



THE VOICE OF LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

REFERENDUM

THURSDAY

WEEK 4

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SCAN

THE VOICE OF LANCASTER
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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

SCANEDITOR

BEN BAILEY

E-Mail: scan@lancaster.ac.uk

ASSISTANTEDITOR

WILL VEITCH

E-Mail: scanassistanteditor@gmail.com

NEWSEDITOR

ANITA VUKOMANOVIC

E-Mail: scannews@hotmail.com

DEPUTY NEWS EDITORS
STEVEN VITTLES
REBECCA RIELEY

FEATURESEDITORS

HANNAH LICKERT
SIMON FOGG

E-Mail: scanfeatures@hotmail.com

SPORTSEDITORS

PAUL COLLINS

IAN WATERHOUSE

E-Mail: scan_sport@hotmail.com

DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR
GAV SMILLIE

FUSIONEDITORS

JEMMA SMITH
RACHAEL DUNN

E-Mail: scanarts@hotmail.com

IAN KEYTE
PETER WATT

E-Mail: scanmusic@hotmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS

MARTIN ENNIS

E-Mail: m.ennis@lancaster.ac.uk

Phone: 01524 593422



SAVE PENDLE BAR!

Tony Barron

Lancaster University campus has been rife over the last week with rumours concerning the future of Pendle College. The rumours have specifically questioned whether Pendle College, or more accurately Pendle Bar will remain open.

At the start of term Guy Downing, the Pendle College Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) announced that he was leaving in the Summer Term. The Pendle College Principal, Peter Scullion, followed protocol and applied to the University for a replacement. This request was denied by the University and passed to the University's Budget Review Group (BRG).

Pendle SCR and JCR became extremely concerned that the University denied their request for a new DPS, since the DPS (or licensee) is a valuable member of all Colleges, and acts as an integral link between JCR and SCR. The College was obviously extremely concerned with the livelihood of Pendle Bar and what the University's denial would mean for the future of Pendle Bar and College Bars in general.

A meeting was called for the 22nd January where Principal Peter Scullion, JCR President Simon White and LUSU President Sooz Palmer would address members of Pendle College as well as any other students who attended the meeting. Pendle JCR emailed all their students advertising the meeting and posters started appearing across echoing sentiments to save Pendle and attend the meeting.

Bizarrely a Facebook group, which at the time of writing had 800 plus members, was also set-up under the title 'Save Pendle' and mass invites were then sent out to the students of Lancaster in order to increase awareness of this threat and to publicise the meeting.

On the evening of the 22nd Pendle Bar was packed to the rafters with students from all across campus who squeezed in to try and confirm the rumours that had engulfed the campus. Peter Scullion, the Pendle College Principal, explained the events of the preceding week regarding the situation with the current Pendle licensee and the



fact that the University had denied the request of advertising for a replacement. He explained everything that had happened since. The minutes of BRG stated that the future of the post was, for the moment, to be left vacant and that no advertising for a replacement could take place. If a successful appeal is put forward with justification for the post then it will be duly considered. The next meeting of the University Budget Review Committee is set to be in February and obviously this appeal is being put together now in readiness for that meeting. Further to this, Mr. Scullion added that all of the College Principals are in support of Pendle's battle.

Mr. Scullion then read aloud a letter from the University Vice Chancellor Paul Wellings and passed on these messages to the students of the University:

"As Vice-Chancellor I am not aware of anything happening within the University which would cause some of your members to circulate such hyperbole.

"For the record, the college system is secure at

Lancaster, there are no intentions to alter the colleges, there is no intention to close any college bar, and there is every intention to maintain and enhance the services and amenities within the colleges and elsewhere on campus.

"All that will happen is there will be an investigation into a more efficient way of running the bars in order to combat the increasing prices and create more potential for casual student labour."

Peter Scullion asked the students who support the cause of fighting for Pendle to keep its licensee and to "Keep the pressure on, but only through the correct channels, your JCR Executives and Students Union."

Simon White, Pendle JCR President, went on to say that: "For many students the college licensee is one of the first SCR members you meet and get to know, this is a great relationship and it would be a travesty to lose it."

Sooz Palmer, LUSU President, reiterated that "The current situation is unclear and the outcome cannot be predicted" she continued by stating that she believed the crowd that had gathered was justification in itself for a new Pendle licensee and proved the belief and support for a collegiate system with a level playing field.

There are currently fears that if the University do not advertise for a new licensee then Pendle Bar may be run by one of the other College's licensees, who would oversee two bars at the same time, largely relying on the assistant licensees. This would undoubtedly be a strain on Pendle and the other College involved. Another worry is whether the bar will be handed over to University Catering to run, and fears are widespread as to how this could affect College identity, tradition and spirit.

While there is student representation on almost every level of University Committees, unfortunately the University Bars Committee (The group that ran and controlled the College bars. JCR Presidents, the College Licensees and Principals together with commercial advisors sat on the Committee) was scrapped in December at the behest of the College Principals. Watch this space.



CAMPUS NEWS IN BRIEF

Blown away

The British weather welcomed Lancaster students back to university with such strong winds and heavy rains that some colleges were prompted to issue safety warnings to their students and some potentially dangerous areas were cornered off on campus.

Four people were killed in the North-west alone and a number of people were injured as a result of the storms. Colleges situated in the south west area of campus were most affected by the fierce gales and heavy rain and Cartmel and Lonsdale colleges in particular, suffered minor roof damage with tiles being blown off of roofs along with a few rouge TV aerials.

Such severe weather conditions caused some Residence Officers, like Sue Dunkeld at Pendle College, to encourage students to 'take extra care whilst walking around the site (and off site) and to be mindful of the potential hazards high winds can present.'

The wind and rain disrupted travel on the roads and railways as well. Two lorries were blown over by strong gales on the M6 heading into Lancaster and by the end of Thursday most trains were cancelled from Lancaster station and all trains were stopped from travelling at Preston. The Lancashire Fire and Rescue service were reported to have been 'inundated with calls' as the January storms developed. The Met Office is now predicting that January may still be host to some gales but they report that 'more settled weather is likely early in February.'

Rebecca Rieley

Stabbing in Fylde

A man was stabbed in Fylde College in the early hours of the morning on Tuesday 16th January. At approximately 2:10am the 24-year-old male, who is a member of staff at Lancaster University, was rushed to Lancaster Infirmary with stab wounds in the chest. Police are not looking for any other persons as it is believed the wounds are self-inflicted.

Soup's Certainly Up!

Souped Up, a student business set up through LUSU's Create project, started trading in the LUSU last Thursday. Selling two flavours Spicy Tomato, and Parsnip and Honey (it's got cider in it), Miguel Binnitti and Alistair Reeves were hard pressed to keep up with customer demand and estimate that they had up to 130 customers on their first day of trading.



"We did a test run on Monday which went well but we weren't expecting to be as busy as we were," said Alistair who is working on Souped Up full time. "Both soups went down a treat and we will be bringing out new ones regularly," said Miguel Binnitti a second year politics student. "The feedback we got back from people was excellent so hopefully they'll keep coming back for more!"

Postgraduate Open Day

Lancaster University hosts its Postgraduate Open Day on Wednesday 31st January. The event is taking place in the Conference Centre on the North Spine and offers students information about study options and funding as well as advice on how to write a research proposal for any prospective PhD students.

Most departments will be giving talks on their range of Masters and Doctoral programs and the Open Day includes information for International Students as well as discussions on the employability of postgraduates. The Open Day begins at 1pm and students are able to book tickets on line via www.lancs.ac.uk.

Pizzetta Remix

The newly refurbished Pizzetta has already attracted a large number of customers this term. The company spent a large amount of money refurbishing Pizzetta's dated

interior during the Christmas break and now new leather seats and sofas adorn the venue.

Pizzetta now opens as a coffee bar from 9am serving freshly ground coffee, continental cakes and sandwiches whilst a range of pizzas and burgers can be purchased throughout the day and until the early hours of the morning.

Manager, Abdullah Turgut, said: "I am exceptionally pleased with the refurbishment; we offer restaurant quality at takeaway prices."

Charlotte Davies



Roses Needs You!

Just because Roses is in York this year doesn't mean that we don't need your help! We're looking for 8-10 volunteers to help us in the great Roses effort. If you're interested in a weekend in York stewarding this event please contact Dave Greenshields, the AU President, on aupres@lancs.ac.uk before the end of week 3.

£6,000 fees next say VCs

Anita Vukomanovic
News Editor

Tuition fees for undergraduates in England will have to rise by up to £6,000 to cover teaching costs, according to a Guardian survey.

Over 40 of the country's universities responded to the survey, with most warning that fees would or could rise. Many also thought the Treasury would make student loans more expensive to repay, partly as a result of the cost of writing off unpaid debts to the Government, a figure that has risen to nearly £1 billion a year.

The survey was conducted through a questionnaire sent to every university in the country, of which most charge the maximum £3,000 fee they are entitled to under the new system. In their responses, most Vice-Chancellors requested anonymity due to the highly contentious nature of the subject.

A member of the Russell group implied that families should expect to save much more for their children's higher education, and suggested the country was heading to a US-style model, with fees to match. "If the country wants first-class universities, it has to find a way of paying for them. None of this is resolvable overnight. High tuition fees in US Universities are factored into families' lifetime financial planning.

"They want their children to have all the benefits of a

world-class education system for free, or at a cheap price, at the expense of the poor through taxation. No university would risk losing top students by over pricing. If the cap were to be lifted, say to £5,000, that would become the new universal fee. It would not be variable."

Another Russell group Vice-Chancellor said there was a direct link between the amount of resources available for teaching and the quality of graduates produced. In America, universities receive an average of £11,500 a year to teach each student. In England, this sum is just £7,300. "There are only two ways to bridge that gap," said one Vice-Chancellor. "One is by increased Government grant, which seems unlikely in the present circumstances, the other is by a higher tuition fee charge."

Concerns spread well beyond the Russell group, with heads of universities established within the last 15 years also believing the current system is unsustainable. They point to the strain that the loans system is putting on the Treasury. Students across Britain have borrowed more than £22 billion since 1991 but the Government has only recovered £5 billion through repayments or selling off debt to private companies.

However, the head of a newer university in the north of England said: "Students and their families may accept a marginal worsening of the current terms and conditions attached to student loans, but anything more significant may act as a disincentive, particularly to low-income families who tend to be more debt-averse."

LOCAL NEWS

Fylde Vandals

A total of £1 million worth of damage has been caused to a total of thirteen refuse trucks, in the neighbouring area of Fylde.

The incident, which took place in Thornton, has left five refuse trucks completely destroyed, with a further eight left damaged. Adding to the cost of replacement, Fylde borough council have had to hire replacement refuse vehicles for the time being.

Councillor Vivien Taylor, from Wyre Borough Council, said it was "yet another example of mindless damage."

She went on to say, "Some people think these crimes are no problem because an insurance company will pay, however, the truth is that we all have to pay to provide that insurance cover and incidents like this threaten to increase premiums."

Councillor Taylor also reported that the fire was so dangerous it could have caused "injury or death to the fire-fighters and to the culprits."

Black Box Discovered

Since the Eurocopter A5365N plummeted into the Irish Sea just miles from the Lancashire coastline in December, the search for

the black box has been active. That search is now over as on January 17th the flight data recorder (the 'black box') was recovered and has been taken to the Air Accidents Investigation Branch's (AAIB) headquarters in Hampshire.

The December crash resulted in the deaths of all seven men on board who were being ferried back to the mainland from their job sites on the Morecambe gas field rigs. The cause of the crash is still unknown but the recovery of the black box is the first step to solving this tragic accident's cause.

Missing Man Found

A man whose body was found washed up on a Lancashire beach, has now been identified by police.

Brian Hartley, aged 71, was last seen when he was caught on CCTV cameras in Preston city centre in the early hours of 28th November.

The pensioner's body was washed up on the shore at Warton on the Fylde peninsula last Tuesday afternoon.

Lancashire police have said there is no reason to believe suspicious circumstances surrounded his death, however a postmortem examination will later take place.

An inquest into his death will also be carried out.

REFERENDUM: THE ARGUMENTS

This campaign is not against the Women's Officer, it is pro-change and pro-equality. There are many arguments out there, emotive, practical, some you will disagree with, but this is your decision to make. We are giving you the option to change your representation if you wish.

The LUSU Women's Officer position, (Lancaster being only one of six Unions in the country to have this position) guarantees a female in the sabbatical team. Our proposed change would ensure there was male and female representation every year.

As already happens, any student who feels they need support can go to the LUSU Advice Centre where there are currently five women available to handle casework. This change will introduce one male allowing you to approach the sex of your choice with a personal issue.

It has been argued that men do not have the right or vested interest in who fills a female position, or that men do not hold the same beliefs as women do. But the women in question are the friends or girlfriends of every male on campus who, under the proposed change, would get the opportunity to vote for the person they feel would help support the women they care about, just as the JCR elections currently do.

This change would allow males and females to vote for both positions, with each vote carrying the same weight, laying to rest the argument that a sixth of the current sabbatical team serves half the Lancaster student population.

We believe that all Lancaster students should have the right to vote for all their sabbatical representatives – a right which the current system does not allow.

Many people fear for the continuation of the women's campaign should this referendum pass. However, the women's campaign would still continue through the non-sabbatical Women's Officer with a sabbatical officer for support as all liberation campaigns are currently run anyway. All liberation campaigns would become equal.

We are a Higher Education Institution and thus the educational needs and the general welfare of Lancaster students should be the priority for elected representatives.

The Education and Welfare remit according to the LUSU Constitution covers a vast area. This amount of work simply cannot be completed to a high level by one person. Under the new system, the work for the two roles could be weighted more fairly, resulting in equal representation and ensuring that each task could be afforded the care and attention it deserves.

The position of Women's Officer and its legitimacy at Lancaster is constantly debated by students. Why do we have a role where the occupant has to constantly defend their position? This change allows the women's campaign to continue and silence those who claim that the position of Women's Officer is unfair; this change gives men an equal position.

If you believe in a Union that should represent everyone, where all students have an equal vote, then please vote "yes" on Thursday of week 4 for a Male and Female Education and Welfare Officer.

Vote NO to the ill thought-out, costly and damaging referendum proposal which proposes to break up your education representation and disband the women's officer position.

Instead of one education sabbatical officer to provide key liaison with the university and coordinate campaigns for better library facilities, fair marking and other essentials, this referendum question proposes to duplicate the post – creating confusion and unnecessary costs. At the time of writing, LUSU has not yet defined the roles of the proposed positions: do they both do everything? Do they divide up the areas by agreement? Who will the university listen to on rent increases, academic appeals or top up fees? Will they have to try to liaise with two officers on everything or learn which officer has taken on which area of responsibility for each term of sabbatical office? Whose fault is it if a task is left undone? We are being asked to campaign and you are being asked to decide without being given the whole picture.

All students who want strong clear student union representation on academic issues should vote no.

A female education and welfare officer is severely undermined by men being able to vote her into or out of office. She would be far less accountable to women, far less representative of women. All students who want serious action to ensure a safe campus environment for women, who want women graduates to get a chance of equal pay when they graduate or even to get a fair deal at graduate recruitment fairs should vote NO. All students who want action against

the outdated under-representation of women involved in LUSU should vote NO. Anyone who understands that when a female Lancaster University student has been raped, has an unplanned pregnancy or is facing harassment, then they need a dedicated sabbatical women's officer to provide access to immediate support, should vote NO.

And what exactly would a male welfare officer do with his time that a general welfare officer could not do? There are very few male-specific issues and a Male Education and Welfare officer would struggle to find male issues that took up significant amounts of their time separate from wider welfare issues that affect everyone. Whilst men can be discriminated against because of their sexuality, race or disability, they are rarely discriminated against purely because they are men. Women, on the other hand, are unfortunately still subject to structural inequalities that mean that we are still under-represented in all major positions of power and underpaid. In duplicating the role of education and welfare officer, the result will be one officer covering substantially more issues than the other and confusion over the important welfare issues that affect all students.

This referendum is an ill thought out, confused and confusing waste of everybody's time. It pays lip service to education and women's representation whilst undermining the actual impact that our student union can have. We call upon the students of Lancaster University to vote NO to prevent this potentially costly mistake.

WHY HAVE A REFERENDUM?

Kirsten Smith
& Kate Sudweeks

The position of Women's Officer in the Student Union has raised debate since it was created over ten years ago, finally coming to a head at a Union Council meeting on December 7th last year. A resolution within the Council would have been both impossible and unfair, causing LUSU President Sooz Palmer to call this Union Referendum in order to put the decision into the hands of the student body.

The following question has been posed: "Is it your belief that the two current Sabbatical posts of 'Education and Welfare Officer' and 'Women's Officer' should be changed to two new Sabbatical posts of a 'Female Education and Welfare Officer' [in which only Females may stand] and a 'Male Education and Welfare Officer' [in which only Males may stand], both posts elected by full cross-campus ballot with the LUSU constitution amended accordingly and with effect from March 2007 for the 2007/08 Sabbatical elections?"

According to Sooz Palmer, this referendum affects every student. For the motion to pass there needs to be at least 1500 full members voting in favour, therefore LUSU stresses the importance of all students using their vote. "Referendums are the great

almighty, they can not be overruled" says Sooz. The creation of a Female Education and Welfare Officer and a Male Education and Welfare Officer will mirror the set up of the college JCRs, however arguments have been raised that such a set up would detract from the current women's liberation campaign.

The representation of female students in the Union would experience a major change, opening up all six positions to equal voting. Previously the Woman's Officer has been elected solely by female students. It has been asked why the Union can not just open up a seventh position to accommodate both sides of the debate, yet this is impossible due to lack of funding by the University.

Campaigns both for and against the Referendum have already been launched and will become increasingly widespread with poster campaigns and talks in lectures similar to those given by candidates for the Union elections. There will be a public debate taking place on Monday Week 3, 29th January at 7pm in a location yet to be confirmed. All students are welcome, either to participate or for further information on how these possible changes will affect their day to day lives.

The date of polling will be 8th February 2007 alongside the Union Elections. The voting will take place in the college porter's lodges for undergraduates and in the library for postgraduates.

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DEAR SCAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“RE: SCIENCE PARK THREATENS ENVIRONMENT”

Dear SCAN,

In response to the letter from Ian McCulloch in your previous issue, I wish to point out the many exaggerations and inaccuracies of his objection to the proposed Science Park at Bailrigg.

Firstly, Mr. McCulloch's call for a 'brownfield' site for the Science Park seems somewhat hypocritical considering his later praise for the Green Party (who have opposed plans to redevelop existing brownfield sites in Lancaster, such as the derelict area near the Sugarhouse). The Greens, of which McCulloch is a member, have repeatedly attempted to block any plans for development in Lancaster that would result in more jobs for the City, including jobs that would be perfectly suited to students or recent graduates.

It's also pretty baffling that McCulloch appears to be completely ignorant to the merits of the proposed site. According to him the Park "should be built close to where large numbers of people live...and be easily accessible to public transport, walking and cycling." What better place than next to the University then? The campus is home to over 3000 people, and it is well served by regular buses and a foot and cycle path from the city. The existence of a Science Park next to the university may even provide the impetus for even better public transport links in the future, which would be of mutual benefit to both the University campus and the Science Park.

Furthermore, Mr. McCulloch's wild claims that the Science Park plan includes 700 parking spaces are complete rubbish, as are the 'estimates' of massive tailbacks on the M6. There has not yet been any detailed planning application submitted to the Council, and no formal proposals exist apart from the vaguest possible idea for the Science Park itself. Mr. McCulloch is either chronically misinformed or deliberately attempting to spread disinformation. An ulterior motive perhaps?

Perhaps in future, Mr. McCulloch and his friends in the Green Party will get their facts straight before making opportunistic attacks on perfectly good proposals that will result in more jobs for students and graduates.

Dan Hogan

“RE: LACK OF TEXTS IS GETTING ME DOWN”

Dear SCAN,

I was disappointed to see the letter from Hannah Cornforth in the last edition of SCAN but pleased that she raised an important issue. She is absolutely right when she says “departments may not be aware of book shortages, and staff will probably be extremely helpful when consulted”.

I would like to add that students should also tell Library staff if they cannot find the books they need. Most departments are very good at keeping the Library informed, but we are aware that not all booklists reach us promptly. If you think yours has slipped through the net, then please knock on a subject librarian's door and tell them about it, or show the booklist to the staff at the enquiry desk. We will move quickly to get the books into stock, liaising with academic departments as necessary.

The Library's computer system analyses patterns of book use and reservations and prompts the ordering of extra copies, but there is no substitute for getting the booklists in the first place.

Even when we do have the lists, it can happen that the anticipated demand for the books has been underestimated (different courses needing the same title at the same time, more students on a course than expected, etc.), so please let us know either by telling Library staff, or by putting in a reservation (using the Hold request facility in the online catalogue). If we know that there is a problem we will do something about it.

Students are also very welcome to suggest books for purchase at any time via a link on our web pages (<http://libweb.lancs.ac.uk/orderingmaterial.htm>).

David Summers
Deputy Librarian

“RE: SHUT UP!!”

Dear SCAN,

I am writing to support “A disgruntled second year's” opinions in the last issue of SCAN. I am a first year student and have found it increasingly

Letter of the week

“COLD SHOWERS... AGAIN”

Dear SCAN

Being a first year and approaching university with the knowledge of the vast sums my parents needed to fork out so I could live and work in the luxury that Lancaster University and Cartmel College are, I believed problems with my accommodation would be fairly down the list of grievances.

However after now losing all hot water for the third or fourth occasion, having broken cookers left unrepaired for almost a week and friends complaining that repairs they've reported are left ignored, I start to wonder if value for money is being given.

I know Cartmel is relatively new but surely the

teething problems should have been ironed out by now, or at least be less frequent than they are at the moment. While I have no issues with any of the accommodation staff who are always friendly and willing to listen to our problems, it seems that this is as far as it goes on many occasions, while we are left to grin and bear ice cold showers or overcrowded cookers while the estates team get round to it.

I can appreciate the size of the task in hand for such staff but surely, for the amount students pay to the university, such problems could be dealt with more dialogue given, or even better, if the accommodation just stopped presenting so many problems!

An increasingly frustrated
Cartmelian...

difficult to concentrate not only in lectures but mostly trying to do work or relax in my room. On a regular occasion I am woken up by the sound of building works outside my window close to my accommodation. This continues throughout the day making it very difficult to study in my room or even just to get a few hours extra sleep if I don't have lectures til later on.

I find it difficult to work in the library because I am more comfortable in my room and feel I shouldn't be forced out of my room by the noise. I realise that the work is necessary to make Lancaster a better place but I also agree with the view that a lot of it could have taken place in the holidays - we're paying £3000 a year for tuition and a further variable but in all cases large amount of money for accommodation and have to put up with this noise. Some sort of compromise must be reached because trying to listen to my lecturer over the sound of a drill or trying to participate in seminars with the sound of a hammer in the background is getting more and more difficult!

Yours,
Jenna Hastings

but I feel it is a cause for concern. Many an evening I am utterly disgusted by the speed of cars that drive past my window. Keeping in mind that the speed limit is 20mph throughout campus, I would estimate that the average student doubles this speed after dusk.

However, more selfish than the showy speeder is the drink driver, and, although less frequently witnessed from my bedroom window, they're definitely out there. It basically consists of a guy coming back from the Carleton on a Wednesday, and spinning his car round the half empty carpark with his mates jeering, and stumbling from a frightfully close distance.

Rather than building to make more money, maybe the university should invest in some concrete for speed bumps, and CCTV that can catch the selfish bastards in the act.

A third year concerned with safety

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

WANT TO WRITE FOR SCAN?

NEWS FURNESS BAR: 3PM, MONDAYS (EVEN WEEKS) + 1PM, WEDNESDAYS (ODD WEEKS)

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

Night night...

As you wandered around Fresher's or re-Fresher's Fair this year, did you cast your eye over a midnight blue stall, with silver letters, gold moons and cups full of condoms, sweets and fuzzy bugs? If so, that was probably Nightline, the information and listening service, run by students, for students, and if you put your name down, then a gold star for you! Perhaps you're wondering how much work is involved, what the average volunteer does, and what it's like to man the phones. I've put together a little diary entry of a typical night on duty, so that next year, you can do something really worthwhile with your time, and volunteer for Nightline.

9:45pm: Arrive at the office, armed with books, laptop, DVDs and chocolate biscuits.

10:10pm: Answer a call about taxi numbers, giving the caller numbers of several taxi firms in Lancaster.

10:15pm: Answer an email, giving counselling service details.

10:45pm: Think about getting some work done, but decide that watching Harry Potter and having some biscuits is a much better idea. My fellow volunteer thinks so too.

11:20pm: Fellow volunteer answers a call.

12:45am: Finish Harry Potter, and the biscuits.

1am: Get a call about bus times, tell the caller when the last bus back to campus is.

2am: Eyelids drooping

3:30am: Answer a call from a very drunk individual, telling them that no, I couldn't come to town for a lock-in, as I was a bit busy. Thanked them when they told me I was their best friend, and wished them a good night when they said goodbye.

4:10am: Tell a stressed caller when the library opens.

4:30am: Other volunteer answers a call.

5am: Re-read Cosmopolitan to further avoid doing work

8am: Gather up my things and leave the office, looking more than a little bedraggled.

Do you think you could be there, ready to answer the phone to anyone that rings, between 10pm and 8am around three nights a term?

If so, email us at nightline@lancaster.ac.uk or ring us on 01524 594444, or ex94444, and we'll give you details on how to become a volunteer. This term, both the training sessions have passed, but if you are interested in becoming a volunteer next academic year, then sign up at Fresher's Fair or come along to one of the training sessions, held in October and again in January.



Volunteers overseas!

Last summer I volunteered abroad for the first time and travelled to Cambodia. I taught English, explored the ancient temples of Angkor, sampled Khmer cuisine and chilled out in Phnom Penh. It was fantastic, and I owe it all to a student led overseas volunteering society.

After starting at Lancaster I planned to do it again- join the Unis international volunteering society, sweat out the academic year and hit the road. This was until I found Lancaster had no such society.

So why can't we start one?

Other Universities have societies which provide volunteers for work with charities and non governmental organisations worldwide. Some of their projects are as far afield as Cambodia, Uganda, Bulgaria, Ghana, Ecuador, Poland and South Africa. Student volunteers teach English, raise Aids awareness, work in orphanages and help income generation projects with local communities.

Intervol would offer great opportunities for Lancaster students: There would be none of the extra costs private organizations heap on to make profit. Selection processes and meetings would be orientated around student timetables. Weekly socials would give volunteers a chance to get to know each other before travelling halfway around the world.

So what do we need to do?

Intervol is going to need volunteers to work on projects worldwide, meet new people, organise fund raising and host events. We're going to need an executive committee to publicise the society, hold presentations on different projects and organise social events. We're even going to need people to help us get set up, put up posters, recruit members and create a website.

If you want to volunteer, be on the committee or just help us in any way possible please e-mail: intervollancaster@yahoo.co.uk

You won't regret it!



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RANDOM UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE OF THE FORTNIGHT



SCAN Features goes for a little wander about campus to find some random employee. Do you recognise them? If so, good for you! Have a biscuit- that is of course unless you are allergic to biscuits.

Who are you?
Kerry.

What do you do?
Deli staff at The Spar.

Where are you from?
Lancaster.

What do you love most about Lancaster University?
The Spar. (Awwwwwww)

What do you hate most about it?
Ignorant students.

What image or idea most accurately sums up your life at the University?
Working at The Spar.

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

If you (God forbid) died tonight, what would be your biggest regret?
Not going to work abroad.

What is your favourite sound/noise?
Music.

Favourite word?
Chocolate.

Favourite Bond?
Pierce Brosnan.

Dalai Lama or regular llama?
Regular.

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

Ever been arrested?
No.

Ask Dr. Squash



Dear Dr. Squash (if that even is your real name...)

Dear Reader,

I call bullshit. Your column is obviously a farce, and at best a poor attempt at satire. Every individual who apparently writes in for your help is clearly a caricature created by someone with a rather limited imagination, and it's just not funny.

I don't doubt that this is just written by one of the editorial team who has an immature sense of humour and some space to fill. Did you also have to choose such a vulgar symbol to hide behind? The fact that you conceal your identity to cover your shame is just plain dishonest.

Yours Sincerely,

Anonymous

You and I are very much alike. Obviously I don't mean in appearance, but in your willingness to question what you don't trust. That is an admirable trait. Everyone should be willing to voice their dissent, so the vast amount of people who need to be told to shut the fuck up can do exactly that. Sadly, I have to disappoint you. Let's look at the characters I have given advice to: a spoilt rich girl, and overworked student, a guy with a bad sex life, and an attention seeker. I hate to break it to you, but such creatures do exist in the real world. To prove the authenticity of this column, I decided to print your letter. It can stand as a testament to my commitment to truth, and therefore evidence that I am certainly not lying about all the fuckwits and malcontents out there.

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.

We're all going on a term-time holiday

Jonathan Starr

On Tuesday 16th January a large number of staff and students from Lancaster University managed to wangle free holidays to various European destinations. How? This was no charity giveaway, instead the holidays were acquired through a rogue email containing a link into the inner workings of the Ryan Air booking system.

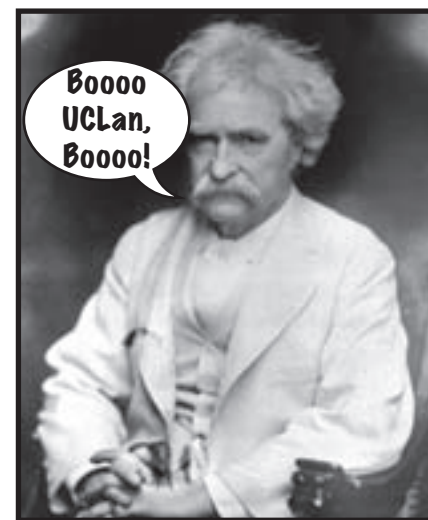
The email found its way to a Grizedale College member who decided to take advantage. Word soon spread along the corridor and many of the students booked themselves weekends away to Ireland, France and Spain with the only expense being the time spent deciding where to go. However, Ryan Air's troubles did not end there as it was not long until the email was passed on to the next flat. And soon, through the power of the internet a large majority of block 43 were browsing the Ryan Air website deciding where they wanted to go.

After deciding that it was cruel not to share this new-found opportunity with the masses, the message was passed on to the college porters with instructions to pass the

information on to security. Whilst this was happening, word was spreading about Ryan Air's problem as the email was being sent to various places around the country including Manchester, Sussex, and even Newcastle. The message was clear, pass it on.

It was not long until word was sent out to parents who were then instructed to pass the email on to work colleagues. Soon employees of the NHS were asking for holiday leave so they could jet off round Europe for the weekend. This is not to say that the email stayed in this country. A few hours after the email had originally been received it was discovered that it had reached as far as Denmark. It is unknown how far the email has reached (at the time of writing, 4 hours have expired from initially receiving email) and how many people find themselves on the receiving end of a free holiday.

Between now and the beginning of February Ryan Air will be seeing a lot of students with some connection to Lancaster jet setting across Europe. This was a day of great joy for members of Lancaster University and a day of great misfortune for Ryan Air. Ryan Air have since stated that they will honour all the tickets. Result!



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY- BETTER LOOKING THAN YOU

Mark Twain is away...

Lancashire Cup is over. Preston Poly whipped our touses and I'm sure wounds are still being licked and perhaps hangovers are still being nursed, even after the weekend.

On a positive note though, I found, after being forced by those fascists at SCAN to take a coach down to the godforsaken town, that our competitors are of a much, much higher standard in the looks department.

And whilst this may not win us sports matches, we can hold our heads up high, look about us, and thank the good Lord that we were intelligent (or lucky hey football boys?) enough to get into a *real* University.

Whilst traipsing around their, let's face it, really rather impressive, Sports Arena, I saw a bevy of stunning netballers (all in black), more than one beautiful female footballer (a Lancaster player), some excessively pretty hockey and tennis girls (Lancaster- but I imagine you guessed that) and a ridiculously good-looking (Lancastrian) rugby girl. Turns out they do exist.

Those Preston girls sure can drink, but I now know all about the evils of drinking (greasy skin, lank hair, grey eyes, bellies, horrible language) from one circuit of 53 Degrees. *Not* pretty.

So whilst the Cup may stay in Preston, thankfully so will Preston, and with it their foul number.

Those of you who have visited York, especially during Roses weekend, will know that they are, for the most part at least, attractive and intelligent. But they are also boring. So very boring.

So even if we lose Roses, which we won't, Lancaster will still be 2-0 up in the humanity race, and at the end of the day surely that's more important.

PS I'm sure our male sporting elite aren't too shabby either, but I'm not really into that if you know what I mean. (Not that there's anything wrong with that. I'll shut up now.)



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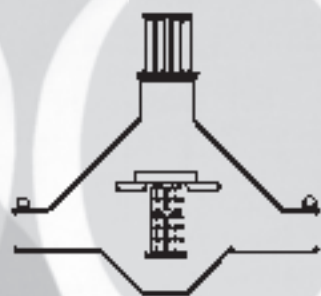
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Waste-of-space book

Rachael Butler

Status

Rachael is writing a SCAN article. Updated just a moment ago.

Today

Rachael is suffering from the 'she has work to do' munchies. Chocolate poptart anyone? 9:31 am

Rachael joined the group 'Anatidaephobia: The fear that somewhere, somehow, a duck is watching you...' 9:54 am

Rachael wrote on [insert name]'s wall. 10:03 am

Rachael commented on her own photo 'I am never doing tequila slammers and the cha cha again' 11:01 am

Many of you will be familiar with such Facebook-ish jargon, but for those of you who are not... Facebook is a social utility that connects you with the people around you. Facebook is made up of many networks, each based around a company, region, high school or college.

You can use Facebook to:

Share information with people you know.

See what's going on with your friends.

Look up people around you.

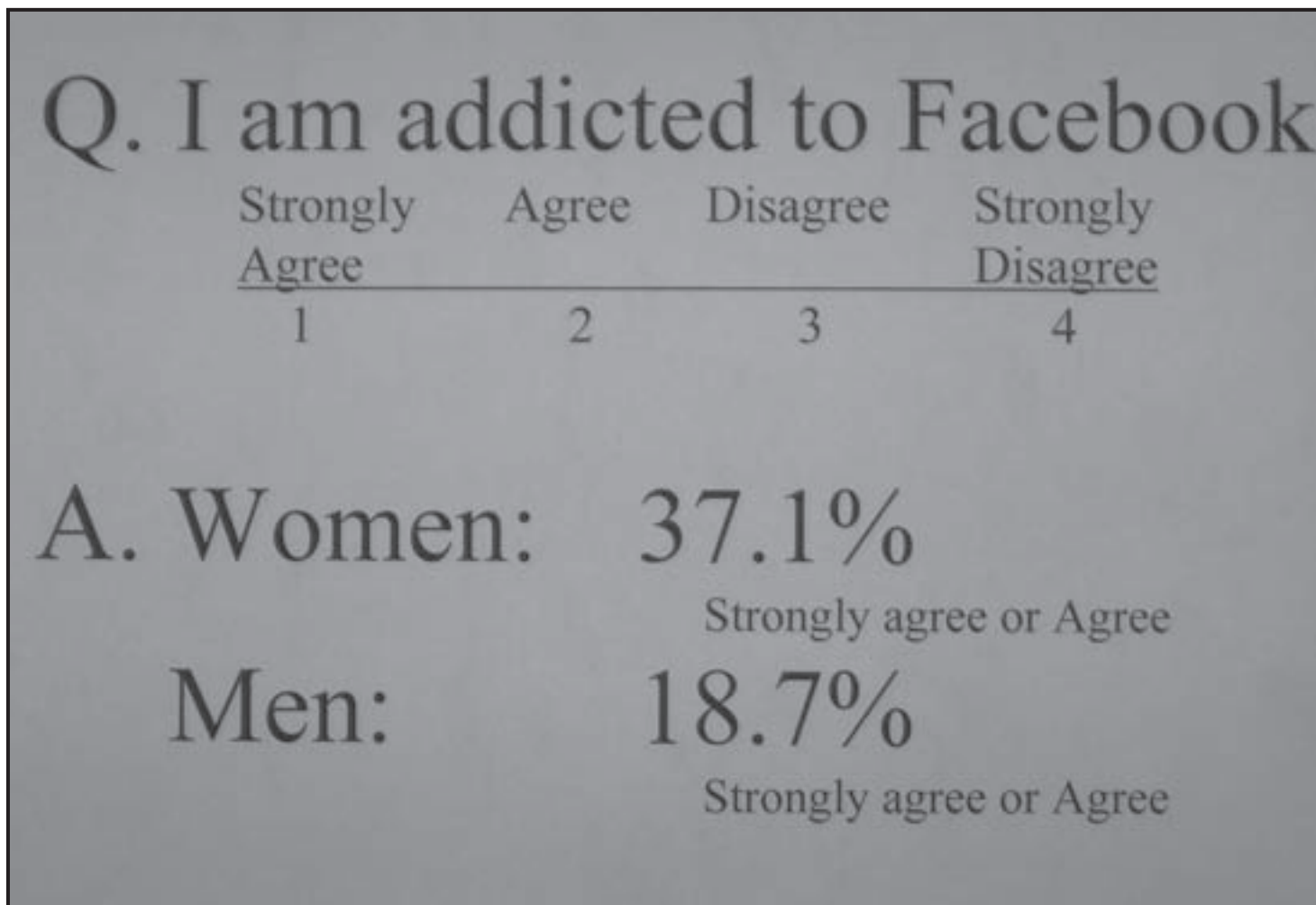
(Basically, it's a stalker's wet dream.)

Rachael discussed 'its just so tempting' in the group 'Facebook is ruining my degree'. 11:30 am

University has taught me valuable lessons about who I am, why I'm here and what I'm supposed to do. Facebook has made me realize that actually I'm a lazy sod. It's a total waste of space yet a social addiction and from walking past the computers in the library, I know many of you are sufferers. It's just so tempting when you're sitting around bored off your arse chewing a biro (aka working) to see if anyone has written you a wall post, or tagged you in a photo, or done something else highly exciting, (all of which would be displayed on the 'news feed'). Plus, it's foolproof. On your own profile, it says 'This is you' in brackets next to your name, just in case you're having a bad day and have forgotten who you are and what you look like.

Rachael is listed as single. 11:57 am

Facebook lets people know where you're at. You give your relationship status; single, married, in an open relationship... it's also liberal in the sense it allows you to choose more than one. You can



state what you're looking for; a relationship, friendship, dating, whatever you can get, or random play. This is useful when you add someone you've been drooling over because you can check whether they're taken, suss out if they're good boy/girlfriend material and then bombard them with suggestive wall posts.

Rachael wrote a new note. 12:20 pm 'The verbs 'to facebook' and 'to poke'

Ring and texting are on the way out. Email seems so last year. 'To Facebook' is now the current hip verb; 'I'll Facebook you it'. Facebooking has actually become a topic of conversation. Similarly, I have never heard so many usually reserved personalities shout 'he poked me last night!' over their lunch. 'Poking' is an interactive feature of Facebook, though no one really knows what it's for. Personally I'm sure it's the answer to world peace. If more world leaders became 'friends' they could merely 'poke' each other if they came to a disagreement, as opposed to invading each others countries or threatening civilisations with annihilation.

Rachael plans to attend [insert event]. 1:45 pm

Facebook is the cheapskate's way of ringing or

texting to organize things. Instead of spending 10p asking someone if they want to meet up, you can Facebook 'em for free and are more likely to get a reply. You can also organize things as a group, which makes planning to go out easier as everyone finds things out at the same time.

Rachael commented on her own photo. "I'm petitioning for the banning of tagging!" 3:15 pm

We have all seen photos taken of nights out before, usually presented humanely on the discreet screen of a camera. But no, on Facebook, enormous pictures flash up on the computer for the world to see of you with your arms wrapped round a road sign, pretending to kiss a traffic cone with your skirt tucked into your knickers. As if a hangover wasn't enough punishment for a good night out, with photo albums and photos of you tagged by others, the aftermath is prolonged. It's the ones of me singing in clubs that really get to me. I look like I'm trying to eat the dance floor whole. Tagging is cruel.

Rachael and [insert name] are now friends. 4:57 pm

Facebook is brilliant for re-establishing friendships. People you've drifted apart from can track you

down or vice versa and suddenly you find wall posts saying 'hey how are you?' from people you met randomly or remember from school. With some of my new 'friends' I've thought, 'mate, do you care?' But others it's nice to hear from again. Sometimes people invite you to be their 'friend' but you decline their invitation. For example, I received a 'friend request' from a guy I sat next to in the infants. He used to kick me in the cloakroom and hide my school uniform after PE. At twenty, that would be labelled sexual tension, but at six, it was mean.

Rachael joined the Lancaster network. 7:33 pm

Facebook allows you to be the ultimate nosey parker. I think that's half its appeal. It's so organized and easy to worm your way in and out of people's profiles and stalk them. Right now someone could be eyeing up your picture. Hell, I could have seen it last night.

Rachael is being driven up the wall, please refrain from writing on it. 9:01 pm

Rachael is now going to finish her essay. 9:57 pm

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L'ORÉAL
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Weird Lancaster

Weird Dan chats with that weird local dude, Kr!ss Foster

Weird Dan

Puppets, necrophilia and Dale Winton. Now that's what I call a bloody good night. I am, however, referring to the music and antics of local anti-folk hero Kriss, or rather Kr!ss Foster. In the last few years, he has evolved from offending village halls to a recent NME appearance.

But why, you ask, is he weird? Well, for starters he's been known to perform in the guise of a leopard. He bought the 'baby grow' style outfit in a closing down sale(!), and even had the testicles to wear it for a spot of leopardish shopping in town (before some rascal called him a 'poof' and pinched his tail). Other such animal madness was demonstrated after the weird horse sculpture on Market St was craned away last year. That very night our Kr!ss sculpted his own cardboard horse head, and positioned himself in the statue's place the next day as a tribute.

He combines sincere, melodic guitars with lyrics about B-list celebrity killing sprees. 'Well she could have been a model, but she got hit by a bus.'

Despite the odd novelty element, however, he manages to avoid complete nonsense. Indeed, he expresses distaste at being palmed off as 'some wacky guy.' Whilst being hilarious, his songs maintain a definite, if dead pan, artistry that allows musical credibility to penetrate



the madness. He combines sincere, melodic guitars (and the odd kazoo break) with lyrics about B-list celebrity killing sprees. Even his lyrics appear genuinely tragic at times. For instance, we have the line 'Well she could have been a model, but she got hit by a bus,' darkly reminiscent of 'There is a light that never goes out.' It's perhaps this combination that allows him such broad appeal. Indeed, he manages to get himself about does this chap. For instance, his endearing song 'Morecambe,' with the immortal chorus 'it's a place that's by the sea, it's just like Venice, but it's not in Italy' has been aired at Christie Park to boost the power of the mighty Shrimps.

I asked him about his weirdest gig. He said he was asked to perform on 'The Bay' radio at a charity Xmas lights switch off. That's right, a

switch off! Apparently a famously festive household in Morecambe offered to turn its dazzling lights off for a good cause, and Kr!ss played live on air before the moment of darkness. I also asked him about any weird fan experiences. He said he's had none, but seemed quite disappointed that he hadn't. Stalkers and 'characters' can torment him online at <http://www.myspace.com/krissfoster>

Other random trivia- he is also a brutal Scrabble player, and has officially challenged me to a game. If you're reading Kr!ss, I will CRUSH you! I will CRUSH you! (If I'm allowed a dictionary and you're not). He is even known to don the Café Nero apron, and promises me he makes a 'bloody awesome' Mocha.

His endearing song 'Morecambe,' with the immortal chorus 'it's a place that's by the sea, it's just like Venice, but it's not in Italy' has been aired at Christie Park to boost the power of the mighty Shrimps.

A regular performer at the Yorkshire House, his future gigs will include a performance at a London bowling alley, but first you can check, check, check him out at the Lancaster's own Pendle Bar on the 11th of Feb.

DO YOU HAVE A WEIRD STORY ABOUT LANCASTER?

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

THE VAGINA TEST

WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR VAGINA LIKE? TAKE OUR QUICK'N'EASY TEST TO FIND OUT!

What do you think of tampons?

- a) Scratchy and irritable, what's wrong with a bit of lubrication?
- b) I just shut my eyes, grit my teeth, and up it goes.
- c) I stick 'em up my nostrils when I have a runny nose

How often do you visit your gynaecologist?

- a) Not as much as I would if they warmed up their instruments a bit beforehand!
- b) I tend to forget most of my appointments for some reason....
- c) Is a gynaecologist anything like a chiropodist?

How do you feel about thongs?

- a) Ouch. No thanks!
- b) I'm quite happy with my bulk-buy plain-white panties, thanks.
- c) I like that song by Cisco...

What do you call your vagina?

- a) Rocky
- b) Call it? What, like a name??
- c) 'Vagina'

What does your vagina smell like?

- a) Like pussy, damnnit!
- b) How on Earth would I know that?
- c) Um...Roses?

If your vagina could speak, what would it say?

- a) "Leave me alone!"
- b) That's a silly question, vaginas can't talk (thank goodness!)
- c) "What am I doing here?"

WHAT DO YOUR ANSWERS SAY ABOUT YOU?

MOSTLY 'A's: Your Vagina is angry. Lighten up! Go see a good comedy - Like The Vagina Monologues. Have a laugh, relax and learn that your vagina is not alone.

MOSTLY 'B's: You seem scared of your vagina. You need a little one-on-one time with it, to realise its true beauty. Go see The Vagina Monologues, and discover how wonderful vaginas can be.

MOSTLY 'C's: You don't seem to even have a vagina! If you're a man, this is understandable. However, you can get in touch with your inner vagina by seeing the Vagina Monologues.

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Go suck a lemon: Why are old people so bitter?

Hannah Lickert looks at the elderly and why the old codgers seem so intent on criticising the young. Maybe it is because they are fucking old- just a guess.

Hannah Lickert
Features Editor

When I was on the bus the other day, a woman with a crutch got on, and walking past my friend and I, complained loudly that she couldn't fit her broken leg on the regular bus seats. I was unaware that I was sitting in the priority seats, and immediately offered mine to this woman.

But she refused, and I even though I got up and tried to insist, she was determined not to take it, preferring instead to sit behind us, complaining about her leg further, enjoying her martyrdom

and no doubt feeling smug over the non-existent victory she felt she had over us. Why do people do this? Why do they target

young people especially, trying to catch them out being typical inconsiderate self-centred youths, so they can take an easy swipe at them afterwards?

This isn't the first time I've encountered immature adults or OAPs relishing the opportunity to have a go at students. I was sat in the front seats of a single decker last year, holding a big suitcase in front of me, and although I wasn't aware of it, my companion realised the women a couple of seats behind us were talking about us. He turned round and said "Look, you can have these seats if you want," leading me to realise they had been bitching about us teenagers having the front seats. They of course said "Oh no, no, you just stay there, it's fine," trying to cause us maximum embarrassment in front of the rest of the bus. What is the point, I thought. Is this giving you a sense of self-satisfaction that you'll carry around lovingly in your embittered self all day?

I'm not going to pretend that sometimes this snide behaviour isn't justified, or even needed. I've seen some school children behaving shockingly towards adults, spitting at them, deliberately swinging their backpacks into them, blowing smoke in their faces. If a gang of kids are blocking a doorway, causing a nuisance or being generally anti-social, then I'm all for people who have the guts to go and tell them to stop it, or at least make them feel uncomfortable for

misbehaving so they move on and bother a new group of people.

But the truth is, old people (and, let's be honest, it's usually the over-60s who indulge in these indirect criticisms) don't have the guts to tell strangers off when they're really being naughty, and will usually just tut at their neighbour, or give them disapproving looks. What they really love is picking on people our age, who "really ought to know better," even if all they're doing is sitting on the front seats of the bus, because they don't want to leave their fragile bag to slide all over the baggage platform. Never mind if the OAP is perfectly agile and in no real need of the front seats. It's the principle of the thing, because, you know, these people were never young, and if they were, would never have dreamed of behaving with such thoughtless disrespect to their elders and betters. They have always treated their fellow human beings with utmost civility, and certainly never put a toe out of line when they were young.

The thing is, we can't really retaliate to their rudeness without compounding their negative view of us. It's a lose-lose situation, so the only answer is never to sit down on a bus. Unless, of course, you want to incur the wrath of some sulky, indignant octogenarian on her way back from Booths, with a bag of cat food in her hand and murder in her heart.



This is supposed to be a picture of a zimmer frame. Is it convincing? It was all we could find. If anyone has a problem with the picture and doesn't think it passes as a convincing zimmer then please email us on wedontreallycare@lanaster.ac.uk Have a nice day now.

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FUSION

Talking Dirty

INTERVIEW
DIRTY PRETTY THINGS LIVE AT MANCHESTER APOLLO
SIMON BUTCHER

Every cloud has a silver lining. Tonight's performance in a two tier converted theatre must seem a world away from the stormy nature of the final *Libertines* gigs played without Doherty late in 2004. *Dirty Pretty Things* are indeed the bright sparks to emerge from the ashes of *The Libertines* phenomenon. Despite forming back in September 2005, Carl Barat is still haunted by the controversy and accusations concerning the split, whilst his band will always be considered by old fans a poorer version of what once was.

Rossomando likened Barat to "the quiet kid in class. Everyone presumes that's the kid that's fucked up or weird and has something to hide (despite) keeping his dignity and his mouth shut during a lot of tabloid bullshit."

Dirty Pretty Things deserve respect for not letting the past hold them back. They are a professional group of musicians who were not afraid to face the world and restart from scratch. "We had to throw ourselves into the fire and feel like a real band again, to be fair we were pretty shit when we played the first tour but we had to find our way with each other" says guitarist Anthony Rossomando.

The fast-paced, energetic nature of the live performance embodies the recording style. With critics to answer, and points to prove, bassist Ditz Hammond admits that the material was recorded in "a bit of a rush" stating that "the first twelve songs we wrote were immediately put on the record" but this was due to the band wanting to quickly put rumours to bed and establish themselves as a band in their own right and create a "distance from whole *Libertines* thing".

"Due to *The Libertines* being so treasured, this venture would always originally be seen as Carl's new project"

The aggressive live *Libertines* spirit is eminent, without Doherty this comes from the sheer anger felt at the time of recording. Rossomando stated

that each song "was a portrait and captured the mood at the time". Rossomando likened Barat to "the quiet kid in class. Everyone presumes that's the kid that's fucked up or weird and has something to hide". Despite Barat keeping "his dignity and his mouth shut during a lot of tabloid bullshit", Rossomando asserts that "this band shows how much creativity is in Carl and shows how much he put into those *Libertines* records".

Despite accepting that "due to *The Libertines* being so treasured, this venture would always originally be seen as Carl's new project." Hammond asserts that "it's not a vehicle for any one person as it is co written and creative influences come from all corners." Songs such as 'Blood Thirsty Bastards' and 'Bang Bang You're Dead' were written "from a very personal and singular point of view" while 'Gentry Cove' was "more of a story written by

Carl and Ditz which took a long time and has a progression to it".

What has resulted from the demise of *The Libertines* is a much more professional group with exciting if, slightly rushed, material. But without the controversy and publicity Doherty's illegal antics provided, *Dirty Pretty Things* are finding it difficult to attain the fame and notoriety their skill merits.



Albums

Brand New, Brand New

ALBUM

BRAND NEW: THE DEVIL AND GOD ARE RAGING INSIDE ME

KATE JOHNSON



Photo courtesy of johndeeb.com

On the face of it all, *Brand New* have everything: the cute lead singer, the dedicated fan base, and, based on the sales of their 2003 release *'Deja Entendu'*, a formula that really works. Changing a winning formula can spell disaster for many bands, but not *Brand New*.

The third offering from the Long Island quintet is musically sophisticated and lyrically complex. Not a note similar to the juvenile pop-punk beginnings of 2001's *'Your Favourite Weapon'* and *'With Only Whispers'* their sophomore album through tracks like *'Degausser'* and *'The Archers Bows Are Broken'*. There are slight hints of *Modest Mouse* on tracks like *'Jesus Christ'*, with lead vocalist Jesse Lacey's voice

as hypnotic as ever. He quivers through cryptic lyrics that draw similarities to *The Smiths*, which are in sharp contrast to the upbeat instrumentation that sits behind him on tracks like *'Not The Sun'*.

The album cannot be classed under that dreaded "E" word. The dark chilling vibes mixed with the upbeat tempo really sets it into a genre of its own. As one of the most highly anticipated albums of 2006, it has helped show what *Brand New* are really capable of. The instrumentals are both delicate and well crafted; yet do get a little boring after a while and the pop-punk-infused past influences are sadly missed. Yet the mixes of grungy choruses and simple acoustic melodies leave you wondering if you can really wait 3 more years for the next instalment.

Surfin' All Over The World

ALBUM

VARIOUS ARTISTS: A BROKE DOWN MELODY (OST)

IAN KEYTE

In the past, the stereotypical view of surfing would have brought to mind the likes of *The Beach Boys* or perhaps *Dick Dale*. However, the recent series of surfing documentaries, featuring the likes of *Jack Johnson* and *The Malloys* paint a far from stereotypical picture of the surfing experience.

This is certainly reflected in the soundtrack of the new film *A Broke Down Melody*, which aurally navigates you through some of the exotic filming locations including the Caribbean, Indonesia and South America with a delicate

intimacy and subtlety.

Singer-songwriters play a predominant role with *Jack Johnson* leading from the front. His contribution includes two new songs but more impressively

an acoustic version of his song *'Breakdown'*. The acoustic theme is maintained with delightful tracks from the likes of *Kings of Convenience*, *Mt. Egypt* and *Eddie Vedder*. Elsewhere, the acoustic songs are cleverly dispersed

with more up-tempo numbers such as *Doug Mattsch's* *'Window'* and *Johnny Osbourne's* *'We Need Love'*.

Sadly, the momentum and tempo that builds up on the albums first half is not maintained towards the album's end. Most Costa fails to impress in amongst his peers and *Koop's* remix of *Astor Piazzolla* song *'Vuella Al Sur'* drifts into an ambient listlessness. It can almost be likened to a wave losing its energy (perhaps that's what it's meant to symbolise). Nevertheless, this cannon subtract from what is a joyously warm and eclectic collection of songs.



Losing Their Marbles

ALBUM

THE MARBLE INDEX: SELF-TITLED

CATHERINE FEARN

The *Marble Index* loved the British indie/rock sound so much that they were prepared to travel all the way from Ontario to Wigan in order to achieve the music identity they sort. There quest was long and unglamorous but apparently worthwhile considering the solid first album furnished with a rich variety of songs.

The range of distinctive tracks can be credited in part to the extensive vocal style of lead singer, Brad Germain, whose versatile voice is capable of taking on a strained, rebellious

quality reminiscent of *The Strokes*.

From an instrumental perspective it is easy to identify the influential sounds of the band's heroes *The Clash* and *The Pixies* amongst the skilful and confident interplay of guitar, bass and drums. However, their 'U.K. sound' has compromised their music style to some extent as it does not deviate too far from similar sounding bands already in existence.

The music encompasses a wide range of tastes, enabling the listener to find something they like amongst this Canadian/British fusion of styles.

Singles

Lily Allen: Littlest Things

Joe Polechonski

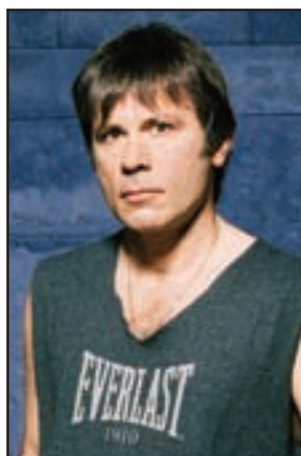
Instrumentally *'Littlest Things'* is brilliant, especially the opening piano, blatantly stolen from *'Karma Police'*, but vocally and lyrically it's a mess. Absurd lyrics are breathlessly crammed into every line just to make them rhyme. Allen describes this as the only 'love song' she's ever written. Let's hope that it stays that way.



Iron Maiden: Different World

'Metal' Mark McGlashan

Classic *Maiden*. There's not much in this single that they haven't already done but God, it's still good. *'Different World'* is very poppy with a bloody catchy chorus and is much more anthemic than previous release *'The Trooper'*. After 31 years and 25 albums no energy has been lost by these revolutionaries.



Keane: A Bad Dream

Laureen Reeves

Inspired by the Yeats poem *'An Irish Airman Foresees His Death'*, *'A Bad Dream'* features Tom Chaplin's much acclaimed vocals accompanied by the band's ability to blend different instruments and create a sound unique to them. If you're a *Keane* fan, there is no room for disappointment, if you aren't, this single will make you change your mind.



A Nice Cup of T



“I think that’s the scrappiest version I’ve ever done of that,” draws Jamie T at the end of ‘Brand New Bass Guitar’, the opening track on ‘Panic Prevention’. Scrappy or not, the recording is so real, so now that it just can’t fail to capture your imagination.

Jamie T’s debut album is a collection of London parables, sets in the suburbs of Wimbledon, where he comes from, and all around London. Loosely describable as British hip-hop or urban dance, ‘Panic Prevention’ is sure to be mentioned in the same breath as *The Streets*, *Lily Allen*, *Plan B* et al.

T though is nevertheless a

singular proposition and his album betrays influences as diverse as *Ray Charles*, *Ian Dury* and *Bob Marley*, as well as the more obvious *Billy Bragg*, *The Specials* and *Dizzee Rascal*.

Sparse, unforgiving lyrics such as “Feel drunk already/ Maybe drink got spiked/ More likely of the like/ Is I’m just a lightweight” and “They’ll steal your girlfriend/ Take her out the back/ She’ll come back limping” welcome us into Jamie’s world, a world perhaps typified by urban anthem ‘Sheila’, and one of dirt and grime. “Sheila goes out with her mate Stella/ It gets poured all over her fella/ Cause she says man it ain’t no better/ Than the next man kicking up fuss”.

ALBUM
JAMIE T: PANIC PREVENTION
WILL VEITCH

Whilst the thematic brutality is relentless though, the music is often nothing short of beautiful. The beats vary wildly from track to track, synths are used, although not overused, and there is enough guitar for indie fans not to have to worry.

I’ll leave you not with my words, but with some more of Jamie’s, “I ain’t no abacus/ But you can count on me”. Indeed.



A Little Sing Along

EP
THE LITTLE ONES: SING SONG
CATHERINE FEARN

Californian five-piece *The Little Ones* specialise in sugary indie pop that will either leave you with a bitter aftertaste or a sugar rush. The mini album ‘Sing Song’ certainly would fall into the saturated indie pop category with

the emphasis on ‘pop’ rather than ‘indie’, so it’s surprising when the reverse becomes apparent.

The EP opens with ‘Let Them Ring the Bells’, two and a half minutes of what can only be described as “wooah ooah’s”, looped over a catchy drum beat, during which the opening riff of *Oasis*’ ‘She’s Electric’ is briefly paid homage to. The song continues promisingly, with glockenspiels and tambourines kicking in, but fails to live up to its nod to rock n roll, letting you down gently instead with more umming and oohing.

Continuing with some more little sparks of interesting noise, tracks like ‘Lovers Who Uncover’ and ‘Heavy Hearts Bridge’ are

handclapping, guitar strumming ditties that at times have the potential to shake off the sugary smack of indie pop only to rise into familiar *Killers*-esque chorus line territory. ‘Oh, MJ!’ is a familiar track, having recently heard it getting air play on Steve Lamacz’s show and without a doubt is this album’s standout sing song, with its driving drum beats and guitar delay this one can definitely be danced to under the disco lights.

At the moment indie pop is like a giant sweet shop luring unsuspecting kids with its saccharine fuelled songs, and *The Little Ones* would be popping candy, interesting little noises that burst unexpectedly but sadly leave with you nothing else.



Nerves Of Steel (Guitar)

ALBUM
MY DEVICE: NERVOUS SYSTEM
JAMES MONTGOMERY

Having acquired the prestigious title of 2006’s best ‘breaking band’ in Britain from NME, you would hazard a guess that *My Device* may be feeling the pressure to live up to such a lofty claim. If they are, it doesn’t show on ‘Nervous System’, their debut offering. The resulting sound is assured, spiky alternative rock, which possesses confidence. With song titles such as ‘Holy Cow I’m Happy Now’, they also seem to have a sense of humour.

Opener ‘Get On Like A House On Fire’ is the best track here. With a ramshackle guitar riff accompanied by pounding

drumbeats, this short barrage of sound immediately grabs the listener and dares it to not dance like a madman. Indeed, the fleeting length of most of the tracks (‘Get On Like A House On Fire’ clocks in at just 1:43) undoubtedly works to the bands advantage. If they were any longer, they would not contain the energy that they presently do.

Conversely, the more mid-tempo song ‘That’s All Folks’ runs for over 5 minutes, and yet does not seem to suffer for it, which makes me wonder if perhaps a more versatile approach would broaden the bands sound.

And here lies the biggest let down of the CD. Whilst the album encapsulates the

passionate and aggressive noise *My Device* were obviously trying to achieve, I found it fairly difficult to differentiate between the end of one track and the start of another. This is disappointing, as the band do show promise. A more defined sound in each track would have helped the record immensely.



Singles

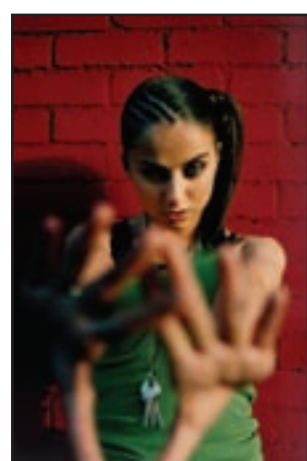
The Good, The Bad, The Queen: Kingdom of Doom
Ian Keyte

Damon Albarn’s new band may not supply the kind of danceable pop tunes that his previous projects have done, but what they are blessed with is a wonderfully subtle intensity. Black thunder clouds roll over gentle acoustic guitars and haunting keyboards, while Albarn’s vocals echo from within. Chilling, yet strangely beautiful.



Lady Sovereign: Love Me Or Hate Me
Peter Watt

In her relentless musical travels through originality (cough, cough, *bullshit*.) the chavtastic tyke spits so quaintly, ‘love me or hate me, it’s still an obsession.’ Seeing obsession as weakness, I refuse to give an opinion on this track meeting her with utter indifference. So meh is all I can say Miss Sovereign, meh indeed.



Badly Drawn Boy: Journey from A to B
James Montgomery

With an insistently pretty piano hook, this tale of persuading a lover that their relationship is worth salvaging is one of the better offerings from BDB’s latest album, ‘Born in the UK’. The song doesn’t deviate from Gough’s established formula, but when his efforts are as charming as this, does he need to?



Film

FILM
THE OMEN
STARRING: DAVID THEWLIS, MICHAEL GAMBON AND PETE POSTLETHWAITE
AMY WILLIAMS

Having recently watched the original *Omen* film for the first time, and having been quite impressed, I really expected to hate this remake. I assumed the plot would morph into the usual teen horror genre, involving copious amounts of unnecessary gore (see *Hostel* for further details) and tragically poor acting (again I feel compelled to direct you to *Hostel*...), but I have to admit that John Moore's adaptation really surprised me.

The original plot is respectfully recreated to such an extent that you may almost find yourself wondering why Moore even bothered, until you realise just

how compelling, well acted, and downright creepy the new version really is! For those of you unfamiliar with the storyline, the film begins with Robert Thorn (Liev Schreiber), godson of the President of the United States, learning that his wife Kate (the excellent Julia Stiles) has lost their first child in a difficult labour.

Thorn is informed that his wife may never be able to conceive again, and following the advice of an undeniably eerie priest, he agrees to adopt a motherless newborn boy and pass him off as his own child, for the sake of both the child and his unconscious wife. Their 'son', Damien (Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick), is able to mature in a seemingly perfect and privileged household, and yet

the suicide of his nanny at his own birthday party heralds a series of frightening events.

Damien is not quite what he seems after all, and Robert Thorn, encouraged by a priest (veteran actor Pete Postlethwaite) and an insightful photographer (David Thewlis), is forced to embark on a quest to discover Damien's true origins and his intentions towards the Thorn family.

The ensuing events, which by the way include an inspired murder completely lacking in evidence and a decapitation with a touch of black humour, are accompanied by the kind of gothic atmospheric weather and soundtrack, and symbolism of the colour red that we've come to expect from classic horror. All this, combined with a truly



A bad Omen

chilling cameo from Mia Farrow as Damien's evil nanny Mrs. Baylock and the astoundingly creepy final shot of Davey-Fitzpatrick's Damien, culminates in a genuinely good film, which certainly does the original justice. Indeed, there are even more of those great moments when you are fully aware that something is about to scare you half to death, but the occurrence is delayed to the extent that you calm down

a little and then BAM! You jump about ten feet in the air. For me, it is unnerving experiences like these that make a decent horror film, and *The Omen* definitely provides in this respect.

I have to admit, however, that I was caught unawares by the appearance of both David Thewlis and Michael Gambon (aka Professor Lupin and Professor Albus Dumbledore

in the *Harry Potter* films) acting alongside each other in a film about as far from J. K. Rowling's creation as you can get! Having said this, it was not enough to detract from the appreciation of the film as a whole, and I would recommend it to fans of horror films in general, especially those who have seen the original as I believe it fails to disappoint on any level.

Devilishly good

DVD
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (12)
STARRING: MERYL STREEP, ANNE HATHAWAY, EMILY BLUNT AND STANLEY TUCCI
LAURA GIVANS

Based on Lauren Weisberger's best-selling novel, the wonderfully

titled *The Devil Wears Prada* is a paradoxically cruel and seductive exposure of the

competitive, glamorous and girl-eat-girl-eat-nothing world of fashion.

Anne Hathaway plays Andy Sachs, the new assistant to the editor of *Runway* magazine, the most fearfully revered woman in fashion, brilliantly captured by Meryl Streep. With no sense of style or interest in fashion whatsoever, Andy seems like the worst possible choice for this sought-after job, and Miranda's first assistant, Emily, makes sure she knows it.

The plot is a twist on the secretly talented ugly-duckling-turned-gorgeous-swan idea, as Andy's intelligence and determination are palpable from the start, tackling bitchy demand after bitchy demand. What's more, she's already a happy, confident girl with a cheerfully glossy New York lifestyle and cute boyfriend to match. Anne Hathaway perfectly captures the way Andy finds herself torn into pieces, tugged relentlessly between her nightmarish boss

and the dream of pursuing the career she really desires, and the demands of her friends and boyfriend whose patience and support begin to waver in direct tandem to her spiralling status at work. So when she starts being taken in by the exciting, alluring side of the fashion world, add in a flirtatious older writer with journalistic contacts and the even more seductive prospect of a week in Paris, fashion's capital, and this battle over Andy's soul can only get fiercer...

The film is witty and quirky, heightened by strong and defined character performances. Meryl Streep's Golden-Globe award-winning performance is particularly wonderful; having mastered a quiet, controlled, dangerous level of voice she maintains throughout, she commands a strange mixture of fear, awe and disgust. There is a moment where she puts down Andy for laughing at their quibbling over two seemingly identical belts. Whilst we are invited to

share the ridiculousness of the situation, Miranda's argument is quick, convincing and smart, and Streep's performance does manage to inspire believable respect and, sometimes, even sympathy for her character, despite her periodically devilish treatment of Andy.

British actress Emily Blunt's performance as Miranda's first assistant was nominated for Best Supporting British Actress by the London Film Critics Circle and it's easy to see why. Her defensive, bitchy character, who is uncontrollably obsessed with the image-orientated side of the industry, sustains a humorous, sarcastic performance and almost pitifully she seems to live just for the thought of being thin enough for Paris fashion week.

Stanley Tucci as Nigel, Miranda's right-hand man and fashion director, is undoubtedly my favourite character. With a dry, ironic humour, always revealing a sly smile curling around his lips, Nigel tells it like it is, but is also the only halfway

friendly face Andy can perceive amongst the superficial camaraderie of the magazine. When Andy's resolve to stay is weakening, he bluntly reminds her how many girls would kill to work for *Runway*, when she will only deign to, and it is true that despite how terrifyingly off-putting it is to want to work somewhere so vindictive and mercilessly competitive, it is still a career a 'million girls would die for'.

Already with an established fan base and interest in the film, the DVD does not need much more to promote itself, but it boasts a number of special features depicting the journey from book to film and real-life insights into the fashion world. Furthermore, there is a comical gag-reel, audio commentaries with the director, producer, screenwriter and more, and fifteen engaging deleted scenes.



A crap and mouse thriller

FILM
THE SENTINEL
STARRING: MICHAEL DOUGLAS, KIEFER SUTHERLAND AND KIM BASINGER
JOHNATHAN ILOTT

Michael Douglas stars, in this crushing average cat and mouse thriller, as secret service agent Pete Garrison whose infidelity with the First Lady (a bored looking Kim Basinger) begins to catch up with him.

After receiving incriminating photographs intended to blackmail the couple, Garrison quickly finds himself on the run having also become the main suspect in a proposed assassination attempt on the President. Of course, having already taken a bullet for Reagan twenty years prior it's obvious for all to see he is innocent.

However, he is still required to go through the motions to prove it to old service 'buddy' David (Kiefer Sutherland) before the

real culprits can complete the dirty deed.

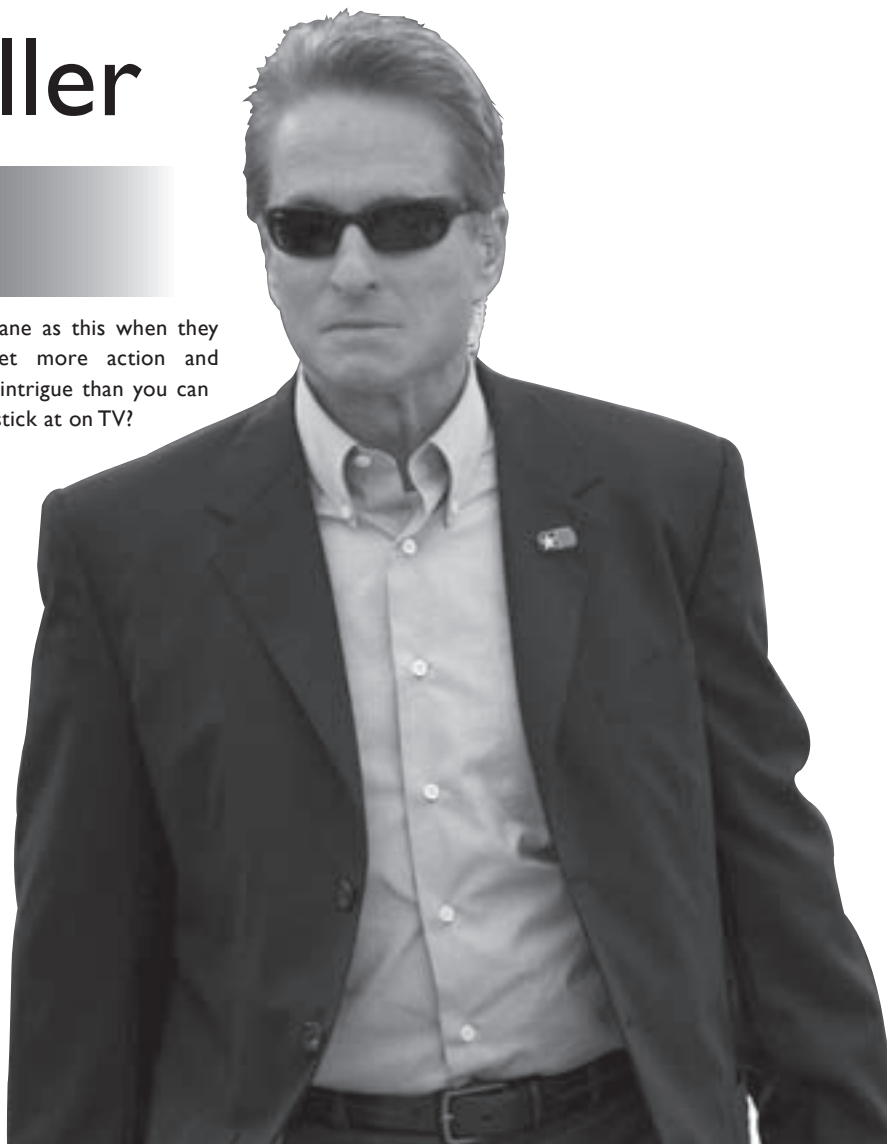
In a post-9/11 world, audiences are increasingly being offered intellectually complex yet satisfying politically themed action movies; take *Syriana* or the *Bourne* Films for example. *The Sentinel* with its babbling and mostly incomprehensible plot is just too lazy to try and compete. After all when you have a cast featuring Jack Bauer, two Oscar winners, and the sexy *Desperate Housewife* (Eva Longoria playing it safe in a pointless role) do you really need to bother?

Apparently, director Clark Johnson thought not and this intrinsically idle approach shines through. To find proof you just need to look at the random and embarrassing cut scenes where threats to the President are daubed on screen accompanied

by the sound of Arabic voices. Or the cinematography which employs the currently in vogue sun-bleached film look, at least it does when the filmmakers remember to open the shutter a bit more, resulting in the films schizoid visual style. To top it all the most unabashedly lazy part to this film has to be the casting of Kiefer Sutherland who by all accounts got the role for one reason only and its name is Jack.

Sutherland is obviously meant to transfer over the cool factor 24 has afforded him (he even gets to bark his first few lines out), an assumption by the filmmakers which severely backfires. He acts as a constant reminder throughout the film that the time could be better spent watching something so much better. With *Day Six* just around the corner why would anyone wish to watch a film

as mundane as this when they could get more action and political intrigue than you can shake a stick at on TV?



Rocky horror show

FILM
ROCKY BALBOA
STARRING: SYLVESTER STALLONE, DIRECTED BY SYLVESTER STALLONE, WRITTEN BY SYLVESTER STALLONE. GOD HELP US.
CHRISTIAN O'TOOLE

Forgive me Martin for I have sinned. I have to open with a heart-felt apology to Mr. Scorsese for even being a fan of the Rocky saga. Sometimes I really disgust myself, but anyway, onto the matter in hand. If your name was Mr. Edam and you lived at 3 Cheesy Lane, Cheesetown, Cheeseville, worked in a cheese factory and fell in a massive vat of cheese, you would still be nowhere near as cheesy as this pile of god-awful shit!

I was seriously overly excited when I heard Stallone would be making a new Rocky film. I grew up watching these films and I honestly thoroughly enjoyed them. I used to watch them with my brother and straight afterwards he would put on one boxing glove, I'd stick the other one on (it was always a race to get the right-hand one!) and we would knock the absolute living crap

out of each other, soon to be followed by a knockout blow from our mother for wrecking the living room. Ahhh those were the days.

It may seem unbelievable to some but the first Rocky movie actually won an Oscar for Best Picture in 1976. The story of a small time boxer from Philadelphia who was given a shot at the big-time and grabbed it with both, er, gloves.

He loses his fight with the heavyweight champion Apollo Creed but gains the respect of the watching masses and his opponent whose first words after the bout are "Ain't gonna be no rematch." Of course, when Hollywood are involved and they spot the potential of a sequel, there obviously is "gonna be" a rematch!

The second Rocky movie (*Rocky II*, 1979) wasn't bad at all and saw the southpaw slugger finally realise his dream and become heavyweight champ leading to the immortal slurred words "Yo Adrian, I did it!" as

he proclaims his triumph to his wife.

The third film in the saga (*Rocky III*, 1982) is, in my opinion, by far the best as Rocky faces up to Clubber Lang played by the iconic Mr. T who dishes up the best line in any of the films when he asks Rocky's wife if she stays up all night wondering what it's like to be with a real man and tells her she should take her "pretty little self" over to his apartment so he can show her a "real man." Due to Rocky's trainer Mickey having a heart-attack before the fight, and Clubber Lang being a mean mo-fo, Rocky gets knocked the fuck out! But, of course, he gets a rematch and wins. Surprised? Nah, me neither.

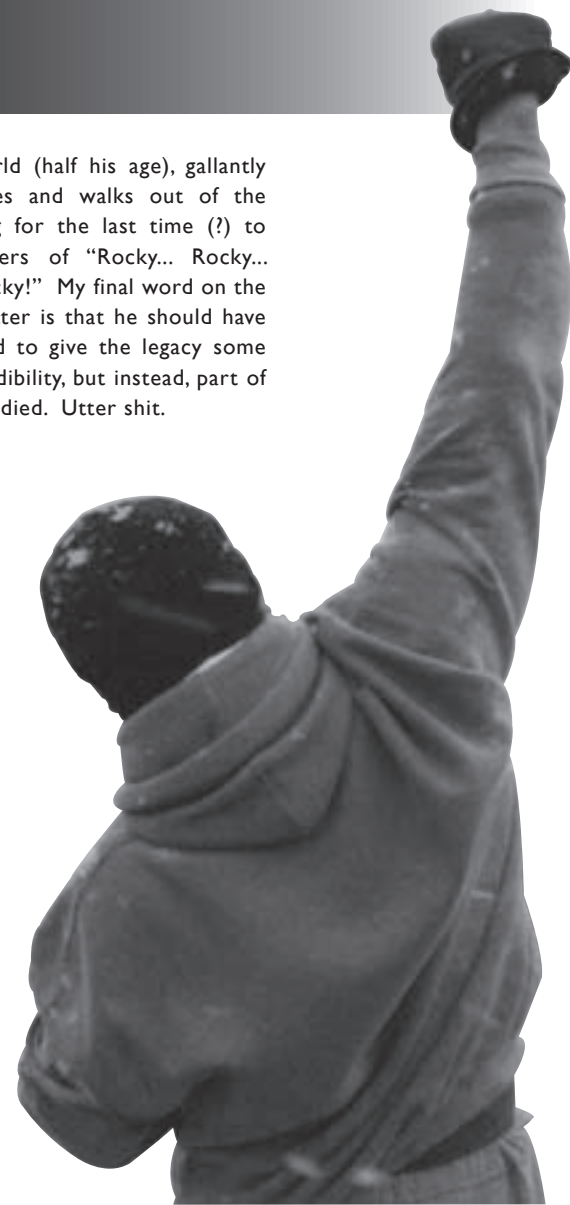
Rocky IV (1985) was pure Hollywood and gave us a rousing soundtrack interspersed with a good (America of course!) versus evil (Russia), east versus west battle of ideologies. Needless to say, Rocky (liberty, freedom, democracy, religion... America!) wins out in the end

and all is once again rosy in the garden of hypocrisy. Hurrah, Rocky solves the cold war. "If I can change, then you can change (the audience- nasty Politburo), we all can change." Cue masses rise to feet, much jubilation for Rocky.

The next and what most presumed to be the last film in the series was *Rocky V* (1990). This little ditty is widely respected as the worst of the bunch, its only saving grace being that this was the end. I can say no more without spitting blood. Celluloid garbage from beyond the depths of Hollywood hell!

Right, I'm supposed to be reviewing *Rocky Balboa*, but to be honest there isn't too much to say on the matter. Put it this way, as I watched my eyes started to bleed, I felt nauseous, disgusted and let down as if I'd been tied to a chair and forced to sit through a box-set of *Sex and the City*. Rocky is retired, he owns a restaurant, he befriends a chick, he fights the undefeated heavyweight champion of the

world (half his age), gallantly loses and walks out of the ring for the last time (?) to cheers of "Rocky... Rocky... Rocky!" My final word on the matter is that he should have died to give the legacy some credibility, but instead, part of me died. Utter shit.



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THEATRE
1984
AT THE DUKES
JEMMA SMITH

A beautiful thing

Theatre

I felt a lurch in my stomach when I heard that St Martins were adapting Orwell's novel for the stage, partly because I have never seen an adaptation that has showcased the true talents of the text. I realise Winston reading 'Goldstein's' book is hardly a high point in the novel but the language is rich and helps us towards the exciting finale. With this opinion in mind I was dubious as to how they would revitalise such parts for an active audience.

For those of you who haven't read 1984, it tells the story of Winston Smith who re-writes the past to suit the needs of the totalitarian party that governs Oceania. Although he inwardly rebels against the party there is no escape from Big Brother who sees and hears all. His rebellion climaxes with his affair with fellow party member Julia, who ultimately forces him to discover that the true price of freedom is betrayal.

There is a wealth of material

within this text to bring to a stage adaptation, namely the party slogans, the diversity of characters, and the pervading force of Big Brother. Although the slogans were well utilized and Big Brother was accurately depicted with banners tacked to the wall as makeshift telescreens, the characters were stock and one dimensional. O'Brien and Parson as the significant 'baddies' appeared over-exaggerated in contrast to the dull depictions of Syme and Julia.

I think the team missed a trick where Julia was concerned. Although they were obviously conscious of promoting the theme that Big Brother is everywhere, they let this disrupt the characters potential. She could have been delivered as a vibrant, edgy contrast to the nervous disposition of Winston but instead she was played like a whining bored housewife forever asking, 'oh what's wrong Winston, are you OK?'

The figure of the prole landlord in the text was female in the adaptation. This was an actress who obviously excels in 'character parts' she was lively, endearing and realistic and

brought a welcome injection of energy into the performance. It should also be noted that the actor who played Winston was excellent, especially when delivering a monologue in the Room 101 scene.

The group had obviously read 1984 but it seems like they were

so desperate to convey the whole story that they overlooked the subtle workings of the text. The play was performed in the rectangle but they did not utilize this at all. Instead of positioning themselves in the corners everything was played out centrally and thus

sum members of the audience could only see the backs of the actors.

Furthermore, each act ran on too long by about fifteen minutes. I think anyone would struggle to sit and pay attention to an unbroken act of one hour twenty minutes. It makes

you wonder whether anyone watched the production beforehand to try and see it from the audience's point of view.

Once people start fidgeting, shuffling in their seats and talking, it's a sure fire sign to give it a rest.



BOOKS
CONAN DOYLE: DETECTIVE
AUTHOR: PETER COSTELLO
AMY WILLIAMS

Elementary my dear...

Books

The pleasure of reading any of Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories is provided by the combination of mystery, knowledge of an imminent resolution provided by Holmes, and the persona of Holmes himself, one of the most enigmatic and popular characters ever to emerge from detective fiction. Could Peter Costello produce as interesting and enjoyable a work as that of Holmes' creator, Conan Doyle? Fortunately, he has done exactly this.

Unlike a standard biography, Costello's work shies away from a dry, chronological exploration of Conan Doyle's entire life, and instead concentrates on the writer's involvement in early twentieth century criminology. Perhaps what makes this presentation so interesting is that Costello also describes Conan Doyle's investigations abroad, including a murder in a South African zoo park. Documenting infamous cases in chapters such as 'The Trail of Jack the Ripper', alongside less familiar criminal investigations like 'The Crowborough Chicken Farm Murder' (which really was as disturbing as it sounds),

Costello maintains a compellingly informative yet accessible narrative.

Interspersed within these examinations of real crimes, are references to Conan Doyle's literary life, and examples suggesting just how much influence the fictional character of Sherlock Holmes had on Britain, and in particular on London journalists, who would turn to Conan Doyle for opinions on contemporary mysteries. Such examples also highlight Conan Doyle's great passion for mystery stories, including the case of George Edalji, which caught the imagination of modern novelist

Julian Barnes in his book Arthur & George. Cases such as this are supplemented by a range of photographs, including some of Conan Doyle himself, so readers are able to gain a real sense of the crime scenes mentioned and also of the historical epoch in question. Extracts from Conan Doyle's notebooks also accompany Costello's writing, to give further insight into the man behind the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Although not especially focused on Conan Doyle's personal life, Costello's book does expose certain aspects of Conan Doyle's life that infused both his literary

fiction and his pursuits into the field of criminology. There is much reference to Conan Doyle's views on 'spiritualism' and the presence of the dead, which adds another dimension to Conan Doyle's relationship with the world of mystery and detection.

As the twenty eight pages of notes and sources at the back of the book attest, Costello has produced a very well researched and engaging work on Conan Doyle, and presented this in short, thematic chapters enabling the reader to dip into the book freely and enjoy it at leisure. I would recommend it to any fans

of true crime literature, or of Conan Doyle and the Sherlock Holmes stories, although the book would not isolate any reader unfamiliar with Conan Doyle's own publications.



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Valentine's

Things to do on Valentine's Day

If you have a special someone:

Take a romantic walk in Williamson's Park. The Ashton Memorial looks beautiful at dusk, and you should be able to stay and watch the sun go down on Morecambe, which is how it should always be. Remember, it is Lancaster, and it could rain, so bring one brolly between you so you can huddle together under it.

Have a meal in. Restaurants mark up their prices on Valentine's Day, knowing there are millions of blokes out there who are pretty much legally bound to pay however much is necessary for a meal, so you're better off taking an amorous trip round the shops and making something yourselves at home. Look on the net for recipe ideas if you haven't got a book, and if you set fire to the Butternut squash tagine with baked goat's cheese croquants, there's always the chippy.

Take them to a highbrow cultural event, such as the theatre, an art gallery or a foreign film. That way, you feel less common when you end up making out in the back row (because you actually quite wanted to see Borat).

If you're alone:

Stay in feeling bitter, and concentrate on hating all the couples that are spending hundreds on overpriced meals and forced conversation and Me-to-You bears. Eat a whole tub of Skinny Cow chocolate ice-cream (because you're still losing the break-up anniversary weight).

Go to the Carleton. There will be similarly desperate, drunk singletons there, and no doubt there'll be some sort of traffic light event, so all the people who are more up for it than usual will have a handy green

sticker practically begging you to grab their arse. You'd be stupid not to try it!

"Research" the object of your affection on Facebook. If they're on the Lancaster network, they're totally stalkable.

Dress up in a costume made out of formerly obese women's skin, put on "Goodbye Horses" by Q Lazzarus and dance around in front of the mirror, while the girl in the well next door tries to steal your dog.

If you have a special someone, but they're not here right now:

Send them a long, soppy letter about how you're half a person when they're not around, blah blah blah. Or, what they'd actually like, is if you mailed them a webcam and bought one yourself. It practically pays for itself on the first night.

If you have many special someones, because you are a complete whore:

First of all relax. None of your special someones know about the other special someones. Choose who you think you'd most like to spend the evening with. Make your choice, stick to it, and feign illness (something contagious) with the others. However, make sure you know exactly where the 'others' are going to be, you don't want to accidentally rub up against them when you're on a dance floor with someone else. Then again, since you are a complete whore, you'd probably like it!

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For both of you:

A La Fee Absinthe gift set. This is actually the perfect gift for any occasion. Not just because I really (really) like absinthe, but because of the intrigue associated with it. On Valentine's Day you can both spend a romantic night in, consuming time's most decadent drink, and maybe the green fairy will spark up something special. Hemingway probably got naked to it at least twice. If you want some private time together but don't want the awkwardness, doing the ritual to serve the drink could be a lot of fun. On the other hand, let us not neglect one fact. It's booze; you'll be horny, invulnerable to criticism, and your partner will instantly become more attractive. You cannot lose. I defy you to fuck up Valentines Day with this stuff. <http://www.lafeeabsinthe.com/>

(Note: SCAN is in no way affiliated with this brand of absinthe. However we would quite like to be. Please send complimentary merchandise to: SCAN Features, LUSU Bunker, Lancaster, The Grim North.)

For him:

An Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii, and maybe some beer. If you've got the cash, he'll love this. What better way to spend the night than watching him drunk with his friends yelling at cartoon animals shooting each other. If you bought enough beer, you might even be treated to seeing one of his best mates attempt a gypsy's piss outside in the road. Now that's romantic.

On the other hand, say you've been dating since before university; the

relationship has grown stale, but in many ways you're still dependant on each other. This is the best way to get the magic back. The boyfriend will be occupied for hours/days with his buddies and games consoles, so you can head off out to play a game of hide the penis with that guy from Liquid. He understands you.

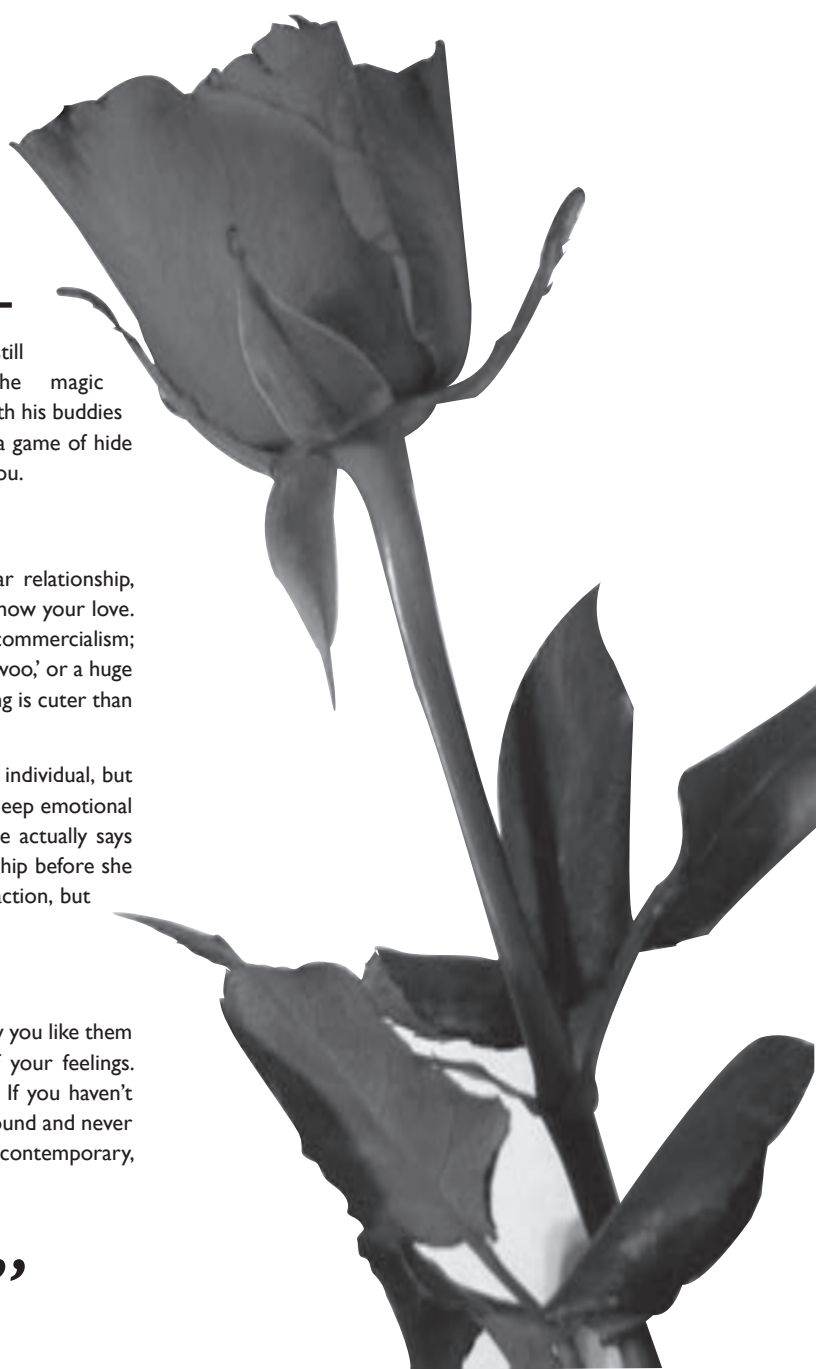
For her:

Something saccharine as fuck. For the regular relationship, there are plenty of overpriced cute things to buy to show your love. Apparently your feelings can be measured in cash. It's commercialism; indulge. For example, it could be a teddy saying 'I wuv woo,' or a huge cuddly heart that plays soppy music. Remember, nothing is cuter than a sock crammed with puppies. Aaaw.

These sickly gifts may be abhorrent to the balanced individual, but are great for the girl (or guy) who likes to hide their deep emotional issues under black and white photos of kittens. If she actually says 'It's soooo cute!' it might be best to end the relationship before she accidentally calls you daddy in bed. You'll get some action, but expect tears afterwards.

For the person you're stalking:

Something creepy. Well they're not going to know you like them unless you provide them with an eternal symbol of your feelings. Nothing says 'I love you' like road kill in a shoe box. If you haven't reached this stage of obsession yet, following them around and never speaking will probably be enough. If you're feeling a tad contemporary, there's always Myspace.



“For Him: Maybe some beer.”

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SHRIMPS KNOCKED BACK BY DAGGERS



Ian Waterhouse
Sports Editor

Morecambe were left to rue missed chances as they squandered a half-time lead against Conference leaders Dagenham & Redbridge, with the two sides sharing the spoils at a windswept Christie Park.

The home side, playing with the gale at their backs, dominated the first half from the outset but were made to wait until the 27th minute for the breakthrough. It came when Gary Thompson – starting in an unfamiliar central striking role – turned his man on the edge of the box and produced a neat finish into the bottom corner of the net.

Play was bizarrely held up shortly afterwards as four balls disappeared out of the ground in quick succession and the players were forced to wait as members of the coaching staff were despatched to retrieve the errant balls. Once the game got back underway, skipper Jim Bentley

saw his headed attempt knocked onto the bar by a defender as the Shrimps sought a crucial second goal.

The home side maintained the momentum into the second half and Craig Stanley should have done better when he found himself unmarked on the penalty spot, but he ballooned his shot over the bar. Goalscorer Thompson was then thwarted in his search for a second goal, as his sidefooted effort from inside the box was blocked by visiting goalkeeper Tony Roberts.

These misses were to come back to haunt the Shrimps, when visiting striker Paul Benson turned the ball home after Morecambe had failed to clear a corner with just under twenty minutes remaining. There were few clearcut chances thereafter, the best of which fell to Thompson but he failed to connect properly with his header and it flew high over the crossbar.

The result leaves Morecambe firmly entrenched in their accustomed sixth place, still fighting to get into the play-offs for promotion to the Football League, following a run of just one defeat in the last twelve league games.

SCAN SPORT DOES... WATERPOLO

Paul Collins
Sports Editor

We at SCAN Sport like to think of ourselves as sports fanatics. This term sees a new feature for SCAN Sport where one writer takes part in a sport that they have never played before. So first up...waterpolo!

Last Sunday evening I went along to the sports centre and was met by the very friendly group of people who form the waterpolo team. I used to work at a sport centre and have seen the game played from the safety of my high chair. From there it looked a doddle. I thought it involved treading water for a while, occasionally swimming in bursts and throwing a ball round the pool. Nice and relaxing really. Lord was I wrong! An hour and a half later and I was ready to crawl into a hole and die a slow painful death.

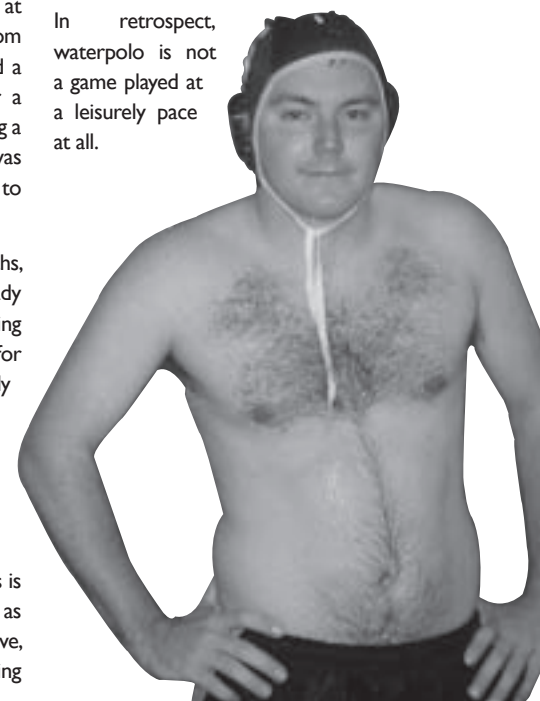
After the initial warm up of swimming some widths, trying out a few new swimming techniques, I felt ready to try this sport properly. First things first; passing and catching the ball. A strong wrist is needed for the power in the throw. Catching it was slightly more complex in that you let the ball come to you rather than attempt to go toward the ball. It was something I think I picked up fairly quickly, though I did cheat a couple of times by putting my feet on the floor!

Next I was ready for some shooting practice. 'This is it' I thought. I have fairly predatory instincts, playing as a forward in my football career. The goalkeeper, Dave, looked to be fairly small, with just his head bobbing

above the water. That was until I approached the goal, and this little head somehow managed to turn into an enormous figure peering down on me. Nothing got past that fella. I believe Jose Mourinho once said of Tottenham that they 'parked the team bus in front of the goal.' I know what he means now.

I was put to the test in my final two exercises: defensive duties, trying to intercept or block passes by chasing an opposing player down. Were they on a mission to kill me or something? It felt like someone had tied 10kg weights to my feet. I couldn't move, and I was sure I had no arms left.

In retrospect, waterpolo is not a game played at a leisurely pace at all.



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Hockey

The Lancashire Cup

Men's Hockey 1sts 1-1 vs UCLan 1sts

Ben Bailey

The crowd gathered at the rather plush Preston Sports Arena to watch the mighty Lancaster 1sts face the best of UCLan. Straight from the off it was clear that this was going to be a close game as the two sides battled furiously up and down the pitch.

Lancaster were the first to score as Michael Fast Bowler masterfully beat the keeper with a reverse stick shot putting the visitors ahead. UCLan's heads did not drop and the game tore on at a ferocious pace as the two sides sought an opening.

As the first half wore on

the lead. Lancaster persevered and were almost rewarded with a goal from a well worked short corner. Unfortunately the hockey Gods were not smiling on Lancaster and the UCLan umpires disallowed the goal. Cheats.

As the final whistle blew the scores finished 1-1. Captain James Lloyd later said: "It was an awesome performance by us. The lads moved the ball around nicely and we were just unlucky with a dubious decision."

Men's Hockey 2nds 2-3 vs UCLan 2nds

Will Veitch

The Lancaster Men's Hockey 2nds were unlucky to go down 3-2 to a UCLan side full of dirty cheats.

Lancaster took a deserved lead towards the end of a first half which they dominated, thanks to Alex Borgoltz' slick finish from a Luke Morley free hit. After the break and a foolish change of formation, Lancaster were forced to soak up a lot of Preston pressure and this finally told when some ugger poked home a fortuitous loose ball on his reverse.

A fantastic Dean Constantine strike put Lancaster 2-1 up but unfortunately parity was soon restored when Lancaster gifted a Preston striker a chance which he managed to convert, despite an embarrassing struggle.

After a period of end-to-end play, in which both teams' lack of fitness was highlighted, Preston 'scored' the final goal of the game, a strike from outside the 'D' which was erroneously given, amidst desperate Lancaster protests.

After this Lancaster tried to press forward but their formation was penning them in and they struggled to create any sort of impact like they had in the first half. As the final whistle blew the mood was one of disappointment but Lancaster can be pleased with themselves, having pushed a team in the league above them right to the end, and having seen some good performances from the likes of Rowan Smith and Phil Round.

Men's Hockey 3rds 5-2 vs UCLan 3rds

Ben Bailey

Moments before push back the Lancaster thirds shook the ground with

their deafening ritualistic pre-match haka-esque war cry of "third team pride!" UCLan must have been more than a little shaken as Lancaster immediately moved the ball up field finding forward Edwin Graeme just inside the 'D'. Graeme pivoted on the spot and with an acute angle to boot, thundered the ball into the far top-right hand corner of the net. Two minutes were on the clock, 1-0 to Lancaster, the perfect start.

Lancaster then proceeded to dominate the game. The away team were too strong in defence for UCLan to break ranks, while playing an efficient, fast-paced game of swift passing and nimble stick-work throughout the midfield. Andy Ross added the second soon after and apart from a lucky UCLan effort Lancaster looked comfortable at 2-1 up at half time.

As the second half started the home side startled the visitors by bundling in an undeserved equaliser from close range. However, before the UCLan supporters had even begun to contemplate a comeback, Lancaster banged in three more without reply thanks to Craig McDonald, Charlie Ryan and Martin Sutcliffe for a 5-2 drubbing.

Captain Edward John Hannah said afterwards: "It was a victory after 70 minutes of hard work. There were 11 man of the matches out there. Boom time!" Boom time indeed.

Women's Hockey 1sts 1-3 vs UCLan 1sts

Fran O'Neil

In this head to head encounter Lancaster set off at a slow pace and found themselves 2-0 down within the first 15 minutes. They soon picked up their game and had the majority of possession towards the end of the half with some spectacular play down the right hand side of the pitch from captain Lois Nightingale and Kim Hicken. The visitors had a number of close attempts with some impressive skills and attacking play by Emma Collenette and Louise Slater, finally bringing the score to 2-1 after Cassie Barrett slotted in Fran O'Neill's

reverse hit shot that had rebounded off the post.

The second half began with Lancaster having much the same possession and with some breath-taking runs down the pitch, Hannah Bowden found herself threatening the opposition's goal at least twice. As UCLan attacked, some inspirational saves by Amy Foggo and solid defending by Cat Vose, Laura Fernihough and Clare Fozard kept Lancaster in the game.

With 5 minutes to go following an encouraging team attack by Lancaster UCLan had a fast break which caught Lancaster off guard and saw them go 3-1 down ending the game on a low for the visitors. The score 3-1 scoreline did not reflect Lancaster's performance and they hope to improve their match winning potential over the next few games to win their BUSA league.

Women's Hockey 2nds 0-0 vs UCLan 2nds

Sarah Wray

Lancaster Women's 2nd XI held their own, in one of their hardest games of the season, thus far. Having had a fantastic, if rather unchallenging run in BUSA, notching up wins of 18-0, the team had been unsure how they would fare against a tough UCLan side last Wednesday.

Starting with a more defensive line up, Lancaster felt the pressure early on, but their defence held out well. Torri Crapper put in a



particularly good performance throughout the game, and the defence looked solid and reliable, despite continued UCLan possession. The chances that Lancaster did have were undoubtedly the better, and Hollie Sherriff was unlucky not to score from a well-worked short corner. More near misses followed, but Lancaster were unable to capitalise on their chances.

The second half proved more of the same, with UCLan dominating possession, but Lancaster were brave and determined and held out. The visitors pushed forward on the counter attack, with some great runs courtesy of Caroline Sprott.

The Lancaster girls also did well not to rise to the not so witty banter from the UCLan supporters, and their gritty performance said everything instead. While perhaps this

encounter wasn't as scintillating as the goal filled games of the BUSA league, the draw was a well deserved boost of confidence, as Lancaster showed how capable they are at holding their own when playing at a higher standard.

Women's Hockey 3rds 2-2 vs UCLan 3rds

Paul Collins

UCLan women's hockey 3rd team twice came from behind to grab a point in this intriguing match. Lancaster were mere seconds away from victory when UCLan scored their devastating last minute equaliser. The first half, although remaining goalless, was tight, tense and extremely entertaining.

It was the visiting team though that came first out of the blocks in the second half. Only minutes after proceedings had begun they scored their second of the game. The lead did not last long however, as UCLan replied shortly afterwards to level the scores at 1-1.

With fifteen minutes remaining Lancaster scored again. The goal looked likely to be enough to win the game, with chances being few and far between. UCLan, however had the last word, when a break down the left was turned into the back of the net to deny Lancaster three very valuable points.



Photo by Paul Collins

Rugby

The Lancashire Cup

Men's Rugby 1sts 5-11 vs UCLan 1sts

Tony Barron

One of the more eagerly anticipated matches of the Lancashire Cup this year was the clash between the two men's Rugby Union sides. This was shown by the fact that it was actually one of the few matches to have a crowd gather to view it. With Lancaster currently fighting their way

through the BUSA Men's 1A league and UCLan sitting in the 2A, a lot of people thought that the Lancaster men would have a tough time as UCLan had everything to fight for and nothing to lose.

Unfortunately on the day Lancaster's side just didn't seem to fire on all

cylinders and were very unlucky with some questionable officiating decisions. Lancaster got off to a strong start, holding their own against the powerful UCLan side with a lot of back and forth action, with both teams gaining a few yards of the pitch through solid play and then losing it to a slight lapse. UCLan then increased the pressure on Lancaster, penning them back into their own half and making it difficult for the visitors to make any progress. This pressure was rewarded with a kick sailing between the posts allowing UCLan to take a 3-0 lead.

The play then continued similarly with neither team giving an inch, making it almost impossible for any breakthroughs. UCLan, however, were consistent and eventually worked a hole in Lancaster's line and broke through to score a try and take an 8-0 lead. This remained the same until half time and then continued afterwards with both teams fighting to get forward, largely without success. However, a ray of hope appeared when an absolutely amazing try was scored by Lancaster's Mike Mudd breaking through from his own half and running clear to cut the deficit to 8-5. It was at this point that some questionable decisions were made by the man in charge, halting the Lancaster attack.

This respite was capitalised

on by UCLan who fought back down the pitch, earning a penalty which was then kicked to make the score 11-5. And despite Lancaster's best efforts this was how the match finished. A disappointing result for all involved only made worse by questionable officiating.

Men's Rugby 2nds 10-27 vs UCLan 2nds

This was a very back and forth match, but Lancaster's team never seemed to settle into their game. They seemed unnerved and were giving away far too many penalties. The game opened well with Lancaster scoring a try in the opening twenty minutes thanks to some great driving.

However, UCLan quickly came back scoring two penalty kicks in quick succession to take the lead. Realising they were behind seemed to re-ignite Lancaster's fire and they came back with another try to re-take the lead. Lancaster kept the pressure on and narrowly missed out on a try just before half time. After the break, UCLan seemed like a new team and came out with a revived passion and quickly scored another penalty kick to take the score to 10-9 in favour of Lancaster.

The penalties just kept being conceded and UCLan took

advantage with yet another kick to take the lead once more. From here UCLan just piled on the pressure and were rewarded with a try to extend their lead. Another penalty kick later and Lancaster were further behind making it 10-20. From here Lancaster doubled their efforts and pushed UCLan back into their half, narrowly missing out on two tries in quick succession. UCLan realised at this point that they were in trouble and earned themselves another try in the closing minutes widening the gap to seventeen points.

Women's Rugby 36-5 vs UCLan

The Lancaster Women's Rugby team achieved a fantastic win last week against UCLan in the Lancashire Cup. Their stunning performance brought a warmth to the minimal crowd on this bitterly days.

When the match started Lancaster immediately took control and forced UCLan straight back into their own half. This pressure soon caused UCLan to cave in when Lancaster Captain, Emma Masters, split their defence in two to score a fantastic try less than fifteen minutes in. This was then converted by Rebecca Watts allowing Lancaster

to take an early lead. Holly Freestone soon scored another try to take the Lancaster ladies further ahead.

The match was a very one-sided affair with Lancaster keeping UCLan buried in their own half of the field and allowing them practically no room to manoeuvre thanks to some fantastic tackles. Lancaster's constant pressure was then rewarded with two more tries in quick succession from Emma Masters and Holly Freestone, with the second of these being converted once again by Rebecca Watts, allowing the visitors a convincing 24-0 lead going into the break.

In the second half Lancaster continued to bury UCLan in their own half. UCLan eventually mounted an offensive and brought the game deep into Lancaster's half, where Emma Masters retrieved the ball and made a stunning run down the left side of the field to score an amazing solo try that took Lancaster 29-0 up. UCLan were eventually rewarded with a try making the score 29-5 but Lancaster continued to pressure UCLan and scored again, thanks to Hannah Cole, which was then converted making the final score 36-5.

Netball

The Lancashire Cup

Netball 1sts 39-34 vs UCLan 1sts

Paul Collins

A free flowing, exciting game of netball was in store for viewers of this match. The final score was 39-34 to the visiting team, who held off a commendable fight back in the final quarter by UCLan. On a bitterly cold afternoon it was Lancaster who turned up the heat, storming to a 12-3 lead after the first quarter. Some confusion had arisen prior to the game, with the fact that only one umpire was available. However, with the help of one of the Lancaster girls, acting as second umpire, the game could take place.

One felt that the damage had been done and that Lancaster would stroll to victory and gain a valuable three points to keep the overall score ticking over. With the second quarter ending with Lancaster in a commanding 20-10 lead, it would have taken a fool to bet against anything other than a Lancaster victory. The umpire was struggling to differentiate between the girls in red and the girls in black, due to the low lying sun in the sky. She commented that the game was played at a very fast pace, with lots of skill on display. Some members of the Lancaster support complemented the 'superb attacking' on show by the confident visiting team.

Lancaster stretched the lead even further in the third quarter, to 30-18. There was a lot of contact going on, yet this did not seem to faze the

visiting team. The final fifteen minutes were frantic however, with UCLan clawing back goal by goal. At one stage panic seemed to set in within the Lancaster camp as the tension built, but the final whistle came, confirming a 39-34 win for the girls.

Lancaster 2nds 36-33 vs UCLan

Lancaster 2nd edged this entertaining encounter by only three goals, overcoming some intense UCLan pressure, particularly in the third and fourth quarters of the match. Having fallen behind to some early UCLan goals, the visitors fought back to win the first quarter 11-7.

Some fantastic finishing by the

ever reliable goal attack, Sofia Gohir, ensured that UCLan were always playing catch up. Complaints by the UCLan team and support that the visitors were being too aggressive can indeed be taken as a compliment for the girls- the team has quite clearly gelled this year, and all the members of the team play with energy and enthusiasm. It was a joy to watch such movement and range of passing on display. UCLan fought back in the second quarter, closing the gap to 19-17, and many on courtside believed a remarkable comeback and home win was on the cards.

A scrappy third quarter ensued, and the game was real cat and mouse stuff. Lancaster needed to score to maintain the gap between the two sides. UCLan needed goals to apply more pressure on the visiting team. Lancaster was not fazed however, even when it emerged that the

UCLan goal keeper was a regular first team player.

In the fourth and final quarter, Sofia Gohir, the goal machine, ensured UCLan's valiant efforts were all in vain; as the visitors held on to claim a famous victory.

Netball 3rds 20-34 vs UCLan 3rds

The 3rd team were beaten comprehensively 34-20, but according to one commentator, showed good fighting spirit with some important interceptions.

Georgie Roberts was the outstanding player on the visiting team. The match will indeed have been a useful exercise in competition mode ahead of the highly anticipated Roses in May.



Badminton

The Lancashire Cup

Men's Badminton

Ian Waterhouse

Lancaster men's badminton teams emerged from their two games with only a solitary point to show for their sterling efforts.

The men's first team were always going to be up against it, with the UCLan side plying their trade a league higher up the pyramid and going into the tie unbeaten in their last five BUSA matches. The opening pair of singles matches were shared, with Rick Wallbank emerging victorious for Lancaster in straight sets by 21-13, 21-16.

Two doubles matches then directly followed, but both the partnerships of Greg Turtle and Martyn Cooke, as well as Roy Brunton and skipper Stu Powers, found the competition too hot to handle, losing their rubbers without managing to get a set on the board. With the overall score then standing at 3-1, Wallbank produced his second victory of the day, overcoming a set deficit to win in three against the striking figure of the

dreadlocked Davie Gover.

Unfortunately, compatriot Tom Blythe was not able to live up to Wallbank's endeavours, as he was seen off in straight sets by the impressive Sachin Punn. Punn showed a remarkable range of disguise on his shots as well as a clever use of the drop shot to take the rubber 21-15, 21-13. This left Lancaster needing to win the final two doubles matches to emerge with a draw, but this never looked likely as both of the remaining matches again went the way of the home side.

In spite of the final 6-2 scoreline, Lancaster acquitted themselves well against a higher level of opposition and there was certainly no disgrace in the final outcome.

The second team were left to fly the flag for Lancaster men's badminton, as they very nearly turned a 3-0 overall deficit into an unlikely victory. The turning point of the match game in the fourth rubber, as Lancaster finally got their first rubber on the board with a victory by two sets to one. From this point onwards the visitors were the dominant

force, winning the second pair of doubles matches without dropping a set so that the overall score stood at 3-3 with only the reverse singles to play.

The first game appeared to be heading Lancaster's way, but a combination of nerves from both players and the odd dubious line call led to a one set lead being squandered, meaning that UCLan took the upper hand at 4-3. However by this point the final rubber was already well underway and as it comfortably fell in Lancaster's favour, the match ended in a 4-4 draw. This scoreline replicated the league meeting between the two sides last month.

Women's Badminton

The Red Rose women's badminton team emerged comfortable victors over disappointing UCLan outfit, taking the three points towards the overall standings thanks to a comprehensive 7-1 victory.

The first doubles pairing of

Linda Thornborrow and Amy Blakemore actually lost the opening rubber, but even in doing so they appeared to be a cut above the UCLan ladies. Only a series of powerful smashes from one of the UCLan women turned the rubber in their favour, as they triumphed 21-19, 9-21, 21-18.

Lancaster's second pairing of Katie Wright and Captain Emmeline Cosgrove got the team back on track with a swift straight sets win. This left the tie evenly poised going into the first pair of singles matches, only for Lauren Thomas to soon turn things decisively in Lancaster's favour by producing the most emphatic victory of the day for the loss of only nine points.

This win was then followed up by Amy Ashrafi, although she was made to work slightly harder for her 21-7, 21-12 success. The reverse doubles then followed with the combination of Wright and Cosgrove clinching their second win of the day to leave Lancaster with an unassailable 4-1 lead.

The onus then fell on Thornborrow and Blakemore



to attempt to avenge their earlier defeat and guarantee Lancaster the three points. In what was to prove to be one of the longest matches of the day, the Lancaster pair eventually emerged victorious in three sets, 21-14, 19-21, 21-12. The effort put in by the ladies was typified by one point in particular, where a lost cause was retrieved by one of the ladies sliding on her knees

along the floor towards the net, before she then recovered to win the point.

This made the final two singles rubbers academic, but some pleasing gloss was added to the final scoreline with further wins for Ashrafi and Thomas in straight sets. There can have been few more comprehensive victories in the entire afternoon.

Snowboarding

The Lancashire Cup

LUSASC Freestyle snowboard competition

Jonny Masters

Following UCLan's inability to organise a slalom competition, members of LUSASC's exec hurriedly organised a big air competition to take place at the windy heights of Rossendale. The event consisted of two rounds, in which each rider had three jumps per round. Each rider would be graded out of a maximum of ten points for their jump; the scoring took



in to consideration the technicality of the jump, style, amplitude of jump and whether they actually

landed the trick. The snowboarders were going up against an opposition of an unknown standard.

The representatives for Lancaster were Stu McCaule (Snowboard captain), Alex Henderson, Tom Webster and Andy Jefferies. Their opposition was simply known as Chris, Ben, Jack and Lee.

Round one took off in good form with each rider testing their metal to gain every valuable point needed. Highlights of round one were Lee from UCLan pulling an awesome back flip out of the bag gaining a maximum of ten points, to which Lancaster's own Andy J, retaliated with a super steez 540 rotation with a Melon grab. It was clear from the start that these two riders were in their

own contest of one-up-man-ship.

Round two followed with each rider trying to better their attempts in round one. Lancaster's Alex Henderson, the only girl in the competition holding her own against the boys, landing solid 180s and flawless Method grabs to bolster Lancaster's overall score. Stu and Tom the other half of Lancaster's team were going big but were finding the landings hard going and were unable to bring in the points they deserved. Andy ended the round with another stylish move, pulling off a quadruple Shifty, earning the second maximum points reward

of the afternoon.

Both teams of riders performed well, giving the few spectators a fantastic show. After the points were totalled up, UCLan had edged ahead by only eleven points beating Lancaster 141 to 129.5. Despite Lancaster's failure to bring home the points, a solid effort was given by all. LUSASC would like to give a big thanks to Bluetubes for the support they gave in providing us with prizes. Watch this space as the LUSASC exec have got the bug for freestyle competitions and are looking into organising a North-West event against all other universities such as Leeds and SKUM.

Swimming

The Lancashire Cup

Lancaster Swim Team

97-106 UCLan
Chris Richards

Lancaster University Swim Team put up a valiant fight against UCLan in this year's Lancashire Cup

Swimming Competition.

LUST's included some of their finest competitors including Nick Silkstone, Emma Whittingham and Christophe Claux. Much of the squad mastered the competition but sadly Lancaster were defeated at the hands of timing errors. Not to be dampened by the

afternoon's events, team captain Christophe Claux remarked; "Our swimmers performed excellently today, we lost but there is some speculation that we were subject to bad time keeping but all that aside we're really starting to see the improvements we expected

from the club affiliating with GALIGA."

The swim team have recently involved themselves with the GALIGA club; the North-West's best open swimmers, who are coached by professional coaches such as the Olympic bronze medallist Dan Greenwood.



Football

The Lancashire Cup

Men's Football 1sts 1-2 vs UCLan 1sts

Paul Collins

Lancaster University Men's 1st team succumbed to a 2-1 defeat at the hands of UCLan in the final event to kick off in the Lancashire Cup. The first half turned out to be a war of attrition, with chances few and far between for both sides. Most of the action took place in midfield, with tackles flying in, and attacking prowess being harnessed in preference of defensive duties.

It looked like goals would have to come from a set piece, and indeed that is exactly what happened. The UCLan left winger went down theatrically after receiving somewhat of

an innocuous challenge. The referee saw fit to award a free kick however. There seemed no apparent danger, with the kick taken some distance from the goal, some 35 yards in fact. The ball was floated into the middle, and the UCLan striker managed to get ahead of the advancing goalkeeper to divert it past him and into a 1-0 lead.

1-0 was made 2-0 straight after half time, as the home side's right winger scored a superb solo effort. A turn of pace saw him burst down the wing, and a quick shimmy and switch to his left foot saw him in a position to fire in a shot - a fine curling effort into the top left hand corner from the left edge of the area.

One would have forgiven the visiting team if they had folded at that point, with rumours rife that the Lancashire Cup had already been secured by UCLan the goal seemed to spark them

into life. A dangerous corner was whipped in from the left hand side, and just evaded the jumping hoards in the penalty area. The slightest touch from a Lancaster player would have seen the deficit reduced. Minutes later, two quick fire long range efforts whistled past the hosts goal, and Lancaster somehow looked like working their way back into the game. Finally they did, when Pete Wickford clipped the ball past the on rushing goalkeeper and into the bottom corner. Credit must be given to the Lancaster midfield player who sent a gloriously weighted pass over the top of the defence in what can only be described as 'Fabregas-esque.' This was as good as it got though for Lancaster, as the home side managed to hold on and secure the win and three more vital points for UCLan.

Men's Football 2nds 2-1 vs UCLan 2nds

Gav Smillie

The men's 2nd football match was an enthralling affair with end to end action throughout. Almost straight from the kick-off UCLan put a wicked cross in from the left wing, which was met by their centre forward, however the Lancaster keeper pulled off a top draw save high to his right hand side. The resulting corner was met by UCLan's centre half who just steered the ball wide of the right post. For

the next twenty minutes the game went stagnant with UCLan having most of the ball in midfield.

Lancaster's pressure meant the opposing team had no time to pick the right ball resulting in sloppy balls. Any time UCLan got in behind Lancaster a defender seemed to make an awesome challenge winning balls time and time again. UCLan got a succession of corners. However, they did not take advantage with most just drifting harmlessly into the arms of the keeper.

Against the run of play, Lancaster took the lead in bizarre circumstances with a sliced clearance from the goalkeeper popping up to a Lancaster player who just had to roll the ball into the net. Five minutes into the second half UCLan get a corner which was completely miss kicked by a Lancaster player in a crowded box. Danger was averted with a safe catch by the keeper. The game turned dirty when from yet another UCLan corner Lancaster's keeper was taken out.

Lancaster soon had a great chance to make it 2-0 but an attempted lob over the keeper was tipped to safety for a corner. UCLan finally broke the Lancaster defence open with a great through ball after a give and go. However Lancaster's keeper rushed out quickly and averted the danger. The last ten minutes saw UCLan start to get desperate as they resorted to belting high balls into the box. The tactic paid off in the 82nd minute when a ball was not cleared properly resulting in a goal mouth scramble and

UCLan turned the ball into the Lancaster net.

The game was heading for a draw when Lancaster intercepted a loose ball on 88 minutes providing the Lancaster winger a one-on-one with the opposing full back. The Lancaster man took the ball to the by-line, and after creating a bit of space whipped in a superb ball which was easily converted from a yard out. Game over.

Women's Football 1-5 vs UCLan

Tony Baron

The Women's football team were sadly outclassed by a UCLan side who won by doing the simple things quicker and better than Lancaster's ladies.

UCLan made their intentions clear early on with three shots from well outside the 18 yard box, however all were straight at the keeper. UCLan broke the deadlock within five minutes with a shot, hard and low, from a good 20 yards which beat Lancaster's goalkeeper all ends up. UCLan scored almost straight after with an identical shot from similar position. UCLan piled on the misery for the Lancaster ladies by making the score 3-0. The home side was given time and space to pick out an unmarked winger who cut infield and squared the ball to a team mate for a tap in. This put the score at 3-0 within twenty minutes. Until half time UCLan piled on

the pressure and looked likely to score more with multiple chances going begging. UCLan once again took control of the game, pushing women forward at any given opportunity. Lancaster scored when an error by the UCLan keeper was charged down and blasted into the net. Any hope of a remarkable comeback was quashed almost instantly, with UCLan making the score 4-1. A long ball resulted in a two on one breakaway, a quick give and go gave enough space to blast the ball past the keeper despite getting a hand to the ball. UCLan wrapped up their performance in the last couple of minutes with the goal of the game, a 25-yard screamer looping over the keeper 5-1. This loss will hurt. However the lasses know they can play much better. Look out for there next game and against York because they are guaranteed to be fired up.

Photo by Duncan Monteith



Photo by Duncan Monteith



Fencing

The Lancashire Cup

Men's Fencing
Ian Waterhouse

Lancaster men's fencing team lost their Lancashire Cup tie in the most agonizing circumstances as the scores finished dead level at 117-117 after nearly three hours of competition. This meant that UCLan took the honours as they had won two of the three contested weapons.

The foil weapon has been Lancaster's achilles heel all last year and this again prove to be the case in the opening exchanges. In the race to 45 points, it was the former polytechnics who

opened up a sizeable advantage, taking the opening eight hits without Lancaster getting onto the scoreboard. Things got a little tighter as time progressed, but ultimately UCLan took the weapon 45-34.

For sabre Lancaster were able to turn to the experience of Alistair Bargery, who joined Morgan Wilde and Gareth Kay as they turned it a solid all-round performance. All three earned more points than they conceded, as the eleven-point disadvantage from the foil was turned round into an overall lead of six.

For the final epee discipline, Kay and Bargery were teamed up with Matthew Keppie as the lads sought to maintain their slim lead. Keppie took to the piste for

the first time in the third bout of the series and found himself at an immediate disadvantage, as his opponent made use of his extra reach to score a number of hits without reply. However, with the scores finely poised, Keppie then appeared to have turned the tide back in Lancaster's favour by scoring eight hits in his final bout.

Going into the final bout overall, Lancaster needed only two hits to win, whilst UCLan required five. However, Alistair Bargery was unable to score a hit for Lancaster, and the bout timed out after UCLan had managed four strikes, leaving the scores dead level. This meant that the home side were declared victorious by virtue of having won both the epee and foil weapons.

Women's Fencing
Ian Waterhouse

Things were much more one-sided in the women's event, where the team of Manda Pinkey, Anya Guzy and Sarah Lamb fought all three weapons unchanged. The girls tackled the sabre first, building up a steadily increasing lead throughout the course of the bouts, ending up in a scoreline of 45-28.

The foil followed shortly afterwards and this time the margin of success was even more convincing, as the ladies scored almost twice as many hits as their opponents at 45-

23. The performance of Captain Manda Pinkey was particularly noteworthy, as she conceded only four hits in her three foil bouts.

Going into the final weapon, the girls could almost have afforded to fight with their eyes closed and still have scored enough hits to seal overall triumph such was the extent of their lead. However, keen to complete a clean sweep of all three weapons they did not relent and took the epee by the narrower margin of 45-41. Sarah Lamb was the star of this particular weapon as she took ten points in her closing bout to ensure supremacy in the discipline.

This gave the ladies their third win of the season so far, all of

which have come against their UCLan counterparts.

As if the men's last-gasp defeat - which at one point appeared to have cost Lancaster the Cup as a whole, though his was later disproved - had not been enough for the team to bear, the late starting time of the match coupled with its marathon length meant that by the 6:15pm finishing time, the coaches back to Lancaster had long since departed. This meant that the team, and their reporter, were forced to make their own way home on public transport, although UCLan extended the hand of Lancastrian friendship as far as escorting us to the train station... via the SU bar.

MAYBE NEXT YEAR...

UNLUCKY LANCASTER GO DOWN 46 - 39 IN LANCASHIRE CUP

Paul Collins
Sports Editor

The University of Central Lancashire beat Lancaster University by a total of 46-39 at the Preston Sports Arena to claim the Lancashire Cup for only the second time. On a bitterly cold Wednesday afternoon many of our sports teams made the short trip down the M6 for the important local derby. Events were also held here at Lancaster University Sport Centre, the Foster Sport Centre, Rossendale Ski Centre and Bowerham Tennis Centre.

The day ended as it began, with defeat. The men's 1st football team went down 2-1 in what is placed as the showcase event. The effort of the various sports teams can not be faulted however, and a slight change in fortune, particularly in the outcome of some refereeing decisions, would have seen the return home of the Cup.

There were indeed some very encouraging results, with the netball 1st and 2nd teams both winning and entertaining the watching crowd at the same time. The men's 2nd football team left it late to secure all three points, whilst the tennis teams, women's rugby and the men's hockey 3rd teams all won in comfortable fashion. Although disappointing to lose overall, there were many encouraging aspects to be taken from the day as AU President, Dave Greenshields highlighted, "Each one of our teams left everything they had in Preston and I can't fault our effort. On the day, however, it just felt like they wanted it that little bit more."

The hub of the Cup was the impressive Preston Sports Arena, a purpose built facility part funded by Sport England. The grounds are spectacular, with a wide array of well maintained pitches, both natural and state of the art astroturfs. Nevertheless, our teams were not overawed by the occasion and performed well.

Over the past few years poor weather and bad organisation has blighted the competition. Mr. Greenshields, who along with Chris Lowden, the Activities Officer at UCLan, played a pivotal role in making sure the competition actually took place this year, wanted to offer his thanks to all those who took part, particularly those who were involved in organising the day itself. He said: "Without the efforts of both institutions this fantastic opportunity to compete would have once again passed us by." He went on to say, "Defeat is never a good thing, but learning our lessons from this can turn the Lancashire Cup into a vital lesson as we prepare for Roses. Everything needs to improve; our fitness, our intensity and ultimately our results. I've got every faith that come May, we'll be ready."



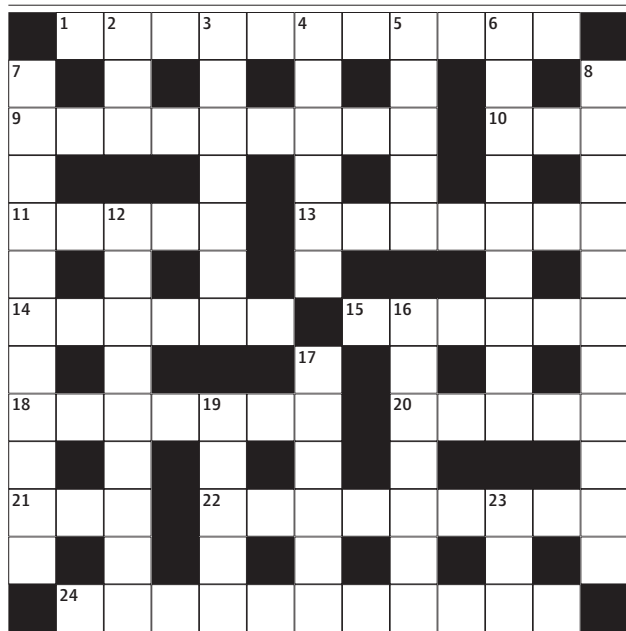
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Across

- 1 Jack the Ripper's stamping ground (11)
- 9 Vehicle for sick or injured (9)
- 10 Rider Haggard novel (3)
- 11 Common pool of money (5)
- 13 Concentrated (7)
- 14 Tyrant (6)
- 15 Skimpy two-piece swim wear (6)
- 18 Stolid (7)
- 20 Controller of aircraft (5)
- 21 Small bed (3)
- 22 Intermediary (2-7)
- 24 Flit between TV stations in search of interest (7,4)

Down

- 2 Centre of wheel (3)
- 3 Hunting cry (5-2)
- 4 Frank – unbiased (6)
- 5 Turn aside (5)
- 6 Indispensable (9)

- 7 Ready-prepared midday meal in container (6,5)
- 8 Liqueur – monastic order (11)
- 12 Cricket international (4,5)
- 16 Incentive – time's up (anag) (7)
- 17 Fit to be consumed (6)
- 19 Person refraining from using animal products in any way (5)
- 23 Go astray (3)

Solution No 11,345

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