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# FEELING LUCKY?

By Ben Bailey  
Editor

**T**oday marks the beginning of a new Lancaster Student Lottery (LSL) launched by the Lancaster University Young Enterprise Society (LUES). The cross-campus lottery will be open to students, staff, and members of the public, with the first draw to be held on 26th January, Friday Week 2.

Having been granted a 2007 Lottery License by the Lancaster City Council, the draw is set to run every week of term throughout the year. Tickets cost £1 each and are available from the LUSU shop. The weekly event will take place every Friday evening in Grizedale Bar. The aim of the Lottery is to raise money for charity, whilst also providing the LUES

with greater funding, allowing them to expand their projects and encourage enterprise throughout the University.

After running costs are covered, 20% of the proceeds go directly to the LUES, and of this the society will donate 10% of the money to the Raising And Giving Charity (RAG). The accumulated sum will be presented to the charity at the end of each term.

Matt Smith, the LUES President, said: "The Lancaster Student Lottery is a great way for the Young Entrepreneurs Society to sustain itself and continue to grow in size and strength, offering more services, talks and events to the ever-increasing numbers of Lancaster students who find themselves interested in starting their own business. It achieves this in a fun and friendly manner, each week giving a lucky few students a great surprise whilst also

benefiting both local and national charities."

Alongside the, potentially, large cash prize for the winner there is also set to be up to twenty small cash prizes ranging from £10-£50. Unlike the National Lottery, players are allocated an individual number similar to that of a raffle. The LUES prediction is that the odds of winning are around 1 in 4,000.

Graeme Poulton, LUSU General Secretary said: "A lot of time, hard work and dedication has gone into getting LSL off its feet and for this the Young Entrepreneurs Society must be commended."

The results will be posted online, emailed to LSL newsletter subscribers as well as being displayed around campus by posters and advertised in the LUSU shop. If the Lottery is successful a second ticket machine will hopefully be installed in Central Stores.



# SCAN

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# Hitting the right note

By Joe Buglass

**A Lancaster University student who set up his own company with the support of Create, is now managing his business full-time with customers as far away as New Zealand.**

Lee Crossley runs a thriving online business founded with a grant of £1,000 from Create, a project offering students practical support and funding to start their own business. Funded by the Higher Education Innovation Fund, Create was established in September 2005 and is a partnership project between the Lancaster University Students' Union and the Research & Enterprise Services Division.

Lee was one of the first to benefit from the projects support. His firm, Backing Music, provides online music for people to download and sing to. Lee said: "When the first order came through it was an incredible feeling! Orders were up and down for the first few weeks and then suddenly they went up!"

Graduating with a degree in Computer Science, Lee began work for a web design firm in Preston who offered him employment based upon the success of Backing Music. "I told them about Create and Backing Music during the interview and they told me that's why I got the job. How many students have their own business?"

With Backing Music now really taking off Lee has left full time employment to dedicate himself to developing the business.

"Things are moving fast. I've got a contract with

a major nightclub in the North West and will be supplying all their music and I'm providing the music for a school in Barrow in Furness which is having an X Factor type event.

"The experience and skills I got through Create have been fantastic and they have given me a massive amount of confidence. I would recommend that any student give it a go."

Create Project Manager Joseph Buglass said: "Lee has achieved a lot in a short space of time. Create

was able to support the development of the business plan and help Lee overcome the challenges faced by someone setting up their own business.

"We are always keen to talk to students who are interested in starting their own businesses and are particularly interested in helping Arts and Humanities students."

For more information go to [www.backingmusic.com](http://www.backingmusic.com) or [www.create.lancs.ac.uk](http://www.create.lancs.ac.uk)



# International award for PhD student

**Will Veitch**

Assistant Editor

**A Lancaster University student originally from Nigeria, Akanimo Odon, recently won the British Council International Students Award 2006.**

Mr. Odon, 26, organised an International Conference of Nigerian Students, with speakers including the Lancaster and Wyre MP Ben Wallace, the Nigerian High Commissioner Dr. Christopher Kolade and the Chief Executive of Lancaster City Council Mark Cullinan.

He aims to create an international network of Nigerian graduates in order to empower his home country and is now using his idea and talent to create link with the estimated 6,000 Nigerians studying in the UK.

Mr. Odon, currently studying for a PhD in the Environmental Science Department, said he wants to help young people from Nigeria fulfil their potential, "Basically the aim is to get the Nigerian diaspora together in an international network so they can make the most of their talents and use their skills towards national development.

"There is a reason for students to go back to Nigeria and we want to provide job opportunities for the delegates who come to the conference so we're asking them to bring their CVs."

The conference will include a networking session with poster presentations about the delegates' research, ideas, products or businesses and will also see the launch of the Nigerian International Students' Agenda (NISA), which aims to promote Nigerian students' ambitions and represent their interests.

Mr. Odon said: "One of NISA's projects is a web-based chat room where different academic courses and subject areas are catered for. It will act as a medium of career development, job placements and recruitment for current and potential Nigerian graduates and a forum where ideas, proposals and creative skills are displayed online.

"It will also link Nigerian students back home with those in the UK, so they know what's going on."

The conference takes place in both the Great Hall and Faraday Hall on campus during the weekend of February 3rd and 4th.

Mr. Odon won the title of International Student of the Year 2006 at the British Council's annual Shine awards. He has also published a book of poetry, written a novel and acts as a postgraduate ambassador for the University. He aims to open environmental laboratories and residential homes for the elderly when he returns to Nigeria after completing his studies.

He has also co-founded the Xn Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation with projects aimed at Nigerian youth. The projects include First Aid, disability awareness, poetry, youth empowerment, skills training and community development.



By

# Campus News In Brief

## Soups Up!

**Two Lancaster students have started their own business, running a vegetarian soup stall in the LUSU Shop. Miguel Binnitti and Ali Reeves have developed their business through the LUSU business development office Create.**

The two will be cooking the food at The White Cross bar/restaurant in Lancaster before transporting the soup to the university. Lancaster is one of the few Universities that, before now, had not already offered a soup business.

Miguel said: "In the beginning the plan was to have a stall in Alexandra Square. However strict University rules prohibited this. This was the first big challenge we came up against but with the help of Create we came up with the idea of doing something in conjunction with LUSU and we were lucky enough to be offered a spot in the LUSU shop."

"We realised there was a need for 'real' food on campus, that was not only healthy and tasty but also affordable to students. With this in mind we created Souped Up. We're really excited about

doing this here, now all of Lancaster will feel our broth." Souped Up opens in Week 2 out of the LUSU shop.

## Women kick butt

**Last December saw Lancaster's first women's self-defence class open. The event was organised by the LUSU Women's Officer Cat Smith, and provides women with the opportunity to get a free two-hour session on campus with instructors from the Wing Chun Society.**

The event was so successful that another defence class is being planned for later this term. Cat Smith said: "It was an event like no other, I really feel that this practically benefited the women who attended and provided some useful tips with practical skills." For more information about future events visit [www.lusu.co.uk/womens/selfdefence](http://www.lusu.co.uk/womens/selfdefence)

## Refreshers' Fair

**Re-Freshers' fair will be held on Wednesday Week 1 in the Great Hall from 12:30 until 4. This is an opportunity for those who have sat around and done nothing for the last 3 months to get involved in a club or society.**

## Lost in Blackpool

**On the 7th December 2006, County College hosted their annual Christmas Ball at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. The ball, organised by the County JCR, initially**

**appeared to have been a successful event. However, it was the events after leaving Winter Gardens which proved to be a problem for County College.**

After a brief protest that she felt unwell, it emerged that a female County Student was left by herself. This student, believed to have consumed alcohol, did not return to the bus, and so the driver had to leave, despite not knowing her whereabouts. Concern quickly arose for the welfare of the vulnerable student, left alone outside a Blackpool cemetery.

Initially, the identity of the female in question could not be determined, prompting further investigation. Blackpool Police were informed, who proceeded to contact both the hospitals and taxi firms in the local area, but to no avail.

The concern was echoed by Kiran Kutappa, former County JCR Ed & Welfare Officer and current Chairman, who emailed a number of County students, requesting that anyone with any information to get in contact with the College in an attempt to establish the whereabouts of the student.

County College porters also became involved in the search, telephoning around the rooms of a large number of female County students to enquire whether or not they had attended the ball. In addition, college membership forms were used to compare against the list of names of those attending the Ball.

It has since emerged that the girl concerned was safely back in Lancaster.

It is clearly a relief that the girl concerned was safe, however massive concerns have been raised as to

why this was allowed to happen at all.

Former Vice-President, Alex Milne told SCAN "After such a long time in the planning to make the event a success, it seems that sadly some of the basic administration jobs were forgotten- which inevitably put a County student at risk."

By Hannah Jones

## Tories tin-foiled

**A mysterious vandal has been working their way around campus over the Christmas holidays. Going by the name of The Shiny Socialist, the vandal attacks rooms that have been left open with tinfoil, covering everything in sight.**

The people most susceptible to receive this treatment are voters of the Conservative Party, as flyers have been left all around campus declaring 'Tinfoil A Tory Today'. Police have proceeded to question Spar and Central if anyone has been purchasing copious amount of tin-foil. Anyone with any information should contact the authorities immediately.

By Peter Watt



## Helicopter crash shocks town

**By Rebecca Riely**  
Deputy News Editor

**On December 27th, a Eurocopter AS365N helicopter carrying gas workers from Morecambe Bay gas fields, plummeted into the Irish Sea killing all on board.**

Centrica gas workers were being ferried back by helicopter before the New Year for delayed Christmas Day festivities with their families and friends. After collecting five rig workers from the two North Morecambe gas field rigs at around 6.30pm, it headed towards the Southern Morecambe field rig to collect more workers when it ran into difficulties. An eyewitness saw the helicopter hit the water and called the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in Liverpool. Minutes later the aircraft's distress signal was received by RAF Kinloss in Scotland. That evening a major search party was put into action involving two RAF helicopters and two RLNI lifeboats that fled to the scene twenty-four miles from the Lancashire coastline. Six bodies were found that night and the

search for the seventh passenger were abandoned around 30 hours after the crash.

Jim Paton, Liverpool Coastguard Operations Manager, said: "Sadly, all realistic hope has gone of finding a survivor at this stage in the operation. Our thoughts and sympathy are with the families and friends of the men involved."

It is not clear if all of the passengers were killed by the impact of the crash or by the water that Michael Mulford of the Royal Air Force Rescue Centre described as being "bound to be very cold". Helicopters are often "a normal form of transport" for movement between oil and gas rigs, a fact high-lighted by a spokesperson for the coastguard.

Keith Mullet from the helicopter company CHC Scottia informed the public that the pilot, Mr. Potton, was the chief pilot in the area and that he was "extremely experienced". The unusual nature of the crash has prompted the launch of a thorough investigation by the Air Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) in an attempt to find out why the aircraft encountered such difficulties that proved fatal in such calm conditions.

## Justice for world AIDS

**By Richard Wyatt**

Lancaster People and Planet & Lancaster Christian Aid Rep

**There are now 40 million people worldwide who are HIV positive. In the worst-affected areas such as southern Africa more than one in five adults is HIV positive.**

Lancaster University students marked World AIDS Day by decorating Alexandra Square with red ribbon last term. Several events took place on 1st December and rather than a demonstration of charity the events were organised to reflect the students' commitment to justice.

The hundreds of students who signed petitions calling for universal access to treatment by the year 2010, reflecting the massive emphasis on getting the government to keep its promise and finally start controlling the deadly virus.

There are now 40 million people worldwide who are HIV positive. In the worst-affected areas such as southern Africa more than one in five adults is HIV positive.

Other events in the day included the exhibition *Life Interrupted* from world-renowned photo journalist Don McCullin, which looked at the impact of anti-retroviral drugs on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in southern Africa. The exhibition was very popular and helped raise awareness.

In the evening there was a live music and speakers

night which took place in Cartmel JCR. Lancaster student Phil Leech kicked off proceedings with an informative and inspirational speech about the amazing work the Stephen Lewis Foundation do.

This was followed by Chris Mead from Christian Aid and Sue Capstick, a nurse, who has had experience with working with HIV/AIDS patients in Africa. Both speeches were extremely moving. The night's acts included Steve Morgan, The Wind Up Mercants, Ray's Music Exchange, Forensic and Palmstruck all were extremely well received.

I hope the Government is listening to our calls and that we can eventually say that HIV/AIDS is no longer a death sentence. Thanks to all who made this event happen, you know who you are. It's much appreciated





# URGENT: REFERENDUM!



## WHAT IS A REFERENDA?

**T**he supreme governing and policy-making body of the Students' Union shall be the Union Referendum. The Union Referendum may make binding decisions on all matters upon which a General Meeting may decide upon, as detailed in section 13.2 and 13.3 of the LUSU Constitution. Decisions of a Union Referenda cannot be superceded by decisions of lower bodies, either the Union General Meeting or the Union Council.

## THE BACKGROUND

**A**t the end of last term, a debate went to Union Council discussing the idea of a equal opportunities sabbatical officer. The debate was extremely opinionated and complicated. The topic of the debate then changed to

discuss having both a male and female Education and Welfare Officer. Although this debate continued to be as heated, there were many constructive comments about the increased feasibility of having these positions within the advice centre and the sabbatical team. As president I have the discretionary power to call a referendum. So as debate concluded with no sign of a resolution and in consultation with the General Secretary, I stated that I would call a referendum in the New Year which I have now done. Election Sub-Committee will now convene to formulate the question and run the referendum.

## WHY?

**M**any people have questioned my political and personal motivations about why I called the referendum. The answer is quite simple. We are elected to represent you across the country and on your campus, it was quite obvious that this debate was split and with no sign of a resolution. As president and as a sabbatical team we make decisions on your behalf most days

of the week, some of these decisions you will never know about and some of them will never affect you, but this was a decision that we were unable to make alone. Due to the status of a referendum I felt that it was the only true democratic way to make a decision of such grandeur. My decision to call a referendum reflects nothing of my personal or political motivations other than a respect and belief in democracy.

## THE PROCESS

**E**lection sub-committee have the responsibility to set the questions and organise the date for the referenda. This decision will be made at some point this week, so by the time you have read this a question will have been set. Three campaigns shall be run, one for each side of the argument and the third to explain the rules and outcomes of the referendum and the importance that your vote holds. This campaign period shall be followed by a cross-campus ballot.

If you have a query about the referendum

please contact the Chief Returning Officer Andy Payne at [a.payne@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:a.payne@lancaster.ac.uk). Thank you.

Sooz Palmer, LUSU President.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Any full member of LUSU may campaign for or against the referendum motion. If you want to get involved briefing sessions will be arranged and held by Election Sub-Committee for both campaign groups in the near future. More information about this will be published cross campus and via Loosetalk.

# REFERENDUM!



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# Trident: The Dangers, The Debate

## Stephen Vittles speaks to Lancaster students about the Trident debate

**By Stephen Vittles**  
Deputy News Editor

**G**reat Britain has been a nuclear power since its first test in October 1952. Now, the Trident nuclear weapon system, introduced in 1994, is due to expire in 2024. A decision has been made by the Labour Government to upgrade the Trident system in a 'White Paper' published on the 4th December of last year. The Government has claimed that the need to make a decision now is that the total replacement of the system will take around seventeen years; ensuring that the weapon system is ready before the current Trident system reaches the end of its life.

The main reasons why nations possess and develop nuclear weapons, Britain included, is due to a perceived sense of isolation and antagonism. The United States, in joint operation with British scientists, developed their nuclear weapons to use against Fascist Germany in the Second World War, and also served to hold political and military superiority over a fiercely expansionist USSR. In response, the USSR developed its own weapons to deter a hostile USA. China also developed nuclear weapons for fear of a surprise attack by the USA, India has Nuclear weapons for security against China, and Pakistan developed weapons to deter a hostile India. Israel possesses a nuclear capability as it considers itself surrounded by enemies, and now the dictatorship of North Korea has demonstrated its own capability after launching an illegal test earlier last year. Altogether, including North Korea, there are nine nuclear-armed states in the world.

After nuclear weapons were used over 60 years ago, the fear during the period known as the Cold War cultivated such a fear of a nuclear holocaust, that the psychological implications of a nuclear weapon is much more effective than the destructive capabilities of the weapons themselves. This is the reason why nuclear weapons are known euphemistically as a 'deterrent.' This nuclear taboo is an important reason for possessing nuclear weapons. An argument against total disarmament is that Britain would lose some of its international prestige afforded by possessing these weapons of mass destruction. As it stands, all members of the UN Security Council are nuclear equipped, however, Britain is unique in that it possesses only one delivery system, being Trident, and the fewest number of operational warheads of the council.

Major arguments against the replacement of Britain's nuclear deterrent are that nuclear weapons are ineffective against a threat posed by terrorism, and the Government admits itself that, as present, there is no single state or country that poses a direct threat to Britain's national security, unlike the days of the Cold War. Deterrence, by definition, works only if aggressors, nuclear armed or not, believe there is a possibility that Britain may retaliate with a nuclear attack. If this fear is removed, or not present in the minds of an attacker, then the Trident system becomes nothing more than an empty, and expensive, boast. Also, the fact that any nation or group possesses nuclear weaponry of any kind is immoral, and undermines efforts to persuade other nations to disarm when Britain is set to renew its own arsenal. However, as the Government states, "It is the job of Government to strike a balance between working towards a safer world, and protecting the security of the UK and its citizens,

both now and in the future... to run down our deterrent would be taking a huge gamble with Britain's future security."

With the current Trident system, Nuclear warheads can be launched by any of four Vanguard Class nuclear submarines, HMS Vanguard, HMS Victorious, HMS Vigilant and HMS Vengeance, all based in Clyde Submarine base in Western Scotland. Each Submarine has sixteen launch tubes for Trident D5 submarine-launched ballistic missiles; each ballistic missile consisting of several dummies and several 80-100 kiloton nuclear warheads each of which has around eight times the explosive power of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the closing year of the second world war.

The Government has a commitment to working toward disarmament, and so even though Britain's nuclear deterrent will be renewed with the production of four new nuclear submarines to replace the current Vanguard Class vessels, there will be a further 20% reduction in the number of nuclear warheads in its arsenal. Britain has already reduced its operational warhead stockpile to below 200, and the decision by the government to renew the Trident system will reduce this number further to 160 operational warheads.

The cost of renewing Trident is stated, by the Ministry of Defence, to average around £1bn a year from 2012. The project, with the construction of new submarines, could take up to 17 years to complete. However, reports from *The Guardian* suggest that this estimation is conservative, and costs could run to £30bn when considering the running and maintaining of the system. It needs be stressed that an element of context is imperative when discussing sums of money in the millions and billions; the cost is not for the missiles alone, but incorporates docking, storage depots the maintenance of the fleet as well as wages and bureaucracy.

Given the tremendous political implications, even value, of possessing nuclear weapons above all other weapons means that the debate for the replacement of the Trident system has gone beyond defence alone. The debate now encompasses a broad spectrum of political, moral and environmental imperatives; each demanding centre stage and claiming to have global implications, raising the issue above a domestic concern.

The Liberal Democrats want a full commons debate on the matter of replacing the trident system, but the government's pushing through of the White Paper before a debate demonstrates Blair's contempt for consultation on this issue, particularly because an absolute decision is not required before 2014. John Reid simply retorted to a journalist "we need a deterrent." It has been speculated that the imperative for the PM to make this decision so early is to leave a decisive legacy for himself. However, the Tories are far from disagreeing with Labour's position, Shadow Defence Secretary Liam Fox stating "Conservatives will not play fast and loose with Britain's security. We need to have this debated in the House of Commons."

In fact, Blair may need to rely on Tory votes for support of the replacement plans. Professor Philip Cowley of Nottingham University is an analyst of Labour back bench rebels, and suggests that enough MPs are against the bill and could prevent a majority within the Labour Party. Despite the fact that the Labour Party whip may make these rebels toe the line concerning the issue, 63 backbenchers signed a motion calling for all plans for a Trident replacement to be scrapped. Furthermore, another 53 Labour MPs signed another

motion warning that the replacement scheme could breach Britain's commitment to the Nuclear non-proliferation Treaty.

Dr. Hans Blix, senior former UN weapons inspector, has also lambasted the government, warning that the decision could set the wrong example to states like Iran, and encourage them to develop their nuclear weapons systems, and will put the whole non-proliferation treaty 'under strain.' Indeed, the respected international lawyer Philippe Sands added that a replacement weapon system may even be illegal under the NPT, however, Jack Straw later said that this implication was "nonsense," perhaps due to the fact that the weapon system will lead to the reduction of operational warheads in the country.

Dr. Emily Heath of Lancaster University's Environmental Science department, and Green councillor of Lancaster City Council said to SCAN: "The Green Party is totally opposed to replacing the Trident system... Weapons of mass destruction cannot be justified morally or even in terms of 'defence' - they make the world more dangerous.

"Wars are often fought over natural resources such as oil, land and water - all of which are becoming more scarce as climate change starts to bite. If governments around the world concentrated on addressing the causes of war instead of spending a huge proportion of their wealth on weapons, the world would be much safer."

Lancaster University Student Ian Chamberlain, and one of Lancaster's seven Green City councillors were among nine local people to be arrested at a peaceful protest, and held for 23 hours in police custody for lying in the road at Clyde submarine base, Faslane, Scotland, the base for the four Vanguard Class submarines.

The NUS also states that "not only would the money be better spent alleviating student hardship and investing in the education system, alongside other public services and combating international poverty, but that replacing Trident would actually increase the risk of nuclear weapons being used in war and serve to encourage non-nuclear weapons states to consider acquiring a nuclear capability."

The issue was brought up at Lancaster's Union Council at the end of the Michaelmas term. Ewan Gelling, LUSU Green Officer said: "I put a motion through Council to, as a union, oppose the renewal of trident and to support the cause for disarming Britain of its nuclear weapons. The main points that I argued were about the nuclear warheads and the effect that they could have on the environment, and also the cost of it all and the fact that the money could be spent elsewhere, like on student fees."

Mr. Gelling went on to say "I think that the impact of the topic on Lancaster students is a big one because first years are now paying £3000 a year to study here when there is a tonne of money that will be spent on the renewal of a system that, if it goes ahead, goes against the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The outcome of the Union Council session was that the union rejected the motion."

It appears paradoxical that in order to maintain the nuclear deterrent and its associated taboo, the Trident system must be kept in such an order that it can deliver what it threatens. However, at the same time, to keep the deterrent in such order, it undermines its own threat by setting a poor example to more volatile states. It seems hard to come to any general resolution on the issue so long as this catch-22 persists.

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# DEAR SCAN

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### "Shut up!!"

Dear SCAN,

**I am writing to complain about the noise that disturbed a third of my second year degree last term. I am an English literature student, and I have to say that every single seminar I attended was interrupted in one way or another, due to the building that is going on. Last year I was a student in County College, and similarly I was woken up at a ridiculous time on weekday mornings, however, it is a completely different kettle of fish when my education is interrupted on a weekly basis.**

To further this upset, towards the end of last term, I took an in-class test that contributes to my final degree mark, which was disrupted when the building began. I know for a fact that every member of my seminar groups is affected by this however it seems that because construction at Lancaster is such a regular occurrence, they just think it is part of being a Lancaster student

I am aware that building must happen, but the university could have easily organised the construction to take place over the summer break.

I think it is disgusting that customers of this university, like me, have to put up with this type of inconsiderate conduct. If you feel the same as me, please voice your opinion in Scan or tell Paul Wellings secretary. Something must be done!

**A Disgruntled Second Year**

### "Lack of texts is getting me down"

Dear SCAN,

**I am what I would class a typical student, the kind who is often caught short, naively bewildered to discover essay deadlines ominously looming and all the necessary books**

**in the library out on loan. However, my personal organisational failings aside, I know for a fact that I am not in the minority and many other students find themselves in a similarly compromising position.**

I am a third year English Literature student and from my own experience of the course so far there are many popular books – key texts for the course that are necessary for essays, of which there are only one or two copies available in the library. I don't write this letter to single out the English Literature department, who on the whole are wonderful, as I'm sure other students in other departments experience similar frustrations. Aside from being organised and taking the books out before anyone else gets to them, surely the problem could be reduced with more copies available, especially in short loan?

Having contacted my tutor in search of an essential book, she, completely unprompted by me, said she would ensure more copies of the text were made available in the library; therefore I just want to make students aware that departments may not be aware of book shortages, and staff will probably be extremely helpful when consulted!

**Yours,**

**Hannah Cornforth**

### "Re: Science Park threatens environment"

Dear SCAN

**The front page of your last edition was about proposals for a new 'Science Park' to be built on countryside near the University (off Bailrigg Lane and the A6). Whilst I support the idea of providing space for new knowledge-based businesses in this district, I have serious concerns about the environmental impacts of what is currently being proposed.**

There is lots of previously developed 'brownfield' land in Lancaster which would be better locations for the Science Park. Ideally it should be built close to where large numbers of people live (particularly areas of relatively high

## Letter of the week

### "Those stealthy bastards"

Dear SCAN,

**I just wanted to write a quick letter to express my indignation at the stealth increase in printing prices on campus. I mean, half a pence per sheet? That's just ridiculous. I tried to print something out for a seminar, knowing I had just enough (4p) to get it done. And what came out of the printer instead?**

A sheet telling me that the job cost something like 4.4449p and that therefore it couldn't complete the job. Arse. It just seems that we, as students, see very little of this money being ploughed into the University at a direct level. I mean, are they that desperate? Half a pence per sheet? Seriously? Petty, and bloody annoying.

**Yours,**

**Farzan Eslami**

### "A big thank you"

Dear SCAN,

**I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all officers that were involved in new officer training. Although quite and intense few days (in every sense of the word!) fun was had by all, especially those that were doing the training. Little Red Riding Hood will never be the same again. My thanks also goes to the Sabbatical team and staff members that helped execute the training sessions and pull the week together.**

Good luck to all of you, including those I have yet to meet,

**Sooz, x**

**PS I still only have one shoe!!**

unemployment), and should be easily accessible by public transport, walking and cycling. Instead it is proposed to be built on an out-of-town site with more than 700 new parking spaces, which will encourage most people to travel there by car. Lancaster and Galgate are already choked with cars, and the planning application predicts that the extra traffic will result in queues of 70 vehicles northbound at the Boot & Shoe crossroads in the afternoon rush hour! This will mean longer journey times for bus passengers as well as car users. The city centre has already been declared an Air Quality Management Area because the fumes are so bad - the Science Park traffic will make it even worse.

No doubt the University would argue that the Science Park needs to be close campus to encourage collaboration between academics and commercial enterprises. But most of the new industries will be hi-tech and computer-based, and most communication between the two sites will be electronic. Collaboration would still be possible if the science park were built somewhere else in the district - and it would make more sense for a few people to travel between the two sites on occasions when this is necessary, rather than making the entire workforce travel out-of-town on a daily basis.

The proposal has not yet been given planning permission so there is still time to make a difference. There are already some Green Party councillors and local residents who are campaigning on this issue - if you would like to help, please contact me at [ldm@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:ldm@ceh.ac.uk).

**Yours sincerely,  
Ian McCulloch  
CEH**

**Lancaster Environment Centre**

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

# WANT TO WRITE FOR SCAN?

**NEWS 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](mailto:SCANASSISTANTEDITOR@GMAIL.COM)**

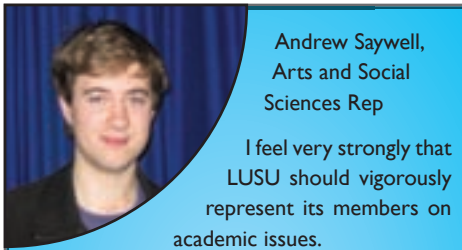
# It's Your Union (Council...)

**I'd imagine at this point you're thinking of turning the page, as Union Council can hardly be described as a thrilling topic. But the pretty pictures underneath have held your attention long enough to be curious as to precisely what's going on. So here we go.**

**Last term you elected a group of people, some of which are below, to represent you within the Students' Union and the University campaigning and working on a whole host of issues. Union Council is the body that makes the 'day to day' decisions**

**on the direction LUSU heads in and is fittingly influential. The faces below have already invested considerable time and effort in getting elected and in this article they're highlighting the reasons why they ran and what they hope to achieve. Enjoy!**

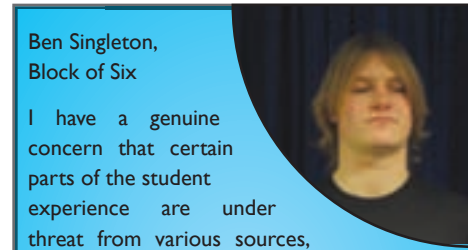
**Union Council meets fortnightly on a Thursday evening at 6pm in the Conference Centre. All Union members are more than welcome if you fancy dipping your fingers into making the Student experience at Lancaster a better one.**



Andrew Saywell,  
Arts and Social  
Sciences Rep

I feel very strongly that LUSU should vigorously represent its members on academic issues.

My main priority is to increase student awareness of academic issues within FASS and the Union. I will liaise with Course Reps, and work together with College and other LUSU Officers so that student priorities are raised in the University and LUSU, and policy is formulated in the best interest of FASS Students. Briefly, I also want to work towards Post-Grad Faculty Representation on LUSU, support 'Lancaster Says No!' and keep working towards having the Library open 24 Hours.



Ben Singleton,  
Block of Six

I have a genuine concern that certain parts of the student experience are under threat from various sources, I want to be involved so that I can prevent anything that will negatively affect students.

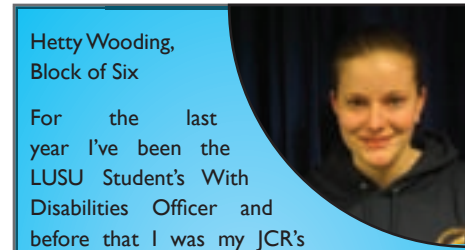
As a block of six member I have a relatively free role in what I can focus my energy towards. I hope to make a difference by opposing rent rises, protecting the future of the college system, stopping the increasing price of drinks in the bars and ensuring safety and equality for the student body as well as campaigning on wider issues like top-up fees and anti-fascism. I can also take up other issues that arise.



Chris Cottam,  
Welfare Campaigns

I want to build on the work of my predecessors, particularly in campaigns such as 'Easy Tiger' and Mental Health Awareness. I also want to improve on the effectiveness of welfare campaigns, by working closer with college JCRs to ensure we are tackling issues which are most affecting students today.

During my time at Lancaster I have been involved with LUSU on a variety of different levels, firstly as Grizedale Male Education & Welfare officer and later on as the college JCR President. I believe I can communicate well with students on a personal level but also concerning University wide issues.



Hetty Wooding,  
Block of Six

For the last year I've been the LUSU Student's With Disabilities Officer and before that I was my JCR's Disabilities Representative. I realised how important the communication channels between the students and the University are, a lot of things that seem obvious to students the staff often just aren't aware of.

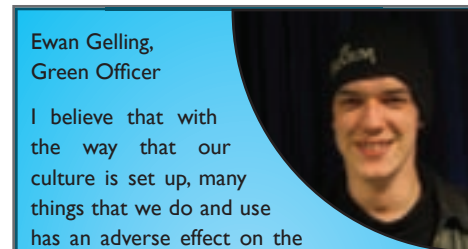
There are a lot of up-coming events that will affect every student and I want to make sure these issues are carefully considered and that the students get the best deal possible, such as trying to keep the longer library opening hours.



Dan Ratcliffe, Block  
of Six

I originally stood in the by-election at the end of last year and enjoyed my time so much (no, really, I'm a bit of a nerd) that I wanted to continue. I enjoy finding out the views of my college and course mates, and then communicating them.

I think Lancaster University has a great deal of respect for difference and enjoys the diversity on campus. Racist political parties are an insult to us all and I hope that I can increase understanding and convince more students to help challenge their lies at every opportunity. I also hope to work with my other Block of Six officers to get more input from people like you into the debates we have on Union Council.



Ewan Gelling,  
Green Officer

I believe that with the way that our culture is set up, many things that we do and use has an adverse effect on the world around us and the people in it. I want to bring these things to the thoughts of all the students at Lancaster University

I hope that this year I will be able to help coordinate a very diverse One World Week and make more of the Fair trade Fortnight. Also I would like to raise more awareness of not just climate change but raise awareness in alternative sources of food and clothing that are fair trade and make people think about the impact that they have on the earth itself and the people that live on it.



Anne Katzer,  
International  
Students Officer

I ran for election because I consider myself international. I am from Germany and have lived in three countries and speak four languages.

I have been the International and Mature Students Representative for the Furness JCR-Exec last year. I want More cooperation between international societies and the Colleges. I aim to help Increase in international students' involvement with the university and domestic students' involvement in international events as well as improving the arrival of international students. I also want to have an awesome term in office.



Iain Macdonald,  
Part-time Students  
Officer

In my year in office I want to initiate a campaign aimed at including part-time students.

At the moment I have no way of contacting part-time students as there is no central list. I will therefore collect a list of part-time students and once I have that I can begin to find out the issues and barriers facing part-time students.

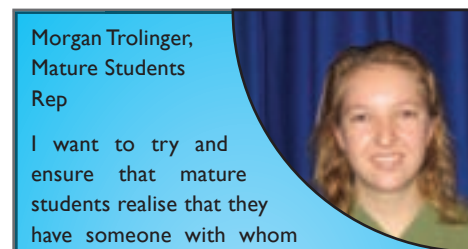
I am not promising to find all the solutions but I do promise to be dedicated. If you're a part-time student please leave your contact details with the LUSU Information Desk and I will get back to you.



Tom Sharman,  
Block of Six

I will be working to try and achieve several goals. I think the College social space could be better used and there should be more of it. I will be looking at joint-College socials as well as how the Colleges and the bars will handle the introduction of the no-smoking ban in the bars.

I would also like there to be an internet forum on the LUSU website for the Block of Six officers. This would raise the profile of non-sabbs and also act as a forum for answering students questions. I hope to see you all around, all the best.



Morgan Trolinger,  
Mature Students  
Rep

I want to try and ensure that mature students realise that they have someone with whom they may seek assistance and/or support. This is a chance to the mature students' mouthpiece for voicing opinions and suggestions to LUSU and the University.

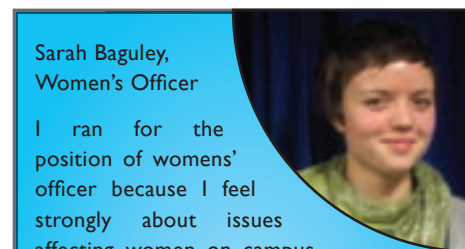
I would like to create a more social atmosphere outside of academia for mature students and help assist mature students with any financial difficulties by helping to find grants, bursaries and other forms of financial assistance for which mature students may be eligible.



Steven Shaw,  
Students with  
Disabilities Officer.

I ran for this position because I am aware, as a disabled student, the barriers which sometimes stop us from fully being involved in student life.

During my year in office I want to run a Disability Awareness day where able-bodied students can have a 'day in the life' of a disabled student. I will continue to lobby the University ensuring that disabled students remain high on the agenda. I want to work with the other liberation officers and ensure that we recognise the issues around multiple discriminations. I will run other campaigns and am also interested in taking up any issues which you feel are important - email me [lusudisabled@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:lusudisabled@lancaster.ac.uk)



Sarah Baguley,  
Women's Officer

I ran for the position of women's officer because I feel strongly about issues affecting women on campus, and would like to use my time in this position to make a difference.

During my time in office I am keen to continue campaigning on women student's safety. I would like to continue self defence classes, promote the womens bus and continue to equip students with attack alarms. this term also sees international womens day on march 8th, which I hope to promote here at Lancaster.



tuesday  
in the front room

# CLUB JUICY

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

Doors 8pm - open til late  
FREE B4 10pm



wednesday  
in the front room

# BASIC

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE

## EVERYTHING £1.50

• WIN **£50** IN THE QUIZ!

## FREE ENTRY

Carleton tickets available  
Doors: 8pm. Buses to The Carleton.



thursday

# LIVE MUSIC

**FREE ENTRY**  
to popscene b4 10pm

**FEATURING**  
**Liz Wyatt & Ampfire**

**Doors: 7.30pm**

POPSCENE'S JANUARY SALE - EVERYTHING £1 FROM 10PM - 11PM!



£2 B4 10.30pm,  
£3 B4 Midnight & £4 after

The Original Indie Night - In the Main Room, 10pm - 2pm



## trash

THE FRONT ROOM

ALL ROCK, ALL NIGHT - 10PM - 2AM

thursday

friday

Doors: 10pm

# THE BIG FRIDAY NIGHT GIVEAWAY

- WIN an iPod Nano
- WIN £50 HMV VOUCHERS
- WIN A DIGITAL CAMERA

FREE Entry B4 10.30pm with a Purplecard

saturday

# S4S

sunday's 4 sleeping

## CLAIM YOUR 2 FREE DRINKS B4 10PM

(FOR PURPLECARD HOLDERS)

Advance tickets available from the LUSU Shop  
Central and The Borough

**OPEN  
Til 3am**

Doors: 9pm

# wk1 @ the sugarhouse

## www.thesugarhouse.co.uk



# Relatives over for Christmas: Nightmare

Rachael Butler

**I've never been a morning person; forever at the mercy of 'can't get-up' syndrome. Unless Johnny Depp or another fine specimen of a man takes it upon himself to tenderly bring me breakfast in bed on a daily basis, nude, I don't expect that to change.**

Hence when 'The Mother' bursts into my room on Christmas Morning at the horrific hour of nine, expecting me to leap out of bed and start peeling spuds in a militant fashion, I voice my negation through semi-conscious drawl from the sacred land that is 'under my duvet'. And don't move.

Christmas, you see, means ERs – Elderly Relatives. Herds of them appear out of nowhere to inflict pain and embarrassment on those not so 'chronologically rich' – no incentive to leave my pit. Prior to eating myself sick, drinking my self under the table and being merry to the point of the ridiculous at 'The Mother's Christmas Soiree', I am obligated to visit my Father and his Parents; my most feared ERs.

On arrival, as predicted; I receive an earful of spiel from a woman clutching a Pekinese and wearing Velcro fastened trainers about the shortness of my skirt. 'Is it actually a belt?' 'Shouldn't you have thinner thighs to parade around in such racy attire?' she exclaims. The expensive appearance of my leather jacket doesn't go unnoticed either; 'did you shop lift it?' 'How did you manage to squander money on cow skin (dyed green and adorned in poppers and buckles); when you can't afford the train fare to visit?'



After there is nothing left on my person to criticise, a few lines are thrown in about how the female half of my generation is the epitome of modern society. Drinking and drugging our undernourished bodies into oblivion, incapable of keeping our knickers on, we pop our cherries out of wedlock (what a suggestion!) and subsequently give birth to delinquent babies who snort cocaine and rap their way down the birth canal. Us irresponsible young ladies run up debts buying booze and handbags and then rely on the state to raise our fatherless broods. We commit these selfish acts disregarding the hard working/worked members of society who suffer for our actions (AKA my ERs). Fact.

When my ER has finished, I smile and politely sip my tea, focussing on the fire poker she taps the

floor with. ERs look fragile but by Jove they can get violent when they want to.

Without warning the Pekinese flies across the room to yap at the tree lights, trampling over and chewing the exquisitely wrapped presents I have arranged underneath. It is then sick on the carpet. I take that as my cue to leave. Daughterly duties completed, ERs due to be fed and watered by my Father as they recover from doing the world a favour by young lady bashing and making me feel like shit.

In contrast, my Mother's Mother, (one of many insane Scottish ERs) in knowledge of the fact that I'm newly single, buys me the opposite of sexy underwear thermals. I now actually own a set of

grey thermal underwear. I didn't think I'd say that until I was at least ninety, an ER myself, and living in Siberia. What a chat up line- 'Come hither and ravish me in my triple layer (extra warmth is nothing to be sniffed at) man eating, ankle length under garments' (oh dear Lord.)

As my middle aged ER-in-training relatives get kinky under the mistletoe (a saucy peck on the cheek here and there) a crowd of ERs ask me their favourite question; 'how is your romantic life?' A haggle of shrunken, prune like great aunts wait for my response, tucking their fifty runaway stomachs into exceedingly large knickers and adjusting their braziers to reach the extra few inches down to their knees. I reply 'I'm single' and they beam and tell me that they have been happily married for fifty years - they must know how to keep a man. I then receive the 'you young career girls aren't fit for marriage' spiel, where I am told my degree and (hypothetical) career as a cutting edge journalist relegates me to permanent spinsterhood. Hurrah! (According to these women, I'm never going to have the opportunity to even consider popping my cherry, let alone produce my own delinquent, fatherless family. I wish ERs could all agree).

I take a moment to think. All my ERs have, in some form, told me that I'm doomed to be a lonely failure. I look at the worn out fairy impaled on the Christmas tree with a spiky branch stuck up her arse and reassure myself by the saying that there's always someone worse off than you. And if nothing else, I will have my thermal undies to keep me warm when I'm old, alone, lonely, and all by myself. I'm going back to bed.

are

you

satisfied?

Make your  
views count

If you're a final  
year student and  
have been sent the  
National Student  
Survey email link, fill  
in the survey online

the  
**National  
Student  
Survey**  
www.thestudentsurvey.com





# Weird Lancaster

Lock them up where it is safe!

By Weird Dan

**O**vershadowing the Dorrington Rd Allotments where I tend my radishes stands the immense Gothic structure that was once The Royal Albert Hospital. It was erected in 1868 at a staggering cost of £80,000- today the price of a semi in Morecambe. Ruddy inflation...

The hospital opened as the 'Royal Albert Asylum for Idiots and Imbeciles of the Northern Counties.' It was initially intended for the care of 'feeble minded' (a technical term of the day) children, who would be admitted between the ages of six and fifteen, and eventually made fit for integration to society. As the online Royal Albert Hospital Archive ([www.unlockingthepast.org.uk](http://www.unlockingthepast.org.uk)) indicates, one of the 'less palatable' aspects of the institution's ethos during this period was that it prioritised the induction of patients considered 'more able.'

In the early Twentieth Century, however, the idea of Eugenics became increasingly popular - in the USA alone more than 60,000 mental and moral 'defectives' were sterilised, a policy that would prove inspirational to a certain moustached Austrian. Sterilisation was never implemented in Britain, but the Mental Health Deficiency Act of 1913 has been criticised for its 'eugenicist spirit,' enforcing the idea that those with learning difficulties were



best kept well away from us 'normals.' Throw them in the tower! The Act saw various changes to the Royal Albert. Older, longer-term patients were admitted, many of whom were considered unfit for reintegration to society at all.

The online archive includes interviews with former residents. The most disturbing are with a

man called Frank Cochraine, who in 1988, whilst still a resident at the hospital, told how, in the past, inmates would be thrown into a padded cell. "If they misbehaved themselves and got very bad like [staff] chucked them in here, just chucked in, picked up and-!" He says they would be kept in for extremely long periods, and forced to put up with

the overwhelming stench of rubber. Even worse, Frank describes the bathing routines of the 1930's, when six inmates would share one bath of water. "There was many a time when it was right-dirty." Now I don't mind the odd floating pube, but when it's someone else's...

Not all of Frank's tales are quite so sinister. He speaks fondly of the war times, when he and a friend would sneak out goods from the Draper's Stores in a shopping trolley, to sell them to passers by on Scotforth Road. The rascals

Naturally with any old building there are rumours of ghosts. Some say you can still hear screams from the asylum days, and former staff have spoken of a young boy, sobbing in the lonely corridors. The hospital closed in 1996. Today it is a boarding school for Muslim girls, who probably have nightmares every single night. It is possibly for this reason that access to the building has been denied to Morecambe Paranormal Investigations.

In any case the school seems to steer clear of any publicity relating to the former hospital. Not surprising, really. 'And here is your dormitory, young Jamila. It was once a padded cell where the helpless would scream themselves to sleep in a frenzied fit of frustration and confusion. Sweet dreams...'

## DO YOU HAVE A WEIRD STORY ABOUT LANCASTER?

If so, email Weird Dan at [shakethosebuns101@hotmail.com](mailto:shakethosebuns101@hotmail.com)

# Crap mates- our guide to all the lidders

By Inowliva Lone

**F**latmates come in all shapes and sizes, and although none of you reading this would admit it, they are all too often wankers. Personality clashes frequently lead to heated conflict, leading to such unpleasantness as "John is a c\*nt" appearing written in ketchup upon the kitchen table. This is our rough guide to nightmare house or flat mates for whom a good kick up the arse would be too little, too late.

## THE SLUT

It's the same every night. The door slams, someone slumps to the floor, and two voices giggle as the newly-acquainted couple stagger up the stairs. The following morning, you come face to face to a total stranger wearing your housemate's dressing gown. How many has it been this term; six, seven unsuspecting victims, who seem to be queueing up at the STD factory that is your housemate? And what of your role in all this (apart from the unwilling listener)? Some may take it upon themselves to counsel the housemate in their wayward habits, while others may simply raise their eyebrows when the hungover aforementioned "factory" stumbles into the kitchen with their pallid face caked with last night's makeup, that may or may not be their own. Either way, they deserve all the ridicule they receive, especially when they don't see a problem with laying half their college.

## THE MOODY BASTARD

It seemed alright that first day, when you politely smiled and said hi, but once the small talk of degree



schemes and hometowns was out of the way, you never saw him again. What does he do in his room all day, grunting at you when you meet in the kitchen while he fixes his cereal or beans on toast? The only hint of his existence is the soft opening and shutting of his bedroom door, and the odd item of clothing lying around. Any attempt at conversation will produce one word answers, and may result in your name moving that little bit closer to the top of his "People I Would Like to Maim Horribly" list. That said, he is in no way as serious a threat to your

life and possessions as The Psycho!

## THE PSYCHO

The thing that goes bump in the night. This one never sleeps, or doesn't seem to, and when they aren't out causing drunken mayhem around campus or town, they're in the kitchen, either microwaving some godforsaken rat-burger or trying to cook something they like to call "chocolate egg-jelly surprise- the surprise is it's actually raisins!" Is responsible for the massive dent in your deposit at the end of the year due to that ill-advised encounter

with the fire-extinguisher while smashed off their tits. In retrospect, this is just a regular student.

## THE DIRTY, DIRTY ONE

In quite a different sense to The Slut. This one builds up copious mould cultures around the kitchen and their room, so by the third week of term it is a mystery what they eat with and on. May not shower for days even though they live in en-suite accommodation, or have the bathroom right next to their room. The floor becomes an urban legend, covered as it is with dirty clothes, clean clothes, crisp packets, beer cans and fag ends. When they can find their computer they might do some last-minute dissertation, and when they can find their stereo it's always set to super-loud. Cue The Noisy One.

## THE NOISY ONE

The one with the thumping bass, the incessant music, the stamping tread, the equally rowdy friends who only want to visit at three in the morning, and then all at once. My friend's next door neighbour used to return home in the wee hours, slam his door to let the flat know he was in, and invariably put 'Mr Brightside' by The Killers on at top volume. If the song didn't make you want to scratch your eyes out already, then hearing it every night for a year would.

## THE BOYFRIEND ONE

In your room every minute of the day until The Boyfriend turns up. The old adage (more often applied to children, but never mind) "seen and not heard" is turned on its head, as the only noise you'll get out of her for the duration of The Boyfriend's visit is disturbing orgasmic squeals that resound throughout the house.



# The inner workings of LU Cinema....

By Tony Barron

**When I was first asked to write this article, I wasn't entirely sure how I could convey to Lancaster University students the actual work and effort that goes into getting a movie ready for you all to watch at the on campus cinema. In the end after a lot of thought I decided that it would be better to give you the insight in three different sections. Firstly a brief summary of what we do and who we are at LU Cinema for those of you that are unaware of our existence. Secondly a glimpse of what work actually goes into the preparation of the film for showing, and thirdly and probably more interesting some of the mishaps we have had happen which we can look back on now and laugh, although weren't funny at all at the time.**

To start off with, Lancaster University is one of the few universities that can boast its own student cinema. Since we began in 1965, we have grown over four decades to become one of the best equipped student cinemas in the country, and even on a par with public cinemas. We are conveniently located in Bowland Lecture Theatre directly off Alexandra Square., where we screen two showings a night with the doors opening at 6.15pm and 9.15pm, the films starting at 6.30pm and 9.30pm respectively. During the Michaelmas

and Lent terms we operate six nights a week, while the Summer term we drop to four nights a week. There is a great selection of films, a few examples from this term are, the James Bond reboot *Casino Royale*, Kevin Smith's long awaited sequel to his cult classic, *Clerks II*, the Rock Musical epic, *Tenacious D: In The Pick Of Destiny* and Aardman's latest animated adventure *Flushed Away*.

Contrary to popular student belief we don't simply press play on a DVD Player. To show a film within the cinema it is a complicated and time-consuming process. We show films on the industry standard 35mm film, which all public cinemas also use. Our Projectionists have to undergo many weeks of training in order to be able to show and use our equipment, including a Turret Film Projector, three tier Film Platter, on which the film sits before, during and after the showing, and Dolby Digital Sound Processor outputting all of our sound in 7.1 glory conforming to Dolby's latest cinema sound technology Dolby Digital EX.

The process of preparing a film for showing at the cinema starts with ordering the film from the national suppliers and distributors. It is then delivered to us via Courier in large plastic cases. Upon its arrival the film is split into separate pieces called reels. Films arrive in any number of reels ranging from five to eleven. With the film arriving separated, the projectionist then has to spend a couple of hours joining the separated reels into the full length completed film. This process requires the projectionist to identify the beginning and end of each reel and go through a process

called 'splicing' whereby the end of one reel and the beginning of the next is joined together ensuring that there is no change in the positioning of the picture on screen. Once the film is spliced together to its full length, the projectionist then has to 'lace-up' the film, a process in which the projectionist feeds the film through the projector and the various sound decoders we have in order for it to be shown correctly. This process becomes simple with practice once you have everything memorised, although when first starting learning the path the film follows can be very daunting. The projectionist's job doesn't end with just feeding the film through the projector either, once this is completed they still have to start the film. This is done by starting the projector, switching on the lamp and sound system, opening the curtains and opening the light guard (dowser), all at the same time. Not as simple as switching on a DVD is it?

Over the last couple of years there have been numerous technical errors. Just pressing the incorrect button can, and has, sent film flying at you from all angles! There have also been the slightly more annoying 'out of our hands' errors, like film being sent to us that is so ancient even picking it up causes it to snap. These range from simple quick fixes, a piece snapping at the beginning of a showing making the projectionist have to perform a piece of first aid and rejoin the film, to the long and laborious things that can go wrong, like carrying a piece of film to the projection box and having it slip out of your hands and it all become tangled and all over the floor. This is really not fun when considering your average two-hour film is

nearly two kilometers in length, all of which must be rolled up again!

Most recently a projectionist friend of mine had one of those nightmare situations where nothing seemed to go right, film flew everywhere causing a massive pile of the stuff on the floor, resulting in hours of manually reeling and feeding it back up onto the platters. On this particular occasion the lad in question didn't get to bed until 6am. And who says the life of a projectionist isn't fun?



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taste?

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meet and join a selection  
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12.00pm - 4.00pm in the Great Hall

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UNIVERSITY STAFF / NUS 10% FOOD DISCOUNT

PURPLE CARD - 20% OFF FOOD TUESDAYS &  
THURSDAYS

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## RANDOM UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE OF THE FORTNIGHT



Who are you?  
**Another duck.**

What do you do?

**Shit on people who try to feed me.**

Where are you from?

**Aylesbury.**

What do you love most about Lancaster University?

**The hitching post.**

What do you hate most about it?

**The rain- bad for my tan.**

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

**Waddling across the road excruciatingly slowly bringing all traffic to a halt.**

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

**Relaxing in the best spots. The pond and the goal mouths.**

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

**Missing Eurovision.**

What is your favourite sound/noise?

**A female quack. Gets me every time.**

Favourite word?

**Quack.**

White or brown bread?

**Can I say wholemeal? No wait, I'm a duck, I can't fucking say anything.**

Favourite Bond film?

**Goldeneye. My cousin's in it. (Well, he's an unpaid extra)**

Keira Knightley or Scarlett Johansson

**Quack, quack!**

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

**Lecter- as far as I know he only eats humans...**

Gloves or mittens?

**Parker's. I hear they're in this year. All the ducklings have got them. I just can't keep up.**

## Ask Dr. Squash



Dear Squash,

I love the festive season, but this year something horrific happened. I had written my list for Santa several months in advance to give him ample shopping time, but the gift I received in my stocking was nothing short of an insult, and surely part of a cruel practical joke designed to humiliate me. My new Peugeot 206 cabriolet with alloy wheels, air conditioning and satellite navigation was a different shade of pink to the one in the brochure. My parents insisted this was because it was a newer model and it was actually more expensive, but I know it's because they hate me. To make things worse, our flight to New York for New Year's Eve was only premium economy. Just because it's Christmas, doesn't mean I have to travel in a fucking sleigh. Any advice?

*Felicity, first year Lonsdale*

Dear Precious,

Don't fret, the people out of the window of the plane still look like ants when you're in premium economy. However, I do suggest extracting an equally horrific revenge on your parents for their obvious attempt to ruin your life through incorrect vehicular pigmentation. Perhaps you could become anorexic, that would surely show them.

As for your reference to Santa's sleigh, I can't say I understand that fully. I happen to be one of his better friends, and have often travelled the world with him on his magical craft at this time of year spreading joy to the less fortunate. I found the experience to be particularly comfortable, but then again I am not a spoilt little whore.

God bless us, every one.

*Dr. Squash*

*Do you have a question that you feel would be best answered by a phallus? If so, send your dilemma to scanfeatures@hotmail.com, and we'll ask the squash.*

## 2007 vs Fat People!

By Simon Fogg  
Features Editor

**Many people at this time of year are looking at their reflection and wondering why they aren't good enough. There are probably several places they can begin, but at the moment I am concerned with my own New Year's resolutions. After being awoken New Year's Day by a stranger clearing the perimeter of bottles from around the sofa my corpse was lying on, I decided that perhaps a good start would be to drink less.**

Despite my prediction at the time, the hangover did not last forever, so that was quickly wiped off the list along with 'work harder'. I already work hard enough but I do have a problem with procrastination, so I need to work smarter instead. Therefore in 2007, I plan to drink productively; know the limits of my liver and my wallet so I can increase my opportunities to socialise and be merry, without a two-day recovery period. I'll save those nights for special occasions.

Consuming less of the alcohol is one of the many promises people will make to themselves around about this time before abandoning that within a month. Along with quitting smoking, sorting out one's finances, and generally being nicer to other people there are plenty more capricious objectives being set that are contrary to human nature and not at all practical. However, I believe that the New Year's Resolution is actually a very good idea. It may be a way for z-list celebrities to market exercise videos, and being honest, Boot's may as well be selling paper bags for all those desperate to try anything to improve their appearance, but if everybody did try to improve something they were self-conscious about, the results could only be beneficial.

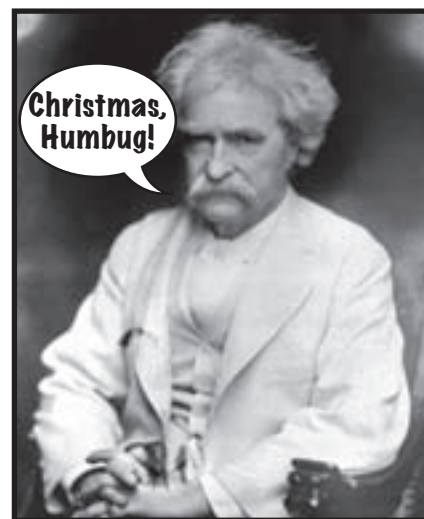
It could also lead to a decrease in headlines such as: 'Overweight woman stuck in South African

cave.' This story caught my eye in the newspaper the other day. Apparently, this monster trapped 23 people by getting stuck in a passageway of a cave ironically named 'the Tunnel of Love'. They removed said terrible beastie by greasing her up with paraffin, and using a pulley to slide her out. Although no one was hurt, the asthmatic children are probably scarred for life.

This is in danger of turning into a polemic against fat people, but a strong resolution for most of the population would be to get fit. Obesity is one of the biggest problems at the moment; above smoking, drinking, not being organised and all the other things people are lying to themselves about changing. I know we have image consumerism, impossible role models, and celebrity diets, but these are no excuse: just eat less crap. Instead of banning alcopops (even holding one makes you fat and stupid) or introducing a fat-tax on junk food, a few people keeping to their resolutions to lose weight would do wonders.

Setting a resolution and sticking to it is a massive challenge, but if you do something to actively improve yourself, learning a new skill, cutting a bad habit etc it can only lead to increased confidence in yourself. I intend to make my binge drinking more proactive (that's right) and also visit the gym more regularly, and I really hope that some of the population will be joining me this year.

(I apologise if that offended anyone, I myself am quite the porker, and just be glad that I didn't write my other article on how they should have killed a certain dictator. Imagine a Get Your Own Back television special. Dave Benson Phillips could probably do with the work.)



## A MILD CASE OF THE JANUARY BLUES

Mark Twain is away...

**My girlfriend and I arrived back in Lancaster last Friday to the fetid hellhole that is my house. I honestly thought someone had died in there. In the washing-up bowl there were four mugs and what smelt like sick. But not the good sick, the really bad sick when something's gone quite wrong. So maybe a bit more like poo.**

On top of this the girlfriend complained that our double bed "Isn't very comfy". For the past week and a half, I told her, we have been sleeping in a bed barely wider than my foot, and each night I have been woken up at least seventeen times, carpet in my mouth, whilst she slept soundly against the wall. At this she stayed silent.

Christmas was, as I'm sure you'll hear almost everyone tell you of theirs, nice, but quiet. I spent a lot of time with the family, got through a lot of port, and got some good presents, although when pressed, I find it hard to remember more than three of them. The post-Christmas sales featured a lot of things I'd bought just before Christmas for twice the price, as well as jeans for men with calves the size of my waist.

I'm not entirely happy to be back in Lancaster though; it's abso-fucking-lutely freezing, and seems ready to storm on the slightest whim. I understand it's winter, and it's The North, but it's just rude. I'm not a small guy, but getting buffeted about merely trying to get from one bar to the next is just upsetting.

Another thing that January brings is New Year's resolutions. These are not a bad idea in principle of course but I'm already bored of friends "giving up alcohol for January". Aside from the fact that all this is is a New \*Month\* Resolution, by January 8th I'm sat in the pub with them, an ale in front of each of us, them wondering what the hell they were thinking.

Therefore I've decided that this year my New Year's Resolution is to show people the folly of their early year decisions and to change their minds. Any sensible resolutions I may leave almost in tact, but if your idea is in any way rubbish, it's gone; the last thing I want is to be sat in the pub on my own until February.



# I Drink Too Much? Tell Me Something New

By Matt Davies

**I'm going to get something off my chest. I spent too much time last term reading apocalyptic judgements of alcohol use and binge drinking at this University. Two articles come to mind, the main one a full page in the week 10 edition of SCAN. I remember trawling through its tired regurgitation of points on recommended weekly alcohol consumption and how we are all very naughty boys and girls indeed if we exceed it.**

There are a few reasons I object to these articles. I do not like being patronised, I already know the extent of the alcohol problem because I see it every night I choose to go out. I already know the inherent dangers of drink because the Government has informed me of them throughout my life. I do not need nor want to read a preaching pseudo-scientific commentary on binge drinking; that kind of advice neither interests me nor encourages me to act responsibly.

Now if you're the kind of person who likes to write complaint letters and can feel your fingers twitching towards paper and that Parker pen you got for Christmas to respond to what I have just written - relax. I recognise there are people here at Lancaster with a true addiction to alcohol and I think providing them with information on how to get help, from Nightline etc., is fantastic. What I can't understand is what these kind of articles lend to our understanding of why the average student binge drinks? It is time for a positive debate.

Our job at a student paper is to moan about what the Government should be doing to help the issue, not playing the guilt trip on ourselves. Please send in your thoughts, mad ravings or indeed appreciations of the rant that follows. If we get enough response a Tony Hart style gallery may be arranged in a future issue - something I would be very interested to read. Of course if there is no response I will return to writing articles with titles like A Load of Bull:



Jaegermeister and Vodka see red.

Why has this country developed a drink problem? Government drug policy plays a large role in influencing attitudes towards alcohol and other recreational drugs. It is here I believe a major problem lies in discrepancies between the severity of Government drug policies and the seriousness of the drugs they tackle. To illustrate this point, and avoid subjectivity, consider these points about two substances containing drugs, cigarettes and magic mushrooms, based purely on fact. Smoking related diseases kill on average 114,000 people in the UK every year and several hundred as a result of second hand smoke. Magic Mushrooms are not addictive, related deaths and overdoses are extremely rare, although some research has suggested there may be long term mental side effects such as depression.

Having digested that, let's use the time honoured technique of "imagine you're an alien who has just landed in England." Which of the two would you imagine to be dealt with more severely by law? I answered cigarettes too. Yet smoking is

legal and possession of magic mushrooms carries a maximum prison sentence of 7 years. I believe these kind of discrepancies legitimise smoking and also drinking to excess. An 18-year-old can smoke and drink every night, possibly developing lifetime addictions, safe in the knowledge that he is doing nothing wrong as long as he doesn't touch cannabis or mushrooms, for example.

I am a believer in freedom of choice, if people wish to binge drink and smoke themselves to death (including me) they should be able to. So how do we solve the problem, if that's what it is? For alcohol related offences, drink-driving and violent crime especially, sentencing must be much tougher. This does not deal with individual health problems directly caused by prolonged excess drinking but, hand-in-hand with the informational material already broadcast nationwide by the Government on this issue, it can help young adults to start taking alcohol seriously. Secondly, the law's stance on recreational drugs such as magic mushrooms and cannabis must be relaxed. This isn't a suggestion I've tried to crow bar into a rant that started about alcohol just

because I'm a stoner. Having a wider range of recreational drugs to choose from, especially in an environment such as University, accompanied with all the information about health risks can encourage people to make sensible decisions.

Lastly cigarettes and alcohol should be taxed at a much lower rate than they are currently. I know the traditional argument for high taxation is to pay for NHS treatment etc. that smokers and heavy drinkers require, however this is misleading. Last year cigarette taxation alone raised approximately £10.5 billion in Government revenue, contrast that with the relatively small £1.7 billion that went towards NHS treatment for smoking related diseases. Smokers more than pay for the choice they make and the consequences of it. In fact the major justification for this high level of taxation is that it is better to raise revenues from goods such as cigarettes and alcohol than from other means such as income tax, which have a more pronounced effect on the British economy. This may be true but there exists a clear conflict of interests, a conflict between a Government which makes such large revenues from cigarettes and alcohol and a Government which seeks to tackle binge-drinking and reduce the number of smoking related deaths per year.

You only have to look at the slow onset of measures to warn smokers of the associated health risks. Before 1996 the only advice on a pack of cigarettes was; leave a longer stub, do not inhale smoke, take shorter puffs, take fewer puffs. Thankfully the recent announcement that the legal minimum age to purchase cigarettes will rise to 18 could signal a break from an arguably immoral Government legacy, a legacy with an aversion to drastically changing an industry which has been so valuable to their coffers but one, we should not forget, that is based on addiction.

Rant over. I hope it has been a refreshing change from the usual doomsday literature about student lifestyles and getting this off my chest in a newspaper rather than over a pint in Grizedale Bar will save me from boring my friends. Incidentally if you, like me, find yourself getting far too involved in debates like this and talking shit constantly - a career in journalism beckons. Happy New Year.

## Why we need national holidays

By Hannah Lickert  
Features Editor

**The British public is lazy. We like people to do things for us. We agree with things like recycling, reducing carbon emissions and better facilities for runaway children, but unless the council bring us a box to put everything in, we'll chuck it in the bin. I mean, what will people think when they hear the tell-tale clinking of empty Cava bottles as you drag all those Christmas leftovers to the bank at the end of the road? Similarly, if it's easier to fly, then that's what we'll do. Trains are so expensive nowadays, and as we have bombs on planes and trains, there's no way of distinguishing the threat there. And we won't donate to charity unless a flyer is pushed through the door with a plaintive, round-eyed child printed on it and a tear-off SAE on the back.**

A few times a year, opportunities come around to

do something good. It's much harder to start a diet on some random Monday in the year (although Monday is statistically the most popular day to start one), but if it's New Year's Day, well - that's quite a different matter. Even if we didn't have monster hangovers, a large portion of the population will compile a shopping list with mung bean sprouts and soy milk and a big reminder to bring our own bags. Without the 1st of January and the tradition of New Year's resolutions, we'd all be tucking into fry-ups as if the body relied on grease to function.

At Christmas, we can buy those "funusual" Oxfam presents of toilets and llamas and water tanks and things, and do our bit for charity for the year. The year! What happens the rest of the time? Why do we rely on a national event to do these things? They're such a fantastic idea. They get bought on birthdays too, and granted those happen year-round, but again, we need the prompt of a special event in our own lives to do something for the greater good. Go now and set up a direct debit account to WaterAid. £2 a month provides clean water for thirty people in Uganda, so at 50p a week no student can complain they can't afford it.

World "days" such as AIDS Day and Fairtrade Fortnight (26th Feb-11th March this year, and yes, I know it's more than one day) make the world listen for a limited time, which is undoubtedly a great thing, but it's equally depressing that without people who do so much the rest of the year organising it for us, we wouldn't give it a second thought.

So, I'm not saying we should be pondering day and night how to solve those pesky melting polar ice caps (ban hair dryers in the Arctic Circle?), but instead of trawling YouTube for that fat Chinese kid (guilty as charged), set up a direct debit with some charity for a tiny, tiny amount that you won't notice leaving your account. All the effort is miraculously eradicated, as your bank is being helpful for once and doing everything for you. Or set your homepage to www.goodtree.com. Every time you search using its engine, or click on the links on its page, you are donating to charity, at no cost to you. Amazing, I know. Your donation is tracked in

the top corner, and it is immensely satisfying watching it rise daily. The people who set this up don't need national holidays to make a difference to the world, but they probably deserve one.





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|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|

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|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 0135 | 0135 | 0135 | 0108 | 0108 | 0108 |
| 0235 | 0235 | 0235 | 0208 | 0208 | 0208 |
| 0335 | 0335 | 0335 | 0308 | 0308 | 0308 |
| 0435 | 0435 | 0435 | 0408 | 0408 | 0408 |
|      |      |      | 0508 | 0508 | 0508 |

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|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 0810    | 0825    | 1310    | 0834    | 0833    | 1336    |
| 0825    | 0840    | then at | 0903    | 0903    | then at |
| 0840    | 0900    | 10      | 0923    | 0923    | 36      |
| 0900    | then at | until   | 0933    | 0933    | until   |
| then at | 10      | 2210    | then at | then at | 2236    |
| 10      | 30      |         | 53      | 53      |         |
| 30      | 50      |         | 13      | 13      |         |
| 50      | until   |         | 33      | 33      |         |
| until   | 1750    |         | until   | until   |         |
| 1750    |         |         | 1733    | 1733    |         |
|         |         |         | 1753    | 1753    |         |
|         |         |         | 1813    | 1813    |         |

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# FUSION

## Abominable Snowmen

INTERVIEW  
YETI LIVE AT CAMDEN BARFLY  
BY WILL THACKER

**E**ven after a thorough ‘don’t mention the whore’ briefing from their management, Yeti brace themselves for more questions about Kate Moss and her nose. Ex-Libertine John Hassall frowns as if to say ‘just get it out of the way’ and so inevitably, the thorniest issue surrounding the band is put to them: ‘Would you rather have the body of a Yeti and the brain of a human, or the body of a human and the brain of a Yeti?’

“That’s the best fucking question we’ve ever had” says Hassall, and the rest proceed to take it seriously. “If you had the body of a yeti” bassist Brendan Kersey contemplates, “you could walk up fucking mountains in blizzard conditions.”

“I’d stick with my own body to be honest” dissents drummer Graham Blacow, and folds his yeti-like arms. “But then you’d just be a really thick person” Hassall interrupts. “We already have the brains of yetis” he declares, and has the last word.

**Q. Would you rather have the body of a Yeti and the brain of a human, or the body of a human and the brain of a Yeti? A. That’s the best fucking question we’ve ever had.**

The words ‘folk’ and ‘rock’ are usually a cue to run for the hills, but Yeti light up the pokey surroundings of Camden’s Barfly with songs from their current EP ‘One Eye on the Banquet’. Less obviously an outgrowth of the *Libertines* than *Babyshambles* or *Dirty Pretty Things*, Hassall’s new band put on an ambitious show of psychedelic



pop experimentalism. Angular riffs on ‘Never Lose Your Sense of Wonder’ recall Seventies new wave, while cymbals and double-bass on the funk infused ‘Midnight Run’ sit happily alongside the folk-fun of ‘Carpet Road’. “We’ve got money in our veins” launches Hassall on the observational ‘Money God’, an attack on the corrosive effect of capital, and greeted by raucous applause between buckled belts and the smell of incense.

An extensive European tour saw Yeti travel to each end of the continent in support of *Oasis*, in Kersey’s words: “rolling in to each gig 5 minutes before the start.”

“It came about after I saw Noel at a *Razorlight* gig” explains Hassall. “I gave him a copy of our first single but he said he didn’t own a record player. So he gave it to his guitarist Gem.”

“A couple of months later we were in KFC” says Kersey. “John’s phone rang and someone said ‘do you fancy supporting *Oasis*?’” On the subsequent tour it proved difficult to please the “chin-stroking” connoisseurs of Paris, Milan and Madrid. “It was supposed to be *Stereophonics* supporting *Oasis*. They pulled out, and no one had told any of the audience” laughs Kersey. “So we walk on and the crowd are like ‘who the fuck are these?’”

Recorded at their North London studios, a location Blacow describes as “so underground you need to go down a well to get there,” their 2007 debut LP

promises to be an exhibition of psychedelic pop experimentalism. A far cry from the pedal-breaking, rock stomp of ‘Fuck Forever’ et al, Yeti’s inaccessible folk leanings could easily fall on deaf ears.

“With the first album we just want to make it sound like a live set” says Kersey, and aims his ire at the current crop of British rock artists. “All this indie-rock or whatever you want to call it. I remember when NME used to be aside from Radio 1, but now

it all seems the same.”

“We haven’t kissed any arses yet” says Blacow proudly, aware of the adage that great musicians do not move to the mainstream, they move the mainstream to them. Regrettably, with world domination sure to pass them by, Yeti will no doubt remain the musical equivalent of Matt le Blanc’s spin-off series, *Joey*, an ugly relation to their bigger, better older brother.





# Albums

## ALBUM

### (+44): WHEN YOUR HEART STOPS BEATING

By LORN WICKHAM

**Blink 182 were a very special band and after the heartbreak of the split and the disappointment of *Angels and Airwaves* we have (+44) with their debut album.**

This record wastes no time in introducing itself with the quite brilliant 'Lycanthrope', which is one of the best opening tracks I heard last year. 'Baby Come On' manages to be both simple and obvious and at the same time have a sense of meaning, something that made *Blink 182* so special.

The title track really shows what (+44) can do, with a piece of near perfect pop-punk which easily competes with most if not all of *Blink 182*'s previous work.

The album was mainly written with just a keyboard and a drum machine which gives the album much more of an electronic feel. This can be heard most prominently on the disco infused pop-punk '155' which shows they are willing to break from the paint by numbers style so common in pop-punk.

The break up of *Blink 182* is dealt with on this record

during 'No, It Isn't.' 'Make You Smile' meanwhile, sees Mark share the vocals with Carol Heller who was originally the lead singer. This record shows that Mark and Travis are ready to grow up but without leaving pop-punk behind with 'When Your Heart Stops Beating' featuring some of Mark's most personal lyrics.

I am pretty sure that some people will not like this because it does not sound like *Blink 182* used to and this is a shame because this is one of the best pop-punk albums you are likely to hear.

## Saints All Back in the Studio

## ALBUM

### ALL SAINTS: STUDIO 1

By PENNY LAWTON

**After their unanimous split in 2001, and extremely brief and failing solo careers *All Saints* are back with 'Studio 1'. They were the cool, street alternative to**

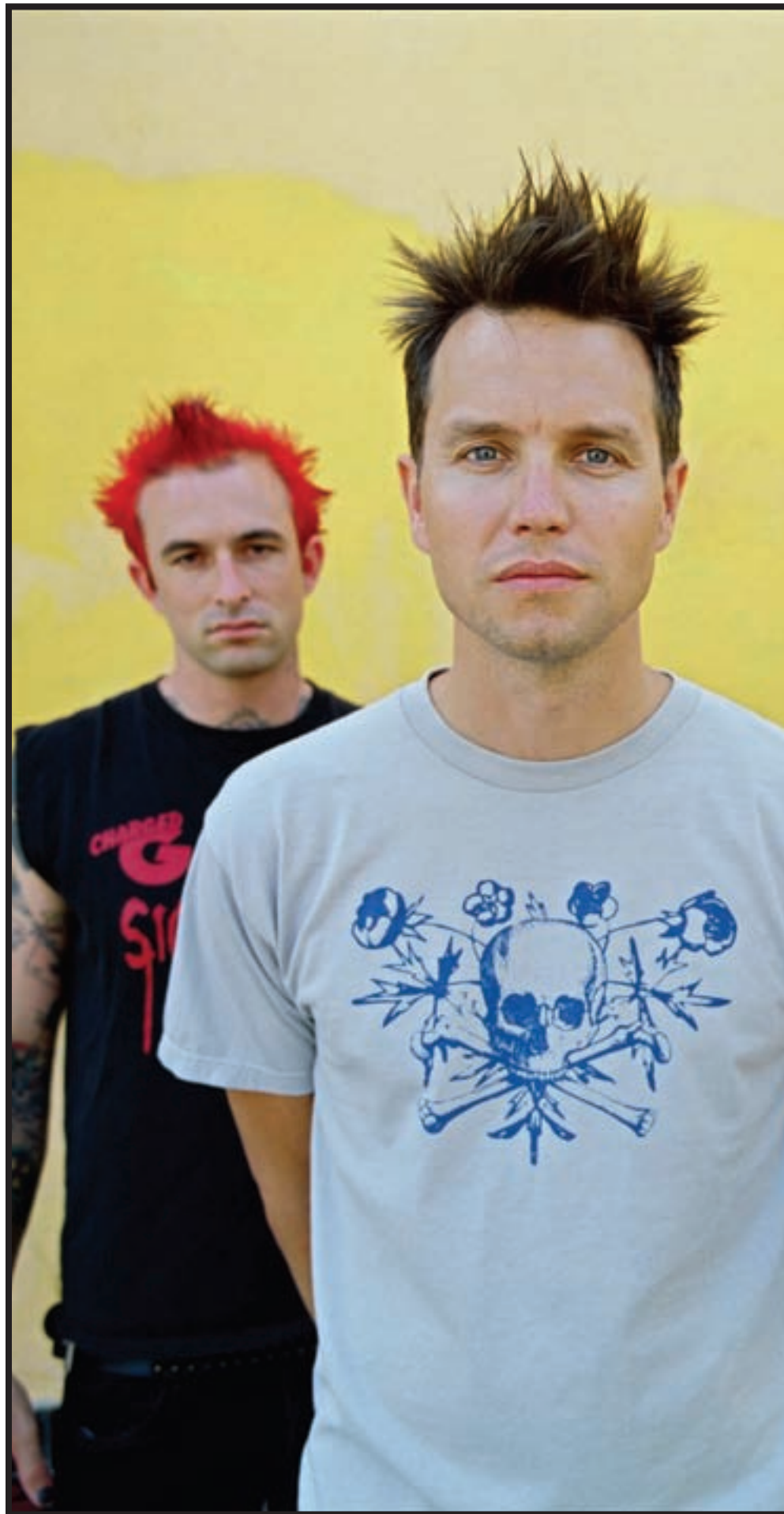
**the *Spice Girls* in the 90s, so the pressure to be as successful is immense. It would be easy to assume that they are just jumping on the *Take That*/*East 17* bandwagon, and cashing in on the comeback.**

It's evident that a lot of hard work has gone into creating the songs, but they don't seem to fit very nicely into our charts right now. This has been proven by the fact they only made the bottom end of the top 40 album charts and then disappeared.

Lead single 'Rock Steady' deceptively kicks off the album in a catchy, uplifting mood but the rest of the tracks feel like a more mix and match of old

experimentations. The vocals are as beautiful as ever and Shaznay Lewis still cements the group and adds the earthiness that makes *All Saints* more than your run of the mill girl band. It's a nice bit of nostalgia to hear Melanie Blatt again, but with no songs sticking out as predominantly as 'Never Ever' and other classics, it was destined to flop.

The ska and reggae influences make for a more mature listener, which questions the audience it is intended for. These yummy mummies get a gold star for trying, and for writing the songs themselves, but it ends there I'm afraid. 'Rock Steady' is unfortunately, probably the only single that we are going to hear about.



## Singles

### Klaxons: Golden Skans

By Ian Keyte

Damn *Klaxons*, as much as you want to hate them they consistently create the kind of musical bug that burrows its way deep into your brain and convinces you to go out and buy two dozen glow sticks. *Golden Skans* is less abrasive than previous singles but is undoubtedly their catchiest to date. 4/5



### Jarvis: Don't Let Him Waste Your Time

By James Own

Following the download only single 'Running the World', this is the first single proper from *Jarvis Cocker*'s debut solo album. This song has poppy hooks with a good chorus and memorable opening riff as well as an interesting lyrical twist with *Jarvis* telling women not to take any shit from their men. 4/5



### Larrikin Love: A Day In The Life

By Dave Greenshields

This single, with guitar twangs not unlike *The Smiths* or *Teenage Fanclub* and the stabbing bass of *The Jam* harks back to the lyrically diverse mid to late 80s when some of Britain's greatest tunes were penned. 'A Day In The Life' bears promise for their future releases. 3.5/5







## Winter in Fairytale Japan

### ALBUM

#### THE DECEMBERISTS: THE CRANE WIFE

BY LORN WICKHAM

**‘The Crane Wife’ is The Decemberists’ fourth album and marks their first record on a major label. It is based around a tragic Japanese folk tale and I have to be honest, this is the first record based on a Japanese folk tale I have heard. ‘The Crane Wife’ is not so much a concept album but does contain a story centred around love and two of man’s most negative qualities; curiosity and greed.**

The two prominent musical features on this record are the two huge tracks at the beginning and the end of the L.P, each coming in at over eleven minutes. Surprisingly these two tracks are not as hard work as you might expect. The twelve minutes of ‘The Island’ just float by with images of rolling down “to a

soundless sea” and a smile did crack when I heard the words “go to sleep now, little ugly, go to sleep now, you little fool.”

Other stand out tracks from the record include the brilliant ‘Yankee Bayonet (I Will Be Home Then)’, about a soldier longing for his sweetheart and his unborn child. Colin Meloy’s voice makes you feel that the terror of war

is nothing compared to being without the one you love. Only minutes earlier the same haunting voice was raping ‘The Landlord’s Daughter’ at gunpoint.

Very few current artists could take a Japanese folk tale and turn it into something, which I am glad to have heard and while it maybe challenging it is definitely rewarding.



## Bromheads Miss the Boat

### ALBUM

#### BROMHEADS JACKET: DITS FROM THE COMMUTER BELT

BY NICK GILMER

**In some parallel universe Alex Turner’s dad gets back from the Sheffield steel mill 20 years ago to find his wife “not in the mood”. Skip forward 19 years to 2005 - it’s left to a band called Bromheads Jacket to put their own unique spin on British life in the early 21st century, albeit with a southern accent.**

Of course that’s all irrelevant – she was gagging for it and Alex was born to save music. Belatedly, a “southern” answer to *Monkey* mania has arrived. They still site Sheffield as their place of origin, but none of the band actually hails from here.

Championed by Mike Skinner no less (they recorded the B-side to ‘When You Wasn’t Famous’ at his behest), they come with a fair degree of hype. Stand out track ‘What If’s & Maybes’ is the ‘Bet You Look Good On The Dancefloor’ whilst ‘Poppy Bird’ is every bit as lovely as ‘Mardy Bum’. Yet still they lack something.

Released 18 months ago this would have been huge. But times they are a-changing as we stand on the edge of the new rave era. Tim Hampton’s lyrics are humorous but everyday *Bromhead* toil just doesn’t sound all that bad.

You don’t know whether to laugh or cry in ‘Hazy In Yateley/

Homicidal Pycho Jungle Cat’ when Hampton sings “Set fire to that poor little cat/had lovely white fur but now it is black”. ‘Trip To The Golden Arches’ is a hidden gem – capturing the banality of youth Britain. “Who’d have thought you could have so much fun / Staring at two headlights wishing that you had a gun” he sings. Asbo culture alert!

Nice album – bad timing. It’s a real bitch when you do something well but someone’s already done it better. If you wanted the southern *Arctic Monkeys* it’s arrived. Otherwise just put your *Klaxons* mp3s back on.

## Singles

### The Automatic: Raoul

By Ben Corr

A re-release from the Automatic after their highly successful ‘Monster’. Raoul may not be as mind numbingly catchy but it is more substantial musically and an all round better single. This is the song that could carry them from just being a novelty act to a proper band.

3/5



### Brakes: Hold Me In The River

By Penny Lawton

An interesting choice for Brakes’ first single from their second album. A mild crescendo over an extended guitar riff wastes too much time on this two minute track. After an abrupt ending, you left with the feeling of “er, was that it?” And to be honest, not really wanting more. 2/5



### The Tommys: You’re Not The One EP

By Joe Beech

The Tommys are a welcome break from the diluted indie world, with classic rock style guitar and vocals viciously delivered by Jesse Bell. The Ep is consistently decent and for anyone that’s bored of Slade, Wizard and Shakin Stevens after the Christmas season it’s a must have to kick off your New Year in style. 3.5/5







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# Rockin' all over the world

GIGS

STATUS QUO LIVE AT THE MEN ARENA, MANCHESTER

By PETER WATT

**T**o start with, I would just like to clarify that me and Status Quo are not mutual friends; although the superstar godfathers of rock may wish for their sound to reach the expertise of SCAN Music, until now. So when a friend asked me to join him for a night with the Quo, I thought it would be no more than a chuckle to rock out with people my dad's age, and nod my head approvingly to the hyperbolic scales of live power ballads. Little did I know I would embark on an educational journey through the mighty woods of retro rock!

Upon entering the venue I was surprised by the layout. I assumed that a ticket marked 'Floor' would imply 'Standing' how very wrong young Wotty was. In the area I would associate as a place fit for a mosh pit there were quaint little seats laid out, and all who were sat looked ready for a jolly good time watching a test-match rather than rocking out.

The opening support act were a three-piece from Australia, who, despite having a collective image of Chris Cringle, played an incredibly tight set, especially compared to Norway's answer to Busted who followed. However, far more insulting than these two bands being at a Quo gig, was extremity of politeness of the audience.



There wasn't even a young mother who got carried away and decided to scream 'Whoooo, there was only clapping, and, if you were feeling a little risqué, one may venture to nod at the smiling stranger next to you.

The only thing that stopped my middle fingers entering the air in response to the pretentious pretty boys, who skipped around the stage before the Quo, was the fact I would have made a scene, and ruined everyone's enjoyable evening.

Part of the night was spent in the presence of glorified celebrities; *Top Gear*'s James May passed us in the loo, and a standing ovation for *Coronation Street*'s Les Battersby was given ten minutes before the Quo entered the stage.

Surprised? You shouldn't be, because let's face it, if lead singer Francis Rossi hadn't stumbled across his Uncle's guitar in the midst of his youth he would have ended up on either *Coronation Street* or presenting *Top Gear*. With the receding ponytail lodged at the rear of his noggin, he would look swell in a grease-stained vest on *Corrie*, or using his dry British wit, which filled the gaps between songs, to present *Top Gear* alongside Clarkson.

Although I was looking forward to hearing the power of Status Quo's 'Wall of Sound', which was not in use, it was clear from the first chord of Rossi's guitar that we were in the presence of greatness. The music alone stood out as cock-rock-quality, blasting out hits in the form of inflated medleys (*Rocking All Over the World*, *Whatever you want*, etc) however, it was the contagious enjoyment of the greying rockers that made it for me; they truly love what they do.... Hence the tour's name 'Just Doin' It'. But more importantly, I was educated in the politeness of the aging rocker's generation.

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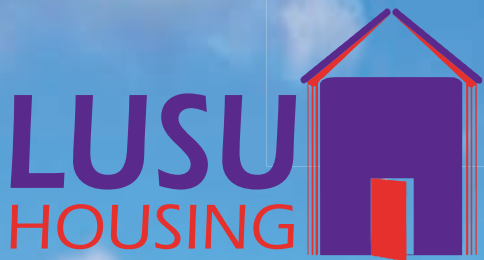
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# Metal Mayhem at County Bar

By 'Metal' Mark McGlashan

**A**rriving at Lancaster in fresher's week, I was quite apprehensive about the local music scene. I was hoping (praying) that Lancaster would play host to some good homegrown heavy music and, with this visit, County Bar gave me adequate reason for keeping the faith. Organiser Tim (*MyÖllnir*) put together a brutal line-up featuring old school thrashers *Dead To Sin*, his (and County's own) black metal act *MyÖllnir* (meaning 'hammer of Thor') and last but

not least Bolton's *Displacement* bringing the night to a hostile close.

Openers *Dead To Sin* played a very tight, heavy set with obvious influences from *Pantera*, *Slayer* et al. showing in a glorious blaze of youthful, energetic thrash. They sound old-school, they sound promising, and above all, they sound good. With sounds taken from the hardcore depths of thrash, to glimmers of Death Metal in their repertoire - these boys are sounding good.

The lead singer has a good growl on him; the guitarists miss not one note; and the band, as a unit, they are as tight as a gnat's arsehole. A good band who show their confidence, giving the

crowd a decent rendition of 'Fucking Hostile'. Although, the Iron Maiden-esque three man guitar pose has seen better days. Next up were my personal favourite of the night. *MyÖllnir*. Black. Fucking. Metal.

Comprising of two guitarists and a drummer, *MyÖllnir* find the lack of bassist no handicap. They produced a set beyond my expectations for anything that night. And I must say; it was because the music was an absolute kick in the face. Relentless throughout, they crafted a set of purely staggering depth. Every vocal line from lead singer Tim was delivered with force, every atmospheric scream from female lead guitarist Dark Rachel making the music feel tortured and

dangerous, every blast from drummer delivered perfectly. An amazing set that, if anything, left me with a little grin on my face and wanting just a little bit more.

And, last in the night's line-up were Bolton's *Displacement*. With a certain style and swagger, and their message "be your fucking self" *Displacement* brought their brand of southern metal to the stage. With rapid fire vocals rising above a backdrop of their 'Pantera-by-numbers' material, and *Pantera* covers coming hard and fast, they brought the night to a blistering end - providing the only pits of the night. Metal Mayhem? Hell yeah!

## Gibson's rumble in the jungle

By Peter Watt  
Music Editor

**I**'m not one to follow the trials and tribulations of movie stars, but Mel Gibson is rather intriguing. The man who was a household name for his acting in films such as *Lethal Weapon*, *Ransom* and *Braveheart* has metamorphosed into a drink-driving, anti-Semitic misogynistic director of gory and factually inadequate blockbusters. I would love to shrug the guy off, but I was very excited to see *Apocalypto*. The adverts showed some incredible visuals, the sound was potential cinematic bliss, and the blurb suggested the film is about the creation of the Mayan Empire.

My intrigue was heightened when I read a review in *The Guardian* that spoke of a Guatemalan official, Ricardo Cajas, commenting that the film was "Racist" due to the portrayal of the Mayan Empire being built by blood thirsty savages.

There was no doubt in my mind that this film would be fantastic, shite, or at least pleurably controversial. The plot however is thus; an ambush, a journey and a chase, end. However, this is not to say that there aren't some classic moments; including some brutal beheadings and a chase scene that puts Tarzan to shame. Furthermore, like Disney films, the film has "good guys" and "bad guys", a trait that does nothing for the simplistic plot.

The main problem with *Apocalypto* is that you can see what Gibson wanted to do with the film, but he has not quite grasped some of the subtleties of film making. It opens with the "good" tribe hunting a squealing pig for food. Although the



means of capture comes across as an exciting introduction to a much awaited film, when the men divide the hog up, there are ball-bag jokes and sexual innuendos that would be better placed in an American Pie dialogue. These Americanisms crop up now and again, and just aren't funny in a film that critics are deeming "world cinema". Please,

please, please do not let the ancient Mayan dialect and subtitled entirety lead you into the false sense of security that this is a film of credible Arthouse excellence. It is Hollywood out of Hollywood for the sake of Hollywood, so for God's sake leave your beret and goatee at home.

After watching this film you will have no further insight into Mayan Culture than you would from a weekend in Camden looking at the tribal piercings and hairdos that adorn their merry streets.

If you go to the film with a similar mindset to me you are definitely going to be disappointed. It just seems that as a Director Mel is a 'jack of all trades' master of none. The sketchy history hinders it as an action film, and the extreme length and elaborate action makes the history obsolete. Mel Gibson is a man desperate for acclaim as a director. He hopes that the award for 'Director of The Year' will make the world forget about him calling young policewomen "sugar tits" and blaming Judaism for all the wars in the world. So, without further ado he created a film with history, shock factor, and

"education". But there are certain times that his aims were forgotten as there are more than faint hints of the ridiculous too; a man outrunning a puma, an under-water birth and a man jumping a huge waterfall that leaves him unmarked but slightly short of breath.

The most excruciatingly bad aspect of the film is the ending, which closes with Europeans arriving on board Central American Land. This scene seems to have been chucked on at the end of the film, and stands out as if Gibson panicked and thought that this brief thirty seconds would suffice as detailed enough that tie up the historical failures that the rest of the film suggests.

This is no doubt an epic movie that has some stunning visuals, however *Apocalypto's* greatest flaw may be that it threatens to deceive viewers that want more than your typical action film. *Apocalypto* may pretend to be a great movie, it may look great, and sound great with dolby sound hitting you from all angles, however sadly, it just isn't very good. Sorry Mel.





# Lack of ex-appeal

FILM

**My Super Ex-Girlfriend**

STARRING: UMA THURMAN AND LUKE WILSON

By JENNY SHELTON

It seems that America is so clogged with superheroes that the less-interesting ones are

now receiving focus. A considerable fall from grace for Uma Thurman; her role as generic, super-

something girl does not place high demands on her acting abilities, but nor does a relatively credible actress add anything to this empty, ridiculous rom-com/superhero flick.

Having hooked up with and then gotten rid of the needy, highly-strung Jenny Johnson (Thurman), Matt Saunders (Luke Wilson) discovers she has something of an edge on all other ex-girlfriends. She is a super-strong, super-vengeful superhero, and revenge will be reaped on a whole new level. There is fun plot line potential, but results boast all the prowess of a hurriedly assembled piece of Ikea furniture. There is no heart to this film, and the manufactured, brushed chrome characters are all equally un-inspiring.

Luke Wilson is nothing except the usual badly-

acted bland boy, delivering unconvincing, clichéd lines and a limited range of facial expressions. One such exchange between he and his new girlfriend, who expresses the opinion: 'I think this could be the best moment of my entire life', has him replying, 'That's not fair, I was going to say that'. Why one, and then two women are fighting for him is not entirely clear; unless the film is demonstrating the need for the modern, activist woman to attach herself to a nobody, a man of security, or just someone who heightens her own self esteem to that of super-hero status. I remain doubtful.

The height of chronic awfulness is reached when Uma Thurman throws a huge, digitally constructed shark through Luke Wilson's apartment window. The episode is reacted to like an inconvenient fire alarm, and Saunders (Wilson) pumps out lines which he seems to have heard at the movies and yearned for an opportunity to deliver.

Unfortunately no characters are killed here, but I've high hopes for the sequel.

# Film of 2006?

## Best Films of 2006

1. *Casino Royale*: With Mr. Daniel Craig, a very different Bond film, that is much more gritty, less predictable and with a much better looking James Bond!

of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan: Laugh-out-loud comedy from Sacha Baron Cohen.



2. *Borat: Cultural Learnings*

## Worst Films of 2006

1. *The Da Vinci Code*: After the success of the book, the film was surely going to be a hit? Sadly Tom Hanks did not convince and the plot came across as dull and confusing for viewers who have not read the book. Disappointing.



2. *The Fast and The Furious 3: Tokyo Drift*: How long are they going to keep trying to make money from this idea?



3. *My Stupid ex- Girlfriend*: Uma Thurman can do so much better.

# The Eire that shook the British

DVD

**The Wind That Shakes The Barley**

STARRING: CILLIAN MURPHY, PADRAIC DELANEY AND DIRECTED BY KEN LOACH

By ANDREW BAIN

The Palme D'or winner at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival, *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* tells the tale of the Irish struggle for independence in the early 1920s, pitting brother against brother and graphically showing the violence both of the British reprisals to rebellion and of the rebellion itself. As with all Ken Loach pictures, this is a dark brooding film that looks at human drama, loss and despair.

Despite the overtly political nature of the film, it manages to come across as a human story- one not shrouded in politics, unless of course the

agenda is just to portray the terror of civil war. It sidesteps being just a political film by dealing closely with the characters and at relationships that are affected by the events.

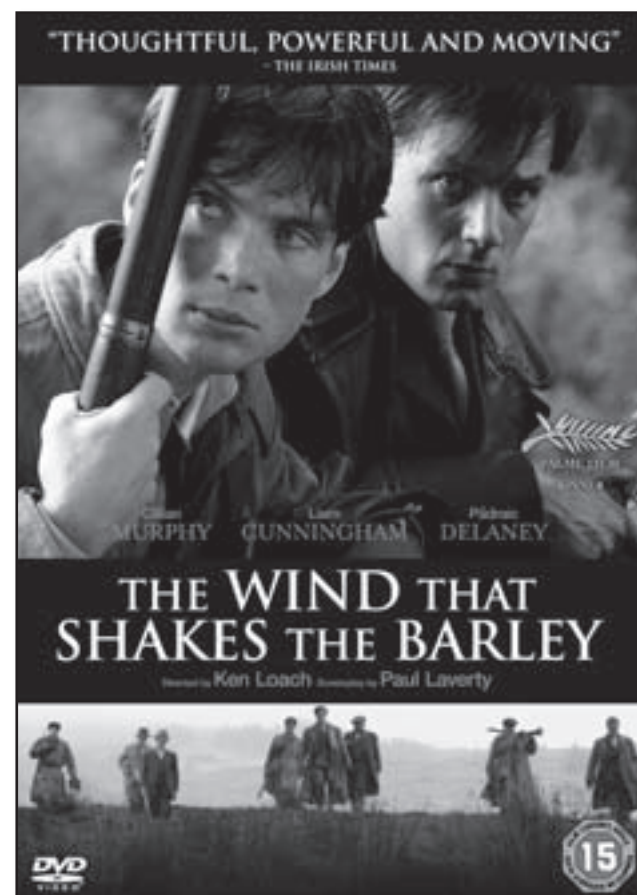
The dangers of becoming another sentimental yarn are avoided by the bleak, gritty style, enforced mostly by the almost total lack of music. There are no swells of violin as people wander the Irish hills here, and overall this is the whole feel of the film; it is understated; it defies the conventions of these kinds of film and is stylish in that it avoids becoming overly stylised. Ironically for a film with little music, one of the most captivating scenes is of a group of Irish rebels

emerging through the mist singing in Gaelic. When fused their voices possess a striking harmony that represents a simple life, an innocence that the English don't understand.

The performances are excellent, none more so than the young protagonist Cillian Murphy who plays Damien, a doctor ready to go and work in England who chooses to stay and fight. His tale is eventually a tragic one as he is ultimately pitched against his own brother Teddy (Padraic Delaney) as the country's allegiances split. The atrocities that the characters face, shape their lives forcing decisions to be made and sides to be chosen.

One of the most interesting

scenes in the film comes when the British announce a peace agreement which split Northern Ireland from the Republic. The message is shown on a cinema screen for the citizens and there is a complete sense of alienation from the British as the grainy, silent images display men in top hats, peering through the screen down on the Irish. The feelings of distance and isolation are perfectly captured by the scene. It is a complete credit to the film that we too feel this sense of isolation, but are also completely engaged by what is really a thoughtful, intelligent film.





# Good Holiday?

## CINEMA

### THE HOLIDAY

STARRING: KATE WINSLET, CAMERON DIAZ, JUDE LAW AND JACK BLACK

By LAURA GIVANS

**A**t first it seemed *The Holiday* was just another romantic comedy with a straightforward, sentimental premise: sweet and funny, but not exactly earth-shatteringly new or stimulating. However, upon closer inspection it appears that this is not just another typical holiday-season romp.

*The Holiday* is unashamedly proud of the charming, optimistic and all-over happy glow it emits from every tinted scene—even if the impossibility of the lovely dusting of a snow

scattered over Surrey for a whole two weeks at Christmas does begin to irk after a while) and it has every right to be.

The basic set-up sees Kate Winslet and Cameron Diaz, two women deeply dissatisfied with love, swapping houses and lives for Christmas. Diaz finds herself snug and lonely in an idyllic country house, whilst Winslet is beside herself when she discovers her stay is in a stylish modern LA mansion—down the road from a dashing world-famous Tinsel town writer.

Both leading ladies play highly successful, talented women, but cavalier treatment by the

men in their lives has caused their true selves to be slightly marred, buried, by emerging insecurities and doubts. It is warm and romantic and moving to watch them unravel and begin to bloom in their new surroundings, and find possible equals for their love from unexpected, unknown places. There is a sustained aura of hope, the possibilities of change when everything about your choices and pathways in life seem to be inescapably determined, as well as the wonder and value of being true to yourself.

Winslet and Diaz both shine in their roles; Diaz and Law's



relationship is surprisingly touching as is Winslet's struggle to loosen the hold her charismatic, needy ex still retains over her heart.

However it is Jack Black's performance as Winslet's love interest that is most intriguing. Black is charming and suave

as well as being hysterical and enjoyable. While this film will do no harm to any of the stars it is Black who will emerge with having added another important string to his bow. He plays a romantic role with assurance and finesse and is ultimately a joy to watch.

There are some surprising and lovely twists which add a sparkle most films in this genre strive for but seldom achieve. *The Holiday* has deeper layers than most, and is definitely a 'feel good' Christmas movie, which is surely never a bad thing?

# Eragon- basically Dragon with an 'E'

## CINEMA

### ERAGON

STARRING: JEREMY IRONS, ROBERT CARLYLE, JOHN MALKOVICH AND EDWARD SPELEERS

By BEN BAILEY

**Y**oung farm boy with heroic aspirations seeks old man, preferably with white beard, to help set him on the course to destiny. Together they will fight armies, face wizards (evil), and battle against unpredictable odds as they try to rid a make-believe land of its tyrant King- Galbatorix- told you, sounds evil, with the assistance of the banished

rebels. Sound familiar? Oh yeah, and it's got dragons in it.

For all its familiar plot and mixed reviews, *Eragon* actually isn't half that bad. Yes it could be called a poor man's *Lord of the Rings*, and while George Lucas and J.R.R. Tolkien fans may resent the somewhat recognizable storyline, on the whole this Yuletide release is not so much weak, but more rushed.

With a strong cast that includes John Malkovich, Jeremy Irons, Rachel Weisz, Robert Carlyle and Djimon Hounsou, the film is certainly not lacking in talent. Newcomer Edward Speleers plays Eragon the young boy who goes out hunting one night only magically to be sent a dragon egg. After evil King Galbatorix (Malkovich never had to do less in his life) purged the land of all the other dragons many years ago, he has stood as unrivalled King of Alagaesia (Middle

Earth) since he controls the only dragon.

Cue a problem when Eragon's egg hatches, and after a few prophesy-like scenes (a bit of a Harry Potter meets Frodo Baggins) the dragon and its rider embark on a noble quest to save princesses, join the Varden resistance and challenge Galbatorix. Jeremy Irons plays Brom the wise old man who aids and abets Eragon on his task. His beard is not quite as white as Obi-Wan Kenobi's

nor is it anywhere near as impressive as Gandalf's but still, he is arguably the best thing in this movie.

The scenes where Eragon is riding his dragon are rather breathtaking, (even if there are shades of Luke in the forest) and when combined with some of the scenery featured in the film it can be a joy to watch. Rachel Weisz's voiceover as Saphira the dragon is also surprisingly excellent.

Where this film falls down is the plot. All film long Eragon journeys to meet the infamous Varden rebels, and as he does so the sense of climax builds. Sadly when he finally meets them in their hidden mountain it is nothing short of disappointing.

It appears the budget had officially gone by the time they had to shoot this bit. Awful costumes, bad dialogue and no sense of an exciting battle quickly approaching epitomises the small scale of the finale—about 12 Varden versus a good 300 of the Kings soldiers is cringe-worthy as is Robert Carlyle's rip-off evil battle speech to the masses— the 300 baddies.

*Eragon* is nowhere near a great film, and this is what is so disappointing about the movie as a whole. As much as you want to enjoy it, the story is spoilt by the odd hammy moment, together with the feeling that if a little more care had gone into this film, the end result could have been so much better.





# Better than Bono

## Books

### 365 WAYS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

AUTHOR: MICHAEL NORTON

By NICK RENSHAW

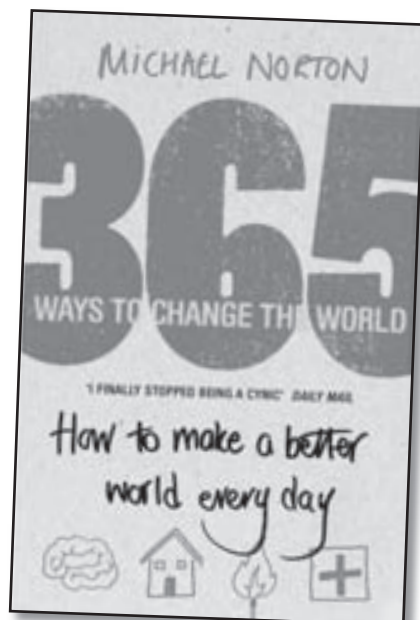
**S**aving the world. A tough job ain't it? Superman has trouble and he's got super powers. Even Bono has trouble and he's Bono! Luckily for us mortals, Michael Norton has come up with 365 ideas (that's one for each day) to help make the world a better place.

The concept is that you implement one of his ideas every day of the year, but in reality that's not really going to happen and some of his ideas seem to suggest he had difficulty thinking up 365 of them (but lets be fair, 365 is a lot of ideas). What the book is great for is scanning through and finding ideas that interest you personally and that you can easily implement (sick of fair trade coffee, want fair trade tea instead? Norton has the answer) Even the biggest, coldest cynic should find something that they believe in.

Granted, some of the ideas are hardly ground breaking (e.g. donate your loose change to charity) but any 'well-known' topics (global warming, smoking) are well expanded upon with some great facts and some very useful contact details.

The real beauty in this book comes from the myriad of unusual but fascinating ideas that Norton has come across in his charity obsessed

life. From using your computer to help predict climate change to petitioning for tighter gun controls around the world, Norton shows that individuals can make a difference and encourages us to get involved. Come on, don't let Bono take all the credit!



# Quiz bustingly good

## Books

### THE END OF THE QUESTION MARK

PROFILE BOOKS LIMITED

By NICK RENSHAW

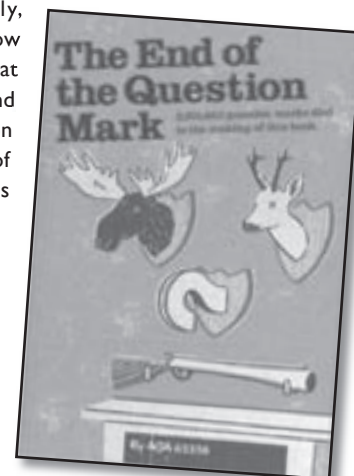
**H**ave you ever had a burning question you just have to know the answer to? Well, over 3 million people did and took advantage of the text message service AQA 63336. For the sum of one English pound any question texted in will receive an answer 'in a minute or so'. AQA have now collected all the best questions and answers together into this one fact filled compendium. By the look of some of the questions this service has no doubt been used to win a pub quiz or two!

Some people, it seems, really wasted their money; "what came first the hole punch or the ring binder?" Whereas some people thought up corks; "how many smurfs does it take, standing on each other's shoulders, to form a chain from Norwich to the moon via Pluto?" (90.5 billion apparently). Flicking through you are bound to find a few questions you always wondered about yourself but forgot to go check Wikipedia, such as "where does the term dark horse come from?" Or "why are peanuts called peanuts?" (They are members of the pea family).

The book makes a pleasant change from all the other fact books out there because it contains questions sent in by the public, rather than things

the writers thought we would like to know. So whilst there are a number of slightly dull facts, these are usually placed next to questions like "who would win in a fight between the Chuckle Brothers and Robson and Jerome?" Or "would you rather be a sausage or an egg?" (AQA plumped for an egg because 'sausages are always being stolen by dogs').

Overall 'The End of the Questions Mark' makes a surprisingly interesting read that will have you chuckling to yourself. Your usefulness as a quiz member will go through the roof and, more importantly, you'll know what that stamp and number on the side of a pint glass means.



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## It's a kind of magic

## A big fuss over nought

### BOOKS

**THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING**  
**AUTHOR: JOAN DIDION**  
BY JEMMA SMITH

### THEATRE

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**  
**THE NOVELLO THEATRE**  
BY ALICIA GREEN

**T**he question of self pity is one which many memoir writers don't tackle. Pity is a prevalent force in writings of the self take for example, work like 'A Child Called It' and 'Chernobyl Strawberries'. It is often seen as 'thumb sucking' 'boo hoo poor me' but Didion's memoir is rare in its ability to analyse grief and its processes without asking anything of the reader.

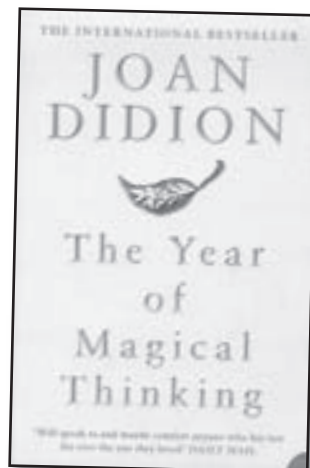
In Didion's memoirs she locates one of the 'big themes', in all its wilting desperation, and with astute perception brings it into the arena of rational thought. When her husband dies suddenly a marriage of forty years is gone. Just four days before the couple had seen their only child fall gravely ill. Hardly a topic you would expect to generate such magical thinking.

The narrative is strongly executed, although it has a cyclical function where Didion returns and re-analyses past conversations and events in light of present circumstances she never loses sight of the reader hence actions are explained with clarity and patience.

Poetic language is mixed with the scientific, words and memories are inextricably linked showing Didion's difficulty in piecing together the sequence

of events. The language is presented in a 'matter of fact' form disguising the fragility underneath. Didion's turn of phrase is rich with sentiment yet at the same time shows thoughts almost on the point of collapse. I found this to be a text where the positioning on the words on the page takes on equal significance to their meaning.

Joan Didion has lifted herself out of this horrendous situation to find some sort of reasoning and hope and it is with this sense of distance that 'The Year of Magical Thinking' becomes much more than just one person's story.



**O**n December the 20th I found myself in a theatre with the intention of seeing not a seasonal pantomime, but instead a different type of comedy: Shakespeare's 'Much ADO About Nothing'. Starring Greenwing's Tamsin Greig as the feisty Beatrice and Joseph Millson as her male counterpart, Benedick, I wondered if the scintillating banter and chemistry between the leads would be forgone in preference of celebrity.

There was no need for me to fear however because the couple stole the show, outshining (the admittedly typically lacklustre) character of Hero, brash Claudio and dastardly Don John. Greig and Millson displayed impressive comedy-timing and interacted believably together. One memorable scene involving a megaphone even had members of the audience crying with laughter. Admittedly, it is hard at first to allow each actor your full attention with Greig (deservedly) stealing the lime-light, but as the play progresses you become engrossed in the action rather than the acting.

Intermingled with the witty dialogue, the cast found time to incorporate eye-catching dance routines and songs- complementing the idea of 'noting' and enhancing the 'Cuban' theme this

version boldly adopted. Act 2, Scene 1's ball is a notable spectacle involving extravagant Venetian-style masks suited to the character's demeanours (Don John's being horrifically skull-like). The stage itself looked like a Caribbean cocktail bar-cum-outdoor Taverna; shots of rum being prominent on the props list.

Another highlight of the production were the farcical Dogberry and Verges who kept the often interminable roles light and amusing, posing as an unusually clad couple with a terrible grasp of grammar and idiom. Along with the deft handling of the comical exchanges, the play also managed to maintain a touching quality when dealing with the shaming of Hero without resulting to bathos.

A lengthy 3 hours (with a 20 minute interval), the play managed to hold my attention with its spectacle and extremely competent cast- even younger members of the audience seemed engaged with the story and unfazed by the Shakespearean language. It received glowing reviews when performed in the fitting surroundings of Stratford-Upon-Avon and has continued to do so in its new home in London's Novello Theatre. A must-see for Shakespeare lovers.

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# money, money, money!

## Becky Heard, LUSU Education & Welfare Officer talks money...

The Christmas tree is back in its box, the bags are being unpacked, the mouldy bread and sour milk left in the kitchen before the holidays have finally been binned, and the last minute essays are (thank God) finished. All that remains is the daily task of checking your bank balance and praying that your student loan has come through before you can once more, live like a king. However... do you remember the end of last term where you had spent so much money it was two-minute noodles for breakfast, lunch and dinner?

### 'the end of term always turns into a penny-pinching sad love affair with economy baked beans'

The first term can be care free times, of joyous spending. Students have the time and money to shop, lunch, socialise and have a fabulous time regaining the freedom of being away from home. Although, as I'm sure many of you experienced, the end of term always turns into a penny-pinching sad love affair with economy baked beans and papier-mâché Christmas presents for loved ones. My end of term impoverishment resulted in a 16-hour coach trip from hell as the only means to get back home as I couldn't afford the train fare.

The Lent term is a chance to learn from your mistakes and take better care in planning your finances. It really isn't hard to ensure that you have money to be able to live at the end of week 10. The word to ensure that this happens is...

### BUDGET!

LUSU Advice have a Debt Councillor on hand to if you find yourself in difficulty. Dividing your cash at the beginning of term will allow you to see how much you have to spend per week after paying rent and all the bills. Sticking to this amount will not be easy as you will always be tempted to spend more, but just knowing how much you have a week and then knowing how much you've over spent will hopefully make alarm bells ring in your head before week 9 comes and you're broke, again. Budgeting gives you an overview of your incomings and outgoings, thus you can clearly track your spending.

There are many ways in which you can save money from making your own lunches to searching the internet for freebies. Did you know that buying a sandwich everyday on campus for £2.00 will rack up a total of £100 for the term? Or that there are many internet sites which will send you free samples and goodies for just for publicity?

When it comes to budgeting there's all sorts of budgeting advice available, but as with any other discipline in life, you have to want to do it and you have to stick to it.

A helpful website to calculate your budget can be found at: **[www.hotcourses.com](http://www.hotcourses.com)**.

If you do find yourself with a surplus of cash - put it in a High Interest Account...

...you never know you could write your own rags to riches story.



## Money Tips...

### Shopping:

- Look out for multiple buy offers - eg. 3 for 2, divide the cost between you
- Charity Shops, at this time of year people are having a clear out
- Many of the no frills shops are by far cheaper than the larger Supermarkets
- Shop at the end of the day and bag yourself some bargains

### Socialising:

- Share a taxi - better still - get the bus
- Leave your cards at home to avoid the temptation of going to the hole in the wall when the alcohol has turned you into the most generous soul on the planet
- Attend 'student nights' with special promotions
- If you must smoke - roll your own (giving up altogether is far cheaper)
- Out for a meal - choose a venue with a special deal

### Travelling:

- Rail Cards, Bus passes etc, could save you a whole lot of money. Get your bike out, walk and with practice you can get where you're going by jogging!

### Course Books:

- 2nd Hand book shops, LUSU website, and other sites that offer used books

### Phones:

- Let everyone phone you!
- That new upgrade may be attractive but is it worth it? Pay as you go could be much cheaper than a status symbol
- You can now use the internet to phone and text people - that must be worth a try

### Food:

- Cook for each other on a rota
- Like bottled water? Invest in a water filter

## Competition Time!

We want you to send your top tips for money saving to **[edandwelf@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:edandwelf@lancaster.ac.uk)** We'll publish them to share the knowledge and help everyone save those important pounds. If you do submit a top tip you would be in with a chance of

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# THE BIG DEBATE: SHOULD FEMALE SPORTS STARS EARN THE SAME MONEY AS MALE STARS?

## THE PRIZE MONEY SHOULD BE THE SAME

**By Gav Smillie**  
Deputy Sports Editor

**This is just another case of sexism in sport. If two people do the same job, spend the same amount of time training then surely they should be paid the same amount of money even if their gender differs.**

If you're thinking there is not an audience for female sport thus low prize money, the reason why football is so popular with males is because lads are encouraged to play. I was given my first set of footie boots before I could walk.

If females were encouraged like this then more girls would watch and take part and thus prize money would, in theory, be equal.

Tennis is the best example of this theory being wrong. The female and the men's game are as popular as each other due to equal encouragement. The prize money however for a male winner is greater than that for a woman. If just as many people are paying to watch the female players, why is the prize money significantly less when compared to the male players?

In tennis females are encouraged to take part, but when it comes to other sports, girls are shunted out of the way in favour of men.

Genetics mean that men are stronger than women; therefore, men have an advantage justifying the segregation in contact sport. But what about non-contact sports that have no female players. How can this be justified? Snooker has no female top ranking players; in fact, the only female involvement is a referee.

Trina Gulliver is a three-time Embassy dart Champion with an average 2nd highest in both genders. Yet her winnings are peanuts compared to Phil "The Power" Taylor just because she plays in a female league.

The media plays a significant role in the process. If there is no coverage of something then you cannot follow it. Look at women's football, Kelly Smith has been voted 5th best player in the world, however where was her sports personality award nomination? Our media promotes looks rather than talent when giving out money. The Women's Football Association were even asked to sex up the game to attract more viewers by wearing tighter shorts if they wanted to pay their players more by Max Clifford. An even better example of sexing up female sport is beach volleyball, which has to be seen to be believed. Men can wear what ever they wish but females must wear bikinis.

Lets face it, until the media changes its chauvinist ideals female sport players are never going to be taken and paid seriously unless they are on page three.

## PRIZE MONEY SHOULD NOT BE EQUAL

**Paul Collins**  
Sports Editor

**Should female athletes receive the same amount of prize money as their male counterparts? No, they shouldn't. I say this having considered the facts and looked at various issues in sport as a whole, such as marketing, sponsorship and other such circumstances.**

One particular example that keeps on being used in the argument for equal pay is found in tennis, the Wimbledon tournament most importantly. Current Wimbledon Men's Champion, Roger Federer, won £655,000 for his efforts, while Amelie Mauresmo pocketed a mere £625,000 for winning the women's tournament. How is this fair I hear you ask? Well, in the women's tournament, not just Wimbledon, but all the major Grand Slams, women play to a best of 3 sets. Men, on the other hand, play to a best of 5. It therefore makes sense that the men should be paid more, because they do more work.

In a world where people are campaigning for equal rights, it seems ludicrous to pay women the same amount for doing less work. That quite clearly, isn't equal is it?

Female marathon runners have to run the full

distance to get their equal prize money, so why should female tennis players get equal pay for doing less work?

The media, marketing companies and sponsorship deals have a huge role in what we watch on the television, what is printed in the press, and therefore, they are responsible for the popularity of various sports. Italy won the Men's World Cup in 2006, England won the Rugby World Cup in 2003, and Australia have just regained a keenly contested Ashes series. All these events were much publicised, viewed by millions around the world, and the competitors have gone on to win million pound deal contracts, MBE's, and a whole host of other gongs. Who won the last Women's Football World Cup? Who won the last Women's Rugby World Cup? And which nation are the current Women's Ashes holders?

The lack of media coverage, sponsorship and marketing in the women's game means there is significantly less money. The pay scale is directly related to the interest generated and the revenue. Unfortunately, women in professional sport do not seem to be able to provide the sufficient glamour or excitement to generate the income needed to put them on a par with their male counterparts.

# City relegated into administration

**By Ian Waterhouse**  
Sports Editor

**Lancaster City's horrendous season has been dealt another blow with the news that the club has gone into administration, leading to the automatic imposition of a ten-point penalty. If the deduction is imposed during the current campaign rather than being deferred to the 2007/08 season, then City face the ignominy of a plunge into a negative points total with over half of the season already gone.**

The club's total debt stands at a reported £600,000 and City were locked out of their own Dolly Blue Tavern following a November raid in which the locks were changed. Club players were also forced out of club owned houses when bailiffs moved in at the height of the financial problems.

One of the affected players was star midfielder Ryan-Zico Black, who has since moved on to Barrow – Lancaster's opponents on both Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Boxing Day's derby match saw the Dolly Blues undertake the journey to the Furnessian peninsula, only for former City favourite Black to give his new side the lead, before two further second half strikes saw City return empty-handed.

With the postponement of the scheduled home game against Leigh RMI on the following Saturday, the fixture computer threw up an immediate chance for revenge as Barrow came to town on the opening day of 2007. Unfortunately for City,



it was the visitors who completed a quick fire double with a 2-0 victory in front of the Giant Axe's highest crowd of the season of 463.

Worse was to follow when Nuneaton Borough came to town, with the 4-0 scoreline somewhat flattering the visitors, but still meaning that City had failed to find the net for a third consecutive game and leaving the Dolly Blues nine points adrift at the bottom of the Conference North table.

Off the field matters were discussed further at a supporters' forum last Monday (January 8th), attended by approximately thirty-five followers in the Dolly Blue Tavern, where a number of club officials answered questions in an effort to allay fears that the club may have to close its

doors permanently. New chairman Mick Hoyle gave details of how the club had gone into administration on December 13 and must now stay in profit until May 1 or face going out of business altogether.

Appointed administrator EJK Associates Limited has previously dealt with other football clubs who have been in the same situation, most notably Leeds United, and now takes over responsibility for the debts owed by the club. During the course of the hour-long meeting, Hoyle divulged that over the four weeks under the administrator the club had managed to post an initial profit, although he warned against complacency.

Hoyle went on to describe how the club's wage

bill has been whittled down from £5,500 at the start of the season to just £550 at the present time, which is only enough to cover player's expenses. It was also stated that Lancaster had registered 52 new players over the course of the current season, the majority being youngsters from the local area who provide the basis for the current first team.

Two possible ways forward were outlined, the most probable of these being the reformation of the club before the start of next season. In football terms this would mean a drop of two leagues to the newly-formed Unibond North division, with the hope that such a drop would mean that the ten-point penalty would not be imposed next season and that City would start on a par with the other clubs in the division.

On the financial side, this would result in the removal of all of the club's debts, as the previous company would cease to exist, and the club would be left debt-free. However, this route involves the loss of any money put into club bank accounts during the administration period, leading to City warning fans that prudence was the most sensible approach in the short-term.

Whatever the developments over the coming months, it seems that the future of Lancaster City F.C. will rely on a great deal of hard work from those associated with the club, before the long haul of attempting to guide the club back to its present level in the football pyramid can begin.



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# SCAN's 2007 Sporting Predictions



**By Paul Collins**  
Sports Editor

**2006/07 PREMIERSHIP WINNERS:** Arsenal. Think back 9 years. We lost over Christmas to Blackburn, which left us 14 points behind leaders Manchester United. However, a ten game winning run saw us lift the Premiership crown in May. Fast forward to now. We lose to Sheffield United over Christmas; leaving us 14 points behind Manchester United... it's the perfect script all over again.

**2007 CRICKET WORLD CUP WINNERS:** England. The Ashes was just the preparation for our assault on achieving global domination. An Ashes success would have meant just beating the Aussies. World Cup success is on the cards now that Flintoff and Co. have warmed up and found their rhythm...

**ROSES WINNERS:** Lancaster. I'd get lynched if I said the other team will. Plus my brother goes to York. And I refuse to give him any sign of encouragement to wind me up.

**2007 RUGBY WORLD CUP WINNERS:** England. The last four years have given the rest of the rugby playing world a false sense of security. The likes of New Zealand, Australia, France and Scotland all think they are better than us. Ha-ha. Robinson, Wilkinson and Co. will lead us to glory once more. We will beat Scotland in the final, won't we Ian?

**2007 SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR:** Take your pick. Members of the Cricket and Rugby World Champions squads will be in the final reckoning. Maybe young Theo for scoring the winning goal in the Champions League Final against Manchester United. My money is on Tes Bramble. This goal scoring machine must surely be recognised.



**By Gav Smillie**  
Deputy Sports Editor

**2006/07 PREMIERSHIP WINNERS:** It has to be Chelsea. If they don't, I'll do a Rodney Marsh and have all me hair chopped off. Man Utd have only injury prone strikers in Saha, Solskjaer and a 35 year-old Larsson. I personally cannot see them scoring enough goals and once Terry and Cech get back Chelsea will stop conceding.

**2007 CRICKET WORLD CUP WINNERS:** One of two teams here Australia or Pakistan. We all know Australia and they will be the clear favourites. However Pakistan have the longest ODI batting line-up in the world and assuming their bowling is back to full strength by early next year they will be a force to be reckoned with.

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

**2007 RUGBY WORLD CUP WINNERS:** New Zealand are the best team in world, yet I think they won't be able to handle the pressure, especially if they face Australia. France could cause an upset: they have home advantage and a very strong team. I think its either France or Australia

**2007 SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR:** It'll come from tennis or cricket. After the farce of the Ashes, England's cricketers could bounce back at the World Cup. Look out for huge displays from Mahmood, Panesar and the mighty Kevin Pietersen. Andy Murray has to be the favourite for the award. A big display in a grand slam should secure him the honour.



**By Ian Waterhouse**  
Sports Editor

**2006/07 PREMIERSHIP WINNERS:** Chelsea. Somehow I still think that Mourinho's side will be too strong for Manchester United, their only challengers. United have yet to experience the kind of injury crisis that the Londoners have and recent defeat at West Ham highlighted their vulnerability.

**2007 CRICKET WORLD CUP WINNERS:** Is it just possible that Australia's ageing stars could be defeated? The convoluted "Super 8" system should see them through to the semi-finals, but they may just be susceptible in a one-off game. New Zealand are a good outside bet, but I will plump for West Indies with home advantage.

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

**2007 RUGBY WORLD CUP WINNERS:** New Zealand were simply awesome in the Autumn tests, crushing Six Nations champions France on consecutive weekends, and will surely go on to world glory in October. Their main challenge will come from Australia and Ireland.

**2007 SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR:** British international success could again be thin on the ground in 2007, meaning another surprise winner may be on the cards. A Grand Slam final or win for Andy Murray or further successes for Jenson Button is likely to see one of them pick up the crown.

## Women's water polo sunk by Durham



**By Amy Fowler**

**T**he women's water polo team took on Durham University in their first BUSA match and only match of the season to date, unfortunately they losing 4-2.

However this final scoreline did not reflect the standard of play. This was the first game that many of the team had ever played in and other members were unavailable to play. There were some very skilled saves by goalie Cat Wright, and Linzi Hills and Maike Herrmann scored the two Lancaster goals. There were also some unlucky misses from other members of the team.

The standard of play was exceptional, encouraged by new coach Sam Wilcox, whose dedication to the team showed, with praise throughout. It was a very tiring game for all of the players, but everyone gave 110% effort, that even included the captain of Lancaster, Amy Fowler, poking one of the Durham girls in the eye!

The team would like to sincerely thank all the staff at the University Sport Centre for allowing the match to be played. Let's keep up the good work and effort in training. Positive results are just around the corner.

**WANT TO WRITE FOR SCAN?**

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# SCAN Sport on Inter-College Pool

By Ian Waterhouse

**F**irstly, dear reader, a confession: The idea here is that we – the intrepid SCAN Sport team – turn our collective hand to some of the myriad of sports available on campus in order to whet your sporting appetite. Moreover, we should have no previous experience of the sport in question, thus giving rise to a wide range of hilarious unpredictability and probable humiliation.

However, I have played pool before and, more importantly, I have played inter-college pool before. Two and a half years sacrificing my Thursday evenings for the occasionally-conquering Furness Men's A Team have taught me many things about this most "bar" of bar sports. Thursdays (and Wednesdays for the ladies) are the days when pool ceases to be a simple ten-minute distraction between pints (or Jägerbolls or whatever the kids drink these days) and metamorphoses into a brand of chess played out with sixteen balls and long, thin bits of tree.

Allow me to explain this analogy. Normally when participating in a game of pool, one steps up to the table, sees a ball of the relevant colour and attempts to pot it into a seemingly plausible pocket. And that's it. However this thought process goes right out of the metaphorical window on Thursday evenings and instead becomes one akin to that of a grandmaster: "If I do that, then he'll do that, so



then I'll have to do this... But if I do that, then he can't do that, but he could do that instead. I hadn't thought of that..."

As if such considerations were not complicated enough for one poor soul, remember that inter-college pool is a team game. This means that more likely than not you will be receiving other thoughts from assorted team mates, liberally situated around the table, each looking at the shot from a different

angle. It is this 'multiple input' element of the game that actually serves to make it more complicated than chess. Think about it.

It was against this backdrop that Furness College, placed eighth out of nine going into the game, took on County in the final fixture of 2006. Had the match been a fashion competition, then County's tuxedos would have unquestionably relieved themselves all over our conspicuous lack of team

clothing, but fortunately it was the pool playing that would be the decisive factor and so the games began.

Various theories abound for the perfect warm-up to a frame in terms of beer consumption, but for me the tried-and-trusted method is remaining teetotal. This approach is not without its perils, since it can be a pretty long night and there are only so many cokes that anyone can take before hitting a dizzying caffeine high. This night turned out to be one of the longer waits, but eventually with the match delicately poised at three-all, I was up.

Conventional wisdom states that breaking is an undoubted advantage – although it was one that I did not enjoy and thus I was immediately on the back foot. The game developed in a scrappy manner, with yours truly becoming gradually more agitated, as not only had I not potted a ball, I had in fact fouled in three consecutive visits. Vintage stuff this was not.

Eventually a rare slip from my opponent put me in a position where I could pot something, and in spite of a slip-up requiring a tactical snooker, I knocked in the final black to clinch victory. Game over, job done, to the bar. Only that it was not game over, as the score stood at only 4-3 in our favour and there were still two frames to go. And this is where the team game suddenly becomes individual again as, after all, only the player involved in the frame can make the shot. Ultimately we lost 5-4, for a fourth last-frame defeat in our last five matches and suddenly my personal success stood for nothing. Such is the complicated world of the bar sport.

## Back in the bar

Gav Smillie

Deputy Sports Editor

**T**he Christmas break brings up the half way point in the George Wyatt trophy with each team trying to make a push for the crown. Last year's winners, Bowland look odds on to regain their crown with mighty performances in most disciplines. However, the gold ribbon event, Men's A team pool looks to be slipping away from them. Although Bowland were the early pace setters Graduate looks likely to storm to the title, already 9 points in the lead. A team mostly consisting of former captains means they are the team to beat, with only one loss to date against Furness. Bottom of the table in Men's A pool could see Pendle against Furness who have lost their captain due to work placement.

B team pool sees Bowland top with Furness in second both with the same number of wins and losses, only score difference separates these two teams. This will mean added pressure not only to win but win big and the decision about who gets promoted to the Furness A's from the B's will become significant with both teams needing points.

At the bottom are once again Pendle, however Graduate have the same points with matching wins, losses and score difference. The loser of their match could determine the wooden spoon.

Women's pool is evenly poised with Flyde, Bowland and Graduate all with 6 wins. Flyde lead Bowland and Graduate by 1 and 5 points respectively. Bowland however have played a game less than the other two colleges. The bottom of the table sees the inexperienced Furness ladies well adrift. Their last performances shows they are improving but they need to turn 5-4 losses into wins to claw up the table.

The battle for the Men's darts is the closest of all, a two horse race between Bowland and Pendle neck and neck on 62 points. The division could decide on their match up. Grizdale look to be in rubble just like the college itself with only 1 win. Women's darts is still wide open with Flyde and Bowland separated by just 4 points thanks to Flyde's greater score difference. However the title may depend on County who have only played 7 games all which have been wins.

Dominoes finally sees Bowland out of the top 3, they're 4th. Pendle are the clear run away favourites with 7 wins and no losses. Just 7 points separate the rest of the table, so it's still all to play for.



## The story so far...

Paul Collins

Sports Editor

**A**s the second term begins in earnest, so too does a critical stage of the season for many of our sports teams at Lancaster. The BUSA leagues are at the midway point and some of our teams are now looking for a good run of form to secure a promotion or play off place.

Men's Tennis has been undoubtedly the form team of the season. With six wins out of six and having only dropped two sets all year, they are sitting pretty at the top of the table and look set to secure an automatic promotion. Their female counterparts however have been less successful, winning just the one match, at the very start of the season.

There are a few Lancaster teams lying 2nd or 3rd in the table, ready to pounce on any slip up from the teams ahead of them. The Men's Football team is a perfect example of this. They are currently 2nd in the league, behind local rivals St. Martins. With two crucial games against UCLAN coming up, they have reached an important stage now in the season. The Women's Football team are sat in 3rd place, with a couple of games in hand, and all going well, should move up to 2nd. However, John Moores University look to be the runaway leaders of the league.

The Badminton team are also ready to launch an assault on the play-off places. Once more, they lie in 3rd place, but with games in hand should move up to 2nd. Another team with games in hand is the Rugby League team, who can move up to 2nd barring any defeats.

Defeat is also what the Men's Rugby Union team will be keen to avoid. A difficult transitional season is being experienced and has seen them drop down to 6th in the league. Preserving their top flight status is the aim. No one can doubt the efforts of all players and coaching staff. The team have needed to gel quickly, having lost many of the experienced players to pastures new and the real world of work. A couple more wins will see them avoid relegation, and build for the next season.

It's been a season of mixed fortunes for the hockey teams. Our women's team are looking to push on and climb up to 1st in the league. They are currently 2nd, with an all important game in hand. However, a more inconsistent campaign by the men's team sees them mid table, and seemingly out of the promotion reckoning.

With the Lancashire Cup, and more importantly, Roses, just around the corner, Lancaster sports teams will want to build up confidence with some wins in their respective BUSA leagues.







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# WILL WE WIN IT?

By Dave Greenshields  
A.U. President

**O**n the Wednesday of Week 2 a selection of Lancaster's teams will be making the short journey to the Preston Sports Arena to take part in the Lancashire Cup. The tournament has struggled to step out from beneath the shadow of Roses in the past and both institutions are hopeful that this year will prove to be a worthy event in its own right.

The tournament has existed for the past five years but has only taken place in three times, with the running total tied at one a piece with one draw. At its inception the Lancashire Cup was devised to showcase the Preston Sports Arena, yet, after a successful event it was decided that it should become an annual event. Since 2001 it is indisputable that it has suffered some difficulties, with a complete wash out in 2004 and Central Lancashire failing to produce any teams in 2005. This has lead to the event slipping out of the psyche of the students of both institutions, a fact that both UCLan and ourselves are keen to challenge.

The Lancashire Cup can provide a springboard into the vital term ahead for Lancaster's sport teams. Many of our teams are currently in the hunt for promotion in their respective BUSA leagues and this is an excellent chance to play a competitive fixture before fixtures recommence. It is also an opportunity to practise within a very similar format to Roses.

For those of you familiar with the scoring system for Roses the Lancashire Cup may be something of a surprise, reverting to the standard three points for a win and one for a draw. In the Athletic Union office we have been pouring over the BUSA league tables for all of the teams competing in the competition. In a large proportion of the sports involved Lancaster and UCLan are relatively evenly matched, often competing against each other in the same leagues. This will no doubt lead to a nerve shredding day down at the PSA for all concerned, yet Lancaster have every cause to feel optimistic. In the majority of the relevant leagues and fixtures our teams are outperforming their's and if everything goes true to form the first trophy of the year should be returning to Bailrigg.

It has provided an excellent opportunity for the entire Athletic Union to go through a dress rehearsal prior to the mass invasion of York and hopefully to pick up the winning habit at the beginning of a key period across the board. So, if you're avoiding vital work on the 24th January feel free to travel the short distance to cheer our teams on. This is a time of great importance for all of our teams and we've got every reason to believe that this could prove to be the best year of this decade.

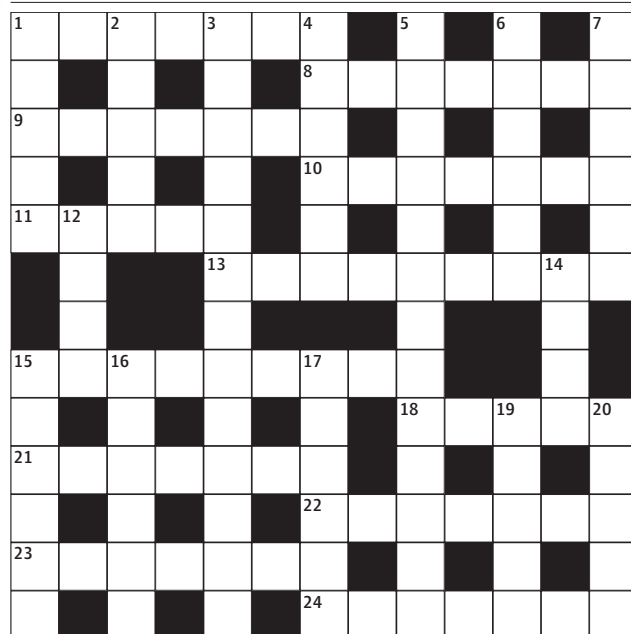


(This is actually the Roses Cup since the Lancashire Cup is in Preston. Damn it!)

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## Quick crossword no. 11,345

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### Across

- 1 Weep – whale fat (7)
- 8 Come out (of source) (7)
- 9 Song and symbol of socialism (3,4)
- 10 Feature of the Rorschach test – to blink (anag) (7)
- 11 Long lock of hair (5)
- 13 Loud public clamour (3,3,3)
- 15 Of sturdy form (4-5)
- 18 Relating to South American civilisation (5)
- 21 Dead animal's body (7)
- 22 Scruffy (7)
- 23 Fill with love (7)
- 24 River mouth (7)

### Down

- 1 Brimless cap (5)
- 2 Inappropriate (5)
- 3 Light indicating pedestrian crossing (7,6)
- 4 Administration (6)
- 5 Notice of summons issued on stationary vehicle (7,6)
- 6 Pungent member of onion family (6)
- 7 People of high birth (6)

- 12 Floral emblem of England (4)
- 14 New World flightless bird (4)
- 15 Bowler's target in cricket (6)
- 16 Lasso (6)
- 17 Provide protection against risk or damage (6)
- 19 Punctuation mark (5)
- 20 Dapper (5)

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