

### International Journalist Gives Lecture Talk

Ex-Lancaster Man Robert Fisk  
Interviewed Inside  
Page 4



### Totally Cool Or A Complete Fool?

SCAN Features Look At  
Mr. T  
Page 7



### Thirty Years And Still Rockin' The Show

Stiff Little Fingers Play  
Morecambe  
Page 15



## SCANNEWS

"Lancaster is currently the largest city in the country not to have a large-scale shopping centre. In recent months, new plans have been unveiled to change this."

The Latest from the Castle View Development.  
Page 3

Photo by Jude D'Souza

## SCANFEATURES

"Teen dabblers tend to be bored by the prospect of lengthy research, preferring the less arduous task of scaring the shit out of each other."

Weird Dan Investigates the Paranormal in Morecambe.  
Page 10

Photo by Christopher Homer

## SCANSPORTS

"Despite the entire Lancaster team weighing less than the Sheffield second row, it was very much a forwards game."

Sports Reports and Results.  
Pages 25-28

Photo by Christopher Homer

## SCANFUSION

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

Pages 13-22



# NUSSL-ING OUT CHOICE?



Photo by Jude D'Souza



Photo by Jude D'Souza



Photo by Christopher Homer

Photo by Christopher Homer



Photo by Christopher Homer



Photo by Christopher Homer

**A** Lancaster University student has started a campaign against the services arm of the NUS following his outrage at various drinks being axed from County bar.

National Union of Students Services Ltd (NUSSL) claims the monopoly on provision of both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks to student unions, supplying the majority of Universities across the country.

Scott Murray, County LGBT Officer, has taken issue with NUSSL's recent decision to withdraw several drinks from the range available to their clients. A particular selection of the more elite spirits, such as Tanqueray Gin, Talisker Whiskey and Wood's Rum, will no longer be available to campus bars as part of the revised deal.

Murray was unable to obtain a comment from NUSSL beyond the promise that they would take his objection into consideration when next reviewing their range at their annual general meeting later this year. This lack of definite action prompted Murray to launch a campaign against NUSSL, arguing that students were being robbed of choice and that college identity and character may be adversely affected by the removal of such specialist products. Posters

were erected in and around County bar, both to bring this issue to the attention of the students and to gather support to put further pressure on the organisation. In addition, Murray has accumulated numerous signatures on a petition against the withdrawal of the spirits.

NUSSL has gained its enviable position in the market of drinks consortiums by offering extremely competitive prices, achievable by bulk-buying those drinks known to be popular with students. The move to withdraw the spirits in question could potentially indicate that they were not sufficiently popular to turn a reasonable profit.

If college bars were to stop using NUSSL as their supplier, then they would either have to buy drinks directly, losing the economies of scale that allow national companies like NUSSL to offer low prices, or use a less competitive drinks consortium. Either option would be likely to see an increase in bar prices to meet the change. It is not clear whether the signatories on Murray's petition were aware that maintaining choice might result in higher prices. In fact, this option might result in bars being likely to further limit their ranges by only stocking drinks known to be popular in order to ensure a profit. Given the

overall slump in bar profits reported in SCAN last year, such caution would seem likely.

Alternatively, if college bars were to purchase their drinks directly, this would potentially give them the freedom to further develop individual identities by catering to specific tastes. However, if these niche markets did not provide sufficient turnover, they might be threatened with centralised management by the University or even closure.

Discontinuing a relationship with NUSSL is not the only option, however. County and other college bars have always been able to apply for dispensations from NUSSL to stock non-contract drinks in their bars. At the time SCAN went to print, it was not clear whether County bar had pursued this option.

Whether or not NUSSL will take account of Murray's campaign in their annual review remains to be seen. If they do not see fit to bring back the disputed drinks, however, then students at Lancaster might have to start asking if they are willing to pay more for a greater choice.

**Contributors:** Anita Vukomanovic, Andrew Almond, Ben Reese, Ben Bailey, Will Veitch and Jude D'Souza

# SCAN

THE VOICE OF LANCASTER  
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Slaidburn House  
Lancaster University  
Bailrigg  
Lancaster LA1 4YA  
Tel: 01524 592613  
Fax: 01524 846732  
http://scan.lusu.co.uk

## SCANEDITOR

BEN BAILEY

E-Mail: scan@lancaster.ac.uk

## ASSISTANTEDITOR

WILL VEITCH

E-Mail:  
scanassistanteditor@gmail.com

## NEWSEDITORS

ROSANNA SILVERLIGHT  
ANITA VUKOMANOVIC

E-Mail: scannews@hotmail.com

## FEATURESEEDITORS

HANNAH LICKERT  
SIMON FOGG

E-Mail: scanfeatures@hotmail.com

## SPORTSEEDITORS

PAUL COLLINS  
IAN WATERHOUSE

E-Mail: scan\_sport@hotmail.com

## FUSIONEDITORS

JEMMA SMITH  
RACHAEL DUNN

IAN KEYTE  
PETER WATT

E-Mail: scanmusic@hotmail.com  
E-Mail: scanarts@hotmail.com

## ADVERTISEMENTS

MARTIN ENNIS

E-Mail: m.ennis@lancaster.ac.uk  
Phone: 01524 593422

## SPECIAL THANKS

Will Veitch Jude 'Just Like Old Times' D'Souza  
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# From Behind The Veil

By Kirsten Smith  
& Rebecca Rieley

**The possibility of Muslim students being monitored on campus was the latest scandal to join the increasingly hostile climate between the Muslim community and the government. The belief in the freedom of speech, the freedom of dress and the freedom of faith are notions that many of us believe are integral to our society, but have these ideas simply become clichés over time? Do we as a society, and even here at Lancaster University, really stand by these freedoms as our communities become more diverse?**

The recently leaked report of how lecturers and university staff across the country are being encouraged to monitor 'Asian looking' and Muslim students for possible extremist practices was suggested by the Department of Education in an attempt to stem the threat of terrorism. According to the leaked report, the eighteen page document will be sent out by the end of the year to universities advising them on how to pass information on suspected students to the police. The document also urges staff to be particularly aware of universities' Islamic societies which have, it claimed in the report, become more political in the last few years.

**“The eighteen page document will be sent to universities advising them on how to pass information on suspected ‘Asian looking’ and Muslim students to the police.”**

In particular it recommends that universities keep a close eye on any external speakers who come to the societies' meetings for fear that they may 'groom' students for a path into extremism. Alarm has already been raised by many academics and university lecturers, in particular by the joint leader of the University and College Lecturers Union, Paul Mackney, who stated that he was concerned that universities and staff would be "sucked into a kind of anti-Islamic McCarthyism".

The media is buzzing with these issues which in turn may well have been sparked by Jack Straw's request for Muslim women to remove the niqab (the garment worn over the head and face, allowing only the wearer's eyes to be seen), as it supposedly creates communication barriers and in turn this form of dress makes community relationships "difficult". Straw's comments that the veil was a "visible statement of separation and of difference" were reported in a local newspaper article and have led to a national debate on the subject of the Muslim women's right to wear the veil in public. Coincidentally, a few weeks later Aishah Azmi, a class assistant in West Yorkshire, refused to remove her face veil in class and was sacked following an unsuccessful tribunal.



For many Muslim women, wearing the niqab is an outward practice of their faith. Therefore Straw's request could be received as a request for Muslim women to pause practicing their faith when they visit him because he finds it "difficult". Moreover, Cat Smith, LUSU Women's Officer, believes that 'the bedrock of communication between people is mutual respect, including respect for the choices they make in relation to their clothing and other personal matters.' However, perhaps the Blackburn

she was allowed to wear the garment around the Headfield Church of England Junior School but that its presence in the classroom was presenting pupils learning English with difficulties in understanding her. Her initial suspension was supported by Dewsbury's MP, Shahid Malik, who declared that "In schools the top priority has got to be the education of our children." However, with adult males in the classroom it is against her faith to remove her veil and so she refused.

Is her behaviour really an example of "sexual discrimination", as claimed by Phil Woolas, the communities' minister, or just a level of commitment to faith that many of us living in Britain's secular society find difficult to understand.

The comments and the most recent story concerning the monitoring of Muslim students brings the issue of Islam and its role in British culture to the forefront of current affairs. The stories have also opened up the debate on whether or not the Muslim community is now being segregated and singled out because of the threat of extremism. Watching and monitoring in this way does appear to conflict with Britain's democratic roots in civil liberties.

India Knight, of The Sunday Times, believes that "We are witnessing ...religious bigotry of the most shameful kind." Religious groups have also reacted with the suggestion that work needs to be done to help with integration and to break down barriers. The realities of terrorism are vivid to us all and although attacks have been conducted in the name of 'Islam', these have been done by such a minority of Muslims that they certainly do not represent a just example of one type of faith-based community.

The coverage and levels of fear that have been allowed to grow seem to have perhaps given these extreme terrorist minorities the result they were after, even to the extent that the government wants to encourage universities to make extra attempts to watch "Asian-looking students", as stated earlier. Alyaa Ebbyari is astutely aware that "witch hunting will not do any good in terms of anti-terrorism or community relations." Does the government's idea not seem slightly too 1984?

So what is the solution to this apparently difficult relationship between Muslim and non-Muslim communities that the government seems so worried about? Perhaps, it is just that; that some of the media, some members of the government and some members of society prefer to distinguish a person's faith before they distinguish a personality. Surely equality is more important than skin colour, chosen dress or faith.

Should Britain follow in the footsteps of countries such as France and Turkey who have banned the wearing of the veil in all schools? (Along with other outward religious symbols of other faiths, and in some cases other state or public places). Is it not better to be celebrating our ever-growing cultural melting pot and relishing the opportunities this gives us to understand and experience communities, perhaps different (although maybe not so different) from our own?

School authorities informed Miss Azmi that

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# Campus News In Brief No-Choice

## Campus Thieves

**The Head of Security at Lancaster University has warned University students and staff about a couple of thieves who have been operating on campus.**

The suspects have been apprehended a number of times, and consist of a male and a female; the male has been described as wearing a long black coat, and the female is described as being in her 30s, with a 'punkish' appearance.

It is believed that the thieves are very familiar with the University campus, and create excuses when questioned such as pretending to be waiting for a friend from a certain college. Security have warned people to be wary of their diversionary tactics in order to steal.

The same couple are believed to have been involved in an attempted robbery of a photo machine in the Students' Union building, as the machine was said by security to have been left 'highly vandalised'.

Head of Security, Tony Evans has asked students and staff to be vigilant, and if they see any suspicious behavior, to call security on extension 94541, as these incidents appear to be appearing on a regular basis.

By Anita Vukomanovic

## Careers Fair

**The annual Careers Fair will be held on Wednesday 1st November, 11.00am to 4.30pm, in the Great Hall Complex. It offers students the chance to find out about graduate jobs, work experience and postgraduate study.**

"The fair is your best opportunity to find out about different careers by meeting up to 80 employers face to face on campus," said Norman Rea, Employment Development and Employer Services Coordinator for the University's Centre for Employability, Enterprise and Careers.

The careers fair is held this early in the academic year because most big recruiters have closing dates for applications for jobs around February, some even earlier. "If you're a finalist it's time to take action. If you're a pre-finalist you've got time to think and plan for next year," said Rea.

For more information visit <http://careersfair.lancs.ac.uk/>

By Ryan Davidson

## World Cup

**Lancaster five-a-side football World Cup is due to held on 12th November. The event is being organised by LUSU Race Relations Officer Gabriel Ologitere and is open to all.**

Entry costs £3 a player, teams must consist of seven players and the winners will receive authentic replica shirts of their choice of country. Anyone interested please contact Gabriel via email at [racerel@lancs.ac.uk](mailto:racerel@lancs.ac.uk)

## Trashed Kitchen

**Furness kitchen party that got completely out-of-hand has resulted in damage of somewhere in the region of £1000.**

The incident occurred in Slaidburn House at the end of week two. The College is currently undertaking

its own investigations and the disciplinary process is still in a very early stage.

## Fylde Bar

**The topic of a renovation was rife at Fylde's General meeting last Thursday, 26th October. There were two main schools of thought on the matter; one that it should look more like Lonsdale and another that it should remain as a real pub.**

There was much debate whether there should also be a wall separating the bar and the JCR. Fylde president Tim Roca said: "It is paramount that students' ideas are at the forefront of the refurbishment.

"It seems almost definite now that the refurbishment will go ahead. It is just a matter of money and time. That is the key." The College hope that the work will get the go ahead and begin next summer.

## Media Awards

**The SCAN website ([scan.lusu.co.uk](http://scan.lusu.co.uk)) has been shortlisted for best student newspaper website in the 2006 NUS media awards.**

Ex-SCAN Editor Jude D'Souza said: "I am very happy with the nomination. Thanks deserve to go to Adam Bardsley and former SCAN editor Graeme Hibbert for their hard work creating and developing the site, as well as my hard-working editorial team for keeping content up-to-date as well as the many bloggers who I think were most responsible for making SCAN Online unique. Fingers crossed for a win in November!"

Current SCAN Editor Ben Bailey said: "What a soppy bastard."

By Lucy Ingham

**Ben Wallace, the Conservative MP for Lancaster and Wyre, has recently put his name to the EDM 2379 'Review of Abortion Legislation', which aims to reduce the current time period for a termination.**

Mr. Wallace is amongst one hundred and fifty MPs of various party affiliation, who have signed the legislation.

The primary sponsor is Geraldine Smith, member of the All Party Parliamentary 'Pro-Life' group which is opposed to all abortion.

Mr Wallace claims that he is not Pro-Life and agrees that a termination is sometimes necessary, however, he stated that: "Legislation that concerns a topic which is so affected by changes in technologies should be reviewed as a matter of course."

The legislation has angered Pro-Choice campaigners, including LUSU Women's Officer Cat Smith, who argued, "There have been no medical advances in technologies; it is just an anti-choice motion being pushed through on pseudo-scientific propaganda."

The legislation is seen by pro-choice campaigners as chipping away at women's abortion rights, and many see the support for the review as a way of pursuing the anti-choice lobby.

Many pro-choice campaigners are now calling for more support for women and believe that the taboo on abortion should be lifted, rather than further constricted by this proposed legislation.

# Castle View in Swings and Roundabouts

By Jacob Cordingley

**As previously reported in SCAN, Lancaster is currently the largest city in the country not to have a large-scale shopping centre. In recent months, new plans have been unveiled to change this. However, concerns with regards to the wants of Lancaster citizens have been raised.**

The issues relate to both the privatisation of public land and the demolition of historic buildings that form part of Lancaster's culture.

Residents are alarmed by the actions of Lancaster City Council and their preferred developer, Centros Miller, who are reportedly ignoring residents' views. 'Free and open' consultation, promised by the planners, is alleged to have been disregarded.

Ms Emilie Secker of 'It's Our City', a pressure group devised to campaign against the development, told SCAN "They've done a survey of shops in the city centre, which to our minds was full of loaded questions, leading questions; things like: 'Do you want better shops in Lancaster?' If you say yes to that it seems to automatically translate to wanting a department store."

The pressure group claims that the survey actually returned negative results. Common concerns included that it would be harmful to local business, and could have an adverse affect on traffic through the city centre. Claims were also made that the modern building would be out of place in the historical city.

However, Labour Councilor Ian Barker told SCAN, "I haven't seen a development proposal where there has been more consultation."

"It's Our City" are also concerned about the fact that the Council took on the developers without the proper research on public opinion or marketing figures. In July the Council entered a development agreement with Centros Miller meaning that they cannot turn down planning permission for simply not liking the plans; there has to be proper reasoning on a set of criteria. This means that the development may get the go ahead against even the Council's wishes, and also those of the public.

Environmental factors are also of concern, as well as problems in the design itself specifically the limited amount of 'green space' in the plans. At the time of writing, it was unclear whether the developers are required to hold proper public consultation because it is currently unclear which kind of planning application they have applied for.

# Lancaster Bankruptcy

By Charlotte Dixon

**The boom in bankruptcy across Britain was revealed to be at an all time high in the county of Lancashire last week. Research by the Department for Trade and Industry disclosed the worrying statistic that the number of bankruptcy applications for Lancashire has increased by 400% since 2005.**

Moreover, Lancaster Citizen's Advice Bureau has experienced on average a 20% increase in casework that deals with debt. Although it is difficult to determine exactly why the number of cases for bankruptcy in Lancashire has risen so dramatically within the space of a year, it is possible to link it to the growing 'credit junkie' phenomenon. Facile credit options have made it very easy for people to spend money that they do not have and can not realistically pay back.

Debt solutions firm Thomas Charles have proposed that approximately eight million people in Britain owe a five figure sum, mainly due to easy credit and over spending. The debt situation in Lancashire has been made worse by the fact that there is a large

disparity between average salaries and average house prices. Therefore house buyers in Lancashire are likely to accumulate larger debts compared to buyers in various other counties. Currently there have been no plans voiced by Lancashire County Council to remedy this growing problem.



# An Interview With Robert Fisk

By Phil Leech

**The George Fox building has seen some sights in over the last few years. It was, after all, where Lancaster University infamously sold its soul to the world's biggest arms dealer: BAE systems, at the expense of the criminal records of six students. However on Friday the building, named after the founder of the Quakers, hosted a lecture by a man that might perhaps help bring the university just a little closer to its pacifist routes. It was the inaugural lecture of the university's Richardson Institute for Peace Research and it was by award winning and world renowned journalist, Robert Fisk.**

Fisk graduated from Lancaster in the early years of the institution. He went on to be awarded a doctorate from the University of Dublin, and pursue a career as a journalist. It was his role as Middle East correspondent for the Independent that has brought Fisk fame. Living in Beirut, Lebanon, he wrote about the fall of the Shah, of Iran in 1979, he covered both of the gulf wars, and he met Osama bin Laden three times before the attacks on the United States in 2001.

The lecture was broad in focus, touching on his own early life experience- to Fisk's despair over the fate of his adopted home at the hands of Israeli forces in the recent conflict. He told us that his job had always been to "monitor the centres of power" around the world. The journalist poured scorn on the faux impartiality and sincerity of his colleagues within the western media. He was one of only two western journalists to stay in Beirut during this summer's conflict and he impatiently derided his contemporaries' sterilized reporting, and of their ignorance of history's lessons. "If

you could only take one book, forget your notebook and take a history book" he said, going on to draw comparisons between the current debacles, and the British interwar governments' dithering over the fate of the same nations.

Fisk's lecture was, at heart, a simple message. He told attendees that European and American strategy was exploitative, and had been for over a century, and said that much of the journalism, even from media we might assume we could trust, is as racist as it is inept. Perhaps Fisk's greatest skill is his simple honesty. He reports on what he encounters, maintaining a journalistic distance, but not sacrificing his passion and rage at the injustice. He is a man who has watched Colin Powell lie to the UN Security Council, a man who has been beaten by an angry rabble in Pakistan (whose homes had just been destroyed by American bombs), a man who has escaped death in American and Israeli air raids: there is no need for hyperbole to describe the things he has experienced. There is no need for him to exaggerate the disparity between the way our nation's policies are perceived by us at home, and by those they have directly affected for generations.

Perhaps he shouldn't be a journalistic giant if all he does is speak simply and honestly about what he has seen, but in our new media order where scale of tacit subjugation of the press is matched only by gullibility and timidity of reporters, Fisk won't be silenced. Just as George Fox refused to bow to intolerance and injustice in Cromwell's England, one of Lancaster's first alumni will continue to stand against demagoguery in our time. Perhaps Lancaster might think of them both before we ever let BAE Systems back on our campus.



By Rosanna Silverlight  
& Anita Vukomanovic

News Editors

**Before Robert Fisk took to the podium to give his lecture, SCAN had an exclusive interview with the journalist. Here's what he had to say about the role of journalists, the challenges of being a Middle East correspondent, and what it was like being in Beirut during the bombing of southern Lebanon during the summer.**

**SCAN: To what extent do you allow your personal feelings on a matter to create a framework for an interview?**

RF: In an interview, I'm not really interested in my personal feelings, I'm interested in their personal feelings. But in writing reports from the field from battles, from massacres or wars, I entirely let my personal feelings in the story. If you're reporting on wars, you shouldn't report it from the level of a football match, or a public enquiry into a new motorway, where you give 50% of your time to each participant. War is a total disgrace, it's the death of human dignity, and when you see the things that I see you get very angry about it. I think that anger should be in the copy. If you're reporting on the slave trade in the 18th century you don't give equal time to the slave ship captain. If you're reporting on the liberation of an extermination camp in Nazi Germany you don't give equal time to the SS. If I'm reporting as I did in August 2001 on a Palestinian suicide bomber in an Israeli pizzeria that killed lots of kids, I don't give equal time to Islamic Jihad. In the Sabra and Shatila massacre of '82 when the Israelis surrounded a camp and sent in their militia men, I didn't give equal time to the [Israeli Defence Force], I talked about the victims.

**SCAN: So you try and give more time and more coverage to the side which is affected by the violence?**

RF: No it isn't a side, victims are not a side, victims are victims. When there's a massacre, there are the victims and the perpetrators, they are not sides. The victims didn't have the chance to fight back, so they're not a side. I try to name the guilty parties. I made it very clear

in my Sabra and Shatila reporting at the time that the victims were Palestinian civilians, the murderers were Christian Maronites and the Israelis watched and did nothing, and knew it was going on and saw it. And in the subsequent commission in Israel they admitted that.

**SCAN: So do you see that as your goal?**

RF: It's not a goal - I'm just watching history, and trying to stay alive. I think that one of our jobs is to make sure that no one later on can say 'we didn't know, no one told us'. You can apply that to anything, the Jewish Holocaust, World War One, what's happening in Iraq today, etcetera. Amira Hass, who works for the Israeli newspaper Haaretz - Amira and I were discussing in Jerusalem about three years ago, what was the purpose of being a foreign correspondent. I said, "our job is to write the first pages of history." She said "no, our job is to monitor the centres of power, to challenge authority, especially when they go to war, especially when they lie, especially when they kill people".

**SCAN: So keeping the people in power accountable, basically?**

RF: Yes, partly. Because they're not being held accountable in this country anymore. My editor, Simon Kelner, is now saying 'we're not a newspaper, we're a viewspaper.' We write huge front cover pieces of anger and fury about what's going on in the Middle East particularly, whether it be the use of cluster bombs in Lebanon or whether it be the huge number of Iraqi civilians being slaughtered in Iraq, now that we've 'liberated' them. I think newspapers should in a sense go back to what they were at the beginning of the newspaper age, which was to be declarative, revealing of dirt and muck from governments, naming the guilty guys.

**SCAN: You're based in Lebanon, so how's your experience been of the recent conflict there?**

RF: I was there for all of it. [It was] very frightening. I spent three days with the International Committee of the Red Cross as one of their honorary delegates, wearing a flack jacket and a helmet. We were given clearance through the Red Cross in Beirut and Tel Aviv by the Israelis to go on a convoy, and an aircraft fired a missile 40 metres in front of us, almost killed us. Whether [the Israelis] tried [to] I don't know. It even set fire to the road, the trees were on fire, the stones were on fire, bits of shrapnel flying all over the convoy. It's not the

worst thing that's happened to me ever, but the Israelis were quite promiscuous in their use of air power and fire power. So were the Hezbollah in firing missiles, but it was puny compared to what the Israelis were doing. They almost killed more than a thousand people, the Hezbollah didn't kill 200.

**SCAN: They basically flattened them?**

RF: No, they turned their villages into ash. I went into one village and the walls of the buildings were burning. It was so hot you couldn't look at it. Plus, bombs exploding, you can imagine what it's like driving through that village at speed. Worse than the movies.

**SCAN: What's been your most challenging experience as a Middle Eastern correspondent?**

RF: Altogether? Iraq, probably. Dealing with the lies that preceded it and the lies during the war and the lies afterwards. And at the same time being in great danger. American tank fire, American air fire, insurgents, throat cutters, you name it. Iraq is undoubtedly the biggest challenge I've faced as a journalist in the Middle East since 2003, and I've been going there since 1978. I was in the Iran-Iraq war which was terrifying. I was on Iranian helicopters being fired at from the ground and so on, but I think Iraq for the sheer sustained constant danger day and night beats that.

**SCAN: So what do you see as the future for the Middle East?**

RF: At the moment it's terrifying. Especially if we're going to attack Iran, I don't know if we will but it's terrifying. Lebanon is on the brink of political break up after this war ... Iraq is a hell disaster, Afghanistan is moving back into Taliban hands ... Gaza, the West Bank are terrifying places. And if we're going to attack Iran as well we're going to have war from the border of the old Indian Empire to the Mediterranean. I don't have any clear hope. I wake up each morning in Beirut and say 'where is the explosion today', and usually there is one.

Robert Fisk talked extensively and eloquently on every point SCAN raised. Due to issues of space, the interview had to be cut in length, but it can be read in its entirety on the SCAN news page: <http://scan.lusu.co.uk/index.php?s=news>.

# DEAR SCAN

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### “Be smart, don’t live on campus.”

Dear Sir,

**University Accommodation is very expensive. You would be unlucky or stupid to find anything more expensive off-campus. Furthermore, students have less rights in Uni residences. The cleaners can come in to check your room for cleanliness and subsequently demand that you clean it. The porters can tell your guests to leave as they see fit. These things are conspicuous by their absence in the standard Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreement. At £90 per week I expect to be completely in charge of who is allowed in and when.**

It is unfair that students are expected to pay the entire residence fees for a year at the start. Termly instalments cost the student an extra £10 per term in ‘administration’ fees. Students do not have savings, they have overdrafts. Why should the University take advantage of this? It takes up to six weeks to have your deposit returned at the end of the year despite the new students moving in after only one week. One thousand deposits at £120 each over six weeks?

There’s interest there for somebody. And that only applies if you get your deposit back given the ‘collective responsibility’ forced on to students. If any resident in a flat causes damage or is untidy this is charged to all residents of the flat. How is this reasonable? It isn’t. It is simply more convenient for the University. If a student refused to give up this money on the grounds that they are not guilty the University simply refuses to allow graduation on the basis of an outstanding debt. Justice for all...

It’s not all bad, though. Living on campus is certainly convenient for lectures and studying.

Be smart, don’t live on campus.

**Angry Graduate**

### “Lancaster students have lost all their manners...”

**A few days ago on a bus to University I found myself furious at the many other students on the same bus.....the reason? because most of them thought that they as Lancaster University students were important than anyone else living in this town.**

I have seen this many times before and am disgusted that Lancaster students seem to have lost all their manners and think the world revolves around them alone. There were many students sitting on the lower part of the bus, and when a small old lady got on with her walking stick and two shopping bags, NO ONE MOVED. Now i think that is rude. I don’t know about anyone else. She had to wobble up the little step, and sit down rather uncomfortably further from the door.

Oblivious, the students, about three girls and some

guys just sat there, not a care in the world. Next a woman got on with a push chair, and again NO ONE moved so she couldn’t sit down. The town centre is for everyone, not just students. The public have a right to sit down, and especially the elderly, mothers, and people with disabilities; all respect for others seems to have gone. So next time your on a bus, sit at the back or be respectful of other people.

**F.Whitehead**

### Re: Nestle-acceptable now?

Dear SCAN,

**Firstly, let me express my delight that the Women’s Bus publicity has not only been noticed, but that a ‘Confused and Annoyed Post-Grad’ felt the need to pen to paper and write a letter to SCAN about it. I believe that the Women’s Bus is a valuable and often unrecognised asset of the women’s office.**

I am asked why the advertising for the women’s bus is using a Nestle campaign; how can I answer this question without purely and simply saying that I am not! I suggest if you are unclear about this that you take time out to discover the joys of ‘satire’ in which targets are parodied as to point out and deride their own flaws whilst making a more positive contribution. I believe the majority can see that the aim is to highlight, not support the misogyny of Nestle. Finally, LUSU and the University are currently working on gaining Fair Trade status, and as someone who has been buying fairly traded products for many years and has led and supported Nestle boycotts, I welcome this potentially progressive move.

Yours truly,

**Cat Smith, LUSU Women’s Officer**

### Jack Straw’s comments

Dear SCAN

**I am a Lancaster student currently studying abroad in the United States; however I am always one to try and keep up to date with the news. I was interested in comments made by Jack Straw, and in turn by Cat Smith on the subject of veils worn by Muslim women.**

Firstly I feel that I should outline my total religious and racial neutrality, I do not wish comments I make in the letter to be deemed as prejudice at all. The point I wish to make is that as usual, a member of a student body has seemingly failed to study the point of a statement made by an MP. I am currently studying Islamic society and plan to further my research whilst in the USA and once I return to the United Kingdom.

The point of Jack Straw’s comment was one of honesty and more particularly one of friendship. There are many barriers in a culture as diverse as Blackburn’s; where between 25 and 30 percent of the population are of the Muslim faith. The point Mr. Straw was making was that he felt that the veil worn could create a social barrier within communities. He was simply saying that the veil he felt could be

## Letter of the week

### “Abandoned by 848 Taxis”

**I’ve been encouraged to write to the scan about this since it happened because I want other women to be aware of the inhuman beasts behind 848 taxis. Tuesday night, I had to get to Bolton le Sands for a choir rehearsal in the united reform church which, although a little difficult to find, is the most humungous white building.**

I took a taxi there and the driver was unsure where it was so he went on his radio to ask for directions, then just to make sure he stopped off at the nearest spar and asked himself. I was really happy with this, and it was 32090 taxis. anyway, I was a little early so I wasn’t overtly concerned when i saw it was locked. half an hour went by and I just thought it is too dangerous for me to stay here alone, in the dark and in a strange place. I rang 848 taxis because I couldn’t remember the name of the taxi firm that took me: ‘hi could i get a taxi from bolton le sands UR church to Lancaster centre please’. What I got from the woman on the other end was ‘ive never heard of that place, can you walk to a more prominent landmark like a pub’. now I said I didnt know the place, the streets were incredibly poorly lit and am actually quite frightened and incredibly vulnerable, to which she said ‘thats not my problem love’ and hung up the phone.

I was attacked by two men around 3 mins later and was left with cuts on my arms, hands, chest and neck. because I was feeling so vulnerable, I was prepared for the attack almost, i was expecting it and so got by keys which are on a chain and swung them at one bloke’s face. after a fight which seemed to last ages, I finally lost my temper and got close to one bloke and knee’d

him in the bollocks -I had a knee replacement in january and my knee is actually titanium, so after that he could hardly move and they just left. by chance I found a card in my wallet with the other taxi firm in, called it and they came easily within 5 mins because they went out of their way to actually find out where the united reform church was- why couldnt 848 taxis do that? I got in the taxi very shaken and told him what happened and he was absolutely disgusted with the taxi firm for refusing to find me when I actually said I was on my own in the dark in a place and afraid i’d get attacked. what is more shocking is I was speaking to a woman who should have identified with that.

I rang 848 taxis after and requested to make a formal complaint; they said ian dixon would ring me back and of course he didn’t which is why I want to make it well known to all women what 848 taxis did to me, and what they could, with breathtaking disregard, repeat again. i admit i put myself in danger, but in my defence, I was told weeks ago there was a rehearsal in that church on that day, but i wasn’t sent an email saying it was cancelled. I shouldnt have gone out there anyway, I did pit myself in danger and I rang to get help and I was ignored and subsequently attacked -THAT is a lesson in itself, but the other is not to trust that taxi firm who were rude, noncommittal and treated a very serious situation with causal disregard.

**Lucy Pery  
Bowland 3rd year**

intimidating to some members of society, this kind of feeling will stop random meetings with strangers, and thus lasting friendship (and after Freshers week this is a concept many should be familiar with). He simply wanted to break barriers, to offer a hand between communities where there is a dominant secular base to the societies. His attempts, though haphazard in places, shouldn’t simply be shot down by the first student body leader whom hears them, but instead, discussed, analysed and then a move should be made.

I feel that this isn’t what has occurred, Jack Straw made a point that I believe would be appreciated by a large part of society. I’m sure if you stood on the spine and asked every single person that passed if they felt his move was one of malice, they would disagree. Why can’t we give the man a chance for making a bold move to unite communities? What’s wrong with trying to sort out issues between these communities through their integration? I’m sure many people understand the importance to the Muslim woman of the veil they wear, and in fact I wouldn’t expect a woman of Muslim faith to do what he is asking except within the controlled environment he is suggesting. But I think his efforts to solve problems created by diverse cultures by uniting them should be admired, not disregarded as racist. I hope that my attempts to give a man fair press for expressing the feelings of many done him justice.

I appreciate that there were 150 people who signed the petition, but think how many people would support Mr. Straw in light of his bravery, in spite of their political views. I say fair play to the man.

Yours sincerely

**Alex Milne**

### Re: Join Me Society

Dear SCAN,

**I regret to inform you that the Join Me society had to fold at the end of last year. At our peak we had over 160 members but no real exec. With such a large membership it became impossible to run on my own.**

Random acts of kindness are still being carried out independently and I apologise to anyone who wanted to join. If anyone is interested in reforming and then running the society please email joinmesociety@lancaster.ac.uk and I will organise a meeting for anyone who’s interested

**Ex-President of Join Me**

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

# To Buy Or Not To Buy?

By Rachel Butler

**In a few weeks many will consider venturing down the A6 in search of student digs. Whether to migrate to Lancaster or not is a big decision, so I thought I'd throw some advice around to help you think rationally and not get stuck in a rut over the campus versus town debate. Read and take heed.**

I have the memorable experience of living in Grizedale College for my first year, which could be likened to slumming it in the university ghetto. For those who are unfamiliar, Grizedale is now the whopping pile of rubble near Pendle.

Living it up in J block may sound like prison lingo for a damn good time, however our bedrooms were so tiny that had the walls been plastered, the extra inch in width would have made them uninhabitable by law. Hence our décor was a classy bare brick effect. Wasps flew in freely from various vents and the loft; I spent many a valuable work moment chasing the bastards up and down the corridor with a rolled up copy of *Heat*. I even had one the size of a small dog hibernating on my curtain for about three weeks. Add to this that the whole joint was sugar coated in asbestos and it is hardly surprising that come summer the whole place was demolished. Neither is it surprising that towards the end of the Christmas term we all jumped at the chance of moving off campus.

Forgetting the scars that Grizedale left me, think carefully about what you want from your accommodation and whether it can or can't be found on campus. Living in the University grounds has definite advantages; think about travel. I can't tell you how emotionally difficult it is at 8.50am when you're waiting loyally at a bus stop in the wind and rain, hung-over, only to watch four consecutive buses drive past you because they're full. If you have a busy timetable staying put is sensible. Alternatively, catch buses earlier than you need for morning lectures.

Consider the cleaning staff. Annoying when you want a lie in, but when you're falling over piles of cans, the kitchen floor is grimmer than the street and there's tropical plants growing in the shower, you miss them. It is difficult to keep a house tidy and you all have to be prepared to pull your weight. Living on campus is pretty much responsibility free as far as maintenance and cleaning goes.

Think about the social aspects of living on and off campus. On campus you are close to a very large number of people, coffee shops, bars, the library, the gym... Similarly, living within walking distance of the entire town is great. You can go out without having

to pay for taxis or catch buses full of rowdy boys who find it hilarious to jump on the backseat and sing insulting songs about women. You can host those infamous house parties where you trash the place and blast music out without the porters telling you to "break it up guys" before the clocks even struck half ten. Chilling in a lounge with friends is also great, but when you're home alone, it can get lonely, and if there's a power cut, scary.

Rack your brains about your finances. Rent for a house is cheaper than halls (between £45 and £60) but there are bills to pay and travel costs. Work out how much cash you have to splash and draw up an imaginary budget for both halls and houses.

If you decide a house is best for you, pick your housemates carefully. If someone irritates you slightly, living with them will drive you insane. Living in a house is more intense than living in halls because you're in each others pockets fine if you get on, disastrous if you don't. Then get an area map from LUSU Housing and check exactly where you want to live.

Don't panic and start house hunting too early. We did, thinking there would be no houses left and envisaged sleeping in cardboard boxes in a cow field come October. However there are always houses available and before you break up in December or when you come back in January are the best times to look.

Understand that there is more to house hunting than oogling at pictures on the internet - check the rent and what you get for it, such as bills, parking, internet access and appliances. Also find a contract to suit you, summer retainers are available but it is pointless paying rent for a house you're not living in for the sake of storing a box of kitchen stuff and a duvet.

When viewing houses, trust your eyes and your instincts. If there is a cellar with one broken office chair in it, don't let the landlord fob it off as a comfortable lounge. If there's funny odours of gas, damp or sewage, don't let the landlord blame it on one of the tenant's hamsters. Check the radiators work, check the boiler, the taps, try the locks out, look around outside and check for leaky pipes, broken guttering, holes in the roof or squatters roasting marshmallows in the yard. Be prepared for disappointment. Many 'large spacious rooms' are actually boxes with good PR and a desk shoved in the corner. Also bear in mind that some people are absolutely filthy, ignore the mess and concentrate on the space.

Always picture yourself in a house before deciding whether you could live in it and stay alert for the 'feels like home' feeling. Importantly, don't let yourself be pressured into making any snap decisions and always visit a house twice if you're considering renting it.



Watch out for landlords, whether they're through LUSU or not, there are some right cowboys out there. We emailed a guy about a couple of houses and he rang back the next day, despite having just returned from Bangkok. He offered to pick us up from campus that day and show us round some of his 'properties'. He was short and round, wore a leather biker jacket and a number of gold medallions and rings and only seemed to let his houses out to girls. He told us that he had another group viewing the house we liked the next day, so if we wanted it we'd have to sign the contract quickly and write him a fat cheque. We asked him what he did for a job, and he narrowed his eyes and said I do this, but I have other interests. Bearing in mind the guy looked like a pimp, only seemed to let houses to girls and had recently visited the worlds sleaziest city, we got out of the car before he offered us a night job.

Don't do what we did and climb in the car with a stranger; always meet the landlords at the house. If they try to pressure you into signing anything or handing over money, notice a 'warning sign' in neon flashing lights and look for the nearest exit. Thoroughly go over a contract before you sign it, and when you do, make photocopies. Also sort out how you are going to pay your rent before you hand your money over and check there aren't any hidden costs. Sort out any problems with the house ASAP and be assertive about it because landlords are excellent at talking their way out of things and blaming their tenants for problems.

Personally I think living in a house is great. Our little residence is fab. Okay so it's freezing, we share the kitchen with slugs, the lock on the front door is totally inadequate (it doesn't work) and the bath isn't big enough for a rubber duck let alone me included - but it's home. Good luck!

## YOUR SABB TEAM: WHO ARE THEY, AND WHERE ARE THEY?



**LUSU PRESIDENT**  
Sooz Palmer

[supres@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:supres@lancaster.ac.uk)  
01524 592206



**GENERAL SECRETARY**  
Graeme Poulton

[gensec@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:gensec@lancaster.ac.uk)  
01524 593766



**A.U. PRESIDENT**  
Dave Greenshields

[aupres@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:aupres@lancaster.ac.uk)  
01524 592189



**EDUCATION & WELFARE**  
Becky Heard

[edandwelf@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:edandwelf@lancaster.ac.uk)  
01524 592202



**WOMEN'S OFFICER**  
Cat Smith

[su-womens@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:su-womens@lancaster.ac.uk)  
01524 592197



**SCAN EDITOR**  
Ben Bailey

[scan@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:scan@lancaster.ac.uk)  
01524 592613

Read the Sabb blogs and find out how we help run your Union.

# scan.lusu.co.uk

YOU CAN FIND ALL OF YOUR SABBATICAL OFFICERS IN THE LUSU BUILDING ON WEEKDAYS BETWEEN 10AM-5PM

# Between a Rock and a Hard Place

## Mr.T: Cool or Fool?

By Amy Kappus

**I pity the fool that idolises Mr. T. The man is an 80's has been, former wrestler, and an inspiration to chavs worldwide. He is a classic example of a pointless celebrity. With a puff of pubic hair sitting atop his head, and a mass of gold chains dangling as he walks, Mr. T. may seem like a harmless bit of fun, but when you think about what he actually represents, he sort of loses his charm.**

**“He is now the face of a new TV show, travelling around America, pitying fools and offering people advice.”**

Mr.T is most famous for his role as B.A. Baracus on the hit 1980's show *The A Team*. As B.A., Mr. T presented audiences worldwide with, in my view, a very negative portrayal of an African American. “B.A.” was known as the “stupid” character on the show, who was mainly used as comic relief for his constant ignorance and oaf like catch phrase “I pity the fool”. Personally, I think any celebrity who degrades themselves for a living, pretending to be dumb just to make money is a very sad

sort of person. Just think of Paris Hilton; she's made a fortune off pretending to be an idiot, while at the same time providing a horrible role model for young girls, just in the same way Mr. T promotes being a violent oaf.

As if he hasn't infiltrated our lives enough, he is now the face of a new reality TV show, travelling round America, pitying fools and acting as a life coach, offering people advice on “how to get their lives back on track.” I'm sure they'll be thrilled to hear how a washed-up 80s television personality reduced to hosting a reality tv show thinks they can improve their general wellbeing. The little respect I ever had for Mr. T goes down even further when I learnt that he was a part of the

WWF's 1985 show, *Wrestlemania*. *Wrestlemania* is an example of entertainment for the lowest common denominator; the neanderthals of civilisation, but considering the type of audience Mr.T entertains, I suppose it isn't that surprising he would sink to those lows. I have no idea where Mr.T might be today, but I think it's probably best that he was left behind in the 80's.



## “Quit Your Jibber Jabba, Fool!”

By Rachel Cahill

**I'm sat here bored with *The Fratellis*. I have no T.V to lounge in front of and am nursing one hell of a hangover. It's one of those that lie dormant all day and you think you've got away with it until it hits you, full on, around 3pm. If I were at home I'd have donned the old duvet, drowned my sorrows in a brew, tuned into my (newly discovered) UKTVGold channel and zombified myself for the rest of the day. This channel is pure genius for 'cure my throbbing head with shit telly' days. One of my recent discoveries is the excellent *A Team*, but most notably, Mr. T.**

This, rather well built, gold-laden wonder is a catacomb of amazing quotations, taking for example: “I believe in the golden rule...the man with the gold...rules.”

**“Sadly Mr. T has come under some heavy criticism, (though all good men do, such as The Hoff, Noel Edmonds, even Jesus).”**

A segment of moral wisdom from the original king of bling. Mr. T in my opinion is a man to be respected and admired. Within the shell of his mono-syllabic, cool exterior is a man who wants the best for this world. He is also an incredible example for kids, from his individual dress sense to his verses of moral guidance in ‘Mr.T’s Commandments’ – a best

selling album worldwide. He preaches the notion of standing out from the crowd and standing up to those who do wrong, especially those who don't respect their mothers.

As well as being a truly decent bloke, Mr.T also played a vital role as B.A. Baracus in the now infamous

**“I believe in the golden rule...the man with the gold...rules!”**

*A Team*. Without his impressive mechanical skills (including making a tank from nothing more than a pipe and matchsticks) the team would have, in my opinion, floundered. Can anyone, other than a die hard fan, really name anyone else from the *A Team*? I think not. As well as the mechanic he was also the *A Team*'s driver, getting them from pillar to post in a whole host of situations. Here Baracus is a reflection of Mr. T, as a man who just wants to help.

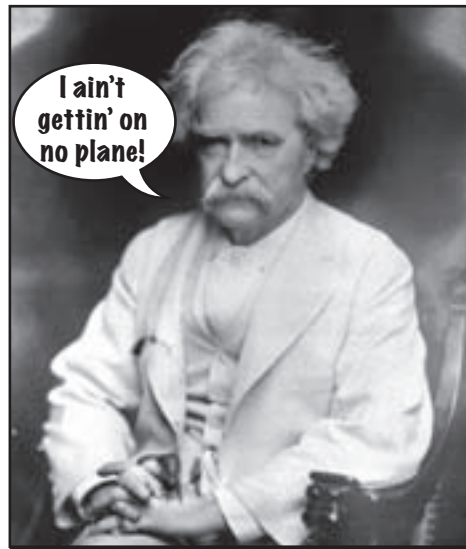
Sadly Mr.T has come under some heavy criticism, (though all good men do, such as The Hoff, Noel Edmonds, even Jesus). One of the main comments is: ‘Why so much jewellery, show off?’ Well I would say: Why not? He's proud of his assets and isn't afraid to show them off. We should all learn to be so confident. He is also criticised for his fear of

flying, a perfectly rational fear and one shared by many people. Yet again Mr.T speaks for the masses. He is a perfect example of the ‘no shit’ attitude that can be highly commendable, within reason. Wear what you want and be who you want, so long as you're not hurting or offending others, it's perfectly acceptable. He was teaching the young to express

themselves, telling them not to conform. He must have had some effect, look at them in the 1980's. If fluorescent lycra, Maggie Thatcher and Boy George can be socially accepted, then people complaining about a lot of gold jewellery and a mohawk haven't got a leg to stand on.

Mr. T is, after all, a very popular character. The sheer comedy value of his unique phrases and one-liners are adored by millions. Who else in the world could get away with saying such things as “Quit your jibber jabba”, “I pity the fool”, “I ain't getting on no plane”, and still sound cool? He was also a hit with the ladies. One website catalogues Mr.T's encounters and declares that while Mr.T has ‘loved’ many a woman, he has never settled down. I suppose you could brandish him as a player, but then, with all that charisma, why the hell not? Spread the love, Mr.T.

At the end of the day this guy is nothing short of a legend. Unique and funny, I doubt he takes himself seriously. The whole essence of his character is a bit tongue in cheek and if you've got enough time to have such a problem with that, sit down, have a glass of milk, and calm the hell down...fool!



## STUDENT STEREOTYPES

Mark Twain is away...

**P**erhaps called Arabella. Willow and pale. Was entered into Young Musician of the Year when she was 13. Although she has never shown overt lesbian tendencies at 19 her parents are still worried.

Left her all girls school with 11 GCSEs and 5 A-levels. Went to Mexico on her Gap Year and now smokes like a chimney and has given up the cello.

Didn't feel Oxbridge was “right for her”. Scowls at any male under the age of 25 who shows her attention. Eats absolute rubbish; first G&T of the day is usually before 12.

Into amateur dramatics although if not handed a leading role will “sit this one out”. Style could be described as “trampy boho”. Speaks in an affected whisper and although often described as “posh” is actually from Bracknell. Takes offence at the slightest compliment. Her love of nice ‘n’ spicy nik-naks is just weird.

**H**is real name's Crispin but he calls himself Kris with a K. He claims to have read every book that is worth reading. He hasn't heard of anything you like. You haven't heard of anything he does.

The trenchcoat he never takes off is obviously from a market but he's trying to put it around that he “stole it off a dead Russian” in his gap year. He “doesn't rate” Dostoyevsky.

When he graces the bar with his presence he drinks Jack Daniels and Coke but insists on calling it “Jack and Coke”. Everyone in college has heard him claim he once drank 27 then went out and shot rabbits with his brother. Not one believes him. Happy about being a loner, he didn't get into the Air Force due to his bad eyesight. In the future he wants to work for the Ministry of Defence.

**E**mo kid. Maybe called Daryl. Obsessed with Bert McCracken from The Used “because he's so not emo”. “Hates” emo but has black hair swept over one eye, blond highlights, wears eyeliner and has the body mass index of a seven-year-old.

Thinks he's broody and deep when in fact he's just mildly irritating. Never enjoys himself. Actually, I'm bored of this, you know the rest...

# An American Woman in Lancaster

By Heather Simons

**I was in London for a month this September. I stayed in Chelsea no less, which is simultaneously a terrible and a brilliant place for an American student. Terrible because the currency exchange rate immediately cut in half the savings I spent three months working for, and brilliant because Chelsea is one of the wealthiest, and therefore nicest suburbs (are they called suburbs here?) in the city. With its fancy stores and Starbucks on every corner, King's Road treated me well, though I did begin to wonder if I would ever make it out of London with a penny to my name.**

For four weeks I subsisted on peanut butter and jelly with cans of soup, rejoicing whenever I could afford to add a bit of meat to my diet. I bought one-ply toilet paper and bread for 28p that had an odd chewy texture and tasted like cardboard. Brand name cereal or shampoo was absolutely out of the question.

To live in Chelsea, even for a month, required some sacrifice, but I surrendered such small luxuries willingly. Although I had never once left America (besides the time when I was fifteen and my dad took me to Jamaica, where I spent a week bartering for shoddy souvenirs and refusing drug offers), London felt curiously like home.

Back in the States I attend university (we call it a college) in the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, consecrated site of some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. Gettysburg is home to many 'majestic' battlefields, a slew of ghosts, and not just a few Civil War fanatics. It is not at all unusual to wake up in the morning to the drum beat of a brigade of Confederate Soldiers marching down the sidewalk, rifles resting on their shoulders. I once ate dinner next to a Civil War era family, mom sporting a giant hoop skirt and bonnet, dad and son in knickers and suspenders, all three scoffing down a pizza while their pick-up truck plastered with American flags waited outside. (This never actually happened, but it definitely could in Gettysburg, PA.)

Clearly, Gettysburg is a far cry from London, but I didn't always go to school in such a quiet, historical town. I spent my first year of university on the other side of the state, in the smoggy city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Though the University of Pittsburgh was located in a more cultural, centralised area, it was also an utterly vast and impersonal campus.



Every night I fell asleep, or didn't, to the sound of ambulances whizzing by on the street below and the deafening roar of helicopters landing on the roof of the nearby children's hospital. I decided the city was not where I wanted to spend four years, so I transferred and joined the ranks in Gettysburg for my second year at university. And now I am here. It's hard for me to claim a home when I'm at school, what with all of the moving around I've done, but for whatever reason, London comforted me, and now, in Lancaster, a five hour drive north, I feel the same way. It must be England.

Since I've had the opportunity to settle in at Lancaster I've noticed some changes in myself. Quite suddenly I developed a craving for chips, and I call them chips because the fries here are not the French fries offered in America. They're simply chips, and they are far better than anything I have sampled at home. I rarely even eat fries in America. In fact, I never do, because they're no good. But here, they are a part of life. And what a tasty, salt and vinegar smothered life it is.

While I'm on the topic of food, I have to mention digestives, which I discovered within the first few days of arrival. My initial reaction upon hearing a sort of dessert referred to as a 'digestive' was a mixture of curiosity and repulsion. Granted, I realise the name was probably chosen in reference to the biscuits' relatively high fibre content, but honestly, couldn't McVities have come up with a more appealing moniker? Regardless, I bought a pack, and thus my addiction began. My British

flat mates, who have been lucky enough to eat digestives since birth and, I think, take them for granted, have branded me an addict. I prefer the term 'enthusiast'. I'm not the only American who feels this way. More international students are discovering digestives daily. I've already discussed at length with other Americans how we can sneak some back to the States in our suitcases.

On another topic, the porters here are fabulous. Having a familiar point of reference at every college, 24 hours a day is truly unique. At Gettysburg we have Resident Assistants, which are just slightly older students who accept the position of pseudo-authority for the free room and board and the large single dorm room (the single-style living here in England is a phenomenon—in America they stuff us into cinder-block cells in twos and threes like caged animals). To be truthful, I've developed a bit of a crush on my friendly porter (do you think he reads the newspaper?). We bonded the day he kindly walked me to the storage room and let me shop for perfectly useful pots and pans left by former international students. What a gentleman.

In terms of academics, the independent study here is quite a change. In America we are constantly being tested on our knowledge through large exams and smaller quizzes and receive paper assignments weekly for every course. You'd think the British mode of learning would be a relief, but it's actually just as overwhelming—for a conscientious student, that is. Otherwise, slacking off has never been a more viable option. But seriously, British students

are very fortunate when it comes to education and its accessibility here. For instance, every time I tell British students the price I pay for my college tuition, their eyes bulge in disbelief and it typically takes a few minutes before they stop cursing and calm down.

I could go on about how delighted I was when I found that tea time actually occurs here, or how shocked I was when I looked at the Fresher's Week schedule and realised that every school-sponsored event involved alcohol, and how impressed I was when I noted just how well the 18-year-olds here can hold their alcohol, at least compared to Americans of the same age. Also, I was stunned to find that clubs and bars here play indie rock music, and girls, and guys(!) actually dance like they're straight out of the eighties. It's pretty much a dream come true when you compare it with the simulated sex that occurs on American 'dance floors', which are really just seas of sweaty, unfamiliar bodies shimmying far too close for comfort. I didn't know such dance party havens existed in the world.

But I won't go on forever, because I'm sure I'm just repeating what's been said before, and I would hope that all of the native Brits here at Lancaster University already appreciate the fabulous and unique aspects of their diverse country. The point is that studying abroad in England is the best thing I have ever chosen to do with my life. I know that last sentence sounded tired and clichéd, but it's true in so many ways that I couldn't possibly articulate in one article. When I boarded the plane to come to England, all I could think was, 'I'm completely crazy' and 'What the hell am I doing?' But I made it to London, and I've made it to Lancaster, and I haven't looked back once. In fact, I've been living completely in the present and enjoying every moment, which is something that I can't even say when I'm back home in America. And yet, I've gained a new appreciation for the U.S. since I've been here. Naturally, it has its flaws, but it truly is a beautiful place which holds foundations in honorable philosophies of equality and decency. And it's where my family calls home.

So, when I take that flight back to the airport in Newark, New Jersey on December 16th, I'll step off the plane and throw myself into the arms of the people I love, because I have missed them terribly. But later, in the car on the way home, I'll think of my experiences over the past four months—the people I've met, the things I've done, seen, and learned about myself and the world—and I'll solidify the place in my heart, I've already begun to develop, the little place within me that England will forever occupy.

# One Last Stay in the Garden of Eden

By Matt Davies

**There's an old Groucho Marx saying which comes to mind when summing up my feelings of returning to university after a year of work - "I didn't like the play. But I saw it under unfavorable circumstances - the curtains were up". Stay with me, there are sex jokes coming. Suddenly in my third year, in a financial services marketing department, the realisation was thrust**

**upon me that I couldn't work my diary around nights at The Carleton, Liquid and Toast for the rest of my life.**

I spent endless office hours contemplating a future where the day's highlight would be popping to Pret A Manger (known as "Pret" to those workmates who like to use lunchtime nonchalance to carry them up the career ladder) for a £3.90 Crayfish Salad Bowl. Working an eight to five job I didn't enjoy after two years of university life was like being tricked into eating from the tree of the knowledge. Worse than that, after toughing it out for a year, I'm now back in the Garden of Eden that

is campus, without the blissful ignorance of the outside world that I once had.

The sole object of my being is no longer to give women plausible reasons to have sex with me and then trying to agree on a place, as it used to be. I enviously watch first and second year students channel all their creative energies into inventing new drinking games. I can be as enthusiastic as I want but I know when the hangover clears and the plughole is unblocked I've got to address the spectre of full time work hanging over me. With all the enjoyment of putting off the inevitable there is now also an impatience to find out what I

will be doing in a years time, to know how I am going to cope when the curtains go up and the play starts (to bring this article neatly full circle). In the meantime it is a comforting thought that the only thing that can dim the bright lights of university life is the impending prospect of full time work – but then, there's always a post-grad.

**(Note to reader: SCAN does not wish to promote a stereotype of tax-dodging, work-shy students, but reflects the opinions of its readership and contributors.)**

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By **Weird Dan**

**When there's something strange in the neighbourhood, who you gonna call? Well, how about Morecambe Paranormal Investigations? I stumbled upon this mysterious collective online, and managed to arrange a meeting with its leading member, who goes by the cryptic name of Ian.**

I gawped around the John O Gaunt, our predetermined meeting place, expecting the flowery spiritual type, the ageing goth, or the eccentric scientist. I was wrong. Interests aside, Ian is in every way the normal bloke. His fascination began with Hammer Horror but took a serious turn following his Applied Psychology degree. He formed the society on the basis of 'rational perspective,' aiming to take an open-minded approach to funny business using logical methods of deduction.

Although Ian didn't specify his personal beliefs as such, he justified the possibility of paranormal activity based on Einstein's theory of constant energy. He reasoned that "if there's no such thing as energy

# Weird Morecambe...

## Weird Dan Looks at Paranormal Investigations in Morecambe

depletion, where does it go when we die?" Weird.

When asked about the other members, Ian observed that they tend to attract "normal working people in their thirties." Whilst the group doesn't discriminate against age Ian has found that teen dabblers tend to be bored by the prospect of lengthy research, preferring the less arduous task of scaring the shit out of each other. Membership is seriously limited, but especially welcome are those with a knack for Quantum Physics, computer editing and local history.

**"Teen dabblers tend to be bored by the prospect of lengthy research, preferring the less arduous task of scaring the shit out of each other."**

When it comes to investigations they follow a strict 'code of conduct'. Anyone found guilty of 'fraud' faces instant expulsion. Fraud, it seems, is indeed a serious issue in the paranormal world, unsurprising given the recent controversy

surrounding *Most Haunted*. The show's resident parapsychologist Kieran O Keefe accused a certain bleach blonde scouser of fooling TV audiences. To help prevent such jiggery pokery, MPI surrounds its equipment with flour during experiments, to detect any cheeky fingerprints.

The society holds up to four overnight vigils a year in creepy locations, including haunted homes, employing all manner of scientific apparatus such as top of the range software for analysing mysterious images and sounds as well as dowsing rods for sensing electrical activity. They are currently constructing a Faraday device- a contraption made from chicken wire that reduces static in EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomena) experiments a la White Noise. Ian confessed that once the group was convinced they had recorded a ghostly voice saying 'help.' Under computer analysis, it turned out to be the combined harmony of a barking dog and an underground pump system.

In discussing the 'most haunted' sites in Lancaster and Morecambe, Ian suggested the Three Mariners pub built in the 1400s, the Bay Radio Station, where coughing and door slamming have been reported, as well as Morecambe's famously disused Winter Gardens.

The group runs an Internet forum at [www.paranormalinvestigations.co.uk](http://www.paranormalinvestigations.co.uk), where you can discuss the weird. Perhaps the oddest post is by someone who claims to have 'bumped into' someone at Morecambe's Tesco, before noticing they had no feet, and were floating down the aisle! Next time you see a pasty face in the Arndale, check the floor. If you don't see Rockports, run.

After discussing secret underground tunnels in Lancaster (watch this space), Ian left to finish tiling his bathroom. Whilst questions of the paranormal may remain unexplained, one thing is certain- Morecambe is definitely weird.

**DO YOU HAVE A WEIRD STORY ABOUT LANCASTER?** If so, email Weird Dan at [shakethosebuns101@hotmail.com](mailto:shakethosebuns101@hotmail.com)



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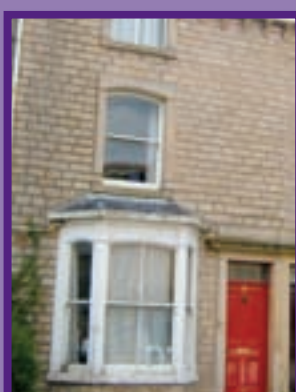


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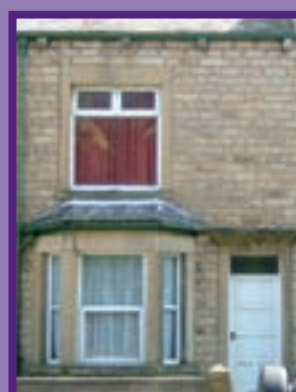
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# YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO READ THIS!

This one goes out to all those people who think SCAN is full of boring, unintelligent and ridiculous material. We hope this appeals to your more sophisticated tastes. Have a nice day.

**The Union Constitution states that prior to the Annual General meeting we must publish our audited accounts. So I take great pleasure in introducing you to the Lancaster University Students' Union ("the Union") Trustees' annual summary for the year ended 31st July 2006. For those of you that have already given up on this article, below is a more than brief summary. For those who are interested there is more detail. If you should have any questions please raise them at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday Week 5, 5pm in Bowland lecture Theatre.**

## MORE THAN BRIEF SUMMARY

From a Union point of view, we are financially strong and stable. Although the impact of the new pay framework agreement and the pay awards is already starting to show and has the power to impact our future activities should we not act on this now. As a Union we shall be conducting a value for money audit in order to provide the best service for the best price, but I must enforce that the VFM is not a cost cutting exercise; it is about securing the optimum balance between quality and cost. But it is clear that strong financial support from the University is more vital than ever in maintaining our services.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

An operating surplus of £8,484 was achieved for the year ended 31 July 2006. This compares favourably to the forecast deficit of £12,409 which was set out in the strategic plan. Grant funding from Lancaster University amounts to £464,000 which represents 42% of the total income into the Union. Total income grew by 1.5% over the prior year to £1,103,596. 26% of the Union's income was generated by its trading subsidiary. Income from shops grew by 336% from £21k in 2004/05 to £91k in 2005/06. This has been brought about by the investment which took place in the retail operations over the summer of 2004 in order to increase its service provision.

Income from LUSU Housing decreased from £72k in 2004/05 to £56k in 2005/06. The administrative costs associated with generating housing revenue have increased significantly. The level of bad debts was subject to a sharp increase in 2005/06, as a result of which a review of the organisation's debt management policy is being undertaken.

Activity at the Sugar House nightclub yielded a net profit of £137k, which is a downturn of £59k from 2004/05. A reduction in profits was expected due to tougher competition in the local market and the effects of licensing legislation, and the budget for 2005/06 was set at £155,000. The results for the Sugar House include an unbudgeted cost for PPL (Phonographic Performance Limited) relating to prior periods

and amounting to £17k. Net of this cost, the Sugar House would have achieved its budget for 2005/06.

The Union has investments in LUSU Services Company Limited (its trading subsidiary) and in NUS Services Limited. These are valued at £2 and £5,460, respectively. The Union's reserves grew to £1,252,614 at 31 July 2006. The reserves have been accrued with a view to carrying out a refurbishment of the Sugar House, which is in progress at the year end. Following the refurbishment of the Sugar House the Union will review the level of its reserves, with a view to ensuring that it remains financially sound despite the volatility of the commercial markets on which much of its income depends.

## FUTURE PLANS

The year ending 31 July 2006 was the first year of our 3 year strategic plan. The goals set out within this plan are:

- Ensuring genuine and independent representation of the needs and expectations of Lancaster students;
- Providing a diverse set of high quality, inclusive and developmental opportunities for students to participate in;
- Delivering an independent and responsive support structure accessible to all students;
- Attracting and developing high quality officers, volunteers and staff;
- Campaigning for and providing a core of high quality facilities which students expect;
- Informing and engaging students in the students' union, university and wider context in which they live and learn;
- Applying our creativity, energy and resources to provide new and innovative relationships between students, the university and the community;
- Ensuring our future plans and activities are sustainable and that LUSU remains well managed and financially robust.
- Detailed annual operating plans are prepared to set targets and meet the aims of the strategic plan: progress is regularly monitored against these plans.

Approved by the Trustees of Lancaster University Students' Union on 18th October 2006 and signed on its behalf by:

**S Palmer**  
Union President

### LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION BALANCE SHEETS AS AT 31 JULY 2006

	Note	2006 Consolidated £	2006 Union £	2005 Consolidated £	2005 Union £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible Assets	1	904,086	504,514	718,200	360,476
Investments	2	5,460	5,462	5,460	5,462
		<u>909,546</u>	<u>509,976</u>	<u>723,660</u>	<u>365,938</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stock	3	78,405	1,193	100,766	1,357
Debtors	4	271,315	551,164	104,039	390,770
Cash at Bank & in Hand		639,310	568,582	829,124	737,126
		<u>989,030</u>	<u>1,120,939</u>	<u>1,033,929</u>	<u>1,129,253</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors	5	636,893	303,693	508,245	189,035
		<u>636,893</u>	<u>303,693</u>	<u>508,245</u>	<u>189,035</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>352,137</u>	<u>817,246</u>	<u>525,684</u>	<u>940,218</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>1,261,683</u>	<u>1,327,222</u>	<u>1,249,344</u>	<u>1,306,156</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>1,261,683</u>	<u>1,327,222</u>	<u>1,249,344</u>	<u>1,306,156</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:-</b>					
Accumulated Fund	6	1,252,614	1,318,153	1,244,130	1,300,942
Other Specific Funds	7	9,069	9,069	5,214	5,214
		<u>1,261,683</u>	<u>1,327,222</u>	<u>1,249,344</u>	<u>1,306,156</u>

S Palmer President  
G Poulton General Secretary  
P Elliott General Manager  
18th October 2006

### LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2006

	Note	2006 £	2005 £
<b>Continuing Activities</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>			
University Block Grant		464,000	442,000
Other Income		148,377	136,609
JCR/GSA Other Income		155,326	167,454
Film Society Income		26,894	23,703
Interest Receivable on Bank Deposits		25,320	28,554
Profit from Shops	12	90,901	20,828
Profit from Housing Office	13	55,841	71,903
Profit from Sugar House	14	136,937	196,001
		<u>1,103,596</u>	<u>1,087,052</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Salaries		437,619	403,443
Sabbatical Salaries		88,470	85,552
Operating expenses		79,276	53,396
Audit fees		5,400	2,410
Student Activities		120,856	108,926
Advice centre		14,416	15,365
NUS Fees		29,633	28,743
IT		14,201	13,844
Officer and committee expenses		72,407	73,949
JCR/GSA Expenses		187,111	190,143
Film Society costs		26,190	20,875
Non-recoverable VAT		11,407	5,110
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		0	22,373
Depreciation		8,126	5,811
		<u>1,095,112</u>	<u>1,029,940</u>
<b>Surplus</b>		<u>8,484</u>	<u>57,112</u>

# FUSION

## Who the f\*ck is Keith?

INTERVIEW  
KEITH  
BY SIMON BUTCHER

**The first question people ask when they hear the name is, “who the fuck is Keith?” My answer would be to say they are one of the most exciting Manchester-based bands to appear in years. The fact that they won the Road to V competition in which they were chosen ahead of 4,000 other unsigned acts and therefore earned the right to open this years V festival only further affirms their capacity for future success.**

There is a sense of eagerness and ambition about them. Taking V Festival in their stride, guitarist Mark Nicholls states “We’re confident in our ability, we feel as though we should be playing in front of crowds like that”. Drummer Johnny Waddington also describes the line up at V as “particularly poor” adding that the music industry is “incredibly short-termist” when catering for new bands. *Keith* are trying to break the mould at a time where it is incredibly difficult to be respected for doing so. One act from V appreciated by the four-piece, were headliners *Radiohead*. Vocalist Oli Bayston admits “*Radiohead* are proof that it can be done, if you stick to your principles then you will eventually be successful.”

*Keith*, like *Radiohead*, have a diverse array of genres they take influence from, whether it be bassist John Winbolt Lewis’ days as a techno DJ or Oli’s classical upbringing. Their debut album ‘Red Thread’ fuses all these elements creating a cohesive and excitingly intellectual debut. There are no restrictions on this album, full of ideas and atmospheric beats. With four strong minded individuals Johnny admits “there can



be disagreements but every idea we have has to live up to our high expectations. The band is a democracy”. The whole album ironically was born out of disagreements between band members. It was originally intended to be a second EP, however they couldn’t decide which tracks to include and so went for a full album release instead.

Mark admits that album was “not the ideal album we would have liked to make, but shows promise. We have grown as a band since its creation. Now we still have all the avenues of sound we can go down, but each member is working in a smaller framework so that we gain a more coherent sound”. This assessment is very accurate. Many critics have accused the album of being too bland with very few standout tracks. Mark responded to this by saying “‘Red Thread’ is an index of what we could do in the future, it is not fine tuned.”

The standout track on the album is ‘Mona Lisa’s Child’ which encompasses every element of the album, a catchy electro beat, atmospheric vocals and fast strung acoustic guitars with a classical piano solo entering the song for the chorus. “There is an epic quality to it” says Oli. This album does not instantly grab you, but it is well worth investing your time in. Tracks like ‘Faces’ and ‘Hold that Gun’ are similar in character but are sophisticated yet undiscovered classics. The name *Keith* epitomises the bands’ ideology, it makes you take notice due to its perculiarity; it is unique, as the band are trying to be, so remember it!

## Is it a Bird, is it a Plane?

ALBUM  
GET CAPE.WEAR CAPE.FLY:THE CHRONICLES OF A BOHEMIAN TEENAGER  
BY HANNAH CORNFORTH

**A very original name for an artist known to his friends as Sam Duckworth. This sets up the strange juxtaposition that resonates throughout this CD; the inspiring is adjacent to the plain ordinary. Here is an unassuming, regular twenty-year-old writing lyrics of refreshing integrity.**

‘The Chronicles of a Bohemian Teenager’ was largely recorded in Duckworth’s Southend bedroom with the artwork covered in his juvenile scrawl. These songs nevertheless reveal great maturity: “I’m sick of making a show and telling people I know more than they needed to know.” His optimism is a nice alternative to the self-indulgence recently popularised by emo: “If they’re your friends they’ll share your vision, don’t let the people make you think that just because you’re young you’re useless.”

The album is book-ended by two excellent tracks. ‘Once More With Feeling’ and ‘The Chronicles of a Bohemian Teenager (Part One)’ are strong from the start; a gorgeous blend of acoustic, finger-picking guitar and electronic drum beats. Disappointingly, Duckworth’s vocals are too often weak and laboured. Musically and lyrically this album is excellent though sadly his voice grates. Duckworth is like the schoolboy show-off who knows the words to every song on the radio and has the misguided belief that everyone wants to hear this.

Yet despite his superhero moniker, Duckworth doesn’t claim to be anything more than ordinary: “If you took the time just to get a clue, then you’ll probably just realise I’m the same as you.” It’s much more fun to pretend though: Get Cape.Wear Cape. Fly.

## Fresh Meat Tastes Bland

ALBUM  
VEGA 4:YOU AND OTHERS  
BY CHRISTINE WILDE

**O n the merit of their credentials alone you can’t help but be impressed by Vega 4’s achievements. Their album ‘You And Others’ was produced by Garret Lee, the man responsible for the likes of Bloc Party, Editors and Snow Patrol. They won the Fresh Meat poll on Zane Lowe’s Radio 1 show and are currently touring with Boy Kill Boy. All of this before their CD has even be released. When finally getting around to listening to their music, you are greeted by the gentle yet catchy and uplifting track ‘You and Me’, which is definitely a good attempt at a first single.**

However, as the album progresses through the subsequent eleven tracks, you begin to crave a

little madness to relieve the sedative effect of the album.

The aim of the band was to create an album that was about “finding beauty in details”. Whilst this is a ridiculously soppy sentiment, they have succeeded to a certain extent as it is hard to argue against the lilting Irish vocals of lead singer Johnny McDaid layered over the inspiring instrumentals, especially on tracks like ‘Tearing Me Apart’.

Disappointingly the same formula is applied to each song, the result being an album that is quite repetitive, though interspersed with a few good tracks such as ‘Traffic Jam’. Although a solid effort for a first try, the obvious influence of bands such as *Joy Division*, *Editors* and *Interpol* ultimately means it lacks any true originality. It is a nice album, but if you are looking for the next big thing on the indie music scene, you may be disappointed.

## Albums

## Drawn in the U.K.

## ALBUM

BADLY DRAWN BOY: BORN IN THE UK

By AMY WILLIAMS

**D**amon Gough, a.k.a. Badly Drawn Boy, has one of the most irresistible voices in music. A strong statement, yes, but justifiable nonetheless. His effortless vocals, as showcased on previous albums, sound refreshingly different from the inundation of indie-rock bands.

The opening track 'Swimming Pool', features Gough's musings followed by an ethereal piano-

accompanying verse. This may put you under the impression that this album is somewhat soporific and depressing. However, following a quick, integrated blast of 'Land of Hope and Glory' the drums and guitars aid the blossoming album into an uplifting example of British indie music. He accomplishes this without crossing the line into nauseatingly cheerful.

New single 'Nothing's Gonna Change Your Mind', deals with slightly more gloomy lyrics whilst leaving the listener smiling at the

rising choruses and beautiful instrumentation.

'Without A Kiss' is arguably the most poignant and impressive song on the album, with searching lines such as "did you leave your mark on the world?". This melodic track shows his originality when it comes to tackling generic themes such as love. The track opens with pared down backing instrumentation, leaving Gough's haunting vocals and meaningful lyrics to dominate the song. Just as this begins to border on predictability, Gough



switches to a more rhythmically creative, percussion guided interlude, showing his ability to do more than simply conform to a listener's expectations.

Gough's distinctive vocal styling is consistent on all thirteen tracks of 'Born in the U.K.', but

his band's musical influences remain diverse. 'The Long Way Round', with its underlying hints of brass, is reminiscent of Burt Bacharach's 'Walk on By'. The penultimate track, 'Time of Times', adds another string to the Badly Drawn Boy bow with folk infused, infectious acoustic guitar

riffs and simple yet effective vocal harmonies. All this forces your fingertips to tap away at your desk. This may sound somewhat dated in today's musical climate, but influences like these can really add to the individuality of an album, and 'Born in the UK' is no exception.

## Slam the Brakes on

## ALBUM

BRAKES: THE BEATIFIC VISIONS

By IAN KEYTE

**B**rakes' debut album 'Give Blood' was a rollickingly fun album to listen to, full of sub-thirty second belters and tongue-in-cheek humour. Luckily the Brighton oddballs have not taken the joke too far and follow up 'The Beatific Visions' is a much more melodic affair with a distinctly softer tempo.

Much of their piss-taking and ironic wit has been replaced by shimmering acoustic ballads like 'If I Should Die Tonight' and 'Mobile Communication', which are both oozing with southern-fried twang. Slide-guitars are abundant on songs like 'Cease and Desist' and five-minute epic closer 'No Return' and vocalist Eamon Hamilton is noticeably more tuneful throughout. That's not to say that their weirdness and

satirical humour has deserted them completely. Tracks 'Spring Chicken' and particular favourite 'Porcupine or Pineapple' are both madder than a plane full of snakes. The latter also provides some welcome political bile as Hamilton shrieks "Who won the war? What the fuck was it for?"

Elsewhere, power-punk rockers like 'Margarita' and storming opener 'Hold Me In The

River' are equipped with more jagged riffs which more than make up for the absence of an indie disco anthem like 'Ring a Ding Ding' or 'All Night Disco Party' that livened up their debut.

If anyone had dismissed Brakes as a bunch of jokers before, they will certainly be silenced by the follow up, which showcases a fine set of musical credentials but still keeps its tongue firmly lodged in its cheek. A rare treat.



## A Slow Dance

## ALBUM

LIAM FROST &amp; THE SLOWDOWN FAMILY: SHOW ME HOW THE SPECTRES DANCE

By WILL VEITCH

**L**iam Frost & The Slowdown Family's album opens with one of the strongest tracks I have heard in a while, the luscious 'The City's At A Standstill'. A problem though with a lot of singer-songwriters' albums is that a couple of great tracks are interspersed with weak, introverted guff.

Liam Frost's album veers towards this territory but does manage to survive due to the strength of both his voice and lyrics, "There's no beginning only ends, you packed your things and left my house, too tired of sleeping on the couch, this town'll drag you down", often sparse depictions of northern living.

Tracks such as 'If We Could Only Sleep' and 'This Is Love' run the gauntlet of dullness, at

times precariously, and 'Is This Love?' is just too sparse, but 'She Painted Pictures' marches along on a military tattoo and 'Shall We Dance?' is driven by Frost's excellent harmonica line.

Reminiscent of Elliot Smith or perhaps The Crimea but immensely less irritating, Liam Frost and his Slowdown Family

occupy the acoustic territory that is perhaps overpopulated at the moment but more than hold their own. The final song 'Try Try Try' is a great closing salvo, employing the excellent Kathryn Edwards on backing vocals, and leaves you wanting more; overall a class offering.



## Singles

James Morrison: Wonderful World

By Chris Herbert

"I know it's a wonderful world, but I can't feel it now" sings James Morrison in his new single. After spending time listening to the song, I know how he feels. The lyrics sound as though they've been pinched out of a half-arsed shop-bought Valentine's Day card and Morrison's voice, far from being soulful as has been suggested in various reviews, is



bland and annoying. The Motown affectations of his backing band are also tiresome. Avoid.

Jet: Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

By Christine Wilde

Stylish rock crusaders Jet return with an exciting if unoriginal offering to the altar of pure rock 'n' roll. With plenty of raw power and a catchy tune this is classic Jet. For fans looking for the next 'Are You Gonna Be My Girl', this single will not live up to expectations, lacking originality and presence, though this solid, if uninspiring, track shows Jet still



have what it takes and promises of greater things to come.

Lorraine: Heaven

By Andrew Bain

Newborn student-targeted PR powerhouse delivers a dirge ostensibly in the style of an even meeker version of Spandau Ballet. Though devoid of any intrinsic wit, the song is worthy of a listen if only to discover that, yes, a band can be so lacking in talent as to appear to have been unconscious for two decades of musical change!



# Alternative Ulstermen

## GIGS

STIFF LITTLE FINGERS: LIVE AT THE DOME, MORECAMBE

BY WESTALY DUIGNAN

**D**riving along the darkened Promenade, Morecambe's sea-view boulevard, it became more and more apparent that going to a gig at the Dome was perhaps a rash decision. Could Mohawk dudes in leather coexist with the more wholesome citizens of Morecambe? The venue was a surprising choice for veteran punks *Stiff Little Fingers*, and unfortunately it proved to also be a detrimental one attracting only half of the crowd I would have expected.

After a lengthy delay the *Fingers* strode onto the stage amid loud applause and chants. I was wondering whether the somewhat ageing but nonetheless intimidating crowd would muster a mosh-pit suitable for the energy punk music inspires when the guitars fired up and a small surge towards the stage ensued, half full pint glasses flung enthusiastically into the air.

True to the purest form of the genre their unapologetic political punk fixates understandably on the violence and division in Northern Ireland which is as relevant today as it was in the '70s. Jake Burns' unfaltering vocals communicated exactly the same charismatic

aggression through welcomed favourites like 'Wasted Life' and 'Doesn't Make it Alright' while the crowd shouted along to 'At the Edge' and 'Tin Soldiers'. There were intermittent attempts at skanking and one or two invasions of the stage resulting in a call for "decorum" by the band with the retort, "you are the audience, we don't like you, you stay there and we'll stay here".

Newer material and the performance by lead guitarist, Ian McCallum, of one of his own beguiling songs ensured variety and illustrated the diversity of the current formulation of the band. Nostalgia was a feature of the evening with the proud return of original bassist, Ali McMordie, who had been absent for over a decade and a tribute to the late Joe Strummer, vocalist of *The Clash*. Their interaction with the fans was regular and genuine displaying none of the superiority which prevents some artists from conversing or the lack of imagination which delivers false compliments upon the crowd.

With several classics missing from the set an encore was predictable. The raw passion of and welcoming reaction to 'Barbed Wire Love' and 'Suspect Device' made the finish, for me, a highlight. The majority knew that a performance of their indisputable classic, 'Alternative Ulster' was a must; cue a second encore which received a divided



response between those who went crazy and those who perhaps felt a bit too cool to be that obvious (I can't comment reliably as I was in the former group). They performed like they had done it all a thousand times before, but are still loving it.

I exited the venue soaked in beer, smelling of an amalgamation of my own and potent topless men's sweat and with a satisfying ringing in my ears that would be with me for a few days yet. Punk, the underrated and forgotten genre that it is, was alive defying deprecation in this powerful performance by *Stiff Little Fingers*.

## Beautiful Technicians

### ALBUM

UNION OF KNIVES: VIOLENCE & BIRDSONG

BY WILL THACKER

**T**here are few greater challenges in music than to make techno sound beautiful, and to that end, *Union of Knives* should be applauded for trying. Informed by the electronic soundscapes of *Radiohead* and *Massive Attack*, the Glasgow trio's debut album 'Violence & Birdsong' is a marriage between grinding industrial beats and traditionally structured rock melodies.

Progressive and ambitious in scope, for all the back patting at the mixing desk it's the song writing that lets the album down. The electro fuzz of 'Operated On' is the high point, before the pounding of programmed drums on 'I Decline' and the inoffensive single 'Taste for Harmony' struggle to break through the

realm of coffee-table music. At a time when modern rock artists take fewer risks and derive plenty from the past, 'Violence & Birdsong' represents a reactionary embrace of electronic ideas in an attempt to sound relevant.

For the most part Craig Grant's vocals recall Thom Yorke to the point of imitation. The

experimental ideas of *Aphex Twin* and *Nine Inch Nails* are co-opted and replaced with something altogether more generic. But where *Aphex Twin* had innovation and *Nine Inch Nails* had sex appeal, *Union of Knives* have neither. And so moderate indie is granted its stay of execution, with the world no nearer to knowing who will sing its dirge.



## Strangers in the Night

### ALBUM

SCOTT MATTHEWS: PASSING STRANGERS

BY CHRIS HERBERT

**I**t'd be easy to dismiss Scott Matthews as yet another dull singer-songwriter, thrown out into the world to capitalise on the current fashion of boring idiots singing boring songs whose albums are snapped up by boring people whose music shopping doesn't extend beyond Tesco's.

You'd have to be a boring idiot yourself to dismiss Matthews. However, as his debut album, 'Passing Stranger', is a wonderfully eclectic collection of folk songs whose imagination and detail set him apart from Messrs Blunt, Morrison and Powter. Matthews' mellifluous voice and delicate guitar playing lend themselves beautifully to his melancholic lyrics, and on the album's quieter moments he is reminiscent of Nick Drake.



Feted over the last year by the motor-mouth DJ Zane Lowe and his Radio 1 colleague, Jo Whiley, there are, early on in the album, apparent concessions to the need to appeal to mainstream radio in order to sell more albums. 'Dream Song' and 'Fool's Fooling Himself' are catchy pop songs, propelled along by a raw rhythm section and Matthews' strong voice. The songs on the album, like on records by the likes of Sufjan Stevens, are separated by short instrumental tracks which lend what could otherwise

have been an overly eclectic collection coherency. The more introspective tracks on the latter half of the record are superb. The single 'Elusive' is a pretty paean to loneliness, whilst 'Earth To Calm' and 'White Feathered Medicine' are songs that with their anguish and anxiety, bring to mind some of Elliot Smith's more depressing works.

A mixed-bag for sure, but 'Passing Strangers' eclecticism and ambition should be admired in a world full of staid record company 'products'.

## Singles

Keane: Nothing In My Way

By Ian Keyte

In a surprising change of direction, Keane have recorded this rampaging speed-metal anthem equipped with a twelve-minute guitar solo and Tom Chaplin singing about murdering small puppies. Only joking, I just made that up to make Keane sound interesting. 'Nothing In My Way' is in fact the same old whining drivel that we've become used to. Attempting to be as epic as



Coldplay's 'Politik', the song falls flat the moment Chaplin opens his mouth.

The Magic Numbers: Take a Chance

By Penny Lawton

Here comes *The Magic Numbers'* new single, yawn! The same tedious style is too easy on the ear, and only highlights how they fail to venture out of a safe range. 'Take a Chance' offers a feel-good summer pop song to our darkening nights, it shows no development since their last album, so fans, don't get too excited.



The View: Superstar Tradesman

By Ian Keyte

What do you get if you cross a Kook, an Arctic Monkey and a Zuton? Actually there are multiple answers to that question, one of which is severe brain damage but the answer I was looking for was *The View*. 'Superstar Tradesman' provides us with more tiresome, formulaic riffs supplemented with a rousing yet incomprehensible chorus. An indie kid's wet dream but



a rational thinking person's nightmare.

## GIG LISTINGS

30/10 LULUMS Open Mic Night  
@ Fibber McGees

30/10 Audry + Musika 77 + The Maud + Uncle Jeff  
@Yorkshire House

1/11 Songwriters Showcase  
@Yorkshire House

1/11 Little Man Tate  
Preston 53 Degrees

2/11 Citizens Band  
@Grad Bar

3/11 Lancaster Homeless Action Gig

3/11 Howard Marx  
Preston 53 Degrees

4/11 RYNA + 2 TBC  
@Pendle Bar

5/11 The Paddingtons  
@Preston 53 Degrees

6/11 Open Mic Night  
@Fibber McGees

8/11 The Flaming Lips  
@Blackpool Empress Ballroom

9/11  
Electric Mudd  
@Grad Bar

9/11 Veda Hille + Sharron Kraus + Shady Bard  
+ Rob Holden  
@Yorkshire House

## Local Acts

By Joe Beech  
LULUMS Events Coordinator

**F**reshers' week in Lancaster for many means two things: drunkenness and debauchery. But I'm not much of a drinker; a £600 week of binge drinking in my freshers' week, four days in Lancaster Infirmary and a case of alcohol induced acute pancreatitis saw to that. No, my vice lies with music and in the first few weeks the town of Lancaster made me merrier than Shane MacGowan at a pint-drinking contest. These are the acts that caught my eye.

First on the agenda was Lancaster's very own *Beat the Radar*, a local favourite that never fails to disappoint, who played at Toast with support from *The Last Song Is The Loudest*. BTR are, to me, the wet dream of *Smashing Pumpkins* and *Incubus* fans alike who as well as being the best looking outfit in town offer



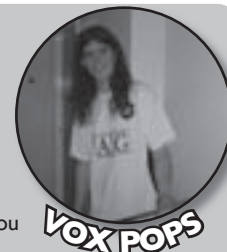
melodic rock to dance, weep and make love to. However, They are currently looking for a new

front-person so if you're a budding or experienced vocalist (male or female) and think you can "fill Danni's heels" then get in contact with the band at [beattheradar@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:beattheradar@hotmail.co.uk).

On Sunday I donned my finest dancing shoes to go to one of the more bizarre live music nights in town at the Lancaster Library in some sort of abomination of traditional library "quiet" rules. Over the past few months the Library in town has been host to bands such as *The Long Blondes* and *The Crimea* with indie stars promoting the Library's music and movie rental section. First to take the stage were *The Hot Puppies*, having just come off tour with *The Pipettes*, showing off their new album 'Under the Crooked Moon' who, in their teasingly short but spectacular set seduced the audience then left them broken hearted and destitute with leading lady Becky Newman wailing melancholy tales of married men, green eyeliner and despair to some sort of vaudevillian disco beat.

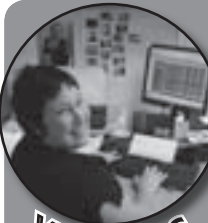
The second band on were *Field Music* who despite an element of indie-cool and quality musicianship (unsurprisingly considering past members include *Maximo Park's* Tom English and Barry and Peter from the *Futureheads*) failed somewhat to deliver any real hooks that these bands thrive on and made the set generally quite incoherent and inaccessible to the less-than-über-indie music lover. Nonetheless a bit of high profile indie stardom's been what this town's missing and even with the sorely missed absence of last years promoters, *Feedback*, the scene's thriving more that ever with top nights worth checking out from Hamcaster, L.A.W.M, ZZZ Promotions, Transition and of course, your very own Pendle Bar.

**Name:** Ben Gill  
**College:** County  
**Year:** 2nd Year  
**Found:** Playing Pool  
**Favourite tracks:**  
1) *Status Quo* - Caroline  
2) *Pink Floyd* - Wish you were here  
3) *RHCP* - Anything off *Stadium Arcadium*



VOXPOPS

**Looks for:**  
"Guitar based music that makes me feel good Who wants to be depressed?"



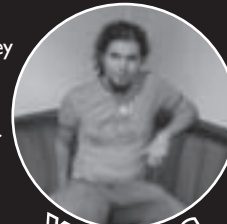
**Name:** Sooz Palmer  
**College:** Cartmel  
**Year:** 4th  
**Found:** In Her Office

**Favourite tracks**  
1) *Kylie Minogue* - Your Disco Needs You  
2) *The Hughes Corporation* - Rock the Boat  
3) *Gonzalez* - Haven't stopped dancing yet

VOXPOPS

**Looks for:**  
"It's gotta be 80's disco or power ballad based."

**Name:** Michael Cooney  
**College:** Grizedale  
**Year:** 2nd  
**Found:** In Furness Bar



VOXPOPS

**Favourite tracks:**  
1) *Pendulum* - Slam  
2) *Trivium* - Anthem  
3) *Johnny Cash* - Ring Of Fire

**Looks for:**  
"A band doing something new."

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# "I really didn't want to like this book"

BOOKS  
*WILD HORSE DIARIES*  
AUTHOR: LIZZIE SPENDER  
BY HAYLEY MYERS

**I really didn't want to like this book. I've always been dubious of horses ever since one threw me at the rim of the Grand Canyon, but it surprised me.**

This book is based on the real life events of Lizzie Spender, daughter of poet Sir Stephen Spender. Spender is an actress, a writer and the horses in this book belong to her. The book focuses on Lizzie's lifelong dream to own a horse, and how she goes about achieving her dream. Lizzie first sees these wild horses from a helicopter,

and is half jokingly offered one as a gift. Most of the book is concerned with catching a n d

attempting to tame these wild horses which roam the Kimberley Desert in Australia.

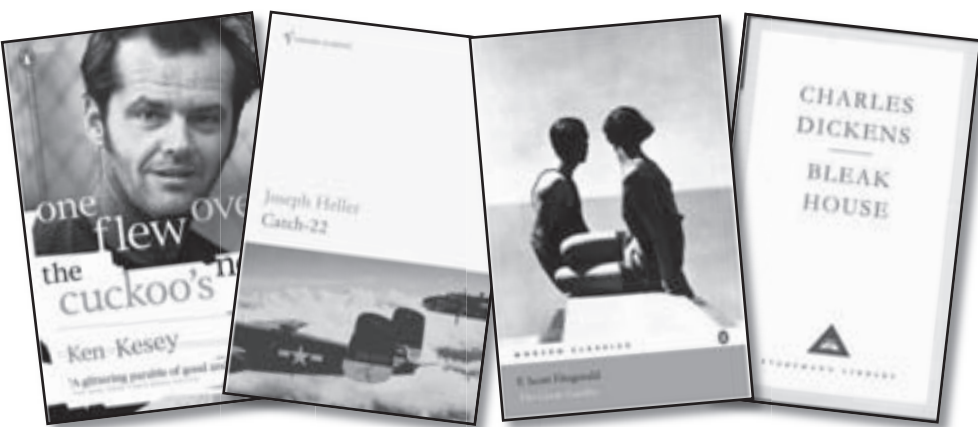
The book is not as sentimental as I had anticipated. Spender is candid about the less glamorous side of the venture; from removing frogs out of toilets, to the astronomical costs involved, and even the fact that the horses are often stubborn, and not necessarily affectionate. Spender obviously has a great deal of knowledge about horses and has spent much of her life around them. However, this can be alienating, especially her use of technical terminology.

The portrayal of the Australian landscape, especially the inclusion of the photographs and maps helps to show that way of life in the remote desert area is interesting and evocative. Nevertheless, she spends far too much time describing how she agonised over the decision to go ahead with the venture, which detracts from the overall story.

On the whole the book was better than I had anticipated, however I would not recommend it to anyone who is not interested in horses, or has little basic knowledge of riding or horse breeds.



## Litfest Is Coming To Town



LANCASTER LITFEST  
15TH-19TH NOVEMBER  
THE DUKES

**LITFEST, one of the major events in Lancaster's literary calendar mixes established writers with fresh emerging voices. One of the main attractions from last year's festival was Carol Ann Duffy reading from her latest collection Rapture, and Lancaster University's own George Green.**

This year's line up is an enticing range of top

novelists, short fiction prose and contemporary poets. Highlights include The League of Gentlemen's Jeremy Dyson reading from his debut novel, plus Andrew O'Hagan and James Robertson, both of whom are in the running for this year's Man Booker Prize.

It is well worth visiting The Dukes to hear literature come alive for this festival.

For more information please visit [www.litfest.org](http://www.litfest.org).

## Finger Lickin' Good

BOOKS  
*THE MAN WHO ATE BLUEBOTTLES*  
AUTHOR: CATHERINE CAUFIELD  
BY BETH HARPER

**C**hristmas isn't far away and you're probably thinking of what on earth you can buy various friends and relatives. This book could well be the answer. Lots of people will enjoy this mini -encyclopaedia of eccentric British folk which documents the interesting lives of many unconventional people, from John Alington, who dedicated a large portion of time to his servants' education, to Alfred Daniel Wintle, who desperately tried to maintain an English lifestyle- donning a monocle and an unopened umbrella (a true gentleman never unfurls his umbrella).

It's extremely difficult to read this book without laughing out loud at the heart-warming stories of madmen that inhabited our country like William Cussans, who kept a vow of silence for six months just for the fun of it, asked a tailor to cut up his coat and sew it onto his waistcoat and tipped a pitcher of water over his head in a coffee shop.

The book is named after William Buckland who used to eat incredibly weird things, like bluebottles and moles, but strangest of all, the heart of Louis XIV! Something tells me

this wouldn't have sold as many copies being called 'The Man Who Ate Royal Hearts.'

Every time I picked up this book to have a browse through, I always found someone even more unusual to read about. Individuality is something people nowadays crave and this is like a little dictionary of tips on how to be truly 'out there'. A thoroughly enjoyable read and perfect for a Christmas present.



## A Very Bad Idea

MAGAZINES  
*BAD IDEA MAGAZINE*  
QUARTERLY £4.50  
BY CATHERINE FEARN

**O**ne day last week whilst browsing through the magazine section of my local Borders, I came across a most intriguing publication. In amongst a plethora of junk mail and celebrity-endorsed magazines was a front page only glossiness came from a shining pool of blood oozing from the arm of a man lying in an operating theatre. Underneath the scrawled drawing ran the title, 'Down and Out in Moscow', followed by a snippet of the full length article.

Turning it over in my hands, it felt more like a sleek book than something which resembled a scrap book. Enticed by this, and the magazine's tagline, 'Modern Storytelling', I parted with almost a fiver and took it home with me.

Bad Idea, it turned out, was to be no ordinary magazine. The tale of Bad Idea's conception seems almost revolutionary when surrounded by the jaded narratives of low brow culture in *Heat* or *Now*. Almost like a contemporary *Strand Magazine*, readers themselves are invited to send in their stories, articles, cartoons, anecdotes and examples of photojournalism.

Contributors have to be deftly articulate with an allowance of a few hundred words per article. From a story about the rise of Death Metal in Tel Aviv, to the explosion of Mormonism in unsuspecting Brighton, Bad Idea has a broad range of tales musing about contemporary life.

Usually bad ideas involve some element of risk, and the publishers of Bad Idea have taken a gamble in promoting a new magazine that won't appeal to the popular masses. But this is exactly what makes it so appealing; it's the kind of journalism which should enthuse students, especially those in the creative arts, to try something different.

Available from all major UK bookstores: Borders, Waterstones, WH Smith, independent bookstores and gallery shops. For more information see [www.badidea.co.uk](http://www.badidea.co.uk)





# ACCOMMODATION TALKS IN YOUR COLLEGE

Mon wk4 : County, Great Hall, 1pm

Mon wk4 : Fylde, Faraday LT, 6pm

Thurs wk4 : Grizedale, Barker House Farm, 1pm

Thurs wk4 : Pendle, George Fox LT1, 6pm

# Cracking Stuff

LOCAL THEATRE  
**THE NUTCRACKER**  
 THE GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER  
 BY AMY WILLIAMS

**W**ith its simple yet appealingly magical storyline, *The Nutcracker* remains one of the most famous and well-loved ballets today, having first been performed in 1892.

During the first act, fifteen-year-old Clara is presented with a wooden nutcracker doll as a Christmas present from her godfather, and is amazed when the doll is transformed into a real prince. The second act shows the prince and Clara's journey to the Kingdom of Sweets, where all the characters dance to celebrate the couple's happiness.

**“I was soon swept away by the elegance and professionalism of the European Ballet company.”**

Although initially disappointed that Tchaikovsky's beautiful score was merely represented by a musical recording rather than by orchestral accompaniment, I was soon swept away by the elegance and professionalism of the European Ballet company.

The director, Stanislav Tchassov, certainly did justice to this timeless arrangement, with choreography to fully exploit the individual personalities of each character. It would be all too easy to render this ballet somewhat ridiculous, with its more fanciful scenes such as the fight between the Mouse King and the nutcracker soldiers, but Tchassov ensured the balance between comic character work and impressive dance was maintained.



Those who have visited Lancaster Grand Theatre will be aware that the stage is quite small, and this seemed to hinder some of the more complex routines involving the twelve members of the company, to the degree that more than one member of the audience winced every time the dancers neared the edge of the stage.

**“This was an excellent performance of *The Nutcracker*, suitable for both serious ballet fans and those who fancy an unusual evening out.”**

However, this did not detract from the obvious talent of the company, particularly Clara (Polina Petkova) and the prince (Vincent Cabot), who brought life and personality to each dance.

This was an excellent performance of *The Nutcracker*, suitable for both serious ballet fans and those who fancy an unusual evening out.

Ultimately this is a ballet with scenes that showcase many different cultures, including Chinese, Spanish and Indian, reminding the audience of its well deserved significance on today's stage.

# Revolution

## Tuesdays

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## Eu-Reeker!

DVD  
**REEKER (15)**  
 DIRECTED BY DAVE PAYNE  
 BY BETH HARPER



I wasn't expecting much from this film. I am generally unimpressed by modern horror movies, especially slasher-style films that involve a group of teenagers on their way to a big party driving through the middle of nowhere. *Reeker* both simultaneously surprised and validated this original expectation.

In keeping with the generic plot, the characters were very stereotypical of this genre; party-girl Cookie, straight-laced Gretchen, drug-stealing Trip, surfer-dude Nelson and the wise blind man, Jack. Disappointingly the scare factor was minimal to say the least.

In a society where realism is preferred, this film needed to push itself to an extreme and have all the blood and guts exaggerated to the extent of horrors such as *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, or play it from a more convincing, realistic angle. Yet it is important to mention that the character of *Reeker* succeeded in being creepy.

I spent the next day trying to get my head around the twist at the end and have now realised that the concept of the film is actually very clever. It is a shame that a good idea had to be bogged down by bad acting, music that

doesn't really fit with the scenes and a set of stock characters. Watch *Reeker* with a group of friends, if you fancy a laugh, but if you miss any of the bland dialogue, you may miss the entire plot.

## Slap, Tickle, Rock

DVD  
**Rock S'Cool (15)**  
 BY VICKY ROBERTS

As a girl not too up on her hard rock, I still like to dabble in all music genres. This DVD opened up my 'rock' area, showing me what the bands look like and what type of things they're into. The only problem is that when I was moshing along I'd glance at the telly and see an aging rocker who looked like my dad.

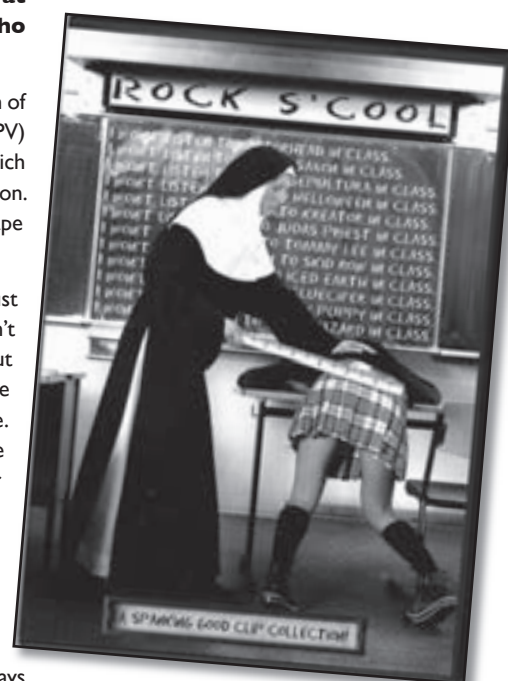
The DVD though shows an impressive collection of artists (all on the record label Steamhammer/SPV) although none of the bands are too similar which makes this an intelligently crafted compilation. Tommy Lee sits alongside Skid Row who share tape space with *Raging Speedhorn*.

The mix of videos is also good because it just doesn't get boring. The majority of them aren't going to be winning awards any time soon, but some are at least intriguing or even a little disturbing; *Saxon's Beyond The Grave* for example. I think some of the videos though might have been better if the band hadn't been in them, or perhaps had their faces covered *Slipknot* style.

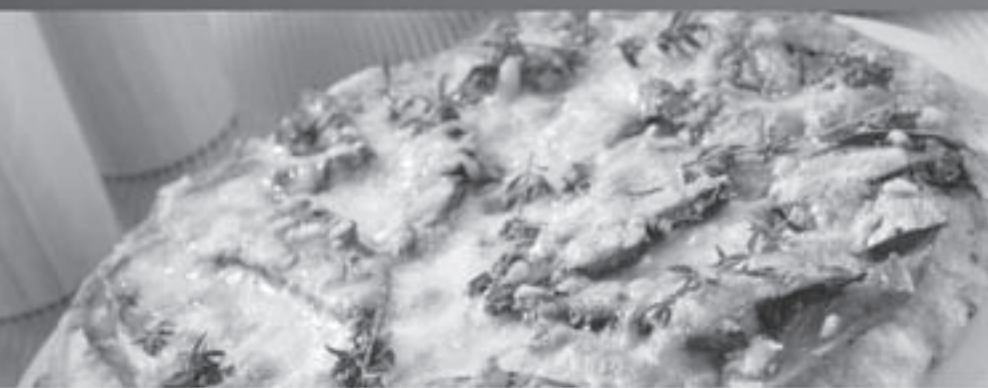
I liked the classic oldies on this DVD the best, even though looking at them was a struggle! To sort this little problem out, the label is bringing out a CD with about a third of the songs from the DVD on. This means you can always

listen cheerfully without ever seeing the bands themselves.

To sum *Rock S'Cool* up, I'd have to say that it's a weird yet wonderful collection, which is worth a look if just for the video of *Motorhead's* now famous rendition of 'God Save the Queen'!



# VERDES



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# Freak Me

## BOOKS

**FOOTBALL FREAKING**  
AUTHOR: GARY RIMMER  
BY NICK RENSHAW

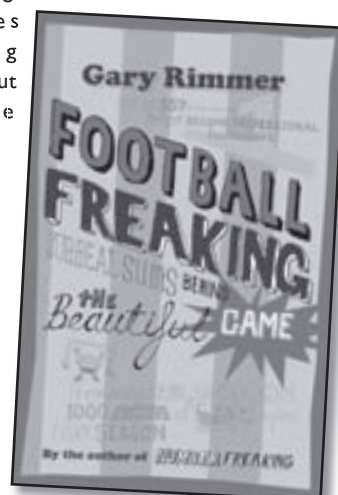
**W**ant to know where the term clean sheet came from? Which referee shot a manager? Well Gary Rimmer has the answer to these questions and more in *Football Freaking*. Following on from his last book *Number Freaking*, Rimmer has applied his unique statistical skills to football. He shows us how many kippers it would take to buy Wayne Rooney (12,857,143), how much Rio Ferdinand earns brushing his teeth (£41.76) and reveals that there are more countries in FIFA than in the U.N.

The book was released just prior to the World Cup, and as such features a host of world cup facts. Part of the book sees him predicting all the recent world cup scores using factors such as population, world ranking and the relative expense of the teams' airfares to the competition! Not surprisingly his results were not that accurate (he predicted England would end up third) but make interesting reading.

The rest of the book contains stats on anything and everything related to football, from which league has the highest goals per game average to how much the current world cup trophy

is worth. Many of the stats contained in the book are downright random (Elvis has 24 times more biographies written about him than David Beckham) but Rimmer does use his statistical skills to raise some good points about the amount of money involved in the game in the modern age - on average a Chelsea player earns in 7 minutes what a Pakistani football stitcher earns in 7 days.

If you don't like stats or football then stay well clear, otherwise *Football Freaking* makes an interesting, sometimes fun and sometimes bemusing read, but worthwhile nonetheless.



# Linguistically Lethal

## BOOKS

**THE MEANING OF TINGO**  
AUTHOR: ADAM JACOT DE BOINOD  
BY WILL VEITCH

**W**hilst I am as pissed off as I hope everyone else is about the Christmas lights being up in Lancaster ALREADY (unless they are Eid or Divali lights which would be awesome but I think unlikely), it really is never too early to be thinking about what to buy people. This is especially potent if like me you are on a student budget which this term has had to stretch to a bus pass and fresher's week already.

Adam Jacot de Boinod's (great name huh!?) book could be the answer to your prayers. Ostensibly it is just a book about words and, unless you are a linguist of the very duller nature, this would not be particularly appealing.

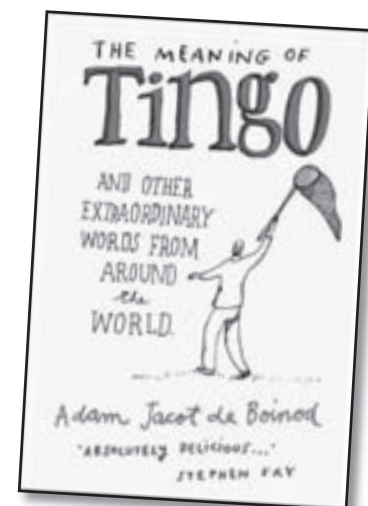
In reality though it is almost an adult joke book for the modern world. A point in case: If a German tells you he is "playing the insulted liver sausage" what does he mean? Well campers, he means he is sulking- literally his bottom lip is sticking out like a sausage!

Equally this book reminds those of you who had forgotten, that there are 27 words for moustache in Albanian, and another 27 for eyebrows (it's all in the details you see).

My personal favourite, and I must admit it's sexist,

is *bakku-shan*, a Japanese phrase for a woman who appears pretty when seen from behind but not so attractive when seen from the front. If only there was one for the disappointment of meeting a good-looking man only to find out he's a complete wanker. Shucks.

You see, this book is full of little insights into the hidden gems that cultural translation has to offer. I hope to hear some of them in common usage by this time next year. Incidentally, 'tingo' means, "To remove items from a friend's house one by one until there is nothing left." Genius.



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## DEBATE CORNER

**Last Issue's topic: The film 'World Trade Center'. What are your thoughts on the film? Is it another typical Hollywood movie or a fair representation of events?**

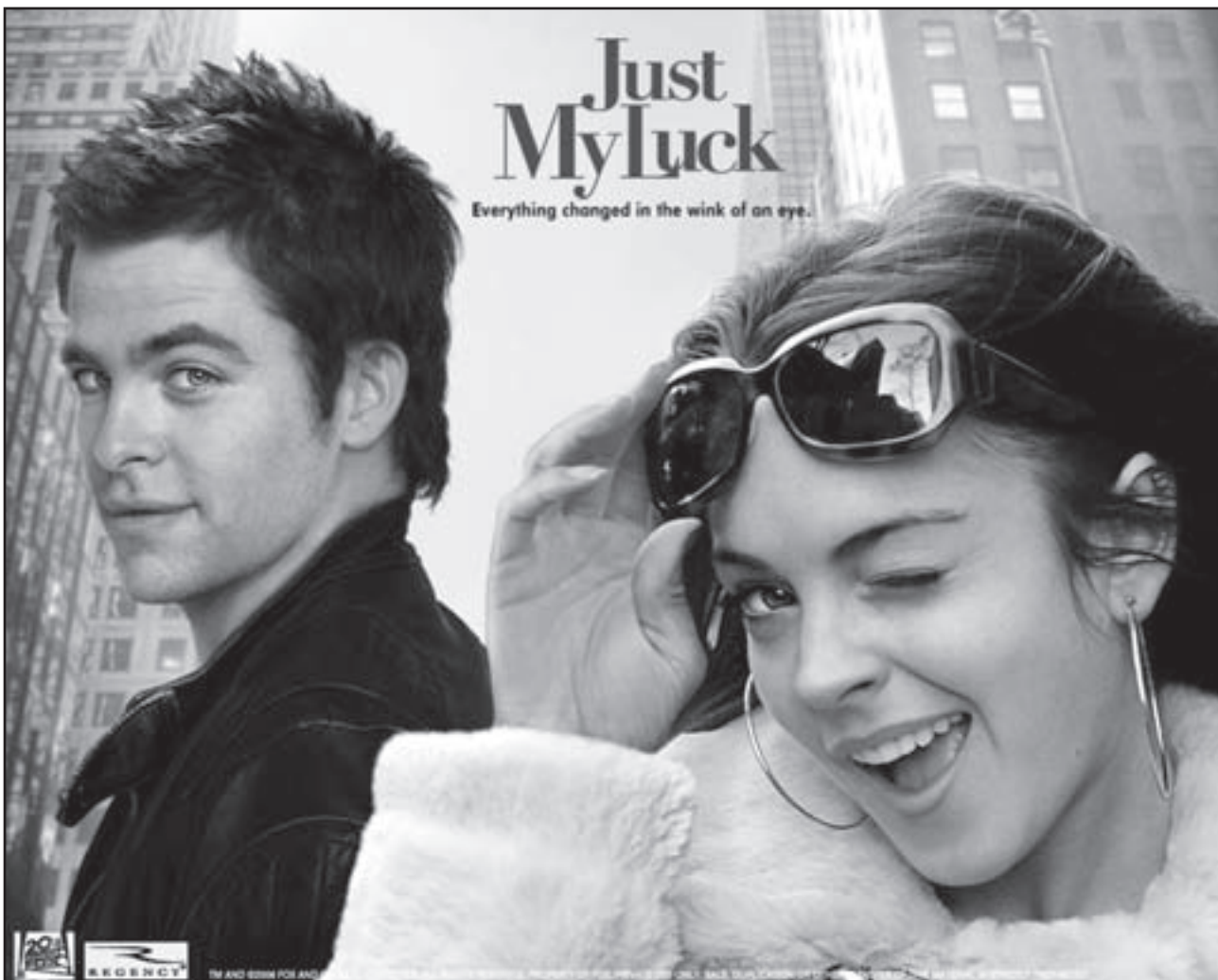
"I think that as this terrible incident only occurred just over five years ago it is insensitive to make a film about events which are still fresh painful memories to many people." Rachael Dunn

"From a narrative point of view 'World Trade Center' is an accurate representation, yet the film had to be done using linear time and a chronological sequence of events to prevent any uproar about it being sensationalised. However, I do believe that the film does detract from the issue on the ground. The very idea of having a central protagonist automatically tries to align the audience's empathy. This is not just one person's story and shouldn't have been depicted with such a strong central point, especially if that central point is Nicholas Cage. In my opinion the very making of this film was unnecessary." Jemma Smith

"I think it is disgusting that Hollywood looks to profit from events so tragic and which are still to some extent unexplained. That a story of so many can be distilled into the plight of just a few seems insensitive at best and whereas United 93 served to highlight the tragedy from the point of view of those involved (real phone conversations and interviews with loved ones were used), *World Trade Center* seems to be just another excuse to remind America how great America is." Farzan Eslami

"I would hope that the director would be able to find a happy medium between the facts of 9/11 and the poetic license that makes Hollywood Hollywood. However I hope Oliver Stone (director) would urge the viewing public to be active in their viewing and realise that fundamentally it is just a movie." Pete Watt

"While the events that transpired in the tragic 9/11 incident were quite clearly horrific and shocking, the making of this film represents perhaps a return to the days when Hollywood was less concerned with money-making and more interested in entertaining. There are thousands of films out there that look at the tragic history of events. There are films about famine, rape, genocide, murder and abomination. While 9/11 was a tragedy it is no different to telling one of these historical stories, it is just that these events are chronologically closer to home, and ring louder in our ears than anything before." Paula O'Neil



FILM

**Just My Luck (15)**

**STARRING: LINDSAY LOHAN, CHRIS PINE, BREE TURNER AND SAMAIRE ARMSTRONG**

**DIRECTED BY DONALD PETRIE**

**By AMY WILLIAMS**

**Just My Luck stars Lindsay Lohan as Ashley Albright, a character who, as observed by her friends Dana (Bree Turner) and Maggie (Samaire Armstrong), was 'whacked good and hard' by the lucky stick.**

Always able to make the best of any situation, and sickeningly familiar with her boss and neighbours alike, Ashley has never really experienced an unlucky day. But all this is about to change when she meets the hapless Jake (Chris Pine) at a masquerade ball and accidentally transfers her infallible success to him via a kiss, inadvertently gaining his appallingly bad luck in return. The result is a film largely dependent on the audience's response to traditional physical comedy, in the slapstick tradition of Laurel and Hardy.

It isn't until Ashley Albright's good fortune takes a nose dive that Lohan actually becomes quite a likeable figure in the film, and it is

hard to resist the endearing, seemingly ill-fated romance between Ashley and Jake.

Of course the film also represents the acting debut of British band McFly, who prove to be fairly wooden during the feature presentation, yet very relaxed and chatty in their behind the scenes take of the film included in the DVD extras. Also included are revealing interviews with main cast members, and many insights into the creative processes of the witty director, Donald Petrie.

As a big (albeit closet) fan of *Mean Girls* and *Freaky Friday*, I must admit to being disappointed with *Just My Luck*, as a poor example of Lohan's ability to portray accessible characters. However, even for those who strongly dislike the actress, there are some terrific comedy moments at the expense of the well-groomed protagonists that begin to compensate for any previous loss of appeal.

DVD

**FAMILY GUY (15)**

**SEASON 5**

**By DAN JAMES**

**What the deuce? Family Guy is back. Kicking off with a jovial Bin Laden, the series immediately descends into chaotic irony. There's a haphazard A Team impersonation, Peter realises he's fat (who would have noticed?) and starts his own church dedicated to the Fonz.**

Our family guy also turns up at a high school reunion posing as a 'cowboy astronaut millionaire,' before moving the family to London, where the English take the worst battering I have ever seen in American comedy.

Apparently we have an American Football team that dances round maypoles, and television as exciting as the word 'condensation.'

You will be glad to hear celebrities take their fair share of abuse in this series. 'Jessica Alba' is practically synonymous with 'sex' throughout. Julia Roberts boldly acknowledges the fact that 'many people died in the tsunami, but I didn't,' and Renee Zelleweger and her 'scrunched up face' make for a convincing aardvark.

As always, the show uses Simpsonsque irony, but typically carries on the jokes that bit too long. Therein, I feel lies the show's beauty. It manages to spoof the spoof in a way that is at times completely surreal.

Hardcore fans have accused creator McFarlane of putting too much effort into American Dad, and seeking quantity not quality with Family Guy. Indeed, the series does seem to get less funny as it goes along. I suppose this is due to each show's similarity in format. Nevertheless, its brutal un-PC approach is still, well, brutal, and frequently succeeds in hitting pop culture where it hurts.



## BOWLAND

**B**owland managed to win all there matches against Grizedale in the George Wyatt Trophy, as well as performing well in the carter shield keeping us in first position.

Last week we celebrated our social by having a charity event dedicated to breast cancer care, with JCR members offering themselves to be auctioned as well as some great prizes in our raffle we raised money that will be sent to a good cause. Next week Bowland will be having a karaoke night which we hope you can all come down to take part.

## CARTMEL

**T**he Fresher's Dinner was a complete success and the food was actually rather nice this time around- especially the chocolate pudding! We had three bands play for us including Big Baby Ernie an awesome jazz act.

We've had many a social in the last few weeks including bar crawls, a Playstation tournament and a Mexican party. Halloween is obviously the next big one tomorrow. Cartmel shall be haunting our local; Revs! See what I did there?

## COUNTY

**N**ever fear Halloween is here! So put on your best fancy dress, throw your coursework back under the bed where it belongs and head down to the bar for a night of silliness.

However if dressing up like an extra from Shaun of the Dead doesn't appeal to you and you feel your superior university brain deserves better, then County quiz is the place to be. Every Sunday starting at 8, it's that good even Cartmel have started coming. There's always lots going on, just have a quick look at [www.lusu.co.uk/county](http://www.lusu.co.uk/county)

## FURNESS

**T**omorrow we have a Halloween Party in the Bar, (all welcome by the way), and plans are also coming together for the 15 hour bar crawl. This is of course the most eagerly anticipated social event of the year, our famous mammoth bar crawl from midday to 3am.

In other news, a new society has recently formed in one of our blocks. Known only as the Aldingham Alcohol Appreciation society, or A.A.A., it isn't yet clear if they will be given the official society status from LUSU in time for refreshers' fair in January. There was some talk of sending out the wrong message, but this is all rumours.

Netball captains Laura and Caz have been pushing the team hard, but denied rumors that they would be upping the training sessions to nine times a week. John from social sec fame is the new B team football captain. This year promises to take Furness to new sporting heights. We'll see.

## FYLDE

**H**alloween is approaching with eerie speed, and Fylde JCR will be decked out again with some of the best decorations on campus.

In preparation for the legendary Fylde gallon challenge of lent term, a group of Fyldeans from House 65 Clifton engaged in a milk version of the challenge. After being bet by their freshers rep a nights worth of drinks if they drank all eight pints of milk, they proceeded to carry out the challenge, with only one ignominious failure. You know who you are...

## GRIZEDALE

**V**icky Stockton, a Graduate student formerly of Grizedale tragically passed away while at home over the summer. A memorial service was held at the Chaplaincy Centre last Saturday where students gathered to pay their final respects.

Vicky was a sports rep in Grizedale and was an active member on both JCR and SCR. On behalf of Grizedale College and Lancaster University, she will be forever missed.

## LONSDALE

**I**n recent weeks it has been reported that an unusually large percentage of Lonsdale students have become homesick and have fled back to the safety of mother's bosom.

## PENDLE

**N**ot known for their ability to put pen to paper, it comes as no surprise that the Pendle massif have failed to submit any content.

If anyone does have any stories, concerning any college, please email [scan@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:scan@lancaster.ac.uk)

## GRADUATE

**T**hings are beginning to move along well in the College, with many activities being formed through and outside the GSA. Tiffin, organises a food delivery service, with the Indian community, every night, and is drawing in undergraduates as well as postgraduates.

A Sunday lunch club as emerged, but the food lovers organising it are still debating on what time on a Sunday to actually gather, as 12 noon is a little early for some folk. The coach trips have gone down a treat, with two packed coaches to Chester, and halloween special to Whitby coming up. Their are other trips to Liverpool, Edinburgh and of course the York St Nicholas Fayre in late November is a must.

One of the more bizarre, though useful, groups to emerge is the feminist knitting and crafts discussion group. It is open to men, and is a chance to sit in a bar, discuss issues, have a drink and basically knit! There are GSA elections coming up too. This is very important, as sadly one or two fools still feel that students need a 'managerial' hand. Please get involved, it's your College after all!

### GREAT GRAD OFFER

A weekend Trip to Dublin, Friday 17-19 Nov. £95 (includes coach & ferry transport, two nights accommodation and breakfast). Get tickets from the GSA office or Jane Hulland in the Grad porters lodge. This trip is open to all students (post and undergrad) and staff. For more information please contact Anita at [gsa\\_assistant@hotmail.com](mailto:gsa_assistant@hotmail.com)

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# Wing Chun Go To China



By Tom Hargreaves

Lancaster University Wing Chun Society

**H**ello from the Wing Chun kung fu society. I'm just here to give you a little insight into what the Wing Chun society get up to and where I've been this summer. For starters what is Wing Chun? Wing Chun is a martial art style practised throughout the world. It uses fast punching and simple blocks to overwhelm one's opponent.

Wing Chun follows the principles of the centre line theory, put simply this means that you should always protect the centre of your body as along this centreline down your body is your throat, eyes, nose and many other vital points. Also we attack our opponent's centreline. Anyway there is a little bit of the theory behind Wing Chun, if you fancy learning a bit more just come on down to county south lecture theatre at 7:30 on a Sunday or Tuesday. Your first lesson is free. Wing Chun is suitable for anyone. You don't need to be strong or fit to practise it, as wing chun uses techniques which deflect the energy of your opponent rather than absorbing it like traditional styles. Also Wing Chun uses a two-way energy principle. This just means that sometimes we pull our opponents towards us while hitting them to get double the effect.

The other reason I'm writing this article (the first reason being to promote wing chun) is to tell everyone about how brilliant my summer was. This summer some of the Lancaster wing chun

students and I went to China and Hong Kong with Master Samuel Kwok and some of his other students from around UK and Europe. Master Samuel Kwok is the instructor at Lancaster and is the international representative of the two wing chun grandmasters Ip Chun and Ip Ching (that means he's really good).

In Hong Kong we met Grandmaster Ip Chun and did some training with his students. We also went to the University of Hong Kong and trained with the students of the wing chun society there. In china we went to the Shi Cha Hai sports school in Beijing, where the Chinese Wu shu team practise, it is also where Jet Li was trained. We took part in a demonstration of wing chun and were treated to a demonstration of wu shu. After the demos we showed the wu shu students some wing chun techniques and received some wu shu tuition in return. The reason behind this exchange was to promote wing chun in northern China.

Our tour guide gave us an extensive insight into Beijing and Chinese culture - including visits to the Forbidden City, Summer Palace and the Temple of Heaven, The Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square and a tour of Hutong (a traditional Chinese village). We also went to a place called Foshan, this is where the late Grandmaster of Wing Chun comes from. His name was Ip man and his two sons are now the grandmasters. We visited his museum in Foshan where we learned of how he has promoted the style throughout the world through his students, such as Bruce Lee.

If you are interested in learning wing chung, finding out about martial arts experts or trips to China then come down and join up. I hope to see you on Sunday.



## Local Man Elected

**A** local man has been chosen to represent the area at an important national event. Richard Fusco of Lancaster will be delegate from the north west at the U.K. Bahá'í convention, which takes place in May next year.

The election took place when members of the Bahá'í Faith from Lancashire gathered in Preston for their area convention on Sunday 15 October. This was one of ninety-five such gatherings taking place all over the U.K. It brought the Bahá'ís together to look at the work and progress of their community and take stock for the year ahead. Since the Faith has no clergy, or individuals in positions of personal leadership, gatherings such as this have a key role to play in giving all members the chance to share their views and ideas.

Mr. Fusco said: "It is an honour and a responsibility to represent the area and to have the chance to consult on our community's activities at a national and an international level."

He went on to say, "I shall also be one of those casting a vote for our administrative body, the National Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.K. It is one of more than 180 such elected bodies. In our Faith it is these bodies, not individuals, which have the authority. To be a part of such a process, which is both practical and spiritual, is an exciting responsibility."

The Baha'i Society is hosting a meeting on campus for Richard Fusco to talk about his role as a delegate, on Monday 13 November at 7pm in the Quiet Room of the Chaplaincy Centre.

## An Invitation from the Islamic Society

**A**ssalamu Alaikum (Peace be upon you!). This is the greeting of Islam which reflects its true essence as a religion of peace. "But are you sure?" some people can be heard asking when Islam is described in such a way. Given the misrepresentation of Islam in the media it is not surprising that some people should ask such a question. In order to give a sufficient answer, a distinction should be made between Islam as it appears in its original sources, the teachings of the Quran and the Prophet Mohammed, and the practices of some Moslems.

In its teachings, Islam is strictly against all kinds of injustice against humans. Only one example will be given due to the limited space. Islam is not only against unjustly taking a life, but also considers doing so as depriving all humankind of the right to life - the sacred right bestowed upon humankind by

their Creator, who alone can take that right away. Saving a single life on the other hand is considered as saving all of humankind.

The Quran states: "If any one slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people: and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people" (5-32). However, this teaching is not reflected in the actions and practices conducted in the name of Islam by some Moslems across the world. Here comes the role of the Islamic Society in clarifying the real picture of Islam through activities such as talks, exhibitions and the One Day National Fast.

On that day students, regardless of their beliefs, are encouraged to undertake a day of fasting and attend a charity dinner with Moslem students. The membership of the Society is open to all students. Hopefully, this will lead to a better understanding of Islam and encourage dialogue among the many communities on campus.

## Pagan Celebrations

**H**allowe'en (All Hallows Eve) is the Christian name for what many pagans, particularly those of the Wiccan faith, celebrate as Samhain, a festival which falls on the 31st of October. It is also referred to as November Eve, Feast of the Dead, Feast of Apples and All Hallows Eve.

Some pagans celebrate this as New Year; others as the final, or third, harvest before winter. It is thought of as a time to remember ancestors and respect the dead, as well as to commune in joy with the folk of the Other worlds, as the gates between the

worlds are open. The Heathen festival of Winter Nights is held at a similar time and includes feasts dedicated to the gods.

Paganism embraces many religious and spiritual beliefs, so the ritual that Pagan Society is running on the 30th October will reflect that to some extent. People are welcome to join Pagan Society on the night or any Monday before then in Faraday SR1 at 8pm.

For more information see <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/socs/pagan/>



# Not All Jolly Hockey Sticks

## Women's Hockey 1sts 3-2 vs Liverpool

By Samantha Walsh

**C**aptain Lois Nightingale led the Womens' 1st's Hockey Team to an impressive 3-2 victory over a strong Liverpool side in their home game this week. The Liverpool girls attacked from the outset, but Lancaster defended well and, within four minutes were one goal up, with Kim Hicken scoring the first of the game.

The possession was fairly even, with Amy Foggo giving an impressive performance in the first half and, with Liverpool failing to capitalise on their chances, Lancaster scored again 15 minutes later. This time it was Ilka Krieger who put the ball in the goal to put the home side further in front. Claire Milner made some exceptional saves,

despite several shots from just outside the area and a sharp attack from Liverpool just before the end of the first half. Fran O'Neill then scored the third goal of the game for Lancaster.

Early into the second half however, Liverpool came back fighting and scored their first within 15 minutes of play. Immediately, the home team went on the attack, but the visitors were strong and scored again, despite some good defending from Lancaster. In the second half, Liverpool mainly dominated possession, however, Lancaster made some long runs and defended well to prevent the opposing team equalizing before the end. After the game, Captain Lois Nightingale said, "It was just grit. A real battle. We've got a few bruises, but it was a good game. It was probably the hardest of them all because Liverpool came down a league, so I think we played well." Lancaster played with enthusiasm and battled well and came out of a hard game victorious.

## Men's Hockey 1sts 3-6 vs Liverpool

By Samantha Walsh

**T**he Lancaster Men's 1st's Hockey Team were courageous in defeat to a strong Liverpool Men's side in their home game this week, losing by 6 goals to 3 in a fast and exciting match. Lancaster started off promisingly with a great goal in the first minute thanks to Tom Bolton's strike, seconds after the first whistle blew. The visitors then went on the immediate attack but could not produce an answer to the home side's enthusiastic start.

The majority of the possession was equal with some fierce tackling in midfield. However, Liverpool proved too strong and scored their first goal just over 10 minutes into the first half to level the score.

The visitors put together some fluent passing, but Lancaster defended well. However, 10 minutes later, Liverpool scored their second of the game. Spirit was still high though and Lancaster replied with some impressive tackles and some good attempts at goal. Liverpool achieved their third of the game just before the break, with Lancaster on their way to trying for an equaliser just before the whistle blew.

The home team started well in the second half, but Liverpool scored again within a minute. However, Lancaster kept trying to break through the opposition's defence, showing skill in their attempts, but narrowly failing to score. Then, 15 minutes into the second half, Lancaster scored their first of the game to narrow the deficit, courtesy of Fergus Backhouse. The home side defended well towards the end and despite Liverpool scoring another two, Lancaster saved face and Colin Clements scored a third for the home team before the final whistle. Lancaster defended well in the last few minutes with the home goalkeeper preventing a further loss. However, the home team persevered and their enthusiasm ensured they were gallant in defeat.



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## COMING SOON - NEW COCKTAIL MENU

# The Kabaddi Does... Lacrosse!

By Paul Collins  
Sports Editor

**K**abaddi is an Asian sport combining wrestling with rugby, with the point being to capture members of the opposing team whilst chanting 'Kabaddi'. Whilst it may not be available at Lancaster University (yet), some other more unusual sports are. Sport Editor Paul Collins explores the sport of Lacrosse, with assistance from Lancaster University Lacrosse Mixed Captain, Chris Mills.

## How can students get involved?

The lacrosse club has two training sessions a week; Tuesday 5:30 – 7:00 and Thursday 3:30 – 5:00 on the astropitch. Everyone is welcome to come to the training sessions with members ranging from internationally capped players to complete beginners. The majority of the 1st team only started playing when they came to university including the men's, women's, and mixed captains. All equipment will be provided by the club, just wear sportswear and trainers.

## How does the game work?

Men's: The basic idea is to score more goals than the other team using a stick approximately 1m long with a net on the end and throwing a ball roughly the size of a hockey ball. It sounds easy but to get the ball from an opponent you can either hit their stick with your stick, a stick check, or perform a body check and pick the ball up when it goes loose. Great fun! Helmets

and gloves must be worn, other protective padding is optional and there are ten men on a team.

**Mixed:** This form of the game involves six men and six women. It is completely no contact i.e. no stick checks or body checks, but a player can only hold the ball for 5 seconds, allowing for a very fast paced game.

**Women's:** This involves twelve women and no body checks are allowed, however, stick checks are allowed but only in a controlled and non-dangerous manner. No helmets or protective padding is needed apart from a gum-shield. The same also applies to mixed.

## Will there be matches this year?

The men's team play competitive tournaments and friendlies throughout the year with the first game this Sunday away to Manchester Waconians. The mixed team play every Sunday in the North of England League currently placed 2nd out of 8 teams. The women's team play every Wednesday in the BUSA league, the next game is this Wednesday away to Sheffield.

## What skills are most called upon?

Determination is the key. Come to training sessions regularly and you will improve dramatically very quickly.

## Is the sport open to both sexes?

Yes, men can play men's, mixed or both and women can play women's, mixed or both.

## Sum up lacrosse in three words?

Men's, Women's, Mixed.

## Who should people contact to find out more?

Check out the website [www.lusu.co.uk/lacrosse](http://www.lusu.co.uk/lacrosse) or email [lanaster.uni.lacrosse@googlemail.com](mailto:lanaster.uni.lacrosse@googlemail.com)

## Additional facts...

Last year the mixed team reached the semi-finals of the UK tournament held in Dublin over 5 days, and won it the year previously. We hope to regain our title this year with an encouraging bunch of experienced players and enthusiastic beginners joining the university this term.

The next Lacrosse World Championships will be held in the North of England in 2010. Canada won the cup this summer. Get ready for lacrosse fever to hit the country! It is currently the fastest growing sport in Europe.

**If you are a member of a club or society and would like to see it featured in this space, please contact [scan\\_sport@hotmail.com](mailto:scan_sport@hotmail.com)**



Photo by David Molyneux

# THE WORLD CUP

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## Badminton Get Off To Superb Start



**T**he badminton season has got off to a promising start for all of our University sides. Team captain Stu believes that the team will be challenging for promotion this year, especially with the arrival of some aspiring freshers who will hopefully make a big impression for the team this year.

First up to the court was Lancaster Men's 1st team, who after a successful season last year, played the University of Manchester - one of the most renowned university teams in the country. Manchester Uni's Men's 1st team is currently in Premier North, the top level of university badminton. As expected, this was anticipated to be one of the toughest games of the season, but Lancaster brought the game to the visitors. The doubles games were won 12-21, 23-21, 21-12; and Stu and James were optimistic about their win. Although admitting the opposition was a difficult side, with a performance like that, they believe they're definitely going to win the division. The other doubles match was won by Greg and

Martyn, 21-19, 21-19.

The singles matches also went Lancaster's way, winning 21-17, 25-23. Manchester managed to regain some of their previous reputation by winning the remaining singles matches 16-21, 12-21; and 15-21, 6-2.

Next up was the Mens 2nd team, who finished 3rd in the league last year. After waiting a long time for the opposition to arrive, Manchester Met University finally showed up, but I'm sure they wish they didn't. The Lancaster team annihilated the opposition in both the singles and the doubles.

Last on the court was the Women's 1st team. After finishing 2nd in the table last year, high hopes are expected this season. They were up against Leeds Met University, another team with a strong reputation.

Yet again, Lancaster comfortably beat the visitors.

These excellent results for all the teams result in them all at the top end of the tables.



## Derby Draw For Lancaster Men

**Men's Football 1sts  
0-0 vs St Martins**

By JJ Nugent

**In what was very much a stop-start derby, Lancaster began sluggishly, something which can perhaps be attributed to the fact that seven new faces have been added to the starting eleven this season and that the side had had limited time in which to gel prior to this, their first competitive match. Fortunately, as the half wore on they grew in confidence and began to get speedy winger Paul Reay on the ball. His meandering runs brought about a string of corners from which Lancaster looked dangerous, with centre-half James Hopkins coming inches from breaking the deadlock following a swerving ball in from dead-ball specialist JJ Nugent.**

Indeed it was an enthusiastic challenge from Hopkins which brought about an injury to the St. Martins goalkeeper, and though he managed to play out the half, he was replaced at the interval and an outfield player was forced to take his position. In truth, the match was a decidedly scrappy affair, particularly so in the opening period where both sides struggled to keep possession and were consequently unable to impose their will on the game.

Flamboyant striker Luis Llagostera was brought on for Andy Murray at half-time in what had been a frustrating game for the quick wideman, his lack of service limiting his chances to display an undoubted talent. The visitors built on the slight improvement they had shown towards the end of the first half and began to dictate play, stringing together some attractive passing moves and attacking with pace and purpose down both flanks and through the centre, with the direct running of midfield threesome Reay, Llagostera and Ashton a constant danger. St. Martin's were restricted to attacking on the break, and whilst they occasionally posed a genuine threat, the Lancaster defence, for the most part, remained untroubled.

With Llagostera and Reay increasingly influential, Lancaster were in the ascendancy. Both spurned good chances, though the latter drew a particularly unorthodox save from the goalkeeper with a dipping, swerving volley from the edge of the area. Despite the loss of midfield dynamo Grant Workman to injury on 70 minutes, the away side continued to press for a winner, his replacement Peter Hickford proved a worthy stand-in with his incisive passing helping to stretch the opposition defence. Chris Ashton drew a fingertip save from St. Martin's make-shift custodian with a fine drive and the Lancaster central defenders were a continual menace at set pieces, but it was not to be.

Lancaster vs. St Martin's is always a hard fought fixture regardless of which sport is actually being played, but aside from the occasional degrading chants of "Where are your UCAS points?" from travelling fans, it was a game played in the spirit such an historic derby deserves. That this was the case made it all the more baffling when Ashton was booked for dissent towards a referee's assistant following a poor decision, on the suggestion of a spectator and not on evidence from said assistant. The referee had, seemingly, over the course of the afternoon, actively sought to stifle the competitiveness that is an intrinsic aspect of this fixture. Players from both sides were often perplexed as to why they were being penalised for what seemed like perfectly legitimate challenges. Let us hope that the next time this fixture is played, it is refereed by a man who has the common sense to let the match flow, so as not to spoil a unique contest that is invariably fought aggressively but rarely maliciously.

Though Lancaster will come away disappointed at having not taken all three points they can be reasonably pleased with a performance that saw them dominate their local rivals for large spells of the game.

Lancaster: Ed Middleton, Jack Frogatt, James Hopkins, Richard Pilcher, Neil Morgan, Andy Murray, JJ Nugent, Grant Workman, Paul Reay, Alex Gladkow, Chris Ashton.

**Man of the Match: Paul Reay**

## Women's Rugby Finding Their Feet

**Women's Rugby  
0-29 vs Sheffield WRUFC**

By Emma Masters and Hannah Cole

**After the dizzying heights of success of last year, it was inevitable that at some point the LUWRUFC would have to come down and face a low. An undefeated season meant promotion into the top league, leaving the team this year to face opposition from long established Universities such as Leeds and Durham, who have been playing top league rugby since the formations of their teams. It was therefore obvious that the season would be a long and arduous journey, beginning with the first match of the season away to Sheffield.**

From the moment the team stepped out of the changing rooms and the 5ft10 members had to strain upwards to see the opposition, it was obvious that the size advantage of Sheffield's team of Amazonian warriors was going to make the contact and physical aspects of the

match challenging ones. However, despite Sheffield having the edge, the Lancaster were not outplayed and despite a shaky first half and conceding a series of tries, they showed the resilience to fight back and continue to give everything in the second period.

Despite the entire Lancaster team weighing less than the Sheffield second row, it was very much a forwards game. Lancaster found themselves in unfamiliar territory, facing new tactics which centered around kicking rather than the handling game to which the side is more accustomed. Rebecca Watts in particular had a sterling match, foiling everything that the Sheffield attackers threw her way. The Lancaster back row defended hard, making tackle after tackle, with Hannah Cole at one point throwing the Sheffield winger off the pitch painfully into the water carriers.

Overall, the match was of good quality, clean and professional. Comparing this match to those of last year, it was a pleasure to see a team play with such obvious skill and no desire to use rugby as an excuse for gratuitous violence. Using this as experience, the team is looking forward to its next match against Salford and is hoping that it will bring a more positive result.

### Golf

By Chris Oxley

**Playing against last year's league winners was always going to be tough, especially as Lancaster were only a couple of weeks into the start of the new year. This showed as in most matches, early leads were lost and the defeat started to become heavier as the 18th hole came closer.**

Lancaster eventually lost 5 1/2 to 1/2 but the scoreline doesn't reflect the hard work put in from all the players. Special mention goes to Ross McAllister, a fresher playing his first game for the university, who managed to secure a consolation 1/2 point for the team.

### Men's Fencing vs Liverpool

Alistair Bargery

**The Lancaster Men's Fencing Team had planned on easing to victory against Liverpool's 2nd team, having finished closely behind the Liverpool 1sts in the league last year. Indeed, one could conclude that the match was a preparation game, for the bigger challenges that lie ahead this coming season.**

The day started badly however, with the news that two of the regular Lancaster team members could not make the trip. Alistair Bargery (Captain), Gareth Kay, Matt Keppie, and Morgan, made the journey to face the five Liverpool fencers. The first two had to do three weapons, and the others, two. Lancaster won the foil 45-33, the sabre 45-39 and the epee by 45-20. So overall, 135-92. Man of the match was the Captain, with an impressive indicator of +23 hits, but good performances all round, bearing in mind there were with no proper foilists. Although the visitors kept Liverpool below 100 points, they put up more of a fight than expected, showing that all of our experience will be needed if Lancaster are to beat Manchester away next week, possibly the toughest match of the season.

TEAM	OPPOSITION	DATE
Badminton Mens 1st	Liverpool Mens 1st	01/11/06 H
Badminton Womens 1st	Liverpool Womens 1st	01/11/06 A
Basketball Mens 1st	Manchester Met Mens 2nd	01/11/06 H
Basketball Womens 1st	St Martins Womens 1st	01/11/06 A
Fencing Mens 1st	Central Lanc Mens 1st	01/11/06 A
Fencing Womens 1st	Central Lanc Womens 1st	01/11/06 H
Football Mens 1st	Chester Mens 1st	01/11/06 A
Football Womens 1st	John Moores Womens 1st	01/11/06 A
Golf 1st	Bangor 1st	01/11/06 H
Hockey Mens 1st	Chester Mens 1st	01/11/06 A
Hockey Womens 1st	Manchester Womens 2nd	01/11/06 H
Lacrosse Womens 1st	Sheffield Womens 1st	01/11/06 A
Netball 1st	Chester Womens 1st	01/11/06 A
Rugby Union Mens 1st	Newcastle Mens 2nd	01/11/06 A
Rugby Union Womens 1st	Bradford Womens 1st	01/11/06 A
Squash Mens 1st	Keele Mens 1st	01/11/06 A
Squash Womens 1st	Liverpool Womens 1st	01/11/06 A
Tennis Mens 1st	Manchester Mens 3rd	01/11/06 H
Tennis Womens 1st	Leeds Womens 1st	01/11/06 A
Volleyball Mens 1st	Liverpool Hope Mens 1st	01/11/06 H
Volleyball Womens 1st	Keele Womens 1st	01/11/06 H



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By Ian Waterhouse  
& Johnathan Mills

**L**ancaster's tennis teams emerged from the opening round of BUSA League fixtures with plenty to be pleased about, as both the men's and women's teams won their respective matches without dropping a single rubber.

The women's 1st team produced a dominant performance to take victory against their counterparts from Liverpool. Unusually for a home fixture, this tie took place on the somewhat substandard University courts rather than at the favoured Bowerham Tennis Club, which is currently undergoing maintenance work.

In the opening two doubles matches – played on a first to eight games basis – Jenny Bowker and Lancaster captain Lucy Bird produced a tidy display to comfortably take their match 8-1. In the meantime, things on the other court were a little tighter, with a high proportion of the games going to deuce, before debutant Irma Rekie and Victoria Cherevach eventually prevailed 8-3.

The four singles matches immediately followed, with Catherine Challen, also appearing in her first match for the club. She replaced Bowker and provided some much needed fresh legs since unfortunately, the remainder of the team who had been victorious in the doubles, faced a second consecutive match with only the briefest of respite. Nevertheless with all four matches taking place simultaneously, it quickly became apparent that the home side were again firmly in control.

Nowhere was this more evident than in Challen's game, as she breezed past her left-handed opponent 6-0, 6-0 with the minimum of fuss. On the other courts the scorelines read similarly blissfully from the Lancaster standpoint, Cherevach overcoming the effects of a heavy night before as well as her opponent to win 6-1, 6-2, whilst Rekie completed a debut double with yet another straight sets win.

Only in the final clash did the Lancaster romp encounter any form of resistance, as Bird was forced to go stroke for stroke with her opponent. Both ladies traded elegant ground strokes from the baseline, however the game, like the day, went to Lancaster with the 6-4, 6-3 scoreline an accurate reflection on the nip-and-tuck nature of the play.

Lancaster's men's team also started their season in an equally successful fashion. The completed a clean sweep in their away tie at Keele, putting them proudly at the top of the fledgling Northern Conference Division 2A table.

With the tie following an identical format to the women's match, the first two matches were the doubles. Jonathan Mills and Tom Osborne teamed up as the first pair and came out 8-4 winners. The second pair of Richard Hamilton and David Vance followed up a successful 8-3 win of their own.

Following on from this fine start, the afternoon was only to get better and better for Lancaster.



Tom Osborne, playing as the number one seeded player in the singles, enjoyed a solid 6-2, 6-2 win, which was then in turn followed by a victory for new boy David Vance playing as number two. This encounter was to prove a tough baptism for Vance, but he eventually prevailed 6-4, 7-5

in a keenly fought match. Jonathan Mills played at number three and had an easy 6-0, 6-0 win, with Richard Hamilton then left to wrap up the unblemished success with yet another win in straight sets.

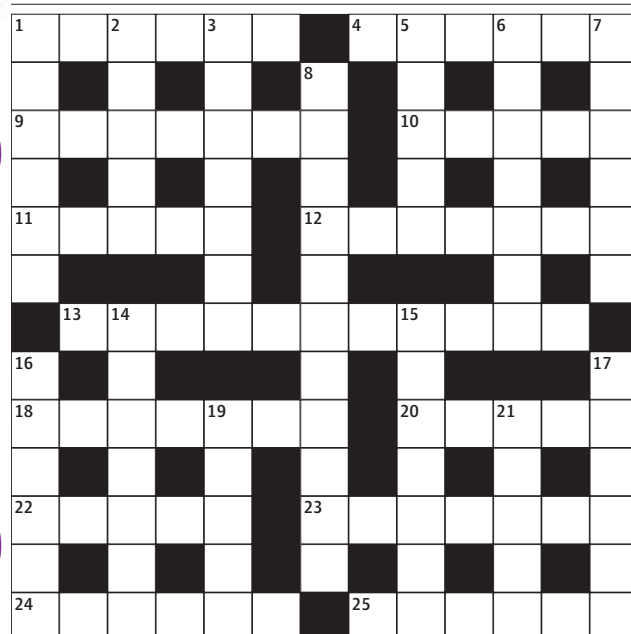
Both results should provide good confidence

for the teams as they embark on the remainder of their respective seasons, although they are sure to come across sterner tests than those offered up by their respective opponents on this successful afternoon for Lancaster.

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### Across

- 1 Except when (6)
- 4 Kind of lynx (6)
- 9 Engaging (7)
- 10 Ultimate (5)
- 11 Child (5)
- 12 Rescue of goods from peril (7)
- 13 Alternative treatment using needles (11)
- 18 West African republic (7)
- 20 Lower extension of collar on jacket or coat (5)
- 22 Of the same value (5)
- 23 Hollow and cylindrical (7)
- 24 Irritable (6)
- 25 Book of religious songs (6)

### Down

- 1 Foolish (6)
- 2 Passenger ship (5)
- 3 Temporary substitute (7)
- 5 Edible innards (5)
- 6 Mythical creature, half-man, half-horse (7)
- 7 Lever for controlling rudder (6)
- 8 Distinctive character (11)

- 14 Seek advice from (7)
- 15 High chest of drawers (7)
- 16 View – distinct feature (6)
- 17 Pertaining to blossoms (6)
- 19 Narrow ravine (5)
- 21 Tower supporting power lines (5)

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