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Photo by Duncan Monettech



PITCH INVASION!

Tony Barron
News Editor

Late last Sunday night a large group of travellers made their way onto Lancaster University rugby pitches where they proceeded to remain until the following Friday.

The travellers were reportedly on their way to Appleby Horse Fair at Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria when they stopped at Lancaster. When asked to vacate University premises the travellers refused. They were then informed that they were trespassing and that appropriate action would be taken.

On Tuesday morning the University Secretary, Fiona Aiken, issued an email to all students regarding the matter and advising students not to approach the travellers and to contact Security if any difficulties arose.

University Security along with the police worked together to keep any disturbances to a minimal,

while the University sought to remove the travellers through legal means.

When contacted by SCAN, Lancaster and Wyre MP Ben Wallace, informed us that our email was the first he had heard of the issue.

He stressed that, "The travelling community are an important part of our culture and we should not unfairly discriminate against them. All of us have rights but we also have responsibilities."

He also stated that, "I shall today write to the Council, the police and the Vice-Chancellor asking them to take the appropriate action to ensure sports go ahead unimpeded and that student safety is safeguarded."

Early Friday afternoon the police were on campus to escort the travellers from the premises, however it is believed that they left of their own accord before any injunction could be brought against them.

While the majority of the student response was one of curiosity as to how long the travellers would frequent University property, there was also mass interest on the internet as literally thousands

of students voiced their varying opinions on the website Facebook. While some students chose to support the travellers, various hate groups sprang up. This prompted rumours that the University were going to take disciplinary actions against students who were abusing the travellers online.

The occupation of the rugby pitches has not only caused serious financial damage to the University's facilities, but has also interrupted the Carter Shield matches as well as threatening to jeopardise a charity 'Relay For Life' that had been scheduled.

The University is currently looking at increasing campus security, though emergency access must be taken into account.

LUSU President Sooz Palmer, said: "The events of this week are more than unexpected and I believe the University's reaction was both efficient and appropriate.

"There are however issues to be tackled and the Union intends to work with the University to resolve them."

SCAN

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Protesting on paper

Rebecca Rieley

Deputy News Editor

The Green Committee have launched a petition aiming to reduce the volume of cover sheet printing that is currently standard procedure for any printing job in all ISS labs on campus and the library.

On Thursday 17th May, the committee congregated in Alexandra Square to build a model tree using discarded cover sheets that had been collected from several labs across campus. They were encouraging passers by to sign a petition that advocated the reduction of printing cover sheets. Ewan Gelling, the LUSU Non-Sabbatical Green Officer, told SCAN: "I hope that the event will encourage people to sign the petition and realise that the things they happen to leave and throw away cost money as well as the environment."

Gelling also expressed his hopes that ultimately the printing of these cover sheets will be stopped in the College labs as most of these labs are small and print outs are usually collected immediately and therefore the need for sheets identifying the owners of printing jobs is not really necessary. He and the Committee hope that ultimately the cover sheet print outs will be "limited to specific areas with high printing volumes, like the library."

The Green Committee estimate that the printing of cover sheets costs around £20,000 and requires about 96 trees every year. The issue was brought



to the attention of the Green Committee by Tom Roberts, LUSU's Environmental Co-ordinator who is currently discussing the matter with members of the ISS team to see what action can be taken.

2006 saw the launch of Green Lancaster and since it has come into being more recycling stations have been set up across campus. The turning-off of

computer monitors in ISS labs has been promoted and a Green Pledge scheme is also underway. This new petition appears to be the next item on the agenda for a team that is well under way in its quest for making Lancaster University campus a greener and more environmentally friendly place.

LUVU help teen success

Tony Barron

News Editor

Teenagers from various schools and sixth form colleges from around the region have been raising money for North West Air Ambulance, Cancer Research UK and the Loyne School with the help of Lancaster University Volunteering Unit (LUVU).

LUVU, with the help of student volunteers and V, the new youth volunteering charity, have set up the Voltage project which aims to develop social enterprise among young people. Any profits made from their social ventures are given back to the community and charities.

The pupils' ventures into community business have ranged from selling t-shirts to managing rock

concerts. Together these projects have raised nearly £3,000 for the charities. The teenagers were coached in business plans, marketing, finance, and presentation skills all of which will undoubtedly be extremely useful to them in the future no matter what field of work they choose to pursue.

This all culminated in a Gala night held at the Lancaster House Hotel to reward the students' hard work. As an extra challenge they were asked to give a brief presentation on their businesses, following which the teams were awarded prizes for a variety of categories.

The schools involved were Blackpool Sixth Form College, Blackpool and the Fylde College, Heysham High School, Morecambe High School, Skerton Community College, Carr Hill High School in Kirkham and Queen Elizabeth School in Kirkby Lonsdale.

Blackpool Sixth Form College took home both the

Exemplary Presentation Award and the award for Most Outstanding Social Enterprise presented by Lancaster Pro-Vice Chancellor Amanda Chetwynd.

Blackpool and The Fylde College won the Exceptional Team Award which was presented by Martha Jennings, the Voltage Project Co-ordinator. Queen Elizabeth School took home the Most Profitable Social Enterprise Award presented by the Mayor of Lancaster, Councillor Janie Kirkman.

"The project has been extremely successful involving approximately 100 young people and giving them the opportunity to think creatively about business, their community and what they could do to change it through their social enterprise," commented Jennings.

She went on to say, "The pupils all seemed to love it as well, with comments such as 'I've learnt a lot, and had a fun time doing it.'"

WANT TO WRITE FOR SCAN?

NEWS FURNESS BACK BAR: 2PM, WEDNESDAYS

FEATURES 3PM, WEDNESDAYS, FYLDE COFFEE SHOP

ARTS 1PM, WEDNESDAYS, FURNESS BACK BAR

MUSIC 2PM, WEDNESDAYS, BOWLAND BAR

SPORTS 6PM, MONDAYS, FYLDE BAR

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

CAMPUS NEWS IN BRIEF

Lancaster Leading North-West

Lancaster University has been awarded a four-year contract to help challenge the abilities of gifted and talented children. The contract worth at least £400,000 is one of nine to be handed out around the country by the DfES (Department for Education and Skills).

The Excellence hub which will be formed along with the Universities of Liverpool and Manchester, will be provided for the top ten per cent of the regional school population. It will consist of summer schools, masterclasses with academics, weekend events and online learning to help the youngsters excel academically, and in sporting ventures, as well as performance based learning.

Professor Keith Percy, Head of the Department of Continuing Education, said: "This means we're now a flagship University for supporting gifted and talented young people. It brings prestige and recognition to Lancaster along with the benefit that young people on these courses will see good Universities such as Lancaster as a destination to aim for."

The courses that will be organised by the hub will not just be based at Universities, they will take place in art galleries, theatres and sporting facilities within the region as well.

Tony Barron

Toasty Charity Night

Toast Nightclub, Lancaster, are hosting a "festival in a club" on Sunday 27th May in aid of charity. Entrance is £7 with all proceeds going to the Nigeria School Project - a UK registered charity that provides greater educational opportunities, welfare and accommodation for disadvantaged children in the Niger Delta.

On the night the club will be transformed with lasers and artwork while top DJ's take over the two rooms. Tickets are available from Lancaster's Reef, Soupanova or contact 077377895562.

Becky Heard

Get Involved

Miffed about Grad Ball? Annoyed at student apathy? Want to speak on behalf of Lancaster University students? Well this is your chance to get involved with your Union and directly represent student views.

By-Elections are taking place as of today, with the opening of nominations for nine Union Council positions. These positions sit on Union Council, the sovereign body of the Students' Union and relevant Union and University Committees putting forward the views and needs of students.

The Non-Sabbatical positions (part-time, unpaid officers) that are up for grabs are three Block of Six positions, the Welfare Campaigns Officer, the Societies Union Officer, the Race Relations Officer, Arts and Social Science Rep and the University Council Rep.

Block of Six, Officer without Portfolio is an ideal role for the Union beginner. It allows you to experience everything the Union offers without a specific remit, it gives the Officer freedom to engage with the aspects of the Union that the Officer chooses.

The Welfare campaigns officer works closely with the LUSU Education and Welfare Officer and liaises closely with the College Education and Welfare Officers. In this position you will be on hand to help organise welfare campaigns and sit on the Union's WelCom (Welfare Committee).

The Societies' Union Officer is the position with overarching responsibility for the student society groups. The role requires the position to carry out allocations of additional funding and disciplinary meetings, a demanding yet rewarding role engaging with a huge amount of students.

Race Relations, a liberation position, seeks to promote racial diversity and cultural awareness liaising with all the Sabbatical positions and at a national level, communing with the NUS Black Students Officer.

Finally as the University Council Rep your position demands that you sit as a student governor on the highest governing body of the

University, scrutinising the decisions made in an attempt to achieve the best possible outcome for students.

The election process for a "first-timer" can be quite daunting, but extremely rewarding. Nominations open for two weeks as of Monday Week 5, nominations close at 6pm sharp on Monday 4th June. Nomination forms must be handed to the LUSU General Secretary or the Union Chief Returning Officer (head of elections) before this time.

On the day nominations close, there will be Question Time (formally known as hustings). This is your chance to put forward any policies and answer any questions that the student population may have.

After hustings is closed, the campaigns begin and cross campus voting takes place on Thursday 14th June with the results being announced later that night and the new officers taking their position at the start of Michaelmas Term.

This is every students' chance to get involved with the Union and put your views forward; if you have ever thought "I wouldn't have done it that way" or "what are the Union playing at" this is your chance to get involved.

If you want any more information on the By-Elections please visit www.lusu.co.uk/elections or contact the Union General Secretary at gensec@lancaster.ac.uk

Graeme Poulton

Union Council Report!!!!

Tony Barron
News Editor

Thursday of week 4 was the second Union Council of term. The agenda was blissfully short, but with the recent travellers on the rugby pitches there were high chances that it would escalate.

After the usual ratifying of minutes was over, the Sabbatical Officers were questioned on their happenings of the last fortnight.

LUSU President Sooz Palmer stressed to the Council that it was their job to keep officers accountable and that they should be proactive in this pursuit since elected officers were not fulfilling their job roles.

Palmer then outlined the current situation with the travellers, in that they had recently left the University campus and that the University and Students' Union needed to move forward from these events.

She stated that issues such as protocol and discipline should be investigated and asked for a Union statement to be made on the situation. It was clarified that the Union supported the actions taken by the University and that the two should look towards the future.

Other Sabbatical Officers then reported to the Council. Thanks and praise were offered to Dave Greenshields, A.U. President as well as to all A.U.

teams who participated in the Roses weekend.

The A.U. President then gave a verbal report as to the current state of the rugby pitches, and spoke of their shocking devastation. He then answered questions on the financial repercussions of their occupation and how the University will have time to address the situation.

Cat Smith, Women's Officer, was questioned on a recent trip to Germany with the National Union of Students. Cat ensured Council that the trip had been beneficial and that a report would be offered to the Council.

A motion to actively campaign against the University's newly adopted accommodation policy was tabled, highlighting the importance of student welfare over University profits.

An Emergency Motion was submitted by the LUSU Trustees of the Union (the Student Union President and General Secretary) to protect JCR funding from external threats.

It was argued that the funding received by the JCR's was vital and should remain. Both of these motions were supported and passed.

Council came to a rapid close with elections to subcommittees enabling a second poster policy to be developed and for the part-time students' committee to be convened.

All in all not as much drama as a week in Eastenders, considering all the recent happenings at Lancaster University.

County Nailed

Ben Bailey
Editor

On Wednesday 9th May, in the Norwest Holst compound down by County College, University Officials, College members and the University Partnership Programme (UPP) gathered for the commencement ceremony of the Phase Four development project. The beginning of the reconstruction of County and Grizedale College accommodation.

Vice-Chancellor Paul Wellings commended Norwest Holst's previous builds and looked forward to the future of the relationship between

the University and the development agency, as well of course as the completion of Phase Four itself.

Professor Wellings went on to say that the University had made great work in modernising campus over the last decade and believed that this new build pioneered a new path in construction.

UPP stated how pleased they were with the success of the partnership with the University and hoped to continue this venture.

The morning continued with the Vice-Chancellor and LUSU President, Sooz Palmer, celebrating the start of the build. To commemorate the occasion the two posed for photos as they hammered a nail into one of the town houses.

The group were then led around the building site and viewed the plans that were outlined.

The Vice-Chancellor championed the build stating that the change of direction in the University infrastructure was a positive advancement since the early discussions back in the nineties.

Palmer commented: "The progress looks really promising, and there have been many obstacles tackled before arriving at this point.

"I hope for the sake of the Colleges and the students that this project is delivered on time. I have every intention of returning near Christmas just to make sure."



Two sides of the coin

Two perspectives on Lancaster University's recent travelling contingent

Cat Smith

LUSU Women's Officer

There's been a lot said about the arrival of the Irish travellers on the far reaches of our University playing fields over the past week or so. There have been some thoughtful points, some reactionary ones and in some rare cases racist ones. But how many people knew the facts? For instance did you know that Irish travellers are the biggest ethnic minority group in Lancashire? And there are some questions which many forums haven't addressed, and as always these seem to be the wider issues which may lead us to understand their presence on campus in the first place.

In 1993 a change in the law meant that local authorities were no longer obliged to provide camping spaces for the travelling community, and as a consequence many were closed as a cost-cutting measure in an era that local councils were chronically under-funded. There now are not enough sites for travellers, although 72% of travellers still stay on official sites.

There has been some rumours circulating around campus regarding the travellers and crime, however a modest amount of research found that the Commission for Racial Equality quotes that "there is no evidence to suggest that incidence of crime is far higher amongst Gypsies and Irish Travellers". This is backed up by the crime figures from the University; during the beginning of May (before the arrival of the travellers) there were two thefts, one car damaged, one pedal cycle stolen and one arrest. However in the past few days since the arrival of the travellers there have been no crimes reported (correct as we go to press).

There is also a myth that travellers don't pay taxes. This is simply untrue. They pay all the rates, gas, electricity and other charges you would normally expect with the exception of Council Tax. Since students also don't pay council tax, it is an odd criticism that has been used against the travelling community.

Unlike when traveller's make their home on school playing fields (or other Council owned property) this was not a council issue as the University's land is privately owned. Therefore it is no wonder that calls for the Council to intervene fall on deaf ears. However the County Council sent a liaison worker

to the fields who was met with abuse, not by the travellers, but more shockingly by our own students. She commented that she has never experienced anything like it before in her years working for the Council as a Traveller Liaison Worker.

Most students became aware of this situation not through seeing the travellers but by the social networking site, Facebook. There are several groups now on this issue and there are a lot of malicious things being said. The Irish travellers are defined as a distinct racial group under the Race Relations Act and are therefore covered by the RRA Amendment Act which includes the offence of incitement to racial hatred. Therefore the comments on many of these sites were not just in bad taste but also were a criminal offence.

Sports provision has been disrupted slightly by these events, with the rugby sevens being the main group affected. However with the travellers staying for only four days normal service should soon resume and the Walk for Life looks to be going ahead as planned.

In my opinion what has been the most deplorable aspect of the past few days has been the unacceptable level of racism that has been prevalent amongst our students. Having been a students' union officer for three years I have never heard so much intolerance. I am not alone in this opinion, Dan Ratcliffe, Co-convenor of the Student Assembly Against Racism (SAAR) said, "as a society we are utterly disgusted at those using the travellers as an excuse for the most sickening racism. You only need to log on to Facebook to see horrific suggestions about what to do to even to children currently staying on the fields. Some of these threats are illegal and utterly obscene. It is vital that we can have rational and compassionate discussion around issues like this and the vile, hate-filled comments coming from some of our students reflect badly on all of us." The People & Planet Society have also expressed this opinion.

I would like to call on the students on this campus to reconsider their often unfounded opinions on the traveller community and show a more hospitable attitude. We should welcome all visitors to our campus and create a culture of mutual respect.

Dave Greenshields

Athletic Union President

In the past week or so events have unfolded that were, in all honesty, beyond my wildest imagination when I took up the role of Athletic Union President. It is worth noting that the travelling communities of both the United Kingdom and Europe can provide a valuable asset to the societies in which they exist. Yet, their presence on campus and the damage they have left have, in my opinion at least, only served to cement the antiquated views of a proportion of this campus.

Nevertheless, in the past week, the Pavée Gypsy community that settled upon our Rugby pitches served only to reinforce a range of the stereotypes that exist concerning them. It is undeniable that the manner in which they arrived, driving their vehicles straight through the 1st XV pitch before deeming the 2nd XV pitch as the perfect venue to settle themselves did not set a particularly helpful or conciliatory tone. Both pitches have struggled with drainage this season and this only served to highlight their frailties.

Perhaps more pertinently, there are two large swathes of land on either side of the pitches that could have been used to transport the vehicles to their chosen destination, if settlement was to prove the only option. Immediately, the community upon the pitches left itself open to criticism and, although some parties may have expressed their opinions in a manner not befitting of our university community, a number of the grievances are legitimate. In truth, it is not hard to see that the area upon which the travellers settled was an area upon which competitive sport took place. In the past week a range of our sporting programmes have been interrupted and a number of events, both sporting and charitable, have been jeopardised by the damage that they have left.

On Thursday afternoon, I inspected the pitches with the Director of Sport and the SCAN Editor. Both pitches are scarred by tread marks and divots ranging from three inches to a foot deep. The pitches, and the surrounding area, are covered in both animal and human faeces and the air was so heavy with the stench of waste that the SCAN Editor had to retreat to the safety of the car. Two large fires had been constructed and had clearly incinerated both natural and artificial. The key factor

to consider with direct reference to these sites is the lasting damage burning artificial materials can do to the soil beneath it.

As one can see as they either leave or enter campus both pitches are strewn with litter and a chemical toilet dump has been created alongside the University bowling green. The counter arguments may declare that the travelling peoples are discriminated against by council and national legislation and that perhaps we should explore why they were here rather than what has took place since their arrival. The quest for equality is all well and good; however, how one can be legitimately perplexed by the rise in anxiety and negative feeling towards a community that behaves in such an irresponsible and ignorant manner is beyond me.

The language used by many in the past week has been termed both racist and derogatory; however, I feel that at times the language was one of difference and one of race. This is not to say that it is an excuse, but if our campus was to be settled upon by 50 members of x community who set about ruining one of our facilities for a week before high tailing it and leaving behind both litter, excrement and thousands of pounds worth of damage then I dare say offensive language would be used by all parties.

What this incident highlighted was a need for education, a need to attack the causes and the realities of discrimination and prejudice on campus. However, if a group only serves to fulfil the range of stereotypes that surround it, rather than attempting to address the issues, I fear that the situation will never be rectified. This campus should be a place of hospitality, however, if our guests arrive and cause thousands of pounds worth of damage to a facility that not only serves our five rugby teams but the local community and the Inter College Sports programme I believe wholeheartedly that we have every right to withdraw our perhaps overly lenient position.

We must be aware of the many plights that exist in our nation and our university and we must never give up the fight for social equality on every level for every citizen. However, I believe that it cannot be debated that the actions of the travelling community over the past week have served only to perpetuate the prejudices that surround them and the effort to both convert and educate this campus and its attitudes has been made only more difficult by their visit.



DEARSCAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disrespectful Students

Dear SCAN,

I noticed this afternoon that the travellers have left the university's rugby fields to move on to pastures new, however, what they have left behind is a highlighted view of the ignorant and prejudicial view of a number of Lancaster's students.

Firstly, let me clarify that I'm not claiming the travellers' presence on university property was not an inconvenience and unnecessary disturbance; however, this did not necessitate the discriminatory attitudes expressed by various members of the university community, particularly on various Facebook groups.

The area of the North East I'm from is popular not only with gypsies passing through but also as a place where a lot of families settle, because of this I feel I'm in a position to put people right about what gypsies are really like.

Contrary to popular beliefs, the gypsy families I know are decent, law abiding, honourable and hard-working. To give an example, one woman I know is certainly the only mother I've heard of taking a job as a brick layer whilst heavily pregnant, a work ethic which she has certainly installed in her children, all of whom earn their own money.

In addition, when the travelling gypsies pass through there is rarely if ever any trouble, nor crime, and they provide a valuable contribution to the local economy not only through trade in horses but also by patronising the numerous local pubs and restaurants.

Obviously there are always going to be exceptions to the rule, travellers who do break the law or act disrespectfully, but this is true of any social group, including students, who I'm sure wouldn't all like to be judged on the basis of the activities of the Rugby team.

Just because people chose to live a different lifestyle doesn't make them bad people, it simply adds colour to the diverse society in which we live.

So, next time the travellers arrive, how about treating them with a little respect and an open mind rather than subscribing to the ignorant, racist attitudes so prevalent this time around?

Yours,

Fraser Welsh

Re: Love Music Hate Racism

Dear SCAN,

I am not sure what event the "two disgruntled students" attended at The Sugarhouse on 30th April (Monday, Week 2) but I am not entirely certain it was the same one as I did. I am sorry they felt they had to write and express their disgust but feel that they are mistaken in several respects and make some rather bizarre claims as to the nature of the evening.

Love Music Hate Racism's website describes the organisation as using "the positive energy of our music scene to celebrate diversity and involve people in anti-racist and anti-fascist activity – as well as to urge people to vote against fascist candidates in elections" – a mission statement which is clearly politically neutral. And rightly so: it is incumbent upon political parties to cooperate in order to combat racist and fascist threats to society, because it is precisely petty disagreements amongst a political elite which lead voters to feel alienated, disillusioned and ultimately to vote for extremist groups in protest without a full realisation of the repercussions.

The students are mistaken on two counts; firstly, the event was not intended to "highlight any current issues", but more to unite people in a rejection of racism through music. Secondly, far from being a "Labour Party rally", the fact that Labour Club members made up the most part of the audience owed more to the abysmal attendance than a deliberate ploy to further our "political agenda".

We turned out not as Party members but as the organiser's friends, knowing how much time and effort he dedicates to plan such events and his dedication to the anti-fascist cause. I should add here that although I am a Club and Party member, it is for precisely these reasons I have responded, and this letter is in no way an official Club response. Further, it would have been politically dangerous to hijack the event as Labour's own because, as I mention above, unilateral action is not going to solve a problem which transcends age, class and geography.

As an aside, those who bemoan the lack of attention Lancaster attracts from bands would do well to show their support to any musical events which take place, especially those

organised to such a positive end.

Yours,

Stephanie Godbold
Secretary, Lancaster University
Labour Club [for all it's worth]

Re: Local Elections

Dear SCAN,

We were disappointed to see the letter from the other candidates in the recent City Council election in your last issue. It selectively picked out issues from our manifesto that the Green Party nationally is committed to fighting for (eg. the abolition of fees and the reinstatement of grants for higher education, and an end to the privatization of the NHS) as if they were claims that we would "fix" these if elected to the City Council. It is an insult to those students who voted for us to suggest that they read our manifesto and thought that Lancaster City Council on its own was in a position to make education free again.

As to the light-rail link connecting Morecambe, Lancaster and the University, that has been one of our aims for at least the last ten years, and a feasibility study is currently underway (commissioned by the Lancaster and Morecambe Vision Board), partly as a result of our campaigning on this issue. Radically improved public transport would be expensive but so is the £138 million Heysham-M6 link road which Labour, Conservatives and Lib Dems have been advocating for decades, even though it will generate even more traffic in the long run.

We stand by all the pledges we made, to campaign for improvements to services for students on campus, and also to push the University into taking action on its contribution to climate change. With five more Greens on the new council we are in a much better position to do so, but we still need students pushing from their side to force the University to take notice.

Ian McCulloch & Morgwn Trolinger
Green City Councillors for the
University Ward

Noise Term

Dear Scan,

I'm currently sitting in my room, it's quiet term, and I'm attempting to revise for my finals, but I can't concentrate. No, it's not people playing outside with a frisbee or football, or someone playing music with their window open, but it's two men with a drill, digging up the road right outside my window. Last week, it was the builders in Grizedale digging holes. I'm just wondering, if they were students, how much would their fine be for making this amount of noise during quiet term?

Griff,
Pendle College

They're doing what now?

It's lovely when the sun comes out isn't it? All the students start doing their term 3 revision in the sun, on the grass.

Building work starts; which, fair enough is bettering the University, especially if it's the new Stats Centre out front of Fylde.

However.

When the shadows finally clear off the grass out front of Fylde, I open my curtains to see builders... not working, but sun-bathing and drinking; and not a frosty glass of orange juice either! It seems they are controlled by these shadows, when they're looming there, at 9am, they make as much noise as humanly possible, but as soon as they're cleared it's a free-for-all!

Masses of them lounging around, sitting on the grass; it seems to take 10 or more of them to operate a circular saw, health and safety these days really is a beach!

It makes me wonder, what are we paying them for? Will we ever see it finished?

Unimpressed

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.

tuesday
in the front room

CLUB JUICY

(lesbian/gay/bisexual.....)

Doors 9pm - 2am

FREE B4 10pm



thursday

THE POPSCENE SALE - EVERYTHING £1 B4 11PM
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£2 entry 11pm - Midnight,
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FEATURES

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The Lancaster Travelling Companion

SCAN Features Essential Travel Guide

**Simon Fogg &
Hannah Lickert**
Features Editors

Lancaster is a fascinating destination for people who have the option of leaving. We at SCAN Features have noticed a distinct increase in tourism to our city and in particular our campus. Therefore, we have constructed this handy guide so that those who are new in town can make the most of their stay.

University!

Lancaster Uni is an ideal place to add to your itinerary. We have many strange sights and monuments, including the artistic Infolab of forbidden colours, and also the world's most expensive Management School. If you do decide to look around campus, your children and pets are more than welcome too. The little ones can be sent to our day care centre, and presumably we have somewhere for the animals too. If we do, it is most likely in the library. My advice is to take your pack of dogs, selection of goats, or whatever it is you keep and head inside. Then stay there until you receive further instructions. Do not be alarmed by the students aimlessly roaming around - they are friendly, but also fiercely territorial. University officials advise you not to approach them.

Social!

This city has something for everyone. Whether your interests include writing, or dancing round the fire with a violin, you will meet likeminded people on campus and in town. We also have a huge range of bars and nights out with

suggestive names, as well as restaurants which serve exotic culinary mysteries such as Indian food, all the way to Italian food. However, if you're looking for something more authentic, you can mix with the local students by attending the Sugarhouse. This is a particularly diverse venue, catering events from fancy dress binge drinking, to celebratory formal dress occasions.

Sport!

When on the road, it is important to keep fit. Taking a stroll through the beautiful Lancashire countryside is a must, where you will find many deserted fields. There is also the canal, which is an ideal place to dump waste. Whilst doing

this, we recommend heading into the best pub in the land, 'The Water Witch', and sampling its fine array of foreign beers. If you are serious about your exercise, you just have to go to campus. We have great sports facilities which we are more than willing to share. However, I should probably also mention our car parking. We enforce a strict parking permit system here because there is a high demand for spaces, and we don't want to turn our green campus into a giant multi-storey. In order to allow more people to park with greater ease, we just give out permits to less people. All unauthorised student cars will be clamped and subject to fines. To

distinguish yourself as a guest and avoid parking regulations, please only park on the grass. You will then be able to complete your business at your leisure.

Equine Supplies!

Quey Equestrian Ltd, located on St George's Quay near the Millennium Bridge, is a top supplier of equine feed supplements and medical products. If you have a phone, or access to one and any spare change of your own, you can call them on: (01524) 381821

Where To Stay!

There are a wide range of hotels, B&Bs and caravan sites around the historic town of Lancaster. The Lancaster House

Hotel, located on the University campus, has a liberal pet policy, unless your animal decides to befoul the premises. The Holiday Inn is perfect for any budget (even no budget if you can get all your stuff out the window before 5am), and has an extensive car park in case your vehicle is larger than the average.

Williamson Park has lots of green open spaces if you feel like a night under the stars, and of course if you have your own caravan, then nearby Silverdale is home to Gibraltar Farm Camp Site. It features free showers and hot water, and food is never far away. As well as pubs and restaurants offering home cooked meals, there is an RSPB Nature Reserve a short mile away, featuring rare, probably delicious birds, a lake prodigiously stocked with fish, and the surrounding countryside is home to thousands of rabbits. A caravan or motor home is a very reasonable £12 a night.

DVD Rental!

If you fancy a night in, then there are many places around campus where you can rent movies. All the shops include recent and older releases, such as *Snatch*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Chocolat* and *Traveller*.

Farewell!

We hope you enjoyed your stay in Lancaster, and at the University. If you wish to continue your travels, may we heartily recommend visiting York University. Their city is equally interesting, and their campus equally accessible. In fact, their rugby pitches are even more luxurious than ours.



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3
3A

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

Spring Bank Holiday Monday

Service Number	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3A	3	3	3A	3	3
			B&S												
Higher Heysham Combermere Road										1000			1100		
Morecambe Battery										1012			1112		
Morecambe Clock Tower										1022			1122		
Tornisholme Square										1037			1137		
Lancaster Bus Station	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 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.

YOUR ROUTE TO THE LAKES

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



Service Number	3A	3	3	3	3A	3A	3	3	3	3A	3A	3A	3A	3A	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
Tornisholme Square	1237				37		1837					1937	1948	2048	2148
Lancaster Bus Station	1248	then 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
South West Campus																
University Underpass	0848	0903	0933	1003	1033	1103	1133			1223				43	03	23
George Street	0900	0915	0945	1015	1045	1115	1145			1215	1240			48	08	28
Lancaster Bus Station	0903	0918	0948	1018	1048	1118	1148	1100	1200	1218	1243	1300	then at	03	23	43
Tornisholme 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	3A	3A
South West Campus																
University Underpass																
George Street																
Lancaster Bus Station																
Tornisholme Square																
Morecambe Clock Tower																
Morecambe Battery																
Higher Heysham Combermere Road																

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Weird Dan

To me, the words 'King Arthur' conjure up two images; firstly Kiera Knightly as Guinevere, and secondly 'Camelot', the poor man's Alton Towers. Still, the area surrounding Lancaster is rife with myth and legend relating to the Dark Age King, which is perhaps what has attracted one of the region's more colourful residents.

Lord Arthur Pendragon claims to be the reincarnation of King Arthur, and prides himself on being 'a king of the people.' Born in 1954, a near death experience at age 14 set Pendragon on the path to spiritual enlightenment. He finally became a 'full time Druid' in 1986, and has been 'getting involved' ever since. In 1990, he famously lasted an entire winter living under a tree, to protest about the closing off of Stonehenge. He and his tribe, the Lord Arthurian Warband claim to be comprised of 'wizards, witches and warriors,' and are especially known for getting on the proverbial tits of contractors at building sites. He has, in fact, achieved mass acclaim for his environmental

achievements. After all, you can't fuck with a king.

Especially not when he carries 'Excalibur,' a four foot piece of weaponry which a court order states he can carry. It's not the real 'Excalibur,' of course, which is probably still lodged in some dragon's spine. Even better, it's the actual one used in the Hollywood production, and has since been blessed by all manner of witches and warlocks. He says "On a symbolic, spiritual and ritualistic level, I am a knowledgeable and accomplished sword-bearer." That is cool.

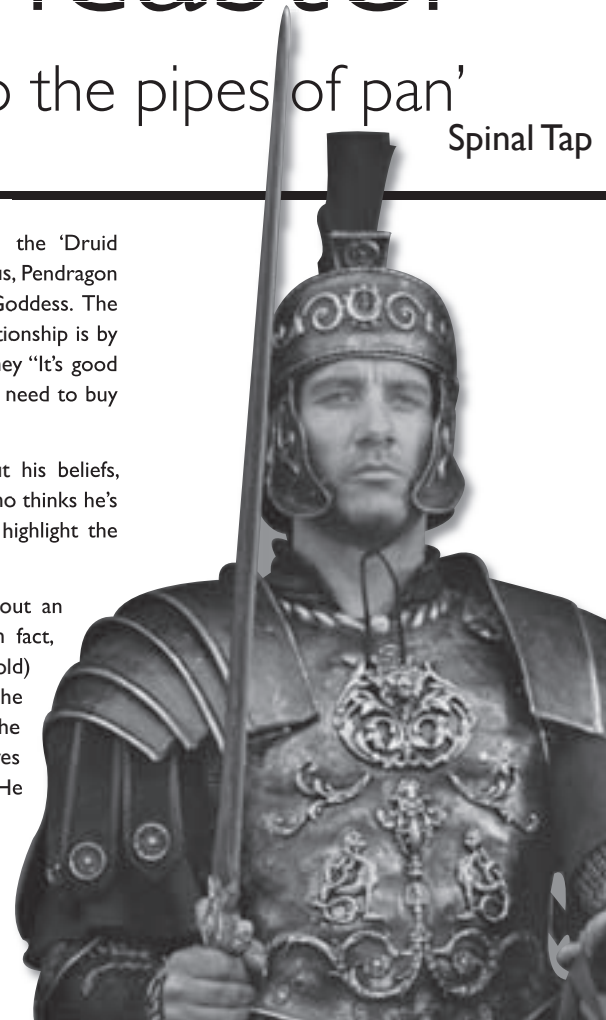
But whether or not you believe in all the hocus-pocus, Pendragon has undoubtedly lived a more interesting life than most. He served with the armed forces in Hong Kong, before riding with the Hell's Angels. In 2005, he even turned his magical hand to politics, running as an independent candidate in Winchester. In his manifesto, he claimed to be 'More socialist than Labour,' and 'Stranger than the Monster Raving Loonies.' He collected 581 votes, and whooped the BNP's ass, so fair play...

In 2006, he conducted a pagan wedding at the Morecambe Hotel pub for the pub's pagan licensees. It included the 'jumping over the broomstick' ceremony, and attracted much local press attention.

When asked in an interview with the 'Druid Network' about his own marital status, Pendragon claimed to be 'betrothed to the Goddess. The only way I can consummate that relationship is by making love to her priestesses, but hey "It's good to be the King"!' Indeed it must be. I need to buy me a cloak...

He seems serious but relaxed about his beliefs, conceding that "If being 'the nutter who thinks he's King Arthur' gets me a platform to highlight the real causes, then so be it."

I contacted Arthur several times about an interview, but he never got back. In fact, what with his campaigns, and (I'm told) random motor bike expeditions, he is probably harder to track than the Bowness Monster. Still, keep your eyes peeled, you'd know if you saw him. He really really looks a lot like Gandalf.



Spinal Tap

It's Good To Talk

Hannah Ingram
& Jennifer Swann

Students tend to be irresponsible and always lose things. Socks, money, dignity – you name it, it's probably been lost at some point, maybe on campus. We're not perfect, we lose things too. One of us happened to lose touch with a camera in a particular Lancastrian nightclub, and to our surprise, it made its way back into it's owner's possession. A friend of ours lost her phone in Somerfield in town, and it was handed in and

returned by staff. Lovely Lancastrians!

So, we wanted to see just how nice the students of Lancaster University really are when it comes to reuniting folks and their lost possessions. Plus, we are champs at avoiding revision, and this seemed like a good idea at the time.

Step One – obtain something we don't mind losing – Hannah's Auntie's phone. It's not overly valuable but it looks like it could be. Bargain.

Step Two – purchase SIM card from smiley man at that phone/computer shop thing near The Venue.

Step Three – Assign areas of campus in which to leave said phone.

Step Four – Leave phone in these places, whilst trying to look as inconspicuous as we can (with one of us with pink hair, and the other carrying a giant roll of brown paper – unrelated to the experiment).

Step Five – Slink away to vantage point.

Step Six – Ring phone. In some cases, eleven

times. Wait for someone interesting to answer.

Step Seven – See below for results to our super socio-procrastinational experiment.

We left 'stealth phone' in a campus bar, down the back of the seat. We then proceeded to have a crafty beverage (necessary part of the plan), chat about how obvious the phone looked, and then left. We then rang the phone quite a few times. After about ten minutes we gave up due to May-coldness and went to retrieve the phone. Bar staff were quoted as saying "I wondered what that was! It was driving me insane!" Not as if it was ringing like a phone or anything. Pick it up?!

We then positioned 'stealth phone' outside the Faraday building on the wall, and found a new vantage point in the building itself. We rang and rang and rang – it was pretty bloody loud as well (and even sounds like a phone, not the Crazy Frog or anything) and yet no one took the bait. People walked past, looked around as if to say "is that a phone?" and carried on strolling. A little disappointing we have to say, we were looking forward to a nice chat with some moocher who thought "Oooh I'll pick it up." Never mind, it was not to be.

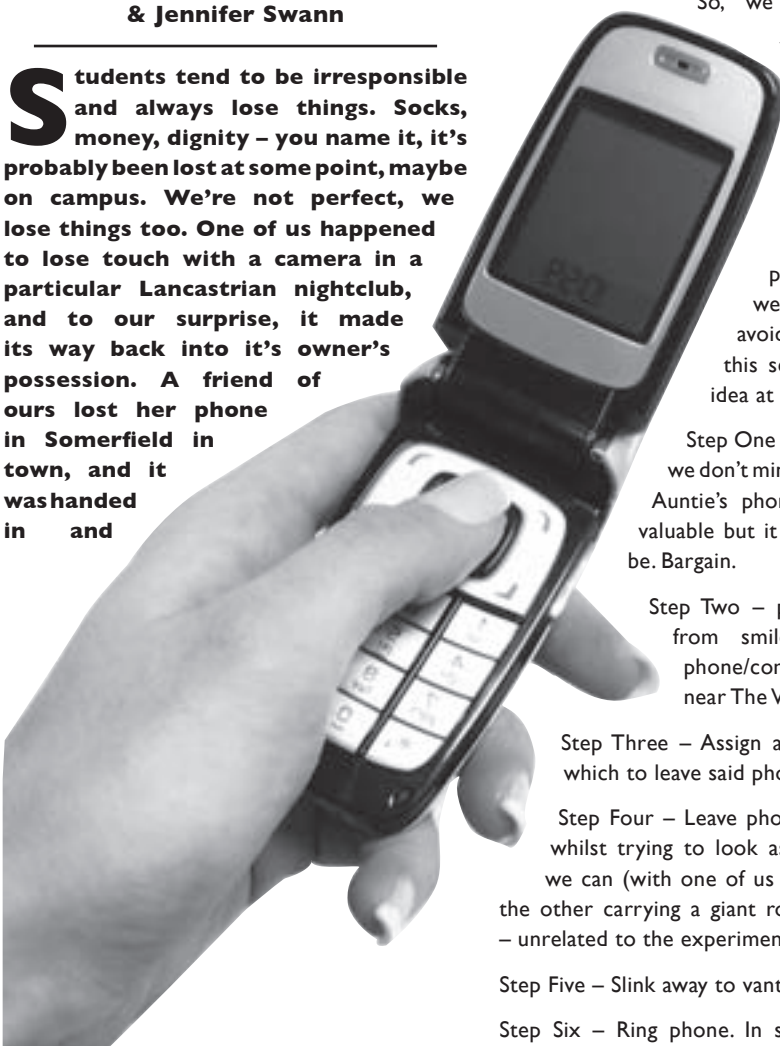
'Stealth phone' took its next journey to outside the biology building on the south spine. To be honest, it was on the floor and in full view, ringing like a phone does. Less than a minute after placing the phone down and ourselves out of view, a by-passer (non-student) removed our friend, the 'stealth phone' from its resting place, and wandered off. We then rang it again, frantically thinking non-student may have abducted it. Nice

man (formally known as non-student) said he "just picked it up" and was about to hand it in, so gave us his location for retrieval. Relief! Jolly friendly bloke.

The final journey was to the ramp thing outside the engineering building – our friend lay behind the bikes, next to the spine. We sauntered off to the engineering building (nice couches) and rang away. Some guy in shorts looked at the phone and proceeded to walk past it. Rude! That's a phone mate, treat it like one and chat to us. No one was playing here (maybe people were tired of revising – what we should have been doing) so we called it a day.

To conclude our nice little experiment, student apathy seems to be at an all-time high. However, this could be a good thing should you ever decide to lose anything on campus.* We suggest the best place to lose something is on the north spine, maybe around the Faraday building, or even some of the bars as the concept of a traditional phone sound instead of a crazy ringtone is a little beyond them. Should you lose your purse – don't worry, someone will probably just see it and think "Meh, it's a purse."

* Disclaimer – Don't try this at home chaps. You may not be so lucky. If it's a purse and someone's loan has run out, you may not be fortunate enough to find the contents intact.



Feminism in the animal kingdom

Rachael Butler

“Feminism encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians.”

Pat Robertson, US Politician, 1992

Many men worldwide have found, and still find, equality between the sexes a very difficult notion to comprehend. Therefore feminism, which promotes that notion, has become the 'F' word widely misunderstood.

One (rather cop-out) argument defending the oppression of women claims it is a natural occurrence. Human beings are merely 'animals' thus should follow the unspoken rules of the animal kingdom whereby males, being bigger, stronger and more aggressive naturally have the upper hand and provide for and protect females. Clearly, the guys who thought up that little gem were studying the wrong beasts.

Case Study #1

She Spiders- do these eight-legged sassy arachnids give feminism a bad name?

For people, after sex follows what? Sleep, a chat, a post-coital fag? Whatever it is, the woman is

unlikely to follow in the footsteps of femme-fatale arachnids by un-hinging her jaw and devouring her lover. Whilst I hear many women punch the air and cheer 'go girl!' this 'love you-eat you' routine is in fact beyond equality of the sexes and not feminist but cannibalistic. It is not, and I repeat NOT to be tried at home.

However, the Ms. Spider is bigger and stronger and lives a longer and more fulfilling life than Mr. Spider who gets his blood sucked out and eaten (possibly still partly conscious) all for the sake of losing one's virginity. Whilst this shouldn't become a main line of thought and consideration for feminists, the sexist men of our nation could learn a thing or two and any chauvinistic male spiders reading this watch out.

(And on this note, straight female readers, if a man is not quite up to your bedroom standards, don't rip his head off and eat it like the lady Praying Mantis. It's just not necessary).

Case Study #2

Whiptail lizards – no boys allowed!

Every member of several species of whiptail lizards is female. Their eggs don't require fertilization from a male, meaning whiptail juniors are genetic clones of their mothers. Whilst feminism

promotes equality, these lizards don't even bother with anyone else to equalize with. They're so anti-male that they don't allow them into their species. Perhaps they know something we don't? Anyhow, being a purely female race may seem appealing to many women, but should not be mistaken for a founding feminist idea.

Case Study #3

Ants – Girl power!

Ant empires are headed by a Queen Ant and their colonies are run entirely by females.

What's more is they are notoriously well organised and impeccably run. To men who believe that women are incapable of being authoritative, this whole affair is baffling.

Within the ant colony there is only one male, whose sole purpose is to have sex and ensure a never ending supply of girl ants. Out of the mini beast world and into suburbia, women who detest being seen as mere sex objects and the object of male desire may enjoy this role reversal. Arguably not a bad deal for Mr. Ant.

Ants appear to have taken Girl Power to extreme new levels.

Case Study #4

Seahorses – A new spin on the maternal instinct: pregnant fathers.

A slap in the face for men who say a woman's purpose is to reproduce. In the deep blue sea these marine animals seem to have mixed up parental roles. Seahorse dads are pregnant for 2-3 weeks, proudly and lovingly carrying eggs in a pouch. Offspring are then released and live independent lives, meaning females have minimal responsibility and input in their children's lives. Whilst a familiar scenario for many human men, it is far from equality, and female seahorses can't be called feminists because of it.

Conclusion

Conveniently, the human males among us who believe women are weak and need macho men to look after them are forgetting that in actual fact, there is a whopping big vice versa here.

There are females out there who are so independent of males they don't even need them in their species. There are those who devour them whole and rip off their heads. There are males who even have their partners' babies.

If women only ventured beyond the desire for equality and into the branches of extremist animal feminism many species seem to have adopted, society would become more interesting to say the least. However, in retrospect, men who are afraid of women gaining mere equality really have nothing to fear.



OLE, OLE, OLE!

Mark Twain is away...

I would like to raise a toast to the more inventive of the soccer fans in this here small island. Far from perpetrating the stereotype that soccer fans are idiots, some of their chants reveal that, whilst still decidedly partisan, they can be clever little buggers.

For example, those folk who drive/fly all the way to Old Trafford every other weekend came up with (to the tune of 'Lord of the Dance'), "Park, Park, wherever you may be, you eat dog in your home country, but it could be worse, you could be scouse, eating rats in your council house". Crikey.

Another number, also from a ground in the North West, "He drinks, he drives, he spits in people's eyes, El Hadji Diouf, El Hadji Diouf". Good, but I'm sure a trawl around a few more grounds can come up with better.

How about this classic from Highbury, "He's bald, he's shit, he plays when no-one's fit, Pascal Cygan, Pascal Cygan"

Heading north of the border there's this cracker, "Two Andy Gorams, there's only two Andy Gorams". Poor Andrew had, I hear, recently been diagnosed with mild schizophrenia. A final derogatory chant now, and then a few to leave you with a warm glow of love for your fellow man. This one is sung to the tune of 'Blame it in the Boogie', "Don't blame it on Biscan, don't blame it on Hamann, don't blame it on Finnan, blame it on Traore". Poor Djimi. Shouldn't spell your name so strangely Djimi.

Not much good, I hear, comes out of Upton Park, but this little cracker, "We've got di Canio, you've got our stereos!" did. Excellent. As you may have guessed they were playing Liverpool at the time. Well, as much of a shame as it is, here are my last few favourites, leaving arguably the best until last:

"He's blonde, he's quick, his name's a porno flick, Emmanuelle, Emanuelle!" (sung to a certain Mr Petit a few years back); "Philippe, Philippe Albert" (sung to the tune of Rupert the Bear); "Put your hands up for Dirk Kuyt! I love that player!" (sung at Anfield- in its original form it's a dance track about Detroit); and finally, after the age saga at Newcastle concerning a certain Nigerian striker, "21-28?, 21-28?, 21-28?, Obafemi Martins!" Those Geordie geniuses!



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Deadlines

David Roberts

Once upon a time there was a group of 10 University students, working hard, working well, and working together on a project for their management course. The day was Wednesday 16th May. All was nearly complete in their project, and David was putting the finishing touches to the report - adding in the appendices, the title page, and the contents page.

He was an hour away from the deadline when he started printing it out. He was well prepared - he had purchased the envelope he would hand the coursework in with, and he had replaced the empty ink cartridge in his printer. He set it to print - but then disaster struck. The document was printing, but there were unforeseen errors. the images, which had been so carefully placed onto the document, were missing from the printout.

This included the Chi-squared tables, and the bar chart of the raw data. He tried everything he could, but could not seem to get the images to appear on the printout; they would simply not appear. He checked and rechecked the screen, then checked and rechecked the print preview, and the images were there, yet failed to appear on the printout. Something was not right, and time was running out. There was now only 15 minutes to the deadline, and David's mind was getting impatient. He was considering how he could take down the Evil Bill Gates, the creator of such monstrous software.

Eventually he struck the right note, with about ten minutes left. He found a way to get the images to appear on the sheet, and so set the whole document printing.

However troubles were not over yet - the report was a whole 19 pages long, and the report had to be handed in very soon. David set the printing going, wiped the sweat from his brow, and prepared himself for the sprint to the finish line, the undergraduate office. He took only what he needed, so that nothing would slow him down. His keys clipped onto his trousers, he was ready. David was pumped. The sound of the printer was all that could be heard, as it slowed down for every picture, sped up for every blank section.

When the printout was finally ready, with only 5 minutes left before the deadline, David carefully placed the document into the envelope, sealed it, and headed out of his door. He raced down the stairs, out of the building, taking the fastest route to the Management School. He cut corners, heading down Furness Hill, powered his way through the Fylde Courtyard, and sped down the south spine. He reached the Management School, and calmly slowed down until he reached the office.

He knocked on the door and entered, out of breath from his run. He looked at the undergraduate secretary, and asked where he needed to hand in the coursework. The secretary, realising from his panting that he had been rushed to finish and hand in the coursework, turned to him and sheepishly said: "There's been an extension until Friday."

A tribute to the wonderful group I worked with on this project, and to all those departments that try their best to get messages about extensions out, but always manage to fail to get the message out to everybody.

Ben Bailey
Editor

Having always seen myself as a bit of a sportsman, when asked if I could manage a hike with the Lancaster University Chancellor, my initial thought was, "sure, piece of piss."

Imagine my concern then when I was reminded that Lancaster's Chancellor is Sir Christian Bonnington, internationally famous mountaineer, expedition leader, and bit of an all round legend. It wasn't so much the shmoozing with fame that worried me, more the fact that the man has been on 17 separate expeditions to the Himalayas, including climbing Mount Everest, K2 and the Eiger.

Where there is a mountain, chances are he's climbed it. Exploratory trips to Antarctica are just another day at the office for this guy. I find climbing the stairs a bit of a struggle and the ASDA frozen food section a chilling experience!

So there it was that I, like my fellow Sabbatical Officers, were invited to lunch, chez Bonnington, before a gentle stroll around the North Lakes, to "stretch our legs". Unbelievable.

Therefore last Tuesday we rented a mini-bus, bought some Haribo for the journey and began our excursion into the wilds of Cumbria, armed only with our wits and our AA route planner directions. Three missed turns and one hour later, we rocked up at the Bonnington residence, the man himself standing outside beaming, awaiting our arrival.

"First I'll give you all a tour of the house" he said. (My interaction with famous people to this date had been once, literally, bumping into Sean Connery in a Heathrow Airport car park.) We tour the house - a lovely quiet place hidden away in the foothills of the Lake District. I strolled around gawping at wondrous photos taken from the very top of the world.

During lunch I enquire whether Sir Chris has met mountaineer Joe Simpson? "Joe, oh yes, I know Joe really well." That sorted, I play my *Touching The Void* card about how Andean snow sticks to the

On top of the world



(We practically had to carry him up it.)

mountain unlike European snow. He's impressed.

And so we leave the comfort of Chris Bonnington's house and embark on a hike that normally takes the Chancellor half an hour - to the top of nearby fell, High Pike. We take almost 50 minutes to get to the top. Several of our party fall over. Several others plain out collapse.

The Chancellor takes the time to talk to us all about our experiences of Lancaster and our aims for the future. He tells of travelling all over the world; Norwegian-led Antarctic expeditions, rock climbing in Australia, countless trips to Lahore, India, South America and of course the Himalayas.

He talked of holidays to France and how his wife would push her bike up a hill while he would cycle up and down three or four times to "get fit". My eyes widen when he mentions Everest base camp and what it was like ascending to the summit.

We reach a summit of our own and look out over the sea, with Scotland in front and the Lakes

behind. He says it's one of his favourite places and I see why. The air is still, calm and cool. Silence is broken by our cheer when we mount the cairn, Lords of our surroundings. We pose for photos, apologetically muttering about fathers who would never forgive us if we didn't get a photo. I think he gets it a lot.

There is talk of the pub, and quote, "The best beer in the world." We practically run down laughing and enthused by the sense of achievement.

We arrived at the pub, hot and gasping for said beer. "I'll get these in," says Sir Chris. The man didn't lie, the beer was cold, crisp and quenching. We talk about history, Lancaster, politics, climbing the monarchy at which point the Chancellor tells us he's "got a lot of time for Prince Charles, a lovely man." There is much laughter.

Our day with the Chancellor is over. If one word could describe Chris Bonnington it would be this:

Legend.

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- Across**
- 1 Band worn round waist or over shoulder (4)
 - 3 Impediment (8)
 - 9 Partly coincide in time, length etc (7)
 - 10 Time (5)
 - 11 Italian city of ham and cheese (5)
 - 12 Certainly (6)
 - 14 Very enthusiastic (4,2,7)
 - 17 Greatly overpriced item (3-3)
 - 19 To the time when (5)
 - 22 Preliminary outline (5)
 - 23 Bill (fit to sing?) (7)
 - 24 Sailing vessel - drinking vessel (8)
 - 25 Kill (4)
- Down**
- 1 Laggard (in America) (8)
 - 2 Absolutely - fine - straight up (5)
 - 4 Severely testing initiation (7,2,4)
 - 5 Slightly warm (5)
 - 6 Highly infectious disease (7)

- 7 Therefore (4)
- 8 (Woollen cloth from) relative of llama (6)
- 13 Unfaithfulness to one's spouse (8)
- 15 Inscription on gravestone (7)
- 16 Disease due to lack of vitamin C (6)
- 18 Surpass (5)
- 20 Fabric woven to have diagonal ribs (5)
- 21 Poems (4)

Solution No 11,351



Playful Sex!

ASOBI SEKSU
SELF TITLED
WESTALY DUIGNAN

Album

A sobi is colloquial Japanese for 'playful sex' but if that doesn't spark some interest then your first listen will.

Vocalist Yuki, weaves effortlessly between English and Japanese lyrics in a stylistically complex album. Her ethereal voice contrasts throughout with multi-textured guitars and explosions of electronica to create melodies saturated in dream pop and hints of indie rock.

The opening track, 'I'm Happy but You Don't Like Me', instantly strikes the listener with its upbeat catchy pop rhythm, strong vocals and powerful guitar climaxes. Similarly, 'Taiyo' is reminiscent of a sunny, lazy afternoon with a relaxed but fresh and happy mood.

Slower number 'Sooner'

combines bittersweet lyrics, "There's been a few times I almost woke up in your arms", with intense surges of guitar riffs creating attractive contrasts to the pop-driven tracks.

The creative guitar effects which permeate the entire album are illustrated in 'Walk on the Moon': stronger female vocals overlay a collaboration of psychedelic rock and electronica producing an atmospheric and emotional surrender.

The mellower, 'It's too Late', generates an emotive melody infused with poignant lyrics; "Wasted, we've used all our sorries". The dance between sorrow, hope and acceptance is reflected in the guitar driven rhythmic crescendos and lingering, peacefully contemplative riffs.

'Let them Wait' introduces the breathy male vocals that appear



sporadically throughout the album. The impact is not as effective as Yuki's vocals, lacking the quirky distinctiveness which makes this band so unique. However, the contrast is refreshing and prevents the album from being

pigeonholed or becoming repetitive. 'End at the Beginning' and 'Stay' are effective because they combine both vocalists in complementary harmonies that bring the otherwise disjointed album together.

Sometimes mellow, sometimes upbeat and rocky, this album contrasts crashing drum beats with melodic vocals and climactic guitar riffs to deliver an eclectic and enjoyable album accompanied by the exciting

artwork of Sean McCabe, known for his graphic work with *Interpol*. Their second album, 'Citrus', is also out now for those of you who want more.



Summer Lovin(g)

G LOVE
LEMONADE
BETH HARPER

Album

I know you're not supposed to judge a book (or CD case) by its cover but I instantly liked this before I put the lemon slice into my player.

Luckily the sound it made was as good as it looked. G. Love are a soulful group with R'n'B and Hip Hop influences. Their style is a lot more acoustic and chilled than most and they have guests such as Jack Johnson and Ben Harper

featuring on some tracks.

'Lemonade' sounds like a fun jamming session with mates, but it is this improvised feel that makes it so great to listen to. Perfect for the summer it's a good backing track for your barbeque on the campus fields or even sunbathing in your back garden in the holidays. The only problem is that, unless you're concentrating, the songs tend to merge into one.

The CD then finishes and it's

a good minute or so before you realise the room is silent. Granted, music isn't supposed to be ignored but you shouldn't have to give it undivided attention either. This could be a good thing though because it means that the album has the potential to grow and get better rather than get too similar and boring. All in all, if you want to try something a little bit different this inoffensive, easy-going album could be a taste of something new for you.

Singles

Biffy Clyro: Living Is A Problem Because Everything Dies
Penny Lawton

An unusual intro of shrieking violins and operatic voices that continues later in the song gives an exciting and heroic feel against the energetic vocals. It's a refreshing change from the usual grunge they're known for, but it cries more 'Bohemian Rhapsody' than the usual pop-metal genre.



The Chemical Brothers: Do It Again
Ben Corr



This is a soul-denting disappointment. The most sterilised, watered down, 'acid' house influenced track with annoying *Timberlake* style vocals. The *Chemicals* say they're going back to the warehouse party vibe; if this is anything to go by they went to some fucking shit parties.



The Pink Spiders: Little Razorblade
Catherine Fearn

They might be pink but they are not girls, however their music doesn't have much balls. Influenced by the mighty Weezer, these Pinkertons' sound like a duet between punk rockers, *Jimmy Eat World* and the now defunct *Lit*, which is ok if you're still into the music of your college heydays.





CHUNGKING
STAY UP FOREVER
JAMES MONTGOMERY

Album

Plagiarism is a very serious accusation. Not only is it downright rude, it also makes it seem as if you have no ideas of your own.

This is one of the major problems with 'Stay Up Forever', and the band *Chungking* in general. Their music shares more than a passing resemblance to that of *Goldfrapp*'s more recent material, and vocalist Jessie Banks has an unusually similar voice to that of Miss Alison Goldfrapp, particularly evident on first

release 'Love Is Here To Stay'.

Nevertheless, to base a review on similarities with another band is slightly unfair to say the least, so not another mention of that band, ok?

When they get it right, they get it right. 'Itch & Scratch' is a shimmering little pop ditty, complete with swinging hand-claps and boisterous chants of "put it on the stereo!" Likewise, 'Love Is Here To Stay' is a brilliant summer number, all electro-glam beats and suggestive lyrics. However, some of the other songs on the CD leave an awful

lot to be desired. 'Baby' is, quite frankly, a mess, sounding like a *Scissor Sisters* song gone terribly wrong as does 'Beautiful Inside.'

Therefore, while there are a number of strong songs on 'Stay Up Forever', the inclusion of these weaker tracks is both frustrating and a shame.

If *Chungking* were to focus more on the electro-pop delight of songs like 'Itch & Scratch', obviously the area where they excel, then perhaps the next record would be worthy of the claim that they sound a bit like *Goldfrapp* (damn).

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
HOSPITAL MIX
BEN CORR

Album

A quick follow up release after the 'London Elektric mix' which, if you liked, you'll love this. A double CD release, with the second being a DJ mix of the first by Danny Byrd, Hospital Records veteran. Nothing much has changed since the last CD, it's still the classic Hospital Records' sound of fast soulful drum and bass (not as heavy as Pendulum, Future Prophetes etc.) but with a few new names on the

scene.

If you're new to the genre or just to Hospital Records I recommend 'Space Station Crew' by *Cyantific*, easily the strangest track on the album, with a trippy bass line just ready to blow your sub and piss your neighbours off.

The other two potential hits are the *London Elektric* remix 'Hard to Beat' by *Hard-Fi* which speaks for itself really. Just imagine the original twice as fast, twice as loud and twice as good.

Finally, my favorite track on the album: 'Panda Style' by 'L.A.O.S'. It

features the best vocal sampling I've heard for a long time with genuinely funny lines. A great track that'll get anybody up and dancing.

If the sound of Hospital Records' D'n'B excites you, I would buy this release over the *London Elektric* one because it features a lot of the same tracks as well as new ones but in both a DJ mixed and un-mixed version, to suit any mood.

This is the perfect album to get fined to in the so-called "quiet period."

Singles

Darkwater: Easy Weakness
Felicity Prior

Described as the latest in electro-rock, this debut single from Scottish born, *Darkwater*, is full of energy. 'Easy Weakness' is fuelled by a heavy, yet catchy guitar part, which is sure to hold your attention. The front-woman's voice hits you with an attitude that does female-fronted rock acts proud.



Messiah J & The Expert: Place Your Bets
Ben Corr

This is both lyrically and musically intelligent wrapped up in a cool hip-hop parcel. Think the *Streets* meet *DJ Shadow* in *Lemon Jelly*'s front room with a few samplers, guitars and a microphone lying around to be used to give UK hip-hop a kick up the arse.



Siobhan Donaghy: Don't Give It Up
Will Veitch

Once a *Sugababe*, always as *Sugababe*? Eight years after originally joining the ever-changing girl group, Miss Donaghy has gone it alone and written this little gem of a pop record. If I say it reminds me of *Enya*, don't choke on your beer; there's also a funky, jerky sound that's quite unique. An unexpected, but pleasant surprise.



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FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND
TALES DON'T TELL THEMSELVES
WILL VEITCH

Album

“Who the fuck stole *Funeral For A Friend* and replaced them with these chancers?” was the first thought that came into my head on hearing ‘Tales Don’t Tell Themselves’. Obviously this wasn’t the most journalistically strong of comments though so I decided I’d best have another listen and work out what had really been going on since the Welsh sextet had finished touring ‘Hours’.

Funeral For A Friend, like almost every other band given the label, have tried their best to distance themselves from emo. At their shows they talk about metal and reference *Maiden* and *Metallica*.

Since their early EPs though they have been getting further and further away from their purported classic metal influences and now, in 2007, they sit in an unmarked territory with emo some way behind them, MOR not too far in the distance, with fellow countrymen *Manic Street Preachers* and *Lostprophets* for company.

For a start, for the most part they’ve lost the visceral guitars. For seconds, without Matt Davies’ shout ‘n’ growl, he sounds like almost any other pop rocker. And for shame, they *tried* to be anthemic, when during the ‘Casually Dressed...’ era they were anthemic without any of that industry-induced clean production crap.

Drummer Ryan Richards describes the album, embarrassingly predictably, as



“just the best music we’ve ever made. That’s really all I can say”. Really Richard? You don’t think it’s your third best album and that you’ve gone all sanitary and uber-accessible? Well of course not, because you have

to toe the party line and sell some fucking records, don’t you mate.

Of course, ‘Tales Don’t Tell Themselves’ isn’t bad. Okay, a few of the tracks (‘On A Wire’,

I’m especially looking at you here) sneak by like Labour leadership challenge, ‘Open Water’ has the most obvious harmonies this side of a Methodist Church, and there’s track featuring “haunting but

beautiful” (actually, neither) female vocals called, and I shit you not, ‘The Diary’. But even so, moments of the record remind us that it is really *Funeral* and that they can still rock if they so desire.

Opener ‘Into Oblivion (Reunion)’ (loving the brackets boys!), after its wacky but commendable choir-driven, Casio keyboard intro, hints at *Funeral* of old, albeit with a nauseating vocal performance, and ‘The Great Wide Open’ has proper, almost old-school guitar work.

You have to wait a while until a proper mosh-inducing big bastard of a track comes along though. ‘Out of Reach’ is a stormer; a huge intro, double-kick drums, and vocals that didn’t bring a little bit of sick into my mouth.

‘The Sweetest Wave’ is the almost inevitable “epic” that concludes ‘Tales...’ but by this time you will have inevitably made up your mind whether the album is indeed one showing “a new sense of drive and purpose” and a “bold statement”, or a diluted disappointment for a band that have in the past, despite their detractors, has produced some fine examples of British rock, be it of the screamo, metal or balls-out rock variety.

‘Tales Don’t Tell Themselves’ certainly isn’t a classic. In years to come it will not be remembered as a ground-breaker or milestone for music. For the most part it is a simple rock album with some shitty tracks and a couple of stormers. Don’t expect any more than this- you will be left £10 poorer and your emo flick will droop with disappointment.

Singles

Singles

Does It Offend You Yeah?:
Weird Science
Ben Corr

The most uplifting glitchy *Daft Punk*-like indie electro mess to grace my speakers for a long time. This is a beautiful directionless assault of noise, synth and ‘robot’ voices that should be in everybody’s record collection. For fans of *Daft Punk* and any other Parisian electro madness.



Dartz!: Fantastic Apparatus/Cold Holidays
James Montgomery

This double whammy shows us why *Dartz!* deserve to become a more prominent music force in the future. ‘Fantastic Apparatus’ is solid, with swirling guitars and yelps of “who” and “hey”. It’s on ‘Cold Holidays’ that *Dartz!* really shine. A breezy three-minute mess of sounds extolling the virtues of a cold holiday- yes, really!



Tiny Dancers: Hannah We Know
Mark McGlashan

Hannah We Know is the companion to that sunny backyard deckchair experience. With its compelling xylophone-driven central theme, refreshing rhythm, and a stripped-down *Arcade Fire* feel, *Tiny Dancers* could be a seminal release this summer. Get rid of that deckchair and find yourself a hammock, this one’s best served chilled.



I ♥ NYPC

THE NEW YOUNG PONY CLUB
FANTASTIC PLAYROOM
PETER WATT

Album

Imagine the music industry as a plant pot. It seems the soil is the underground that, through the right conditioning, will blossom into the petals of the mainstream. Besides the implied metaphor that real music-lovers appreciate music right down to the soil and the process of watering as they do the pretty product, it needs to be understood that the underground sees quality before the NME reading, Topman wearing sluts of the mainstream.

The New Young Pony Club have been dominating the underground since 1994 and are only now surfacing as a spearhead to the sub-genre, 'electro-indie'; which is finding its way as a mainstream must.

This album typifies the critic's

dilemma; when he unearths frustration trying to find words that elevate his review to a level where the reader can comprehend the quality of the album.

In a perfect world I would grab the public by the balls, shove a pair of headphones on them let the music speak for itself. Only then will one appreciate a band that has taken a New Order ambience, impregnated it with filthy gasps that enter your soul with a bass that dominates but remains subordinate to the percussive collective of glocks, cowbells and hand-claps.

If this wasn't enough to make your g-spot throb,

the "nonsense" spittings of the Goldfrappesque vocalist Tahita, are original yet familiar enough to cushion your taste.

Like 'ice cream', this album will quench your thirst as well as sweat you up to the disco-summer sounds of *The New Young Pony Club*.

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SWITCHES

HEART TUNED TO D.E.A.D
JOE POLECHONSKI

Album

Switches are the antidote to the likes of Snow Patrol and their tiresome chasing of cars - they are a proper rock band in the traditional sense of the word. Their songs are more than influenced by the likes of 70s glam, 80s cheese rock and 90s Britpop; the only genre they don't seem to be

stealing from is 'nu-rave'. It's self-confident power pop with a swagger led by charismatic front man Matt Bishop.

They are a band that suit big powerful production which turns their songs into stadium anthems whilst still keeping a raw edge; most tracks benefit from this but single 'Lay Down The Law' screams over production. Yes,

it's still a great track but the EP version is much better than the polished new version.

'The Need To Be Needed' is essentially a ballad but as it's Switches, it's still a loud rock song. 'Every Second Counts' and musical-like 'Killer Karma' provide the quieter moments on the album, whereas 'Testify' and 'Message From Yuz' are built around huge riffs.

Beginning with an ominous piano riff the sinister 'Step Kids In Love' features lyrics like, "I only knew you 'cos your dad got a wife". The slightly cheesy 'Coming Down' has the most shameless chorus and sounds strangely like Van Halen's 'Jump'. It stood out as one of my favourites along with opener 'Drama Queen' and 'Lovin' It'.

'Heart Tuned To D.E.A.D'

shows Switches, and specifically Bishop, to be prolific song-writers; throughout the album the standard never drops. Further evidence of their song writing prowess can be heard on early EP releases, try and hunt down songs like 'Right & Wrong' and 'Hide' if you can.



Singles

Singles

The Conway Story: Landing Light

Peter Watt

The Conway Story describe themselves as 'alternative'. "Alternative to what?" you ask. Turns out they're 'alternative' for people who lack taste and nod their heads to the likes of Athlete. This smear-test of a band will follow other untalented bastards into the emptiness of their native town, never to return! Hoorah!



The Twang: Either Way

Catherine Fearn

First muse upon the following to make up for the lack of content on this record: Noel or Liam? United or City? Tea or coffee? Blair or Brown? Whatever The Twang are, they are another bunch of twerps singing in a dialect. Sounds like a poor man's Mike Skinner. Nuff said.



The Holloways: Generator

Dave Greenshields

Young indie likely lads The Holloways bring us 3 minutes of bouncy and catchy summer indie pop. The chorus line may be a touch on the repetitive side however this radio friendly snippet could serve to place this band higher in the attention of the media and the public - a position they undoubtedly deserve on the evidence provided so far.



Idi Does It

THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND

STARRING: JAMES McAVOY, FOREST WHITAKER & GILLIAN ANDERSON
JENNIFER SHELTON

DVD

It might seem that a trend emerges around the political lifetime of leaders as public opinion wavers from enthusiasm

and acceptance to doubt, and finally, rejection. Before this change occurs, General Idi Amin Dada (Forest Whitaker)

really does seem to fit the bill for a fantastic leader; a hearty, strong, fiercely committed man, while at the same time wonderfully charismatic. The event of his coming to power is beautiful entertainment in itself, as we view it from the bright eyes of proud Scot, Nicholas Garrigan (James McAvoy).

Garrigan's journey to Uganda begins as any fresh graduate might wish for themselves: a spinning globe, a pin, and a determination to go anywhere that pin stops at. It is difficult to decide whether to like him or not - a cocky, sexually promiscuous idealist - but with some of the charm and spark of Amin, which ultimately brings him to the General's attention.

The playing-out of the relationship and gradual unfolding of events is done exceptionally well in *The Last King of Scotland*. General Amin makes an immediate and impulsive decision that there is something special about Garrigan, and soon Garrigan thus becomes the General's personal physician and closest advisor. Garrigan's importance in Amin's eyes. He is drawn into a different world and like a drug is hooked on the

feeling. Inevitably the closer he is drawn into Amin's world the harder he finds it to get out and as a definite foreboding begins to ring in his ears, we realise it won't be long before something changes and the situation turns very ugly.

Tension rises throughout the second half of the film, to a climactic ending a world away from Garrigan's happy-go-lucky beginnings. *The Last King of Scotland* portrays the character of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin Dada with chilling finesse, and conveys the terrifying psyche of the erratic, child-like entertainer.



Looks 10, Personality 3



CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER (15)

STARRING: CHOW YUN FAT & GONG LI
RACHAEL DUNN

Film

Following the success of *Hero* and the *House of the Flying Daggers*, direction Zhang Yimou had a lot to live up to with his latest offering the most expensive Chinese film of all time, *Curse of the Golden Flower*.

Set in 10th century China it tells the story of an emperor who is slowly poisoning his unfaithful wife. His wife finds out and gathers an army all wearing the golden flower to defeat her husband's army. This leads to the total destruction of the royal family with backstabbing, murder and domination.

This marital arts melodrama can be compared to a number of Shakespearean plays with the complex even rather confusing plot, which seems to have too much plot to fit in to the film and the brilliant marital arts seem like an afterthought.

Furthermore, the film in some ways can be seen as a soap opera with its over-complicated plot

and exaggerated tensions. However, its use of emotion does work really well, and is something a bit different to earlier films.

The film is visually stunning to watch in terms of scenery, costumes and the marital arts. Yimou can be seen to be trying to balance trying an emotional story line with thrilling action sequences.



Got The Music In You?

MAD ABOUT MUSICALS
THE GRAND THEATRE
BETH HARPER

Musicals

If you like musicals you'll love this variety show circulating the UK. The cast of three girls and two guys produce an outstanding standard of sing, song and dance as well as general performing.

They graced the stage with a medley of songs from many different musicals such as: 'Oklahoma', 'Cabaret' and 'Sweet Charity'.

It was quite hard to keep up with all the songs and the audience was left gasping for air until the lead, Michael Courtney, who looks uncannily like Michael Ball, came on to introduce the show.

He seems to be the man behind the musical; being the director, producer, lighting designer, writer of the backing tracks AND the principal singer! They then carried on with the show, singing groundbreaking belters like 'With One Look' from 'Sunset Boulevard' and 'Someone Else's Story' from 'Chess'.

The whole cast were at the top of their game but the one to watch was Catriana Sandison who was sensational.

The group didn't cover just one genre either, for those of you who don't know musicals that well; yes musicals have genres too! There were jazzy numbers from Chicago, moving ones from Les Miserables and camp-as-you-like delights from Copacabana.

The old classics also re-emerged from 'Annie Get Your Gun' and '42nd Street'; to really really new ones from 'Wicked', 'Tell Me on a Sunday' and even the controversial yet highly acclaimed 'Avenue Q'.

Even when there was an unknown song, it wasn't long before another classic came along and it is always good to appreciate new material.

The only bad thing about it really, apart from the tacky backing tracks, was that the youngest person in the audience other than my friends and I was an 8-year-old boy!

It's certainly one for the Grandparents. Go while they're still in town.



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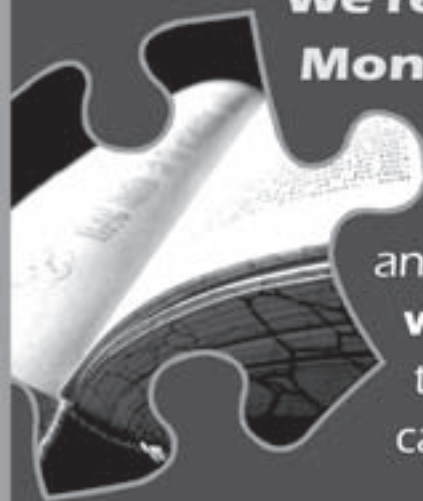


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The Eyes have It

28 WEEKS LATER (15)

STARRING: ROBERT CARLYLE & CATHERINE MCCORMACK
HANNAH LICKERT

Cinema

To make a good zombie movie, the equation is fairly simple: virus + blood x politics = success, albeit not in a box office sense. Although 28 Weeks Later could have done with a second opinion on choppy camera work, and perhaps a less predictable ending, the body has all of its flesh completely intact.

The plot picks up where 28 Days Later left off. The opening scene is a darkened farmhouse, containing a few lucky survivors, with the unseen but omnipresent living dead running around outside like caffeinated cheetahs. A knock at the door, impeccably timed to create a big noise just when you expect a zombie to crash through the wall, announces a small boy, who has been chased around the countryside by his blood-hungry parents. He is fed pasta, made comfy for about five minutes, but his arrival alerts the infected in the surrounding area to the delicious inhabitants of the farmhouse, and all hell breaks loose in a terrifying, adrenaline pumping fashion. The ensuing panic is some of the most arresting and punishing cinema you're ever likely to see (aside from purposeful shock fests such as *Irreversible* and *I Spit on Your Grave*) and has definite parallels with the start of zombie master George A. Romero's third Dead film, *Day of the Dead*.

To make a good zombie movie, the equation is fairly simple: virus + blood x politics = success

28 weeks after this farmhouse scene, we are transported to London's Docklands, specifically the Isle of Dogs, a green zone created by the NATO-led US military. Like Romero, director Juan Carlos Fresnadillo sees the importance of politics in zombie movies, basically to stop them turning into B-movie gore

feats, and it lies under the surface of every American movie.

A community, complete with supermarket, pub, medical centre and housing, has been built in the green zone while other military personnel start the mammoth task of cleaning up the streets and houses, burning emaciated bodies of the starved infected in a manner reminiscent of the BSE crisis. The virus ate itself up six months previously, the infected having nothing more to feed on, and since the British army had all been eaten, it was the Americans' job to help us out in our time of need.

The plot picks up where 28 Days Later left off. A few lucky survivors, with the omnipresent living dead running around outside like caffeinated cheetahs.

They are the heroes, and the anti-heroes, of *28 Weeks Later*, who stand out painfully from the very ordinary British public, the surviving members of whom have been kept abroad and are now being flown to this stark hamlet to start repopulation of mainland Britain. We are treated to spectacularly unusual and hard-to-grasp shots of empty streets around the Millennium Bridge and St Paul's, as well as eerily quiet residential areas, full of nothing but rubbish and brightly coloured refuse sacks. Chilling reminders of the horror that occurred before come in the form of white words daubed across the roof of one abandoned house "I AM HERE", but although we have been told these areas are devoid of the undead, the imminent threat of re-infection hangs in the air at all times.

Therein lies the brilliant, and exhausting, aspect of his film - it grabs you by the throat at around minute five, and



doesn't let you go until you have left your seat. The atmosphere never allows you to feel safe enough to take your hands from your eyes, and the actors and director mess expertly with your expectations. There's a predictable build-up to a scare, but you have no idea how long that build-up will last, or how, or if, it will end. But this is a far cry from the cheap modern horror tricks of sharply cut camera work or loud sudden noises, due to Fresnadillo, Boyle and writer Alex Garland's human touch.

Therein lies the brilliant, and exhausting, aspect of his film - it grabs you by the throat at around minute five, and doesn't let you go until you have left your seat. The atmosphere never allows you to feel safe enough to take your hands from your eyes, and the actors and director mess expertly with your expectations.

Danny Boyle's almost Wordsworthian appreciation of the everyday is what makes his seemingly grander films, such as the recent *Sunshine*, more impressive, and although *28 Weeks Later* is only produced in part by Boyle, his mark

is stamped red all over it. The most haunting aspects of the white-knuckle opening are the expressions on the victims' faces, their plaintive cries to one another, and gut-wrenching panic at what to do in this nightmare situation. I often felt as though I was watching a particularly shocking documentary on actual events, because the characters weren't, as in so much modern trash, inexplicably trained in zombie combat, or in marksmanship, or in how to deal with losing your entire family all at once.

This Joe Bloggs persona contrasted fantastically with the Americans, a parallel created to represent a down-to-earth British horror versus a special-effects-laden, soulless Hollywood one. When 'Code Red,' the panic button plan for when the infection strikes again, is implemented, everyone is a target, even the main, loveable characters, as the military is ordered to fire at everyone still on their feet. The analogy with

Iraq is obvious but no less cutting for it, and watching the snipers pick off the panicked and horrified British public is genuinely shocking. Suddenly, there are two bad guys in the film, and survivors must not only beat the zombies, an impossible task in itself, but also avoid the ruthless Americans. The resulting chase across London never loses its grip on the audience, and as a Londoner, my knowledge and recognition of its geography gave it extra gravity. It also gave me comfort, as when footage of the sprinting infected at Moorgate Station was spliced in with the escaping survivors in Regent's Park, I knew they were safe for a half hour at least.

The ending is satisfactory, but cannot live up to the brilliant unpredictability that preceded it. The insatiable nature of these zombies is reflected in the impeccable pace, and it doesn't stop until it's ready, having destroyed most of Britain, nearly all of the main characters, and every single one of your nerves.





Man Utd must make way for Morecambe

Ian Waterhouse
Sports Editor

Morecambe managed to secure their place in the Conference play-off final with a thrilling victory over York City in the two-legged semi-final over the May Day weekend.

The win puts the Shrimps into a Wembley final against Exeter City, and just ninety minutes of football away from a coveted place in the Football League. It also means that the North-West of England has two representatives at the stadium over the weekend – as Manchester United took on

Chelsea in the FA Cup Final the previous day.

After a goalless first leg at York's fantastically named KitKat Crescent, all eyes were shifted onto Christie Park on Bank Holiday Monday. Things could scarcely have started any worse for Morecambe, with goalkeeper Steven Drench giving away a penalty in the opening minutes and injuring himself in the process to the extent that he was unable to continue.

The first task for rookie goalkeeper Scott Davies was to face up to the resultant penalty, which Steve Bowey then stroked past him to give the advantage to the away side. However, Morecambe plugged away and were rewarded for their efforts

just before half-time as Wayne Curtis looped a header over the visiting goalkeeper and into the back of the net.

The second half started as productively as the first had ended, with Curtis again netting – this time in a more unorthodox fashion. After being put through on goal, Curtis saw his first two sidefooted attempts repelled by the 'keeper, but upon receiving the ball for a third time, he cutely lobbed the ball into the net.

Having turned the game on its head, the Shrimps then managed to hold on for the remaining forty minutes in order to seal their first trip to the national stadium since 1974 when they won the FA Trophy.

Penalty makes point for City

Ian Waterhouse
Sports Editor

Only 523 souls may have been there to see it, but this was a truly momentous occasion in the history of association football.

Forty-one games played, zero points – such was the Lancaster City record going into their final game of the season at Workington. As is by now very well documented, City's season started to disintegrate almost before the leaves had started to fall off the trees.

The financial difficulties first came to light in October over an unpaid bill for 100 footballs – but any initial black humour was to quickly turn to a bitter fight for the very survival of the football club.

The old managerial guard left and the even older guard – including new owner Mick

Hoyle – returned to the Giant Axe, being immediately forced to wield the weapon and cull the playing staff. A wage bill of £5,000 fell to £500 almost overnight as long-serving players were laid off and bailiffs arrived at the ground and club-owned houses.

In the light of the extraordinary off the field events, those on it served as a mere two hour long distraction every Saturday afternoon. However, the fulfilment of the remaining fixtures was a necessary requirement for the continued existence of the club, so kids were tapped up from local leagues to be plunged into a level of football just two tiers below the Football League.

The ten-point deduction was eventually confirmed in the wintertime, and came at when City only had nine points to their name. A negative ignominy then accompanied the club on every occasion that mention was made of them – and their perilous plight even came to the attention of the national media.

A goalless draw against Leigh RMI on April 3 ensured that the club would not enter the history books alongside a negative number, but the absence of any further joy set up the final day trip

to Workington as a last chance saloon at finishing – in the truest sense of the word.

When the home side – third in the league and 69 points better off than Lancaster – took the lead after only ten minutes, the worst was feared. Six times City had conceded five goals in a game during the season, and over 100 had been shipped over the previous forty-one games, so 80 minutes against a promotion-chasing side was set to seem like a very long time.

But the City side held firm, and more. They forced a penalty in the 35th minute, which was converted by Aaron Helliwell to bring the scores level, and that was the way it stayed.

A draw on the last day of the season had taken the Dolly Blues off the zero points mark and back into positive equity. Whatever the future holds – a drop of two divisions to the new Unibond Division One appears most likely – the 2006/07 season is sure to be one that will live long in the memory of all associated with Lancaster City. Up the Dolly Blues!



This is just a tribute

Ian waterhouse
Sports Editor

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform the SCAN Sport faithful that Paul Dominic Collins is stepping down as SCAN Sports Editor. Sniff.

Mr. Collins – or "Pabz" to his legions of admirers – has been a dedicated member of the SCAN Sport team for each of the past four years. He earned his spurs (though he supports Arsenal) in first year under the tutelage of the legend that is Roger Grooms, before

becoming Sports Editor in his second year alongside the esteemed Rich Menear.

Third year brought a change of scenery for old Pabz, as he moved to Spain in search of sun, sea and some other stuff. However, this did not mean that his involvement in SCAN dried up, as he took up the mantle of Foreign Correspondent and continued to contribute to the SCAN Sport machine.

The year saw Pabz's love of Atletico Bilbao blossom as he delved into Spanish football, reporting on the nationwide provision of the sport from a grass roots level.

This year, I have had the privilege to work alongside him and to study his methods firsthand. Time and again he has shown his commitment to the cause by placing his body on the line in activities such as ultimate frisbee and the never-to-be-forgotten water polo. Indeed, such was the popularity of a certain published image (see right), that Pabz won a number of Facebook admirers, but also launched controversy over SCAN becoming porn.

When asked to comment on Pabz's departure, SCAN Editor Ben Bailey said: "The man has given a great deal to SCAN over so many years. Without people

willing to go that extra mile, the paper would fall apart. Pabz is a hero. He will be missed.

"Mate, if you're reading this, you still owe me that fiver!"

In summary; the man has spent just over a sixth of his life writing for SCAN Sport.

His dedication and reliability has set him apart. We wish him well whichever sporting field he ends up on.

adios amigos!





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AUDIT ■ TAX ■ ADVISORY



The Big Debate: Is Murray a master or just another Tiger Tim?

Murray is simply another Henman

Paul Collins and Jenny Lyon

The news of Andy Murray's latest injury, ruling him out of the French Open in two weeks time, has led us wonder whether he really is the New Kid on the Block, the next bright star of British tennis, or whether he is the new Tim Henman, a man forever associated with glorious failure.

There is no doubting that Murray is a good player, and has achieved some impressive victories, including over Roger Federer. However the British number 1 has too many weaknesses, both on and off the court, and will never become a 'great' and instead will fall into the same bracket as old Tiger Tim.

Look at his playing career to date compared with other players on the men's circuit; The Spaniard Rafael Nadal, has already won his first Grand Slam at the tender age of 18. Indeed, living legend, Pete Sampras, had also won his first Slam in his teens. Players winning the major tournaments are getting younger and younger, and bearing in mind that a tennis career is relatively short and competition fierce, we can't keep putting Murray's defeats solely down to his young age. Other players his age have already tasted success.

The image of glorious failure is already being associated with Andy Murray by his reaction during

and after games of pressure. On a number of occasions in his career to date, Murray has gone to the side of the court and thrown up. In doing so, the press don't focus so much on his defeat. Instead we see headlines such as "Brave Murray so close yet again."

Defeat is defeat. You are a loser. We have seen across various sports down the years how Britain has been labelled with glorious defeat. Memories of England's defeat to Germany in 1990 and 1996 football tournaments spring to mind. We don't buy it though. If you lose you are simply not good enough so there is no point in building yourselves up to be heroes.

Off the court, Murray is not making friends either. He recently claimed that women should not be paid the same at Wimbledon as they spend less time on court. Nice way to cut yourself off from any potential female fan mail there Andy. We find that he also doesn't endear himself to the public with his "I'm not British, I'm Scottish" attitude.

If that's the case, we say take away the funding he receives from the LTA, a British, not Scottish, organisation.

Andy Murray is the hope of British tennis

Ian Waterhouse

Andy Murray is one of the brightest tennis prospects to come out of Great Britain in a generation. Instead of making unjust comparisons to the limp-wristed "Tiger" Tim Henman, we ought to be lauding one of our most promising talents in the whole of the sporting arena.

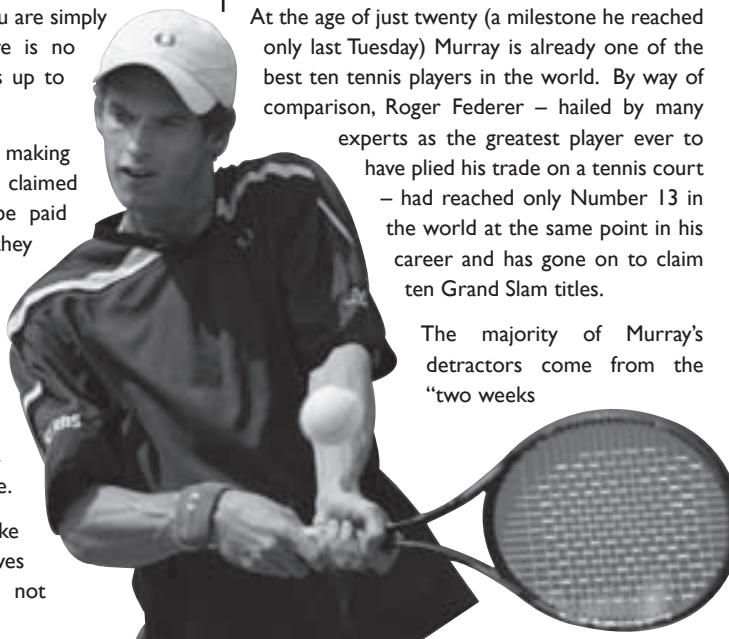
At the age of just twenty (a milestone he reached only last Tuesday) Murray is already one of the best ten tennis players in the world. By way of comparison, Roger Federer – hailed by many experts as the greatest player ever to have plied his trade on a tennis court – had reached only Number 13 in the world at the same point in his career and has gone on to claim ten Grand Slam titles.

The majority of Murray's detractors come from the "two weeks

a year" tennis brigade – those who only take an interest when the strawberries and cream of Wimbledon fortnight ticks round. However, the grass surface of SW19 is actually Murray's least favourite, as he learned his craft on the clay courts of Spain. His first Grand Slam title – when it does arrive – is most likely to be earned in either the French or US Open, away from the fans formerly afflicted with "Henmania" on an annual basis.

Most doubt has been expressed over Murray's general fitness, which cost him in particularly high-profile fashion during Wimbledon 2005 when he led by two sets against David Nalbandian, only to eventually lose in five. However, if a player is to have a deficiency, then this is the best area in which to have one. Were the flaw to be found in his technique, it would be much harder to correct than one of general fitness, where the development of a regimented training programme is the cure of all ills. Indeed, Murray's technique is widely acknowledged as one of the best in the game today, with his backhand already regarded as a fearsome weapon.

When beating Henman in October 2005, the Scot stepped out of the shadow of his English compatriot and has subsequently established himself as Britain's number one in double-quick time. The final words will belong to five-time Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg: "I think he can get to the top and become world number one". So there.



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REVOLUTION

Penny Street - Lancaster

Row, row, row your boat...

Katy Hignell

Men's Senior IV

Fresh with the confidence of a quick start from BUSA, the Roses match against York was going to be exciting. This was York's top boat at BUSA and their four were moving well, but over the 1km course we felt we had the ability to take it.

The start was, again, textbook and after the start sequence was over we had a canvass lead. This was extended to a length with a little help off the first bend. As we went through the bridge York clearly were not going to let this go and began surging forward to put LUBC under considerable pressure.

Despite a spirited charge from a very tidy York crew, we held our composure and, with heads high, crossed the line a half canvass in front. A great way to start the Senior Men's racing.

Men's Senior VIII

The final race of the day for points and the Men had an unbeaten record to cling on to. After a 15 minute wait for cruisers to clear the course and a nice chat to the Umpire, we readied ourselves for the Trophy race. Injuries that week had caused a crew reshuffle and new stroke man.

I was therefore delighted to see our start take half a length out

of York with so little practice. As we charged towards the first bend we sat just shy of clear water, where we remained for the duration of the race, despite numerous pushes from both crews. Lancaster had brought the trophy back home.

Men's Novice VIII

It had been a tiring weekend for the Men's Novice VIII as they were faced with the last race against York at Roses. It was only an exhibition race but the crew were determined to give it their all, to fight for their pride.

Conditions were not perfect and the crew had to deal with much anticipation as they waited for tourist boats to pass down the river. However, the feeling in the boat was positive as Lancaster

did not seem to be enough as the finish line was crossed with York two inches in front. It was disappointing but a great effort from the Lancaster crew.

Men's Novice IV

The novice four for Roses was somewhat of an unusual beast; like the BUSA Champ four it had never been out together before. The line-up consisted of the world's tallest stroke man, Andy Jackson, muscle man Graham Saunders, the hairy Simon Yielding and pretty boy James Hubbard in the bows - an unorthodox ensemble.

Beauty was not the name of the game here; moreover we had one simple mission to lay down biblical amounts of power from



pushed off to a promising start. For the entire kilometre the boats were within less than half a length of one another and Lancaster were proving to be tough competition for York; as they had the obvious advantage of greater fitness. However, this

start to finish. After a hairy start we leapt out to a length lead and began to ease away with long powerful strokes, despite several pushes from a much prettier York four we managed to hang on for another Lancaster victory!



Men's Fresher IV

The fresher IV of Lancaster University consisted of Tom Bibby at stroke, Adam Burgess, Richard Riley and Matt Green. After a few hiccups, this race got underway with a great start from Lancaster putting immediate water between the two crews.

The crew showed much determination as they pulled away from York at a rate of 36 strokes per minute. This continued as Lancaster settled well into the race and established a five-length lead. As they approached the final straight a manoeuvre from one side of the river to the other was required as one of the tour ships was filling the Lancaster arch.

As the fresher boat went through the bridge the crew pushed for a powerful spurt. The race ended with an ecstatic Lancaster crew holding a five and a half length head. A very positive result for a scratch crew.

BUSA Regatta - Men's Champ IV

The definition of a scratch 4 can vary from club to club, but for the LUBC Champ 4+ at BUSA it literally meant Andy Kidd, Martin Rulf, Paul Hartley, Alex Jones and Theo Millward had never been in a IV together all year. Our tactic for the morning

time trial was very much, to see how it goes and we found a long and loose rhythm bringing us home to qualify 14th overall.

The next round was a BUSA special Semi final (of which there were 3) with a monstrous draw of the rowing heavy-weights: Durham, Reading, Bournemouth Glasgow and Durham.

We knew the race would be tough, especially as it was only the 1st 2 through to the next round. Pulling off a near perfect racing start we leapt straight into 2nd place off the line, some 1/2 canvass up on Durham, however, by the 500m mark our lack of practice and technique was showing and the field began to edge away.

The crew rowed a strong race but the field really was exceptional and we sadly failed to make a mark.

BUSA Regatta - Men's Novice VIII

It was an early start for the Mens Novice VIII as they had to begin their day at BUSA with

a timed 1750 m qualifier. Motivation was high as they passed the 250 meter line and the pressure was on. The crew soon settled into a rhythm and were confident as they crossed the 2K line, was rightly so with their time of 5: 50.

The long awaited results gave the news they had qualified, showing that they were 19th out of the 52 crews, beating the likes of York. Six hours later, the atmosphere soon changed and the tension then displayed itself in a start that did not do the crew justice.

However, they held off sixth place well and ended the race only 20 seconds off the winning time. A satisfying day in all.

The women's crew enjoyed a particularly successful day, coming through three rounds to reach the final. This achievement made them the first crew from the boat club to reach a BUSA final, and they should be particularly proud of their achievement of finishing in sixth place, having raced on only three previous occasions.





Photo by Dave Greenshields

RUGBY RUINED!

Dave Greenshields
A.U. President

As you are no doubt aware two of Lancaster University's three rugby pitches were, on Sunday night, settled upon by around 30 caravans and their travelling populace. This is not the first time that the campus has been visited by such guests, the same occurrence taking place around six years ago. However, with the environment, culture and soon the facilities for sport at Lancaster continuing their upward turn towards performance and elite attitudes, the travellers are arguably unwelcome guests.

This year was also the first of the Estate Department's three year rolling programme of pitch renovation, with over £350,000 earmarked for investment. The football pitches on the Barker

House Farm site, colloquially known as the 'College Pitches' have undergone comprehensive drainage work, with two new main drains dug as well as state-of-the-art systems installed beneath the surface. The rugby pitches are scheduled to undergo these procedures next, with work beginning in June, however this has recently come under question.

This year has been a relatively successful season for the Rugby teams of Lancaster University. The Men's Rugby Union teams endured a difficult BUSA season, however the Women's Union season continued their upward trend with an excellent season in Northern Conference 1A and entry into the National Trophy.

Last, but certainly not least, Men's Rugby League were one of the most successful teams in the entire of the Athletic Union, reaching the quarter final of the National Shield. All of the teams followed the conventional season with a series of resounding wins over York away at Roses and eyes slowly turned to the summer and next season.

Plans for the future, scaled down training regimes, and handover from captain to captain were rudely interrupted by the view that imposed itself at sunrise on Monday morning: patches of the 1st XV pitch have been marked and churned by several vehicles both driving and being towed through the ground and the 2nd XV pitch now looks more like Butlins' than an area for competitive, inter-varsity sport.

The exact damage done to the pitches at the moment is unclear, however, the sight of a swing erected on one of the six month old, £6,000 rugby posts was somewhat galling to the sporting community of Lancaster. Thankfully, the swing was removed, yet the presence of our travelling guests has already interrupted the Inter-College Rugby Seven's tournament.

Furthermore, both the Men's and Women's Rugby Union clubs hope to host their two summer tournaments, 'Fired Up' and 'Birds on the Ball', in the near future.

Even at a distance the damage to the pitches

appears to be quite serious and the feasibility of the two events may have to be reviewed.

Ultimately, the spectacle of the caravan train on campus may have been an interesting aside to revision and the grey Lancaster days, but both the severity of the damage and the manner in which it has been caused, can only be seen as a source for frustration for the sporting community of Lancaster. Despite the end of the conventional season the sheer scale of the damage left by our guests will need both time and serious investment to repair. We all wait with baited breath to see how the next fortnight unfolds.

All we can hope for from this point is that the damage is both manageable and rectifiable for the summer and the year ahead.

*For Crossword
See Page 13.*