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Photo by Ben Bailey

By Ben Bailey
Editor

Last Monday, it was revealed to the University Management Committee (UMAG) that final figures from University Partnership Programme (UPP) regarding the Phase 4 construction work that was due to start on Grizedale College had not been received and UPP were said to be having problems in obtaining sufficient warranties for the buildings from contractors Norwest Holst.

While the rebuilding of the Grizedale residences was due to be ready for the next academic year-2007/08, it was confirmed last Thursday that the Grizedale building project would now not be completed until 2008.

Since the Grizedale blocks will not be ready for next September, as originally planned, the College

will need to continue temporarily accommodating its residents in other Colleges for the 2007/8 academic year. Due to the current small size of the College further accommodation is being currently sourced.

Grizedale joint JCR Presidents Chris Cottam and Anna Boden said: "Naturally as a JCR we are exceptionally disappointed with the news and once again believe that UPP and the University are failing to deliver what we class as a basic service. We would like to reassure all continuing students that accommodation will be available for them on campus next year."

LUSU President Sooz Palmer said: "Myself, the students' union and no doubt the student population are disgusted with the outcome. The future of a College is in question and I would just like to assure Grizedale that alongside, the JCR and SCR, LUSU will be fighting your corner every step of the way."

Father Hugh Pollock, Grizedale Principal said: "We are extremely disappointed with the one-year

delay. Holding the College together in its current dispersed state for one year has been difficult enough, even though College officers, the JCR Exec and the intro week team have all done a great job. However, holding the College in a fragmented state for two years is an entirely different matter and will be a strain on all the members of the College. We are looking to the University to put substantial financial and any other necessary resources into helping the College manage until September 2008.

On the plus side, with the time delay, what we trust we will receive from the builders are not just new residences but new social, bar and office space as well, which had not previously been planned, so that in September 2008 the college begins as a completely redeveloped unit."

Andrew Neal, University Financial Director: "While I am very disappointed by the delay, we still have the prospect of delivering excellent accommodation at a good price and if we can improve the College facilities as well then I hope that this will provide a significant long term benefit."

SCAN

THE VOICE OF LANCASTER
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AND THE SCAN EDITORIAL TEAM



Lancaster Going Green

By Rebecca Rieley

Coinciding with recent warnings that environmental damage is the biggest threat to society, LUSU has started the GreenLancaster initiative. GreenLancaster was launched in Week 5, and Tom Roberts, LUSU's Environmental Co-ordinator, describes it as a 'campaign umbrella'. The project aims to go beyond merely promoting the benefits of recycling to tackling the major problem of energy wastage and making students more aware of the simple, practical things that could be done to improve the environmental situation.

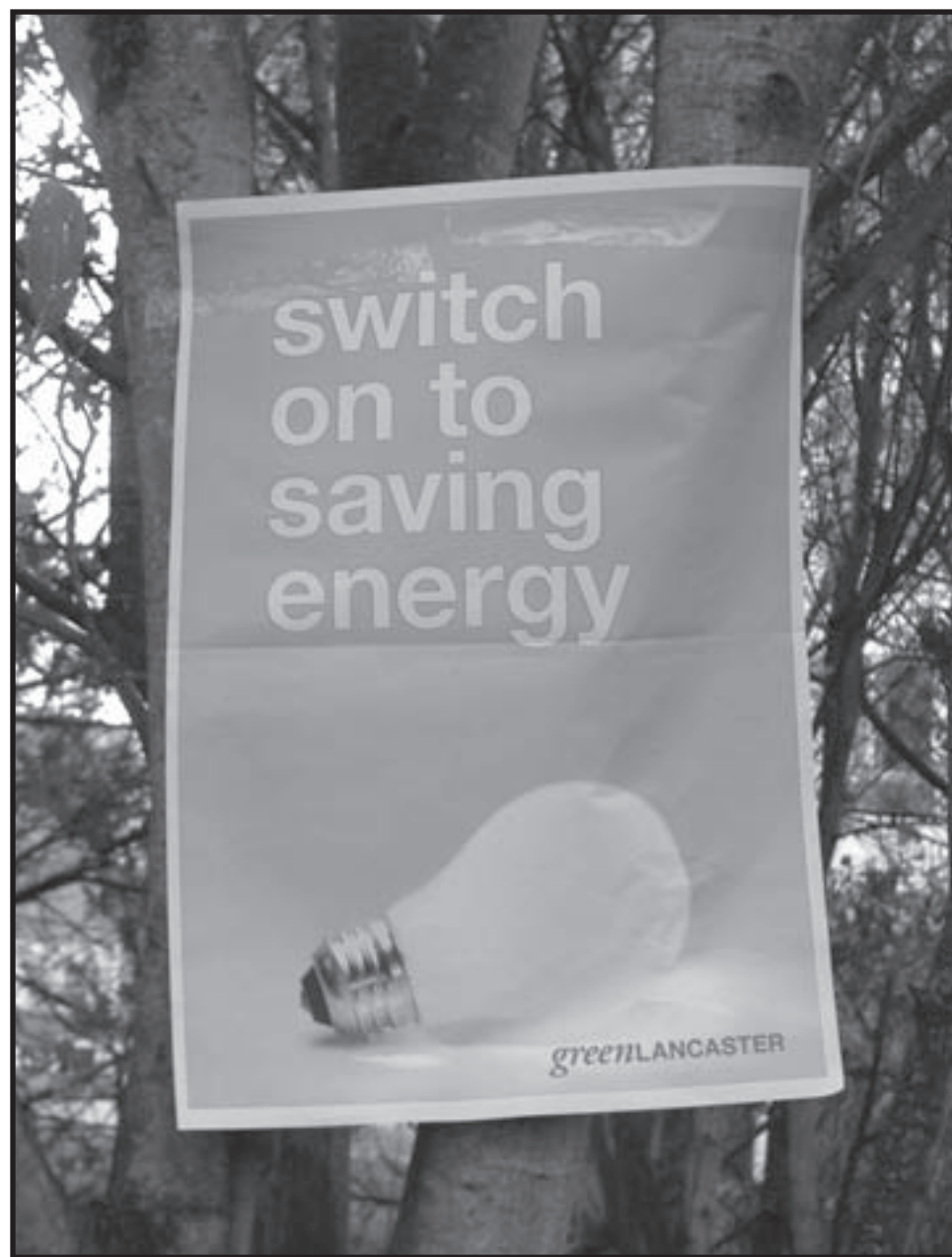
Equipment left on standby wastes around £1 billion alone in the UK and here at Lancaster the university spent £4 million alone on electricity in just 9 months (coincidentally campus accommodation prices have once again increased). GreenLancaster is working towards a more energy efficient and environmentally friendly community that aims to reduce unnecessary wastage of the ever-increasingly expensive energy resources on the planet.

This term the focus is upon energy reduction. GreenLancaster has compiled and distributed a leaflet called 'Green Tips' offering ten easy ways to save energy. Environmental coordinators have also been in talks with Npower, who supply the university, to obtain batches of energy efficient light bulbs that were given out at Fresher's Fair and are still available from LUSU Housing. In the future, GreenLancaster even hopes to make the Sugarhouse greener by transferring their energy supply to Scottish-Hydro.

GreenLancaster will shortly begin working with the library in an attempt to cut energy wastage by encouraging students to switch off of ISS computer monitors when they have finished working on them. They also hope to boost a recycling project in the building that is already gradually being put into place.

A recent report commissioned by the government and conducted by Sir Nicholas Stern, states that climate change is not only "a serious global threat" but also that "climate change is the greatest and most widest-ranging market failure ever seen." He recommends that "carbon pricing, technology policy and energy efficiency" are the three elements that can help this problem. The advice given by the GreenLancaster enterprise promotes a greater awareness of how to be more energy efficient and would help to tackle the problems outlined in the Stern report and benefit the environment as well as reducing energy costs.

Last year there was an attempt to promote a recycling scheme on campus when a 'green bin' pilot scheme was tested in several colleges.



However, there were no amendments made to the cleaner's contracts or wages to empty the green bins and the sparse number of students willing to empty the bins themselves caused the scheme to fail and be scrapped.

Lancaster University has signed to the Tallories Declaration (drawn up by the Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future), and in doing so the university has an obligation to help support environmental initiatives, like GreenLancaster. With there being no Environmental manager as such, Tom Roberts realises that the project needs "sustained financial and administrative support."

Roberts also believes that GreenLancaster "ultimately needs students to feel fired-up enough to get involved so that they can deliver on the campaign." Self-motivational action was also encouraged earlier this week by the Conservative leader, Davis Cameron, who urged the public to

recognise that 'we can only tackle [environmental problems] if we realise we all have a responsibility to act.'

With the release of the Stern report and the leaking of the Miliband memo to Gordon Brown, the environment has been pushed into the public sphere and the debating arena. John Humphreys suggested in The Sunday Times that environmental care is "becoming a moral issue" and LUSU's own environmental co-ordinator feels that "it is about doing your bit." With next term hosting GreenLancaster's push for recycling Lancaster University will see for itself if students and the university can do their bit to make the scheme a success.

If you are interested in these issues, The Dukes Theatre is hosting an environmental awareness campaign from 10th-12th Dec. with a showing of 'An Inconvenient Truth' and a discussion panel.

WANT TO WRITE FOR SCAN?

NEWS 3PM, MONDAYS, FURNESS BAR

FEATURES 3PM, WEDNESDAYS, FYLDE COFFEE SHOP

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

SPORTS 6PM, MONDAYS, FYLDE BAR

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

Campus News In Brief

Non-Sabbatical Hustings

Monday 20th of November saw the Non-Sabbatical Hustings, held in the Cavendish Lecture Theatre. The crowds gathered in large numbers to question candidates on their policies, or lack of in some cases.

The evening kicked off with a fierce debate during the hust for the two Postgraduate positions. Both were grilled about the potential for a Postgraduate Sabbatical Officer, a contentious issue to say the least, and tempers were sparked over controversial opinions. It appears that this debate had set the tone for the evening and the questioning of the occasional hostile crowd was brought to order by Chief Returning officer Rachel Lewis who declared certain questions out of order.

Audience participation was at a very high level and questioning was rife as the candidates calmly explained their policies. Academic position, as well as Liberation Officers and the Block of 6, came under heavy scrutiny.

The evening concluded with candidates being asked how they would improve voter apathy, how they would encourage people to participate in sport and what one campaign they would choose to focus on in a year in office. The event lasted almost five hours.

Information on each candidate is available at www.lusu.co.uk/ elections where the candidate manifestos can be viewed. Voting takes place alongside JCR elections on Thursday week 8 in College Porters' Lodges. Voting for the GSA elections will take place in the library foyer.

Mumps Outbreak Denied

Recent rumours that several students have contracted mumps have been dismissed by doctors in Lancaster.

As mumps is contagious, there were fears of an outbreak of the

disease, similar to the one which led to all Lancaster students being offered inoculation two years ago. LUSU Education and Welfare Officer, Becky Heard, said: "I have contacted both the health surgery on campus, the nurses unit and the Lancaster infirmary and there have been no confirmed cases of mumps".

The viral disease causes swelling of the salivary glands in the face and can even, in extreme cases, cause sterility in men. If an outbreak were to occur Becky assures students that "the student population would be informed and preventive steps would be taken."

By Rebecca Rieley

Sugarhouse To Hold Charity Event

On Monday 4th December The Sugarhouse will be holding a battle of the bands competition. The night is being held to raise money for World AIDS Day and is aimed at raising awareness of AIDS. Proceeds will go directly to charity and doors are open 8pm – 2am. All are welcome.

Campus Postering To Be Outlawed

Postering on campus is soon to be restricted by the University. Whilst the creation of new student residences has made postering ever more difficult for Student JCR's and Societies, new restrictions will be brought in to more traditional postering sites such as Alexandra square.

On most pillars and parts of the spine, boards will be erected. These boards will be the only place where postering will be allowed. Many societies complain about commercial posters being placed over their own. The new poster regulations will mean that off campus businesses will be subject to the same rules, supervised by the LUSU General

Secretary.

To many students the poster adorned pillars of spine and Alexandra Square have been a way of life, with societies, college extras and election candidates vying for ever more imaginative ways for their posters to be noticed.

To some this has come to represent the vibrancy of campus, and often catches the eye of those coming to Lancaster on University open days. Despite this it seems the powers that be wish for postering to be less cluttered, to add to the more orderly residence blocks. So another piece of Lancaster University tradition is soon to be another piece of history.

Union Check-Up

To find out what your Student Union has been up to over the last twelve months, go to <http://www.lusu.co.uk/downloads/trusteereport.pdf> and download a copy of the LUSU Trustee's Report and Accounts for 2005/2006.

Wake Up And Smell The Roses

A morous students need no longer worry about rushing into town in order to bequeath their loved ones with floral gifts, as the space in Alexandra Square, next to Bowland Tower, has now been taken over by florist The Green Room.

having Opened on Tuesday 21st November, proprietor Janette Holmes says the venture has already been extremely successful, and that they have had excellent feedback from students. "There is so much opportunity on campus for corporate work, as well as a huge student market since there's no other flower shop in the area", she told SCAN. The Green Room offers free delivery campus-wide, and can create bouquets and arrangements on request, just call 01524 592501 or internally on 92501.

Housing Time Bomb

By Kate Sudweeks

House prices in Lancaster have almost doubled in the last five years, a recent report has concluded. The report has been produced by the National Housing Federation revealing the average house price in Lancaster to be over 6.5 times the average salary.

Whilst this is good news for home owners, it has raised concern for prospective buyers looking to buy a property in the near future. House prices in the North West have risen 134% since 1997, but regional incomes have grown just 20% in the same period. The report, which contains figures from the Oxford Economic Forecasting, suggests that the North West will experience the highest house price inflation on record over the next five years, as house prices are set to rise by a staggering 77% by 2011, resulting in first time buyers facing an average house price of almost a quarter of a million pounds.

"The rapid rise in house prices in Lancashire put a huge financial strain on those looking to get a foot on the property ladder", said Malcolm Struthers, the National Housing Federation Communications Officer. The report states that without further action from the government the housing situation in the North West is 'a ticking time-bomb'.

The report recommends that the government ought to commit to resource the major housing market renewal projects, ensuring that they deliver the homes and infrastructure needed to support growth and regeneration in the North West. Mr Struthers went on to say: "It is vital that through the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 the government make housing a top priority for increased investment."

Housing waiting lists and homelessness statistics have leapt dramatically in the region and the situation is worse than any other region outside London. Waiting lists for houses in the North West have grown by 72% since 2000, the highest percentage rise in the country.

It's A Woman's World

By Steven Vittles

A conference hosted by the Young Entrepreneurs Society (LUYES), was held on Wednesday 15th November, with the aim of providing a forum for advice and discussion for aspiring female entrepreneurs.

The event, held in Barker House Farm, brought successful businesswomen from the North-West together with female students from Lancaster University in order to discuss business ideas and learn from the experiences of guest speakers.

The event was one of over 2000 similar events held throughout colleges, universities and businesses across the nation to celebrate Women's Enterprise Day.

The LUYES President, Matt Smith told SCAN that the event "aimed to inform and reassure female students that enterprise is open to all and that support and advice is always there for them to tap into."

Sarah Tinsley, a guest speaker at the conference, from Chorley, Lancashire, has run a successful corporate events and planning service in her home town for over 4 years. Ms Tinsley said that she hoped she could share her experiences with Lancaster's female students, although she hoped she "could be useful to anyone," and reflects the new direction that the LUYES is taking this year in providing a service and forum for entrepreneurial Lancaster students.

Women's officer, Cat Smith told SCAN "it's great to see societies taking an interest in women's businesses."

Internationally, men start up 150,000 more businesses a year than women. The workshop held at Lancaster University, as part of Women's Enterprise Day, provides a starting point for women to close this gap.

Ethical Emailing

By Ben Bailey

Charlotte Rees, a Lancaster student, has been involved with the setting up of a new 'ethical' email system know as Ippimail. The free service acts as a mail service provider similar to Hotmail or Gmail, but at the same time generates money for charity.

Ippimail runs on the concept of raising revenue by selling advertising on the site, for example, a banner at the top of the screen. From this advertising money 55% of the revenue raised goes directly to the charities that each individual user chooses.

Also, to avoid the whole hassle of changing email addresses, Ippimail ('Ippi' literally meaning 'a helping hand' in Japanese) offers a service to forward all your existing mail accounts straight into your Ippimail inbox, meaning that within five minutes you can have an ethical email account without having to sort out what to do with your existing ones.

Charlotte Rees is currently part of the Ippimail advertising and promotions team. She said: "How many of us as students are eager to support the work of charities both locally and around the world whilst having no money to do so? I'm definitely one of those students, but by getting involved in Ippimail I have the chance to give to charity and to encourage as many other people to do so as well."

She went on to say "If you're one of the thousands of students who want to make a difference to our world but don't have the money or resources to do so, take a look at www.ippimail.com and find out how you can do your bit without it costing you a penny!

As well as an email system, Ippimail offers blogging services and a shopping directory, both of which also give money to charities through usage.

The Interview: Ann Widdecombe

By Ben Bailey
Editor

Those who have been to d-floor University House, will be familiar with the gentele surroundings of polished surfaces and lavish decor. The Vice-Chancellor's offices overlook Alexandra Square and, had not been for the scaffolding outside the window, a rather magnificent view unfolds below.

Professor Paul Wellings, the current Vice-Chancellor of the University greeted me warmly. We chatted politely about the news of the day while I tried to get my Sony Dictaphone to turn on. Having recovered my breath, the lift was out of order- d-floor remember, and successfully begun recording, we started the interview.

I enquired what the role of the Vice-Chancellor is, to try and give some context to plethora of students who will not know who the VC is or what he gets up to in his daylight hours.

British by birth, Australian by accent, Professor Wellings attended the Lancaster Royal Grammar School as a boy. Having risen up through the world of academia, he moved to Australia where he earned his now permanent Aussie twang, before returning to the UK in 2002 to take up the Vice-Chancellorship.

"The VC is the chief academic and the chief administrator. It is where both sides of the house meet. You've got the academic community on one hand which is the departments organised through the facilities and on the other side of the house you have all the administrative functions and the academic services.

"The departments are run collegially with other academics as well as with the students, students I think are on all the key committees from department level and above. The strategic decisions are taken by Senate or by University Council and the advice they receive comes from the senior management team, from wither me with the deans or me with the pro-vice chancellors saying which lever are we going to pull next to keep the University sailing in a particular direction."

I make a point about the lack of knowledge from the majority of the student population with regard to these titles that include Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors and to a lesser extent Deans.

"If we were a corporation I think I would be called the chief executive. If we were in America I would be called the President, as American Universities are run by Presidents not Vice-Chancellors." That clears that up.

Having inspected the new University homepage a few days previously, I had noticed that the Vice-Chancellor's welcome has a much more prominent position on the site, and questioned whether this was an attempt to increase the VC's public image around the University? "It's not trying to raise my profile within the institution. It is trying to raise the institution's profile and to give prospective students an idea of who's doing what and what the structure of the place is. There'd been a lot of criticism of the previous website which had been too static for too long. The advice we had from the internal experts was to pull apart the website and think of the big audiences. The two big groups who use the website are current students and prospective students. It is designed with a modern feel, it'll be too glitzy for some individuals, but it is saying in a world which is now much more competitive between institutions, how do you use the web to project an image of the institution and recruit. Part of my role is to say, how do I position Lancaster University in a group of 140 other Universities as productively as I can."

In the national league tables Lancaster's position is currently just outside the top 20. How are we going to improve on this? "The league tables are most probably hated by everyone who thinks about them. We are ranked 21st in the country. The other league tables that we think are more important are the international league tables. We are about 218th in the world. It would nice to be in the top 200 in the world, and it would be nice to be in the top 20 in the UK.

"I think the important thing about league tables is that they can be used as a performance tool to say, are there specific parameters that need to be changed in order to advance the cause of the institution? So if you look at the current Times table things like graduate destinations, graduate jobs is relatively a weakness for this

University. Careers is now going in a new facility and we have added more staff and various other things through Paul Balckmoore's efforts. A lot more effort is being made with the student body about what it is you want to do when you graduate. So we will know if we made an improvement in one parameter it would cause us to improve relatively in the league tables."

I put forward a point about a general consensus from the student population that the Management School get preferential treatment and investment. Professor Wellings smiles. "I don't think it does actually. We have spent the best part of £200million of which the University spent £5million on the Management School and it generated another £5million from another body. The Info Lab received £15million, the Environment Centre was another £25million and the new residences is 120million, as well as Ruskin which got £2.5 million and the new North Campus Teaching Facility cost £8.5 million.

"The Management school has a lovely glass box on the front and a red zone with a café. People see the glossiness and the modernity of it. I think come Christmas the North Campus Teaching Facility will be open and I think Arts and Social Science students will think how amazing it is up there."

We talk about sports development. Specifically why has it taken so long for the pitches to begin renovation? "I think that is a good question. I arrived four years ago and asked a question about the nature of the student experience, and we set off simultaneously in a number of dimensions here. Refreshing the college infrastructure to make better bedrooms is a massive project. Now we've got a massive project on the quality of the teaching space.

"The next step is to state of the art sports facilities? The drainage at Lancaster because of the rain and the soil type has always been awful. We've worked very hard in order to get the cash flows right to actually start to do the pitches. A point I made at last years University Court meeting was, doing the agricultural drains isn't a sexy thing to do. It's an incredibly expensive thing to do and when it is done and the soil is finished in three years time, hopefully the mechanical work that is done will be fantastic.

"The other thing we are deep in discussion about is how to shift the sports centre and transform it into a 21st Century object rather than a 1960s object.

I mention that there have been rumblings about this, but how committed is the University to delivering a new sports centre? "This is something that will happen. The envelope we have for that is about £8million. I have a personal view that says, given that we are a University that aspires to be world ranked, anything that we build as far as amenities should be recognised and used for national standard and competitions. If it means we are going to have netball courts indoors, then how many courts do you need to run a proper competition? Rather than making it like a big school sports hall, I'd rather be focussed on turning us into something where a regional or national competition could take place at Lancaster. On the current scenario I don't think it'll be finished until the middle or end of 2008, but it's a two-year window."

I had recently been contacted by the BBC about running a documentary about the George Fox Six. Did the VC have any regrets looking back at the whole situation? "It's a long process, it's a legal process. The University made a complaint to the CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) who decided it

was a worthwhile case to pursue."

Did he think it was right for the University to prosecute Lancaster students for aggravated trespass?

"Well it was a mixture of students, alumni and students from other institutions. It wasn't like six undergraduates. And, as was said in Preston at the last court case, there are other mechanisms and other ways of saying things if you want to protest. The University has, over time, always given platform to people who have something to say. Rather than bursting into a room and having a protest there are other ways of doing things."

While on the topic of ethics, I question as to why the University doesn't have an ethical investment policy? "We've got ethical research policies and we have students who work for all sorts of businesses and organisations as well as being students. If you look at the University we have a very small exposure to companies that might be classed as companies that you are referring to as non-ethical. For us it is a very small issue, but I can see that there is a debate as to where institutions put their money. I think the real issue is that if we are willing to do research for people, if we are willing to take students who have worked for companies how do we exclude those people? It's actually more complex than saying you have some money available to put in stocks and shares, where are you going to put it?

With the prospect of tuition fees increasing if the cap on top-up fees is taken off, student unions around the country are launching campaigns. Only weeks before, Lancaster students participated in the national demonstration against top-up fees. Did the Vice-Chancellor think that the march will have any specific effect? Would the Government and Universities care that thousands of students were marching in protest?

"I think there's a timing issue. I think that it (the march) was premature. I'm not sure that running the NUS national campaign in 2006/07 is the right pressure point. I think that it is too early because I think that fees have only just come in. I can see why the student political movement wants to do it, but I don't think as a debate it will get traction for a few years."

How will increased fees affect Lancaster? "At the moment the cap is set at £3,000 and bar a couple of institutions everybody moved to £3,000. Frankly I think that if you set the cap at £5,000 I think you would have seen a spread of institutions and there would have been a real debate at Lancaster as to say what is the price point where any course should be attracting? 0We are going to be a hell of a lot more circumspect in what the burdens are on students and what the plausibility is on charging prices on courses.

I think the next stage of the debate is very complicated. I don't think it is a debate that says do we lift the cap on fees or do we not lift the cap on fees without looking at all of the parameters that sit inside the model. There is the cap at £3,000. There is the salary at which you have to start repaying it as well as the rate of repayment. How long do you repay it for and at what interest rates? There is also the package of bursaries that sit alongside the fee model that allow students from disadvantaged backgrounds to go to University, and in a sense we've got to talk about all of those parameters. You can be guaranteed that the treasury will come back and say 'lets look at the interest rate on the money'.



DEAR SCAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“Let down by the nurses, again.”

Dear SCAN,

Two years ago I went to the nurse unit feeling really ill. To my shock I was told not to waste their time with a sore throat. So no argument, I just left.

Next day I saw a doctor, someone who actually reached the bare minimum level of competence rather than someone who drags their tardy, ill-equipped, depressed body along the lowest evolutionary level with their mouth pre-programmed on ‘I don’t care’. I was diagnosed with glandular fever and anaemia and not, alas, a sore throat.

Last week I went to the nurse unit feeling really ill. They rose to their typical standard of noncommittal, general, unspecified, unhelpful and hypothetical advice not relevant to this world. I was ill after I gave blood on Friday 3rd and I was kept in the Great Hall for 3 hours. After I left, I started getting ill again: I passed out shortly after being sick.

I recovered myself and saw the nurse looking like I’d died and reanimated myself, by chance, with a faulty defibrillator and ran 57 miles to see her. I looked horrible is what I am trying to say and I hope that image perforates the superfluosity of my writing. Before I could tell the nurse my name

I’d already been casually dismissed and told ‘there’s a lot of it about’. Next day I saw a doctor and far from being ‘a lot of it about’, I had a respiratory infection, a middle ear infection, anaemia and a leaking mitral valve in my heart. From this, I can deduce that a student would have to be dead before a nurse would consider treating them, and even then you’d be told ‘there’s a lot of it about’.

Joking aside, last night I had another episode with these wonderful mistresses of knowledge. Now, I have bits of my knee replaced and whereas it’s a novelty having titanium for a shin and knee, and a pain for people in Bolton-Le-Sands (yes that was me too), it doesn’t half chap when the metal starts coming through your shin. It looked absolutely foul. I rang the nurse and told her my minor problem: ‘what exactly do you expect me to do at 4am Miss Perry? All I can suggest is that you take some Ibuprofen and ignore it for the time being’. Stupid woman.

Anyway, what I shall do is terminate this monologue of mine with an extract from the email I sent to the nurse unit:

“Thank you very much for your help earlier. Very reassuring. I think I was disregarded before I could actually explain fully why this is a problem: [I explain the prob]. When this happened before I did borrow a hammer from the porter’s lodge and tap the nails

Letter of the week

“Disillusioned with college rivalry”

Dear SCAN,

Over the past few days a pointless little chain of events was revealed to me as I looked out my window.

My scenic view is mainly of the tower and some Furness residences. I woke one morning to find a big anti-Fylde banner in said Furness residences. I’m not really into College rivalry- ‘friendly’ or otherwise- so my first thought was not ‘how dare they!’ but ‘I wonder how long it took them to organize that’, followed by ‘that sign will probably become an egg target’. I was pleased, as far as I know, that this didn’t happen and that Lancaster weather aged the sign to a point of no return very quickly.

Yet this was replaced by another more confusing sign, slightly to the left of the original and indoors. As it got lighter I could see that the side of the building had been egged, and it doesn’t take a detective to assume who was responsible.

I think this is very disappointing for both Furness and Fylde. I understand they are rivals, and this may sound idealistic, but couldn’t all the people involved channel their energies into something useful? Right now I can see that neither Fylde nor Furness are top of the Carter Shield and neither won last year. Also with elections coming up maybe they would like to get more involved, go to hustings, vote and then question their JCR when they don’t live up to their promises/ congratulate them when they do?

Seeing as both Furness (everywhere else is nowhere) and Fylde both pride themselves on being fun, social colleges (and I can’t deny that they aren’t), maybe more people should be making an effort to make their college the best it can be, and not getting involved in little battles. It’s not the end of the world, I know, but I just hope that it ends soon.

A Disillusioned Fyldean

in, but alas, my pain threshold has become weaker. But not to worry, until I learn to control this problem such that it arises at a more convenient hour for the nurse unit, then am afraid I may ring at 3am in a panic. But never mind, should it get more painful, I will hack my leg off and personally hand

you the bleeding stump, which could be stuffed and used as an award to be handed to the nurse who cares least about the most people...”

**Lucy Perry
Bowland 3rd Year**

“Re: Accommodation Complaints.”

To a disgruntled Cartmellian,

Let me start by saying that I sympathise with how you feel in regard to choosing accommodation as early as week 4. Deciding who to live with for a year is always a difficult decision to make. However, please let me quash your fears about the accommodation being solely to, “get as much money as possible from them (students) before they have a chance to look off-campus”.

LUSU Housing has opened its housing applications earlier this year due to the increase in unaccredited landlords flying campus and scaremongering

students into signing up for houses some of which can be of a low standard under the pretence that, “there is not enough off campus housing for the amount of students”. This of course is untrue, however many first year students are unaware of this and as a consequence LUSU Advice has seen a steep rise in casework due to unaccredited housing.

Therefore, it was decided to give students the information earlier, before they signed up with some rogue. The University then followed suit. I cannot stress enough that the aim of this exercise from LUSU Housing point of view was to ensure students had an informed choice about student housing in Lancaster. We are not advocating that

you sign up instantly, but that students are aware from the start the options open to them, this is why we have run joint accommodation talks with the University to show students the positives and negatives of both on campus and off campus living. We strongly advise you to attend these talks, then take your time to think about who you want to live with.

Just so you are aware the University are guaranteeing a room for all continuing students who apply campus accommodation up until the 28th February 07, while LUSU Housing will be continuing to let houses well into the New Year, so there’s no need to rush which ever your preference.

Finally, you wrote in your letter that College and

Residence staff are, “more concerned with the welfare of their pockets than that of their students”. It is my understanding and personal experience that the Residence Officers are greatly concerned with the welfare of their students. Please try to remember that the College Residence Officers do not make the decisions on high and will do as best they can for the students in their colleges. If anyone has any issues then please contact me as your Union’s Education and Welfare Officer or come into LUSU Advice.

Kind Regards,

**Becky Heard
LUSU Education and Welfare Officer**

“Re: Lack of Liberalism.”

Dear SCAN,

Imagine the amusement of the staff and regulars of Furness Bar when reading the letter sent by your correspondent, ‘Anthony’, in the last issue of Scan. The misleading manner in which the letter presented various philosophies was matched only by the blatantly Thatcherite message concealed within its lines.

The invocation of English liberalism brings to mind Orwell, Mill, and Jenkins – politically speaking archetypal liberals. Comparisons of Hayek and Menger (who as part of the Austrian school of economics sit unhappily with Anthony’s proposed aim of enlightening

us in the ways of English liberalism) with Acton and Locke is to mix economic liberalism (or in this case neo-liberalism) with the political.

The neo-liberal philosophies championed in the letter, lauding individualism and egoism bear no resemblance to the history of political liberalism and look distinctly like the attitudes of 1980s Britain. Neo-liberalism bows to the market and at the same time as making winners generates a cross-section of society who lose out.

If this is the basis of Anthony’s liberty then it is no doubt that those of us with a conscience and analytical mind have chosen to view economic relationships through a Marxist approach and furthermore advocate socialist politics.

For Anthony, even behind the cover of quotation, to claim that capitalism is moral openly disgusts my left-wing sensibilities. The fundamental basis of capitalism is to take from the working class the fruits of their labour and to place it in the hands of the employer.

This open-robbery is supported by neo-liberals who argue vociferously against redistributive taxation which seeks to ameliorate the negative effects of capitalism. Of course these attitudes are blatantly those of monetarist Conservatism and for Anthony to dress them up in the clothes of disinterested politics is highly misleading.

Comrades, ignore Anthony’s ill-founded derision of Marxism and his love of individualism and, as the Communist Manifesto inspires us

to, unite!

**Chris Grocott
Assistant Dean, Furness College**

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.



View from the

CHAPLAINCY CENTRE

Eden Lost?

Kevin Huggett

“So what’s with all the dinosaurs?” asks Stephen Bates (Guardian 13 November 2006). He describes the world’s first creationist museum in the USA. Costing \$25m to build, it aims to counter ‘evolutionary natural history museums that turn countless minds against Christ and Scripture’. Surprisingly, dinosaurs feature in the museum: ‘beside the turtle pool, two animatronic, brown-complexioned children, demurely dressed in Hiawatha-like buckskin, gravely flutter with movement. Behind them lurk two small Tyrannosaurus Rexes.’

This report and a visit to the museum’s website have lightened up a couple of my mornings this week. I suspect the founders of the museum will not easily achieve their stated aims. I am more concerned that they miss the point of the biblical creation narratives, particularly how they can help us make sense of our current parlous situation.

It helps me to consider the creation narratives in the Bible as a work in progress, a description of the human condition, rather than an event done and dusted at the dawn of time. The creation process still goes on, new things come into being, existing things develop and grow. The naming process described in the narratives also continues, not least in many academic institutions around the world, as we continue to try and grasp the detail and breadth of the amazing world in which we find ourselves.

Much of our wonderful planet, thank God, continues to be like the Bible’s description of the Garden of Eden, with a breathtaking beauty - the delicate balancing of nature - providing the resources that give life to this world.

The creation narratives help us reflect that human beings are unique among the species in two respects. They are able to be creative, and they are able to consciously care for and tend the earth. It is interesting to note that the notion of the care and stewardship, deeply embedded in the Genesis narratives of creation, is so much a part of modern concern for the environment.

Here, to my mind, lies the real significance of the Bible’s creation accounts for us today. They explore the boundary between good stewardship of our planet’s resources on the one hand, and the pitfall of trying to become like gods ourselves, in the way we act on this planet, on the other. The essence of the Fall of Humankind we are told, lies in trying to play at being God.

The penalty of misunderstanding this boundary, and (as Adam and Eve are portrayed) being in complete denial that we are even doing anything wrong, is ultimately ejection from the Garden. This is perhaps less of a punishment than a direct effect. We are fast ejecting ourselves from many breathtaking gardens in our world, as we fell the rainforests, and destroy the delicate balance of our environment and kill off endangered species. Unless we act quickly there will never be a return to the Eden we have lost...

Finally Got His Dues

By Rosanna Silverlight
News Editor

Lancaster student Dan Dewsbury received a payout from the Labour party recently after his case against them was settled out of court. This concluded his campaign, as previously reported in SCAN, in which he threatened to take the Labour Party to court upon legal advice, after he was put to work by the party under large amounts of pressure without receiving the minimum wage.

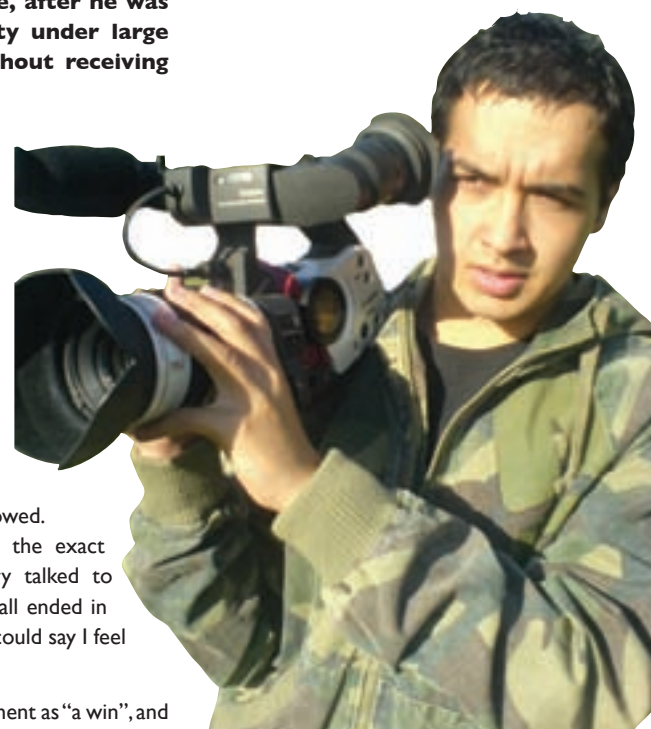
When SCAN reported on Dewsbury’s case, he was yet to receive any money from the Labour Party to cover the costs he incurred while was under their employment, a period which although advertised as ‘work experience’ was much closer to full employment.

He was then owed £400 by the party, but he has now received a large amount of money, covering what he was owed. Although unwilling to disclose the exact amount he received, Dewsbury talked to SCAN after the settlement. “It all ended in a favourable way,” he said. “You could say I feel ‘Back on top.’”

He added that he saw the settlement as “a win”, and

that it had “been seen by my peers and fellow film makers as a justice for anyone who felt the irony of a party which says one thing and does another.

“Also, due to the circumstances, it sets a precedent. The Labour party have been burnt, and I’m sure they will make efforts to make sure this does not happen again. That’s all I ever wanted.”



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7.30pm

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and Isy Suttie



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Two go mad in Morecambe

Simon Fogg and Hannah Lickert explore the quaint sea-side resort that is Morecambe

By Hannah Lickert and Simon Fogg

Features Editors

Culture:

Despite the obviously oxymoronic properties of the phrase “Culture in Morecambe”, this seaside town actually has a fair bit to offer. Morecambe was for many years regarded as a thriving seaside resort, as we could tell by one postcard we found that declared it to be “The Naples of the North,” and that reputation is only slightly diminished now. If it’s exercise you want, take a leisurely stroll along the famous promenade, taking in the view across the bay and, on a clear day you might be able to see Barrow-in-Furness. However, even the sea keeps its distance from Morecambe, only coming into view for about half an hour each day, bringing with it fallout from Sellafield and general sewage from the surrounding areas. So unless you want to come home with an extra arm or, more likely, lymphoma, swimming is not recommended in Morecambe.

The statue of Eric Morecambe does in fact connect this seaside resort with Italy. As many tourists take pictures of themselves in the same pose as this iconic effigy as they do pretending to hold up the leaning tower of Pisa, and they’re morons in both cities.

Thankfully for the youth of Morecambe, bands do, for some reason, include this place on their tours, the last one of note being the Stiff Little Fingers. The Dome is a popular punk venue, being one of many taking part in the annual Morecambe Punk Festival. It also plays host to the likes of Chesney Hawks.

Despite a lack of actual, observable culture to write about, a visit to Morecambe’s official website, www.morecambe.co.uk, reveals that the residents are quite the Mensa members. The Poetry section is well worth a visit, and one enamoured resident proved Simon and I wrong, as we decided we couldn’t think of anything more depressing than a retirement home in Morecambe, except perhaps Arnold Schwarzenegger’s election victory: “When I retire, then Morecambe is the place I want to be (eternal bliss).” However, it should be noted that this poem was written “a long time ago,” possibly when Morecambe bore a passing resemblance to a sunny Italian town.

Shopping:

Why go to Manchester’s Arndale Centre when you can visit Morecambe’s smaller, crappier version? Or, if you prefer to avoid the high street stores, there’s always the Festival Market, which has over 100 stalls, 99 of which sell carpets or antiques. Actually, I lie, there are many other things to choose from, like dried flowers, crockery and fashion for both sexes. It is located opposite the cinema, and on my last visit there, at night, a sign on the outside informed me that it was patrolled by attack dogs that are locked inside the market hall. No wonder it smells in the morning, or at any other time for that matter.



If you still haven’t dropped after visiting these two, there’s an abundance of supermarkets and independent businesses, the latter of which are mostly shut, but which promise quality goods at low, low prices if, and when, they do open. So your best bet for a happy time in Morecambe is the alcohol aisle of Morrison’s.

Christmas:

What better place to spend the festive season than Morecambe? We’ve already seen what it has to offer in terms of shopping and accommodation, activities, but even Santa doesn’t visit this godforsaken hell hole. As of yesterday (16th November) the council still hadn’t put up any Christmas decorations, but Lancashire County Council is notorious for ignoring this flagging resort.

Fine dining:

Fish and chips, fish and chips, fish and chips and fish and chips. I recommend Mr Smith’s fish and chip shop in particular, as in my opinion it is the only good thing about the whole godforsaken place. Alternatively, try AJ’s Famous Double Burgers. Surely you’ve heard of them?

Nightlife and Entertainment:

As well as Laser Quest and the cinema, we all know what I’m going to mention, so let’s just get it over with. The Carleton. Apart from the student nights, it probably has other uses, but I have no intention of visiting it on any other day, or even in fact in daylight. There’s also ‘The Office’, a strip club, which is, apparently, much better than the prospect of Morecambe strippers suggests.

Let’s not forget the mostly dismantled theme park. Rumour has it that the council paid Noel Edmonds’ company an insane amount for this, hoping it would boost tourism. Apparently, the bastard took the money, left them with a death trap, and then did a runner. The unimpressive and now abandoned Polo Tower just adds to my view that Morecambe is exactly like Blackpool; except viewed a few years after nuclear fallout.

Accommodation:

Morecambe is relatively fortunate in this respect, as it holds a prime location on the side of the River Styx. Whenever my parents visit they always insist on staying here, so I have often been witness to coach loads of the damned being ferried in and out of the hotels. It is actually rather poignant, as these elderly tourists undoubtedly stayed here in their youth, and are returning for sentimental reasons only. The depressing panorama may actually be glorious once again when seen through nostalgic eyes, but I just content myself by taking bets on how many of the hotel’s guests will actually make it through the night.

There are many old buildings here that would suit many people’s taste if they weren’t un-creatively vandalised. In fact, there is a degree of renovation going on, with one building being transformed into a modern hotel, whilst staying true to the old design. Although it is good to see Morecambe look a little revitalised, I can’t say it’s likely to be a profitable venture.



By Weird Dan

Weird Galgate...

"The Devil is Among Us" says Weird Dan

Having trouble casting out those inner demons? Fear not my friends! Just three miles from the University lies Ellel Grange, the International HQ of Ellel Ministries, an organisation that focuses on 'setting the captives free.'

According to their website, Lancashire bred founder Peter Horrobin was fixing a clapped out sports car when he had a vision. Not knowing how to begin fixing the crumpled chassis, Horrobin claims that God himself offered a practical solution to the fault, before going on to add that 'whilst He (God) can fix cars, He also has the ability to 'rebuild broken lives.' Horrobin was inspired. He then purchased Ellel Grange, a nineteenth century Italianate Villa on the outskirts of Galgate. The building became the first Ellel Ministries Centre. Since then the organisation has spread across the globe as far as India. Ellel Grange offers a free 'healing retreat' for those who have suffered various traumas, as well as courses with advice on everything from marital advice to kicking your porn addiction.

Several members claim to have experienced powerful visions following the opening of the

centre. One woman claims to have seen "thick black smoke pouring from the chimneys." She felt it represented "all the dirt that He (God) was going to clean out of people's lives." Burnt toast, love.

When I called the Grange they seemed somewhat anxious when I confessed to not being a Christian, saying that in the past journalists have taken their practices 'out of context.' They have indeed suffered some bad press. An article in the *Fortean Times* ('Satan in Suburbia,' FT 152, Nov 2001) claims that the Centre's counselling methods were criticised in 1992 following a *Dispatches* documentary on Satanic Ritual Abuse. Apparently they caused a woman to believe she had assisted a 'devil priest' in stabbing her own baby.

Nevertheless I was invited to one of their healing services. I took my wife, as we hadn't had a good night out in ages. We were greeted by a friendly South African chap, who ushered us through the spectacular building to the service room, already filled with folky singalong music. And tissues. Boxes and boxes of tissues. After a seemingly endless hymn medley, Ken Hebworth was introduced. A dynamic public speaker, Ken delivered a passionate talk on the problems of the day. He insisted on the importance of the spirit over 'rationale,' emphasising the number

of academics he knows who are miserable. He had a rather un-PC rant about the troubling rise of Islam, as well as a dig at unfaithful politicians. If they "break their marriage vows, how can we trust them?" "Amen" came the resounding answer.

At the end came the 'healing' part of the ceremony. After a gentle hymn, grown men were literally weeping (hence the aforementioned tissues). People formed an orderly queue to speak to the 'ministry team' about personal issues to a soft piano soundtrack, reminiscent of a 'give £2 a month' advert. With lots of head and shoulder touching, the people were listened to, something they clearly needed. What saddened me was the number of young people who seemed to have suffered some kind of trauma. As one young girl sang the hymns she dropped to her knees with tearful ecstasy. Whatever my views on religion I realised the importance of giving these people something to belong to.

Afterwards we checked out the bookstore. We came away with Jill Southern's 'Sex, God's Truth,' which stresses the dangers of non-vaginal sex, porn and masturbation. The author tells of a pastor she knew who sexually abused a five-year-old, and "it all started with masturbation." Another pamphlet on the occult warns of the dangers of the black arts and, bizarrely, Dungeons

and Dragons. LURPS beware!

Whilst I find their morals and literature repugnantly fundamentalist, it cannot be said that the Ellel Ministries don't bring light to people's lives. "He redeems my life from the pit" reads a banner at the Grange. Perhaps, for some, he does.

DO YOU HAVE A WEIRD STORY ABOUT LANCASTER?

If so, email Weird Dan at shakethosebuns101@hotmail.com



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Between a rock and a hard place Christmas festivities start too early, humbug!

Craig Waling

Is it just me, or does it seem that every year, Christmas decorations keep going up earlier and earlier? Does no one stop and think that it's a bit strange that they're up so soon?

I'm already sick of seeing Christmas everywhere.

By the time it's actually Christmas

Day, I'll want the decorations

taken down, and

people are

going

to



accuse me of being a Scrooge, just because I've lost interest in 'Christmas' since it actually started three months ago.

The St. Nicholas Arcades in Lancaster put their decorations up in late October. OK, they may be named after the man behind the show, but there's still no need to have the decorations up before Halloween. There are kids out trick or treating and already some sad git has gone and put Christmas decorations up.

For the first few weeks, you anticipate the coming of Christmas, and then you lose interest. The snowmen in the shop windows become part of the scenery, and Christmas becomes just another day in the year.

That's the problem; after all the hype you become fed up of it before the big moment really arrives. Star Wars fans (geeky people like me) know all about hype ruining the big moment. Just imagine months of waiting for a film to come out only to find that it's been bastardised by a fish with floppy ears called Jar Jar Binks.

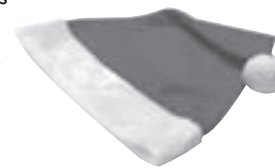
Now apply that to Christmas. The anticipation is built up for months, with Christmas cards being sold in some shops before September even rolls

in. And when it finally does come, and you find that your Gran has knitted you a crap sweater and you're pissed off. You've been waiting for ages, now what's happened?

The Christmas tree has been up for six weeks and shed its needles, the tinsel looks all shabby, and the decorations have a strange sense of familiarity, rather than giving you that warm, special feeling that comes only once a year.

But imagine only twenty-four days of hype, with a chocolate behind a window each day, and when you get to that day, there's a pristine looking tree that was put up just two weeks ago. The warm feeling of Christmas is around you so much that you actually want to thank your Gran for her crap sweater.

Now that's more like it. Leave all the mince pies, Christmas cards, decorations and all the other cool stuff that we all love about Christmas until the end of November. That way, Christmas won't be ruined by being so bloody long. Now, kids always say "I wish it could be Christmas every day", but in all honesty, I think that the entire month of December is enough.



Christmas is cracking the sooner the better!

Rachel Butler

I write this in my freezing cold house, wrapped up in a duvet, skilfully balancing my laptop on my knees. It's going to be a cold winter, especially in here - we're all broke so the heating ain't going on any time soon. Viva la extra layers! However all is not lost, because when it gets cold on our little island, it means Christmas and all that festive jazz is on its way. Hooray!

I hear grumbles of senile despair about Advent calendars going on sale at Easter, greetings cards before we've hit Halloween and receiving Christmas catalogues before you've left for your summer holiday. There are moans as people stroll round shops being inundated with the subliminal message 'Buy This and This and This' disguised amongst tinsel and twinkly lights. There are groans about neighbours filling their gardens with disturbing inflatable snowmen and sticking life-sized Santas to their rooves!

Thus on the surface, the modern-day British Christmas appears gaudy and distasteful. However, peel back the materialistic layers and you'll see a softer side to all that festive season malarkey.

Christmas and the weeks beforehand give us an excuse to be nice. We call it Christmas Spirit. It involves willingly doing things for others we usually wouldn't bother with; forgiveness, patience and other acts of kindness. We spend hours hardcore Christmas shopping, subsequently



getting tangled up in sticky tape and acquiring paper cuts trying to wrap gifts nicely, all in the name of love. It's also one of the occasions that instead of blanking and barging past strangers, we utter 'have a good Christmas'. Similarly it's the only time of year many friends, neighbours and relatives drop each other a line and exchange news instead of avoiding each other.

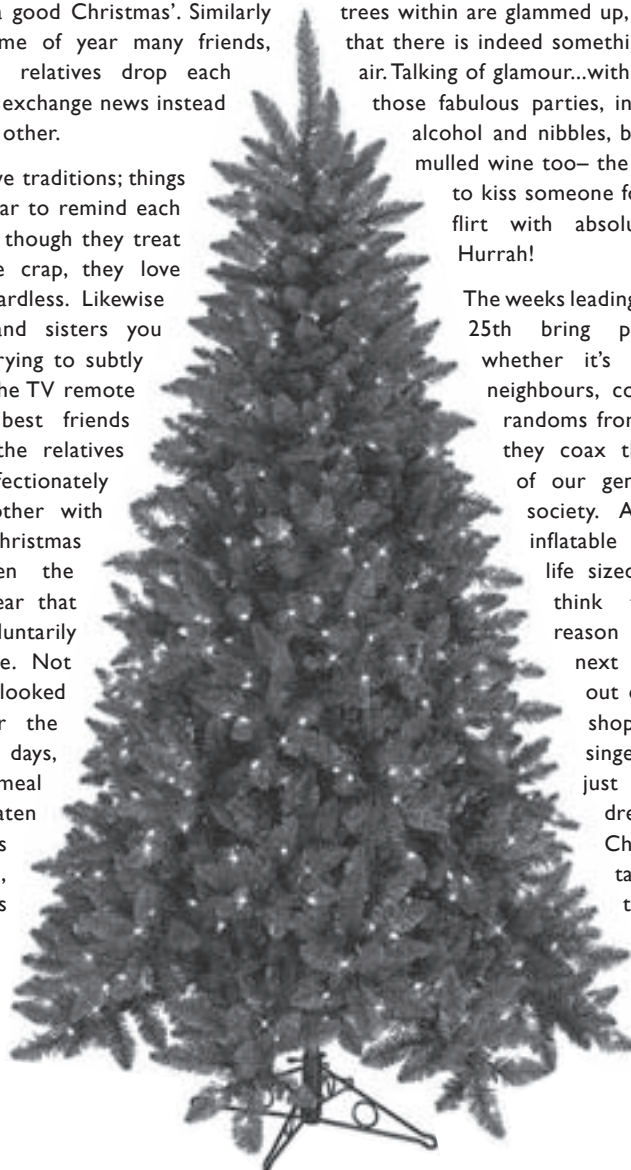
Many people have traditions; things they do each year to remind each other that even though they treat each other like crap, they love each other regardless. Likewise the brothers and sisters you spent all year trying to subtly bump off with the TV remote become your best friends as you battle the relatives together and affectionately present each other with parcels. Christmas dinner is often the only time of year that draws family voluntarily round the table. Not only is the food looked forward to for the previous 364 days, but it's the only meal that can be eaten without siblings squabbling, parental rudeness or everyone begging 'please may I leave the table' and bugging off ASAP.

It's

rather refreshing to see lights and decorations everywhere, as opposed to the grey and grimy winter streets. Most enjoy dressing up to go out, so when an entire country and many of the fir trees within are glammed up, no one can deny that there is indeed something magical in the air. Talking of glamour...with Christmas come those fabulous parties, involving not only alcohol and nibbles, but mistletoe and mulled wine too— the best justification to kiss someone for no reason and flirt with absolutely everybody. Hurrah!

The weeks leading up to December 25th bring people together, whether it's families, friends, neighbours, colleagues or just randoms from your local, and they coax the niceness out of our generally miserable society. Aside from the inflatable snowmen and life sized Santas, I don't think that's really a reason to grumble. So next time you walk out of your favourite shop or spit at carol singers because you just can't handle 'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas' anymore, take a moment and think about what you're actually walking away from.

Peace and goodwill to all. Amen!



RANDOM UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE OF THE FORTNIGHT!



Who are you?

Simon Vaukins

What do you do?

Exit desk attendant in the Library/ History Teaching Assistant

Where are you from?

Isle of Man

What do you love most about Lancaster University?

College System

What do you hate most about it?

The lack of good sporting facilities

What image or idea most accurately sums up your life at the University?

Work/Research/Socialising

How do you like to socialise/spend your spare time?

Either at home or playing football

If you (God forbid) died tonight, what would be your biggest regret?

Spending six years in the rain in Lancaster

What is your favourite sound/noise?

A duck's quack- supposedly it doesn't echo

Favourite word?

Banana or Mississippi

Snow leopard or Siberian tiger?

Tiger

South Park or The Simpsons?

The Simpsons

Daniel Craig as James Bond; sauve Bond, or big idiot?

Somewhere in between

Keira Knightley or Scarlett Johansson

Scarlett

Would you rather be trapped in a lift with Hannibal Lector or Tony Blair?

Depends who was hungrier!

Tim Henman: talented sportsman or utter loser[sic]?

Talented sportsman



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for next
year...**

for all that
you **can't leave** behind...

(and great memories yet to come)

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Love Thy Cleaner

Matt Davies says why all students should love, respect and care for their cleaners

By Matt Davies

A friend of mine recently had some troubles with the extractor fan in his ensuite bathroom. As an academic not vocational student, he was forced to call in the maintenance force, or register his SOS through an online form, as is the fashion. Some days later, as I understand it, he was smoking recreational drugs or, for the purposes of this article, sitting at his desk diligently putting the final touches to an indicative bibliography, when help arrived.

Workman's problem number one: something to stand on to examine the affected area. Problem solved - grab the chair in the corner, first throwing any clothes on it to the floor. Workman's problem number two; stagnating student bathroom. Problem solved - the extractor fan is now on continuously as is, coincidentally, the bathroom light. I heard about this whole scenario as my friend was complaining about how rude the man in question was. And I admit I did sympathise, until I had my own anecdotal experience.

My radiator had been permanently on full blast since I moved in and eventually, not being cold blooded, I had to call in maintenance. In the short space of time he was in my room, he fixed the radiator, had an argument with his wife on his mobile, gave me a lecture on the difficulties of finding "the right shower-head supports" and arranged a short term let of my room to store his ladder and tools. I'd had a revelation. Porters, maintenance staff and cleaners. No longer just a periphery to the student life, or even a bunch of squares trying to bring down my buzz, man.

Instead, they are a group of people essential in order for me to be able to wake up at noon, bum around, drink, and decorate my kitchen table with fried chicken if, and when, I decide to return home. I can hear some of the economists reading this: "Yeah, but we pay for the accommodation and part of that accommodation charge is for maintenance and cleaning and without us paying that charge, that we pay, the staff wouldn't get paid - look at my graph".

I take your point, but consider this. Maintenance staff, for example, have to go from room to room each day repairing things that more than likely students have stupidly broken. And whilst they have to consider how best to pacify the wife and where they need to lug their ladder to next, my main worry is what songs to add to "Thriller" on my Halloween party playlist.

There are more examples too. Everyday the cleaners battle against kitchens and corridors and the assorted shit found within whilst I continue merrily making mess and waiting for the morning fairies to clean it up. The local fire service could no doubt drive blindfolded to each college, the number of false alarms they have responded to, most likely caused by 4am cheese on toast making (Lea & Perrins recommended). All I have to do is walk down

two flights of stairs, stand around, then walk back up the same stairs. Facilities staff facilitate our carefree, comfortable university lifestyle, and for that we should all be grateful.

I remember back in my fresher year, our corridor all chipped in to buy our cleaner a Christmas present. However, it was an apology, not a thank you. She had helped the few square feet that were our kitchen and corridor weather many a storm; group peeing into a sieve, projectile vomiting after "the milk challenge" (8 pints of milk in an hour, the worst I have ever felt in my life), landscape gardening and uncontrollable defecation (whilst naked) to name a few.

So get to know your cleaner, and if the acts listed previously sound familiar, thank her every day. To end my appreciation I'd like to remind our staff of cleaners it could be worse. The below is real correspondence between a guest and his cleaner in an American motel. Enjoy:

Dear Maid,

Please do not leave any more of those little bars of soap in my bathroom since I have brought my own bath-sized liquid soap dispenser. Please remove the six unopened little bars from the shelf under the medicine chest and another three in the shower soap dish. They are in my way.

Thank you.

Dear Room 635,

I am not your regular maid. She will be back tomorrow, Thursday, from her day off. I took the three hotel soaps out of the shower soap dish as you requested. The six bars on your shelf I took out of your way and put on top of your Kleenex dispenser in case you should change your mind. This leaves only the three bars I left today, as my

instructions from the management are to leave three soaps daily. I hope this is satisfactory.

*Kathy,
Relief Maid*

Dear Maid,

It is impossible to contact you by phone since I leave the hotel for business at 7.45 AM. That's the reason I called the porter last night. I only asked if he could do anything about those little bars of soap. The new maid you assigned me must have thought I was a new check-in today, since she left another three bars of hotel soap in my medicine cabinet along with her regular delivery of three bars on the bath-room shelf. In just five days here I have accumulated 24 little bars of soap. Why are you doing this to me?

Dear Sir,

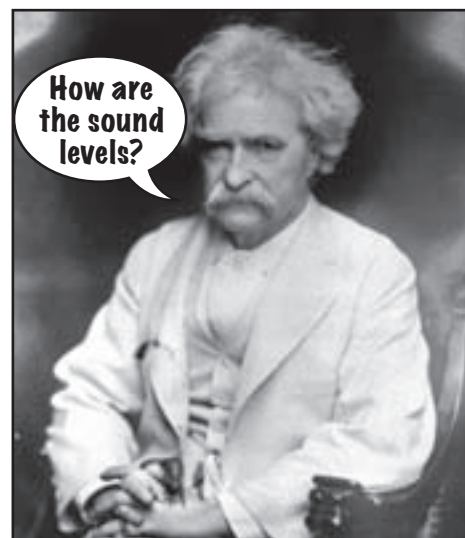
Your maid, Kathy, has been instructed to stop delivering soap to your room and remove the extra soaps. If I can be of further assistance, please call extension 1108 between 8AM and 5PM.

*Thank you,
Elaine Carmen, Housekeeper*

Dear Maid,

Just a short note to bring you up-to-date on my latest soap inventory. As of today I possess: On shelf under medicine cabinet - 18 soaps in four stacks of four and one stack of two. On Kleenex dispenser - 11 soaps in two stacks of four and one stack of three. On bedroom dresser - one stack of three Cashmere Bouquet soap, one stack of four hotel-size Ivory soap, and eight ordinary soap in two stacks of four. Inside medicine cabinet - 14 soap in three stacks of four and 1 stack of two. In shower soap dish - soap, very moist. On northeast corner of tub - One Cashmere Bouquet, slightly used. On northwest corner of tub - six soap in two stacks of three. Please make sure the stacks are neatly piled and dusted.

Also, please be advised that stacks of more than four have a tendency to tip. May I suggest that my bedroom window sill is not in use and will make an excellent spot for future soap deliveries. One more item: I have purchased another bar of personal bath-sized soap which I am keeping in the hotel vault in order to avoid further misunderstandings.



THE LONLELINESS OF THE LONG DISTANCE SOUND-TECH

Mark Twain is away...

Pendle Bar. I believe much has been written on the subject in SCAN but I am not here to stir the fires of discontent, and anyway, the Pendle Witch bottled ale is a delight. And so, in the interests of not just journalism, but also a top time, I potted down, girlfriend in tow, for an evening out.

There are always little idiosyncrasies in a night out which engage and amuse, but what interested me in this instance was the ferreting of a young lad whilst my girlfriend and I were watching some young noisemakers bashing about on their instruments.

The lad in question, a slight thing in drainpipes and beige rollneck, just couldn't sit still, bless him! I wondered if he needed to do a wee but when I pointed in the direction of the toilets he looked startled and toddled off on his confused and confusing way again. I wouldn't have minded the young scamp skipping to the beat of some student singsong, but it turned out the devil was actually involved!

On closer inspection I found that he twiddled a knob to little or no effect, slinked to the foosball table, stood in our way, slinked back, twiddled a knob to little or no effect, slinked to the foosball table, stood in our way, slinked back, twiddled a knob to little or no effect, etc, etc, etc.

Now, I'm all for allowing every student a role in clubs or societies on campus, but surely a, some would say, "irksome little twerp" like this can be accommodated in a more minor or backstage role?

I decided that the chappy was either a genius, or far from it. Was he doing something so subtly brilliant that even though the assembled throng had no idea they were being manipulated, they were in fact hearing an absolute epiphany of sound? I severely doubted it, but I needed proof. I turned to my girlfriend; she had her fingers in her ears; that was all the proof I needed.

Wandering back into the crisp November night, I considered clubs, societies and the role of an in-show sound tech. I don't want to tar all those folk with the same brush, but why? Bands have a sound check, clubs and societies have a plethora of roles to fulfil and yet this young (and I'm sure absolutely lovely!) scallywag had the misfortune of irritating the bejesus out of the majority of an ever-decreasing, music-loving crowd. So if you join a club or society this year, make sure you don't get lumped with the 'in-show sound tech' role, you poor, poor people.

Ask the squash



Dear Squash,

Why can't I get a girlfriend? Every girl I talk to thinks I'm weird and won't go out with me, however many times I ask her. I've tried standing outside their houses for hours, sending them multiple myspace messages, even getting facial reconstructive surgery to look more like the Johnny Depp posters I've seen on girls' walls when I peer through their windows. Please help!

Careworn in Cartmel

Well Careworn,

It seems like you're in a bit of a pickle. One idea might be changing your college. Cartmel is a notorious dry spot for sexual liaisons although it is unclear as to why. I suggest getting yourself down to the gym, so you can climb up the drainpipes on the outside of the blocks in Cartmel, therefore increasing the amount of girls you can pursue.

Alternatively, you could play it coy and wait for the girls to come to you. How much time have you got?

Yours, *The Squash*

Street Urchin Art

By M. Wesolowski

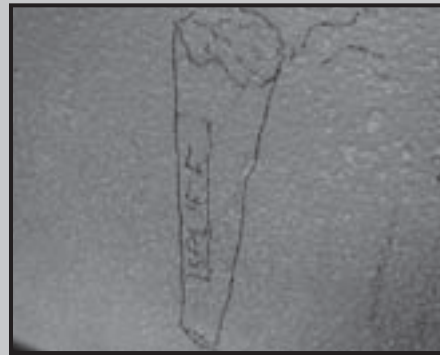
We've all seen it; we've all marvelled at its timeless idiocy and some of us have even taken to heart the immortal messages that have been passed from the tips of their permanent markers and the blades of their Stanley knives.

Yes, the time has come to honour the crude renderings of the loveable street urchin. Who could forget the masterpiece that once adorned the bus stop on Common Garden Street, in blue marker pen, a few years back? 'I need a shag KNOW!'

Not to mention the quite remarkable reply a few weeks later that appeared in red. 'Its NOW you thick bitch!' In other words, it's time to sneer at those less educated and privileged as our good selves and the drivel they write on stuff.

We can see this particular artist has some sort of grasp of three dimensions. An obvious talking point for the Urchin Art connoisseur has to be the tendrill of smoke curling gently away from the top of the image, possibly signifying the artist's desire to capture the concept as if drifted through their fingers, holding it immortal for evermore.

My favourite part of this is how the artist has carefully titled his or her art with what it is; namely a 'SPLIFF' but being careful to draw a box around it so it gives the impression of a canvas within a canvas, or indeed, one of those spliffs that has a label on it, just in case you thought it was a cigarette.



I truly believe the artist has taken us on a journey through their yearning and discomfort with modern living that evidently inspired 'Spliff'.

A challenge for you Urchin Art lovers is to capture some Urchin Scrawling of your own in a photographic image and send them in. It can be graffiti, an image or even decimation of an advertisement (e.g. someone drawing a cock on a Jamie Oliver billboard!) but it has to be authentic. Doing your own graffiti is wrong and makes you into a bad person. Please name the location so our team of Urchin Art authenticators can verify it as authentic Urchin Art.

**Please send all Street Urchin art to
bothersomedirtchild@gmail.com**

PS. I've heard rumours of a picture of a dog with a penis for a face, saying 'woof' on a street sign somewhere...

What the papers should say...



Madonna adopts goat as companion for new African child.

OK! Page 2.

Victoria Beckham releases weight-loss DVD.

Daily Mail, Page 16.

Shock as Graham Norton's estranged wife discovered in presenter's attic.

The Sun, Page 20.

Ken Livingstone suggests "Christian congestion charge."

The Independent, Page 1.

Blair's eldest son Euan dispatched to Iraq.

The Guardian, Page 1.

Germaine Greer applauds Mike Newell's views on female referees.

Shoot, Page 136.

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Government stands still as climate changes

By Rowan Smith

On the 4th of November, 25,000 activists from greens to trade unionists protested for tougher government policy in tackling human driven causes of climate change. Under the banner of Stop Climate Chaos coalition they called for Tony Blair to introduce a Climate Change Bill into the Queen's speech. Students from Lancaster People & Planet took part in the march, which succeeded in its demand.

Two weeks ago the Queen announced that indeed such a Bill would be put to vote in parliament. However, critics were dismayed that despite a promising step the government has once again failed to put fine words into action.

According to Campaign against Climate Change, the Bill fundamentally omits any compulsory targets for annual

reductions of CO2 emissions. Friends of the Earth suggest we need binding targets of 3% per annum in order to avoid a 2°C increase in global temperatures from pre-industrial levels.

More encouragingly, the Bill hopes to cut CO2 emissions by 60% by 2050. Whilst being a conservative estimate, it's inclusion is nevertheless welcomed as a tenable measure.

The demonstration culminated in a mass rally at Trafalgar Square. People & Planet, which is the largest student network in the UK campaigning on the

environment and world poverty, joined in with Samba musicians and a moving art visualisation depicting the degradation of the Earth's climate (pictured).

However, many were appalled that the organisers had decided to put on a charity gig instead of using the opportunity to voice our concerns directly to Downing Street. They seemed to have forgotten that we do have the power to change the agenda of politicians, even when the immediacy of climate change itself provokes astonishingly little change in ideas.



Debating Society to host international competition

The first weekend of December Lancaster Debating Society host its own Inter-Varsity competition, with as many as 26 teams from 15 universities taking part. Between the 1st and 3rd of December, LUDS will be responsible for running a day's worth of competitive "intellectual sport" which sees two randomly drawn pairs of debaters face off against two other random teams per round to argue for and against motions that encapsulate social and moral issues.

As with all IV competitions, Saturday's competition will be a show of students displaying their argumentative prowess, taking on a motion they may not agree with, but using reasoning, analysis and quick-wit to impress a panel of judges into thinking that they have the right side of the argument. Those that regularly triumph at these competitions go on to have

remarkable careers as lawyers and politicians and it is at these competitions where they hone their skills. Lancaster's own event will be a chance for debaters and students alike to see the student debating community at its very best...and then at its very worst when the competitors break out the alcohol after the event has closed!

Whilst only a small organisation in comparison to Oxford and Cambridge, LUDS hosts one of Lancaster University's oldest traditions, the Inter Collegiate Debating Union competition, founded in the 1960s. Recent members have included former Student Union President Dwayne Branch, John Pybus, who finished as a finalist at an International IV in Utrecht in 2004, and David Resoli, who resurrected the competition after a five year hiatus.

LUDS prides itself on its ability to hold such an event as it not only reflects well on the society but it also allows Lancaster's students, whether they are members or non-members, to

observe the skills of structure and style playing out in front of them. Not only is this beneficial to new members as they start out on the debating circuit but it can also help students more generally in improving their argumentative skills.

For those of you that are interested, the Debating Society are selling tickets to the final of the competition where the best of the best of the debaters meet for a decisive public showdown. Tickets cost £6, which covers complementary food and drink, as well as access to the Sugarhouse for students with two free drinks included. The final will take place on Saturday 2nd December at 6pm in the George Fox Lecture Theatre 1 and will be introduced by Lancaster University's Chancellor Sir Christian Bonnington.

Tickets will be available at the regular Monday night debates (7pm in Fylde Lecture Theatre 1), in Alexandra Square in Week 8, and on the night itself. Please come and support your local Debating Society.



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Choir and Symphony event

ULMS, University of Lancaster Music Society, is holding a Choir & Symphony Orchestra concert at the end of Week 8, Sun Dec 3rd, in the Great Hall on campus. Items include Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker Suite, and John Rutter's The Reluctant Dragon.

All are welcome, tickets available at the door and there is a two-

for-one offer on tickets for students and children. Prices are £5 Adults, £3 Students & Children, and £2 for ULMS members.

Also this term, there is the Swing Group & Big Band concert in Week 9 on Sunday 10th December on campus at Barker House Farm, Cartmel College. This, like the other concerts promises to be a superb night for all who attend.

If you require any further information on ULMS concerts this term please email: ulms-publicity@lancaster.ac.uk



TV Killed The Radio Star?

GIGS

TV ON THE RADIO: LIVE AT MANCHESTER ACADEMY

By ADAM SIMONS

TV on the Radio are perhaps one of the most enthralling bands on the planet right now; combining a Kevin Shields-esque approach to feedback and noise manipulation with elements of electronica, topped with one of the most poetic lyricists and soulful singers. It is bizarre to think that a band as innovative and potentially alienating as TV on the Radio, stateside, find themselves on Interscope, home of million sellers such as 50 Cent, Lloyd Banks and D12.

Not to say that TV on the Radio are obscurist, their greatest charm is their ability to take their influences from multiple genres and mould

it into something that is mostly intensely listenable, accessible and largely evocative.

Sadly though, despite their potential and the size of their backers, they are still something of a cult band and though tonight's gig is well sold out, it is disappointing that they are playing the smallest of the Academy venues. Ironically, for a band that push the boundaries as much as TV on the Radio, it is only a sound system that can hold them back, though this doesn't seem to bother them, be it because of their professionalism or how enveloped they are in the intensity of the performances. Seeing the energy and emotion put in by singer Tunde Adebimpe is an experience akin to an epiphany, it's just a shame that you can't actually hear him and this is the blight on all of their set. The sound leaves David Sitek's back-to-the-audience My Bloody Valentine-esque feedback fuzz overbearing in the mix to the point it is almost impossible to distinguish what he is playing, leaving the dub-like bass and the drums to carry the songs.

Still, it is at times clear to see why TV on the Radio receive such hype about their live show. Opening with 'Dirty Whirl', one of the stand out tracks on their recent second album 'Return to Cooke Mountain', the band lull the audience into a false sense of calm. As feedback gently whirls, cymbals and wind chimes rustle while Tunde asks us to imagine we are at sea on a boat. Very new age indeed, but the use of looped human beat box and whistling are enough to dispell any of those fears. If any of those alarms are still ringing, they are effectively shattered by the 100 r.p.m. punked-up version of 'Wrong Way'. Surprisingly much of their first album is played tonight, as are highlights from their first EPs, 'Satellite' and 'Young Liars', and the set is a well balanced mix of new and old.

Sped up performances of album versions seems to be a general rule. The speed of 'Wolf Like Me' gives it a new viciousness, as does 'Bomb Your Country', becoming more inciting then its recorded counterpart. When White Crime Circle Club join them, bringing with them a collection of percussion instruments, the mood changes into a much more carnival atmosphere with seven men bashing floor toms and shaking tambourines while Tunde sings through a megaphone. They close their set with 'Staring at the Sun' and it's a performance that sends a shiver through, not only your spine, but your entire body. Shamefully it loses some of its effect through the dire sound, but it's an amazing end to an amazing set.



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Albums

ALBUM

JARVIS: JARVIS
By Will Thacker

Not many artists who share their name with a building contractor make it beyond the first hurdle. *Multiplex*, for example, are an awful band. But here comes Sheffield's favourite bespectacled son, *Jarvis*, to construct an album that will bring the house down. *Jarvis* is a record preoccupied with ideas as much as it is by sound.

The biting, state-of-the-nation

thrash pop of 'Fat Children' savages the police force for "putting bullets in some guy's head for no particular reason". This song is one of the records' finest moments, while the anthemic rock of 'Don't Let Him Waste Your Time' sounds as immediate and relevant as anything rotated on college radio today.

Jarvis manages to capture grand political ideas and mundane everyday life in equal measure. Few other songwriters can successfully distil the everyday

troubles in Tottenham and relate them to those in Iraq and across the globe. "Peace is the sweetest sound I've ever heard" is one such affirmation on the slow-burning 'Baby's Coming Back To Me'. In using the abstract to convey a political message, he is well aware that the song will be around long after Tony Blair. From police brutality to the perils of age, Cocker's irreverent take on life and its messy contents never ceases to intrigue. Importantly, he makes no attempt to sound youthful and stays true to the

apprehension his forty-three years necessitate. On 'I Will Kill Again' he prophesies a future life where he will: "Drink a half bottle of wine/ Buy a couple of records/Look at naked girls from time to time".

Even if the subject matter represents a revolving door of ideas, textured percussion and light synth largely hold true to a cohesive body of work. Few of Cocker's Britpop contemporaries approach music with the same degree of ambition. Whilst *Oasis* happily shun experimentation in all its forms, *Jarvis* positively shimmers with new ideas. From the bells and whistles that layer 'Black Magic' to the sampling of thunderstorms on 'Heavy Weather', Cocker can never be accused of predictability.

However, the appeal of *Jarvis* is limited by the adult nature of its sound with much of its content

meandering aimlessly. Short piano ditties such as 'Disney Time' serve only to douse the Britpop hangover that much of the record represents.

At under an hour the record doesn't outstay its welcome, but

the variety of sounds it contains will interest if not endear listeners. Instead, *Jarvis* marks a rite of passage for pill-popping fans from the mid-90s whose Tesco conveyor belts this album will surely occupy.



It's All Going Don

ALBUM

AKIRA THE DON: WHEN WE WERE YOUNG
By Dave English

If you're a fan of *The Streets*, *Miss Dynamite*, *Dizzee Rascal* etc. then this is probably for you. Musical innovation and a social conscience are two things that we've come to expect from quality British rap in recent times, and *Akira the Don's* debut album covers both of these bases.

Musically, it veers from funky club anthems (the fantastic opener 'Liverpool' and the *Alice Cooper*-sampling 'Clones') and softer, more introspective material, all fuelled by a healthy dose of anger at religion, politics, war; the usual suspects. Thanks to a rather excellent production job (the 'James Brown' producer credit unfortunately doesn't refer to the soul legend), almost every song is both catchy and imaginative, with a lot of 80's

references that give the album a polished, appealingly retro feel.

His political tirades are spot on, such as 'Thanks For All The Aids', which does a great job of highlighting how Bono and the rest of the Live 8 crowd have naively cosied up to our global leaders. However, that doesn't mean it's not without its weaknesses. While it does break new ground musically, there is not much of an attempt to get away from the kitchen-sink social realism that has become something of a cliché among British rappers' lyrics.

His supposed anger also doesn't really sound very dangerous on record, which is no bad thing, but it does perhaps highlight how 'institutionalised' political music has become since 9/11. Also, it may not be *Akira the Don's* fault, but by far the worst thing about

this album is that David Cameron probably genuinely loves this sort of thing. Which is slightly annoying. Overall though, this is a highly enjoyable affair that is definitely worth hearing.



Dirty Sheets & Bedroom Beats

ALBUM

JEREMY WARMSLEY: THE ART OF FICTION
By Will Veitch

You can imagine *Warmsley* surrounded by empty beer cans, overfull ashtrays and old issues of *Loaded* in a bedsit somewhere in North London, churning out computer beats as he ad libs songs of torment and urban living over the top.

The homemade feel of this debut really adds warmth to the experience and although lyrically he is essentially cup-half-empty, "I'm sick of sucking on second-hand air, I've got to get off the train and have an affair" you can't help but be drawn into his world, however bleak it is.

'Dirty Blue Jeans' opens the album with scatty violins and scattier vocals. 'I Promise', one of the strongest tracks, is steam

trains and military drums and '5 Verses' is a melancholic love story over dirty beats.

"The Young Man Sees The City As A Chessboard" and 'I Knew That Her Face Was A Lie' are nicely titled but head-throbbingly boring as they fail to hit the spot musically and even lyrically. 'I Believe In The Way You Move' though proves *Warmsley* has the ability to write a "slow one" and before his 'Suggested Intermission' this is a positive showcase for both his voice and his versatility.

After the break the mood changes slightly and 'Jonathan & The Oak Tree' is more epic in feel with a plodding piano intro and anti-pop harmonies. 'Modern Children' meanwhile, a well-weighted polemic against the lack of a nurturing society today, is much pithier than 'A Matter



Of Principle', although the latter is both charming and leftfield. Rounding off *Warmsley's* debut, 'If I Had Only' and 'Hush' seem to tread familiar territory.

Warmsley offers a fantastic new voice for disillusioned youth and urban shoe gazers. Brilliant and original, the one-track feel of the album is highlighted in the sound of traffic in the background of songs and production that belies the money spent, in a good way. Predominantly then, a rare treat.

Singles

The Feeling: Love It When You Call
By Beth Harper

How can anyone not like *The Feeling*? Especially this new song, 'Love it When You Call'. It may be similar to what we've heard from them before but it's still guaranteed to put a smile on your face. Expect jumping around the bedroom and knowing the chorus before the song is finished.



Boy Kill Boy: Shoot Me Down
By Vix Roberts

I haven't heard that much of *Boy Kill Boy* and this doesn't exactly throw me head-first into loving them. It's a good song and it will, no doubt grow on you with each listen, with the added bonus that some of the money goes towards charity!



Babysambles: The Blinding EP
By Andrew Bain

Controversial icon Pete Doherty returns with an EP of 5 clearly stand-out songs, marred only by increasingly typical overproduction, reducing songs like 'Beg, Steal or Borrow' from the status of acoustic classics to simply above-average indie fare. Well worth a listen, but so much less than it could have been.



Out of Rehab and on the Whine

ALBUM

AMY WINEHOUSE: BACK TO BLACK

By PENNY LAWTON

After the success of her previous album 'Frank', Amy Winehouse has returned with a vengeance with 'Back to Black'. Her new single, 'Rehab', opens the hotly anticipated album in a completely unapologetic way, perfectly portraying her new style. And why should she apologise? The girl has got an Ivor Novello, a Mercury Music Prize and is a triple Brit nominee.

The album on the whole has a sense of harking back to the

past, by drawing inspiration from the '60s. Regarding the new album she quotes 'I didn't want to play the jazz thing up too much again. I was bored of complicated chord structures and needed something more direct.' She continues to express her love of the girl-groups from the fifties and sixties, where the influences can most definitely be heard. There are clear Supremes references and Aretha Franklin is engrained into her vocal and musical style. This is twisted with her sexy arrogance, and her modern, abusive yet flirty style.

'I Only Want' is the only hint throughout the album of her

older style, and now she has been critically acclaimed, she feels no need to hold back. The title song 'Back to Black' has a very narrow range vocally, which gives a sense of repetitiveness that could have been avoided. However, the orchestration has shifted away from the traditional jazz ensemble previously employed, to a more varied and possibly upmarket feel. We get this in the title track and this is where we can see that her musical knowledge has really developed. An example of this is the honking offbeat, baritone sax that permeates throughout the album, predominantly in 'Rehab' and 'Just Friends'.

Although her trademark bitterness is still there, 'Back To Black' suggests she's over whatever it was that plagued her previous album and a laid-back Amy is coming through. On the other hand, there are really beautiful moments of pure emotion, such as 'Love is A Losing Game', where the balance is restored with a potential future single in 'Tears Dry On Their Own'.

This pop style and more upbeat tempo will slide along more easily into the mainstream charts. But one of the beauties of Amy Winehouse, is just this, she doesn't! Despite her huge

success among critics, she has never really gone big in the mainstream. Whether there isn't the niche in the market for her style or her PR team didn't do a good enough job, I quite like her where she is; understated yet, amazing.

Either way this is a successful attempt at a new style, highlighting that as she has matured musically along the way, and consequently adds another string of magic to her hugely talented bow.



Boys Remain Especially Ordinary

ALBUM

THE ORDINARY BOYS: HOW TO GET EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED IN TEN EASY STEPS

By JOE POLECHONSKI

At the end of 2005 it could have been all over for *The Ordinary Boys*. Rumours of being dropped by their label after the poor sales of hugely disappointing second album 'Brassbound'. This all seemed quite a shame after their debut 'Over The Counter Culture', one of the best albums of 2004. So, as lead singer of the band, what do you do to solve the problem? Go on *Celebrity Big Brother* of course.

Nine months and a celebrity wedding later whatever album *The Ordinary Boys* were going to make would always be criticised. Make a rock album and Preston would be slated for being out of touch due to his new found celebrity lifestyle. Make an

obvious pop album appealing to the masses and most would say that they were just cashing in.

Opting for the latter they've made an all out pop album, initially demonstrated by seeing the sharply dressed boys on the cover and their name in neon lights, hardly what a "too cool for school" indie band would do. It may be a pop album but Preston is still insistent on making a social comment with his lyrics criticising the commercial world of celebrity. By the end of the album, however, the point seems far too laboured, with too many "witty" puns, together with tongue-in-cheek ballad 'I Luv U' probably going completely over most people's heads.

'Great Big Rip Off' has hints of the debut album's sound but also demonstrates the direction of the emo-esque titled 'How To Get Everything You Ever Wanted

In *Ten Easy Steps*, full of pop hooks it's a little over produced, punctuated by bleeps and electronic beats. The following track 'Club Chez Moi' is another great tune with a power pop chorus sounding like Matt Willis' 'Up All Night'. 'Ballad Of An Unrequited Self-Love Affair' along with recent single 'Lonely At The Top' are the other essential tracks.

Although top tunes in their own right the inclusion of 'Nine2Five' and 'Boys Will Be Boys' seem slightly out of desperation, trying to appeal to the tabloid market who's only knowledge

of the band is through these songs. If you're a previous fan of *The Ordinary Boys* I would recommend the purchase as, although it comes nowhere near the greatness of 'Over The Counter Culture', it's still approximately 1062 times better than 'Brassbound'.



Rice Ready At 9

ALBUM

DAMIEN RICE: 9 CRIMES

By ROBERT CATTELL

So, 9 eh? Y'know, I swear that he's just giving out the Damien Rice Hotline number album by album. As long as you don't mind the odd bit of foul language (9 is parental advisory, so ask your mum or dad before you purchase it kids) and you liked O then the chance is that you'll like 9.

Opener '9 Crimes' provides a haunting piano melody reminiscent of that of 'Cold Water', and chorus of 'is that alright with you?' is beautifully catchy. So a good start then! However, as with O, the album feels top-loaded and, after the wonderfully jaunty 'Dogs', the tracks are a bit hit and miss, often falling into depressive mumbling.

This is not to say that Mr Rice is



content to always be mumbling and 'Me, My Yoke and I' (I know, I don't get the title either. Something to do with eggs) and the rebellious 'Fuck You' chorus of 'Rootless Tree' provide the louder moments of the album. The albums' quality lags with a few songs toward the end. 'O' would probably be a gentler intro to Rice's style.

Also, if you buy the album try and sing the chorus to 'What if God Was One of Us?' to the intro of '9 Crimes'...

Singles

The Sleepy Jackson: I Understand What You Want I Just Don't Agree

By Christine Wilde

An OC backing theme track if ever I've heard one, this soft, harmonious yet engaging and positive tune is made to be sung along with. Sounding like a mixture between *The Magic Numbers* and *The Beach Boys* this latest single from the band's second album is a beautifully multi-layered, mellow



pop offering. With every listen something new is revealed.

Luke Toms: Fools With Money

By James Own

'Fools with Money' is an instrumentally rich, interesting and humorous EP with clear influences from *Electric Light Orchestra* and *Muse*. Luke Toms combines piano, drums and strings to create a bouncy rhythm on 'Fools with Money', which is reminiscent of 'Mr Blue Sky', while 'Hangover Blues' uses tongue-in cheek



humour similar to ELO.

+44: When Your Heart Stops Beating

By Simon Fogg

This song is a solid example of pop punk, but it falls short of the standard set by former band *Blink 182*. Some of the chemistry is gone, and although there is a more mature angle, it is too fashionable. This is not going to aid the credibility of a bunch of guys in their mid 30s. Nonetheless, being a massive hypocrite, it's on my play list, and



I've already learnt the lead riff.

Abracadabra

ALBUM

THE MAGIC NUMBERS: THOSE THE BROKES

By WILL THACKER

Most follow-up albums fall into one of two categories. Some play it safe and consolidate the ideas of its predecessor, while others imagine a bolder, fresher sound at the risk of commercial suicide. Regrettably, *The Magic Numbers* have gone for the former, and the result is one of the least exciting albums of 2006.

Two years ago, their self-titled debut was an exhibition of cutesy, lo-fi rock complete with glossy production sheen. The strength of singles such as 'Forever Lost' catapulted the band into the sunshine-rock pantheon. After the charm offensive, album number two represents a plea for credibility. The opening 'This Is A Song' successfully retreads the verse-chorus-verse formula that underpinned their Mercury-

nominated debut.

Elsewhere, sugarcoated guitar lines are tempered by a varied mix of sounds, from mandolins and hopeful strings on 'Take Me Or Leave Me' to the sad accordion that closes 'Goodnight'. Ostensibly thoughtful and evocative, scratch beneath the harmony-laden surface and a telling lack of depth becomes evident. 'Those The Brokes' is about loss, implicitly coming to terms with a broken relationship.

Most records about loss are deeply personal and give considerable thought to the songwriter's apprehension and anxiety, their real feelings and subjectivities. Here, throwaway rhymes pollute songs like 'Most of the Time', when singer Romeo Stodart stakes his claim for Poet Laureate: 'I try and I try and I try/ But I don't know why/ I don't know why'.

Formless ballads create ample space for the lyrics to take precedence, but it's a battle *The Magic Numbers* are never going to win. Catharsis is all too often suppressed by an assault of 'love' and 'baby', diluting the music of its meaning. The song 'Undecided' is plagued by the immeasurably bad refrain of 'And baby I know/ Honey I know/ it's undecided love'. This is the love of candyfloss, pink ribbons and heart shaped pillows, love that is bottled and boxed and sold in Clinton's Cards. Creatively penned-in by the theme of loss, the accusatory 'you' never gets replaced by a broader, ideological register.

For better or worse, *The Magic Numbers* have nothing to say about the world outside of their own. It only matters because *Those the Brokes* lasts a tiresome 64 minutes. The listener will consent to these confessionals,



provided the songs stand up to scrutiny. But the underwhelming arrangements of 'Slow Down' and 'Runnin' Out' offer nothing to live long in the memory.

The infamous fat-row walkout on Top of The Pops probably put paid to *The Magic Numbers'* career prospects before a note had been recorded. To their

credit, they have outlasted the ill-fated programme, though it will surely not be long before they have neighbouring plots in the musical graveyard.

Cubans Go APE For Beats

ALBUM

BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB: RHYTHMS DEL MUNDO

By JAMES OWEN

This album is being released in aid of the charity APE (Artist Project Earth), with the proceeds going towards natural disaster relief funds, in particular to the communities in south east Asia (e.g. Indonesia and the Philippines) that were devastated by the tsunami in 2005.

'The Buena Vista Social Club' is a vibrant collective from Cuba that produce enjoyable Latin American dance music in the traditional sense. For this album they have taken famous songs from artists like *Coldplay*, *Arctic Monkeys* and *Jack Johnson* and re-edited them with a Latin-tinged sound. The musicians have kept the original vocals and sometimes instruments, but then put piano, shakers, maracas, bongos, bass, guitar and trumpets into the mix as well.

'Dancing Shoes', originally by *Arctic Monkeys*, is a good example as the guitar riffs have been kept intact but the introduction of piano, trumpet and bongos makes the song name more apt in its ability to make you want to get up and dance. However,

songs such as 'Killing Me Softly' by Omara Portuondo and 'As Time Goes By' by Ibrahim Ferrer are brand new compositions that cover existing songs, with Ferrer singing his song in Spanish.

An interesting collaborative example is 'I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For' because

it is a new composition with the vocals re-recorded in Spanish by Coco. The only element taken from the original is the chorus, sung by Bono. This album is feel good, fun and contains interesting takes on well-known songs that I would recommend, especially since the proceeds go to charity.



New Species Of Dear Found

ALBUM

THE DEARS: GANG OF LOSERS

By ROWAN SMITH

Canadian alt-rockers The Dears have created a refreshing tangibility and edge to their music in third album 'Gang Of Losers'. Look no further than first single 'Ticket to Immortality' for evidence. This triumphant opener embodies an amazing sense of life affirming lyricism and uplifting tunes that runs throughout this milestone success.

Obvious comparisons to *Blur's* Britpop song writing and introverted poetry aside, for me *The Dears* really establish themselves here as an intelligent and engaging band in their own right. There is really exciting music coming out of Canada at the moment and, despite *The Dears* representing a darker 80s indie side of the scene, their ability to arouse genuine feelings of tainted happiness yet offering empowering words echo the vibe of their contemporaries. The line "We'll find our place in the world if it takes all day and all night" encapsulates lead singer Murray Lightburn's intuition into the mindset of a disenfranchised

youth desperately calling out for artists like themselves to beam a light of self-affirmation in a fractured world.

In 'Ballad of Human Kindness' the line "I think it's time that we all learnt forgiveness" describes the harsh reality of perpetual loneliness. In the same vein, *The Dears* skilfully translate so much emotion to their listener through using the contrast of sweet picking guitar and moody bass in 'I Feel Deep'. This song characterises a maturity of music

that they are more than capable of composing.

'Gang of Losers' acts an acknowledgment of everything and everyone that doesn't fit in whilst being a great celebration of the unique insight into the world that they all possess. Title track 'You And I Are A Gang Of Losers' perfectly expresses a magical union of all those beautiful losers out there. Let I join in with them and rejoice.



GIG LISTINGS

27/11 LULUMS Open Mic Night
@ Fibber McGees

29/11 Snow Patrol @ Manchester MEN Arena

30/11 Tin Pan Alley @ Grad Bar

30/11 Napoleon III + SirYes Sir + Uncle Jeff +
Obviously 4 Believers @ Yorkshire House

1/12 ForenZic + Ray's Music Exchange + Steve
Morgan @ Cartmel Bar

1/12 UK Subs + The Guilty Pleasures + Boredom @
Yorkshire House

2/12 Fight The Bear + Ray's Music Exchange +
Sam Kearney @ Pendle Bar

2/12 Punk Weeekender @ Yorkshire House

3/12 Brakes @ Roundhouse, Manchester

4/12 Charity Battle of the Bands @ The
Sugarhouse

6/12 Slade + T-Rextasy + Mud @ Morecambe
Dome

7/12 Uncle Jeff + The Neon Trees + Emenrio @
Yorkshire House

8/1 The Clerks + Modersaire + The Three Ages Of
Elvis + One Chip Potatoes + TWs
@ The Yorkshire House

9/12 And What will Be Left Of Them? + Martin
Chitty + Krlss Foster @ Pendle Bar

The Lancaster Scene

By Pete J Watt

The J Stands For Genius

The ever-so-popular Steve Morgan kicked off the LULUMS night at a moderately full Pendle Bar, playing his usual ballads, though on this occasion, with a twist. For only the third time his regular one man acoustic set was accompanied by his new drumming counterpart Luke Williams.

Between them the two brought a new burst of life to Morgan's songs. The percussion element was by no means a gentle addition to the set offering subtle background beats, but instead roared throughout, bringing out something new, namely volume. The two played the majority of Morgan's own 'Bad River EP', and for the first time in over two years, Morgan played 'Fool For Love' one of the highlights from his own collection.



With a swift changeover Dolore took to the stage. Introducing themselves "from Barrow", they got a roar of support, which appeared to be a collection of friends, fans and well wishers.

From stepping up with the microphone lead webbed around his arm, the assumption that an Emo band was upon us seemed inevitable.

However, from their first track to their last, they assaulted a mixed bag of sounds on our eardrums. Unfortunately, this was almost lost on an audience that were mostly sitting down. Why there were chairs and tables 5 yards away from the stage was beyond the rational gig-goer. However, the front man carried on unfazed, being completely immersed in his lyrics; singing into himself; creating an energy that was like watching an informal jam.

The band themselves were very similar in style to their lead, playing off each other in an insular indulgence, that was both tight and professional. From song to song band members swapped instruments as frequently as chord changes. This is usually a trait of a band who try to say 'Look how talented we are!' however, Dolore did this with such smooth efficiency that it almost went unnoticed, that was until some water was accidentally spilt on to some wires and things were brought to a halt for a few minutes.

The lads, unscathed continued their set and the general consensus from the audience was that they wanted to hear more from the frontman, who was a times drowned out by the other instruments- possibly 'suspect' sound engineering to blame. All in all, climaxing soundscapes and a lot of promising talent on show.

Name: Jean-Paul Ludig

College: Grizedale

Year: 4th

Found: Grizedale Bar

Favourite tracks:

- 1) Dave Matthews- Crash Into Me
- 2) Sigur Ros- Heysatan
- 3) Radiohead- Killer Cars

Looks for:

"Clever lyrics, but I look for a moment in a song when you feel excitement and euphoria."

Name: Allistair Pratley

College: County

Year: 2nd

Found: The Venue.

Favourite tracks:

- 1) Pixies- Manta Ray
- 2) Eminem- My Name Is
- 3) Machinery- Tears

Looks for:

"Originality, energy and something with a dark edge."

Name: Will Veitch

College: Bowland

Year: 3rd

Found: In the SCAN office.

Favourite tracks:

- 1) TV On The Radio- I Was A Lover
- 2) Plan B & Shameless- Past That
- 3) Young Knives- Here Comes The Rumour Mill

Looks for:

"Aural rape, it's got to grab me and pummel me the first time I hear it."



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James Blonde, Best Yet?

By Jay R. McNiff

If you've ever been to rottentomatoes.com, or have at least heard of the site, then you know all too well how venomously critical it can be of films- especially old favourites such as the James Bond franchise. If you get a spare moment, take a look at what the site has to say about this 21st instalment of James Bond: *Casino Royale*. You'll page through about 125 reviews, and NONE of them are negative.

The naysayer's who thought Daniel Craig would make a lousy Bond have mysteriously disappeared from their soapboxes. Just try going to the site craignotbond.com. You'll find it says, 'Site Temporarily Disabled.'

This Bond is not the joke many thought he would be. When Craig was asked about his ripped appearance in the shirtless scenes during an interview with Vue Theatres, he replied: "He [James Bond] needed to look like he could kill a guy."

If you're looking for the extravagant gadgets, Q, futuristic plots, and cheesy one liners- you'll be sorely disappointed. What you will find is an incredibly athletic, realistic Bond who doesn't rely on the fancy gizmos he's needed in the past.



The opening scene- a very gritty, film noir-esque black & white, shows Bond in a dirty bathroom fighting for his life. Set aside your views of Bond as being an invincible superhero, capable of anything. In *Casino Royale*, Bond is a real human, capable of many things- including error.

Casino Royale was the first of the James Bond novels written by Ian Fleming in 1953. It shows the Bond before he garnered his famous 'double-O' status. For some reason, the franchise never

opted to use *Casino Royale* as film, instead skipping straight on to book #2: *Dr. No*. In a way then, choosing to go back to the beginning has given Bond a new life and a fresh start. The only character who remains from previous Bond films is Dame Judi Dench, who has resumed her role as 'M,' which she has played in the previous four Bond flicks with Pierce Brosnan. The new Bond 'baddie' is Le Chiffre (Mads Mikkelsen) who doubles as both a private banker to the world's

terrorists, and a poker playing machine.

The film adheres to the book well, with only some minor embellishments at the beginning and the end. The plot is relatively simple: Bond is surveying a small time bomb maker when he stumbles upon a much larger scheme.

This leads Bond, as well as new Bond girl Vesper Lynn (Eva Green), to Casino Royale in Montenegro where he is to engage Le Chiffre in a game of high-stakes no-limit poker (one minor deviation from the book, in which the game was Baccarat). If Bond wins, Le Chiffre will be foiled and at the mercy of his clients. If Bond loses, the British Government will have directly financed terrorism.

Now, I've been a long time Bond fan. I've loved Connery, ridiculed Lazenby, wanted to emulate Brosnan, but I have to say, Craig is by far the best Bond I have seen yet. If I was writing this for a major metropolitan paper I'd give it 4-out-of-4 stars or two thumbs up or whatever the best on the scale is.

My only regret about the film is that I wasn't home States-side to see it with my Sean Connery-loving-Dad, who phoned me up regaling Craig as one of the "best Bonds yet." So when asked if I liked this latest Bond, I simply use one of Craig's lines and say, 'Yes, considerably.' The only question remains, Bond fans: will you see it... in time?

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For more information or to see how you can get involved, please email t.roberts1@lancaster.ac.uk



Theatre

A Converse Classic Comedy

THEATRE
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S THE COMEDY OF ERRORS
 THE NORTHUMBERLAND THEATRE COMPANY
 BY AMY WILLIAMS



Imagine; colours, courtesans, comedy sound effects and bright red Converse... The Northumberland Theatre Company (NTC) are most definitely on to a winner with their interpretation of *The Comedy of Errors*.

For anyone who, like myself, had not previously come across the play, it works along similar principles to Shakespeare's classic comedy *Twelfth Night*, as it plays on the story of two sets

of twins and a plot dominated by mistaken identity. NTC's director Gillian Hambleton exploited this to the max by using only seven actors to play sixteen different roles, thus providing the production with a realistic and relevant aspect of confusion.

Phil Yarrow, as Antipholus of Syracuse and also Antipholus of Ephesus, gave an incredible performance that was part Martin Freeman, part Elton John, and Lewis Roberts, acting the role of both Dromios,

was hilarious for his facial expressions alone.

What I loved most about this adaptation however, was the assimilation of modern popular culture (provided by Dromio's Converse among other things) with everything that theatre in Shakespeare's day intended to capture; every double entendre was overstated, resulting in an audience literally crying with laughter, and complemented by some bawdy phallic representations involving umbrellas.

There were some classic exaggerated chase scenes that were strongly reminiscent of Benny Hill and the *Carry On* films, and in the vein of the Northern Broadside company, the NTC were not afraid to use their own accents, which lent itself to the accessibility and inclusion of the play.

This was a very professional, well-rehearsed production, whilst maintaining the chaotic comic atmosphere the play was intended to inspire. I would recommend it to any fans of

Twelfth Night, or indeed those who remain dubious when it comes to Shakespeare, as the play rivals any contemporary comedy, and the acting and clear diction of the NTC ensures the audience is swept up in the farce before they even have time to begin worrying about the language.

Too Close For Comfort

THEATRE PREVIEW
 CLOSER
 NUFFIELD THEATRE 4TH AND 5TH DECEMBER
 BY PHIL LEECH

Having seen the film version I was keen to see how the LUTG would handle Patrick Marber's estranged love story.

The play as a whole is, in the words of Liz Dapo (Anna) "A very human story, it is brutally honest about modern relationships." Colleague Jessica Prestidge (Alice) said: "There is no Hollywood ending, it concentrates on the really gritty side of love, and the real emotions that people experience"

For those who haven't seen the film, the plot is not hard to follow. What will knock you off your feet is the sheer intensity of emotion on display. Each of the protagonists has a very distinct character and there are elements within each with which one may identify. In some cases, this leads to a deep sense of unease as these familiar morsels of emotion are stretched and explored by those on stage.

It was Dapo's and Johnny Clark's portrayals of Anna and Larry that most evoked my sense of unease. Anna seems so excruciatingly familiar; a woman, in contrast to the girlish or youthful Alice, who is possibly the only character that properly understands her relationship with love.

Dapo plays this to perfection, while the other characters seemed governed by the force of love, Anna seems pragmatic, accepting love's pain, repositioning her relationships and reallocating her emotions while all the time keeping herself secure.

Larry on the other hand, is the most reckless, brutal and primal; he loves the sense of power but his penchant for self-destruction show a man out of control. It is truly uncomfortable watching Clark play this character. he slides fluidly between being an identifiable person and then becoming animalistic and warping the man into some kind of atrocious beast.

Dan is immature. He is far more complex than Larry, and Rick

Bithell explained to me that he had to draw on his own personal experience in order to play the role. Alice, the youngest, and the stripper, is intriguing. She is the one we know least about, but perhaps from whom we can infer the most; in the stripping scene she is vulnerable, and even in the antagonistic scenes she is both sexual, yet innocent.

If you want to see vivid, honest portrayal of modern love story then this is the ideal play for you. If you are easily offended, or would prefer a fairy tale romance then stay home and rent *Love Actually*.

Closer begins at the Nuffield theatre on 4 and 5th of December. Tickets are available from the box office or via www.closertheatre.com



Guys and Dolls

THEATRE
 GUYS AND DOLLS
 PERFORMED BY THE MORECAMBE WARBLERS
 BY BETH HARPER

Guys and Dolls set in 1920s New York, follows the lives of two gamblers Nathan Detroit and Sky Masterson.

Nathan needs \$1000 to host a game and turns to Sky Masterson (Mark Jefferys) for help. They make a bet that Sky can't take Mission girl, Sarah Brown on a date. Sarah doesn't relish the idea of going out with a gambling sinner but, in true musical style, love prevails, and so begins the Mission to get a dozen more gamblers to a prayer meeting.

Jennifer Archibald played Sarah and although she started off quite timid, she gradually settled into her role as did Brian Woods who played Nathan brilliantly but the strongest performer was, by far, Ceri Blease, who played Miss Adelaide; Nathan Detroit's fiancée of 12 years. As her first principal role, she played Adelaide in the heart-warming manner that the character commands. Her lament was one of the highlights and you couldn't help but smile when she walked on the stage.

The cast had an obvious enthusiasm for the production and this proved infectious. The only grievance I would note was the dancing which is an integral

part of this production. It was ok, considering this was an amateur production but it tended to diminish the general effect of the show. It is worth considering, however, that not everyone is a professional dancer and the stages are often too small to accommodate elaborate dance numbers.

The songs that featured the cast, however, were truly amazing, especially 'Sit down You're Rocking the Boat.' Other musical highlights included, 'A

Bushel and a Peck' by Adelaide and the Hotbox Girls, and 'Luck be a Lady' by Sky and the crapshooters.

All in all, the show was incredibly well rehearsed and well played. They should all give themselves a well-deserved pat on the back for their efforts. If you ever get the chance to see the Morecambe Warblers in action, don't hesitate to go and see them; it will guarantee to make you smile and is well worth paying for.



Books

Bottoms Up, Dude!

BOOKS
SURF WAX & VODKA JELLY
AUTHOR: LUCY CLARKE
BY LAURA FITZMAURICE

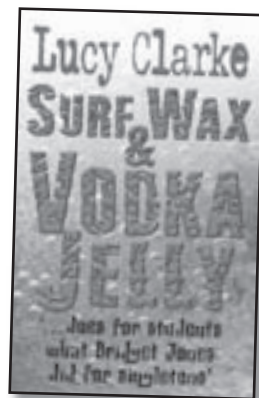
Surf Wax & Vodka Jelly is a wonderfully witty tale of young fresher Josie Williams' first year at university. From the initial drive there to her leaving for the drive back home for summer, this novel is jam-packed with humorous anecdotes on the trials and tribulations of living on your own for the first time, falling in love (or lust) and, of course, drinking far too much alcohol!

Written in diary form, we are given insight into Josie's, somewhat neurotic, but well-meaning mind and Clarke's perception and ability to capture the student mindset is incredibly acute, witty and sensitive. From her thoughts on her new flatmates (Matt the chauvinist, Justin the geeky but

endearing comic book fanatic, Ben the gorgeous and sensitive surfer, Tamara the girly best friend and Suniti the suspiciously aversive foreign student) to her disillusionment with subversive lectures which convince her that Tigger is gay, we are given a detailed and perceptive critique on all aspects of student life. The running thread of the story is Josie's (supposedly) unrequited to love for flatmate Ben and her attempts to get his attention. But between her Spanish-fling ex turning up and Ben's secret but frequent visits to London to see the mysterious Grace, it is suffice to say that the course of true love definitely does not run smoothly.

The only downside to this novel is that, in form and style particularly, there are undeniable resonances with Helen Fieldings *Briget Jones' Diary* except that

instead of a thirty-something singleton looking for love and life affirmation, we have an eighteen year old student doing the same. It may also be a little too chick-litty for some of the male species. However, overall the book is warm, funny and intuitive and there are enough of the common experiences felt by all freshers' to make this a good read for all.



Chin Up, Girls!

BOOKS
CHIN UP, GIRLS! A BOOK OF WOMEN'S OBITUARIES
EDITORS: GEORGINA POWELL & KATHERINE RAMSEY
BY ANDREW BAIN

Chin Up Girls! seems a contradiction from the beginning. It has an almost cringe-worthy upbeat title, but the subject seems to be about as sober as can possibly be considering this book is simply an anthology of stories about women's deaths, taken from *The Daily Telegraph*.

So which is it, unbearably upbeat or suffocatingly sober? Surprisingly, it seems to be neither.

The title is explained by the first story- the word 'story' is actually apt, as most of the 'obituaries' are represented in this form, not just as lists of facts. *Chin Up, Girls!* is the statement of a red cross nurse to her colleagues as they are about to be massacred by

Japanese forces in the Second World War.

There is also a double meaning in the title, representing a melancholic edge that seems to be the tone of most of the work. The stories tell of women who are empowered, creative or brave, and the sadness of their deaths is tinged with a sense of celebration of their lives. Some even contain comic elements, such as the tale of 'battleaxe' Fanny Craddock, who boasted she has 'always been extremely rude' and apparently spent her childhood 'communing with the dead'.

The facelessness of some of the women, the vast majority of whom are relatively unheard of, can make the book tiresome at times, and it seems at it's weakest when the more creative story element is phased out by facts and dates,

as sometimes happens.

The real shining moments come when a recognisable name springs up, giving a face to the story, and it seems that although it is worth a read, most will simply seek out those they know, and avoid the ones they do not, which is a shame, as there are a few gems amongst the faceless as well.



Listlessly Enjoyable

BOOKS
THE LITTLE BOOK OF LISTS
AUTHOR: DAVID WALLENSKY & AMY WALLACE
BY BETH HARPER

Crammed with thousands of tit bits of useless information, *The Little Book of Lists* is the perfect gift when you are stuck what to get someone for Christmas.

If you like quizzes, this is a great book to have a bit of extra knowledge. You'll never know when someone will ask you about the seven great sausage events. Other pointless ones include; '10 Funguses that Changed History,' and '10 Men who Cried in Public.'

This is certainly a book to make you show off to your friends that you know more random information than they do. You could use some of the information to really irritate them like 'The Truth about 16 Common Sayings,' or '17 Pairs

of Contradictory Proverbs.' You may find some interesting like '12 Foods Claimed to be Aphrodisiacs,' '11 Examples of Unusual Animal Mating Habits' and '23 Actors Who Turned Down Great Acting Roles.' And if you ever meet a bear, after reading this you'll know what to do.

There is a bit of false advertising going on however. On the front cover it has examples of lists that would be very interesting to read; '17 Famous People Who were Expelled from School,' '14 Movie Stars that fell in Love on Set' and 'The 11 Most Unusual Objects Sold on Ebay,' all look like good reads, but don't feature in the book at all.

Either the book was edited after the front cover was designed, or the publisher tried to cover up the anticlimactic nature of the book.

Additionally, they also claim the book is addictive, but I disagree and think it should be used recreationally or socially to annoy your flatmates. You'll get bored after a read or two in search for a bigger hit.

This book should be in the list of 'The Ten Books you shouldn't Judge by their Covers.'



One For The GAP Kids

BOOKS
DON'T TELL MUM
AUTHOR: SIMON HOGGART AND EMILY MONK
BY MIRANDA NEWAY

The Guardian sketch writer and diarist, Simon Hoggart accompanied by first year Trinity College, Dublin undergraduate, Emily Monk have collected a series of surreal and entertaining e-mails from travelling gap year students, which supported by witty commentary produces "Don't Tell Mum," a keepsake for all who have the travel bug.

News of appearing in a Bollywood film, partying with the Drifters and bungee jumping used to reach home weeks after the event through the medium of snail mail. However, modern technology has enabled traveller's to inform their worried parents and begrudging friends of their adventures quite literally in the click of a button. Hoggart and Monk successfully

provide the inexperienced traveller with a sneak preview of the highs and lows felt by a teenage "gapper," with insights of drunken antics, money problems, seedy jobs and Emily's tips for future travellers being amongst the collection.

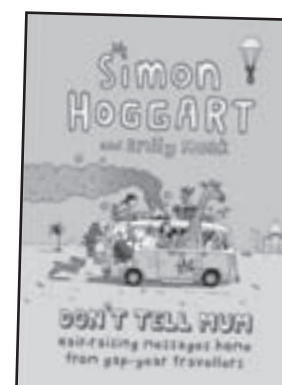
One who has previously experienced the joys of travelling can relish in the random daily occurrences of the backpacker, whilst of course reminiscing their own expeditions in the process.

Don't Tell Mum provides a delightful and hair-raising read which will leave even the home bird itching to "rough it" abroad.

The book is a must for those aspiring to have a sneak preview of what being on a gap year involves, however Hoggart and Monk's commentary borders on being somewhat patronising after several chapters.

Parents would most certainly luxuriate in the book, educating themselves on how previous students have spent their time, whilst acquiring a clearer understanding of what their "little darlings" will actually be getting up to whilst on their gap year.

Overall *Don't Tell Mum* is an amusing read and would be great stocking filler for those contemplating taking a gap year.



Film

“There’s always time for a drink”

DVD

WITHNAIL AND I (15) 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITIONSTARRING: RICHARD E GRANT, PAUL MCGANN AND RICHARD GRIFFITHS
BY CATHERINE FEARN

It’s about 91 days before the start of 1970, and *Withnail and I* are two struggling young actors living in a rundown Camden flat. Both are binge drinkers, heavy smokers and pill poppers. *Withnail’s* philosophy in life is, “There’s always time for a drink”, but their hedonism soon begins to take its toll.

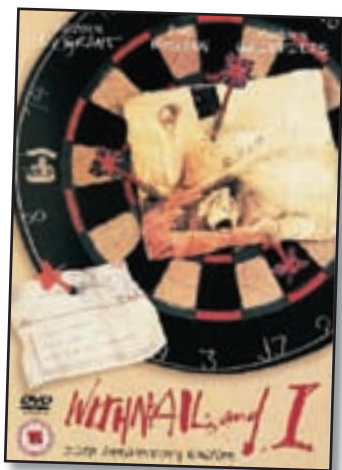
Disenchanted with the world in general, they drink themselves into a comatose state, but after tripping out and thinking that the kitchen sink was host to a colony of rats, the two decide they deserve a holiday. *Withnail’s* Uncle Monty (Richard Griffiths) has a strange fetish for vegetables and offers them his country retreat. After driving up to said ‘retreat’ they find themselves spending a week in the shittiest farmstead in the whole of the Lake District.

The script is flawless and edgy, taking into account both the Hippie ideals of brotherhood and the Thatcher era of mass unemployment. Danny the “purveyor of fine herbs and prescribed chemicals” has a share of some of the most memorable lines, “They’re selling Hippie wigs in Woolworth’s man, the greatest decade in the history of mankind is over”.

Grant’s performance as *Withnail* is remarkable,

considering that in real life he is allergic to alcohol; he plays the part of the tragic drunk with comic pathos superbly.

This DVD is a celebration of one of the funniest British films ever made. Director Bruce Robinson wanted to make a film of which the humour was derived from reality. This is partly what makes the film and the humour so enduring two decades since its release. The extra features are a real bonus, especially the *Withnail and I* drinking game matching Grant and McGann drink for drink onscreen, I’ve not tried it yet but like the film, it’s very, very tempting.



A Cock and Bullet story

FILM

BREAKING AND ENTERING (15)STARRING: JUDE LAW, JULIETTE BINOCHÉ AND ROBIN WRIGHT PENN & RAY WINSTONE
BY WILL VEITCH

Set in London against the backdrop of an ever-morphing Kings Cross, we follow Will Francis (Jude Law), a successful (is he ever anything but?) architect with a vision for the area but who can’t see any further than his own nose in his relationships.

The inevitable crisis comes when, after a series of break-ins at his firm’s new premises, Will chases Miro, one of the young perpetrators (an impressive début by Rafi Gavron) back to his mother’s flat and intrigue is quickly followed by infidelity. Back home, girlfriend Liv (Robin Wright Penn) is looking after autistic daughter Bea (Poppy Rogers) an avid gymnast whose behaviour acts as a foil between Will and Liv, although conversely also brings them closer together.

Just to jazz things up, when Will and co-Director Sandy (Martin Freeman) stake out their site, they are joined in their car by local hooker Oana, and when Will returns on his own, the two strike up an inadvertent friendship, trading coffee for the warmth of the inside, even if it is just a Land Rover.

Sandy’s sub-plot romance with one of the firm’s cleaners is as charming as his Office work, confiding in Will, “It’s early days, but lattes have been drunk”, and Ray Winstone’s cameo as a tough but big-

hearted London copper is, as usual, brilliant. At one point he tells Miro, “And don’t stab me while I’m driving. You’ll fall off.”

Minghella directs with great humanity, although his screenplay is sometimes clunky and clichéd. The story can come across as forced and the affair has seemingly little motivation but the themes he traverses are diverse; single parenthood, immigration, religion, crime and criminality, love, lust, valuing what you have, and never feel contrived.

Jude Law, the charming bastard, gets away with it again and although I couldn’t shake the feeling I was watching him “acting”, his relationship with Liv was both subtly and affectingly played.

I left the cinema feeling emotionally richer for having seen it. By Minghella’s standards not a triumph, but a winner nonetheless.



Slick Billy and the Preacher Man

COMPUTER GAME, FORMAT: PC

CALL OF JUAREZ

TECHLAND STUDIOS

RRP £29.99

BY NICK RENSHAW

Cowboys are second only to pirates as some of the coolest people around, the perfect characters to base a game around, or so you’d think. Unfortunately the PC has been bereft of a decent western game for a while now (I’m looking at you ‘GUN’).

It seems Techland have recognised this niche and come to the rescue with ‘Call of Juarez’, a western themed first person shooter, able to live up to the potential of the genre.

The story is split between two playable characters, Billy, wrongly accused of murder and on the run and The Reverend Ray, a preacher turned gun wielding maniac who is after Billy. You alternate between the characters as the story progresses, seeing things from both points of view.

Both characters possess different attributes, as is often the way with these things. With Billy most of your time will be spent hiding in bushes or behind barrels, avoiding confrontation (the stealth bit). This would become quite annoying were it not for

the more robust side of the reverend’s character which enables you to blow ten tonnes of shit out of everything.

As well as all the usual first person moves – crouching, jumping, sneaking, picking things up, throwing the things you just picked up, Techland have added a few nice touches of their own, including the ability to kick doors down (cowboys are too cool to use handles) and most notably ‘concentration mode’. This sees you slowing everything down a la bullet time and spraying multiple baddies with lead. There’s nothing more satisfying than flying into a room filled with enemies and then watching them fly backwards in slow motion as you try to avoid the oncoming bullets.

The story is well thought out, if a little clichéd at times, the graphics are lush and the sound is excellent. The best bit about ‘Call of Juarez’ though is the gameplay; it is the perfect remedy for those wanting something a little different from their First Person Shooters. The PC finally has a decent Western game.



DIGS!

a guide to finding the perfect pad

To live off campus? Or not to live off campus? That is the question! If you decide that the dizzy heights of city living is for you then this guide should help you out. LUSU has collated information to bring you up to speed with the factors you need to consider when deciding on future housing. Deciding where to live and

who to live with is not easy but there is a lot of support and guidance available to you. Check out the Agony Aunt section for the answers to the questions that may have been troubling you or pop into LUSU Advice anytime, we're always happy to help!

LIVING OFF-CAMPUS

We asked 10 students what they thought were the best and worst bits about living off-campus, and this is what they said:

The best bits...

"Washing machine in your house"
"Getting off of campus"
"Choosing who you want to live with"
"A bath!"
"Cooking naked...well you could if you wanted to"
"No queuing for the sugarhouse bus"
"Close pubs and clubs"
"Space!"



The worst bits ...

"The front windows have a draft"
"You have to put your own rubbish out"
"There is no free bus home after a night out"
"You need to all contribute to the bills and they need to be in someone's name"
"Things are not self cleaning!"
"Your parents want to visit more"
"No free toilet rolls"



tips for finding a good home:

- Take your time. There's no need to rush!
- Don't just sign up for a property because the landlord is offering a free case of beer or because it is next door to your mates
- Try to speak to the current tenants without the landlord there, get a true picture of what it is like to live in the property, and whether the landlord has been prompt in responding to requests for repairs etc
- Make sure you view the property yourself - don't accept a description from prospective housemates - what's acceptable to them many not be acceptable to you
- Ensure the property you decide upon is accredited.



Why finding the right house matters!...

Cat shares her experience fo choosing the wrong house first time around

"Having moved off campus in my second year I was excited about a new sense of freedom and independence. I was moving into a house with three close friends and I was hoping it would become home very soon. We all got along fine and although shared many different interests and hobbies there wasn't any problems - which was a good thing as the house wasn't what we were hoping for! When we had looked around it had been a family home on a quiet terrace but our landlord had just bought it with plans to turn it into a student house. When the family

moved out the builders moved in - and were still there when September came around. I arrived back in Lancaster to find little furniture, no curtains, a bath full of cement and a broken cooker and boiler! That first night I had to travel back home because the house wasn't fit to live in despite being promised for late August. Not disheartened I travelled back to Lancaster the following day with my Dad and we got the house into an okay state over several hours, that night (and several angry phone calls later) my landlord came by and fixed us curtains. It was less than ideal but eventually we got it sorted (apart from the cooker which never did work reliably!). Just when we thought we were okay, a large rat appeared in our living room one evening! Luckily

I was out and my housemates had got it out the back door by the time I returned. Next day it was up to us to arrange a rat catcher to come and fix the situation. All in all living off campus was a great experience and I loved the independence - but having a private landlord proved to be a nightmare, and don't even ask how difficult it was getting our deposits back!"



OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING TALKS TUESDAY 28TH NOV GEORGE FOX LTI - 6PM





dear MRS J

Our very own housing agony aunt, Mrs J answers students' most frequent concerns.

Dear Mrs J, my friends have found a house but it will only accommodate 4 people so I have to find somewhere on my own. Norman

Not to worry, there are plenty of options open to you and you won't be homeless. You could:

- advertise for a room on the LUSU website or use my.lusu.co.uk to find other students who also may need someone to share with
- visit LUSU Housing either in person or via their website
- ask your college if they have any room left.

Dear Mrs J, my landlord is refusing to give me back my deposit. Marion

A few questions to answer first:

Did you leave the property much as it was when you moved in, ie. was it clean & free of damage?

Were all the outstanding bills paid?

Have you requested your deposit back?

If your answers were YES to all of the above, you should write to your landlord and ask if there is a specific reason as to why they haven't returned your deposit and if she/he hasn't then ask him to do so within 7 working days. If in 7 working days you don't get a reply or are not happy with their reasons you can then ask them again stating that you see no reason as to why they held on to your deposit and that if in 7 working days you have not had a refund you will take them to the small claims court (forms can be downloaded from the internet). But only take this course of action if you intend to carry it out. All will be well in the end.

Dear Mrs J, our landlord seems to be visiting the house whenever he feels like it - is there anything we can do. Unhappies of Lancaster

Your landlord should not be letting himself in without giving you at least 24 hours notice and even then it should be for some worthwhile reason.

When you signed your tenancy agreement it meant that the house was signed over to you all for the period of your tenancy. You should also be given what is called "right to quiet enjoyment".

I would advise that you write to your landlord and ask him not to keep letting himself in unless he has a specific reason and that as a household of rent payers you have the right to 'quiet enjoyment'. Don't be tempted to change the locks!

Dear Mrs J, our housemate is beginning to make our lives a misery. She is extremely untidy, uses our food etc, plays music very loudly and is becoming totally anti-social - what would you suggest. Sleepless in Seattle

This is often a difficult situation to deal with. But don't be daunted. I would advise that you arrange a 'house meeting' at which all of you are present, quite often one or two would rather not confront the problem, but it is important that you are all there if you are all affected.

Appoint a spokesperson, no point in you all saying your little piece, as your housemate may feel intimidated, if not bullied.

You should then express your concerns about the way you are all being treated and that if they have a problem then you are all willing to help them out, might be money if they're helping themselves to your food etc. I don't mean you have to have a quick whip round, but there are places you can suggest, like LUSU Advice or Student Support, Counselling. If someone's general behaviour has changed then it usually means there is an underlying problem.

If you are still encountering problems then I would suggest you talk to LUSU Advice and get some more help.

Dear Mrs J, I moved into a house in Lancaster and absolutely hated it, a room came available on campus so I've moved into it. My landlord doesn't understand and is asking me to pay rent until the end of the year - I don't have the money! Broke and fed up

Firstly, you shouldn't have just walked out of the house in Lancaster. Once signed, tenancy agreements are legally binding documents and your landlord has done nothing wrong in expecting you to pay in full.

There are limited options open to you:

1. Talk to your landlord and ask if there would be some financial arrangement you could come to which wouldn't mean paying a full years' rent.
2. Try and find someone to take over your room in Lancaster by advertising on the LUSU website - maybe Norman will see it!
3. If none of the above work and you are still held to paying the full rent I would advise that you make an appointment to see LUSU Advice.

Remember in the future - all tenancy agreements are legally binding documents and you cannot just walk away from them.



The Housemate from...

Heaven...

You never really know someone until you have lived with them

Sharing a house brings out people's irritating little habits, the inability to wash up or operate a vacuum cleaner, for instance. The smallest things in the world can become the most important, hogging the bathroom and whose turn it is to buy toilet roll, can become major bones of contention. What's more, your friend's love of "Ring tones" may have been amusing when living on campus, but when you've had them echoing around the house for days on end, you'll soon fail to see the funny side.

Think about the possibility of your cosy house for four becoming a cramped house for five or six, as various lovers start moving in unexpectedly. Don't worry, sharing a house with friends can be great, just take care. Don't rush into sharing a house with people you don't know really well.

Signing a contract too early can leave you tied to sharing with people you don't really want to, and if you all fall out before you are due to move in, you may well not be able to get out of your contract. Choose the right people to live with and you'll have a great time together. Spend time before signing anything discussing what you all want out of your year as housemates.

...or Hell?



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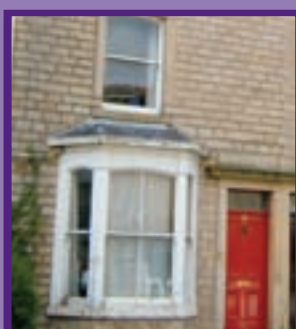


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**6
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Scotforth Road
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**SEE
WHAT'S ON
OFFER!**

take your time - there's no rush
call in and see us to discuss
your options

DEAL OR NO DEAL ?

Basic advice about housing contracts and your rights as a tenant

Most landlords will ask you to sign a tenancy agreement. This is a legally binding document setting out each party's rights and responsibilities. By signing it, both you and the landlord have certain rights protected in law, which cannot be overwritten by the contract. The tenancy agreement should state the following:

1. How much the rent is and when and how it should be paid. (Check that the rent adds up and that there are no extra charges).
2. The landlord and tenants' names and address of the property being let.
3. The date the tenancy begins and its duration.
4. Who is responsible for the fuel bills, water rates and council tax.
5. Details of whether other people are allowed the use of all or part of the property, and if so, which part.
6. Whether the landlord will provide any services (i.e. laundry, cleaning), and whether there are service charges for these.
7. The length of notice which the landlord or the tenant need to give, if the tenancy is to be ended.

(There are statutory rules regarding this dependent on the type of tenancy and usually you cannot give notice to end a tenancy early)

8. The landlord's and tenant's repair obligations. (Again there are statutory rules regarding this).

9. The landlord's right of access, which should be at a reasonable time and after 24 hours notice.

If you have agreed anything verbally with the landlord, whether it be additional furniture, repairs or dates to pay rent, please make sure you get these in writing and signed by the landlord.

Before signing, ensure that you understand all clauses, so there can be no nasty surprises after you've signed. It should be in plain, understandable language. If you're unsure, don't sign, seek advice. LUSU Advice will be able to check it for you. If the landlord won't let you take the contract away to get it checked first, think twice about signing it. Spend a little extra time in getting your contract checked out to save time, money and stress later in the year.

Most student accommodation contracts are for a fixed period of time. It is unlikely that there will be a 'get out' clause in your tenancy agreement, so you need to be 100% sure it is the place you want to live in and the people you want to live with. A landlord may consider releasing you if you have a replacement to take over your room. In the past some considerate landlords have released tenants if they have been kicked off their courses or have left University for health or financial reasons. If a landlord won't release you, you will usually be responsible for the rent for the rest of the tenancy period.

For more help and advice visit www.lusu.co.uk



the cost of living...



unless bills are included you'll be responsible for utility & phone bills - we'd advise budgeting £10+ per wk dependant on how economical you, your housemates and your home are



students are exempt from paying council tax - the University sends a list to the Council



you will need a tv licence - current cost £131.50. Those with a joint tenancy may only need 1 per household. www.tvlicensing.co.uk



water rates are usually included in your rent but check your agreement



transport to and from campus needs to be budgeted for, 3 term bus passes are £173 or you could consider walking!

...what you will and won't have to pay for

IT PAYS TO GO GREEN!

1. Switch off lights PCs, TVs, stereos, phone chargers and other electronic devices which are not in use - don't leave them on standby when you leave your room. The more you use the more you pay. And yes they do come to read your meter.
2. Many radiators have thermostatic control valves - marked with numbers from 1 to 5. Find a temperature that suits you, usually 2 or 3 is about right. Make sure your bulbs are energy efficient. They last longer, they save energy and can save you lots of dosh too.
3. Fridge freezers use a lot of juice: thermostats should be on 2-3 to keep items fresh. Try to keep them full and minimise door openings. For small amounts of food the microwave is best using up to 70% less energy than an oven. Next time you want a brew, just boil the water you need
4. Try to have full loads when using the washing machine and use the lower 40°C wash. Try not to tumble dry - wasted heat, wasted money.
5. Many areas of the city have a kerbside collection facility that operates every fortnight. If you see a Green Box or Gray Wheelie bin recycling couldn't be easier. Visit: www.lancaster.gov.uk

Go the extra green mile!

Being off-campus is a great opportunity to take your own decisions that can really make a difference. Green your digs by opting for a green tariff. Check out: www.good-energy.co.uk or www.ecotricity.co.uk/switch

greenLANCASTER

City In Turmoil

By Ian Waterhouse
Sports Editor

Lancaster City have been plunged into a crisis with several members of their first-team squad leaving the club, along with manager Gary Finlay. Finlay has been replaced by former Chester and Bury coach Dave Bell, who has been given the thankless task of attempting to steer the club away from the bottom end of the Nationwide North table. Needless to say this will be no easy assignment.

Bell takes over a team which has managed just one league victory all season, and who are only being kept off the foot of the league by a Scarborough side that began the season with a 10-point handicap. Moreover, a recent transfer embargo has meant that not only were City unable to buy or loan players, but also that those under City's possession were subject to approaches from other clubs, who could take them on free transfers with only seven days notice.

Somewhat bizarrely, the embargo was put in place after Lancaster failed to pay a bill of £4,500 to the Football Association for an order of 100 footballs. The existence of the debt was only discovered after its instigator—chief executive Chris Nicholls—had left the club.

Although the embargo has now been lifted, Lancaster have lost many of their established first-team players, including the likes of Ryan Elderton and Anton Lally. Results have understandably suffered, with six defeats coming in the last seven league games, during which time the defence has shipped twenty-two goals at the rate of more than three a game.



With crowds also starting to wane, the Dolly Blues need your support now more than ever. Please make the effort to get down to the Giant Axe, where student admission costs just £5. Next fixtures 2nd December: Droylsden (H), 9th December: Worksop Town (A).

Day When The Rains Came

By Ian Waterhouse
Sports Editor

Necessant overnight rain caused the first mass postponements of the season, as a number of fixtures scheduled for 15 November had to be cancelled. Chief amongst these were the BUSA women's and men's football derbies against UCLan, both of which were scheduled for 2pm kick-offs on the grass pitches. The women's lacrosse match against Durham and women's rugby union tie against the same opposition also had to be called off.

Athletic Union President Dave Greenshields informed SCAN that

the decision to postpone the games had been taken in the early hours of Wednesday morning, and that all affected teams had been made aware of the decision by 11am. This meant that no unnecessary trips were undertaken and inconvenience was kept to a minimum.

All BUSA games will be rescheduled for later in the year, as will the inter-college football matches which were also called off on the same grounds.

Meanwhile, the men's fencing team were also unable to fulfil their fixture, as a power failure left them stranded en route to Bangor. The team were stuck on the West Coast mainline between Lancaster and Preston for three hours, making the scheduled 3pm start time an impossibility. Fortunately, Bangor, understanding as they are, have taken a reasonable line and have agreed to re-stage the fixture at a later date.



Changes

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THE BIG DEBATE: SHOULD WOMEN BE ALLOWED TO OFFICIATE FOOTBALL MATCHES?

WOMEN HAVE NO PLACE ON THE FIELD

By Paul Collins
Sports Editor

Mike Newell, the Luton Town manager, has found himself in hot water recently having made comments about his views on the role of women officials in men's professional football. His post match remarks about Amy Rayner have led him to be called a sexist by many observers. He maintains that "if having traditional values is sexist, then I am guilty." I must admit however, that I can fully understand where he is coming from. And that does not mean I am sexist either.

Generally speaking, women will react to situations in more emotional ways than their male counterparts. In relationships, in friendships, in every day routines, emotions play a part. And emotions affect our judgement. Officiating in top level football is a tough job. Not only is you're every decision placed under the spotlight by TV cameras, but the abuse dished out over the course of the ninety minutes, by the fans, is incredible. In the tight confines of many Premiership grounds, officials will be able to hear the abuse hurled at them. Once judgement is clouded, then the official will be prone to make more mistakes. With the amount of contentious decisions now in football, we do not need the situation to get worse.

Men are physically stronger and quicker than women on the whole. In professional football, it

takes a matter of seconds for play to go from one end of the pitch to the other. The positioning of the referee is crucial in decision making. When there is doubt in the referees mind, they can not give a decision. So they will need to keep up with the speed of play so as to view and make the correct decision. If a female referee or linesman can not keep up with the pace of the game, then more often than not her decisions will be incorrect.

The popularity of the women's game is very much on the increase. The last Women's World Cup Final was watched by a crowd of over 40,000 fans. Famous players such as Germany's Birgit Prinz are promoting the involvement of girls to get involved in the beautiful game and also raise the profile of women's football. So why not collectively try and raise the profile. It's a team game after all.

Finally, I actually fear an increase in sexism in football if women officials are introduced.

Rightly or wrongly, men have a superiority complex over women. They think they are right, especially in arguments! And I can imagine the comments in a post match interview after an important game, when the losing team has lost to a 90th minute penalty.

'If it had been a bloke refereeing he would have got it right.'



I was amazed with Mike Newell's comments, made on the back of the Luton vs. Queens Park Rangers game on 11th November, regarding the performance of assistant referee Amy Rayner. Newell – also previously outspoken on the issue of bungs in football – described the appearance of Rayner on the touchline as "tokenism – for the politically-correct idiots", further arguing that "if you start bringing in women, you have big problems". This came on the back of the official failing to award Newell's side a penalty as Luton went down to a 3-2 defeat.

There is absolutely no reason why women cannot officiate at top-class football matches. As long as they know the rules and are physically and mentally strong enough to keep up with the action

and make tough calls, why not let them take control? Just because they are not the same sex as the players does not make any difference, men officiate in women's games and it is not an issue, so why can't a woman officiate in a men's match?

If you are thinking that it is because of the added pressure, look at other high profile sports. It is unheard of in tennis

to hear a male player argue that a line call was incorrect, due to the fact that the call was made by a woman.

The fact is that all referees make mistakes. It is inevitable, in the same way that all human beings make mistakes as well. So how come when a female referee makes an error, it is down to her gender? When Uriah Rennie makes a bad decision, you would never say that it was because of his race.

If a manager said that he was racist, then criticised Rennie, you would not take him seriously. His opinion would clearly be biased. So how come when Newell states, "She should not be here. I know that sounds sexist, but I am sexist, so I am not going to be anything other than that," this is any different?

Amy Rayner had earned the right to be an assistant referee in that game. She has the qualifications needed to officiate at Championship level, and to say that she should not be there is totally unfair.

In fact, further steps should be taken in order to encourage more Amy Rayners to make the grade into the world of officiating in professional football.

Football is supposed to be the beautiful game, but with comments like these, it is only getting uglier.

The Kabaddi Does... Aeroball

By Paul Collins
Sports Editor

Kabaddi 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 Aeroball.

How can students get involved?

This is definitely a sport open for people of all shapes and forms. The University Sports Centre has an Aeroball trampoline set up in what used to be an old squash court. All you need to do is get a few mates together (6 or 7 so you can all swap round and take turns), and book a time to play at the Sports Centre Reception. Members get cheaper prices.

How does the game work?

The game takes place on a round trampoline divided into four separate compartments. You team up with the person diagonal to you. The game is essentially very simple. Points are scored in two ways. Firstly, throw the ball through the top hole of the basket in an opponent player's compartment, worth two points. If the shot misses and the opponent fails to grab the ball before it touches the trampoline bed,

one point is awarded. Once a team reaches a predetermined number of points they are declared the winner.

Will there be matches this year?

Nope. There is no official Aeroball club or society. Just head on down to the Sports Centre and have a go with your friends!

What skills are most called upon?

Bounceability, throwing a ball into a basket, and strong catching skills. Go along and practice. Although there are official rules to the game, most people play for a laugh, and a bit of enjoyment with mates. It's a barrel of fun.

Is the sport open to both sexes?

Certainly is. Boy, girl, big, small, tall, thin....EVERYONE can take part!

Sum up Aeroball in 3 words!

Bouncy. Bouncy....Bouncy.

Who should people contact to find out more?

The Sports Centre Reception, to book!

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



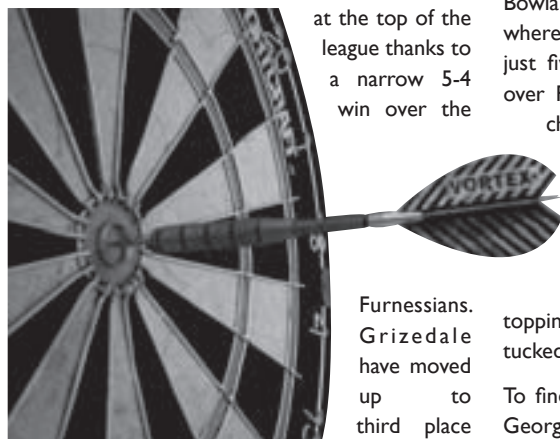
Bowland Dominate Carter Shield & George Wyatt

By Ian Waterhouse
Sports Editor

Bowland College continue to be the major force in bar sports, currently holding the top position in four of the six leagues that make up the George Wyatt competition.

A 7-2 victory for the Bowlanders over Furness helped them to extend their lead at the top of the Men's A Team pool league, with Graduate now having slotted into second place. The postgraduates are nine points off the top of the table, but do enjoy the advantage of a game in hand. Elsewhere, Pendle are still searching for their first victory, having tasted defeat in each of their opening four games.

Meanwhile, in the Men's B Team pool, Bowland took over from Furness at the top of the league thanks to a narrow 5-4 win over the



Furnessians. Grizedale have moved up to third place

following a 6-3 win over County, though they sit a full eleven points off the pace.

It is a familiar story at the summit of the Women's pool table, where Bowland lead Fylde by a solitary point. However, the only unbeaten team are Grizedale, having won each of their four opening games to sit in third place with 32 points. At this point the league appears to be developing into a straight fight between these three, with the others a number of points behind.

Women's darts also looks set to develop into a three-way battle, with Fylde, Bowland and County emerging as the main protagonists. This time, however, it is the Fylde ladies who are sitting pretty at the summit, although Bowland remain just two points behind. County – having won each of their first four matches by a 4-3 scoreline – are unbeaten in third.

Bowland domination continues in Men's darts, where they have already amassed 43 points in just five games – a tally that includes 8-1 wins over Fylde, Grizedale and Lonsdale. Their main challenge is currently being provided by Pendle – traditionally strong in this event – who sit eleven points back with a game in hand.

Finally, the closest league of all is shaping up to be Dominoes, with Pendle currently topping the table and a whole host of other colleges tucked in just behind.

To find the very latest results and tables for the George Wyatt leagues, visit <http://sport.lusu.co.uk>.

By Paul Collins
Sports Editor

As well as being the early season pace setters in the George Wyatt Competition, Bowland College lead in the race for the Carter Shield Trophy too. These are certainly good times to be a Bowlander. On Sunday 19th November (week 6) Bowland won three out of three on the opening day of the basketball league.

Pendle showed signs too that they will be a force to be reckoned with when the competition resumes after the Christmas break, particularly with the likes of 'Dada' showing off his obvious skills on the court. The best game of the afternoon indeed involved Bowland and Pendle, with the former winning 37-15. Furness College also achieved two convincing victories, over Catrnel and Grizedale.

Fylde were beaten comprehensively by Pendle, before sharing the spoils in an entertaining draw. The match finished 29 apiece. The competition had to be downsized from the off due to the lack of appearance by three colleges, namely Lonsdale, County and Graduate. There is still no explanation from any of the no show colleges.

Fylde won the Pop Lacrosse and the Aeroball. Bowland however top the overall league table thanks to their good performance across all disciplines. They won the tug of war, came second in the Aeroball, and third in Pop Lacrosse.

POSTION	COLLEGE	POINTS
1st	Bowland	41.0
2nd	Fylde	39.0
3rd	Pendle	29.0
4th	Grizedale	25.0
5th	Lonsdale	24.0
6th	Furness	21.0
7th	Graduate	12.0
8th	County	9.0
9th	Catrnel	0.0



Lancaster Lose Local Clash

Men's Football 1sts
2-4 vs St. Martins
By Ian Waterhouse

St. Martins ultimately prevailed in this highly-charged men's football clash, although the Lancaster side will feel that they could – and perhaps should – have got more out of the game.

In driving rain and on a boggy pitch, the match was never likely to be one for the purists. When the factors of "local derby" and "top of the table clash" were then thrown into the mix, it was not difficult to work out what kind of game those spectators who had braved the conditions were in for.

In the event, the fans only had to wait until the tenth minute for the opening goal, although the majority were left disappointed as it fell to the visiting team. A massive goal-kick from the St. Martins goalkeeper travelled all the way to the edge of the home penalty box, where three forwards found only one home defender in their way, and found no trouble in finishing the move with a side-footed finish off the inside of the post.

Soon after the visitors then doubled their lead, as a volleyed finish from the corner of the penalty area left Jack Harrison in the Lancaster goal with little chance. It took this second goal to spur the home side into action, although they still had to wait until the half-hour mark to register a meaningful shot on target, but JJ Nugent's header was comfortably held by the visiting goalkeeper.

Lancaster did get their goal back in the 38th minute, after being awarded a free-kick just inside the visitors' half. The ball was struck long into the penalty area, where it was flicked across goal by James Hopkins, and then steered into the corner



by Alex Gladkow from twelve yards out. The goal was no more than Lancaster deserved for a vast improvement on their showing of the opening twenty minutes, and they could even have gone into half-time on level terms, but Chris Ashton dragged his shot across the face of goal.

Lancaster – clothed nominally in white, but increasingly mud-splattered as the game wore on – continued to enjoy the upper hand at the start of the second period, but found themselves caught by a sucker-punch in the 56th minute. Slack marking allowed a free header from a set-piece, and the two-goal deficit had been restored.

Just three minutes later, and the gap had been closed again, as the game continued its see-saw pattern. JJ Nugent struck the goal of the game as his 20-yard free-kick found the top corner of the net, in spite of the efforts of the defender on the line.

The momentum was with the home side at this point, and substitute Luis Llagostera was left frustrated as his header from ten yards found only the grateful arms of the goalkeeper. Lancaster thought that they had got level in the 74th minute, when Gladkow bundled home after the 'keeper had missed a long cross. However, the St. Martins official on the near side of the field ruled that Gladkow had handled, and the goal was chalked off.

This incident sparked a frenetic five-minute period, during which the visitors scored the clinching goal, as well as having a player dismissed. The goal came in the immediate aftermath of the disallowed effort from Gladkow, with the enthusiastic celebrations of the St. Martins players provoking the Lancaster players and fans alike.

TEAM	OPPOSITION	DATE
Badminton Men's 1st	Manchester Men's 3rd	29/11/06 H
Badminton Women's 1st	Manchester Women's 1st	29/11/06 H
Basketball Men's 1st	Bolton Men's 1st	29/11/06 A
Basketball Women's 1st	Edge Hill Women's 1st	29/11/06 A
Fencing Men's 1st	Manchester Men's 1st	29/11/06 H
Fencing Women's 1st	Liverpool Women's 1st	29/11/06 A
Football Men's 1st	Liverpool Mens 1st	29/11/06 A
Football Women's 1st	Liverpool Hope Women's 1st	29/11/06 A
Hockey Men's 1st	Manchester Met Men's 1st	29/11/06 H
Hockey Women's 1st	Manchester Met Women's 1st	29/11/06 H
Lacrosse Women's 1st	Manchester Women's 1st	29/11/06 A
Netball 1st	St. Martins Women's 1st	29/11/06 A
Rugby Union Men's 1st	Liverpool Men's 1st	29/11/06 A
Rugby Union Women's 1st	Salford Women's 1st	29/11/06 A
Rugby League Men's 1st	Central Lanc Men's 1st	29/11/06 H
Squash Men's 1st	Manchester Met Men's 1st	29/11/06 H
Squash Women's 1st	Manchester Met Women's 1st	29/11/06 A
Tennis Men's 1st	Liverpool Men's 2nd	29/11/06 A
Tennis Women's 1st	Durham Women's 2nd	29/11/06 H
Volleyball Men's 1st	Liverpool John Moores Men's 2nd	29/11/06 A



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Men's Rugby 1sts

31-13 vs Hull

By Paul Collins

Lancaster Men's rugby team got a much needed win last Wednesday against Hull University. The wet conditions, decribed by both players and officials alike as appalling, limited the prospects of a fast-flowing passing game.

Lancaster had lost their last match 11-10 in an epic battle against Keele. Thus, morale was not at its highest going into the fixture against Hull, thanks to a record five defeats in six games this season. This year's defeats have largely been down to the small intake of Freshers, together with the departure of some members of the squad. Despite this year being described as a season of transition for the club, Lancaster desperately needed to get a result against a Hull team who came into this game looking for their third victory on the trot.

Nerves were settled when the home side scored an early try. In a fairly even opening period, Hull managed to get their first points on the board through a penalty kick, taking the score to 5-3. In the poor conditions it soon became clear that this game was all about the strength of the forwards, as the winners of the scrums and lineouts would be able to dictate the pace of the game. Fortunately it was the Lancaster forwards that gradually emerged on top, but again the poor conditions disabled the backs from passing the ball out wide and to add more points to the board.

Midway through the first half Lancaster forged an even bigger lead, winning the ball from a lineout, the play was switched inside, and Tom Connolly jinxed past several tackles and dived under the posts for a try. Having added the conversion, Lancaster looked comfortable though Hull pressed for a try in the final ten minutes of the half. The Lancaster defence kept the door firmly shut, and went in at half time 12-3 to the good.

Lancaster began the second half strongly, with Matt Green bursting down the left in a great solo effort, however his run was forcefully ended when he was knocked into touch. Hull's first half performance had not been too positive, but whatever was said at half time worked, as they quickly crossed the try line, adding five more points, though in the swirling winds and rain, the conversion was unsuccessful.

The final twenty minutes of the game saw a flurry of tries, on a pitch that could only be described by this stage as a marsh. Lancaster scored a typical forwards try, to lead 17-8 and soon afterwards added another which, when converted put Lancaster 24-8 up. In a frantic final few minutes, Lancaster had a man sin binned and as a result Hull pressed forward and scored a consolation try.

Lancaster were to have the last word though as they were awarded a final penalty try following an infringement by a Hull player. Connolly easily converted, leaving the final score 31-13. The result was a great morale boosting win, and as Mike Stevens said: "It will hopefully be a springboard for further success."



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Across

- Doctor's demeanour with patient (7,6)
- Unit of electrical resistance (3)
- Violent attack (9)
- Care of hands and fingernails (8)
- Church or college dignitary (4)
- Of the stars (6)
- Bump and push (for position) (6)
- Make hole larger – lot of paper (4)
- Highly accomplished (8)
- Female personification of main UK island (9)
- Understanding – boy's name (3)
- Flower of fruit tree popular in Japan (6,7)

Down

- Come into flower (5)
- Tending to open display of feelings (13)
- Armoured (8)
- Make certain (6)
- Biblical progenitor of human race (4)
- Of little merit (2,5,6)
- Entourage (7)
- Goldenrod – good sail (anag) (8)
- (Of exercise) increasing oxygen in blood (7)
- Socialise (6)
- Hard-wearing cotton fabric (5)
- Mane (4)

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C	A	D	D	I	E	C	I	R	C	U	S
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