

# scan

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 2, Michaelmas Term, Thursday 15th October, 2009

## Departments to close down after Senate pass Resilience Project

- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences under fire for not telling students
- Three closed departments to be merged into Politics, Philosophy and Religion

**Sam Newsham**  
News Editor

THE FACULTY OF Arts and Social Sciences has come under attack for its lack of student consultation over the merger of three departments.

The proposal, entitled the Resilience Project, outlined the Faculty's plans to create one large department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion. It was passed at Senate – the university's main academic governing body – last Wednesday.



**Professor Tony McEnery:** Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

The new department will be created from August 1, 2010. Evidence of student consultation however is minimal.

"As a student of Philosophy and as a department rep for Philosophy I have heard nothing whatsoever [about the merger]," said Simon Bulmer, a third year student and Faculty representative for FASS. "The first consultation I have had was a forty minute meeting [in Intro Week]."

Professor Emma Rose, Associate Dean for Postgraduate Studies in FASS and chair of the working group responsible for the proposal, stated that heads of the three Departments had informed all their students that plans for the merger were underway. Rose said that emails had been sent out in June, but SCAN was unable to find any student who had received the information.

LUSU President Michael Payne said: "Clearly there were a few people who had emailed students in their departments to let them know this was taking place but spoke in no detail with them. That doesn't count for consultation with me."

"That isn't talking to the current students about their issues, the paper doesn't address those student issues, [and consultation] should have happened with both current students and the Students' Union."

Rose defended the Faculty's actions, saying that the effects of the merger on students will be neutral and mentioned the difficulties in contacting students over the summer.

"We decided that over the summer we weren't going to start contacting students – that it would be inappropriate. We have the view that the vacation is the vacation for students," she said. "What good would [consulting students] have brought about when the effect on them is neutral?"

"The vacation is for students but that's why the Students' Union is here," Payne responded. "Members of staff also have vacations, usually in the summer, and will not be here all the time, so I think that's a non-argument."

Both Payne and Danny Ovens, LUSU's Vice President (Academic Affairs),

were unhappy not only about the level of consultation with students but also the working group's unwillingness to involve LUSU in the Resilience Project. Despite the group having been created before the summer, Ovens and Payne did not hear of the plan until September 22.

Unfortunately, due to his commitments in planning Intro Week, Ovens was unable to meet with Rose and Professor Tony McEnery, the Dean of FASS. Consequently, by the time he was made aware of the proposal the response he could make before it was submitted to Senate was limited.

"They were asking us to approve something that we had not been informed about and the students had not been informed about," said Ovens. "When we've seen no evidence of students being asked their opinion how can we make an informed decision and vote on University High Committee in the students' favour?"

LUSU had submitted a proposal to Senate requesting that the decision to agree to the merger be deferred six weeks, to allow for consultation with students. This was voted against. But FASS's proposal was amended to introduce a clause requiring Heads of Departments to instigate a consultation period with their students. Students' opinions and feedback will be sought but will not make any difference to the overall decision.

"I think the amendment is welcomed – indeed the amendment is a lighter touch approach, but actually, it's a proposal that comes too late," said Payne. "I think it's a very worrying sign that the Vice Chancellor had to step in to make the point about student consultation. The Faculty should have been making this point right from June."

According to Rose the decision not to consult LUSU was due to the lack of negative feedback from students.

Continued on page 5

## Pizzetta Republic under new management



Full story on Page 5

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## EDITORIAL

# This department merger is a farce and heads should roll for staff stupidity

## Students should demand answers from departments for being kept in the dark

**I**t appears crackpot schemes are no longer the exclusive province of senior university management at Lancaster. Academics are now also developing unhinged and bizarre ideas, which are likely to be of no use whatsoever to the students who come to this university.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has completely sold its members down the river by opting to close three of its departments and merge them into one entity, without so much as a whisper to the students who contribute thousands every year in fees. The basic thought (what little is on display) behind the merger of Philosophy, Religious Studies and Politics and International Relations is that Lancaster will be completely unique across the globe.

This proud declaration raises other questions however. If this merger is such a good idea, and will be so distinctive to Lancaster, why on earth has no other academic institution followed a similar path? I do not see Oxford, Cambridge, Durham or York following suit, or any of Lancaster's other major rivals in the league rankings. Instead,

the proposal informs us that although unique, other institutions have similarly silly combinations. Keele, Manchester Metropolitan and other small time US universities combine Politics and Philosophy, or Politics and Religion. For a university that claims to be challenging the best, it is rather depressing and galling to see senior university officials using tinpot institutions as a point of comparison and indeed, as something to aspire to.

As academics, the faculty are of course keen to play the intellectual card and blind us with science at every opportunity. Apparently, the mismatched combination of the subjects outlined above actually form an emerging intellectual field, which is of course completely unnoticeable to the untrained eye. This rationale is absurd and patronising, a convenient ruse to throw together three completely distinctive departments into one unsightly whole without anyone else having the intellectual authority to question the judgement of those writing the proposal.

The proposal itself is unique in one factor however. After perusing the doc-

ument, at a rough count, the word staff is mentioned on a dozen separate occasions. In contrast, the word student is deemed unworthy for inclusion in the document, only present on two occasions. Students are the paying customers at this university and significantly contribute towards the exorbitant wages of the incapable and clueless staff that dreamt up this preposterous proposal in the first place. However, their views go unheeded as the academics instead safeguard their own futures.

If as a student in the departments mentioned, you feel you have had little or no information on the matter, then it is recommended you contact the Faculty Dean, Professor Tony McEnery, at the earliest opportunity. His office is located in the Institute for Advanced Studies in County South. His internal office number is 10851. He will gladly take the opportunity to explain himself and the actions of his minions personally. He may also be able to provide answers as to why your opinion is not worthy of his time, and why efforts to calculate and gauge your opinion are not worth his effort.

The faculty itself faces difficult challenges due to a decrease in funding as a result of last year's disappointing Research Assessment Exercise. Perhaps department mergers are merely a smokescreen to disguise a wider and much deeper malaise in FASS. The university should be asking questions of McEnery's leadership and why the faculty is failing under his watch. If money is such an issue with arts funding, then how exactly can McEnery justify his expenses which amount to £11,800 from August 2008 to July 2009? This total is significantly more than any other senior figures.

If the university wants to save money further and improve its academic services for students then there is one obvious cutback it could make. And that is to dispense with the self-absorbed careerists who occupy the higher echelons of FASS and have no rapport, understanding or respect for the students they are supposed to be serving. This merger merely displays not only their incompetence, but also their arrogance in underestimating the value of student consultation.

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# Department faces chorus of complaints over lack of choice

- **Lack of communication leaves students frustrated**
- **Course confusion forces musicians out of Lancaster**

**Lizzie Houghton**  
Assistant Editor

MUSIC STUDENTS AT Lancaster's Institute for Contemporary Arts have complained that their degrees are being increasingly compromised by a lack of choice. The absence of any modules focusing singularly on music from before 1950 and the merger of the Composition module with its Music Technology counterpart has left students with the impression that they are studying a degree they did not sign up for.

"The changing of the modules, lack of communication and rearrangements was awful," Craig Cummings, a Music student who has since transferred to another university, said. "The composing side of the course was utterly terrible. It seems like they shoved the music composition students with the technology modules, which is exactly what happened."

One anonymous current student added: "A lot of modules [which have been dropped] people actually joined the University specifically to study, so you can imagine just how vexing that was for a lot of them. The lecturers have tried to make compromises, but the fact remains that our education has been compromised as a result of this and the choice for the students has been drastically reduced."

**"The changing of the modules, lack of communication and rearrangements was awful. The composing side of the course was utterly terrible. It seems like they shoved the music composition students with the technology modules, which is exactly what happened."**

The issue began back in March, when Music students received an email stating which modules would and would not be running in 2009-10. Those not running included Orchestration, Conducting, Paris and Mozart. The lack of information as to why these modules were not being offered sparked confusion and anger within some students. In response a further email was sent out, this time explaining to students the reasons for the changes and mergers. A dormant module, Approaches to Musicology was also revived to teach units on French music and Mozart's

operas.

According to Alan Marsden, a senior Music lecturer with LICA, the changes have been less than what some students believe. "Several of the changes were made at an earlier stage, and were all made according to due process," he said. "The cumulative effect might well have been that some students found that they could no longer take the combination of modules they had hoped, but this happens every year despite our best efforts to avoid it." Marsden added that this was an "inevitable consequence" of changes in staff, budget, policy and organisation.

The University's new policy on contact hours meant that less time was available to put on additional optional modules. The department's budget for paying for teachers who are not regular university staff has also fallen in recent years. Despite some students belief to the contrary, this is not a result of the department having been incorporated in LICA. Sabbatical leave and retirement has also affected the choice of modules.

"I can understand students being disappointed, but I do not think any can legitimately feel cheated. [...] The fact that students evidently misunderstood indicates that we could have done things better in the original communication. On the other hand, we did act very quickly to clarify and respond to students' concerns by reviving Approaches to Musicology," said Marsden.

The Music and Music Tech modules on Composition have been combined, adapted from the original Music Tech course. The merged modules accommodate composition with instruments as well as composition purely with digital technology. But Music students have been argued that it is not the type of course or degree they arrived at Lancaster to study.

Laura Woodhead, another student who transferred to Leeds University after the module changes were announced said: "They changed the modules and left us basically with popular music and music tech modules, which was the last straw. When we complained about the changes there was then a meeting with staff which was just them trying to cover up the huge cracks appearing in the plasters."

Cummings added: "Students should not be merged with other courses that were not stated in the prospectus as this alters their module pathways and career prospects. [...] The disappointment and treatment of composing students being ignored and subject to merger was the last straw for me."

Other music students have said they too felt the composition module was too focused towards Music Technology, and was not taught in a way they felt to be insightful or useful. The change was proposed and approved early on in the last academic year having been discussed at a staff-student committee.



**Brassed off:** Music students abandon department (Photo: Ben Robins)

It was reasoned that the Music module, being the smaller, should be written off.

Marsden added: "It is a false distinction to say that there is composition on the one hand and music technology on the other. From one perspective there are many kinds of composition - not just two - producing many different kinds of music in different kinds of environment. From another perspective there is only one kind of composition: the act of making music, by whatever means. Our principal objective in composition is just that: making good music."

**"They changed the modules and left us basically with popular music and music tech modules, which was the last straw. When we complained about the changes there was then a meeting with staff which was just them trying to cover up the huge cracks, appearing in the plasters."**

"Many of the employment opportunities for graduate composers involve

technology, and much novel ground-breaking artistic work involves technology. Students should not be surprised to find this reflected in our teaching, but they should not confuse this with the rationalisation of modules."

LICA was formed in 2004 with the merger of Art, Theatre Studies and Music. Having the word 'contemporary' in the title was met with some opposition from inside the Music department. Two members of staff who specialised in early music left, one explicitly due to the changes and one partially. The staff who replaced them were specialists in more modern music.



# Minor incidents fail to detract from hugely successful Freshers' Week

**Helen Davies**

WITH SOME CHANGES to last year's format, Freshers' Week 2009 was judged a huge success all round.

For the first time in history LUSU organised not one but three Freshers' Fairs. From Wednesday to Friday a huge variety of activities, from roller-skating to obstacle courses, were available in the Nuffield Theatre.

"The week was a big success, we had a lot planned and a lot of big changes from last year and I think they paid off," said Andy Johnston, LUSU's VP FEDS (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies), who was responsible for organising the week. "It was a great showcase of what we all can do as a Union."

Johnston paid tribute to the many others involved in making sure things ran smoothly. "People don't realise exactly how many people are involved in a successful Intro Week, but it's a lot. From JCR Execs to kitchen reps and society and club execs there were hun-

dreds of people who put a lot of effort in." People's efforts did not go unnoticed; Furness Fresher Kate Smith described the week as "an amazing experience thanks to the extremely helpful and supportive corridor reps."

In addition to LUSU's events each college had organised their own timetable. As one of the largest colleges on campus, County had a big job organising their freshers. County LGBT Officer Matt Saint reported that "County had an immense and very successful Freshers' Week. Although we had around 500 freshers our team of freshers' reps were amazing and really helped the JCR Exec provide a fantastic first week."

Although there no major incidents were reported during the week there were some minority events. During Lonsdale's bar crawl a small number of students vandalised Bowland and Furness bars with permanent markers. Rumours that a brick was thrown through a window of Bowland's bar, however, were untrue. "It is a shame that a minority attempted to ruin the night for

the majority of students. Vandalism of the college bars is unacceptable," said President of Bowland JCR Tom Skarbek-Wazynski. However, both Skarbek-Wazynski and Lonsdale JCR President Matt Winsdor were keen to stress that it was a very small number of students involved.

Winsdor confirmed that the students who vandalised the bars have been dealt with and that "apologies were issued to staff and the deans have handled the disciplinary actions". He added: "Moral of the story is – don't graffiti, and if you do, don't write your own name, house and flat number as some of these people did!"

Apart from this one incident Lonsdale had an incredibly successful Fresher's Week which was summed up by one Lonsdale Fresher as simply "epic." Their foam party attracted students from all across campus. Winsdor described the party as "Immense! We had beachballs and inflatables flying around all night and it was the kind of atmosphere you get in a festival crowd."



**Freshers' Week fun:** There were very few problems during the week (Photo: Ben Robins)

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## Degree classifications to be simplified

**Sam Newsham**  
News Editor

PLANS TO SIMPLIFY degree classifications are underway with a proposal for a new marking scheme expected later this term.

The proposal is expected to contain a recommendation to introduce a final-year resit period as well as a classification system based on grades rather than percentages. Unlike the current system, where final marks are awarded as percentages on a 0-100 scale, the new scheme may have as few as 14 or 15 grades.

A working group to look into the issue, led by Dr Gavin Brown, Director of Undergraduate Studies, was set up in February 2007. Its purpose was to study a range of issues, including the complexity of the current regulations for awarding degrees and providing explicit marking criteria to be used across the entire university. The proposal contains ideas which, it is hoped, will improve classification procedures.

"There is an advantage in having a single process operating across campus, so it is trying to achieve consistency," said Dr Brown.

There is likely to be a considerable amount of discussion once the proposal is finalised. Dr Brown expects the move from percentages to grades to be a contentious issue. Whilst several departments in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences already use 'step-marking' systems such as these, the Faculty of Science and Technology tends to use the more traditional system.

"Quantitative subjects might have reservations in losing the level of detail that a 0-100 scale gives you," said

Dr Brown. "Arts and Social Sciences – more subjects are using step marking and there has been this project within the faculty to try and introduce this, so I think they might well be quite receptive to it."

Dr Brown stressed, however, that there would be flexibility within departments when it came to applying the scheme, enabling them to link grades to learning outcomes within the context of their subject. At the time of final classification departments would also have greater discretion when it came to deciding the final result in borderline cases.

Dr Brown also emphasised the working group's need to move slowly and carefully. "The procedure for thinking through how we classify degrees and whether we should make changes is a long one – there are quite a lot of risks associated with doing things very differently," he said.

Whilst there has been no student involvement in the project to date, it is hoped that will change over the next few months. Dr Brown is keen for all students to comment on the proposal so changes can be made where necessary. He also hopes to work closely with Danny Owens, LUSU's VP Academic Affairs.

Whilst a new marking scheme will be individual to Lancaster, degree systems across the country have come under scrutiny after a report by HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) suggested the current system makes it difficult to differentiate between students with similar degrees. The working party at Lancaster has looked at ways of recording everything a student has done whilst at university.



# All change at Pizzetta as old staff forced out by new owner



**Under new management:** Pizzetta has changed hands with the old staff forced out and now working at The Sultan Experience instead (Photo: Ben Robins)

- **Silent partner returns to take control of business**
- **Former Pizzetta staff now employed by the Sultan**

**Lizzie Houghton**  
Assistant Editor

FOLLOWING A TURBULENT summer Pizzetta Republic has come under new management, following Abdullah Turgut's dismissal.

Turgut and his staff were forced to leave the cafeteria just days before Intro Week, having been dismissed without notice by Cameron Naderi, the venue's director. They are now currently working in Sultans. A new staff has been employed at Pizzetta.

One former staff member said: "The night before we were working like any normal night. The next day I had a call from my friend saying that we are not part of Pizzetta anymore: somebody else took over the shop. I was shocked actually, surprised and quite sad." Because of the nature of the dismissals, all the former staff members we spoke to asked not to be named.

"I went to Pizzetta and the minute I entered the shop I felt that the atmosphere had changed. I realised, although I didn't see the people, that it was not our people working there. The place was different."

Turgut ran the establishment for 13 years, with Naderi acting as a silent partner throughout that period. For the past four years Naderi has been out of the country. Three years ago Turgut upgraded the venue, moving from a takeaway to its current manifestation as a cafeteria/restaurant. Staff members who have worked at Pizzetta in the past say that although they knew there was another partner in the business, they had never seen or heard from him.

Another former member of the Pizzetta staff said: "The only boss that we knew was Abdullah. The other boss we didn't know."

During the summer Naderi returned and claimed his stake in the business, appointing himself as director. Turgut, despite still being a shareholder, was dismissed. His staff were also dismissed with less than a day's notice. The ten workers included students and young parents. They arrived at work on the morning of September 22. By midday they had been informed that, along with Turgut, they must leave the premises and not return. All are now employed at Sultans.

One observer said: "I saw the Pizzetta staff walking across the Spine. I asked them what had happened, why were they here? And they said we were fired. They were in shock."

A major concern for the staff members is that the reputation they built up at Pizzetta will be eroded away. The venue was nominated for a Student Friendly: Business of the Year award last year, and won the Takeaway and Campus Based Business award in 2006 and 2007. "I am worried. In Pizzetta we had customers who came to us because we were friendly and serving the best quality food," said the former staff member. "We gave customers what they like the way they like. But now I hear so many complaints. No one is happy."

A Facebook page has been set up in support of the former Pizzetta staff. The group, Solidarity for the Pizzetta Republic Staff, contains many messages of encouragement and condolence. One message reads: "Why fix what is not broken? Or in this case, why break something that didn't need fixing? You couldn't get better staff if you tried."

The change in staff has also been noted by students and many other customers. In a letter to SCAN this week, the Cartmel football team expressed their disappointment in the change of management and lamented the "unfair and unfortunate set of circumstances that has caused all of this controversy to occur."

**SCAN food critic**  
**Captain Bonny**  
reviews Pizzetta on  
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## Departments to close down after Senate pass Resilience Project

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"We told all students that it was going to happen [and] we had no negative comments. If we'd had negative comments from students we would have spent a large proportion of the summer dealing with those negative comments."

In comparison, a thorough programme of consultation with staff, both academic and administrative, was carried out. According to the Senate proposal Rose met with all staff and organized an away day in May to address any concerns. Minutes of the working group's minutes were made available to all staff.

"The effect on students is neutral. There is no effect on students. The subjects remain the same, the staff remain the same, there is no effect," said Rose. "The effects on [staff] are not neutral and over the summer we wanted to address their concerns."

dress their concerns."

Bulmer, however, disagrees with this assessment. "I am worried about what the effect on the students will be in the short term. They say it's going to be a neutral effect but I don't think it will be," he said.

The Resilience Project was created following the RAE 2008 results, revealed last December. The aim of the RAE (Research Assessment Exercise) was to produce quality profiles of universities' research activities. University funding allocated by the Government is related to how well an institution performed in the assessment.

There were many differences in funding allocations from the last RAE in 2001 to 2008. A combination of this and overall reductions in arts funding across the country meant that some of FASS's departments 'looked very vulnerable'.

"It's fair to say that their prospects were bleak," said Rose. It was felt that

the three departments together would be stronger than they are currently.

Mike Doupe, FASS's Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies said: "As three they're a much stronger grouping than they would have been if they'd stayed as individual departments."

Not all staff are happy about the proposed merger. In a statement to Senate the Philosophy department said: "While the philosophers would have preferred to remain in a single subject department, continuing to develop joint courses and research with other departments including RS and Law, it has become clear that the status quo is not an option. Members of the Department have concerns [...] about how the three departments might best be presented as a 'coherent research unit.'" One staff member expressed concerns as Philosophy was part of a merged department until three years ago and experienced problems combining different departmental cultures.

They were also worried about the speed at which the project was moving.

Rose agreed that there would be issues to overcome in merging three departments, which would be overcome by good communication. "If you can maintain good communication and good liaisons, as I think we have been doing [...] that's hopefully going to help the change."

She explained that the need for quick progress was down in part to ensuring that all staff knew where they fit into the structure and in part because any delay could push the project back months.

Although the project will involve a considerable amount of upheaval it is hoped students will benefit once the merger is complete. Both Rose and Doupe believe that strengthening the links between the departments can only improve the quality of degrees offered and Lancaster's popularity.

"I think it's something that would be

quite a strong marketing point – that you've actually got this type of linkage," said Doupe.

Despite their feelings on the lack of consultation, Bulmer and Owens agree that there will be benefits.

"I'm not completely against the proposal itself – it looks like it could be a good move for securing the department's future," said Bulmer. "I think that creating better relationships between the departments could have a positive effect. They say that there could be different degrees and a better mix of degrees which I think is a good thing."

"If there's any chance of new degree schemes I see that as a positive," Owens agreed. "My opinion is I'm annoyed that it's gone through without Senate seeming to take our position seriously but now that it has gone through I really do hope that it actually works well and does come up with all these benefits for students."



# LU Cinema scoops national award

**Raffi Ronchetti**

LU CINEMA HAS been voted one of the best student societies in the country by the British Federation of Film Societies (BFFS). At the BFFS's Film Society of the Year Awards and annual conference, held in Sheffield this September, LU Cinema came second in the Best Student Society category.

Former President Rachel Morris and LU Cinema members Ben Garfoot and Mark Harper attended the ceremony and gave a presentation on LU Cinema, which advised others on how to set up their own film societies.

Morris nominated LU Cinema for the award this year, the first time the society had entered the competition. As part of the application process she had to create a portfolio containing a report about the cinema, copies of all publicity material and the schedule and screen shots of their website and Facebook page. In addition she submitted photos of the cinema and information on how members are recruited.

"The reason I wanted to nominate LU Cinema for this award was because we started the 2008 academic year off with just four exec members yet we have managed to have the most successful term and then year to date and I felt this should be recognised," she said.

The Best Student Society Award serves to recognise and reward excellence in volunteer run student film societies. They look for societies who provide high quality cinema for their institutions by upholding the best qualities of a film society as well as serving the needs of its constituency. The winners were chosen by members of the BFFS board. Although LU Cinema missed out on the top prize they received a distinction as recognition for all of their hard work as well as providing a good nomination pack.

"I feel getting the distinction was brilliant considering it was our first

year entering. Next year we're going for the top prize though!" commented Morris.

There was competition from many other university film societies and Warwick Student Cinema was finally crowned the winner. However LU Cinema did not leave empty handed; along with their distinction they received a bottle of champagne and a goodie bag filled with DVDs and books. Warwick Student Cinema has now won two years in a row but with such a promising start LU Cinema hope to knock them off the top spot next year.



**Oscar performance:** LU Cinema exec with their award (Photo: Ben Robins)

## Joint campaign run to raise awareness of Mental Health Week

**Luke Anderson**

AN ALL-DAY PROMOTIONAL event was held in Alexandra Square on Tuesday of Week One to raise awareness of Mental Health Week.

Organised jointly by LUSU and Student Services, the Mental Health Awareness Day involved numerous charities and organisations setting up stalls in Alexandra Square to make students aware of mental health issues.

Mental Health Week (Week One) is devoted to dispelling myths about the subject of psychological problems and raise awareness that one in four people have suffered – or may suffer in future – from problems such as depression or eating disorders. The campaign was also set up to reassure students that not only is it not uncommon to feel like this but also that there are many avenues of help available.

Those present included LUSU's mental help working group, with many representatives offering information and advice, as well as the on-campus university counselling service and Mind, a national mental health organisation that promotes and protects good mental health and fair treatment. Also there were the Samaritans, the Tea for Two campaign and the meditation centre. All present provided free hand outs, from tea and cakes to leaflets or

contact details.

Despite the heavy rain, those running the stalls were not deterred and sheltered at the top of south spine. Organisers felt it gave new first years as well as continuing students the message from LUSU that there are avenues available to everyone who needs them. This was the view taken by LUSU Vice President Equality, Welfare and Diversity Torri Crapper:

"Mental health affects everyone whether personally or through a friend. It is the highest cause of men's suicide in Britain. The event tried to raise awareness of mental health amongst students, whilst trying to challenge the stigma which continues to surround mental health."

The Mental Health Week campaign is also about promoting ways of maintaining a positive state of mind. The BBC-run Grub Club initiative, which encourages healthy eating to remain physically and mentally healthy, is continuing. Also, LUSU have revamped their website to coincide with the week. It is now even more easily accessible and contains blogs on events being run.

The university and LUSU have many paths open to help any student who feels like they have a problem and are more than happy to accommodate. They can be found either through your college JCR, the student counselling service (located in Furness) or by calling Night Line on 01524 594444.

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# Societies and departments get by with a little help from their Friends

Collette McColgan

SEVERAL UNIVERSITY SOCIETIES and departments have received extra funding having applied to the University's Friends Programme.

The Friends Programme was set up in 2001 with the intention of raising money to improve the university's profile and the research it carries out. University departments and societies are then able to put in bids for any funds they may require.

One of the major beneficiaries was Lancaster University Sailing Club, who requested £5,300 to put towards buying a fleet of six two-person sailing dinghies. "The Programme was suggested to us by Student Activities after we applied to the AU for the total amount of money to buy the fleet," said Penny Cowell, the president of the Sailing Club. The club intends to use the fleet for practice, whilst keeping four of the old boats for beginners to learn in.

Cartmel College has also received a sum of money, having requested £7000. This has been put towards staging, lighting and PA equipment which Cartmel hope will enable them to put on more live entertained events.. Cartmel JCR President, Robbie Pickles said: "This is excellent news for Cartmel. Hopefully it will breathe



**Stars in their eyes:** Cartmel hope the grant will help them become a live entertainment hotspot.

some new life into the bar."

The Friends Programme collects money from former students and parents of students throughout the year and allocates the funds on a bi-annual basis. Through telephone campaigns alone, the programme raised over £50,000 last year and has, in the last three years, funded over 80 projects at the university. Since 2001, over 3,000 people have made donations or pledges to the fund, which has collected over £11 million since its start date.

There are three different kinds of funds. First is the Priority Fund for

university and campus wide projects, to which clubs, societies and departments apply. This is allocated according to need and importance. The Student Support Fund is for those students who may have financial issues preventing them from studying at university. Finally the Teaching and Research Excellence Fund is used to fund carrying out research within the university and to provide resources for departments as well as offering incentives to attract people who specialise in research.

Other major beneficiaries from 2008's funds included LUSU, which

received £10,000 for seasonal events, and the Department of Physics. Physics was the main department to receive funding this year; it was awarded £9,000 to fund its Science Outreach for Schools programme.

This programme intends to have established links and partnerships with local schools by the end of the year. Links will be created through events such as Year 11 enrichment days, sixth form visits to the department, teachers' events at the department, A level enrichment activities and lecturer visits to schools. All of this will be funded by

the money received from the Friends Programme.

Smaller fund amounts went to Lancaster University Swimming and Water Polo Club, which received just under £400, and the Department of European Languages and Cultures, which received £900 to purchase audiovisual equipment.

President of the Swimming and Water Polo Club, Dan Boyd, explained how the money would be used for his club. "The money will pay for 20 people – 15 water polo players and five swimmers – to compete in the local water polo league and national swim meets," he said.

To compete in these events, competitors must be members of the Amateur Swimming Association, which involves paying a £22 membership fee. Such an amount was too much for some members, which is why the funding was applied for.

Each year 25–30 students are employed by the programme to operate the telephone campaigns. Though their main purpose is to contact alumni and parents of Lancaster students to collect donations and pledges, it has the additional aim of providing a point of contact with the university and its current students for Lancaster alumni.

More information about the Friends Programme can be found at [www.alumni.lancs.ac.uk/](http://www.alumni.lancs.ac.uk/).

The University is now actively preparing for the start of the new autumn term. We would like you to assist in these preparations by taking the following steps to help prevent the spread of flu on campus.

1. Follow good hygiene advice e.g. catch it, bin it, kill it
2. Whilst at Lancaster work out who are your 'flu friends'
3. Keep yourself up to date with by using the following websites.

## General Swine Flu Information & Symptoms

[www.lancs.ac.uk/press/swineflu](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/press/swineflu)

[www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

Tel: 0800 1513 513

## The National Pandemic Flu Service

If you think you may have swine flu symptoms, contact the national pandemic flu service directly

Tel: [www.pandemicflu.direct.gov.uk](http://www.pandemicflu.direct.gov.uk)

0800 1513 100





# Purple Wednesday met with mixed reception

Hannah Smith

A LUSU INITIATIVE to offer discounts at shops in town to students with a Purple Card met with mixed success.

Purple Wednesday, held during Week One, saw the Students' Union join forces with shopkeepers throughout the town centre to promote the benefits of the Purple Card to new and existing students. However, despite the incentive of free buses provided from campus to town throughout the day, response in some shops was not as great as organisers might have hoped.

One shopkeeper, who wished to remain anonymous, commented that "the free buses are probably the only thing bringing them into town, but look outside - where are they?". This was not an isolated opinion. Debbie Hill from S.W.A.G. described the day as 'embarrassing', but added that if asked, she would participate again, purely on the basis that it cost her nothing.

A lack of campus-wide marketing was blamed for the poor take-up. Second year Law student Philip Melia told SCAN "I had no idea the event was taking place. I didn't see any posters up around campus and no one has been giving out fliers from what I've seen." In The Body Shop, despite the purple balloons on display at the front of the store, student customers seemed unaware that there was a special promo-



tion available to them.

Another disillusioned shopkeeper added that although he would participate again he would not do so unless he was provided with promotional material, as the vast proportion of his customers "didn't even know what a purple card was."

The majority of outlets included in the promotions saw no significant change in sales, possibly due to the fact

that many of the 'purple card discounts' are available in those stores on a daily basis throughout the year.

However it would be wrong to say that the day was a complete disaster for everyone. Martin Collins from Burton stated that it had been "a very successful day, and very busy." There were other shopkeepers who had a positive reaction to the initiative. "Just to say from our point of view, worth repeat-

ing! The atmosphere in market square has been great," added another store owner pleased with how the day went.

The general consensus from students seemed to be that the day had been successful for stores that appeal to them on an everyday basis. It was felt, though, that holding the event the week after Freshers' Week may have been financially unadvisable. Second year English student Rachael Green

stated that "it's a good idea, but there's no way I'd want to be spending money the week after Freshers".

Andy Johnston, LUSU VP FEDS (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies), defended the event, telling SCAN that "it was a good chance to show new and returning students what the purple card can offer them."

The event was also promoted with 5000 copies of a free one-off newspaper.

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# GSA have new constitution passed following quorate general meeting

**Liam Richardson**  
Editor

THE GRADUATE STUDENT Association (GSA) had their new constitution passed on Wednesday September 30 following a successful general meeting.

Over 50 postgraduate students attended the meeting held in The Herdwick which approved a new budget and co-opted new officers as well as agreeing to the new constitution.

The GSA needed 40 people to attend to make the meeting quorate. This was narrowly achieved partly due to the promise of free pizza for those who showed up. This follows on from the successful general meeting held by the GSA a year ago, which in itself had been the first time such a meeting had been quorate for a number of years.

The new constitution recognises the distinction between on-campus and off-campus postgraduate students by having two Social Activities officers with separate remits and a responsibility for each group.

Graduate College provides accommodation for approximately 800 students, yet the overall tally of postgraduates at Lancaster University numbers over

3,500. A new Vice President Equality and Welfare position has also been added into the new constitution which brings the GSA in line with the LUSU Sabbatical officers and other undergraduate JCERS.

The passing of the new constitution was met with relief by remaining members of the GSA following a difficult summer in which all but three officers remained to lead the college through Freshers' Week. Acting GSA President, Ellie Fitton was delighted with the general meeting, feeling the GSA can now properly progress:

"I'm incredibly pleased with what has happened mainly because we have got to change things for off-campus students as I have been saying from the start. This is the main thing that the GSA is going to have to do this year and is something that has needed doing for such a long time."

The prioritisation of off-campus students was also evidenced in the new budget, which allocates funds towards weekly socials to be held in Lancaster.

Graduate College members in attendance generally appeared satisfied with the changes made to their overall representative structure.

Mike Jenkins, a physics PHD student,

had only been at the university for a week after arriving from Manchester University, but subsequently seconded the motion in the general meeting:

"So far (the GSA) have been brilliant because of all the events in Intro Week which made it so much easier to settle into the college... Having seen how well run the GSA is, it has definitely made me consider running for a position."

The new constitution was ratified by Union Council on Thursday week one and the foundations can now be placed for elections happening in week four. Fitton now has high hopes that the crucial elections can be a success:

"I hope that we get an exec of ten officers who first of all are interested in what they are doing, second of all listen to the advice that LUSU and past GSA officers can give them, and thirdly that they work with the college on making the off-campus and postgraduate research experience better for postgraduates overall."

The nominations board for the elections will open from Friday week two. Hustings for the prospective new officers is scheduled for Monday week four. Voting in the election, however, will be carried out by paper ballot, the last time this will occur before the switch to e-voting.



**Success for GSA:** The Herdwick was the venue for the GM (Photo: Ben Robins)

## greenLANCASTER INTRO TALK

*Wednesday Week 3*  
*Biology LT - 6.15pm*

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR EXCITING VOLUNTEERING  
OPPORTUNITIES AND HOW TO SIGN-UP**





## Foreign correspondent to deliver Annual Peace Lecture

SOPHIE MCNEILL, AN award winning Dateline foreign correspondent, will deliver this year's Annual Peace Lecture at the Richardson Institute.

The free public lecture, Reporting from conflict zones: telling the stories of the victims, will be held in the Lancaster University Management School, lecture theatre 08, on Thursday October 15. It will begin at 6.00pm.

McNeill has covered some of the world's most difficult and dangerous issues from areas such as Iraq, Kurdistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Gaza. Most recently she has been based in Jerusalem, Beirut and New York.

Despite only being 23, McNeill has already received a series of awards. In 2008 she was recognized as the Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year. She was also awarded Western Australia's Young Person of the Year Award (when she was just 16), was a New York Film Festival finalist in 2006 and was honoured as the 2008 Young Woman of the Year and Journalist of the Year, an award given by Australia's women's magazine YEN.

This will be the fourth annual peace lecture at the Richardson Institute. The Richardson Institute is a peace and conflict research centre and part of the Department of Politics and International Relations. It was established in 1959 as the first peace research centre in Britain.

The inaugural lecture was given by the Independent's Middle East correspondent Robert Fisk, an alumnus of Lancaster University. Last year's lecture was delivered by the veteran political campaigner Tony Benn.



# Border Agency come under fire from academics for unfair attendance monitoring rules

- **International students targeted by visa tightening**
- **All students to be monitored under new proposals**

**Samantha Newsham**  
News Editor

THE BORDER AGENCY'S requirement for universities to monitor attendance of international students has attracted criticism from Lancaster's academics.

Dr Gavin Brown, Director of Undergraduate Studies, said that the new rules were unfair and commented that the plans had been introduced too quickly.

Following the Border Agency's tightening of the visa system, universities are now required to monitor attendance of all students on Tier 4 (non-EU) visas and report on students who are consistently absent. The proposals were made as an attempt to stop terrorists entering the country on student visas.

Concerns arose at Lancaster when the proposals were outlined about the message such a system could send out to the international community. "I and my colleagues would have been very uncomfortable to just monitor the attendance of Tier 4 students," said Dr Brown. "I think it potentially has knock-on effects for international recruitment and how we're perceived abroad."

Initial plans were introduced by the Government last autumn. Although universities had numerous queries about the practicalities involved, few answers were forthcoming. The only information made clear was the date at which data must be made available.

Dr Brown felt that more consultation with university staff and more time for planning would have been helpful. "To me it needed much more thought through the whole process and much greater consultation in getting a system that worked for everybody,"



he said. "It just seemed to me that we could have taken six to twelve months longer and have done it in a much more considered way."

The decision was made to monitor attendance of all students. Whilst the majority of undergraduate departments do this already it is now necessary for them to upload the data on to a central database. In addition, post-graduate students, who have not traditionally been subject to attendance monitoring, must now have meetings with supervisors or similar points of contact reported.

It is hoped that Lancaster's new system will allow departments to identify students who may be struggling and put support mechanisms in motion. It

will also give tutors a point of reference when asked to comment on attendance for job application forms.

"There are good pedagogical benefits for monitoring attendance," said Dr Brown. "It enables departments to identify students having difficulties – non-attendance is often the first symptom of greater problems."

The procedure for collecting attendance data will vary from department to department. Those who already have methods in place will continue to use them, making it clear to their students which sessions will be monitored. It is also the individual department's choice how many sessions are monitored for each module.

A student on a Tier 4 visa will be

reported to the Border Agency after missing ten monitored points of contact. Departments and the Student Registry will contact any student with a large number of absences before this point is reached. This will ensure first of all that appropriate support is offered to students having problems before too much time has passed but also prevents anyone from slipping through the cracks.

Plans for a central electronic system using chip cards have been temporarily put on hold. The Management School has piloted a system of this kind but the process of introducing card readers in teaching rooms across campus would prove complex. However, there are plans to continue looking into this.

## Lancaster Award off to flying start as 350 students sign up for new qualification

**Liam Kay**

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY HAS introduced a new qualification this year to improve students' employability.

Instigated by Professor Amanda Chetwynd, Pro-Vice Chancellor for the Student Experience, the Lancaster Award aims to give students recognition for activities outside of their subject curriculum.

The award seeks to allow extra-curricular activities including sports, societies and volunteering to be placed alongside academic achievements, giving

ing a more rounded display of achievements made at university.

Over 350 students have signed up for the Award in the first four days of Freshers' Week, with many 2nd and 3rd year students also enquiring about it.

"While you are still a student, it may seem that graduation will be the final hurdle into assured employment. Unfortunately this is not always the case, and you may wish you had something extra, to give you the edge over other job applicants," said Sir Christian Bonington, Lancaster's Chancellor. "The Lancaster Award is designed to do just that, by bringing together a record of

all your extra-curricular activities. I warmly recommend you to give this some serious thought- it could make all the difference."

Success is recorded in four areas: work experience, campus and community work, employability and other additional skills, such as clubs and societies. Upon completing these four requirements, the applicant will be required to fill in an application and sit a mock interview to decide if they should receive the award. A number of major graduate employers have endorsed the award, including Price Waterhouse Coopers, HSBC and the Co-Operative Group.

The introduction of the Lancaster Award comes at a time when Lancaster has surged to first in the North West for employability but lagged against other top universities in graduate employment. The award looks to improve this record and propel Lancaster further up the league tables nationally, as well as tangibly improving the qualifications that are earned by students here.

Elaine Davis from CEEC said that the Lancaster Award gives Lancaster the edge over other university students. Further talks will be held by departments and CEEC to inform students of the further benefits the award can offer. Many 2nd and 3rd year students

already eligible for the award due to previous activities undertaken at university.

LUSU Vice-President Academic Affairs, Danny Ovens, said "I think in terms of graduate employability, the Lancaster Award offers an additional way for our students to stand out from the crowd and is a welcome initiative that should help Lancaster students gain extra key skills that will benefit them outside the walls of University."

He added: "There have already been several endorsements by big graduate employers recommending the Lancaster Award to students to give them that extra edge when applying for jobs."



# Students rally to take towns over higher education funding

Lauren Hirst

THE NATIONAL UNION of Students (NUS) is planning to takeover several towns and cities across the UK this autumn to raise awareness of 'Funding Our Future', its campaign for a fairer system of student loans.

With a general election set to take place next year the NUS's hope is that tuition fees will become one of the major issues and are calling for politicians from all parties to make their views clear.

"NUS will be taking the debate to the people. With a General Election in the offing there has never been a better time to ensure that aspiring MPs are held to task on higher education funding and challenged on the doorstep," said Wes Streeting, NUS President.

Students in ten cities across the UK will take to the streets over the next few months to protest against rising tuition fees. "Starting off with ten key university towns with General Election swing seats, we will ensure that the debate about how our universities isn't just the preserve of some cosy stitch up between the government, Tories and vice chancellors, but one in which the voice of students – and the general public



**Taking the town:** The NUS are running a series of demos across Britain to highlight the 'Funding Our Future' campaign

– is heard loud and clear," Streeting added.

Student debt is rising year on year; the Push Student Debt Survey has suggested that this year's freshers could end up with debts of £23,500 upon graduation. The study also revealed

that students in England owe considerably more than their peers in other parts of the UK such as Scotland and Wales.

By organising these Takeover events the NUS hope to get their message of lower educational fees out to

local communities and raise awareness of the ever-increasing problem. "If Labour and Tory politicians won't make their case to the public, we will make ours. We will make the public aware of what's at stake and rally communities to our cause," Streeting said.

In place of tuition fees the NUS would introduce a Graduate Tax, which they state will not only increase funding but allow greater access to higher education. "[The] NUS' proposals would give universities double the amount of funding they currently receive, while allowing the children of poorer families to go to university without the fear of debt," said Streeting. "They would also prevent the emergence of a market in higher education, where only the rich could afford to attend our most prestigious universities."

A Government review of higher education funding is due to begin later this month. Increasing funding problems led to the Confederation for British Industry (CBI) declaring recently that students should bear the brunt of this with higher fees. The majority of university vice-chancellors would like to see the cap on tuition fees raised, to £5,000 or even more, and many VCs backed the CBI to some extent. An NUS petition against the vice-chancellors' position gained over 33,000 signatures.

Whilst Lancaster won't be having its own Takeover events are being held in Liverpool on 20-21 October and Manchester on 4-5 November. LUSU's President Michael Payne is hoping to organise an unofficial Lancaster event to be held some time next year.



## THE LANCASTER Award

The Lancaster Award recognises your extra-curricular achievements and can be completed alongside your degree programme. It will help you develop your skills and make you more employable to graduate recruiters. To achieve the award you must undertake activities in four areas:

- **Employability/career development**
- **Campus, community and social development**
- **Work experience**
- **Additional skills**

Many major graduate employers have endorsed the Lancaster Award :-

'The Lancaster Award helps students demonstrate that they have developed and possess the skills that are invaluable to graduate employers in all sectors'. (HSBC)



Find out more about the award: [www.lancs.ac.uk/careers/award](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/careers/award)



[card.lusu.co.uk](http://card.lusu.co.uk)



SEG Presents:

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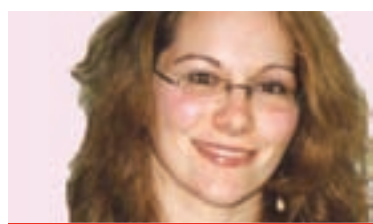
8.00 Doors

£3 with Purple Card/£5 without  
Bar Snacks Available





# scan:COMMENT



**Sam Newsham**

## Outdated divorce laws no longer reflect the society we live in

Regulations need modifying to acknowledge the rise of working women who are no longer reliant on husbands

**O**n 18th February 2008, a High Court judge awarded Heather Mills £24 million as part of her divorce settlement from Sir Paul McCartney in March 2008. Mills had originally claimed £125 million of McCartney's estimated £400 million assets.

Massive payouts from divorce settlements like this have resulted in Baroness Deech, Professor of Law at Gresham College, London, and chair of the Bar Standards Board, to call for a complete overhaul of regulations for awarding maintenance after divorce. There is currently no parliamentary limitation on the amount one partner can be awarded and all too often judges subscribe to the belief that women deserve half their husband's money after a split, an attitude Lady Deech described as 'paternalistic and unprincipled.'

And isn't she right? The Mills-McCartney case and others like it are extreme examples, to be sure. But it's hard to see where Mills' belief that she was entitled to money McCartney had been earning since long before she was old enough to work fits into a society based on equality of women and men.

The roots of the current maintenance



system can be found in the 1969 Divorce Reform Act. Whilst divorce has been largely available since the mid-19th century, it was only after the Act was passed that divorce became possible without one partner needing to be significantly at fault by committing adultery or similar marital sins. Two consequences of the Act were an immediate rise in the number of divorces (it's now estimated that 45% of all marriages will fail) and birth of the maintenance laws as we know them today.

In 1969, the majority of married

women spent their lives looking after homes, husbands and children. Their sole source of income would be money given them by their husbands, and if a divorce did happen maintenance was there to ensure their financial security.

Forty years later today's society has changed dramatically. Nowadays the majority of married women work, either through choice or because they simply can't afford not to. Surely it follows that in the event of a divorce a woman would be able to support herself without requiring large payouts

from her husband?

That's not to say we need a one-size-fits-all maintenance law. Cases should be considered individually, taking into account children, the length of the relationship and the relative financial positions of both partners before the marriage took place.

Into this debate has come an interesting new development: the rise of the pre-nuptial agreement. A study by the BBC has found that the number of pre-nuptials has doubled in the past twelve months. The pre-nuptial – a contract signed by both partners before marriage agreeing what should happen to assets each bring into the marriage should they divorce – is no longer the preserve of celebrities and those rich enough to have a lot to lose. Slowly but surely they are becoming the norm.

So is this the way forward? As yet they are not legally binding in England and Wales, though the courts are paying them more attention as their popularity increases. David Cameron, surprisingly, has pledged to change this should the Conservatives win the next election – a rather astute outlook from someone who just a few months ago was recommending tax benefits for

married couples.

Critics argue that couples who feel the need to sign a pre-nup should be asking themselves why they're getting married in the first place and claim that divorce should be harder to come by, but after forty years of the Divorce Reform Act that's just the way things are. For better or for worse we live in a society where divorce is easy to obtain and therefore frequently occurring. Instead of trying to change that we need to accept it and take steps to protect ourselves should the worst happen.

Most interestingly, it's amongst women that the greatest increase in pre-nups has been noticed. A survey by Scottish Widows showing that the number of men trying to claim their wives' money has also doubled, is it any wonder?

This is, perhaps, the biggest signal that our divorce laws are outdated. Things have changed: there are many women whose earning potential far outstrips that of their husband. As a partner in one leading law firm says of the pre-nuptial proceedings: "It is not sex-biased now, it is to do purely with money." Isn't it about time the maintenance laws reflected that?



**Michael Payne**

**LUSU President**

**Lancaster is a unique institution and senior management should not forget the values and traditions which made it so**

## Senate's actions open up wider debate about student representation

**U**niversities supposedly encourage the broadening of horizons, challenging of the status quo and the development of academic rigor. For decades students and academics have worked in partnership to improve universities in the United Kingdom. Academics have benefited from the fresh, inquisitive and sometimes radical views of their students, whilst students have been positively influenced by the experience and wisdom of academics from all fields of study. Intellectual discussion and debate with the involvement of all key stakeholders in higher education has helped UK universities develop into robust, democratic and innovative seats of learning.

The involvement of student representatives on the senior most governing and policy making bodies of universities is therefore no coincidence; it is due to realization of the skills and knowledge they can bring to the table.

And whilst Lancaster is set to face a tough challenge ahead, as are most universities in the UK and globally, we must not lose sight of our traditions, values and principles. It is wrong and unforgivable for this University to ride roughshod over its students because it "has a deadline to meet" for the devel-

opment of one of its faculties.

When deciding to close and then merge Religious Studies, Politics and International Relations and Philosophy into one super department, the Faculty for Arts and Social Sciences and university management should have asked themselves two questions; what affect will this have on our staff and what affect will this have on our students?

Whether or not this question was asked remains to be known, this is because since June consultation, communication and discussion took place with staff far and wide across the faculty about this significant academic restructuring. Specific trade unions were contacted and communication channels were kept open with them until early October, when this restructuring was finally submitted for the institutions seal of approval at University Senate. But the Students' Union was left in the dark, not contacted, nor consulted and not informed until September 22nd; just six days before the final agenda setting for Senate.

The brief history of this debacle could be raked over numerous times to reveal a total lack of care to properly explore the implications of such a merger on students. Piecemeal chats and a few e-mails do not amount to and should

not be held up as shining examples of consultation and nor should they be.

Rather than choosing to create an antagonistic situation the management of the university and leadership of the Faculty should have taken the compromise offered by LUSU; to postpone the approval of such a merger until proper and thorough student consultation had taken place. A postponement of six weeks until the next Senate.

Even though Senate failed to support the students in their calls to be consulted, what was more worrying and even more unforgivable was the lack of support from senior officers of the university. A Pro-Vice Chancellor for Colleges and the Student Experience who did not utter a word throughout the whole debate, a University Secretary (who should be independent of all parties present and uphold the democracy and proper governance of the university) that suggested consultation through the Students' Union and the Unions' role of representing and supporting all its members was not what mattered here and a Vice-Chancellor (Chair of Senate), who had to step in to suggest consultation with students after the approval of the merger to save face for the Faculty leadership.

A university can be serious about

sustainability, whilst being serious about the welfare and interests of its students at the same time. These two are not mutually exclusive and should not be seen that way. Students are not merely customers who are paying for a service, only entitled to complain after the service has been delivered poorly; students are co-creators of the academic experience, willing partners in building an institution that can be proud of the overall student experience.

The need for an in-depth discussion at Senate about student consultation is symptomatic of a wider concern; that senior officers of the university begin to forget the people and values that made Lancaster the uniquely special institution it is. A tight time schedule is never an excuse for cutting out key aspects of communication and consultation.

Last January I warned of ignoring the words of Charles Carter, Lancaster's first Vice-Chancellor, about the importance of people and their support in difficult economic times for a university. Leaders in different areas of our institution would be foolish to carry on regardless of Carter's advice. Students will not and should not put up with tokenistic consultation as an afterthought; they have shown willing and should be respected for it.





**Andy Johnston**  
**LUSU VP FEDS**

## The biggest challenge is engaging our membership with democracy

### E-voting is just one change that can benefit the ways in which the Union interacts with students

**T**owards the end of last term, hidden away in a lecture theatre in the management school, Union Council made the decision to change our electoral processes and the way we choose who represents us. In case you didn't know I am talking about E-Voting. For those of you new to these democratic shores, or not too sure what I am going on about I'll rewind a little bit. Since LUSU came into existence we have used paper ballots to run our elections. Bright faced JCR officers would sit on ballot boxes during the voting period and eagerly wait for fellow college dwellers to come on down to the porters lodge and put their ballot in a box. So it has been, so ever shall it be.

But as Bob Dylan tells us, "times, they are a-changin'". Although I am sure dear old Bob wasn't singing about student elections (not all the time anyway) the electrification of the world around us is definitely a point to remember. I won't list the numerous things we can all do by way of electronic means in the modern day, the list is too long for a comment piece, but this begs the question, why not add voting to the list? We



shop, we work, we chat, we flirt (look, I did list them) so it would only seem sensible to experiment with voting online as well. Week 8 is the time when we shall find out; when we vote in our new JCR Exec and non-sabbatical officers for 09-10.

Within some circles the idea of E-voting has been hotly debated and anyone there on that long night in summer term will know the decision was not

made lightly. This is all good and well, the electrification of voting in Lancaster is a monumental challenge, no doubt, but it is by far not the highest hurdle to jump. Engagement is the cornerstone of any democratic organisation, whether it be engagement through intense approval or fervent disagreement with actions, the biggest challenge this year is not to get students voting online, but to get them to simply vote.

It is this interaction that needs the lid lifting on it campus-wide. I can guarantee this is being read in a kitchen somewhere on campus or in a student house whilst friends or housemates nearby discuss the price of food in Central or what their JCR Exec has done for them lately. It may be a case of a few choice words that are quickly forgotten or a conversation that turns into a facebook rant, but is this enough?

Since I joined Lancaster in 2006 interaction and debate around campus on student issues has greatly improved, but there is no ceiling to this issue, interaction and engagement can always rise. The portals for discussion are there to be used, the paper you hold now is a fantastic way to air your views. If you have an opinion on how your Union is acting then tell us, if you think you could do it better, then stand.

Essentially my point is this, E-voting is a massive change for our democratic processes and a big step forward for our Union. But don't concentrate on the fact you'll use a mouse instead of a pen in week 8, concentrate on why you are deciding to do it at all, and if you aren't, why?

## CBI must not short-change the long term

Funding review must not sacrifice students futures to balance books writes **Mike Indian**

**T**here was a lot in the headlines drawn from the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) report on higher education to make students sweat. Talk of higher fees, higher debt and squeezing the student population abound in the media. This is not mere sensationalism, higher fees and higher debt are on the cards. Back in June 2009, Lancaster University's vice-chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings, said it was time to confront the decision of 'cash or students.'

Indeed, with spending cuts looming over the country, the need for tough decisions to weather the coming political storm is needed. However, it is all very well to call for cuts, but entirely different to decide where they should fall.

Here though, the CBI report enlightens us as to the thinking of the government. Universities have been asked to make savings of £180m over the next two years. In some cases this could lead to budget cuts of 10-20%. Firstly, this indicates that the wheels of financial change in higher education have been in motion for a long time before this report. Secondly, it shows us that the report can enlighten us, rather than simply being the ranting of the 'fat cats' the National Union of Students brands the CBI as.

In an ideal world, tuition fees would not rise and graduates would not be saddled with the prospect of crippling debt. However, this is not an ideal world. In this world we need businesses and universities to have greater cooperation in order to tackle the many complex problems we face in the 21st century. This cooperation is a long way off being realised and achieving it will require a magical dose of compromise on both sides.

A sad reflection of relations between the two sides is that the CBI taskforce had no student contingent providing much needed input to its report. As much as the NUS may claim that its proposals to make university free at the point of use and to stage contributions according to graduate earning power are reasonable, it needs to push harder for a dialogue with key business leaders.

Why should the NUS make the first move? It represents an increasing number of people who will be swelling the colossal ranks of graduates. If we have learned anything over the last few months, it is that as graduates we are slaves to the job market. In the future, there is likely to be limited demand and overwhelming supply, as the government stays committed to its efforts to get 50% of the population into higher education we need to be sure that the specialisation higher education engenders doesn't get drowned out by the dearth of potential jobs.

On the other hand, if businesses were to invest more time and money in higher education and the future of graduates, as the CBI report alludes to, both students and employers will gain.

Too often we forget what we have in common.



**Lizzie Houghton**  
**Assistant Editor**

## The 'Fresherphiles' have their own disturbing agenda when it comes to Intro Week

**L**ooking back on my time as a fresher, the kitchen reps I had seemed to like their drink a bit too much. Consequently I found it hard to feel completely comfortable on the nights out arranged for us. A year on and fortunately I've yet to hear any stories about freshers helping their wasted reps home this intro week. Maybe it was the massive tirade against this sort of irresponsibility that came about in the aftermath of Freshers' week that caused it. However, even if the official stance was a 'Freshers Week for Freshers' this year, there will still be those older students who didn't want to sacrifice their own fun for the new arrivals.

The group that really put a downer on the whole week, who unsettle Freshers and should get up the back of any responsible rep or officer, are the latches. The pervs. The 'fresherphiles'. Older male students (usually third years) who, on the face of it, have no reason for being at Freshers Week and certainly no reason for going on fresher nights out. They don't have a reason, but they do have a mission. In order to complete that mission they'll hound a fresher, bed a fresher and then boast about their conquest before going out to do the same thing the next night.

They are quite simply sexual predators. They understand that freshers are in a vulnerable position and they play that completely to their own ad-

vantage. They utilise their experience of the town and of the lifestyle to back a fresher into a corner which has only one way out. A fresher on their first night out has none of the understanding of an older student. They may never have been chatted up before, they never have drank before. This naivety also means they're less likely to know when to say no, or to comprehend the consequences of not saying no. This is what the fresherphile thrives on. If a man went so out of his way to pick on vulnerable younger women – or other men – in wider society he would be shunned by all but the most loutish. Yet somehow it seems to be accepted that that's what older students will do in the first few weeks of term.

Of course, it may all end up as simply a harmless liaison, but anyone who sets out with a plan to bed a fresher a night can hardly be expected to be the most responsible of individuals, or the cleanest. The lasting consequence of the night may be far worse than wounded pride and disillusionment with intimacy.

Obviously any fresher on a night out will be at least 18, and therefore old enough to make their own decisions. Maybe only 18 by a matter of weeks, but still an adult nonetheless. But apart from the huge experience gap between an 18 year old fresher and a savvy third year, what also has to be taken into account is the fact that freshers' week is

notoriously bad for letting people make their own decisions. Pressure comes in from all angles. Pressure to drink, pressure to fit in, pressure to please. When all of that pressure is flooding in, it's far harder to say no.

Even those freshers who are more experienced may still find it hard to tell someone to 'shove off', not knowing what is an acceptable way to deal with a problem in a town they've never been in before and with a group of people they've only just met. If one of the group is picked off then they'll be given a reputation that could follow them for the rest of their student life and seriously damage their new friendships. If they band together then they'll get rid of the pest, but part of their evening has been ruined doing so.

Ultimately that is the key point. Fresher's Week is about freshers having fun and feeling relaxed, which is impossible to do when someone is forcing themselves on you. If someone happens to catch your eye that a very different matter, but when someone grabs your head and forces you to catch their eye, then that's just not on. The message needs to get through that those who treat the week like one long mating ritual are not welcome. Get that message through and hopefully Freshers' Week will become well and truly about the freshers having a quality time, and not about the quality of the freshers.

**New students should be able to have a good time without feeling under pressure from sexual predators**





**Alex Harris**  
Comment Editor

# Time to remember the life of an unsung hero

Norman Borlaug's accomplishments need to be recognised and celebrated

On September 12th, 2009, a silent tragedy occurred. Norman Borlaug passed away at the age of 95. Nobody would call his death at such an age any kind of surprise, but it still remains sad that one of the greatest philanthropists and scientists to have ever lived is now no longer with us. Perhaps an even bigger tragedy is the fact that most people have never even heard of him.

For those unaware of his accomplishments, Norman Borlaug was the father of a revolutionary method of crop production that dramatically increased both the amount of food farmers were able to grow as well as the durability and resistance to disease of those crops. The science behind Borlaug's theories may not be up there with the genius of Einstein or Watson and Crick, but the very real benefits to impoverished peoples dependent on the wheat crops Borlaug helped improve was staggering.

You see, Borlaug wasn't just a do-gooder with a chip on his shoulder about poverty and a lot of money to throw at charities. His work wasn't just one instrument of many in a collabora-

tive effort to combat starvation, it was more than that. As a direct consequence of the man's ideas and his stalwart defense of them, poverty has become a matter of history for an unfathomably large number of people. Estimates vary on the beneficial extent of Borlaug's work, but a popularly quoted figure is that over one billion lives were saved. All because of one man's genius and determination.

Most of us could probably write off the saving of one person's life as an achievement and be done for the rest of their lives safe in the knowledge that were there any pearly gates of heaven at the very end, they'd surely be afforded a queue jump along with a VIP pass and a free glass of bubbly. More still – nobody could really blame anyone for thinking in those terms. To save a life is the noblest of virtues. We could all be forgiven for being content with having done just that one selfless deed in our lives.

Borlaug was never satisfied. Even after having saved roughly one sixth of the Earth's population from certain starvation, Borlaug continued to fight for what he saw as right. Critics (yes,



even this guy has critics) contend that he fought too ardently for the environmental lobby and frequently aligned himself with far-left political activists. That may have been true, but nobody could ever have accused the man of cynicism of venal and self-serving political wrangling. Right up until his death, Borlaug was still travelling the world convincing the rich and powerful that they needed to be doing more to help those who will be going another day without anything to eat.

The faces that appear on those ubiquitous charity advertisements tend to inspire an emotional cocktail of guilt, powerlessness and defeat. The natural response to seeing ten African children with sunken eyes, swollen bellies and a swarm of flies surrounding their almost entirely naked bodies is to sit in solemn silence, reaffirm your powerlessness and maybe, if you're feeling particularly generous, donate some money. Where most of us would see only defeat and hopelessness, Borlaug saw opportunity and a problem capable of remedy if only he put his mind to it.

The classical definition of a hero is someone who does a good deed without expectation of reward or recognition. In this sense of the word, we've rarely seen a truer hero than Borlaug. It would have been easy for him to shamelessly court the talk-show circuit or employ a crack marketing team to make a fashion icon out of him, but just as his brilliance comes from the things he did, his humble, quietly heroic personality shines from the things he didn't do. Borlaug was, above all, a shining example of how an individual truly can make a difference.

## The Sun will have major influence on the 2010 election

No surprises that the tabloid is backing Cameron's Tories once more writes **David Sykes**

You would be hard pressed to find anyone willing to argue that The Sun, the nation's biggest selling newspaper, is a well-balanced, informative and intelligently formulated source of news or political analysis. Sun readers themselves mostly realise this and do not use the tabloid as a means of learning about domestic and global issues.

What papers such as The Sun print alongside the celebrities, football and soft porn can have an impact on even those readers with an eye for political bias and spin. The issues and problems that the papers choose to print have been demonstrated to have an impact, because it is these issues that become the topics that decide elections. In this respect, the party allegiance of the UK's highest-selling newspaper matters immensely. Come election time, the big issues that determine the outcome will have been in part decided by the press rather than people or parties.

The primary strength of Tony Blair's New Labour was that it knew how to work the press. It was one of Blair's first acts upon taking over as party leader to fly out to persuade the international press to support his rejuvenated party (particularly Rupert Murdoch's NewsCorp). But in the aftermath of what Labour had hoped had been a successful party conference this month, The Sun boldly announced that 'Labour's lost it'. The tabloid which was so successfully wooed by New Labour has stated that the Labour party has 'lost its way' and the paper has turned back to the Tories.

Ever since the catastrophic defeat in 1992 which was apparently the result of The Sun's damning verdict of the party in the run up to the election, Labour made significant steps to win over the tabloid press; they elected the media-friendly Tony Blair, they adopted a new party logo in the form of the red rose as opposed to the red flag. Furthermore, they followed a moderate policy and political stance, expanded the Press Office, established the Strategic Communications Unit, made use of the Rapid Rebuttal Unit, and promoted figures such as former Daily Mirror political editor Alastair Campbell, as official spokesperson and later the director of communication, and former television producer Peter Mandelson. The party would cooperate only with journalists who were sympathetic to the party and its policies and they would carefully control the release of bad news.

New Labour's courting of the media was central to its historic three terms. Only through understanding the potential political capital in papers like The Sun were Blair and his gang able to recover from their political exile. So it's strange to hear senior Labour politicians shrugging off the switch as if it were a triviality. The switch in the paper's loyalties will undoubtedly have an impact on the next election and has certainly made the Tories' jobs a little bit easier. What's more – admitted right-wing bias has given all of us another reason to hate The Sun.



**Liam Kay**

## Increased variety needed to improve social scene

Imagine the scene, you walk into the bar, hear thumping bass, see the fluorescent lights rotate and attempt to avoid the staggering drunks as you navigate the dance floor in search of a drink or, on rare occasions, someone to hold a conversation with. Then imagine you are one of the countless number of students at the university who do not find this vision of hedonism enjoyable or attractive.

It has always been an oddity as to why so many of the socials at this university desire to produce events that follow this previous stereotype so rigidly. Don't get me wrong; having some of these types of socials are important to entertain those who enjoy dance music and nightclubs. However, where is the variety? Where is the recognition that each student differs in how they spend their free time? Where is the entertainment for those who would rather be doing something else?

The answer is not an easy one. Societies are rarely big enough to find the space and resources to pull off the sort of events that colleges thrive on producing. They do not have the means to be able to produce large-scale events that would appeal to the disenfranchised and even if they do, they are often unable to co-ordinate such occasions on a regular basis. This means that the colleges are often the only method of creating socials that can appeal to a wide range of students and promote an active and engaging social calendar.

However, it often is the case that vast swathes of the student population are left disappointed by the types of activities that are promoted from within colleges. Foreign students, a large proportion of Lancaster's student body, are often left alienated by the typical dance and drink socials favoured by other students and there is often little within the university that caters for individuals who prefer 'alternative' types of music. It can be argued that rock music attracts a far larger fan base than dance music does yet it is often ignored by those who organise student entertainment. More must be done to appeal to the tastes of everyone at the university rather than just privileged minority.

There are several alternatives to the stagnation of the broad appeal of events that permeate the social calendar. Band nights provide a welcome relief from the incessant throb of a DJ and non-alcoholic events such as film nights, bowling and similar activities reduce the emphasis on drinking for university students at a time when the government is attempting to eradicate binge drinking and the country is only just beginning to recover from the current financial malaise. There is so much potential for an all-encompassing and engaging social calendar but rarely do we see these sort of events actually put into action. We cannot expect the college system to survive intact when there is so little for some sections of student population to enjoy. More

must be done.

It would be wrong for our university to not be inclusive for the variety of different lifestyles that exist on campus, so why should we not have a greater variety of socials run centrally by the colleges to attract the attention of all of its inhabitants? We have to understand that for a college to be the true centre of student entertainment, it must seek to encourage all members to get involved in a two-way process whereby its members take greater responsibility for atmosphere in the college in response to the expansion of its leisure activities. Surely alternative activities that promote greater unity within the college would be beneficial to the college system? It may even encourage groups outside the traditional social remit such as foreign students, non-conformists and non-drinkers to re-integrate themselves into college life.

This in itself is the reason for having the college system that the university, rightly so, prides so highly and that makes Lancaster so unique. For the college system to continue to survive it must learn to cater for the new types of student that are coming to the university and incorporate them into college life. It is crucial for the university, its students and its colleges that this is realised and put into action soon, if only to strengthen the college system at this university. After all, the best university is one that caters to all.

## Campus entertainment has stagnated and new ideas need to be generated to appeal to as many students as possible



# Letters to the Editor



Send your letters to [scan@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:scan@lancaster.ac.uk) together with you name and college (even if you would like your letter printed anonymously). SCAN reserves the right to edit your letters for publication.

Dear Sir,

We are writing this letter to show support to the staff that recently lost their jobs at Pizzetta Republic following the return of an owner who appears to have ousted all of its previous workers in favour of new ones. Throughout our time at University, Pizzetta offered a quality, friendly and respectable place to eat food whatever the occasion may be. The service was good with all the staff having a smile on their face and willing to have a conversation with you despite being rushed off their feet at times. It is therefore disappointing to see that an old partner in the business has failed to take any of this into account and possibly ruined a successful business and the unique atmosphere that the place offered by replacing each and every one of the staff members.

Not only does this fail to take into consideration any of the livelihoods that the workers had, it shows a lack of respect too. The manager of the previous Pizzetta establishment Abdullah was very approachable and was always willing to get involved with helping students out whenever he could. He took it upon himself to help out Fylde FC, kitting them out, and most recently Cartmel FC by providing sponsorship that has provided equipment. He also helps out with salsa lessons, is part of the fashion society and is always willing to listen to students and will help them out if the cause is right.

It is therefore fortunate that such an approachable character as Abdullah has not been lost as he has taken himself and his workers to Sultans who will surely benefit from having such a hard working team as part of their business. It just seems to be an unfair and unfortunate set of circumstances that has caused all of this controversy with occurring.

**Cartmel Football Team**

Dear Sir,

End of summer term is obviously a busy time of year for everyone, but that does not excuse the horrific state of the recycling sheds in Furness in July. The bins were overflowing with black sacks and general rubbish so much that you could not even enter the area, and the smell was absolutely disgusting. It is no excuse that the people who deal with rubbish were busy or that the time for collection had not come round, this happens every year, and it was left for days on end before being resolved. I really hope that it doesn't happen again, it is filthy, unhygienic and lazy.

**Crazy Cartmel Student**

Dear Sir,

During Freshers week I was subjected to a number of patriotic chants that made bold claims, which I believe lack validity.

The first such chant to arouse my indignation was: 'There's only one Furness Colleg; I found this very hard to believe and conducted a search to test this assertion. I found myself appalled to find that there were in fact many Furness Colleges throughout the United Kingdom (the closest being located at Barrow-in-Furness).

Other chants found me increasingly perplexed. 'Pendle take it up the arse' in my experience I found this to be unsubstantiated; besides, taking it up the arse is now considered to be a valid lifestyle choice.

If in future Freshers could keep to factually correct chants, this would be greatly appreciated and much confusion could be avoided.

**Josh Barton  
Furness College**

Dear Sir,

I would like to personally thank the person who decided it would be a good idea to build a glorified 24hr pc lab on Alex Square. I am sure that the 24 hour access to the glorified furniture that occupies said PC lab will be no where near as useful as the resources the library has to offer, which could greatly please the majority of students by simply extending opening hours. I can't plug in my laptop and sit in comfort as the designer of the glorified PC lab didn't think out their floor plan very well in respect of plug sockets. I have to settle for plastic chairs or stand at a Mac. Not quite the learning experience I had in mind. I feel that someone with cash to burn decided to favour looks over common sense with this one. And at whose expense?

**Michelle McShane  
Furness College**

Dear Sir,

I am greatly saddened, and almost offended. Why I here you ask, why?? Because the most entertaining part of SCAN: the problem page has disappeared!! All I have to say is SCAN you have let me down, what else is going to give me some light relief between weekly reading and writing essays.... If my sanity decays I blame you SCAN and you alone...

**County Girls**

Dear Sir,

I would just like to express my great unhappiness at the increase in bus ticket prices. It used to be a nice, round £2 for a return from campus. Now I have to rummage round in my purse to find that extra 15p. Or, even worse, be given a handful of loose change in return for a £5 note.

I don't care if we're in a recession, or if fuel prices are on the hike, I just really liked the ease of handing over £2, and I know a lot of other people feel the same way.

**Sally Warde  
Grizedale College**

Dear Sir,

Although generally impressed with the latest issue of SCAN, I found it very difficult to find a copy in the first place. Usually, I collect my SCAN from County bar but was dismayed when it was not there. After some enquiries it seems it wasn't sent there in the first place.

Undaunted, I went to the Management School (my department) only to discover the same problem there. Generally dispirited I went to LUSU thinking that there surely must be a copy in the foyer receptacle. However, I was wrong!

If you want people to read the newspaper it is good practice to make sure you send it out to the colleges and departments where it is usually found.

A number of my friends and regular SCAN readers also missed picking up the freshers issue and were left disappointed. I understand the first issue of the year may run out more quickly than others but surely you can plan around that. Please ensure this doesn't happen again!

**Anonymous  
County College**

**Eat  
Sport,  
Sleep  
Sport,  
Read  
Wynes**

**Page 30**



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# LUVU volunteering introduction talks! Don't miss out!

**Schools Partnership:** Wednesday 21st October - Faraday LT - 6:15pm

**LUVU External Placements:** Thursday 22nd October -  
Bowland North SR2 - 6:15pm

**SAFE Project:** Tuesday 20th October - Bowland North SR6 - 6:15pm

**Voltage Project:** Thursday 22nd October - Furness LT3 - 6:15pm

**Energizers Project:** Monday 19th October -  
Bowland North LT3 - 6:15pm

For more information on the above projects check out  
the website!

# LUVU lancaster university volunteering unit



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# Frets, fees and fancy dress:

As the dissection of Freshers' Week begin, five first years give us their experiences. **Lizzie Houghton** takes a peak at their Fresher Diaries.

THIS YEAR WE decided to do something slightly different in SCAN. We thought rather than have some crusty second years, third years and postgrads try and sum up how Freshers' Week went, we would let the Freshers themselves do it.

We selected our potential Freshers over the summer, and those who got back to us were ask to produce a Fresher's Diary, detailing all their university related thoughts and experiences leading up to and during Freshers' Week. And our Freshers have delivered.

The general consensus was that Fresher's Week was an out and out success. Our Freshers felt entertained, but also well looked after. But that's not to say there weren't a few complaints. The scheduling of the week was not particularly endearing. Early starts after nights out were most unpopular, especially when those early starts required any sort of capacity for thought. The pressure to drink also reared its ugly head again, although the non-alcoholic nights were seen as a plus, if not an "alternative".



## Rebecca Nobles Furness

### September 2

Some people still haven't heard about their accommodation yet, glad I do, I'd be worried by now otherwise. Still not got that pack of stuff in the post, maybe it will come today? I ordered my Purplecard yesterday, it kept cropping my photo in a different place to where I was telling it to but hopefully it will be alright. The email I got afterwards said Purplecard 08-09 on it though, but the email made it clear it was for this year, maybe someone needs to change that? On the LUSU site it said Purplecard 07-08 too, just slightly confusing for us Freshers applying for a card for the first time.

### September 22

For the bar crawl we think it's F for Furness not the first letter of our block because we don't know that yet so we can't prepare for it. I'm going for a simple fairy for that one. But circus night? What to go as? Having trouble with that now, and have left it too late to order from the internet, should get it sorted soon though. I wish we got told our room numbers like students at other universities do, would be good to try and talk to the people we're going to be living with etc, but I'm really looking forward to meeting everyone now. Packing is a nightmare, I have so much stuff but I've been talking to other people who seem to have just as much so I'm not too worried.

### September 29

Over the summer I looked at all the Freshers events and had a totally different take on them to how I feel about them now. On Monday I decided to op out of the Salsa and go out for the quiz, tonight I went to the circus themed night but didn't go on to elements. I feel that there is too much pressure on Freshers to go out this week, what if clubs aren't your thing? I know there are plenty of people in my situation but instead of feeling able to make that decision and say no they get swept along with the crowd. On Thursday I'm committing what some would consider a cardinal sin. I'm not going on the Big Night Out. I've figured that I have four years to discover the nightlife in Lancaster, without my entire college being crammed into each bar/club. I'm going to the "alternative" DVDs and pizza in the TV room, I just think these "alternative" events shouldn't be seen as alternative, it should just be your choice. I'm really pleased that Furness is putting on these other events however, I know a few universities that don't bother and that's not fair. I think it's all too easy to get caught up in Freshers week, and the best week of your life myth. I'm going to take it as it comes, mix the big events with the smaller ones and make what I want to of it all, I just wish more people would do the same.

### October 1

Our reps took us into town today and showed us around, hopefully should be ok getting round without them, we'll test it out on Sat when we go for our food shopping. Had a very long and boring meeting this afternoon to sort out the French timetable, had to go through every hour of every day and see when the most people were free. Signed up for Music, Spanish and Languages Films Societies at the Freshers Fair today, going to go along to LUVU too some time. Decided in the end to go on the Big Night Out, really enjoyed it too, but I would still say to people that if they don't want to do something they don't have to, it doesn't matter what everyone else wants to do.



Move over Bridget: SCAN's fresh faced Freshers share their experiences



## Bryony Yates Pendle

### August 22

Started talking to people who are off to Lancaster today, they all seem really nice. No one has heard about accommodation yet so I'm not as worried as I was earlier, though I was student finance would hurry up and confirm for me as well. I really want to go to Pendle and it's great talking to people who also want to go there.

### September 1

My Fresher's Pack arrived this morning and reminded me of how much I have to do and how little time I have to do it in. I loved looking through The Guide which was really useful and got me even more excited to be going. The first week looks amazing and I really hope I don't embarrass myself at roller skating. Also through the post came news that my birth certificate confirmation had been rejected by Student Finance because my sponsor had said he was a joiner and they had deemed this an unacceptable profession. Unimpressed is a mild term for how angry I was at this and my hatred for Student Finance has now rocketed

### September 3

Woke up this morning and after much sleepy searching found my accommodation email in the junk section in my inbox. I got the accommodation at Pendle I wanted so incredibly happy, though being £190 poorer before 9am is not the best way to start the day. It also doesn't help Student Finance still haven't produced my loan so paying for my rent, food and tuition fees looks like it's going to be really fun.

### September 30

After an epic night out for Pendle, the fact we had to enrol at 9am was a little cruel. We all stumbled out after two hours sleep and picked our courses – successfully for some, unsuccessfully for others. I fell into the unsuccessful side, failing to write my name correctly twice, forgetting the date and queuing in the wrong place a grand total of six times. In the evening we had our Fresher's meal at the Carleton, an infamous place according to our Fresher's Reps. Let's just say it lived up to their interesting descriptions and we came away with a vow never to return.

### October 1

Our first trip into town unguided today. It was very interesting and thought it originally started out as a trip to find our way around; it soon turned into a mission to find food. It's hard to believe how hungry you get at University and how much you appreciate food you haven't made yourself. You hear the tales about cooking at University, but you never believe the myths.



# A Fresher's Week



re their trails, tribulations and triumphs. (Photo: Ben Robins)



## Gintaute Vitkute Grizedale

### August 21

31 day left until I'm flying to UK and 36 days until I finally get my own room and 41 day till my studies start. Can't wait each of these big days. I am so excited about getting to university that I can barely stand to continue my daily routine. I think it's because I've already visited Lancaster University so I already feel as if I'm one of the community's members. I have already been living with such feelings for several months after I knew that I got the place at Lancaster.

I visited Lancaster University during the Easter holiday when open days were held and I was charmed with the spirit of colleges, facilities, opportunities and, of course, staff. Whoever I have asked, everyone was very helpful and kind, although I might have had some problems with my English fluency at the time.

However, let's talk about today. Each day I'm visiting the University's webpage, facebook groups etc, where I find all the information about societies, clubs, meet my college mates and, in general, meet many new peopl, who will hopefully be my friends and colleagues. But what I am really excited about is Freshers' Week. As much as I have read, it sounds amazing.

### August 24

The days are a bit colder but still sunny, like they are saying to me "take everything what you can till it's not raining". Although sun is nothing to me now, I'm too excited about going to Lancaster. I've got a message through Facebook today - Freshers Week is coming. That seems to be a lot of fun and I'm already putting all my stuff, which I will need, to my bag. It won't all fit.

### October 2

Grizedale seem like the genuine article. They seem very prepared and have a good set of events on! I was a bit nervous about coming, moving in etc, but gZ White T-shirt night should definitely help to relax. After that, all the week seems like a one long long night (it's everything about bars/pubs). It's great though because we can meet many people and surely become friends. Big Night In sounds amazing. I'll definitely need time to rest a bit. And I am excited about Cruise Night at Revs. It should be great. In general, I am already adore Grizedale so the Fresher's week sounds like the best week ever for me.

A few points to consider: I have been looking for some activities at University during my studies, and unfortunately, I couldn't find any information Like, why are same websites not being updated regularly? It's confusing for fresher like me to find something, what I can do, what's available. Also, I was looking at some posts, working with international relations/students and I couldn't find what I needed. I hope I had these problems just because I'm new at everything here.



## David Wilson Cartmel

### September 1

Wow. Away for a weekend and everything happens when you're not watching. I arrived home from Greenbelt today to find a decent sized package from Lancaster, as well as an e-mail with my accommodation offer. Yay: Got first choice. No: Have to pay a deposit. On to the pack. First thing out was a letter basically saying if you can't pay your fees you get kicked out. Very friendly. Next thing was better, a welcome letter from the Vice Chancellor, explaining what all the things in the pack were. Apparently you have to read the Guide first, which has got all the important stuff in it, then the Essential Guide, which has the less important stuff in it. Now, I'm no English expert, but something about that doesn't quite make sense.

### September 9

Filled in the forms for the doctor today. The alcohol survey was fun. As an accidental teetotal - I see nothing wrong with drinking, I just can't stand the stuff - I failed to score a single point. I was also confused by the little swine flu note, which said if you don't fill the forms in asap they won't be able to treat you if you catch it. But surely if you have swine flu then you shouldn't go to university?

### September 23

Another email arrived with details of how to pay my rent. Interesting, how the earlier "Welcome to Lancaster, it's going to be great!" messages have slowly turned to "You're going to have to pay for this, and this, and this."

### October 1

Slightly annoyed tonight. Everyone else has gone to a party in town. I, however, have a maths test at 9.30am tomorrow, and decided that going to a nightclub until 2am probably wasn't the best plan. Now feeling far too sensible for a fresher. Honestly, who arranges a maths test at 9.30am during fresher's week?



## Emma Gault Pendle

### September 2

I checked my emails again today, and found out I got into Pendle. I went onto the Lancaster website to look at what they've got planned for Fresher's Week; I'm slightly worried about the amount of drinking involved, purely because I don't want to start doing silly things already in the first week. But everyone's in the same boat and I'm sure it'll be more of an ice breaker than anything.

### September 27

It's white t-shirt signing night tonight, so the reps bring us t-shirts with the Pendle logo on, and the people on my floor start to mark each other's t-shirts with names and messages. Next, it's down to Pendle bar where we meet loads of new people, and get them to write on our t-shirts too. We also had to register in the library today - it was a lot more hassle-free than I thought! I also got a terrible picture for my library card... But who didn't?!

### September 29

Tonight is the big night out where we get to venture into Lancaster town and go to five of the best pubs and clubs, including Sugarhouse. We all have a couple of excited pre-drinks, eager to check out the night life of Lancaster. It's so much more vibrant than I expected. The music is great, the people are fantastic, and depending on where you go, the drinks are cheap too. So after finishing a merry night out with a massive kebab, we head off home on our free bus for a well-earned good night's sleep.

### October 2

Fresher's fair has been a popular event over the last couple of days, so I go to the Great Hall to check out the best day of the 3 day event - the Freebie Fair. I pick up plenty of freebies including a mini rubix cube, a horn (which people have already attempted to take away from me many times), loads of offers and leaflets, and even got to go on a bouncy castle assault course.

Tonight is also dress up night, as something beginning with 'p'. I try my best at a punk outfit, bearing fake piercings and all. Some of the other outfits were hilariously good, I even saw a boy dressed as a pregnant woman and a pasteurised cow. It was a fantastic official end to Freshers' Week.



# Shameless money making

**Katie Jamieson**  
examines her life  
as a 'supporting  
artist'.

**DID YOU KNOW** "patience is a virtue" was a phrase coined specifically for the profession of extras? That's probably not true, but it could well have been, as there is little point even considering the job if you aren't they type of person who is comfortable with neglect for hours on end, or redoing the same tiny scene up to hundred times to make sure each camera angle has the perfect shot. I have been in scenes in television programmes and films that have taken about three hours to film that were about 10 seconds long onscreen.

I've been a supporting artist (we're too sensitive to be called extras now apparently) a few times in the past on various shows after joining an agency based in the Northwest in 2008. Aside from extras work, an extra signed to an agency can expect to be asked to do photographic shoots, fashion shows and promotional events – all of which are well paid and require the same sort of skills you would need to be a extra. Although, the words skills and extra don't naturally seem to fit together, there are definitely personality traits that can help you in your career as an extra.

The need for patience leads onto the second quality a television and film extra needs – professionalism. Almost

every other job I have worked on has seen other extras become bored of waiting around and has caused them to either leave or behave in a very unprofessional way where a member of the crew has had to get involved and have a word. A situation like this is very awkward, as word of your behavior certainly gets back to your agency and then you can consider your days as an extra over.

It is an exciting way to spend your time, and there's no shortage of perks of the job. More often than not there's a chance to mingle with celebs, actors or directors that you admire (or despise), it's often well paid for doing not a lot of work at all – I often catch up on my university reading while I have a few spare hours before and in between the setting up of scenes, you can meet some interesting people who you may begin to recognize from other jobs that the agency sends you to work on together, you can have people fuss over you like a star when you visit the hair and makeup and costume departments, as they want you to look perfect, and my personal favorite perk of the job is that you get all your meals catered for during the day and the food is always delicious. I can't deny I ordered scampi when working on Shameless because I heard the actor who played Frank Gallagher ordering it just moments before.

Working on Shameless was fantastic. As I was told by a bearded man who made a full time career out of work as an extra (the demand for facial hair is high) "working on Shameless isn't the

best paid job, but it is the best show to work on by far". I could definitely see what he meant when compared to other shows. The cast and crew there were obviously having a busy day, as the scene featured all the main cast at a party in The Jockey pub, but they still had time for a laugh and they were aware that the extras in for that scene



were new and made them feel welcome. This was reassuring, especially considering in the scene, which had a St. Trinian's theme, I wore hot pants and a red feather boa and was dancing Shameless-ly with a man about 40 years older than me. I hope, in this case, that life doesn't imitate art, and I

will especially hope this when I watch it back with my parents.

Obviously, extra work has its disadvantages too. The amount of early mornings I have worked as an extra are countless. Once I had to wake up at 4.20am to get a train to Liverpool to start work at 7.15am, after only confirming the job at 8pm the evening before. I wasn't even needed on set till that afternoon but extras are always required to hang around in case they are ever needed short notice, once I had to make my way back from Manchester alone with a large suitcase full of stuff at 1am.

A rare, but unpleasant disadvantage I had recently was when I worked on a film where myself and other extras were asked to do things we weren't particularly comfortable with. If you are ever put in this position you need to be able to say no if it doesn't feel right, as only seeing yourself on screen afterwards may lead to a bit of regret. A reputable agency would never send you to a dodgy job, but sometimes, if circumstances change on set you might be asked to cover for someone who would have agreed to do a job different to the one you are getting paid for. Even though it's annoying to have to be on set first thing in the morning and leave last thing at night, and always served last for dinner, and sometimes left to your own devices when the cameras are rolling which can be daunting, it is important to remember your own self worth because sometimes the people you work with forget.

## CAPTAIN BONNY'S WORLD OF FOOD

WELL, IT SEEMS that a sour wind now blows down upon the Pizzetta Republic, which until recently could be honestly noted for being the jewel in the crown of good coffee and café comfort on campus. I had heard that new management had taken over, so went down for a gander to see what the food and service was like, as on the surface it would seem that nothing has changed. I dragged along a male colleague to get a wider view, and being a veggie, wanted to get a carnivores opinion. Two simple wraps were ordered, one with holumi, one with chicken. General verdict on both of these was pretty poor, the wraps were like cardboard, (I could even write on surface it was so hard) the slivers of holumi were so thin that they were almost transparent, and not a lot of filling. The chicken was lukewarm, and rather cold inside and again low on the filling. The Cappuccino's, it seemed were hit and miss, with the person working not knowing exactly what they were doing, with either all milk no froth or all froth no milk, no consistency there. We obviously left dissatisfied.

However, there is a more worrying aspect to this place, and that it seems to be trying to market itself on what had gone before, a shell of its former self, which once you scratch the surface and talk to other customers comes across as a low grade greasy spoon burger bar and definitely not suited for the demands of those on campus. Yes we want cheapness, but we also want quality. And that quality lies very much in the past. For one, the staff seem completely lost, with most of them standing around looking confused and ill trained in the job, with frequent mistakes, and no real chain of command or cohesion as a working group. And while they are standing about looking confused, the tables are getting littered with cups some which are not moved for a considerable amount of time. The place does now seem dirty and grimy, again possibly down to staff who do not know the routine of working in a café. And back to the food, I have been getting reports from other customers, with one complaining that the vegetarian option was definitely not cooked in a vegetable oil, with the staff not really concerned by this quite important mistake. Another customer had to almost make her latte herself, as on two attempts the staff member had balsaed it up. One could go on and on. In summing up, then as the song suggests: A must to avoid.

ON A HAPPIER note, it seems that one can now sit down for a good old fashioned fried breakfast, with Wongs now taking on the job from 8.30 to 11am Monday to Friday. What is novel here is that folk can choose their own combination, and it caters for veges too. Cheap and cheerful.

# Student radio gaga

**Hannah Place**  
explains hows uni  
didn't kill the radio  
star.

MY INITIAL IDEA of radio presenting was that of intimidation, mostly containing images of having to multi-task to the max, whilst being pushed for endless amounts of mindless conversation. It was a picture that did not appeal to me whatsoever. Being a person of occasional disorganized tendencies, I believed that personally attempting to preserve my dignity on the radio could possibly only end up in disastrous consequences. However from being involved with Bailrigg FM in other areas of the station, I finally became faced with the prospect of presenting a show.

I had occasionally appeared on morning news shows, which consisted of me being helped by the lovely Emily to discuss the daily papers and important political issues I honestly knew nothing about. From this I began to get more interested in presenting, realizing it wasn't as difficult as I had first thought. I had so far managed to refrain from embarrassing myself on air and thoroughly enjoyed talking away into a microphone. Deciding that it would be a marvelous idea to get my own show, I chose a time slot on a Wednesday evening, in which I could play whatever songs that took my fancy



**On the air:** Bailrigg provides a great student experience. (Photo: Hannah Place.)

and chat about mindless rubbish for 120 minutes.

My debut show was initially a daunting experience. Not wanting to venture into the world of presenting alone, I dragged along my good friend Becky to hold my hand. Without really knowing how to successfully work all the equipment, I took the presenter's seat gingerly, armed with piles of compilation CDs and colour coded lists, with absolutely no idea what to talk about. After much hesitation and procrastination, I began my show.

After the initial introduction, announcing my name whilst trying not to sound too pretentious, my nerves were all but gone. I realized that actually, radio presenting is more like having a

general chat, only it is in a room that just happens to contain microphones and CD players. The pressure to constantly talk that I had been expecting never came, finding that topics of conversation seemed to happen naturally, even if totally unrelated. I enjoyed the freedom of being able to play my own music during my slot. Having a wide range of favourite genres, I found it easier to play whatever I fancied that particular show, rather than organizing playlists days beforehand, adding the odd request from time to time, which usually ended up being the Black Eyed Peas for various friends.

It turned out that a radio station can also be a place of educational learning. After publicly revealing my distinct lack

of geography skills regarding European countries, I was surprised by the audience response. After the subject of Scandinavia somehow got brought up during a discussion between songs, so did the question of it's whereabouts. Failing to place it within my mental world map, I casually asked that if any listeners with geography skills could educate me. To my surprise I got a huge amounts of people messaging the studio. Knowing that people were listening and actually taking an interest in my show was a great feeling and very encouraging. At the same time it let me know that it was probably a good idea not to mention anything geography related in my future shows. I now know that Scandinavia is definitely not a country near Belgium.

Im am now currently more involved than ever with the station. Apart from rude awakenings by my alarm clock very early on sleepy fresher's week mornings, it has overall been a great experience and it was surprising to find that the once intimidating black fader entitled 'Presenter Mic' has finally become more of a friend than an enemy. I encourage anyone with even a slight interest in presenting to throw away your inhibitions and throw yourself into the world of student radio, it might just be your future calling.

TO GET INVOLVED in Bailrigg FM, please contact [publicity@bailriggfm.co.uk](mailto:publicity@bailriggfm.co.uk). Or visit our website at [www.bailriggfm.co.uk](http://www.bailriggfm.co.uk)



Carbon Competition starts up this week in Grizedale and County townhouses, and all of Pendle college.

Loads of splendiferous prizes for the most energy-efficient flats.

Register your flat to the Comp by sending your flat or house number/ name to [green@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:green@lancaster.ac.uk)

Good luck, and happy carbon crushing!

# Carbon competition



## greenLANCASTER



LANCASTER  
UNIVERSITY



LUSU



### WEDNESDAYS

# The Carleton

*Student only night*

**Selected**  
**£1 Drinks**  
**All night**



Wednesday 7th October

## Back 2 Skool



**Commencing 7th October**

**Week 1 - Back to Skool**

Wednesday 7th October

**Week 2 - UV Party**

Wednesday 14th October

**Week 3 - Sports and Shorts**

Wednesday 21st October

**Week 4 - Halloween**

Wednesday 28th October

**Week 5 - Cowboys and Indians**

Wednesday 4th November

**Week 6 - Cops and Robbers**

Wednesday 11th November

**Week 7 - Children In Need**

Wednesday 18th November

**Week 8 - Dr and Nurses**

Wednesday 25th November

**Week 9 - Army**

Wednesday 2nd December

**Week 10 - Christmas Party**

Wednesday 9th December

**Admission £4**


with NUS or Library card all night  
Arrive early to avoid disappointment

Advanced Bus Tickets available from the LUSU Shop from Mondays £1 or from the Underpass and walkabout on the night £1.50

Buses depart from:  
Underpass (9.30pm until 11.15pm)  
Walkabout (9.30pm)

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## STUDENT LIFE

Michael Holt

# Why The Inbetweeners is Rubbish

*The Student Life editor on the imperfect sitcom*

I am a gangly dork with thick glasses. I am a persistent victim of abuse. Whenever a new popular portrayal of a 'gangly dork with thick glasses' comes along I seem doomed to be informed of who-I-look-like, most often by drunks in takeaways. It is a curse that has followed me all my life.

I've had them all: 'Where's Wally', 'Walter the Softy', 'Napoleon Dynamite', 'Mclovin'; we are a minority that don't really have a leg to stand on when it comes to complaining about stereotyping (It's not like we have a weighty history of discrimination like black people or gingers).

The most recent addition to the repertoire of lookalikes that people now (regularly) shout at me in the backstreet is: 'You look like the guy from the Inbetweeners.' Specifically the character 'Will', the character in The Inbetweeners that can most adequately be described as a gangly dork with thick glasses.

Whilst handing out copies of the last issue of SCAN at Freshers Fair many people unjokingly congratulated me on my cover appearance.

There seems to be almost universal love and critical acclaim

for The Inbetweeners. Usually when I am asked if I like it, I just reply that I do, because it seems a bit like sour grapes to say I don't. The kind of thing where you just look like your trying to be trendily contrary by not liking something that everyone else likes. Saying I like The Inbetweeners is a small price to pay to stave off being asked to talk about football or my feelings.

People like to side with it as some kind of realistic rebuttal to teen romp-athon Skins: "The Inbetweeners is great; they never get the girl. They don't go to all the wild, drug-taking sex parties like what they do in Skins. It's a refreshing portrait of what being a teenager is really like." The problem is that it isn't.

The boys always seem to be shepherded into the embarrassment that befalls them. There's always something clunky and unnatural about the situations they get themselves into. Particularly Will, his embarrassing public outbursts always come across as way too forced to ever be realistically mortifying.

Also, for a show that is supposed to be about the awkwardness of adolescent school life the writers seem to be scared to ever set it



**Holt & Bird:** *I'm seeing double here, four inbetweeners!*

there. In the mere twelve episodes that have been made they seem to go "on holiday" in about half of them.

Another gripe is the patronising recap that concludes each episode, it seems incredibly unnecessary for a show that is only about twenty odd minutes long. There's something way too smug about showing the embarrassment money shots again when they are fresh in the memory and pretty unfunny the first time round.

One of the trumpeted aspects of the show is the swears, bragging banter that the lads engage in. The problem is that there is no looseness to the way they take the mick out of each other; they follow their breadcrumb trail of custom-made swearing to the letter. Joylessly trudging towards the point where one of them says "brilliant" sarcastically. Blunt swearing is only satisfying and amusing if it sounds spontaneous... Bitch.

It's not like the show doesn't

at times have some great writing. The line: "Son, women are like rollercoaster's... Fuckin' mental" is self-evidently amazing. It seems to be a singular case of a comedy show that is funnier in the retelling than when you actually watch it.

Despite all this, when I'm asked, I will still go on saying that I like it, because reservedly I do. Something like The Inbetweeners is better fare than most other mainstream comedy on TV at the minute (note the state of living death that all previously decent panel shows seem to have strangely simultaneously entered). At least it is intermittently funny rather than never.

The upcoming film adaptation they are making could be interesting as the script has allegedly been written by the shows stars themselves, with the creators saying that it is "annoyingly funnier" than one they'd written. Reportedly in the film they "go on holiday", which is surprising. Hopefully if it is successful it could embolden FilmFour to finally risk making the long-rumoured Garth Marenghi's Darkplace Movie. That would be a silver-lining shiny enough to put up with being called "that guy from the Inbetweeners" for a few more years yet.



*Saving Our Social Networking Souls*

*2 Thou Shalt Not De-tag Photos*

THERE SEEMS TO be an endless quest for perfection in society. People are airbrushed to within an inch of their lives on the cover of glossy magazines till they look like busty laminate skeletons. By not de-tagging photos we are at the front line of protecting the self-esteem of future generations.

Think about how many people see you in a day, how many thousands of images and moments flicker through the mind of strangers who briefly glimpse you as you walk past, each one passing judgement in a split second. At any given moment you might look: rough, then nice, then rough, then nice, then nice, then nice, then really rough as you nearly sneeze, then quizzical, then nice, etc, if you make a vow not to de-tag then everyone will get a mathematically precise indication of your mean level of attractiveness. De-tagging pictures of you snogging in nightclubs is fair do's though.



**IN THE FACELESS** corridors of on-campus accommodation it makes all the difference when someone has taken pride and effort in their room and has set out to take their modest, uniform, ration of space and giving it its own unique character and identity.

Well we here at SCAN are on the lookout for the best bedroom on campus. Each week till the end of the year we will take a look inside some of the most charismatic and wonderfully cultivated rooms that can really show what its pos-

sible to do if you put your mind to it.

If you would like to nominate a room for consideration simply send an appropriate photo and your contact details to: [scan.features@lusu.co.uk](mailto:scan.features@lusu.co.uk)

The winner at the end of the year shall receive the coveted 'SCAN STUDENT BEDROOM OF THE YEAR 2009/2010 TROPHY'

Don't forget to join the Facebook group so you can wade into the debate.

Good Luck!





# Housing Crisis

**Erica Macleod** discovers there's no place like home

I turned my key in the lock of my new off-campus house in Lancaster with mounting glee. The click sounded, whispering the hopeful promise of house parties, TV night's and communal dinners awaiting me beyond the threshold. The door swung forth into darkness and I found myself in a draughty, musty-smelling gloom, my excitement dissipating with every cautious step.

Dust lingered on every surface, stains on every carpet; this I could have lived with. I'm not a fussy person and I wasn't expecting the Hilton, but behind that shabby front door, when I saw the slug trails on the settee and the broken fridge, my heart sank.

When choosing a company to find a house with this time last year I was advised by many second and third years to steer clear of LUSU Housing, with warnings of shoddy

homes and poor customer service. So naïve and warm-hearted I was towards my newfound institutional home, I imagined such rumours about a student union ran business were exaggerated. Claiming to make 'finding a home easy' and giving an encouraging talk in the first weeks of term, I was convinced they would offer peace of mind in the dangerous world of turn-a-profit businesses and lazy landlords. How wrong I was.

The settees were coated in slug-trails, as was the carpet. The fridge and tumble dryer were both broken, the freezer had not been defrosted and the oven has to be lit by hand. The bathroom did not appear to have been cleaned at all; we even found what appeared to be a long bogey streak on the wall. One of the bedroom doors was off its hinges, another does not entirely close properly. Two radiators had rusted all the way through to an

unusable state and leaked onto the carpet leaving further murky and dubious stains.

Apparently a cleaner had been in the day before we arrived, but it was clear those basic tasks such as vacuuming and dusting had been neglected for a long time. Getting LUSU to do anything about fixing our problems has proved vague at best. They did not even have a key for the unlucky housemate who arrived last; the previous tenants had lost one so the baton of failure was passed on with the house: it was our responsibility to get another key cut ourselves.

Cautiously perched on my saggy, damp sofa I considered how unfortunate we had been with our choice. Surely other LUSU Housing tenants would have had better luck and we were the unfortunate exception to a generally civil rule. Proved yet again to be too trusting for my own good, the answer was a

resounding 'no'.

An anonymous student with disabilities staying in a LUSU house requested a handrail for her house, as her disability affects her walking. Over the phone LUSU Housing stated their houses weren't for "those kind of people" and queried which member of the house had "the problem". The student in question was highly offended but this hasn't been the end of her woes. Deciding to replace the beds in her house during Freshers' week, LUSU dumped three mattresses in her living room. Obviously unable to move them herself, they have been a nuisance in a now unsociable space. She said "LUSU clearly expect me to take them upstairs but I can't see how I'm supposed to be able to. I think it's disgraceful the way they've treated me."

Other complaints include Internet not being connected for up to five weeks during term-time. Dif-

ficulties with Slugs also seem to be a recurring complaint amongst the number of people I asked, one unlucky LUSU tenant came back after the summer to find a crystalline Spiro-graph slug trail spanning the full extent of his carpet which was both 'beautiful and nauseous'.

You've always got to accept that any student house is going to come with problems. Since occupants are pretty transient, usually only living there for a brief year, people generally just grit their teeth and get on with it, as it can be a really draining campaign trying to get what needs sorting sorted, when you have university obligations to attend to. The best advice I can offer is to make sure you look at the house before you sign the lease and take an active interest in securing a decent place to live. Don't make the same mistake I made. Now if you'll excuse me there's a streak of bogey that needs attending to.



## CULTURE

# Lancaster Loves 09 revitalises nightlife in city

**Matt Windsor**

WHEN THOUSANDS OF students-to-be around the country are scouting out their respective freshers' weeks, there is one glaring difference between Lancaster University and the rest. Live Music. Long gone are the days when Pink Floyd played in our Great Hall and in the past few years nothing has really arrived on the scene to bring us back in line with everywhere else. Enter Lancaster Loves, an electronic music 'festival' with names that, for once, people have heard of before in places outside the university bubble. The Sugarhouse and Toast collaborated their floor space and hosted some of the best DJ acts in the country for just over 12 hours of beats, drops, loops and riffs that successfully cleansed the venue from the years of relentless overplayed Feeder, Bruce Springsteen and Sex on Fire – and for that, we thank them.

The Sugarhouse itself, as well as Toast, was not visibly different in their



**Electro festival:** Lancaster Loves proved a popular night (Photo: Mitch Vedler)

usual setup, but you could hear that the sound had been turned up to eleven. The gigs you go to where you can't even hear the music properly are not even worth reviewing but in this case there wasn't an unfixed item in the building that wasn't vibrating its way across the floor or table. The Sugarhouse had also erected a decent stage with room

for Kissy Sell Out's live band, complete with drum kit, guitarist and keyboardist – which begs the question, why haven't more bands played there before? Although the event was slow to fill to begin with, as students gradually worked their way down from campus the dance floors began to bulge and the words "sorry mate" were heard more

and more as people tried to push to the front carrying drinks. By half eleven there were more than enough people to roar back at the acts, actually get more than a few sporadic hands in the air and dance together with a complete disregard of gam lectures.

More than 30 DJ's played at the event and it would be impossible to re-

view them all but most importantly the mixing between them was seamless. The music, and alcohol, kept flowing in both rooms all night without interruption and there wasn't a note of cheese to be found anywhere on the night. So where has half a star gone? Well, in all honesty, the word 'Festival' can't be used to describe the event – except for the drink prices (£3 a can?). Although the music and crowd interaction elements were there, there was little else in the way to make it different from other nights out in our pokey, traffic filled city. But then again, 'Rave' has been overdone, 'Party' would be an understatement and 'Night Out' just doesn't cut it – perhaps it needed a new genre entirely. Regardless of what Loves actually was, Lancaster Loved it. It was a revitalising event that has shown big acts can and will play here – they just need a little encouragement. We will have to see what the Sugarhouse, and Toast, can do with the metaphorical bar that has just been raised to a whole new level. Here's to hoping it can go higher.

## Edgy animation a world away from Disney

### Film Review: Coraline

**Tyn Shenton**

BEGING FILMED IN stop-motion and with an eleven year old heroine it will come as no surprise to hear that Coraline is a movie for children. But if you're expecting Disney princesses and cute animals you're in for a shock. With a back catalogue including films such as James and the Giant Peach (1996) and The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993) director Henry Selick has a history of bringing the weird and wonderful to the big screen and Coraline is no let-down.

Coraline (Dakota Fanning) has found her world turned upside down; her parents (Teri Hatcher and John Hodgman) have recently moved home and she finds herself in a strange new place with her friends far away. To make things worse her parents are so busy they don't have any time to spend with her. To kill the boredom she explores her grand new house and when she finds a small hidden door she thinks her problems are over.

Going through the door Coraline finds a whole other world with an 'oth-

er mother' who lavishes her with attention and a home seemingly designed with her in mind. This place is truly magical with pianos which play themselves, robots that tend to the garden and even cats who talk. Of course all is not as it seems...

This strange world is the real draw of Coraline. As the film progresses what lies behind the door becomes increasingly surreal and Selick has done an excellent job of bringing it to the big screen. For anyone who loves a visual treat this is the film for you and if you're lucky enough to see the film in 3D be prepared for a fright. The film may be rated a PG but any nervous types may want to watch from behind a cushion as the climax approaches.

The film is not perfect. Other popular children's films, like the Incredibles and the Wallace and Gromit series kept both adults and children entertained by having plots that were original and witty. While Coraline starts off strong, the second half of the film begins to feel a bit by the numbers. Happily, the film looks so good you'll hardly have time to notice.

Coraline is not the best animation ever. However, it is one of the most visually stunning and a brave direction for a film industry obsessed with only releasing safe-bets. If you're looking for something to fill a quiet evening, you can't go far wrong here.



**Dark realms:** Magical pianos and gardening robots inhabit strange fantasy



**Coraline will be showing at LU Cinema on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th October. Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets cost £2 with a purple card.**

**Also in SCAN Culture this issue:**

**Hannah Fearon reviews Of Mice and Men at the Dukes.**

**Steve Feekins gives his verdict on the latest instalment in the FIFA franchise.**

**Matt Windsor assesses Lancaster Loves.**

**Chris Housden opines on the merits of Event Television.**

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**QUALIFIED FOOTBALL REFEREES NEEDED NOW!**

**activities.lusu.co.uk**



# The biggest and best of this term's upcoming music releases

Steve Feekins

2009 HAS ALREADY been a stellar year for new and old artists alike with the emergence of Little Boots, Florence + The Machine and La Roux, the triumphant return of Muse, Dizzee's dance collaborations, the Beatles' re-releases and the completion of Jay-Z's Blueprint trilogy. In the sheltered student environment of Lancaster's campus, the latest album releases tend to pass most of us by, so here's a handy run-down of the first term's biggest potential hits.

## OCTOBER

The very start of term will see the return of the Backstreet Boys, with This Is Us. The lead single 'Straight Through My Heart' is a collaboration with award-winning Lady GaGa producer RedOne, and looks set to roll back the years for the long-running boy band giants. Face-painting fans will rejoice at Kiss' new album as they return with Sonic Boom after over a decade without a major studio album. Released on the same day is Tiësto's collaboration-ridden album Kaleidoscope, which includes contributions from Nelly Furtado, Calvin Harris, Jónsi of Sigur Rós and Kele Okereke of Bloc Party. Shakira returns with her third English-speaking studio album She Wolf, and lead single 'Did It Again' is interestingly co-written and co-produced by Phar-

rell, which might just make it a dance-floor filler rather than a latino karaoke nightmare. Birmingham-based Editors hope to emulate the success of their two platinum-selling albums with In This Light and On This Evening. Towards the end of the month, epic Australian rock band Wolfmother release Cosmic Egg, and fellow Southern Hemisphere residents Flight of the Conchords release comedic album I Told You I Was Freaky, featuring songs from their hit TV series. Weezer return with Raditude, which includes collaborations with hip-hop mogul Jermaine Dupri and producer Dr. Luke, which should help make it the waning band's first interesting LP since 2001's Green Album. On the same day, reformed Creed come Full Circle with their latest release and R.E.M. (pictured below) release Live at The Olympia.



## NOVEMBER

After the commercial success of 2007's Puzzle, Scottish rockers Biffy

Clyro return with Only Revolutions. On the same day, Robbie Williams will attempt to do battle with his former band-mates with the release of Reality Killed the Video Star, with the slightly catchy lead single 'Bodies'. They might be telling people to Keep Calm and Carry On, but the newest release from Stereophonics will hopefully give their fans something to get excited about. Leona Lewis has been working with the winning combination of Justin Timberlake and Timbaland, so expect her album Echo to be a chart-topper. 50 Cent's much-delayed Before I Self Destruct is tentatively pencilled in for a November release, as is Norah Jones' latest effort The Fall. A semi-concept album by Sean Combs aka Diddy, or Puffy or Daddy or whatever he goes by these days, called Last Train to Paris, follows a story arc where the rapper finds love during a European tour, only to lose her and find her once more.

## DECEMBER

Not much is planned for early December in the music industry. Usher is scheduled to make a return with Monster, and Snoop Dogg is rumoured to release Malice in Wonderland.

2010 is set to be a massive year for music, with the rumoured return of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Blink 182, No Doubt and The Offspring, the difficult second albums for MGMT and Does It Offend You, Yeah? and plenty of huge gigs in the run-up to next summer's festivals.

# Lancaster Litfest welcomes diverse range of talent

Elizabeth Moyser

THE SPOKEN WORD is invaluable and often overlooked in our busy modern world, but stories and tall tales are the essential starting points from which the written word originated. Luckily though, without stepping back through the stone ages, that's exactly how Lancaster is bringing it back to you for ten wonderful days, starting on the 16th of October. Lancaster Literature Festival 09 allows you to access fiction in a way you'd best appreciate it, principally after a mind boggling session ploughing through a heavy book in the library. With readings by groups of writers and performers who know their own work back to front, appreciating literature just got easier.

Local, national, and international artists alike shine as literature gold throughout the festival, all in the auditorium of an aptly named building in Lancaster's city centre; The Storey African writers Chika Unigwe and EC Osundo, bring with them tales of displacement, cultural heritage, and the fight for hope in the face of poverty in which all of their texts explore vividly. Unigwe and Osundo's award winning and nominated work from the ten year anniversary tour of The Caine Prize, better known as 'The African Booker' will be performed on the fourth day of the festival for lucky ears.

Captivating worlds are not just found at Litfest 09, but created; 'Poetry Goes Digital', a five day event holds a number of workshops and interactive experiences, and aims to show everyone just that. What you or I may think is a piece of graffiti, just a birthday card or even a blog, is in the eyes of the Southbank Centre project, a piece of poetry that we're already taking for granted. What do we do about it? Take pictures and add them to their nifty GPS - the 'Global Poetry System'

and get ready to geo-tag poetry wherever you find it. Students interested in contributing need only a keen eye, a camera and a walk around Lancaster City Centre to add to the nationwide collection.

Dubbed as "A Canterbury Tales for the MP3 generation" by Stewart Lee; writers Dave Simpson, Peter Wild and Niall Griffiths tell tales both tall and true inspired by the post-punk band 'The Fall' (a band fronted by the irascible Mark E. Smith) on day two of the festival. Dave Simpson, the writer of In The Fallen tells a tale that not only uncovers the lives changed and broken in the notorious group, but discovers the effects of the music on his life in the process. The British band that never fails to impress, amuse and entertain in its insane anarchical history, is brought to life with readings, interviews and certainly some remarkable discussion, all set to the band's music.

Most eagerly anticipated, undoubtedly is 'The Ian McMillan Orchestra's Sharp Stories'. A Northern man himself, the Yorkshire poet Ian McMillan, according to the Litfest website to have been seen and heard on pretty much everything ever broadcast, is indisputably going to have us guffawing till our faces turn blue with excitement and then green with absolute envy. Singing about iPod's, mining, 9/11 and the late Ronnie Barker, McMillan keeps it close to something we can all recognise in one way or another, and employs comedy to address his own experiences throughout his life spent in Northern England. With an interesting mix of musical talent from the band, which gives off a predominantly folk sound and great penmanship and vocals from himself, McMillan is set to put on a 'right good show', and quite frankly, we're 'right looking forward to it'.

The programme of events and tickets for Litfest 09 held on 16-25th October can be found online at [www.litfest.org](http://www.litfest.org).

## SCAN Book Club: The Robber Bride

Michael Reffold

WELCOME TO THE SCAN Book Club, a new regular column for this year. In each issue of SCAN, I'll be reviewing a book that I've recently read and letting you know what I thought of it. Please feel free to email [scan.culture@lusu.co.uk](mailto:scan.culture@lusu.co.uk) with suggestions for future books for the Book Club, or to share your own opinions of the books I review.

This issue's book is 'The Robber Bride' by Margaret Atwood. Atwood is an acclaimed writer of both prose and poetry and has won various awards for her work, including the Booker Prize for her novel 'The Blind Assassin'. 'The Robber Bride' was published in 1993 and tells the story of three very different women: Tony, Roz and Charis. Atwood skilfully develops these characters by switching perspective throughout the novel, with the women taking turns to share their stories, incorporating their days at college, their relationships, jobs, children - and Zenia.

Zenia is a true femme fatale, ruthlessly manipulating Tony, Charis and Roz and using her incredible beauty to ensnare and steal other women's husbands - just to prove she can. The three protagonists are brought together by their shared fear and hatred of Zenia, so when they find out she's been killed during a terrorist attack in Lebanon

they attend her memorial service together, just to make sure that Zenia really is dead. But such a force of nature can't be tamed, even by death, and four years later Zenia returns, ready to torment them once more. At first I was afraid that, after introducing Zenia as such a demonic character, Atwood



Margaret Atwood

wouldn't be able to create someone who lived up to the reputation. But Zenia really is a nasty piece of work, lying and acting her way through life and always getting what she wants. Atwood gleefully depicts a powerful woman who can be venomously cruel one minute and bewitchingly seductive

the next, and the three narrators are written with the same mixture of striking imagery, witty humour and snappy, lifelike dialogue. Unfortunately, at times Charis slips over the boundary between quirky and plain annoying - she is the archetypal hippy, who sees the world as one big mass of auras and cosmic energy. Roz, too, is never really permitted to develop much beyond being confident and bubbly, although her twin daughters Erin and Paula are very funny, mockingly imitating Roz's motherly affection and outdated substitutes for swearing - "Oh golly jeez, oh Holy Moly!" Atwood seems to recognise that Tony is the most interesting of the three, and appropriately Tony is the one whose point of view begins and closes the novel. Atwood's focus on charismatic women also tends to leave the male characters a little sketchily-drawn. However, this book is highly entertaining - Atwood keeps up an exhilarating pace as we discover how Tony, Roz and Charis first met Zenia, and how these experiences continue to impact on their lives.

Atwood suggests in 'The Robber Bride' that our pasts have the power to haunt us even when we think we've finally managed to escape them. And it makes for a very good read too! 8/10.

Next time, I'll be reviewing 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close' by Jonathan Safran Foer. Why not check it out and let me know what you think?



Sound of his own: The poet Ian McMillan and his orchestra are the major highlight of this year's Litfest, Lancaster's long-running literary festival.

Next time in SCAN Culture: As they return to tour Britain, we assess the legacy of the Pixies



## CULTURE

## Theatre Review: Of Mice and Men at The Dukes Theatre until 24th October

**Hannah Fearon**  
Culture Editor

JOHN STEINBECK'S 'Of Mice and Men' is a timeless classic of American Literature. For those of you that didn't study it in high school, the novel is set in Northern California in the 1930s during the Great Depression. It follows the lives of George and Lennie, two friends with a dream of owning their own plot of land and never having to work for anyone again. The ambitious George wants to live the American Dream, but he must look out for simple Lennie who often causes trouble for them both. When the pair finally land steady jobs, the dramatic chain of events caused by Lennie forces George to make a decision for the both of them that will change their lives forever.

Steinbeck's novel is full of rich language and symbolism which foreshadows the tragedies of the story. The Dukes stage adaptation of the novel was written by Steinbeck himself, and expertly conveys the messages of companionship, poverty and death.

Director Kevin Dyer has rounded up an excellent cast for the production. Andrew Ashford plays a fantastically convincing Lennie and I was shocked to discover that it was his professional stage debut. Ashford's Lennie is loveable at times, whilst excellently portraying the more disturbing aspects of the character. Paul Dodd's George is a perfect match, giving a controlled and powerful performance as the ambitious

dreamer with a big heart. In the novel, the character of Cookie has a dog which plays a very significant role within the story. In The Dukes production, the dog was played by Spikey, an actual dog which made the scenes seem much more tragic and created a higher feeling of empathy towards the characters. Whilst the rest of the cast in Of Mice and Men give great performances, it is Ashford and Dodd's portrayal of a brotherly companionship which shines and is the highlight of the production.

I particularly enjoyed the set for the production which created a great atmosphere, particularly during the scenes within the workers living quarters. The set was fairly simple, yet highly effective in conveying the poverty and poor living conditions for workers at the time. The set changes were also enjoyable, as the characters sang 30's style music whilst moving the props in character as though they were working on the farm.

I found 'Of Mice and Men' to be both a heart-warming and devastatingly tragic production which left several of the audience members in tears, literally. I was lucky enough to see the play on the opening press night, which made the experience even more enjoyable. The atmosphere in the theatre was that of excitement and anticipation for seeing a new production brought to life. 'Of Mice and Men' is running until Saturday 24th October and I recommend it to anyone that enjoyed the novel or is looking for an interesting night out.



**An American classic:** Andrew Ashford as Lennie and Paul Dodd as George in the production (Photo: George Coupe)

## WIN TICKETS to see Of Mice and Men!

SCAN and The Dukes Theatre are pleased to be able to give away free tickets to see the last night of the production on Saturday 24th October. The offer includes two free tickets and two free drinks (house wine, draught beer or soft drinks). Simply answer this question:

### IN WHAT YEAR WAS OF MICE AND MEN FIRST PUBLISHED?

CLOSING date for entries is Tuesday 20th October 2009 and they should be emailed to scan@lancaster.ac.uk. Correct entries shall be put into a hat with the competition winner selected at random. Correct answer and winner in next issue.

# FIFA returns to play Pro Evo off the park

## Videogame Review:

*Fifa 2010*  
XBOX 360, PS3,  
PC and Wii

**Steve Feekins**

EA SPORTS ARE back with the latest instalment of the internationally acclaimed FIFA series. Before last year's instalment, FIFA was simply for football fans who preferred to have Luton Town in their game and shiny-looking stadiums rather than the superior gameplay which Konami offered with their Pro Evolution Soccer series.

FIFA 09 changed all that and it looks as though Pro Evolution Soccer 2010, released later this month, will have come to pull off a Manchester United-like comeback to climb ahead at the top of the football gaming table.

One of the biggest innovations that EA Sports have been shouting about with FIFA 2010 is the 360-degree player control system, which, while not immediately apparent, significantly



**Back of the net:** Wayne Rooney lines up a shot in the latest instalment of the popular FIFA franchise

improves the ebb and flow of each match. Receiving the ball is now much more realistic, with many more outcomes now possible. The system also influences dribbling with the ball, with more skilful players able to deceive defenders with the less predictable movement that the system provides.

A smaller, but equally crucial refinement is the tweaking of the one-on-one tussles between players that make

up a big part of every football match. In FIFA 09, it would be easy to knock any player off the ball, but the relative strength of each player is now taken into account. For example, Emile Heskey will brush off a challenge from Gary Neville, and put up a good fight against Nemanja Vidic.

FIFA has always been the pretty boy of the football gaming world but with EA spending years attempting

to trump Konami's gameplay it seems the tables have finally turned with this year's instalments. The cartoonish stock player models make a lamented return in FIFA 2010 and it's been noted among many fans that the menu system remains practically the same for the third year running. While this may feel like conceding a late consolation in a 6-1 victory, they will hopefully be reworked and tinkered with for next

year's inevitable release.

The excellent commentary of Martin Tyler and Andy Gray makes a return and with a huge amount of studio recording time between the pair, FIFA 2010's match days are as pleasing on the ear as they are on the eye. FIFA 10 includes a massively revamped Manager Mode, which seems like a lightweight version of the famed Football Manager series. It makes a nice alternative right up until the latest FM is released later this month but it can't really be seen as a challenge to a dedicated management sim. Also in this year's version is the "Virtual Pro" mode, which allows players to import a photo of themselves and create a virtual player who can be used across the game in all modes. In other EA Sports titles it has been a nice addition which adds little to the games and it remains to be seen whether this will greatly improve the overall gaming experience.

The very definition of a sports simulation game is to recreate as much as humanly possible the experience of playing without actually having to get up from your chair. With the movement of players on and off the ball, the improved ball physics and the myriad outcomes of every individual tussle, it can be said that FIFA 2010 comes pretty close to feeling and looking like the real thing.



# Networks rely on Event TV to rake in huge viewing figures

Chris Housden

EVEN IF YOU have been following the world of television very closely this year, you'd be forgiven for not understanding or even having really heard the phrase event TV. To understand this newest piece of TV jargon we need to take a tour of a crude version of TV history.

In the beginning, John Logie Baird invented the television. He was then replaced by stern men in suits who had titles like Programme Controller and names like Ernest. Decades later these men (and now women) controlled seemingly infinite satellite and digital channels, and were happy. Then someone pointed out that viewing figures were flailing in the light of so much choice, and event TV was their solution.

The core of event TV is quite simple; getting a large audience hooked enough to watch a programme as it airs instead of catching it later. A small series of three to five episodes shown on consecutive nights makes the audience part of a rapidly unfolding event. This

Event TV relies on hooking its audience through a strong storyline. It

is true that although people are more willing than ever to laze in front of whatever beach they happen to have channel surfed onto, popular sitcoms and drama series still draw in regular weekly audiences on first airing, and event TV attempts to distil this avid viewing into something stronger.

There are of course flaws with this idea; mainly that it isn't always possible to catch the latest episode because people live lives. So the episode is repeated or made available on an on-demand service but this isn't to say that event TV has failed as an episode is missed. David Graham, Chief Executive of independent TV researchers Attentional, claims that the need for on-demand services and repeat channels is because "people are a little more impatient" than they were twenty years or even a decade ago, but for event TV these services may help more than hinder the 'event' enabling audiences to catch up before the next day.

For the most part, 'stripping' drama like this has been deemed a success by the execs, and it is worth noting that 'stripping' other shows has worked. All soaps are 'stripped' and manage to pull large audiences every night, when aired and on-demand, and the infectious peephole of Big Brother not only



**We are watching you:** Big Brother is just one example of a show 'stripped' to draw in TV audiences

airs nightly programmes but has companion shows 'stripped' alongside it. In fact, it seems odd that drama hasn't been 'stripped' into a short event before, based on these successes.

2009 really is the year of the hard-hitting event TV drama, with the BBC airing Nazi-grit in The Diary of Anne Frank, courtroom-grit in Criminal Justice, Iraqi-grit in Occupation, sci-fi-grit in Torchwood and most recently Homeland-grit in the commemorative Landgirls. ITV, having seemingly bided their time to monitor their rival's gambit, have commissioned car crash

drama Collision to be aired in a single week in November, which Jill Green, founder of the production company behind the series, admits is "a big ask on their busy autumn schedule".

There can be no doubt that watching a 'stripped' series gives it an edge. Ben Stephenson, Controller of Drama Commissioning at the BBC, stated that Torchwood was supposed to "feel like our summer blockbuster", and with more writers warming to the concept there may be more 'stripped series' in the pipeline. The industry can only hope that the shows will pull their ex-

pected first-time audiences or they'll become continuous reruns in the same way that old sitcoms have found themselves trawling around E4.

The true sign of a good piece of event TV will be whether, as Jill Green says, it "feels like a rarity" among the plethora of channels available. Ben Stephenson said of audiences that "it's not about them being at home, it's about them having so much multi-channel choice." So if you choose to watch a repeat of Scrubs or the next Collision come November, you'll know whether event TV is going to be here long after this year.

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# Lancaster rugby firsts hold on to take victory over Cheshire



**Battling for supremacy:** Lancaster show early promise with opening season win (Photo: Ben Robins)

## Rob Payling Sports Editor

LANCASTER GOT OFF to a flying start in their opening game of the season, battling to a 19-13 win over MMU Cheshire's 1st team.

In such a congested contest, Lancaster showed their worth in what will hopefully become the foundations of a great campaign.

An early penalty gave Lancaster's Anthony Coulson the chance to get the home side off the mark and he kicked over convincingly to punish the early mistake.

MMU Cheshire channelled their early frustration positively; sending a powerful attack down the left wing and chipping the ball over the Lancaster

back line where it was caught cleanly and almost touched down. Lancaster managed to provide the much needed tackles to dispose of the danger and maintain their early lead, but it was clear that they would have to be more alert as the match wore on.

The away side's onslaught continued and Lancaster found themselves stuck in their own half for long spells of the first period. Lancaster's break through came after some great inter-changing passing from Mark Seddon and Tim Holloway allowing for play to spread out more and create more space on the field.

As the match became less congested Lancaster's Spencer made an impressive run that brought forward a threatening Lancaster attack. Austin Thompson was on the receiving end of a string

of rhythmic passes and he finished off the move by running in the first try of the afternoon.

The following conversion looked difficult, but even from the tight angle and way back on the sideline Anthony Coulson was able to add the much needed extra three points in a consistent kicking performance.

Lancaster's eleven point lead was quickly diminished though after some sloppy defending gave away a penalty. MMU Cheshire's Jamie Morris converted the kick to give the away side hope of a come back before half time.

The home side seemed to switch off momentarily and again fell victim to a lofted kick over the back row which nearly paid off with a try. More last ditch defending was needed and the home side knew they were lucky not to

concede on the stroke of half time.

MMU Cheshire's momentum only grew more intense after the whistle as they attacked with real venom and immediately scored what seemed like an inevitable try. The impact was lessened nonetheless as Morris' struggled once more with the conversion.

The attacking flare shown by the away team continued and Lancaster found themselves desperately defending deep in their own half.

It was Spencer who came to Lancaster's rescue for a second time as his superb interception of a pass allowed the entire team to edge MMU Cheshire back towards goal.

Lancaster started to find the same belief that helped them dominate the first half so convincingly, and their second try came after the ball was sent out

to the their nimble winger Gavin Reid who ran in the try to extend the home side's lead.

Anthony Coulson kicked over for another conversion and as Lancaster's lead doubled it looked likely that the home side would run out winners.

Complacency riddled Lancaster in the dying moments though as they allowed MMU Cheshire to break through their defence and score a second try. The missed conversion afterwards only confirmed the improbability of a late comeback.

Jubilation reigned on the pitch at full time as Lancaster's men knew they had come through a difficult challenge. With more time together after this early season match it looks to be a very promising season for the 1st team.

# Inter-college committee vote against Carter Shield cap on university players

## Continued from Back Page

of the Athletic Union and ratified by the first Union Council of the term.

The issue of capping was however debated at length in Union Council with the constitution as a whole only passing by three votes due to unease over the lack of a resolution to the debate.

Mark Lord was not unduly disappointed by his failure to get a cap in-

troduced, despite it failing in three separate votes of three separate constitutional bodies. Instead, he felt satisfied that he had made his viewpoints known:

"The IC Chairs said that this was the last time we would discuss it (in the ICC committee) which is why I wanted to bring it back through Union Council. I was surprised and pleased by the amount of support I actually got in the end. There was a point where I thought

I would be on my own, but thankfully that wasn't the case."

The only further step that could now be taken is a Working Scrutiny Group to independently assess the issue and report back and make recommendations to Union Council.

Supporters of a cap believe that it will never be passed due to Sports Reps preserving their interests, something which Lord concurs with:

"There is more of a competitive view

from the Sports Reps. In a sense they're looking out for their colleges and that's understandable. At the end of the day if they know they can fill their teams with uni players then it's going to benefit them, so why would they support a cap? There is less of a vested interest to a point from Union Council".

The new ICC constitution was passed, despite being overshadowed by the cap debate. Prominent measures added to the new constitution include

the removal of the three strikes and out rule for colleges who miss three events. Instead, colleges can now only be rewarded with additional points for their attendance.

Other issues highlighted as a result of the ICC committee meeting include the lack of Sports Reps for County, the biggest college on campus. The perennial problem regarding Graduate College's participation will hopefully be resolved during their upcoming elections.



## Eat Sport, Sleep Sport, Read Wynes



**Y**ou gotta love a bit of college rivalry. I love all the banter and singing that goes on during Freshers Week. And now that's over, it's the time when the banter transfers onto the sports fields. Next Wednesday sees the beginning of the intercollege Netball and Football leagues so why not make the most of the good weather (well, reasonable-for-Lancaster-weather) and go down and support your college. I guarantee some good action.

Not only that, but we also have the intercollege bar sports leagues also known as the George Wyatt leagues. I think this is perhaps the place where the strongest college rivalry can be found and if you happen to be in the bar when a match is going on you'll see why. The pressure is on and the tension is high, even in a seemingly friendly game of dominoes. Definitely not something to be missed, some people use it as an excuse to go to the bar, though most see it as a matter of life or death!

As well as the intercollege leagues, we also have the mighty Carter Shield kicking off on Sunday. The Carter Shield has always been a personal favourite of mine, a chance for the colleges to really get into the spirit and have some fun while they're at it. It has changed a lot over the years and I think finally the competition is strong again. I remember years ago (in the olden days, back when I was a Fresher) the Carter Shield was dwindling, but it's recently been revamped into the format it's in today. I really hope it continues to thrive because it's a competition so unique to our university, I think we should be proud to have such an event.

Speaking of events, it's been at least 2 weeks since I last mentioned Roses so I think I should bring it up again. As I mentioned in my last column, Roses is going to be at home this year and we have to make sure we're prepared for the massive occasion. That not only means having teams that will win, it also means having people at hand to make sure the event runs smoothly. This is not MY event by any stretch of the imagination, it is OUR event and it's going to require a lot of work to pull it off. SO.....we need to find people who are willing to put their all into Roses and become Tournament Secretaries. Being a Tournament Secretary will mean you'll be involved every step of the way including the big day itself. If you're interested in becoming one then please email me at lusu.sports@lancaster.ac.uk and I'll send you an application form.

If you're still looking for even more sport, the 6-a-side football league will be starting soon, the sign up date is 20th October so get into the office then and register your team. Still not enough sport?..... there's the B-active leagues to get stuck into with your friends as well as a Sports Centre brimming with activities for you to have a go at. Don't be shy, get involved!

# Behind the Lines: Controversy in Sport

## Julian Surface

IF SPORT IS the substitute for war, then there is certainly no lack of war crimes going on behind the scenes today.

What does it take to stop managers, trainers and owners from ruining the beautiful moments when fans sit glued to a screen watching a magical goal from Steven Gerrard, a victory from Jenson Button, or a Johnny Wilkinson drop-kick.

Not that English sport is devoid of going beyond the rules. English Rugby has had its share of controversial issues with the 'fake blood' injury at Harlequins and drug-taking at Bath. Even in golf Colin Montgomerie took an incorrect drop during a rain delay in the 2005 Indonesian open.

There seems to be a sense that with high investment and the rewards of winning increasing, cheating is only going to get worse. The days of Tonya Harding taking her competition out and Mike Tyson biting the ears of everyone in sight are only getting more frequent.

Yet, it is becoming more of an administrative problem now. This is a problem far beyond watching Cristiano Ronaldo or Didier Drogba fall over an invisible tripwire.

Corruption almost brought Se-

rie A to its knees after the Calciopoli scandal in 2006 when Italian referees were bribed and champions Juventus stripped of their title as part of a long list of punishments handed out by the Italian FA.

Formula One has also taken another blow since the theft of technology by McLaren that saw their status in the 2008 championship rescinded and the dismissal of Fernando Alonso after his threats to expose the team's wrong doing.



**Flavio Briatore:**  
*Former Renault boss*

Flavio Briatore, the flamboyant former Team Principal of Renault has since gone one step further and ordered his own driver to crash in what was dubbed the 'worst act of cheating in the history of the sport'.

In last September's Singapore

Grand Prix the son of one of the great F1 drivers, Nelson Piquet, was told by Briatore to have an accident in order to allow his new team mate Fernando Alonso to abuse the safety car rules.

Alonso, already a fan of blackmail, had no qualms about pitting and returning front of the pack. To add insult to injury, Piquet Jr was sacked for not bringing in the points.

The distraught driver blew the whistle on his disgraceful ex-bosses and they now feel the same sense of exile as he does.

We can only speculate what solution would allow each game to play as we know it, whilst ridding it of these painful moments. There is no way that taking money out of the game will change much.

Since the passion and desire to win will always bring people to do things they did not think they were capable of, money is a happy bonus to every sportsman or woman. It is this passion that we know and love.

It brings us endlessly back to watch our player or team lift that trophy. No sportsman would have even begun or continued playing that sport, if he did not have that desire.

On the pitch, court or racetrack, the only answer is to watch them more closely. Bringing in expert officials who watch the competition on a vastly updated TV system and technology such as 'Hawkeye' in Tennis. Each moment

can be seen again, and over a few seconds a better decision can be made.

It has helped Rugby, where tries can be replayed and an appropriate decision made. Tennis has even brought in the fantastic challenge rule, inviting good judgment from the players as to whether they should question the line judges.

However, behind the scenes is another matter. Michel Platini's endless ranting that English teams are ruining the Champions League with their good football and money has become nothing but his own way of saying, 'Why don't French teams win the Champions League anymore?'

If he has not seen Real Madrid splashing out another hundred million in one transfer market, then he certainly needs some help with his job. He needs to look at something more pressing.

There needs to be some way in which teams can be investigated for corruption. Players are subject to random drug tests, so why not allow teams to be subject to the same scrutiny?

A random and comprehensive look into how a team is run by an anonymous administrator does not sound excessive.

It does not require universal surveillance, but striking more fear in those behind the scenes can only help to let us enjoy the best that our sports we love have to offer.

## Women's Hockey team valiant in defeat to tough Pendle Forest side

### Katie Hurrell

WITH NOT EVEN one training session behind the team and travelling away to a strong Pendle Forest side, it was always clear that this match was going to be tough. Having lost some of the team's key players last year, it was hoped the new blood from the first trials session would step in and prove their worth.

Pendle quickly put the Lancaster defence under pressure and within 5 minutes had scored a seemingly flukey goal. The away team responded well though, managing to push back and to gel more as a team by putting together a few shots on target and winning a short corner to keep play up in the opposition's end.

Their hard work didn't pay off though and Pendle scored a great goal from a break and the away side found themselves 2-0 down after just 15 minutes of play. Some great defensive work from Heather Cadd and Natalie Tyson ensured that Lancaster kept the ball out of their own net for the rest of the first half. Fantastic runs from Eleri Jones and Vicky Griffin then won a short-corner which Emma Collette expertly smashed past the keeper. This gave the away side greater confidence and Lancaster started to look like a real team again. A brilliant pass to Natalie Tyson at the top of the D allowed her to smack a goal into the back of the net and level the match at 2-2.

The second half started well for Lancaster, testing out Pendle's defence with the same attacking play that



**Piece of the action:** Women's hockey team in action from a match last season

ended the first period. However, a lack of fitness and training soon started to show for Lancaster and Pendle started to dominate once more.

Sacha Duchars put in a great defensive performance to keep the ball away from the goal and Ffion Davies continued to make saves but Pendle eventually got another goal.

The new players continued to work tirelessly in what was becoming a truly challenging game. Ali Caunce proved to be very strong presence in defence and Ave Cruickshank made some great runs up-front. Despite their best efforts Lancaster were unable to repel a fourth Pendle goal and the home team regained their two goal cushion. An-

nika Hall worked her magic in midfield to provide a few promising moments for Lancaster but sadly no more goals came during the rest of the half.

Despite the loss Lancaster can take a lot away from the match as it showed a great deal of promise for the season ahead. Next time the team meets the score line is sure to be very different.



# University Boat Club looking to build on last season's success

Aaron Sims

CHANGE IS ALWAYS a hard thing to overcome; it is an especially common obstacle in university rowing; experienced members graduating, new people to teach every year and constant changes in coaching staff. Lancaster University is one of those clubs, constantly an underdog at most competitions as a result. This past year has set the mark for progress away from that stereotype.

Bad weather and consequently cancelled water outings didn't prevent the club doing well with the men's squad returning a win at York small boats and a gold medal in a team event as well as a silver and bronze at English Indoors and a 9th place at British indoors in the men's student category. The bad weather also tested the clubs commitment with the cancellation of BUCS regatta; this would have been the novice's first race and a test for how the winter training had prepared the club. The crews overcame this by posting

highly impressive times at Chester and Head of the River.

The flagship of the club and the main source of its success have been, without doubt, the women's senior IV which composes of the stern 4 of the also successful women's VIII. The girls have had quite a year with the VIII taking gold in the IM3 VIII's at the north of England head in Chester, coming 5th in IM VIII's at BUCS regatta and earning a top 200 place at WeHor, not bad seeing as it was the first year of rowing for 5 girls in the crew and the first ever race for 6 of them. At the end of the year, the 9 girls were awarded with one of the highest sporting accolades in the university by being given full colours and being named Lancaster University's 'Team of the Year'.

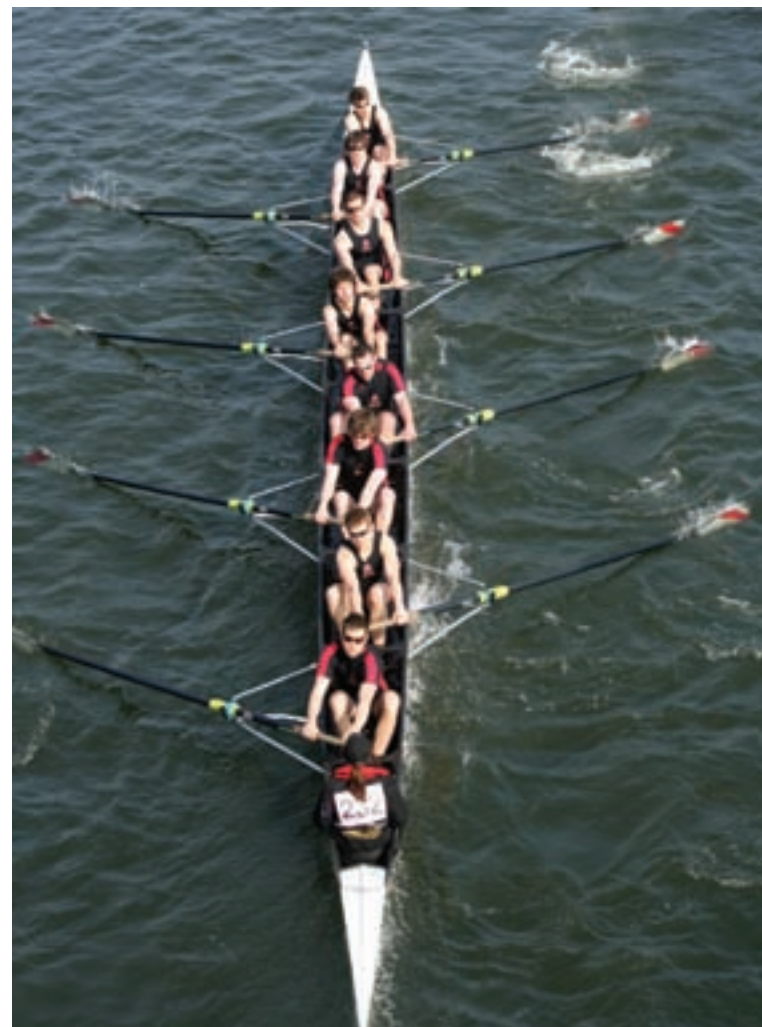
The IV went on to take the club's first BUC's medal with silver in the IM IV's, they also went on to win IM3 IV's on the Sunday at Durham regatta with the 2nd IV making the semi final and the final the day before. To round off the year, the IV went on to make the quarterfinals at Henley Women's Regatta, matching the clubs best ever

Women's Henley Regatta result.

After a few hardships and setbacks in the summer term, the men's squad were able to hold their heads high walking out of the season having made a final and multiple semi-finals at Marlow regatta, coming 2 seconds shy of the club 2k record, thus keeping them optimistic for next year.

LUBC are looking to continue their success into next year's season. This is looking likely with 4 new boats on the racks, a larger returning senior squad, continued support from their sponsor Cityblock, a new head coach and an introduction of a second novice captain to accommodate the predicted fresher intake. The strength of the squad is set to show through come Roses where the home advantage hopes to help LUBC beat York and give Lancaster the edge in the current boat race standings that put it at 18 victories each.

With plans to enter IV's head and even start up a lightweight squad, the club is developing rapidly and with the increased experience in the club, the Henley qualification dream has potential to be fulfilled soon.



Rowing to Victory: Men's eights in competition (Photo: Aaron Sims)

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## Inter-college committee vote against Carter Shield cap on uni players

- **VP for Sport believes excluding participants is against spirit of the competition**
- **Union Council pass new constitution but split on capping issue**
- **Supporters of capping claim more people will get involved as a result**

**Rob Payling**  
Sports Editor

**CALLS FOR A** squad cap on the number of university level sports players competing in the Carter Shield have been rejected in the latest Inter-College Sports Committee (ICC) meeting.

Last week's assembly was a chance for each college's Sports Representatives, Inter College Chairs and the Vice President of Sports for LUSU to get together and discuss the matter. However, as only two colleges, Cartmel and Furness voted in favour of the move it was omitted from the new ICC constitution.

The Cartmel Sports Representative Mark Lord campaigned vigorously for a cap to be put in place, having run a successful Block of Six election on that specific manifesto pledge.

Sue Wynes, Vice President of Sports for LUSU spoke to SCAN on the decision: "The issue surrounding university team players competing in the Carter Shield has been brought up year after year. The decision previously, and again this time round has been to allow them to play."

She added: "The Carter Shield is about inclusivity and participation, so to exclude any willing participants would be against its fundamental policy."

Those that were in favour of the proposed change believe that elite players being allowed to enter the competition denies ordinary and average sports competitors the chance to take

part. There have been accusations in the past that some colleges prioritise victory by packing teams with elite university players, something which is at odds with the Carter Shield's traditional participatory and recreational aims.

However, the majority in opposition argued that the presence of elite players had no negative effect on the overall competition. The taster sessions for the Shield, an addition first introduced in 2007, was used to illustrate the success in getting average sportspeople down to play for free on a Sunday morning. It was also argued that the taster sessions rarely feature elite university players and provide the opportunity for other players to stake their place in teams for finals day without having to feel inferior to supposedly superior players.

The opposing voters also highlighted that the competition offers participation in various sports without university representation.

Such sports include Aeroball, Touch Rugby, Pop Lacrosse and Dodgeball among many others. These are all variations of existing university sports or sports competed in by no other teams at university level. Lauren Forrester, IC Chair greeted the result: "I agree with the decision not to have a cap on university players within the Carter Shield."

"The Carter Shield is meant to be inclusive so we should be looking to increase participation, not limit the people who can take part just because they have a talent in a particular sport."

Marc Handley, the other IC Chair also felt that the right decision had been made: "The Carter Shield is all about including as many people in college sport as possible, if we were to have this cap in place we would be excluding a large proportion of possible players."

He added: "This point was raised with the aim of increasing the fairness of the competition, but if it were passed we would be excluding people which we do not want to do, and quite frankly it just would be punishing people for having talent."

The cap was proposed by Mark Lord to form a part of a new ICC constitution. The new constitution itself was subsequently approved by a meeting

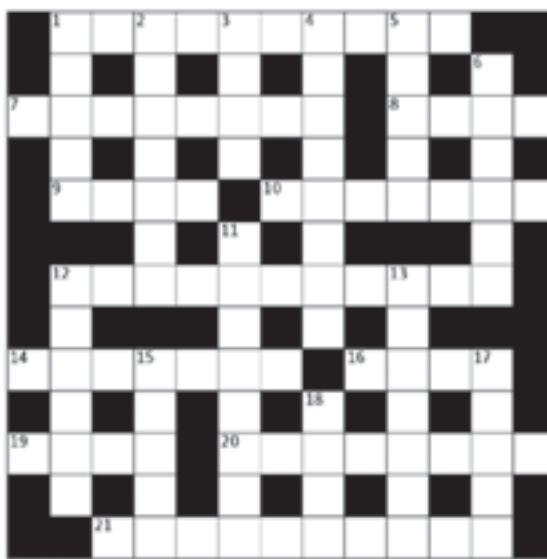
Continued on page 29

## Storming start to season



**Scrumming it:** Lancaster put in an impressive display against Cheshire (Photo: Ben Robins)

### Quick crossword no 12,107



#### Across

- 1 Without preparation – unconventional (3,3,4)
- 7 In the vicinity (4,4)
- 8 Pound – defeat (4)
- 9 Over again (4)
- 10 Artwork formed from scraps of paper, photos etc (7)
- 12 Social gathering (3-8)
- 14 Nauseous when flying (7)
- 16 Adjustable part of wing – panic (4)
- 19 Spice – club (4)
- 20 Increase rapidly in size – advocat and lemonade (8)
- 21 Supposed PR expert (4,6)

#### Down

- 1 Musical drama (5)
- 2 Zealous (7)
- 3 Pay attention to (4)
- 4 Express grief about (4,4)
- 5 Defame in writing (5)
- 6 Knife for stabbing (6)
- 11 Soft leather shoe – venomous snake (8)
- 12 Stringed instrument (6)

- 13 Utah lib (anag) (7)
- 15 Precipitous (5)
- 17 Arctic or antarctic (5)
- 18 Proverbially extinct bird (4)

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Solution No. 12,106

W	A	L	K	O	F	F	A	N	D	O	N
I	E	F	R	T	E	O					
L	A	M	P	M	I	S	T	R	E	S	
D	O	D	N	E	P	E					
C	O	N	T	I	N	E	N	T			
A	A	L	E	D	A	P					
R	I	D	G	E	S	Y	A	H	O	O	
D	E	T	I	C	A	N	D	L			
L	T	A	O	E	C	S					
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