranged pencils into pretty patterns, displayed cabinets of different coloured pencils, and even exhibited old receipts for graphite purchases. And let’s not forget the pencil miner.

The world’s largest pencil was pretty big, but we were sad that we couldn’t ride it, or try to write with it. Nevertheless, we found a slightly smaller pencil to take rude pictures with, discovering later it lies under the constant scrutiny of CCTV. Never mind. We made up for in the gift shop, buying postcards, a shot glass, a biro and a sharpener. We felt pencils would have been too predictable.

**Simon Fogg**  
Features Editor

**I think it was a mistake on our part beginning this regular feature with something as awesome as a trip to a Wild Boar Park, as any post-boar tourist attractions could surely not fail to be anticlimactic. Much like a night in Fight Club, real life experiences since have certainly had the volume turned down. Knowing that the Features section, and perhaps even life in general could quickly**

**go downhill, we decided to venture to the other end of the pimp spectrum: a pencil museum.**

Contrary to my best logic, the museum is apparently quite the popular attraction. I mentioned the adventure to several people, all of whom mysteriously said that they had already visited. Perhaps I underestimated the lure of the pencil. Then again, although the Lake District is consistently beautiful, this is at the cost of having f\*ck all else to do there other than appreciate that fact. The museum’s only local competition is ‘cars of the stars’ (possibly coming next issue) so I imagine most visitors opt for the pencil jokes over having a chain smoking sex offender tell them about the batmobile. Also, you never know, pencils might be quite the novelty up here. After all, this is the half of the country that still aches for electricity. Thankfully, the museum offered the bargain price of £2 student entry, so we didn’t have to distract the staff by lighting matches in order to make an entrance.

After a visit to their café, where this time I didn’t dine on the main attraction, the first step of our journey was a brief recreation of a mine where we met a crude plastic miner in desperate need of a neck. The point of this was obviously to inform us that pencils were only manufactured and made available to the public after years of futile attempts to obtain them fresh from the ground. I would like to tell you how pencils are made, I really would, but my mind was not willing to pay attention to the details, thrilling as I’m sure they were. We did however find a list of important historical dates, which were presumably linked to pencil production. These included the start of World War One, and Kennedy’s assassination.

Perhaps the only thing that did capture my

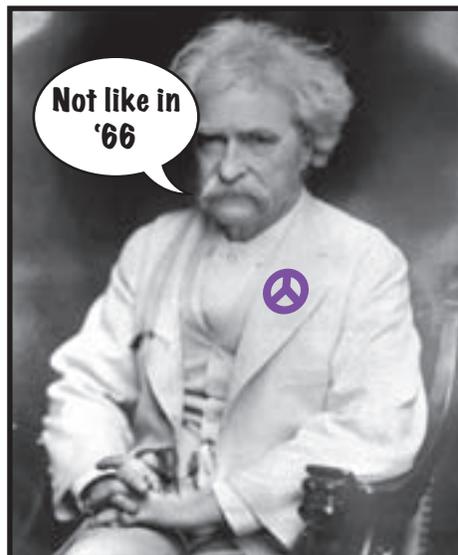
imagination was the much hyped ‘secret war pencil.’ I saw this advertised outside the building during a bathroom visit, and was particularly intrigued as to how exactly it was a secret (or at least how it used to be). What purpose could a pencil possibly have in combat, except as a last resort? It turned out that several soldiers were given these ‘highly secret’ (so secret the country would have been well and truly bugged if they had been revealed) pencils which contained a compass and a map of enemy territory in case the soldiers were stranded behind enemy lines. It wasn’t half as exciting as the fantastic images of weaponry I had conjured, but it was at least minimal amusement how the exhibit seemed to credit pencils for the defeat of the Nazis. If those pesky Germans come back for more, we now know what to do.



**Hannah Lickert**  
Features Editor

**Who wants to go to a pencil museum? Come on, hands up, can’t quite see you at the back there. Yes, a museum about pencils. No, you’re not allowed to touch the pencils. Sounds fairly bland, I admit; although there’s more to the Cumberland Pencil Museum than you’d originally think. But not a lot more.**

We set off at 9:45, fully anticipating another crap map skills-induced detour, but we only got lost once, and arrived excitedly at the pencil museum at 11:30. There were a surprising number of cars in the car park for such a specialist tourist attraction, especially as most of the patrons were far beyond safe driving age. The best bit about the car park was the sign on the side of



## ENGLAND, A COW’S ASS AND A BANJO

**Mark Twain is away...**

**A few weeks ago I was sat with a glass of brandy and a cigar minding my own business when the television was awakened by some lackey and a football match began to be shown. Now I’m as big a football fan as the next man but I was distraught that these visually polluting amateurs should be given prime-time coverage on the old terrestrial medium.**

Turns out though that the aforementioned jackasses were in fact the English national team!

What a pickle! A man called Andy was merely jumping up and down somewhere near the opposition goalkeeper begging young Stevie for the ball. Another man with strange hair and an even stranger name looked very lost- perhaps football isn’t really his game?

In the end the English managed to win the game but by that time I’m afraid to say I’d made my mind up that if you struggle that badly to beat a European country most of the population haven’t even heard of then perhaps it’s time to remove yourself from the limelight for a while and practice until you become less embarrassing.

I’ve since heard a rumour that the man who coaches and chooses the team is an idiot and was given the job by a foreign millionaire but I have my doubts- as far as I can see he doesn’t dress like he has any money. Another rumour I’ve heard was that

the England team may only play for fortnight-long periods bi-annually so that the matches don’t clash with their club football. Codswallap- why not just begin picking the best players instead of ones with reputations but no recent success.

I was watching football with a nasty hobbit-like acquaintance of mine a week or so ago though when he suggested that a young footballer had “done well” to volley the ball straight at the opposing keeper from 18 or so yards out. I pointed out that the little tyke earns more in a week than we do in a year and that his job is to volley the ball either side of the keeper thus scoring goals. And that because of this he was in fact doing his job very badly. That shut the hairy bastard up. England? Schmingland.



# Weird Lancaster

## Weird Dan Investigated!

### Not by Weird Dan

**W**eird Dan. An enigma if ever there was one. Well, SCAN readers, in an incredible scoop, SCAN Features have, after a lot of late night action and not a little persuasion, managed to compile a profile of sorts on the Lancaster University legend.

Weird Dan, we now know, was writing before he could walk. At the tender age of eleven months, he was scrawling stories in his sand box, and impressed his preschool peers by turning up to nursery with a briefcase full of important-looking documents and well-chewed bios.

He was though, not always called Weird Dan. Until the final year of primary school he was called Weird Daniel. Nor has journalism always been his 'bag'. He dabbled in fine art, and was a successful street artist in Leytonstone, as much as street artists can hope to be successful - especially in Leytonstone. He also ran a kebab shop, 'Mr. Weird Kebab', in Finsbury

Park, before competitors 'Favourite Fried Chicken' edged him out. Part-time jobs post-kebab house included secret-sauce maker for McDonald's, and feather duster door-to-door salesman.

As a student, Weird Dan impressed all-comers with his culinary skills, especially his ability to cook pasta just by blowing on it. His passion for real ale, red wine, scotch, brandy, cigars, and indeed alcohol in general, led to the legendary "pub pogo" event, in which he pogo-ed 17 miles to the pub "just because it was the only one open". Sadly, though, he can no longer drink milky cocktails due to his recently diagnosed lactose intolerance. No pizza or cheese toasties? That must suck.

So, some interesting Weird Dan facts, fact-finders:

- Weird Dan loses the power to jump after licking metallic surfaces. He can't remember how he found this out.
- Weird Dan's shadow is only visible every other Tuesday.
- Weird Dan has to employ a personal hairdresser because his hair grows so rapidly. He has it cut on average 5.3 times a day.

- Weird Dan is scared of two things: yoghurt and his reflection.

- Weird Dan can urinate while walking on his hands. (Doesn't even hit the bowl).

- Weird Dan once ate 7 gallons of ice cream in one sitting (greedy b\*stard). Five minutes later he was admitted to Lancaster A & E diagnosed with hypothermia. He spent three days lying on an electric blanket. Now even a slightly undercooked meal will send him running for the radiator.

- Weird Dan was originally cast to play the part of BA Baracus in *The A Team*. Weird Dan turned down the role as he wanted to concentrate on his origami career instead. To this day he does not watch *The A Team*.

- Despite writing for SCAN for several years, no-one has ever seen Weird Dan in the flesh. The picture he submitted (above) could be a disguise. He could be standing next to you at this very moment. Scary huh?

Wherever he is though: Dude if you're reading, keep on rockin'.

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?!



**Name:** Weird Dan.

**Status:** Missing, presumed on holiday.

**Distinguishing features:** Flat cap, x-ray sunglasses, pipe.

**Last seen:** Spar. Quoted as saying, "I'm going inside, I might be some time."

## Cross with St. George?

### Hannah Ingram

**C**onsidering that today is St. George's Day, the day where all the English are supposed to celebrate a heroic man rescuing the King's daughter from the capture of a dragon, I thought it appropriate to ask the question 'why does no one celebrate/acknowledge/care about it?' Yes, we all know the story is a legend and maybe a little far fetched, i.e. the dragon representing all evil and that he demanded the misogynistic (ha, well maybe) sacrifice of a beautiful woman every day, however, shouldn't we as a country still have a day to celebrate being English?

You never have to look far either on campus or in town on the 17th March to find students clad in green, celebrating their genuine or newly-discovered Irishness on St. Patrick's Day. It becomes a day (more

like a night) of Guinness swilling (whether you like it or not), pretending that clovers are the best things ever invented and realising that green really isn't your colour. I'm not denying it's a great night out (especially when everyone tries to perform their best Irish accent after way too many bevies), but why do we go to so much effort celebrating that but ignore the celebration of England?

I have asked a few friends about this issue, and most have said it's because of all the drinking that the Irish are notorious for, that we like to join in and get trolleyed. Fair point, we are students after all. However, whenever the Euros and World Cups come around, there's never any shortage of people wandering round avec pint and makeshift England flag sarong proclaiming their Englishness, albeit in drunken slurs. Like the great theorist Fat Les said, "Where on Earth are you from/ we're from Engerland" - so if we're so proud of ourselves when Crouch finally gets his head on the ball, why not on our supposed celebratory day?

To compare another example, Australia Day comes around every year in January, usually the 26th. The

weather is usually hitting the high 30's and the ENTIRE country has a day off to celebrate being Australian, their settlement and colonisation. Not only is their celebratory day classed as a Bank Holiday, but there are celebrations around the country to mark the event, such as sporting events and sailing regattas. St. George's Day is marked on the calendar, but not classed as a Bank Holiday. Neither is St. Patrick's Day, I hear you cry, but yet the celebrations are present every year without fail. The Australians also get a day off to celebrate the Queen's birthday (as in, the Queen of this nation) due to the associations with Britain and the colonies. Ahem, do we celebrate the birthday of our own Monarch? I'm pretty darn sure you'd get some funny looks from lecturers and employees if you asked for the day off anyway - (Sorry but I won't be attending, Liz is having a rave, can't miss it, what with her being Queen and all).

Whilst I'm not proclaiming we have a mass celebration of our heroic Saint and the whole country come to a standstill (could you really see it?), I reckon a little recognition would be

appropriate. I'm not preaching by the way, as I myself don't acknowledge the day (aside from it being a friend's birthday), I just wondered WHY we don't. Another friend I asked raised the issue of the celebrations maybe offending people of other races and nationalities who live, work and study in England. If that's the reasoning, then how come Australia (one of the most cosmopolitan nations around) still celebrates it, and that the whole of America celebrates Independence Day as a public holiday?

I know I've raised a lot of questions and haven't particularly answered them (maybe I should look into a political career) but I think it's worth considering. In Lancaster we have Fibber McGee's as an Irish pub, and Walkabout as an Australian bar, so does that mean all the rest are English pubs? I'll leave that up to you, but I highly doubt any of them will be holding mass St. George's Day bar crawls and drinks offers. Ten points for the first person to spot an England flag, twenty for a painted face - names and addresses on a postcard please.

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# From The Other Side Of The Bar

Jennifer Swann

**I**n my first year I spent many a night at The Sugarhouse. I was a bit of a Thursday regular, Popsene was my paradise. This year, I now work there, and love the place (and the staff) even more than before. It dawned on me as I met my new workmates in September that after spending so many drunken nights at The Sugarhouse over the previous year, how was it that I did not recognise any of the returning staff? Do we ever stop to think of those who accommodate our drunken antics on our many intoxicated excursions?

As the weeks and months of my employment draw on, I am somewhat surprised at what is verbally slung our way each shift. From having "bitch" screamed at us after angry slurs of "I gave you a tenner" over and over (when to everyone's surprise when checked, it turns out that it was in fact a fiver), to even more slurred ranting of "but I'm not drunk, honest" when refused service for being quite obviously completely bladdered.

I like a night out, but I believe that I



know my limits - which I occasionally stumble a few metres over. It still bemuses me how people put their bodies and minds through such a pasting, and believe me, we've seen

extremes. The things people get up to still shocks even the longest serving members of staff: couples copulating by the car park bins, in the toilets and on the dance floor. Glasses shoved

down toilets, whole toilets and bits of sink ripped off the wall, glasses purposefully smashed on tables/the floor/a person. More vomit than I care to think of - and an array of insults

directed at us that I do not wish to recite.

People seem to think they can barter for prices of drinks or entrance fee, then hurl abuse at you. I've had the reference "it's practically rape!" slung in my direction once, only to be met by "well turn around and go back out the door then!" People expect drinks to be replaced if they are silly enough to spill/misplace/give away their previous one. Sorry if we don't fulfil these commands, we're only trying to do our job.

Remember that The Sugarhouse profits go directly back into LUSU. It is your union, and it benefits you. Try to think of us as people, as students. We're the ones who have to rectify the mess made and the damage caused. Despite all this, working at The Sugarhouse is still the best job I have ever had, and probably ever will. We sing, we dance, we have a laugh. It's impossible to go a whole shift without smiling, and I don't know many jobs that you can say that about.

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# Love Flirts - In The Carleton

James Finch

**Its 12:30 am on a Wednesday night and I'm in the Carleton; where else would a student be? It's crowded, the music's loud and the drinks are supposedly cheap. The reason for my attendance: a social experiment, the participants of which include three stupidly egotistic lads and three devoted female friends. If you are not impressed by the numbers, the task will explain all. The purpose of this study: to reveal the effectiveness of 'Love Hearts' in pulling a member of the opposite sex.**

Put basically, a participant randomly takes said 'Love Heart' from the packet (no cheating, you take the top one, regardless of what it says). You then take this circular treat, peruse the establishment until a target is secured and then its over to you. Perhaps use it as a conversation starter, or simply hand it over and say nothing more - placing your whole trust in the little piece of confection. The results as you will read were quite entertaining...

Firstly I secured an observation point on the balcony in the left hand corner, a brilliant spot to witness my participant's attempts at social suicide. Like lambs to the slaughter they randomly take their 'Love Heart' and wade out into the crowd. Some sport giant grins (soon to be wiped

from their oversized heads) others with rolling eyes, pleading for an alternative punishment to the error of being my friend. With lines such as "Marry Me", "Just Say No" and "Doh!" I fear the results will not be promising. In addition to the whole farce some participants (the lads) have chosen to come in fancy dress, apparently to increase their chances of success. However I fear participant #2's giant Smurf outfit may only hinder his results.

No sooner had the study began, when our first participant (#1) is observed with 'his heart on his sleeve' (literally), approaching a female student. At first success is suspected as he secures a hug, after which the sweet is devoured with disappointment at the lack of further sugary treats. The fact that this 'Love Heart' read "Hug Me" points to the reason for his target walking away without even giving a number - unlucky. At this point the giant Smurf (#2) is spotted (quite easily) busting his moves on the dance floor surrounded by a group of young ladies who appear to be laughing. Whether it is with or at him, I'm not quite sure. Maybe a little

more time might help this poor player secure a result.

The first of our female participants (#4) is spotted making out with a lad by the bar; obtained a result pretty fast, methinks. It would appear that the 'Love Heart' was devoured without even a second look. The lad, just happy to see a girl make the first move, certainly didn't pass up the opportunity. I'm sure #4 would disagree however, arguing that her natural beauty is the reason. #3 our third male participant is nowhere in sight. He drew "Page Me" from the packet. Who has a pager? Unfortunately not this "Action Man", I think it's safe to assume he's gone A.W.O.L from this little experiment.

Our giant blue friend (#2) is still bopping away in the centre of the dance floor, without success. Participants #5 and #6 (our last two female contestants) appear to be doing a double

As they stand sipping away at their cocktails, it would seem they have triumphed.

As 2 am swiftly approaches and I embark on the bus journey home, it would seem that the evening's frivolities have produced mixed results. Our sherbet circles have aided as well as hindered some of the participants; the upshot being it all comes down to which variety you pick from the packet. This point couldn't be more fully proved by the scene as I take my seat; there making out on the back row is #2 the giant Smurf himself. As he spots me he raises his hand to show his winning sugary lottery ticket: "Kiss Me".



team style, approaching two lads at the bar. Their 'Love Hearts' being exchanged for drinks, with sweets reading 'Cool Dude' and 'Wow' a double act was probably their best chance of success.

**You might not think it but Love Hearts are surprisingly hard to, not only photograph, but find! Couldn't get a bloody pack anywhere!**

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# FUSION

## Maximum Pleasure

**MAXIMO PARK**  
OUR EARTHLY PLEASURES  
JOE POLECHONSKI

### Album



**Love. Maximo. Park. They only write good tunes – the b-sides from their debut album would have made a great second album, their live performances are amazing and each song contains more emotion than the My Chemical Romance back catalogue (in a good way).**

Maybe it's quite premature to say of an album only two years old, but 'A Certain Trigger' is one of my favourite albums ever. But I'm not a fan who'll accept any old shite on a second record so I was quite nervous when listening for the first time, after recent second album disappointments (namely Bloc Party). But what was I worried for?

'Our Earthly Pleasures' is not the obvious follow up, in a way it sounds similar to 'A Certain Trigger' although there's less of the fast paced verses which characterised the first album. The 'angular' guitars have been 'smoothed over' in

favour of a greater focus on Lukas Wooller's keyboards, which gives the album a much richer sound seen in standout track 'By The Monument'. Recent single 'Our Velocity' is already my track of the year. It represents everything about Maximo Park drawing the sound of both albums together... and it has three choruses!

Opener 'Girls Who Play Guitars' with its stabbing guitars and yet more choruses is just simply ace and 'Books From Boxes' is this album's 'Postcard Of A Painting'. 'Your Urge' opens and finishes with a gentle piano line and soothing "oohs"; its optimistic tone soon turns to contrasting darkness and confusion demonstrated musically and lyrically; "But I don't know what my crime is/I cause upset without trying".

'Parisian Skies' is a real grower and has become one of my favourite tracks on the album; Smith's raw emotion is apparent as he cries "Oh, I don't think she knew/How much I loved her". It becomes

a perfect closing track as it progressively winds downs whilst Paul Smith whispers the final lines. To say that 'Sandblasted and Set Free' and 'Karaoke Plays' are low points on the album would be a disservice to Maximo Park, yes they are the weakest tracks but that's hardly a criticism when you consider the standard of the rest of the tracks.

It is clear Smith takes great pride in the lyrics he pours his emotions into; most of the time they are intelligent and poignant but sometimes they are too wordy but this is irrelevant as it only concerns a few lines across a whole album. His most effective lyrics are the simple ones "I'm just passing my time with you on my mind/I'm just wasting my precious time, with you on my mind".

'Our Earthly Pleasures' shows Maximo Park to be their own band, unique, energetic, melodic, and sublime.

## Sealed With A Kiss

**THE KISSAWAY TRAIL**  
THE KISSAWAY TRAIL  
CHRIS HERBERT

### Album

**From the opening 'Forever Turned Out To Be Long' with its church organ and chanting, to the languorous plaintive piano closing of final track 'Bleeding Hearts', Denmark's The Kissaway Trail have produced a debut album of songs whose grandiose arrangements, impassioned playing and wide-eyed lyrics combine to create a quite brilliant record, both reminiscent of bands such as The Arcade Fire and the Polyphonic Spree, but in its own way, brilliantly quirky and unique.**

The single 'Smoother And Evil Hurt' explodes in a rush of lavish orchestration and frantic drumming, and keeps building towards a chorus where the song's title is chanted repeatedly. Infectious and uplifting, *The Kissaway Trail* repeat the trick on the more obviously 'pop' 'La La Song'; "the stars will guide

us, let's run away" sing vocalists Thomas Fagerlund and Soren Corneliussen, before the song changes tack and descends into more chanting, this time simply repeating a refrain of "la, la, la" over a pounding rhythm section that, if there's any justice, should see crowds at festivals up and down the country this summer pogo-ing up and down like mad people.

If there is to be any negative criticism of the album, it would be that there is little deviation

from the 'big sound equals better' theme. There are few moments of quiet tenderness on the record, the band instead repeatedly backing often melancholic lyrics with unsympathetically harsh arrangements, the excellent 'It's Close Up Far Away' being an exception. "Did you know, it's time to start over, 'cos there's almost nothing left to waste away" they sing sweetly on that track, backed by strummed acoustics and an electronic drum beat keeping a metronomic heartbeat in the background.



## Sublime Sounds

**LCD SOUNDSYSTEM**  
SOUND OF SILVER  
BEN CORR

### Album

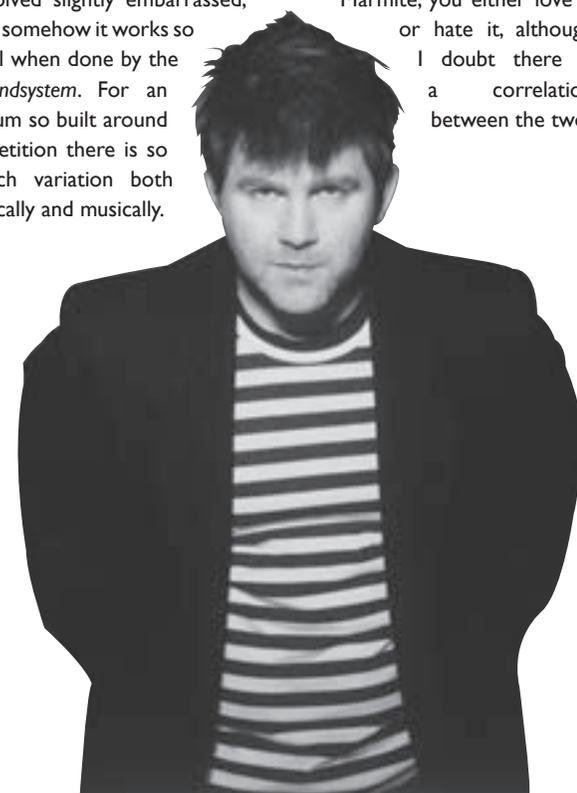
**Why are you wasting your time reading this review when you should be out acquiring a copy of 'Sound of Silver'? Well, in the mean time this is what to expect from easily the best album release so far this year.**

From the opening analogue drum machine loop to the final sustained violin note at the end, it is a non-stop ear holiday. Opening track 'Get Innocuous' is one long build up of slowly developing cool disco grooves arriving at a raucous out of tune violin orgy. The instant hit of 'North American Scum' ups the ante with clever lyrics laced with bitter irony along the same lines as their previous hit 'Daft Punk Is Playing At My House.' Expect to hear this one being blasted at the clubs.

As well as the danceable tracks there are also some more introverted songs with well-crafted melodies weaved in around the classic LCD

*Soundsystem* percussion rhythms. The title track sounds like the bastard offspring of punk and disco. Normally a blend that fails hopelessly leaving everybody involved slightly embarrassed, but somehow it works so well when done by the *Soundsystem*. For an album so built around repetition there is so much variation both lyrically and musically.

For those uninitiated as of yet with *LCD Soundsystem* they do take time to get into and it helps to listen in the right mood. 'Sound of Silver' is audio Marmite; you either love it or hate it, although I doubt there is a correlation between the two.



# Sure Fire Success



**THE ARCADE FIRE**  
NEON BIBLE  
JAMES OWEN

Album

**W**here **Arcade Fire's** debut album, **'Funeral'**, dealt with the death of band members' relatives, their second album shows an increased lyrical focus on politics with apocalyptic undertones. As with any band, they have had to deal with the dreaded "second album syndrome", which they surpass without even

seeming to consider it.

They have changed musically but not to the extent that you cannot recognise their style. Songs such as 'Intervention' and 'My Body is a Cage' are epic and majestic, which is partly due to the introduction of a new instrument... a church organ. 'Intervention' in particular has the feeling of a church hymn because of the presence of the organ. If they played "hymns"

like this in church services, I'd be much more interested in going along on a Sunday! The intentional irony of this song is that it sounds like a hymn whilst Win Butler sings the line "working for the church while my family dies". This brings me to a major theme of the lyrics: war. On 'Black Mirror', Win Butler sings, "mirror, mirror on the wall, show me where the bombs will fall", which is a creepy reference to fairy tales, while in

'Windowsill', the most overtly political song, he sings, "don't wanna fight in a holy war" and "World War III, when are you coming for me?"

Butler's vocals are known for sounding pained and fervently excited but are calmer on this album. The song 'Neon Bible' has quite a plaintive sound, which is matched by the doomed element of lines like "not much chance of survival, if the neon

bible is right". Not to say that this album is all doom and gloom. The first single 'Keep the Car Running' is a jangly and upbeat rockabilly-influenced song. On 'Funeral', Regine Chassagne took lead vocals on 'Haiti' and 'In the Backseat', whereas on this album she remains as a backing vocalist for most of it. The only exception is the first half of 'Black Waves/Bad Vibrations', which is quite happy and fun. The second half of this song is

drastically different with Win Butler taking lead vocals and the song becoming darker and more feedback driven. This album contains a musical maturity and greater lyrical focus but some of the songs take a few listens to get in to. Overall, I would strongly recommend this album for its dark, swirling and majestic songs as well as its quieter and happier moments!

## Singles

**The Cooper Temple Clause: Head**  
James Owen



The Cooper Temple Clause's third single from their third album 'Make This Your Own' is a fun piece of synthesised guitar rock. It is catchy and memorable. My only quibble would be that the words don't really seem to be about anything. Why is it called 'Head'? Something to do with a state of mind...?



**Mr. Hudson & The Library: Too Late, Too Late**  
Ben Corr

Buy this song. It's a fantastic amalgamation of genres ranging from chilled old skool dub to up to the minute electro Indy. This should take Mr. Hudson further into the mainstream consciousness whilst retaining their already established fan base. I can't wait to hear more from them.



**Lilly Allen: Shame For You**  
Ben Corr

This double A side single is a great success on the production, musical composition and vocal performance side. However, where it falls down is on its violently moronic collection of gaudy words strung together and passed off as lyrics. If you didn't like her other songs then avoid these like the plague.



# A Gutterball

## BOWLING FOR SOUP

INTERVIEW ON THE 'GET HAPPY TOUR'  
METAL MARK

## Interview

**I've reached a point of past regret. You have no idea how unhappy I am right now standing at the doors of the Manchester Academy. Smothered by a palpable mist consisting of no less styling product, self satisfaction, and that weird 'I am, and must be, DIFFERENT!' vibe (that you only get from scene kids), than could ever be found at a Nicky Clarke salon (editors note: other salons are available). Welcome to the cliental of a Bowling For Soup gig. Welcome to my nightmare.**

So, what is it that's turning this, what should be a pleasant night, into an ordeal? Well, for example, stood around the back, attempting to find the woman who promised me an

interview with the band, who do I spot, but that small one... you know, that weedy blonde one from *Busted* and *Son Of Dork*. And the only reason that he's come out the back, and I know this in my heart of hearts (and from the disappointed look on his little face), was to see how many 14 year old girls would be outside the backstage door ready to pester him for a hug.

Now, it may seem petty, it may be something that doesn't need saying but I'll say it anyway: You're about 20, playing to kids who are still in primary school (and it's way past their bedtime), you can't write a song, you've got bad hair, you're controlled by your label, and, let's be honest, you have a funny face. Nobody in their right mind is going to be waiting for you at that door!

He quietly made his way back inside the premises.

So, why am I here? "What's the Get Happy Tour all about?" I ask. "It's all about just having a tour out that if you come see the show you don't leave pissed off. You leave happy. All the bands on the tour are happy, you know? We're all about that." Says Chris, lead guitarist of *BFS*, a bit later on in the night. I take a look at my ticket it reads as follows: 'Bowling For Soup + Son Of Dork + Wheatus + Guests'. Later on I ask "So how do you rate the other bands on the tour?" – "The bands are all great. I haven't met anybody on the tour that, not only that I don't like, but that, you know, don't... like wanna to kill... or anything." Not the case in this camp I'm afraid.

Ten minutes later and I find myself standing, wondering how I got here. In front of me, the misguided youth flash the devil horns to welcome on openers *Army Of Freshmen*. On all levels



the devil horns do not belong here. I don't belong here. To sum up *Army Of Freshmen* my friend Louise's exclamation of "rubbish!" will do. This goes for *SOD* and *Wheatus* too (editors note: nice abbreviation). Oh, and not forgetting the headliners *BFS* either. But they got the accolade of being labelled "novelty!" Thanks Lou.

"Would you say comedy is an integral part of the band?" – "Absolutely! We try to entertain each other; we try to make each other laugh. Yeah, we whore ourselves out for a laugh now and then."

And that's where I found my only entertainment in the night. I wasn't laughing at the jokes, or the antics, or the "I love myself"

attitude of lead singer Jaret Reddick. It was in seeing the complete cringe-worthy product that they combined to create.

There are nothing but shallow themes – both lyrically and musically – and a shrill noise to be found at a *Bowling For Soup* gig. Oh! And bad hair! Lots and lots of bad hair...



# Silence Is Golden

MR. HUDSON & THE LIBRARY  
A TALE OF TWO CITIES  
CHARLOTTE WOOLLEY

## Album

**U**ndoubtedly the best album I have listened to this year, 'A Tale of Two Cities' is unbelievably good. Combining a heady mixture of hip-hop and reggae beats with classic song writing, Mr. Hudson and his band, The Library, provide a much needed breath of fresh air to the British music scene.

At first the unsparingly honest lyrics of 'A Tale Of Two Cities' may seem incongruous, if not

a little false coming from an Oxford English Literature student, especially since we are more used to idolising perceived working-class heroes such as *The Streets* however it cannot be denied that Mr. Hudson pulls it off with panache. Joining acts like *Plan B* and *Sway* in writing about everyday situations which most, if not all, young Britons can relate to.

The album begins with the inspired choice of a cover of 'On The Street Where You Live' from the musical *My Fair Lady*.

Managing to update this classic show tune is an achievement in itself, but managing to do it well is impressive. After this the album just gets better.

Naturally, the single 'Too Late, Too Late' is well thought out and first rate; a truly excellent choice of first single since it has slightly more beat than the rest of the album and is therefore more likely to appeal to a mainstream audience. However, the best track is 'Cover Girl' a touching if slightly quirky love song. Conclusion: buy this album!

## Singles

### Radar: War Out There

Penny Lawton

Having recently supported *Just Jack* on tour, *Radar* juxtaposes the menacing with the downright exciting in their hypnotic beats. The sense of the 90s in a merge of *Madness* meets *Faithless* grates against their futuristic style, yet provides a refreshing change to the wannabe indie bands that litter the charts at present.



### Razorlight: I Can't Stop This Feeling I've Got

Penny Lawton

Johnny Borrell certainly has that 'golden touch' and this cements their status as one of the best UK bands. Carl Dalemo's bass gives that lightheartedness to accompany Borrell's chirpy vocals but also push us through to an intense instrumental ending. Not as epic as 'America', but another classic *Razorlight*.



### Bloom: Shoulder To Cry On

Charlotte Wooley

The haunting lyrics and melody of 'Shoulder To Cry On' have earned Bloom's debut single a fitting comparison to *Snow Patrol*. This single has all the makings of a great break-up classic, so get the ice cream in, turn the volume up and wallow in your own depression.





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# Another Bean Movie

**OUTLAW (18)**  
STARRING: SEAN BEAN AND BOB HOSKINS  
BETH HARPER

Cinema

**This is the fourth feature film by writer and director, Nick Love. Outlaw is a lot more profound than previous works such as Football Factory and The Business. It stars Sean Bean playing an ex-paratrooper, Bryant, who, on his return from Iraq, sees what this country has become. In this thought-provoking drama, a group of men from very contrasting backgrounds join together and make up a small army who take the law into their own hands.**

Each man has a different reason to be part of this group but the main theme is that all of them have suffered some sort of social injustice. It seems that in this society, the people that make all the noise and disruption get all of the good things in life, whereas the ones that are quiet, blend in and 'play by the rules' suffer bullying and feelings of being overlooked. It is then that they start to fight for what they believe is right. And once the army is established, they start fighting.

However, things start to get out of hand and they become as big a threat to society as the criminals they are teaching lessons to. This then starts the debate as to whether they are heroes or villains. On the one hand they are fighting for everyone who has felt let down by the police or government, but on the other, they are just stooping to the level

of the criminals. It is one of those films where the main characters are in no way good people - but you take their side and sympathise with them.

Outlaw represents the common man and what people have to put up with in a society of lax rules and lenient police officers. It is certainly very well written and created and also very well acted, with Sean Bean playing a calm Yorkshireman with nerves of steel to perfection, whilst co-star Danny Dyer is in danger of becoming a typecast, middle-of-the-road Londoner who is weak at the beginning but becomes a leader at the end.

The whole cast put in a stunning performance, including Rupert Friend who plays the strong silent type, who clearly has his morals and Sean Harris who plays the creepy security guard, Hillier, is very convincing. The casting is perfect and it makes the film very realistic. It seems that Love did not originally intend to make this piece so political and controversial but it seems to have sparked a lot of discussion. It truly is a great piece of filmmaking, albeit very violent - one that is certainly not for the fainthearted. It may just be the effect of the cinema but the sound of the punches and bones breaking is enough to make you squirm! But unlike his other films, it is certainly a lot more than just a violent film. There is an underlying message in this film and it will certainly make you realise that something needs to be done about our yob-culture society.



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# Pride Comes Before A Fall

## BECOMING JANE (PG)

STARRING ANNE HATHAWAY, JAMES MCAVOY AND JULIE WALTERS  
JOHNATHAN ILLOTT AT VUE CINEMAS

# Cinema

**D**oubtful that it will be remembered as such but nevertheless 2007 is the year of the English Authoress biopic. First we had Renee Zellweger playing with rabbits in *Miss Potter* and later in the year Michelle Williams will be appearing as Charlotte in a biopic of the whole Bronte Clan. Slotted between the two is a Charming performance by Anne Hathaway portraying the much loved Jane Austen searching for her very own Mr. Darcy.

Said bastard with a past takes the form of Tom Lefroy; a character slightly underplayed by James McAvoy appearing in his hundredth film of the year (seems like it anyway.) One suspects that if you stopped going to the cinema he would turn up on your doorstep. Luckily for him he is very difficult to dislike and has a face that your Gran would never stop squeezing the cheeks of. It is also lucky that despite looking a little too young for the role he has great chemistry with co-star Hathaway.



The film has already come in for criticism for suggesting that the real life romance between Lefroy and Austen formed the basis for most of her novels and it is a fair point. The first hour of the film runs almost

parallel with the plot of *Pride & Prejudice* and leaves you wondering why you did not just watch that instead especially as the romance at times feels forced and is not allowed enough room to develop.

As is to be expected Julie Walters and James Cromwell give great performances as Jane's parents but the scriptwriters resort to making the characters prototype Mr and Mrs. Bennets. The same can be said

for almost every character in the film; For example Maggie Smith takes the Lady Catherine role while Leo Bill and Laurence Fox both get to each play a form of Mr Collins. This approach is as disappointing as it is obvious and lets down an otherwise impressive cast.

The chemistry between the two leads aside the films saving grace is its bittersweet conclusion, the point when reality finally sets in and the film begins to follow its own direction. It is at this moment when the heartstrings are truly tugged and the romantic heart of the film finally sheds its shackles. This also rises it above many similar films, most notably the recent Keira Knightly starring adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. On the whole if you are already an Austen fan you already know you will enjoy this film and for everyone else it is a pleasingly engaging and likeable film but sadly ultimately forgettable.

## It's Not Porn - Promise!

## SHORTBUS (18)

STARRING SOOK-YIN LEE, LINDSAY BEAMISH AND PAUL DAWSON  
JOHNATHAN ILLOTT AT THE DUKES

# Cinema

**D**espite having a happy marriage, a dream job as a marriage councillor and a great apartment in one of the most affluent cities in the world, Sofia (Sook-Yin Lee) has an unhappy secret. She can't orgasm. But help is on hand from her clients James and Jamie who introduce her to an anything goes sex club with the catchy title *Shortbus* a throwback to the free love of the sixties. Though, as one character observes, "with less hope." Can she learn to stop worrying and love her mojo again?

Try to explain *Shortbus* to anyone and the instant reaction will be "so it's porn then?" And how could you possibly disagree when the film opens with a man trying to fellate himself? Writer/director John Mitchell Cameron explained that his aim in making *Shortbus* was to make a serious film which incorporated graphic sex.

It is a bold goal especially considering



the attitude the American film industry so often takes with sex. It appears to be either forbidden, sleazy or there to be sniggered at, and in most American teen films it is treated with a disdainful

mix of the latter two options.

In this environment Mitchell's effort to find a mature middle ground should be applauded. He uses sex as

part of a larger plot rather than to add on a few zeroes to the end of the box office figure. He does not use soft focus or lighting and thankfully the phrase "hey big boy" is nowhere

to be found. So is it porn? No it really is what Cameron wanted it to be; a serious film which incorporates graphic sex that succeeds because it does not allow the sexual content to unbalance and overwhelm the other aspects of the film.

Granted the final product is not nearly as profound as it would like to think and the acting, with the exception of the highly likeable Sook-Yin Lee, is a little flat, but the film has enough strengths to overcome these problems. Especially with the help of the largely improvised script which is witty without being smutty (it has one of the funniest scenes involving a vibrating egg you are ever likely to see) and the lightness of touch Cameron brings to the direction.

It will never achieve mainstream success but like Cameron's previous film *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* it is destined to garner a sizeable cult following amongst those not faint of heart.

# 300 vs 1,000,000 = Carnage!

**300 (15)**  
STARRING: GERALD BUTLER, LENA HEADEY, DOMINIC WEST AND DAVID WENHAM  
BEN BAILEY

## Cinema



To make the film more realistic animal carcasses were used in close-up sword and spear thrusts so they actually pierce flesh. The result – this film has more blood than an abattoir.

Other criticisms may include the poor characterisation from the start. The film practically begins with the battle. Thus any pleas for the audience to sympathise with Queen Gorgo (nice name love) when Leonidas goes to war fall on death ears. Also there are far too many Gladiator rip-off moments. I think we've seen those cornfields quite enough times before thank you.

Heroics and battle cries are a plenty. The majority of the movie was filmed on blue screen so the backgrounds could be generated adding to the illusions. Gerald Butler spent 8 months in training for this film doing 6 hours in the gym every day. And if this isn't enough digitally enhanced abs make the Spartans look cringworthily toned.

300 is certainly not the thinking man's film, although for blood, guts and glory, battle scenes like nothing ever

committed to film and a story that permeates in the viewer an undeniably strong urge to scream "Sparta" at the top of your lungs, then this is the film. If epics are your thing then this is the film of the year, though if you like to stay in and enjoy a nice musical – stick to Grease.



**Put bluntly, this film is about 300 mental Spartans who are hard enough to take on over a million Persians in a no-holes-barred battlefield bloodbath. If that doesn't sound like your cup of tea then stop reading now.**

300 is graphic novelist Frank Miller's (of Sin City fame) latest offering. It is a high-octane crowd pleaser of epic proportions that follows the tale of 300 Greeks led by their King Leonidas (Gerald Butler) as they leave Sparta and prepare for an against-the-odds battle against the Persian hoards at

Thermopylae in 480 B.C. The film opens with the story of how the Spartans prided themselves on being the greatest warriors in the world. Babies were examined for weaknesses, such as smallness or deformations. Any disability and the child was chucked off a cliff. Aged 13 boys were taken away from their homes and thrown into a world of violence.

This in itself perhaps presents the film's first paradox. While the Spartans are fighting to save Greek and perhaps the world's democracies from the tyrant King Xerxes whose army mainly comprised of slaves, Spartan society was

itself so ingrained in violent conduct and war.

Still, Leonidas leads his 300 Spartans to war. (He's not allowed to take the royal army since it had been forbidden by corrupt, deformed, religious elders who had obviously been bribed.)

In this lies the beauty of 300. Since there are so few Spartans the battle scenes, which are breathtaking in both their size and frequency focus in on the original. This is the original David versus Goliath. Digital tracking shots follow the characters as they literally wade through their opponents cutting down everything and anything they can lay their hands on.

## Still The King?

**KING OF THE HILL, SEASON 5**  
20TH CENTURY FOX, RRP. £24.99  
NICK RENSHAW

## DVD

**Intensive scientific research recently discovered that students own more Family Guy DVDs than pairs of clean underwear. If you walk into a student house there is a 38.45% chance someone will be watching Family Guy. Whilst it is easy to see why the show has become so popular, there is only so many times you can watch a big fat cartoon man fight a big fat cartoon chicken. It's not healthy to let one show dominate your life. What's needed is another animated series to 'share the comedy load' as it were. Well fear not, because another King of the Hill DVD release is upon us, here to provide much needed comedy relief.**

Created by Beavis and Butthead creator Mike Judge, *King of the Hill* has kept its head down and continually produced excellent comedy since its first airing in 1997. With the first four seasons already out to own on DVD, this, the fifth, continues where the others left off, following the trials and tribulations of the Hill family in Arlen, Texas.

Bobby is finally growing up, turning the ripe old age of 13. He proves his new found maturity by saving a drowning pig (what better way?). Hank is his usual manful self. He is horrified when he discovers that George Bush, his choice for president, has a weak handshake and is just as devastated when he learns that Bobby and Peggy prefer to barbecue with charcoal instead of his

beloved propane. Hank's niece Luanne is as dizzy as ever. She decides to vote communist because she likes the candidate's red tie whilst Hanks wife Peggy invents the ultimate gameshow – 'Spin the Choice' and gets accused of kidnapping on a school trip to Mexico - all in all just another typical look into the life of the Hill family.

With some of the best supporting characters since *The Simpsons* – Boomhauer's voice is still as funny as ever – and some great cameos from Renee Zellweger and Snoop Dog amongst others, *King of the Hill* season 5 is as funny as *Family Guy*, as smart as *Futurama* and as loveable as *The Simpsons*. Anyone needing a bit of variety in their comedy is advised to look here.



## How To Save A Life &amp; Other Tales

THIS BOOK WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE

AUTHOR: A.M. HOMES

LAURA GIVENS

## Books &amp; Theatre

LES MISERABLES

LANASTER ROYAL AND GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

KYLE ADDYMAN AT THE GRAND THEATRE

**A**lready bursting with the best seller charts as a result of Richard and Judy's book club endorsement, this unusual, ironic offering lives up to its intriguing title. It could possibly become what Stephen King cites on the title page as 'a generational touchstone, like *Catch-22* or *The Catcher in the Rye*' in its tale of a lost emotionally-devoid man's journey back to life.

A.M. Homes tells the story of Richard Novak, a wealthy stockbroker in LA whose life has dwindled to the confines of his large house and treadmill. He is visited only by his cleaner, trainer and nutritionist and half way across the country from his work-obsessed ex-wife and seventeen-year-old son, Ben. The narrative begins with Novak's rushed admission to hospital as he starts his painfully physical retuning to the real world – and we come to see that LA is not exactly the 'real world' either, rather a hyper-reality strewn with wannabe actors, writers and filmmakers, where a thin veil shrouds a Desperate Housewives-style version of events where things

are not always as they seem.

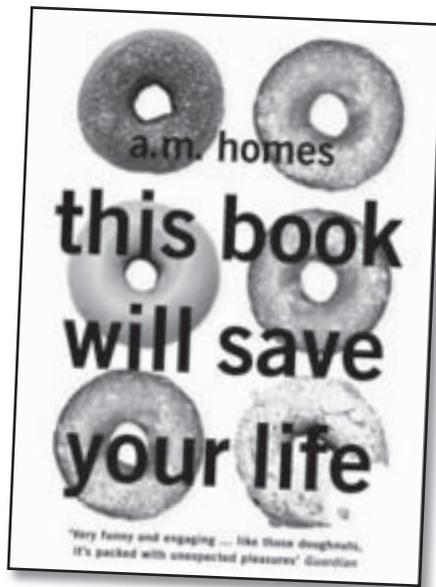
We become immersed in a strange web of eccentric characters dotted across this strange city who begin to touch Novak and gradually help to bring him back to life. The first of these characters is Anhil, an immigrant doughnut-shop owner who is more enthused by the status-symbols and vestiges of the American Dream than any of the other American characters Novak comes across. His doughnuts become a metaphor for Novak's gradual release from the prison of mind and body, daringly switching his strictly-nutritional diet for the sweet decadence of Anhil's sugary merchandise.

The cast is increased with a bizarre sequence of events starting with the arrival of an unexplained hole in Novak's garden, enlarging at the same rate as his emotional rejuvenation. His life is firstly entangled with that of a suicidal housewife he meets in the produce section of his supermarket who despairs at her seemingly invisible life, revolved around taxiing her children to and fro and cooking unappreciated meals day in day out. He then makes the

acquaintance of a famous actor obsessed with new-age spiritual rites and retreats who lives up the road, a writer and friend of Bob Dylan who has been missing and hiding out at Miami beach, and the gradual rebuilding of a relationship with his son, once he has survived his Jack Kerouac-inspired rite-of-passage road-trip across America to reach his father.

There are a lot of clever ideas bouncing around in this certainly entertaining and absorbing book, with a twisting plot which is constantly unexpected as we monitor Novak's progress event by event: his increasing involvement in other peoples' lives and the impossibility of suddenly retreating back into isolation again. The remarks on LA as an accentuated version of over-the-top modern life are astute and witty and

Novak's relationship with his son is particularly touching. I felt it was slightly laboured reading at some points, with the increasing pace of Novak's life well-captured but the consequent slower passages to highlight this transformation lacking. However, as a book which speaks for a generation and captures our image-obsessed society to the point of complete emotional and spiritual disconnection to other people, it is highly satirical and enjoyable.



**D**espite being a closet fan of musicals, *Les Miserables*, has never aroused my interest, seeming to me, pretentious, melodramatic and dull. My flatmate on the other hand hails it as 'the finest musical mankind has ever seen' and refused to allow an opportunity to see it. Live pass me by. Despite my reluctance, curiosity got the better of me.

Noteworthy performances came from Freddy Elleston and Hannah Gregson who displayed not only strong vocals, but also great comedic talent, and were clearly an audience favourite. The three leading ladies also demonstrated impressive voices, with Lucy Knowles giving a particularly dazzling portrayal of Cosette. The male leads in contrast were simply not in the same league. Although Joel Phillimore gave a passionate performance as Marius, Patrick Malone's turn as Jean Valjean was lacklustre, awkward and at times missing notes entirely. Similarly Alex Marseden as Enjolras never seemed truly comfortable on stage and his musical ability

suffered as a result. Luckily the chorus and one liners from backing singers, often saved the male dominated numbers from disaster, making the most memorable of the musical's songs sufficiently rousing.

The cast were a bit let down by the technical side of things. The show was riddled with high pitched blasts of feedback and at times it was difficult to hear certain actors or actresses. Although it is hard to be too disparaging of a school production, as it is obviously unreasonable to expect a similar level of quality that you would find in a professional, or even an adult amateur production. Ultimately The Royal Grammar School performance did not inspire a love, or indeed any sort of affection for *Les Miserables* and, according to my resident expert, was not as good as other amateur productions she had experienced.

However, although The Royal Grammar School production of *Les Miserables* was a rather mediocre affair on the whole, there were a few standout performances, and it was an enthusiastic and admirable effort of a notoriously difficult musical.

CAGE OF STARS

AUTHOR: JACQUELYN MITCHARD

VIX ROBERTS

## Books

**W**hen I first started to read *Cage of Stars*, I found it a bit slow. It's one of those books that fluctuate between different time's zones and because it resists a linear narrative your constantly itching to find out what happens in the end.

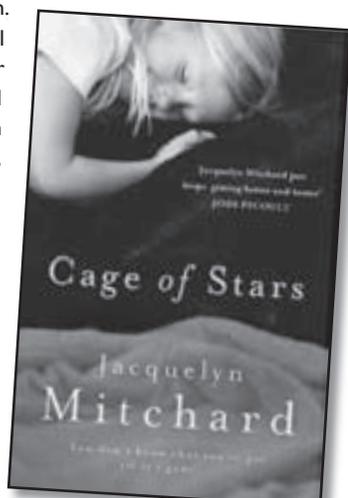
The story is about a teenage girl, Ronnie Swan, with two smaller sisters. One day she's playing hide and seek with them. When Ronnie can't hear them counting out loud, she peers round from her hiding place to see her sisters, but instead of them standing there counting, Ronnie discovers their lifeless bodies. The two sisters have been murdered and the story then follows the perpetrator of the crime.

*Cage of Stars* sensitively shows Ronnie having to grow up with the death of her sisters. She has to deal with the effect it has

on her parents and family. As the family are Mormons, they have to deal with the tragedy in relation to their religion. Should they forgive the murderer? Can they accept these deaths as an act of God?

You see Ronnie having to cope with this ordeal, when her grief and fury turn to revenge after the murderer is sentenced to a mental institution rather than prison. Towards the end of the book, I couldn't put it down. Everything started to unravel which you'd been waiting for since the beginning. It ended with a few surprises but when the big action was happening, I got really confused (quite easily done), and it just seemed the story darted around a bit too much. It did seem to wonder off track a few times, I wondered why they were talking about something, but then I realised, the writer may just be trying to show how grief can be random and inexplicable.

Overall I had mixed feelings at the beginning of the book. For example, I got a bit frustrated at times with the religious jargon – I thought Jacquelyn Mitchard might be trying to convert me. However, I was gripped at the end. It's defiantly a good read, and unexpected at times. *Cage of Stars* was slightly sentimental, there were some really touching moments and I admit, my eyes did well up a few times!



THE SHOW I'LL NEVER FORGET

AUTHOR: SEAN MANNING

BETH HARPER

## Books

**I**n this collection of musical memoirs, 50 writers talk about their most unforgettable concerts. To be honest, the musicians are not the main subject here. In fact some writers didn't even see the concert in question. But it's the concerts that these pieces all have in common.

They span from the fifties to the present day, from Miles Davis, via *The Beatles*, Bruce Springsteen, Prince and then ending up with the *White Stripes*. Lots of styles and icons are written of and although some are more prolific the social and cultural themes are of real importance. Each writer brings a piece of themselves to the table and shows what normal people go through when they have music in their lives.

You can really relate to this

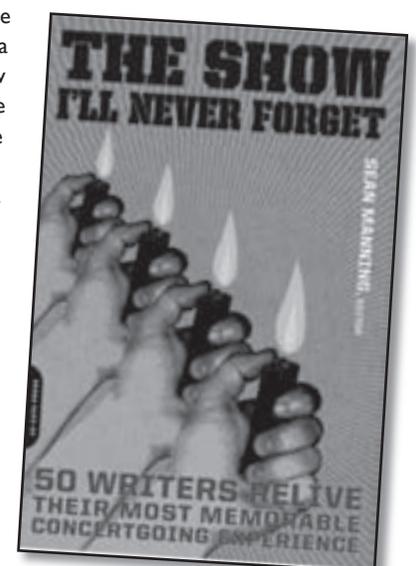
book because it just confirms what happens when we mere mortals are affected by the stars. Tracy Chevalier recaptures her first rock gig (*Queen*), which is just the backdrop for the night she saw the real world.

Jon Raymond was thrown out of his *Bon Jovi* gig before it started but it was still the most memorable of his life. Rebecca Brown talks of how she could hardly see *The Beatles*, let alone hear them, yet she's still their biggest fan and has stayed true to them all these years. It'll make you smile when you realise that teenagers in the 60s were exactly the same as us teens of the new millennium.

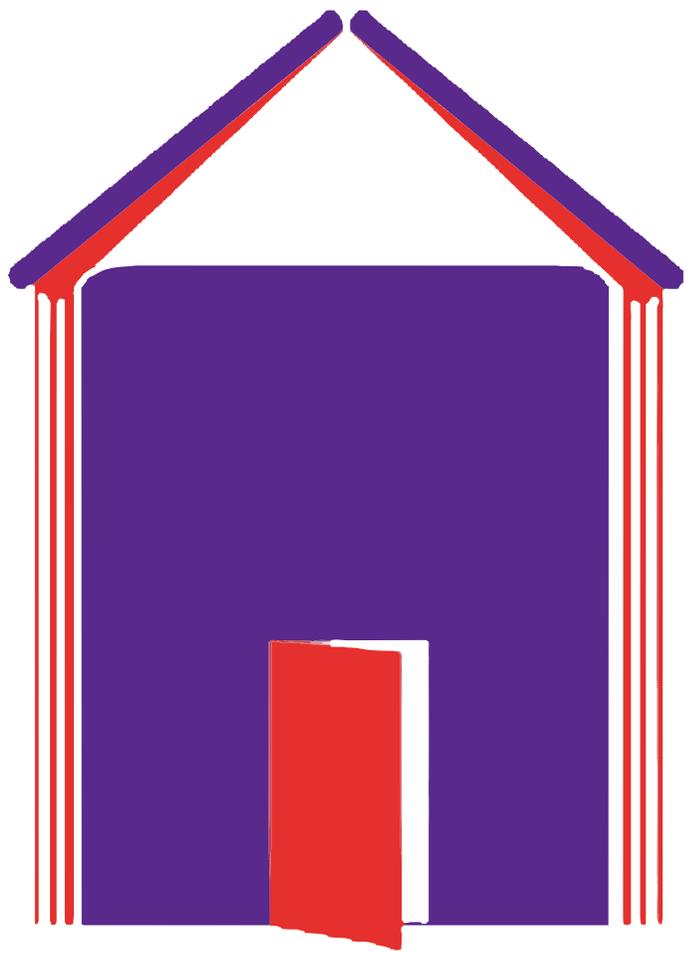
Music may change

like the seasons but what's really strong here is that people and their feelings don't and this book only confirms this.

It'll certainly inspire you to go and watch many concerts and then write about them afterwards.



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3  
3A

Service 2A will operate a normal Sunday service to the University on May Day and Spring Bank Holiday Monday with additional Service 3 journeys shown below.

**May Day & Spring Bank Holiday Monday**

Service Number	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3A	3	3	3A	3	3
Higher Heysham Combermere Road			855							1000			1100		
Morecambe Battery										1012			1112		
Morecambe Clock Tower										1022			1122		
Torrisholme Square										1037			1137		
<b>Lancaster Bus Station</b>	0825	0830	0835	0840	0910	0940	0955	1010	1040	1048	1110	1140	1148	1203	1243
Common Garden Street	0828	0833	0838	0843	0913	0943	0958	1013	1043		1113	1143		1206	1246
Bowerham Hotel			0843												
Hala Square			0846												
University Underpass	0841	0846	0852	0856	0926	0956	1011	1026	1056		1126	1156		1219	1259
South West Campus														1223	1303

**Need to get to the University for exams over the Bank Holiday period?**

**Additional services will be operating on May Day and Spring Bank Holiday Monday**

From 1st April until 21st October, Service X55 operates direct from the University Underpass every Sunday at 0820 to Kendal. Returning from Kendal as Service 555 at 1805.



Change at Kendal for Service 555 to/from the Central Lakes!

Service Number	3A	3	3	3	3A	3A	3	3	3	3A	3A	3	3	3	3A
Higher Heysham Combermere Road	1200				00		1800					1900			
Morecambe Battery	1212				12		1812					1912	1930	2030	2130
Morecambe Clock Tower	1222				22		1822					1922	1936	2036	2136
Torrisholme Square	1237	then at			37		1837					1937	1948	2048	2148
<b>Lancaster Bus Station</b>	1248	at	03	23	43	48	1848	1903	1923	1943	1948	1958	2058	2158	2258
Common Garden Street			06	26	46			1906	1926	1946					
University Underpass			19	39	59			1919	1939	1959					
South West Campus			23	43	03			1923	1943	2003					

Service Number	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3A	3A	3	3	3A	3	3	3	3A
<b>South West Campus</b>																
<b>University Underpass</b>	0848	0903	0933	1003	1033	1103	1133			1203	1228				43	03
George Street	0900	0915	0945	1015	1045	1115	1145			1215	1240				48	08
<b>Lancaster Bus Station</b>	0903	0918	0948	1018	1048	1118	1148	1100	1200	1218	1243	1300	then at		00	20
Torrisholme Square								1110	1210			1310			10	
Morecambe Clock Tower								1126	1226			1326			26	
Morecambe Battery								1136	1236			1336			36	
Higher Heysham Combermere Road								1148	1248			1348			48	

Service Number	3A	3	3	3	3A	3	3	3	3A	3	3	3A	3A	3A
<b>South West Campus</b>														
<b>University Underpass</b>														
George Street														
<b>Lancaster Bus Station</b>														
Torrisholme Square														
Morecambe Clock Tower														
Morecambe Battery														
Higher Heysham Combermere Road														

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# Medal Rush For Tae Kwon Do

**Claire Hargreaves**

**Lancaster University's Tae Kwon Do Club went into the nationals with high expectations, but not even they could have foreseen what they went on to achieve. The nationals, organised every year by the British Students Taekwondo Federation, were held in Bristol, with clubs competing from all around Britain. Individual members of each club had been training hard for the two events of patterns and sparring.**

Lancaster went in with 13 members and their dedication and hard work was rewarded returning with 11 medals. In patterns, competitors had to present a sequence of punching and kicking techniques - Lancaster had spent many hours training, perfecting all the minor details. Lancaster also had an advantage in the form of two black belts who are qualified patterns judges to help the team whenever they needed it. It soon became apparent that the standard of Lancaster's club was above most others, and Lancaster won silver medals in both junior and senior divisions.

Although there was little time to enjoy the glory of the patterns success, as the next event, the sparring, was the most eagerly anticipated of all. All Lancaster members had signed up to fight. This was a rigorous and challenging event with paramedics on the sidelines in anticipation of the casualties inherent at a full contact event. Confidence was never an issue, Lancaster had after all been coached by one of the best instructors in Britain - Master Ellison who helped the team do exactly what they needed to get in shape.

Lancaster did not come away disappointed; two club members, Adam Gregory and James Tinsley both won the gold in three rounds of hard competitive sparring. Gregory showed his qualities by winning all his rounds without conceding a single point. He even showed his cheeky confidence by throwing down his helmet in celebration, only to have a point disqualified from him. Fortunately he won it back in seconds with a flying spinning side kick! Tinsley on the other hand, had to struggle with an injured foot, but fought through the pain to gain his well deserved gold medal.

Medals were awarded to:

Patterns:

Silver – Sacha Effendi  
Silver – Caroline Childs

Sparring:

Gold – Adam Gregory  
Gold – James Tinsley

Silver – Mark Nelms  
Silver – Claire Hargreaves  
Silver – Helen Timlin  
Silver – Fabienne Hoffmann

Bronze – Leyla Keskin  
Bronze – Caroline Childs  
Bronze – Steven Maxwell



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# The Big Debate: Are English supporters or foreign authorities to blame for recent hooliganism?

## English Fans Have To Take Some Of The Blame

**Paul Collins**  
Sports Editor

**The recent violence in football matches between English teams in European cup competitions was disturbing. It is an unfortunate part of the game that remains even though great advances have been made to eradicate it. As I listened to the various phone-ins on the radio in the aftermath of the Roma vs. Manchester United game, and the Sevilla vs. Spurs game the following day, I noticed a recurring theme: the idea that "it was not us, we were picked on by the police." Yes, I agree that the actions of the police were rather heavy, however the English fans travelling abroad need to take some of the blame for what went on.**

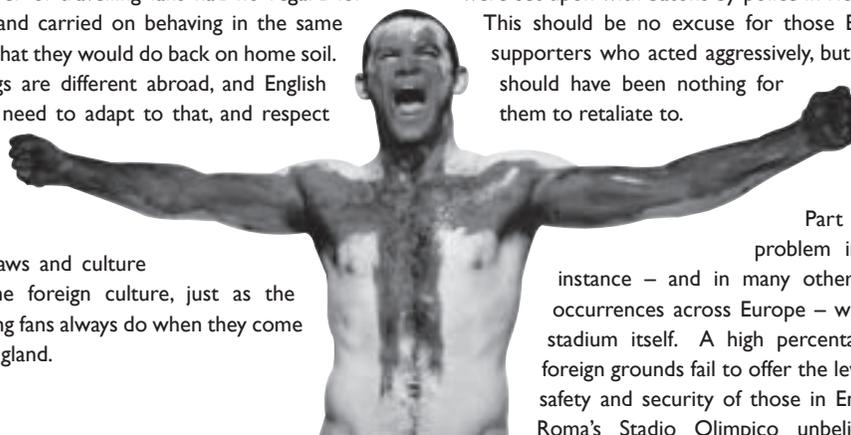
This is not the first time that English club fans have been involved in violent clashes with the police or opposition supporters. Leeds fans travelling to Turkey know only too well what happens when violence erupts. Arsenal fans were involved in violent scenes ahead of the UEFA Cup final with Galatasaray in 2000. Policing is an issue in foreign countries, but that is something the UEFA are looking into. In England, the policy of softly-softly, using stewards rather than riot police has a calming effect on crowds and works well.

In order to comprehend the situation, one must take into account what goes on not just inside the stadium, but in the hours leading up to the match. Visiting fans often arrive at their destination the night before the match. Too many travelling fans have no regard for the culture of continental Europe.

Having experienced a football match in Spain, I noticed huge differences. No heavy pre-match drinking goes on, meaning that tensions between fans are kept to an absolute minimum before the match. In the UK, tensions and atmosphere are whipped up largely due to the huge amount of drinking that goes on before a game. Large crowds combined with alcohol in an unpoliced area before a game always spells danger. In Paris, there were violent scenes, in which I saw people wielding metal bars and wooden planks. This was brought on by the sheer drunkenness of the fans. An alcohol ban for twenty four hours before the game would prevent a lot of the unnecessary tensions between opposition fans.

A second observation I have noted is the English mentality abroad. The Sevilla vs. Spurs match was played on Maundy Thursday, a day of huge religious importance in Spanish life. Indeed, Sevilla is famous for the very sombre yet passionate processions, filled with impressive music and various costumes worn by different representative from each church group across the city. I am fairly sure that a large number of travelling fans had no regard for this, and carried on behaving in the same way that they would do back on home soil. Things are different abroad, and English fans need to adapt to that, and respect

the laws and culture of the foreign culture, just as the visiting fans always do when they come to England.



## English Football Fans Are Innocent - Shock Horror!

**Ian Waterhouse**  
Sports Editor

**Rather than blaming English football fans for the recent violence at European matches in Rome and Seville, those on the continent should be looking to our shores for a shining example of how to behave at football matches. English police, authorities and supporters are quite simply more accustomed to the larger crowds that turn out on the big European and international occasions.**

The first incident occurred at the Roma vs. Manchester United European Cup quarter-final, when visiting supporters were inexcusably beaten by Italian police within the stadium itself. Whilst no police punishment was given to the Roma fans for their coin-throwing and continued goading of the Manchester United contingent, as soon as the United fans showed any signs of retaliation they were set upon with batons by police in riot gear. This should be no excuse for those English supporters who acted aggressively, but there should have been nothing for them to retaliate to.

Part of the problem in this instance – and in many other such occurrences across Europe – was the stadium itself. A high percentage of foreign grounds fail to offer the levels of safety and security of those in England. Roma's Stadio Olimpico unbelievably

boasts a five-star UEFA rating, meaning that it is considered to be one of the safest in Europe. By way of comparison, only Old Trafford in England shares this UEFA 'accolade'. However, in reality it is nothing more than a concrete bowl originally constructed in the 1930s.

English stadia, on the other hand, have had to reinvent themselves into ultra-modern all-seater affairs following the Hillsborough disaster and subsequent Taylor Report. It cannot be denied that with the decline of terracing – whatever the sentimental attachment to it may be – English football has seen its violent element reduced significantly.

The attitude of the local police must also come into the issue. In and around English football grounds – even at the biggest of occasions – the police have come to adopt a softly-softly approach, providing the feeling that they are in attendance for the protection of the football fan rather than to incite them. Those abroad, in contrast, seek to make impositions on travelling fans, restricting their movements and seemingly acting on the assumption that trouble will occur. When they are looking for trouble, it is more likely to be found.

There is to be no denying that England has had its difficulties with hooliganism, but the dark days are now consigned to the past. Following the 1985 Heysel disaster – when 39 football fans were killed at the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus in Brussels – English football clubs were banned from all international competition for five years. Following on from this period of exile, lessons have been learned and attitudes have changed. It is now important that the same process is undertaken in Europe and that similarly stringent penalties are imposed where incidents do occur.

## Lancaster City draw!!!

**Ian Waterhouse**  
Sports Editor

**Lancaster City finally snapped their 20-game losing streak with a 0-0 home draw against Leigh RMI on 3rd April. The result leaves the Dolly Blues on zero points – following a ten-point deduction for going into administration that was imposed earlier in the season.**

The result also confirmed Leigh's unenviable position as City's favourite opponents of the campaign – with Lancaster having won the reverse picture by a single goal back in September. However, other results over the Easter period were not so favourable to the Dolly Blue cause, although a spirited display almost warranted a draw in the home game with Farsley Celtic.

Having fallen behind early in the game, City were able to equalise midway through the second half through former Stockport County reserve, Ryan Elderton. Such a result would have put City back onto a positive points total, but their hopes were dashed by an undeserved late goal from the visitors.



The Easter period also saw national media exposure for the team and their manager, Barrie Stimpson. Both Soccer Night, screened on regional ITV1, and Sky Sports' Soccer Saturday carried features on the club, including interview pieces with Stimpson and owner Mick Hoyle, as well as highlights from the 3-0 home defeat to Worksop Town on March 17th. Viewers were treated to the concession of three headed goals during a heartbreaking second-half, as well as Stimpson's equally melancholic pre-match and half-time team talks, which carried more than a hint of a teacher/pupil relationship.

Although the Conference North table has long since become a secondary consideration, City are currently 41 points adrift of second-bottom Scarborough, and fully 45 points from the safety line. However, the completion of the league campaign will at least mean that the Dolly Blues will have completed their period of administration and it is expected that they will then reform in the Unibond North division next season – a move that would constitute a drop of only one additional league in comparison to straight relegation.

City have now finished their home league campaign and their season concludes with tonight's [23rd April] trip to Hinckley United, followed by a final day encounter at Workington Town.

## Shrimps to walk Wembley Way?

**Ian Waterhouse**  
Sports Editor

**Morecambe could be set to become one of the first teams to appear at the new Wembley if they continue the excellent run of form that has seen them rise up the Conference National table.**

A spell of four wins from five games straddling the Easter period has left the Shrimps in third place and looking like shoo-ins for the end of season play-offs. With the recent confirmation that the Conference play-off final is to be held the finally-refurbished national stadium, only a two-legged semi-final would stand between Morecambe and the final on May 20.

The real star of the show has been on-loan Blackpool striker Matthew Blinkhorn, who has scored eight times since joining the club at the beginning of March. However, the frontman has now been recalled by Blackpool due to an injury crisis at the Bloomfield Road club.

There remains, though, a ready-made replacement at the club as Michael Twiss has just returned to full fitness and is set to appear in the play-offs following a long injury lay-off. With Dagenham & Redbridge already assured of their league place as runaway league winners, the Shrimps may face the likes of

Oxford, Exeter and – most intriguingly – a possible Roses clash against York City in the play-off semi-finals in early May.

The catalyst for the rise up the league table has been – in contrast to the rest of the season – a series of wins at Christie Park. Six of the last seven home games have been won, in contrast to only four of the previous fifteen.

This run included a thumping 4-0 win over Halifax Town on Easter Monday, which featured a brace from Blinkhorn as well as strikes from Neil Sorvel and Garry Thompson.

Morecambe conclude their regular season with a home game against Grays Athletic this Saturday [28 April], whilst any subsequent play-off games will take place over the following weekend. Students are reminded that they receive a £2 discount on the regular student admission price on production of a Purple Card.



# SCAN Sport Does... Fencing

Sports Editor Ian Waterhouse tries his hand at the foil (he's the crap one on the right)



**Ian Waterhouse**  
Sports Editor

**university I have been privy to a number of fencing matches, come to learn some of the terminology and I think that I even once watched the Mask of Zorro on television. However, if this performance had been featured in Zorro then it would not even have made the director's cut.**

Before any kind of swords could be drawn, there was the preliminary matter of the general conditioning warm-up, although quite how the term "general" could be applied to it would make for an interesting debate.

If you do a "ballestra, step forward, jump back" as part of your pre-sporting routine, then consider my mock indignation retracted. For the uninitiated amongst us, the "ballestra" is a simulated fencing step undertaken with the body facing sideways, but crucially – and most inconveniently – with the front foot pointing forwards.

An attempt at a few of these was followed by the customary ten press-ups – one of the guys was clapping in between his, although apparently this was not necessary – and a repetition of the whole process. The warm-up probably took about ten minutes, though it felt more like half an hour and I certainly had a fairly sweaty sheen about me to show for it.

Thankfully I had a little time to recover as those

who do this on more than one occasion were getting kitted up for their Master Of Arms competition. This imposing-sounding contest is designed to bridge the gap between the end of the BUSA league season and the Roses, consisting of all of the proper fencers squaring off against one another until a winner emerges over a knockout format.

For those with marginally less / no experience – and there were others apart from me – there was the slightly gentler distraction of the tutelage of Alistair Bargery in the art of the parry-riposte. This is one of the more simple moves in the sport, the "parry" being the blocking of the opponent's sword before it hits you, and the "riposte" being the action of hitting them in return for having the barefaced cheek to start a fight in the first place. In spite of having been subjected to fencing matches before, it was only with this slower explanation that I started to understand that there is actually a bit of tactics to it.

With the arrival of team coach Mike Ray came my opportunity for a piece of the real action, and so I clambered into a fencing suit, found a fitting helmet and gloves, and was handed a sword. This was what I had come for. For the next fifteen minutes I received a crash course in the basics of how to strike an opponent. The technique was – needless to say – a lot harder than it looks. It is crucial to extend the attacking arm before lunging

forward with the leg, but too often my leg failed to understand this message and went forward anyway. The sideways-facing body / forward-facing foot and head trick had got little easier either, with the best piece of advice that I received on this matter being that I should seek to imitate "a demented penguin".

Whether or not this was the look that I had actually achieved, the time had come for my fencing debut. I was pitted against Alistair Bargery (yes, the same one who was teaching earlier!) over a first-to-ten-hits format with the epee weapon. This weapon had been chosen out of the three available since it was apparently the easiest as the whole body constituted a target area. Great. I did not really remember much of how the bout went – the scoreline was an unsurprising 10-0 – but I did not receive any undue pain from being struck with a sword. In the pub-based post-bout analysis I was told that I had made a typical beginners' mistake in being too defensive, although frankly I still felt that this was the best course of action.

Still, I was not to be disheartened as, according to the Italians (who are just as handy with swords as they are bottles and coins), it takes eight years before you are any good. Anyone who wishes to get the process underway can pop along to the Minor Hall on a Monday or Friday evening. Just one piece of advice: warm-up properly – my shoulders hurt for the next three days.

**A**t least this time I thought that I knew what I was letting myself in for. During my time at

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# Give Us A Cheer!

Michael Hughes  
& Katie King

**I went down to the National Cheerleading Championships in Telford, because after seeing members of the game squad cheering on the American Football team in all weathers, it seemed like the least that I could do. When I arrived, the teams seemed to be really calm, without any hint of butterflies, which I thought was impressive, especially considering that Sam Richards, one of the Lancaster team, was wearing a sling after breaking her elbow during a practice drill during the previous week.**

Sam said that she had fallen 15 feet after being thrown in the air, and that there had been an audible crack when her elbow broke. I did not

know much about cheerleading, but it was becoming apparent that beneath their smiles and welcoming banter, they were a tough bunch, including the guys on the team.

If anyone thinks that there is anything slightly (for want of a better word) "girly" about being a guy on a Cheerleading team, then a short time in their company reveals that they are anything but. When I was asked whether I would consider joining the team next year, the follow up question was "How much can you bench press?" because no matter how slight the girls look close up, when they are being thrown 30 feet up and then caught again, it must require immense physical strength from the men and women doing it.

The competition itself was massive. There were over 1,500 cheerleaders competing on teams from all over the UK. The place was banging with great music, and a loud, packed and boisterous crowd. But even more impressive was what these teams can do. Outside of the Chinese State Circus, you will never have seen so much tumbling, flying and energy. It made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up every time that someone was tossed in the air, because there was the chance that they could suffer a pretty grim injury. Thankfully, no-one did.

As Lancaster's time to perform got nearer, it was pointed out to me that unlike a sports team that might play ten games a year, meaning that each mistake was probably insignificant in the grand scheme of things, the Cheerleading teams had

practiced three times a week for twenty weeks, and they would have just one 2 1/2 minute routine to get it right. Any mistake would matter. Thankfully when both the Cheer and Dance Squads performed, they were awesome. They were as good as any team out there, and they did things that no-one else did. The crowd roared them on and they were fantastic.

When the results came in at the end of a long but fun packed day, both teams did superbly - the Cheer Squad finishing third, and the Dance Squad achieving seventh place - and every one of them should be proud of what they achieved. They were jaw-droppingly good, and I thought that if I was good enough, I would try out for the team tomorrow. I would recommend them to anyone thinking of doing something that is fun, but will keep you fit, and that will introduce you to an incredibly friendly group of people. Thanks for a fantastic day, it was a pleasure to cheer you on for a change.

The competition was of a very high standard, and seems to get more and more impressive with each passing year. In spite of this, Lancaster Roses Cheerleaders still managed to bring home another two trophies after all of their hard work. If anyone is interested in becoming part of the squad, or would like more information, please email [lancastercheerleaders@hotmail.com](mailto:lancastercheerleaders@hotmail.com). Recruitment will also take place at the Freshers' Fair in October and is open to every one of all shapes, sizes, and ability - some of our cheerleaders still can't touch their toes!



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penney steet lancaster



Photos by David Molyneux

# SCAN Sport's Roses Predictions



**Paul Collins**  
Sports Editor

**R**oses winners? Lancaster. I'd get lynched if I said the other team will. Plus my brother goes to York, and I refuse to give him any sign of encouragement to wind me up. Lancaster have higher BUSA standings overall. Perhaps this year's preparations will do the trick.



**Gav Smillie**  
Deputy Sports Editor

**Y**ork will edge it. I would love to say Lancaster but I am a realist. Home advantage is the most important factor: we have not won away since 1985. When you play away it's more like a party. Sleeping in lecture theatres as well is not ideal preparation. I would love to be wrong...



**Ian Waterhouse**  
Sports Editor

**L**ancaster to win. The factor of home advantage is impossible to overstate in Roses competition and Lancaster have not won in York since 1985. However, a glance at the BUSA rankings gives our Red Rose warriors some hope that this year will finally see an away triumph.



**Dave Greenshields**  
A.U. President

**I** firmly believe that we're going to win Roses this year. Having looked at the BUSA results for the season and watching the intense preparations our teams have gone through already this belief is only being reaffirmed. It'll be the first time in 26 years, but that's irrelevant, I'm predicting a Lancaster win.



**Sooz Palmer**  
LUSU President

**O**f course I believe Lancaster will win, I think Dave would kill me if I said otherwise! Through the commitment that has been shown by all involved I think it is quite safe to say we will be giving York a run for their money. Good luck to all the teams involved!



**James Marengi**  
A.U. President Elect

**H**istory tells us that playing at home is a massive advantage but I honestly believe that with the excellent preparation put in by the teams, and those who are organising it, that this is the best chance we have had in a long time to finally win away and retain our trophy! Come on Lancaster!

# What are our chances?

## A Pre-Roses Interview with A.U. Prsident Dave Greenshields



sports programme that is fit for purpose and applicable to the ever changing population and much more.

To some extent Roses is the icing on the cake but 12 months in office is a long time to be judged on one weekend. Ultimately it's not really for me to say.

### SCAN: Top tip for the weekend: Which match would you recommend as one of the spectacles of Roses.

DG: I wouldn't like to pick one individual fixture for special consideration, each fixture is worth a number of points and therefore are all equal in my eyes. However, the prospect of Men's Rugby Union 1sts followed by Men's Football 1sts winning back to back and delivering a Lancaster success is my ideal conclusion to the weekend.

### Lancaster's chances of victory out of 10?

11.

The last 20 years of Roses	
YEAR	WINNER
1987	York
1988	Lancaster
1989	York
1990	Lancaster
1991	York
1992	York
1993	York
1994	Lancaster
1995	York
1996	Lancaster
1997	York
1998	Lancaster
1999	York
2000	Lancaster
2001	York
2002	York
2003	York
2004	Lancaster
2005	York
2006	Lancaster

Overall Score		
Lancaster: 21	Draws: 1	York: 20

### SCAN: First off, are you apprehensive or confident as we approach the Roses weekend?

DG: I'm quietly confident without being complacent, if that makes sense. The season has been a prosperous one for Lancaster in a number of different sports, with unprecedented success for a number of our clubs. Having considered the comparative league positions of our, and York's, competing teams within BUSA (British University Sports Association for those that are interested) we, on form at least, appear to be far better in a range of sports.

However, if sport made perfect sense and ran to form then we'd all be rich men and women. I'm not, and I believe that the sporting people of Lancaster aren't daft enough to take anything for granted. We're in the process of giving ourselves the best possible chance to win and I really do believe that we will.

### SCAN: Was it a set back losing the Lancashire Cup?

DG: I would be lying to say that losing the Lancashire Cup wasn't a disappointment. However it was a useful learning curve from the Athletic Union's perspective. In all honesty, and I don't blame the Clubs for this at all, the Lancashire Cup is something of a non-event for our teams. It is far more useful as a pre-season event, a chance to ready ourselves for the remaining BUSA fixtures rather than anything comparable to Roses. No one should enjoy losing but in reality this loss was of little consequence. The clubs involved went on to great success in their remaining BUSA fixtures so I think it's fair to say that the Lancashire Cup held little bearing to the rest of the year.

### SCAN: Lancaster famously won Roses last year, though it was at home. Since Lancaster have not won away for over 20 years what chances do they have of upsetting the history books?

DG: I firmly believe that we've got as good a chance as ever of winning away in York. It will be the first time in 26 years that any University has won away from home in the Roses competition but, I really do think that we are going to upset the history books this time round.

In reality the history means as much as we decide to make of it and has arguably become something of an excuse in the past. Roses is a weekend of sporting fixtures and, when our teams look to each individual fixture

they should view it as any other that they can go out and win. If our teams perform to their abilities the big picture will take care of it's self.



### SCAN: Do you feel the Athletic Union has continued to improve this year under your presidency with regard to Roses?

DG: This year we explored a million and one different ways of approaching Roses. In an ideal world where funding and logistics were not an issue I would have liked to place all of our teams in hotel/hostel accommodation, provided a healthy breakfast everyday and a range of isotonic products throughout the weekend, preceded by a full calendar of friendly fixtures in week 1 and a team building event in week 2.

However, when we explored all of these avenues they came to dead ends, predominantly due to outside factors. I don't think that last year's successes are a fair comparison to what will take place this year. I believe that if we view the preparations for this year's Roses compared to those 2 years ago, and I mean this as no disrespect to Rob Walker (ex A.U. President), we have taken Roses to another level.

Despite the multitude of ideas we had not coming off, if nothing else the Athletic Union has shown itself to be prepared to view Roses from a new perspective and look to progress our performance. Mike Allewell did a lot of good work introducing a sense of professionalism to the Athletic Union and I'd like to think that I've carried that forward, especially with regards to Roses.

### SCAN: Are strategies such as the drinking ban the night before matches a new thing or a progressive policy of the A.U.? Realistically do you think it will stop the teams drinking the night before?

DG: In reality I'd like to believe that the majority of our competitors have taken this relatively obvious step prior to their matches. When we looked at Roses in York from the past we cited a number of areas that have led to defeats and one of them was towards our attitude while in York. It's arguable that in years gone by our teams have viewed Roses away from home as a foregone conclusion and as such have viewed it as a 'mini-tour' with all the excesses you'd view such an event as including.

What we've done this year, in our attempts to engender a sense of professionalism, is put in writing a commitment from our teams to conduct themselves as you'd expect a group of people representing the University should. I'm immensely proud of all the clubs that have signed up and believe it's one of many steps we're taking on the road to success in this year's Roses.

### SCAN: Roses is the most important event of the A.U. calendar. How much do you think you will be judged as an A.U. President by the result of Roses?

DG: Roses is critical, and there's no point in me pretending that this is any other way. However, I'd like to think that people will take a more circumspect view of my year in office. We've done a lot of good things; introducing the Coaching Development criteria whereby clubs have to justify their need for financial aid for coaching, the writing of a new sports strategy which will be the first of it's kind at Lancaster and should lead to enhanced sporting provision on this campus for all of it's users, the review of inter-college sport that is beginning to shape itself into a new recreational

# KARATE KIDS STRIKE GOLD

**Mohammad Shahidinejad,**  
LUKC Captain



**O**n Friday 13th April ten intrepid competitors from Lancaster University Karate Club boarded the minibus en route to the annual BUSA Karate Championships at the University of Bath. The BUSA competition marked the end of a strenuous training period, with squad members undertaking a bruising five training sessions since September. The squad comprised of Jonny Morgan, Becky Clark, Gareth Hennedy, Mohammad Shahidinejad, Laurence Livermore, Chris Grunwell, Laura Halley, Sam Charlton and Boris Finch.

There are two predominant forms of Karate; Kata and Kumite. Kata, literally meaning forms, involves a series of complex movements while attempting to maintain 'perfect form'. Kumite is perhaps more recognisable and involves competitors sparring. A common misconception exists that Karate involves full contact brawling; this is a myth and competitors must control their techniques and only 'skin touch' their opponent to demonstrate their skill.

The competition began with the Kata discipline. Lancaster performed well and several individuals reached the quarter final stage. In this discipline Lancaster failed to win a medal, falling one bout short of success. It was in the Kumite discipline that Lancaster was to prove successful. The women's team fought hard against Cambridge, one of the strongest clubs in the country. The men's team were involved in a number of punishing bouts but continued to progress through the rounds, gaining a bronze medal for the team after losing their semi final bout to the home institution, Bath.

With one bronze medal secured for the team, Becky Clark performed well in the individual competition despite being on the point of exhaustion. In the first of the medal bouts she truly made Lancaster proud and secured the team's second bronze medal. The day was proving to be an unprecedented success and Jonny Morgan went on to improve the situation, fighting his way to the final of the individual male Kumite.

In the final Morgan came close to whitewashing his opponent and took gold for Lancaster. As a result he will be given the opportunity to represent Lancaster and his country in the European Championships in the summer. As one of the smallest teams in the competition, a haul of 3 medals was a source of great pride for the team captain.

At this point huge credit must go to the team's coach, Denis Koltsov, whose emotional and practical support has been vital in the team's efforts this year. It is at this point that the Club's executive changes over and I must thank the club and I'm sure that, in the capable hands of next year's team, LUKC will go on from strength to strength.

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## Quick crossword no. 11,350

**Across**

- 1 Lexicon (10)
- 7 Object with polygonal base and triangular sides meeting at point (7)
- 8 Melodious sound (5)
- 10 Small hard biscuit (for babies) (4)
- 11 Great wickedness – more tiny (anag) (8)
- 13 Short sleep (6)
- 15 Small fruit basket (6)
- 17 Surgically remove all or part of limb (8)
- 18 Close tightly – mammal (4)
- 21 Go in (5)
- 22 Plastic sack containing soil and nutrient used as plant bed (4,3)
- 23 Brains (4,6)

**Down**

- 1 Game with board and missiles (5)
- 2 Arrive (4)
- 3 Element used in medicine, photography and dyes (6)
- 4 Many (8)
- 5 Native of the world's largest country (7)
- 6 Be grateful for – rise in value (10)
- 9 Study of codes (10)
- 12 Devilfish (5,3)
- 14 One providing betting hints (7)
- 16 Mark of disgrace (6)
- 19 Smouldering piece of wood or coal (5)
- 20 Kick – part of car (4)

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