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Features page 18

scan

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 4, Michaelmas Term, Tuesday 27th October, 2009

Recession hits Lancaster nightlife

- Walkabout parent company goes into administration
- Lancaster site one of 60 sold off
- Club owed LUSU £2,750 and leaves rugby clubs out of pocket

Lauren Hirst

WALKABOUT LANCASTER WAS closed down on 20th October after their parent company, Regent Inns PLC, collapsed. The Australian bar, situated on Dalton Square in Lancaster city centre, opened in June 1999 and had seven full-time and 12 part-time members of staff.

Cliff Laine, Walkabout Admin Support, made a statement via Walkabout Lancaster's Facebook page. "Sadly, we can confirm that Walkabout in Lancaster has closed. iNTErtAIN has taken on most of the Walkabout sites from Regent Inns - who have gone into administration - however, there are a few sites where the economics are such that long term viability cannot be assured and these sites have not been taken on. Unfortunately, [Walkabout Lancaster] is one such site."

Both Lancaster's rugby union and rugby league teams were under sponsorship from Walkabout when the bar went under. As part of their contract,

the rugby union team was expecting £1,500, to be paid in two waves: £1000 at the start of the Michaelmas term and £500 in March 2010. The rugby league team was due to receive £500 over the course of the academic year; £200 at the start of the Michaelmas term and £250 in March 2010.

Ian Van Mourik, chairman of the rugby union team, initially said that "We already have two other sponsors; Walkabout were the sponsors for the kit. At the moment we are just going to leave [finding a new sponsor] as we currently have enough money in the bank".

On later reflection, however, Van Mourik believed that it would be vital that they found a sponsor before Roses.

Sue Wynes, LUSU Vice President (Sports), commented that the turn of events was "totally unexpected" and that "we will do our best to support the teams that have been affected".

The news of Walkabout's closure comes a week before Carnage, the self-proclaimed "best student night ever", on



Going under: Lancaster's rugby teams were left short of sponsorship as Walkabout went into administration last week. (Photo: Ben Robins)

LUSU comedy night enjoys massive success

Mike Holmes

THE FIRST OF a series of fortnightly comedy nights kicked off successfully to a packed out crowd in Cartmel College's Barker House Farm on the Thursday of Week Two.

The events have been organized through a company called Off The Kerb in association with TV company Comedy Central. They bring together three comedians for comedy nights around the country. The three comedians on campus in Week Two were Joe Bor, Matt Blaize, and Canadian comedian Peter Johansson, who had been nominated this year for awards at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Joe Bor acted as the compere for the evening.

"It went really well; the acts were a lot better than I had thought," said Andy Johnston, VP (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies), who was involved in organising the events. "It was definitely a good start and a good platform to build on for next term."

After the show Joe Bor told SCAN that "it was a great night with a great venue" and a lot more than he expected.

"Student nights can go one of two ways. The crowd can seem really distant or fill you with energy [and] tonight was definitely the latter," said Matt Blaize.

The crowd also gave the night a good review. Peter Smith, a first year student in Cartmel College and member of the Lancaster University Comedy Appreciation Society, said of the night "It was a delightful blend of thought provoking social jibes and downright sordid filth".

"It was a good non-alcoholic event for staff members and students," said Johnston. "It was very cheap which showed on the night. 240 people bought tickets beforehand and the bar did very well." The food court had put on a special menu for the evening and served hot food throughout the night.

The next Comedy on Campus night will be on Thursday Week Four in Cartmel Bar. Tickets can be bought at the same price, £3 with a purple card, £5 without, from the LUSU shop.

Half a million unemployed as graduates square up in market

Lizzie Houghton
Assistant Editor

THE HIGHER EDUCATION Careers Services Unit has found that 63% of this year's graduates didn't make use of their university careers services at all whilst in higher education. A separate report has also found that the number of graduates unemployed six months after graduation is likely to hit 30,000 this year as a result of the decline in the graduate job market.

Ben Nye, who graduated from

Lancaster this year said: "Everyone is in the same boat. Yes students have been hit hard, but so have all people aged 16-25 regardless of which university, if any, they've attended. I think it's just about who you know, being in the right place at the right place, and most of all luck."

Unemployment amongst 18 to 24-year-olds increased by 8000 in the three months up to August, taking the total number of young adults out of work to 490,000. Many of next year's graduates are looking into further their education in order to avoid the

consequences of the economic down turn. Two thirds of final years students have admitted to being concerned about the current climate.

Despite the gloomy forecasts, Lancaster University's graduate employment ratings has improved on last year. The university is now ranked thirteenth in the country and first in the North West for graduate employment.

Paul Blackmore, the director of CEEC, said: "The meteoric rise of Lancaster in the Sunday Times University Guide 2010 to first place in the North of England, can only

help further position Lancaster as the University of choice in the North for graduate recruiters from all sectors.

"However finalists and graduates should not become complacent in hearing the brighter news. The graduate recruitment market is still more competitive than ever so applicants will need to ensure that they have fully researched any job opportunities before they apply."

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Student media now needs a platform to realise its potential

LUTube needs to be given the right support if it is to flourish and become a key player in the student union

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The upcoming non-sabbatical review brings back memories of its predecessor last November. On that occasion, the make-up of the Sabbatical team was altered, with remits radically reshaped.

Perhaps the most crucial role change involved the addition of all student media into the remit of the SCAN Editor. This move brought Bailrigg FM and LUTube much closer into the union, with the thinking behind the decision rationalised to help provide support and strengthen those particular forms of student media.

Bailrigg FM, however, is well established and has been a staple part of Lancaster University for many years with many talented presenters passing through its station and eventually achieving greater fame at a national

level.

LUTube, in contrast, is still taking its baby steps in comparison. For those who are unaware, LUTube is a television society committed to creating original programming and offering students the chance to experience work both in front of and behind the camera.

LUTube is becoming ever more ambitious, creative and confident in its vision; the coverage of the Sabbatical elections in March this year offer all the evidence that it needs to highlight that it has the capacity to grow and develop further with the right support. The coverage itself was viewed by a great deal more people than listened on Bailrigg FM, and the debates staged arguably engaged voters far more than equivalent coverage in SCAN.

The danger for LUTube is that it

may become stagnant and be prevented from developing properly due to lack of investment and support. Still being classed as a society is a serious drawback for LUTube, and must be particularly galling when one considers the massive amounts of cash pumped into printing SCAN. Bailrigg FM also receives a healthy cash injection every year.

Student media should all be given an equal platform to utilise their range of talents. Never before has there been greater diversity and choice for students wishing to sample the radically different forms of media, whether it be radio, television or print journalism; technical or creative roles; management and organisational opportunities or marketing and publicity based training.

This diversity and choice should not risk becoming diminished due to

general apathy or lack of interest on the part of the wider student demographic.

LUTube offers a valuable service, both entertaining and informing, and this is evidenced greatest during their coverage of live events such as Roses and elections.

Imagine what else they could do with a more significant platform to launch their activities from and greater political clout within LUSU. If a regular space could be secured for the team, coupled with investment on a par with other student media, then Lancaster could one day soon claim to have a student television network that can challenge the best universities one day soon. Not bad for a society established only three years ago. Let's hope we can now give them the support to be even better



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No candidates for President leaves Graduate college facing tough questions over elections

- **No candidates for GSA President, VP Sport and VP Post Graduate Research**
- **Nomination deadline brought back in attempt to attract more candidates**

Sam Newsham
Collette McColgan

THE FORTHCOMING GSA Exec elections have attracted only eleven contenders, with no one running for President and two other positions.

The elections, which are due to take place on Thursday of Week Four, come just weeks after a reform to the GSA constitution created multiple new roles on the Exec. They had received an unprecedented level of publicity from both the GSA and LUSU.

The lack of a Graduate College elections co-ordinator led to the Graduate Students' Association joining forces with LUSU to promote elections and involvement with the GSA. It is widely believed that full appreciation of the commitment involved is what has put candidates off running.

"Postgraduates have, for the first time ever, been able to see the reality of standing for the GSA before they were elected," said Ellie Fitton, current GSA President. "This has enabled people to make an informed decision; a decision which, it would seem, has in many cases been: 'sorry, but the commitment is too great.'"

Although she was co-opted as President at the GSA General Meeting in Week One, Fitton herself made the decision not to stand for election.

"At the start of this term, I was juggling five different jobs and my PhD. I felt I was not in a position to serve the GSA as well as a president should have to," she said. "I didn't feel, considering the strain I was under, that my decision to stand would have been a rational or informed one."

Fellow GSA officer, Tony Chung, echoed Fitton's views. "The fact that nobody stood for president is possibly related to the pressures of office," he said. "Most postgraduates simply do not have the time, meaning the position



is only likely to be attractive to a first year PhD student."

A bye-election will be held in Week Eight alongside JCR elections to fill the posts for which there are currently no candidates running: President, VP (Sports) and VP (Postgraduate Research).

Andy Johnston, LUSU VP (Finance, Events, Democracy & Societies) feels that the four weeks without a president won't be a problem for the GSA. "There's a really strong chance we'll get a full GSA Exec by the end of this term," he said. "I don't really see [the lack of a president] as a massive problem at the moment. It's a position that could be filled by three or four people pitching in and helping out."

As part of the publicity campaign, LUSU and GSA offices have been promoting elections in the Management School and Grad Bar.

"There's been a lot more promotion than ever before," said Kat Goulding, LUSU's Chief Returning Officer. "A lot more students have heard about elections which means hopefully a lot more will want to vote."

Although admitting to being

"disappointed" more people haven't stood for election, both Goulding and Fitton feel that their publicity campaign has been successful – if only because students now know the full extent of what's involved.

"I would sturdily maintain that the collaborative mission by LUSU and the GSA to inform potential candidates has been highly successful. The very last thing anyone would want is for students, with already very large workloads, to be overburdened by their GSA commitments" said Fitton. "In this sense, I feel that nominations this year have been a success, even if that success means that we have not filled every post."

These elections come after a review and change to the constitution, passed at the GSA's General Meeting in Week One. This change introduced several new roles to the GSA Exec, including the VP (Diversity, Democracy and Inclusion). With three students in the running it is the most contested position in the upcoming elections.

Fitton believes this is because the role is "one of the most significant the GSA has ever had," adding that it "captures people's sense of

imagination."

However, the new constitution has not found favour with all students.

"Postgraduates have, for the first time ever, been able to see the reality of standing for the GSA before they were elected. This has enabled people to make an informed decision; a decision which, it would seem, has in many cases been: 'sorry, but the commitment is too great.'"

One postgraduate, who wishes to remain anonymous, told SCAN that they felt the constitution was too restrictive. "It's too stick-by-the-rules; people on the GSA aren't given enough room to implement their own ways," they said, remarking that this had actually put them off standing for a position.

The same student felt that, despite all their efforts, the GSA's main problem is lack of publicity. "The GSA is fantastic but they don't publicise

themselves enough. More people would run if the GSA promoted what they're about."

In an unusual move the nominations were secret. Whereas nominations are usually publically displayed on a poster, they were instead posted into one of two ballot boxes based in Graduate College porters' lodge and the LUSU building.

The split location, Johnston explained, was one of the reasons behind the decision to have ballot boxes. "We didn't have the people power to check [the nominations boards]" he said. "[People] may be put off from running if they see others are running for the same position."

Though the nominations, which opened on Monday Week Two, were originally meant to close at 12pm on Monday Week Three, the deadline was extended twice: first to 6pm and then until 10pm.

"The GSA felt it important that those who had lectures or seminars during the day, would have time to put themselves forward as well," Fitton said, "It also gave potential candidates the chance to talk to the GSA Exec again."

President	VP (DDI)	VP (Sports)	VP (Postgrad Taught)	On Campus Social Sec
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not contested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Katherine Michel• Fatma Cansu Pala• Anthony Riqkos	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not contested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gboyega Adegbola	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hanna MacDonald• Davy Garland
VP (Equality & Diversity)	VP (Equality & Diversity)	VP (Communication)	VP (Postgrad Research)	Off Campus Social Sec
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abhinav Sharma• Mike Jenkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jris Meyvogel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sara Hasan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not contested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tony Chung

Feelings run high as Politics, Philosophy and Religious Studies students have their say on merger

- **Students deny having been told of merger**
- **Faculty reps not informed until Freshers Week**
- **Lack of consultation was “an outrage”**

Liam Kay

STUDENTS IN THE departments of Politics, Philosophy and Religious Studies are reeling from the lack of consultation on the merger of all three into one combined department.

Many students have heavily criticised their departments, saying that they received no email explaining the situation and had had no consultation on the issue before decisions were made. Those responsible for the merger claimed that explanatory emails were sent out early last summer. On the contrary, most of the students questioned by SCAN knew very little about it.

Faculty representatives were not informed that the merger was going ahead until the start of Freshers' Week, with many others only finding out at the meeting of Senate at which the proposal for the merger was passed. The department representative for Philosophy, Simon Bulmer, said: “The lack of student consultation has been shocking. Their idea of what's considered consultation of students is a joke.”

Bulmer first heard of the merger on the Monday of Intro Week, when he and other department representatives had a meeting with Professor Emma

Rose, chair of the working group who drew up the proposals. Professor Rose described the merger as student-driven and outlined the ways it would make the department more attractive to postgraduates.

“If it was so geared towards students, why weren't students consulted?” said Bulmer. “How are they going to know what's a more attractive degree to postgraduates if they don't ask postgraduates?”

The proposal for the merger was passed at Senate in Week One, despite Students' Union officers requesting that it be delayed six weeks to allow for discussion with students. However, by an amendment to the proposal Heads of Departments are now required to obtain their students' opinions.

.We are adults, and we chose to come to university here so we should be able to have a say in how our education is handled. We pay for it after all

Anger at the lack of consultation has been conveyed by a number of students in the departments affected. One student from Politics, Paul Lynch, said: “I agree with the position of the Students' Union in that student consultation is a must in these situations. As a politics student I was a little surprised at this news when I had heard nothing.”

“I was not sent any warning about this really quite significant change to my department. The first I knew about it was it being mentioned by the head of politics, Professor Robert Geyer, in one of my lectures,” said Pete MacMillan, also a politics student. “With regards to the consultation of students I think it's an absolute outrage that stu-

dents haven't been consulted throughout. For the University to take such an under-hand approach to the way they treat our degree schemes is really quite worrying.”

The failure of the university to communicate and include the student body in the formation of the ideas for the merger has left many questioning how well a combined politics, philosophy and religious studies department would work in practice with regards to their degrees.

One second year Philosophy student, Joe Wright, said “I'm worried that my degree will find itself subservient in the concerns of the new department.” With respect to the amendment to the proposal, he added: “I would have ideally liked to know before these changes occurred. I would have liked to have made an informed judgement on the matter, especially since I am paying for this degree.”

Other students have been equally critical of Senate's decision to allow a period of time for consultation, calling it a case of too little, too late. Many feel that they still do not have the power to make changes to the way the merger will go ahead.

“Senate's decision to let the department heads consult with us is totally worthless. It just shows embarrassment at the way things have been handled and that they obviously realise they were wrong, but are too stubborn to change anything. They should have asked us all,” said Sarah Strachan, a Philosophy student and LUSU Block of Six Officer. “The idea that they couldn't contact us or wanted to not disturb our vacations is utterly ridiculous and just shows a lack of respect. We are adults, and we chose to come to university here so we should be able to have a say in how our education is handled. We pay for it after all.”



Walkabout goes into administration

Continued from front page

Thursday October 29. Included in their infamous bar crawl across the city centre was a pit-stop at Walkabout Lancaster.

Commenting on Walkabout's sudden closure, Steve Hughes, Head of the Media team for Carnage, said, “On Tuesday October 20 2009, we were made aware of a small number of Walkabout Inn sites being closed down. We are currently evaluating the possible options for a replacement venue and will update students when we have further information.”

In a press release published on Wednesday October 21 the administrators, BDO, commented that “despite the support of the Group's bankers, the challenging market conditions and a number of loss making venues have resulted in the Group being unable to achieve a transaction to continue the Group's operations in

their entirety. Regrettably, upon the appointment of the Administrators, the remaining nine trading sites [including Walkabout Lancaster] were closed, resulting in 186 employees being made redundant”. Last year, Regent Inns PLC reported a loss of £58.1 million after they encountered various amounts of tough trading amid the recession.

Shay Bannon, who was appointed joint administrator along with Antony Nygate, commented that: “A reduction in the level of disposable income as a result of the current economic climate has played a role in the group's difficulties along with a significant number of loss making venues.”

In a quick turn of events, 60 of the sites belonging to Regent Inns PLC were sold to iNTERtain Limited the day after the firm went into administration, protecting over 1,800 jobs. A further 12 sites, of which nine presently trade, and 254 staff will be

transferred to Punch Pub Company (Trent) Limited, in a separate sale agreement. Unfortunately, Walkabout Lancaster's doors are still closed.

As well as Lancaster's Walkabout, branches in Bradford and Shaftesbury Avenue were closed down, along with 79 other outlets owned by Regent Inns PLC, including the restaurant chain Old Orleans and the bar Jongleurs.

In addition to its sponsorships for the rugby teams, Walkabout is in debt to LUSU to a total of £2,750 as LUSU deal with the marketing and promotional activity on behalf of the bar.



Student Loan fiasco is still ongoing as students struggle for cash

Jack Smith

TENS OF THOUSANDS of students nationally have been left struggling to afford living costs after the Student Loans Company (SLC) was unable to cope with an increased number of applications. Many students have been left with delayed or reduced payments, while others are still waiting for the return of important documents.

This year, a new system has been introduced that meant first year students must apply directly to the SLC instead of through their local education authority. However, the system has been plagued with issues over the summer. Primarily, problems with new document scanning equipment in April resulted in documents being processed manually. When the SLC overcame this problem, it emerged that sensitive paperwork still had to be sent from Darlington to Glasgow to be scanned and back to Darlington to be processed.

The problems have had an impact all around the country, and Lancaster is no exception. Despite SLC suggestions that only first year students have been affected, Lancaster has seen reports of third years still awaiting payment. However, the university ensured new students experiencing problems with the SLC were able to register without any difficulty. The Student Funding Services website confirmed that "[accommodation] payment may be temporarily deferred by arrangement with the college residence officer." In addition, emergency loans were offered for essential costs such as food and travel, while the university also offered to help chase up significantly delayed payments.

LUSU VP (Academic Affairs) Danny Ovens welcomed this response to what he called the "unacceptable timing" of the SLC, saying: "The University has acted admirably under the circumstances by deferring rent payments where necessary and offering emergency loans [to] those students in need. There are other Universities that have not done so and have therefore put



In the dark: The Student Loans Company has been criticised for not keeping students in the loop.

their students in financial trouble. They would do well to follow Lancaster's example."

He added: "I urge all students that are suffering problems due to this situation and are unaware of the support on offer to contact Student Services or to come to LUSU Advice in the LUSU building under Spar for help."

Derek Ross, deputy chief executive of the SLC, told the BBC that the problems with equipment were a key factor in many documents such as passports, required for registration, being mislaid. He said: "It then became easier to say to students could you send them [the documents] in again because they became lost in the system." He added: "It's a bit like losing your car keys - you think you have lost them - but they are in the house somewhere." This resulted in the Shadow Higher Education Minister David Willets

demanding that Ross' comments were withdrawn.

The SLC also blamed a higher volume of applicants this year, but critics suggested the company should have foreseen this and recruited more staff.

Many students worried about the status of their application were left unable to contact Student Finance, with those that could complaining of the cost of calling the 0845 number. The SLC have continued to maintain that students who applied "on time" will receive finance by the end of October, but some students have claimed lost documentation has left them classed as late applicants. David Lammy told the BBC last week that as many as 77,000 applications were still being processed.

The Government has appointed two independent experts to head a review into the situation, which the higher education minister David Lammy

called "regrettable". He told MPs last week that there would be "a frank assessment of what went wrong and a series of thorough proposals for the future".

NUS president Wes Streeting said he was "relieved" that Sir Deian Hopkin and Bernadette Kenn are to review the problems with the payment of student loans and grants. He added: "I hope that this review will lead to a full and frank analysis of this shambles and that the management of the SLC will be held to account for a fiasco that has left hundreds of thousands affected by late payments, lost documentation and a miserable start to their first term at university."

Lancaster students still experiencing problems can contact Student Services on 01524 592085 to make an appointment with an advisor, or visit A21 in University House.

Student loans sold off to balance books

Chris Housden

GORDON BROWN HAS proposed selling parts of the Student Loan Company off to private investors, raising concerns about the effects on interest rates.

Labour announced the sudden 'fire sale' as one of the first steps towards raising a target total of £16 billion promised in this year's budget, which the Liberal Democrats have branded the largest planned sell off "since the 1980s privatisations." Reducing the Government deficit by putting what Brown described as "non-core business activities" up for sale will ease Britain closer to positive accounts again and, it is hoped, bring the country out of recession.

The SLC account, waiting to collect money owed to the Government by students, gains no interest as it is based upon negative numbers. Despite having to sell the rights of collection for less than the debt is worth, the sale will generate income more quickly than waiting to collect the debt. The Government will gain interest, strengthening the overall British economy.

The concern for students is that private companies may start charging market rates of interest on repayments, despite Labour emphasising that the sale will not affect student debtors either in taking out future loans or repaying current debts. Once a private enterprise owns the SLC they will have the rights to charge interest far above the low and subsidised rates the Government can afford to offer. Even if clauses are written into the sale contract to prevent this students are beginning to worry about the crippling debt they may be left with.

Critics within Parliament doubt that this solution will be successful. Lib Dem Vince Cable commented that "these asset sales should be based on a financial calculation not a political one". Labour admits it is a short-term step and the first of many: Brown argues that failure to attempt short-term growth "is the real risk" and will result in a further indebted Britain.

The debt rights being sold apply only to Student Finance England. The Student Loans Company divided among the four jurisdictions of Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland at the beginning of the year, which caused the loans disruption over the summer and brought the company under fire from many students worried about their finances. Despite the proposed sale the company will still receive a thorough review, although crucially not until after the general election next year.

Other assets being sold in the portfolio, initially worth £220 billion, are the control of the Thames Dartford Tunnel crossing, the government-owned bookkeepers Tote and the government's share stakes in global uranium companies.

Case Studies: Student Loans Crisis hits Lancaster

Rob Mould – 2nd Year, County College 'B' Team Football Captain.

ROB APPLIED EARLY in March/April, but had a few problems with his application and needed to complete a change of circumstances form. After sending one off and receiving no reply he completed another one with a proof of postage, which was confirmed to have been delivered in June.

When Rob checked in early September, his online details had not been amended as per the change of circumstances form that he had sent off. He contacted the university and was told the situation was not a problem.

His loan came through on

October 17, over two weeks after the recommended date of October 2. Fortunately, although he needed his maintenance loan to pay for on-campus accommodation, the deadline was not until the October 19.

"I rang them, and they said to me that they had had a record number of loans come through this year. I think they were pretty much trying to palm me off," he said of his contact with the Student Loans Company after his payment was not received on the correct date. "I suppose the Student Loans Company is a business, and to deal with the workload they surely should just employ more people. It's as if they're trying to make their workload your problem."

Chris Bradford – County College, 2nd Year studying Media and Cultural Studies

CHRIS APPLIED FOR his loan in April, around the time that was expected.

He did not have to complete any change of circumstance form and was given no indication that his loan would be late. Chris received no word from the Student Loans Company at all, and was expecting his loan to arrive on the 2nd October as had been suggested by the company.

His loan failed to arrive. Chris is living in town this year and his rent for his LUSU Lets house was due on the October 5. Without his loan, Chris was unable to pay his rent.

He rang his parents and they agreed to pay for his accommodation until his loan came through.

"I'm really lucky that my parents decided to pay for it up front. Other people aren't in such a fortunate circumstance and I can imagine it would have been a real problem for some families given the current economic climate," he said. "My loan came through a week late, and I've managed to pay off my debt, but it was a real worry for me on that weekend before my rent was due."

Compiled by Steve Feekins.

NEWS

45% of young people happiest online

Collette McColgan
News Editor

A REPORT HAS shown that 75% of 1994 16-24 year olds feel that they couldn't live without the Internet. Of these 45% said that they feel happiest when online.

The study 'Life Support: Young people's needs in a digital age,' was conducted by Professor Michael Hulme of the university's Department of Advanced Studies and was commissioned by YouthNet, a charity that aims to provide young people with "frank and unbiased" information.

The survey was launched in the House of Commons on 14 October, and has been praised by many, including the YouthNet Chief Executive, Fiona Dawe. "This timely report is an essential read for any youth policy maker, parent or teacher," she said.

The report focuses on the 'Digital Natives'; people under twenty-five who have been surrounded by technology since a pre-school age. These people are found to have more advanced networking skills than their parents, and to have well developed visual-spatial skills, says the report. 32% of those surveyed agreed with a statement that said they could find all information they needed online, and in some cases they need not speak to a real person at all.

"For young people, the internet is part of the fabric of their world" said Hulme, in the conclusion of the report. It states that 62% of the young people surveyed would go online to seek advice because it allows them to have anonymity, with others listing ease and speed of access as qualities they value.

37% of those surveyed said that they would use the internet to give advice to others, something which Government Advisor on Children and Technology, Professor Tanya Byron welcomed, according to LU News. She said that the report "illustrates the vital role the internet plays in the lives of young people" and added that the "online population [has] become a confidante for young people facing difficult, stressful or confusing times."

New LICA building will achieve highest environmental standards



Green machine: LICA's new base will be at the forefront of environment building.

Sam Newsham
News Editor

THE NEW PUBLIC face of Lancaster's Institute for the Contemporary Arts will be one of the most environmentally friendly in the UK. LICA's innovative new performance space will be the first Higher Education building in Britain built to BREEAM 'outstanding' levels.

A £10 million contract was awarded to constructor Morgan Ashurst in January and work began on the Monday of Week Three. It is hoped the building will be complete for the start of the 2010-2011 academic year.

The building, which has been designed by architects Sheppard Robson, is under construction close to Bowland North. It is expected to include three different social spaces and offices upstairs and will have a new access road built along the side of Bowland Hall residences.

The 3,000 square metre building will gain its environmentally friendly reputation by featuring natural ventilation and reduced energy consumption and using sustainable materials such as timber. It will be wrapped in translucent cladding, which will let in various different degrees of light.

As well as its four academic sectors – Art, Design, Music and Thea-

tre Studies – LICA comprises three public arts facilities: the Peter Scott Gallery, the Nuffield Theatre and the International Concert Series, as well as the research group Imagination@Lancaster. The LICA groups hope that this building will be their public face.

The Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) has, in the past, awarded the university seven ratings of 'excellent', but this is the first time a building on campus will receive the highest level of 'outstanding.'

Mark Taylor, manager of GreenLancaster, has welcomed the news. "Along with the Eco-Residences in

County and Grizedale, this demonstrates a clear commitment on Facilities' part for environmental practice when it comes to development," he said. He hopes that this will set the benchmark for future constructions, adding "Let's hope we see more developments of this sort on campus for years to come."

GreenLancaster is currently running the Carbon Competition between County and Grizedale Eco-Residences and, for the first time this year, Pendle. This competition aims to encourage students to be more environmentally friendly in numerous ways, providing cash prizes at the end of each term for the top three houses or flats.

International Night returns

Anna Mackiewicz

LUSU WILL BE hosting an International Students Night on Friday of Week Four. The event, to be held in Fylde Bar from 8.00 pm, is an opportunity for international students to mingle and get acquainted with the variety of cultures they will find on campus.

It is the first time this academic year LUSU has organized an International Students night to actively promote the different cultures on campus, but there have been other successful events in previous terms.

Torri Crapper, LUSU VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), has put a lot of effort into organising the event and says that she wants it to "provide support to

[international] students that would be provided in their home countries."

Crapper adds that the cultural societies will be invited to give "a mini-showcase" of their culture and interact with Lancaster students, in the hope that it will "help international students who may have missed out on Freshers' Week to interact with other cultures." Any international students are welcome to contact her with any questions.

Bowland College student, Nina Hurley, hopes that the event will be "a great opportunity to feel welcomed by Lancaster."

The International Students' Night will feature a selection of international food and provide a free pass to the Sugarhouse. The cultural societies will be situated in Fylde Bar to talk to international students who attend the event.

Lancaster moves up in World top 200

Charlotte Urban

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY HAS been ranked 162 in the world's top 200 universities, rising eight places from last year.

The Times Higher Education/QS World University Rankings 2009 has placed Lancaster amongst only 29 UK universities in the list. Lancaster's Social Sciences department did exceptionally well, being ranked in the top 100 at 97. The Arts & Humanities department was placed at 128.

In order to calculate the rankings a number of reviews, including peer student reviews, an employer review score and international staff

and student scores, are combined and averaged to establish a mean score. Surveys are taken of academics and graduate employers, who are asked the ratio of students to academics, the number of times research is quoted in journals and which universities are considered to be best in their fields. A record number of responses were received in 2009.

Lancaster is consistently ranked the top university in the North West. Currently The Times, The Sunday Times, The Guardian and The Independent place Lancaster at the top of their lists. Additionally, Lancaster achieved a higher international student score than Harvard, the world's top-ranked university.



Lancaster academics delve into clubber drug culture

Luke Anderson

A REPORT BY two Lancaster criminologists into weekend drug use by young adults has been featured in The Times.

Dr. Fiona Measham and Dr. Karenza Moore of the university's Department of Applied Social Science recently undertook an extensive research project into the drug culture prominent in 20 to 30 year old clubbers.

By anonymously interviewing many nightclub goers on nights out in Manchester about their experiences of drugs and their drug habits, they found that not only has drug use increased in the last ten years but clubbers regularly take a greater mix of drugs than ever before.

The Times published a feature on Monday October 19 highlighting their results which mentioned the "under the radar" aspect of this drug culture: the suggestion that police, politicians and venue owners know the problem exists but target dealers and providers rather than those that purchase the drugs.

The police are reported as saying that people who take drugs on a night out are significantly less trouble than "obnoxious" drunks. Similarly, if the police suspect someone to be on drugs, there is little that can be done unless they are breaking the law.



"With weekend recreational polydrug use rising, it seems that regulation and policing has done little to deter people from going out and taking drugs," said Dr Moore.

The exposé, published in the 'Criminology and Criminal Justice' journal, has gained the reputation of a seminal piece on modern drug culture.

The results obtained showed that 98% of club custom has tried

illegal drugs at least once, with 85% having tried ecstasy and 83% having tried cocaine. Figures also showed that nearly four-fifths of club goers had taken an illegal drug within the previous month.

The report found that the main types of drugs experimented with in night clubs are 'coke', ecstasy and marijuana and brought to light the many different facets of the modern drug and music scene and the current

culture around it.

The most significant aspect is the rise of 'cocktails of celebration'; the mixing of many different drugs including cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy, MDMA (pure ecstasy) and GHB. People interviewed also mentioned the increased popularity of Friday nights out so that they can use the weekend to recover before returning to work on Monday.

The report also highlights the

correlation between music and the types of drugs abused. With techno/trance and hard dance being closely associated with cocaine and ecstasy or MDMA on one night, a drum and bass night has a significantly decreased percentage of drug use, despite being in the same venue.

"Today, young adults' drug choices are shaped by the venues they attend and the entertainment on offer," said Dr Measham.



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Learning Zone pits colleges against eachother for cash prize



Lauren Hirst

ISS HAS JOINED forces with Lancaster's new Learning Zone to run an inter-college competition giving students the chance to win £200 towards their JCR activities.

The aim of the competition is for students to highlight the wide range of methods that can be used to study at Lancaster University.

The challenge is to design a power point display, consisting of up to 10 slides, advertising to fellow students the different ways of learning at Lancaster and how the state of the art

Learning Zone complements your academic experience. The competition is open to groups of five or more students from each college, who will be asked to submit their best entry in December. The winning entry, and college, will be announced after the Christmas break in January.

Commenting on the competition, Professor Amanda Chetwynd, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Colleges and the Student Experience, said: "The Learning Zone is already being used by students in many different ways and the competition has been designed to enable students to share their good learning experiences and ideas with others."

When asked about tips for SCAN

readers and hopeful winners, Chetwynd commented that "the competition is to design a series of power point displays showing the different ways that the Learning Zone can be used, from individual learning to group discussions to practicing presentations." With an abundance of facilities from electronic whiteboards for group problem solving activities to a quick reference stand-up PCs, it is hoped entrants will find plenty of opportunities for discussion.

In Week One of Lent Term there will be a presentation and awards ceremony for students with winning entries. In addition, their presentations will be displayed on the e-campus screens.

Furness hosts fright night in aid of charity

Luke Anderson

FURNESS JCR IS hosting a Halloween ghost walk around the History Department on Saturday October 31st, in commemoration of the Gray Lady of Furness.

The project, entitled Furness Foyer of FEAR, is the brainchild of Michael Holt, editor of Furness College's magazine FURST. Holt instrumented the event and has been in contact with the History department to allow it to take place. He has also involved Furness JCR, who will help organise and participate.

Tickets, costing £1, will go on sale at 7.30 pm in Furness and walks will commence between 8 and 10. Groups of people will be guided on a 15 minute tour through the haunted History department. The walk will unravel the mystery of the Gray Lady of Furness Foyer as well as including a close shave with Sweeney Todd and a musical provocation from the Suicide Twins of Bowland Tower.

With many other tricks and treats, Holt is confident that "screams will come as standard. It will be an exciting chance to witness the ancient evil that comes alive in the History department for but one evening a year." The walk is more than for just a good scare as Holt and the JCR are donating all proceeds

to the charity shop on campus "for their good service to the noble art of fancy dress." The charity shop benefits Cancer Care and St John's Hospice.

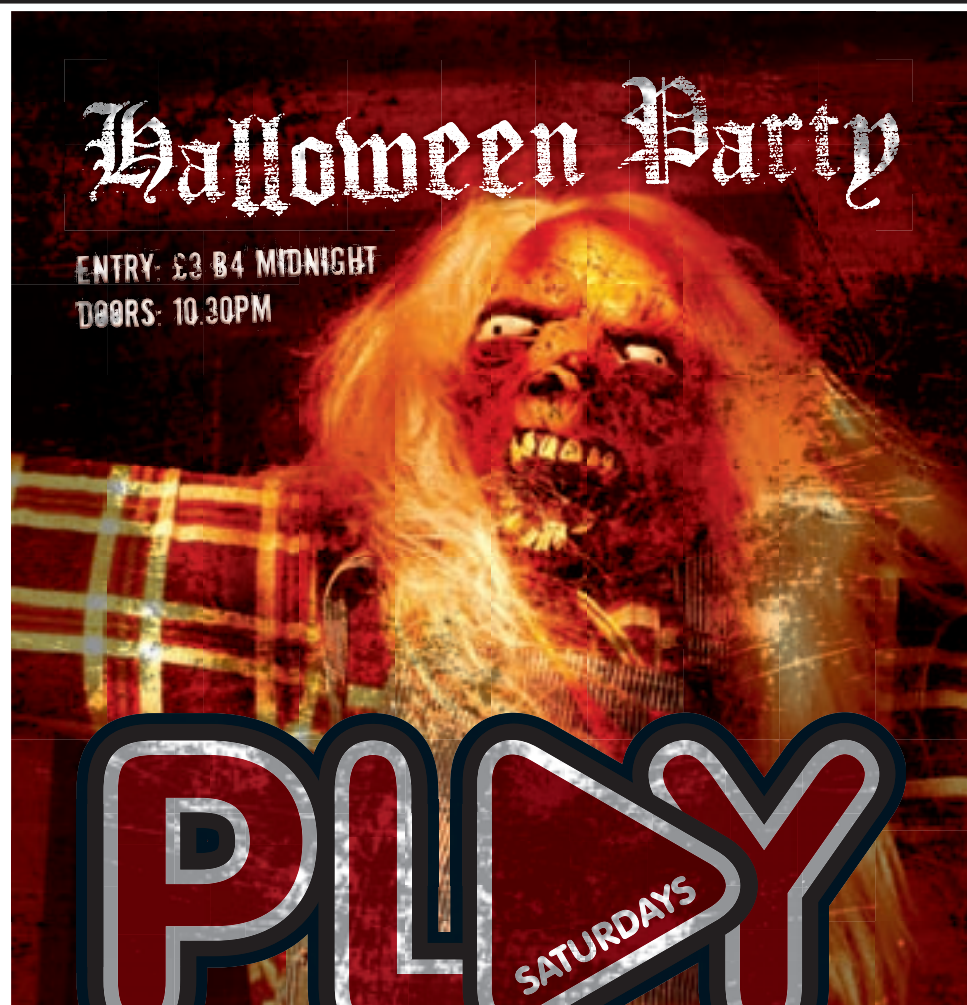
Furness JCR President David Prescott fully supports the event. "I think it's a great and original way of both organising a social and raising money for charity," he said. "Also, it's a very good way of raising awareness of our Gray Lady. She's been haunting Furness for years and it's time people were educated."

Lancaster University History Society are also staging a ghost walk, scheduled for Wednesday October 28, but taking place in the city centre itself. The group are meeting at 6.30pm on campus outside Natwest.

To learn the legend of the Gray Lady of Furness foyer turn to the Student Life section.



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Lancaster and university chosen for Census trail

Emma Follis

STUDENTS AT LANCASTER have been asked to fill out mock census forms as part of the 2009 Census Rehearsal.

The rehearsal is being carried out in order to prepare for the real event in 2011, which will be conducted in a different way to previous censuses. For the first time people will complete and return their forms by post or online, and new questions relating to national identity and citizenship have been created.

The Central and Local Information Partnership (CLIP) website states that the aim of the rehearsal is to fully test the "processes and operational systems for the 2011 Census".

Public participation is voluntary; however, it is important that as many people as possible participate in order to fully test the system.

Census rehearsal forms have been a source of discussion throughout campus in the last two weeks, with the distinctive purple sheets often seen sticking out of recycling bins. "It all seems a bit pointless to be honest," said one unimpressed student.

Others see the usefulness of the rehearsal. "The Census is quite a big

thing really, and we'll benefit in the long run from the Government having this up-to-date information. It's only a small form anyway."

Overall there seems to have been a reasonable response to the mock census forms, with most students willing to fill them out.

The City of Lancaster, including its universities, as well as the London Borough of Newham and Ynys Môn on the Isle of Anglesey in North Wales have all been chosen to participate in the rehearsal. This amounts to approximately 135,000 households. After this test, the census will be rolled out nationwide in 2011.

"Lancaster and the surrounding area including Morecambe was chosen for the rehearsal area as it consists of urban and rural areas including coast line and has universities, several residential homes and a secure unit," Lucy Calvert from the Office for National Statistics told SCAN. "These different types of accommodation are representative of many areas of England and Wales and as such allow us to test the systems we have in place effectively."

The importance of the census is to gather as much data on the British population as possible in order to ensure adequate distribution of resources and policies by the Government. It also pro-



vides useful information for academics, businesses and the general public. This is a process that has been undertaken every ten years since 1801, except during the Second World War. However, the results of a census are not released to the general public until one hundred years after being collected.

Anti-racism campaign kicks off in Week Four to coincide with Black History Month

Hannah Price

A NEW CAMPAIGN to document the prevalence of racism in society is being launched across Lancaster University in Week Four.

The awareness campaign will run alongside a nationwide celebration of Black History Month in October. It aims to highlight the prevalence of racism within society and to further document the procedures that are in place to protect and help students who feel they are experiencing racism at Lancaster.

LUSU VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) Torri Crapper, who is coordinating the campaign alongside Aidan Williams, the non-sabbatical Race Relations Officer, hopes that the event will raise the profile of racism in society and highlight the measures that are in place at Lancaster to protect its students.

"The Commission for Racial Equality states racism is still rife in our society. This is because in previous years society has been forced to

re-evaluate what racism is, and whom it affects," said Crapper. "This campaign should highlight the injustices faced by many people on our campus and in society as a whole, and hopefully challenge people to reconsider their preconceived views on racism."

Crapper and Williams are running an International event with the International Committee in Fylde Bar on Friday of Week 4 to showcase the different cultures there are Lancaster.

6.1% of new U.K. university undergraduate entrants in 2009 were of an ethnic minority, compared to just 4% in 2002, according to the Lancaster University Race Equality Policy. These figures show that student numbers from ethnically diverse backgrounds are growing, making up a higher percentage of the total student population. As a result, the University has a comprehensive policy about race equality dealing with everything from admissions to the grades that are achieved by students. Despite this, many students perceive to experience racism during their years at Lancaster.

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In Focus: Graduate Unemployment

Lancaster students need extra spark in stale job market

- **Unemployment in 18-24s jumps 4.4% in one year**
- **CEEC & LUSU work together to bring in big employers**

Lizzie Houghton
Assistant Editor

AS THE NUMBER of unemployed 2009 graduates looks set to hit 30,000 six months after graduation, it is becoming clear that this year's stock of university leavers are feeling the brunt of the recession. The latest figures from the government set unemployment rates amongst 18 to 24-year-olds at 17.7%, an increase of 4.4% on this time last year. With almost half a million people within this age group currently unemployed it is easy to understand why for some, jobs have been hard to come by.

A recent report by the National Union of Students and HSBC suggested that as a direct result of the recession more and more students this year are looking into ways of avoiding the job market, at least until relative normality has been resorted. 30% of final year students nationally said that their plans for after graduation had changed due to the economic climate. More students are currently looking into further education or gaps years.

LUSU Vice President (Academic Affairs), Danny Ovens agrees with the trend shown in the joint report. He said: "People at the minute, including last year's graduates, are looking to stay in higher education to try and ride out the recession. There is a hope that if they [students] do a Masters or another qualification, when the recession ends they will be better qualified and can leap straight into a decent job."

Nicola Cummins, a third year music student at Lancaster, has adopted this philosophy. "The recession and current climate in the jobs market is of course worrying and people keep telling me how my career choice is a dying job," she said. "I'm trying to stay optimistic. As I'm planning to go on to further education, I think I'm naively hoping that the recession and all related problems will have disappeared by the time I have to apply for a 'real' job."

But whilst the decline in the number of jobs is a valid reason for the rise in the number of young adults unemployed, there is also a feeling within some quarters that graduates

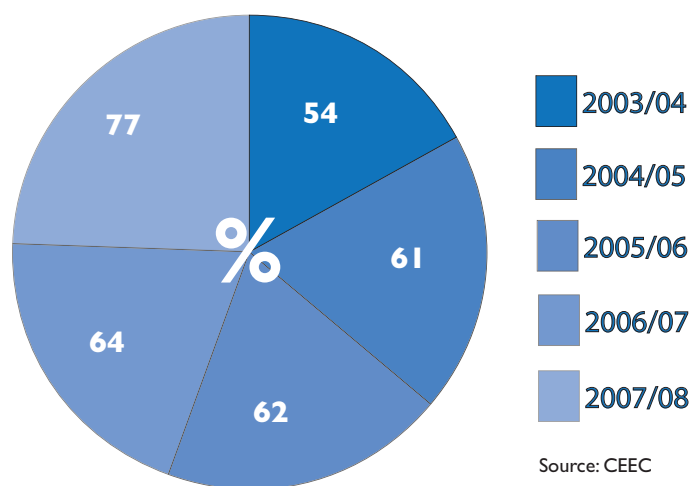
needed to have done more to help themselves. The Higher Education Careers Service Unit found that, despite the recession having begun at the start of their final year, almost two-thirds of 2009's graduates did not visit their university's careers service. The Futuretrack study also found that less than half of those surveyed attended careers events organised by the universities, a pattern reflected at Lancaster. Earlier in the year a careers event with Tesco was cancelled as too few students signed up.

With more applications for fewer jobs employers can also afford to be more selective with who they appoint. The Confederation of British Industries has made it clear in the past that employability counts for more than

"One very important and distressing point is that your degree doesn't mean a thing. You need it and you need a good one, but that's as far as it goes. Work experience is the only thing that matters."

academic attainment and has lamented the lack of "generic skills", such as communication and self management, in graduates. Lancaster graduate Richie Garton has been on the receiving end of this surplus of choice. Despite plenty of experience with societies Garton has still not found employment. Several weeks ago he signed on for Jobseeker's Allowance, although he acknowledges that his situation may have been different had he made better use of the services available whilst still at

Lancaster graduates in graduate level employment or study 2007/08



Joining the queue: 30,000 graduates are set to still be unemployed six months after graduation

Lancaster.

"I thought it would be a lot easier to find a job, although I knew a degree in English isn't what a lot of employers are looking for. Nonetheless, I know people who have done other degrees from even more prestigious universities who have had no more success than I [...] I chalk this down to the appalling economic situation at the moment - when recruiting, employers now seem to be after one exceptional graduate as opposed to twenty decent graduates."

He added: "I have to admit I didn't use the career services at all, even though I knew they were there. This is entirely down to typical student apathy,

complacency and bone idleness. I am sure if I had actually used them I would have benefitted."

With students now facing an average debt of £23,000 upon graduation, being out of work, or in a non-graduate level job, is becoming a financial impossibility. Although there is a benchmark for the repayment of tuition fee loans, the luxury is not often the case with student overdrafts, credit cards and bank loans, all of which need to be paid also. It is becoming increasingly imperative then that students do not take employment after graduation as a granted.

In the past Lancaster has been unfortunate with its graduate employment rates, falling behind universities it was otherwise ranked higher than. In 2008 however the number of Lancaster graduates in graduate level employment or study rose to 77%. In 2003/04 it was just 54%. Almost half of Lancaster graduates from 07/08 are now working full-time and CEEC (Centre of Employability, Enterprise and Careers) are confident that the figure will be repeated with this year's graduates too. Diane Richardson, Information and Administration Co-ordinator at CEEC, believes that next year's figures may not show the dip most people would expect. She said: "There is no difference between the sorts of jobs this year's students were going into compared to last years. So hopefully when we come round to this year [...] there may not be the dip that people are expecting."

As part of Lancaster's drive to improve its employment ratings the Lancaster Award has been established in order to give students extra recognition for activities they take on outside of their own degree. So far over 500 students have signed up for the scheme, which involves completing a series of CV boosters, from voluntary and work experience, to gaining additional skills through clubs and societies. The award has already been endorsed by employers, including HSBC and the Co-Operative Group.

"People at the minute, including last year's graduates, are looking to stay in higher education to try and ride out the recession."

However, whilst the award has been well received by first years, Ovens has been keen to stress that third and second years should also look into the programme. As the award is based retrospectively on what a student has achieved whilst at Lancaster, many third year students may have already met most of the criteria. "First years have three years to finish the Lancaster Award, whereas third years haven't. I would urge final year students to go to CEEC and at least find out more about it. It may only take a few weeks to complete it and, by December, you could have an extra award that will make you stand out."



g. 490,000 18 to 24-year-olds are currently not in work.

Richardson also agreed that it takes more to attract to employers than simply a decent degree. "It's the work experience, the extracurricular stuff that stands out," she said. "A good degree will obviously show that the graduate is capable of learning, but then with the rising number of students employers want to see that little bit extra. That's why the Lancaster Award was really developed to recognise all that skills that students are developing whilst at university."

Along with improving students' employability CEEC is also seeking to strengthen the links between employers and their potential employees. At the start of next month they will be holding

Lancaster's annual careers fair. The largest independent careers fair in the country, there will be over 70 exhibitors on show, including Microsoft, IBM, the NHS, News Associates along with a range of local and national volunteering and charitable organisations.

Norman Rea, Employer Relations Manager at CEEC who has been organising the event, said: "Despite the recession, employers are still recruiting as the number of exhibitors coming to this Fair demonstrates. Lancaster graduates have also been competing more successfully than ever for graduate jobs. All 70 exhibitors are interested in employing Lancaster graduates and that makes the Fair a

vital part of your career planning."

Ovens also encouraged students to attend, saying: This fair isn't just for final year students, although I would say final years go. Even if you think it's not for me, the alumni fair will be there was well with a lot of people who are now working in the media. Even if you just go quickly, you've gone and picked up some information. You've have got yourself into the right mindset."

Ovens is also currently looking into hosting a series of smaller careers events, tailored towards more specialised departments. He is hoping to have authors and publishers come and talk with Creative Writing students, and is also looking into possibilities for Art and History students.

The latest Sunday Times University Guide put Lancaster as thirteenth in the county for graduate employment and top in the North West. It will be hoped that schemes such as the Lancaster Award will propel the university further up the tables, both as a consequence of Lancaster graduates doing well in the job market, and as an incentive to employers to view future graduates more favourably.

Paul Blackmore, the director of CEEC, said: "The meteoric rise of Lancaster in the Sunday Times University Guide 2010 to first place in the North of England, can only help further position Lancaster as the University of choice in the North for graduate recruiters from all sectors. New initiatives such as the Lancaster Award and Insight to Enterprise and Employability programmes should also ensure that our students are able to demonstrate an understanding and possession of the skills that these employers are seeking."

But he did add a word of warning. "However finalists and graduates should not become complacent in hearing the brighter news. The graduate recruitment market is still more competitive than ever so applicants will need to ensure that they have fully researched any job opportunities before they apply."

Despite the improvement however, some graduates still felt let down by the careers services. Anshul Chauhan, a Business Studies graduate, felt there was still plenty of room for improvement within CEEC. He said: "I used the career service purely to enhance my CV. To be honest, there wasn't a much else they could offer. I expected a lot more that what I got from CEEC. They need to improve their operations and need to directly contribute to helping students with recruitment in their last stages of university."

Students graduating next year are likely to fare better than their counterparts of 2009. The Graduate Recruitment Bureau has suggested that, with the number of government initiatives currently running to help university leavers find employment, graduates of 2010 will have an easier time finding jobs than their 2009 counterparts. Vicki Cole, who left Lancaster with the first in English Literature, gave forecoming graduates this advice. "One very important and distressing point is that your degree doesn't mean a thing. You need it and you need a good one, but that's as far as it goes. Work experience is the only thing that matters."

The one who landed on her feet

BY THE END of her degree, the staff in the careers service knew Vicki Cole by name. The English Literature graduate is currently working for Kindred Agency, a PR, media and digital agency. "I went to workshops at Lancaster to the point where the careers centre knew me by name," Vicki said. "CEEC were really good, helpful and knew what they were talking about. They definitely helped me get my job."

Vicki applied for her job back in December 2008. "I applied for about 15 jobs, but only got interviews for 3.," she said. "One laughed in my face because I wasn't an expert on Twitter. I had to have a telephone interview, face-to-face interview, go to an assessment centre and then have another interview for my job. They made me wait from February until June to tell me if I had gotten the job

because they made redundancies."

"I had to research everything about the industry, company and why I wanted to work in PR. I had to read trade press, know the ins and outs of current affairs, offer perspectives. Basically, if you don't do loads of homework you will not get anywhere."

Along with CEEC Vicki also made the most of graduate employment websites, such as Milkround and Prospects. "I personally felt Job Seekers wasn't graduate level," she said. "I also searched company websites and LinkedIn as PR schemes aren't usually advertised - they like people who find things out for themselves."

"I was lucky in the fact in that fact that I know I only wanted a PR job - I think that is why I found it easier than others."

The one who wasn't so lucky

DURING HIS TIME at Lancaster Peter McGuckin was president of Grizedale College and a student ambassador for the Department of Continuing Education. But even with these skills on his CV he found work difficult to come by.

"I applied to many [jobs] and got interviews for most. But I was unsuccessful in getting any of the jobs as I had less experience than other candidates who had done the same job before," Peter explained.

"I moved back home and applied to Debenhams for a temporary Christmas job. During the interviews the managers were very impressed with my CV. They thought I was over qualified for the job and would be bored. Rather than not offer me the job I was there for, they offered me a permanent position as security supervisor which I accepted.

"I still wanted to work with people but it is better to be in a job looking for a job. I kept an eye out on the local council website and in local papers. Two months later a part-time cover supervisor position opened at my old school. I got an interview and although out of all the candidates I had the least experience they gave me a chance and took me on.

"From January to July I had two jobs and little free time but was offered full time at the school come September which is what I am doing now."

Peter added: "I found it hard to pass interviews because I wasn't given a chance due to my experience. A lot of my friends have found the same difficulty as older, more experienced people who are also looking for experience have the experience they don't."

And the one who's got it coming

BRYONY YATES ONLY started university four weeks ago, but finding a job is already on her mind. She knows she wants to go into either journalism or teaching, but she'll be happy as long as she gets something good and steady.

"I keep thinking I have ages to go until I have to get a real job, and so keep putting off any planning or work. I admit I haven't had a real job yet, largely because I wanted to concentrate on my studies more than I wanted to earn money. However, I do believe starting early and getting in as a much work as possible is the best idea.

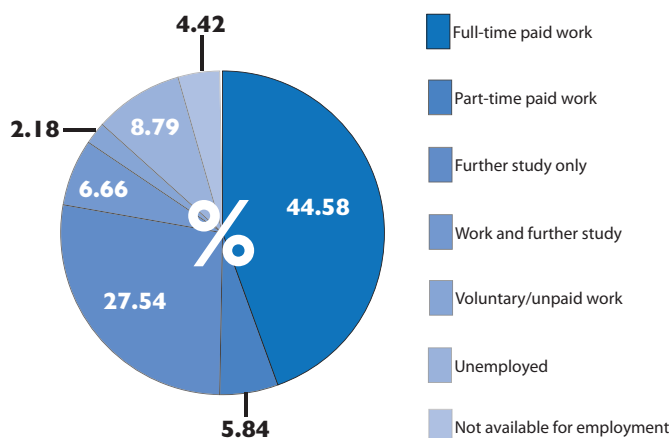
"The problem is that in today's society we've just seen how quickly jobs can be lost during the recession and I for one feel that it's even more important that I get a job that is not dispensable. Seeing how much society

has changed in the last year is quite a wake up call and made me realise that jobs are a central part of your future. You have to choose wisely."

Despite her eagerness to start planning for life after Lancaster, Bryony doesn't see herself paying CEEC a visit in the near future.

"I'm not really sure how to contact them, or where they are based so it's most likely to be me who sorts out my work experience. I am really interested in volunteering at the local schools, but so far have not received any information from the volunteering unit regarding this. Similarly I would like to write for the paper more because I really enjoyed it before. I have joined that History society, but so far it only seems to be about socials and bar crawls, nothing that I feel would help me much in my career."

Employment circumstances of Lancaster Graduates 2007/08



Source: CEEC

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scan:COMMENT



Sam Newsham

Students Loan Company cannot get any worse than it is currently

Brown's decision to sell it off raises concerns about the future of loan repayments for students

In the middle of September it was uncovered, by means of a Freedom of Information request from the BBC, that the Student Loans Company planned to see up to 175,000 freshers set off to begin at university with no loan. Thousands of eighteen-year-olds, many of whom have never lived away from home before, were left to worry that without their loans to pay for their accommodation they wouldn't be able to move into halls on time. Thousands of parents would be left stumping up money they couldn't really afford to ensure that their children make the move to university as smoothly as planned. Not the company's finest hour.

The SLC, of course, gave a raft of excuses for its gross mismanagement of loan money. Scanning equipment broke down, meaning that sensitive documents had to be shipped across the country for processing. Also, more students than had been anticipated put in applications for loans, leaving staff swamped. Furthermore, a new system whereby first-years applied directly to the SLC for their loans rather than their individual Local Education Authorities failed spectacularly – so first-



years, who should expect their loans to come through as quickly and simply as possible, were affected more than any other students.

Whilst the SLC is clearly very poorly managed – equipment can and should be tested before use, new staff can be hired – these problems are perhaps the first indicators of the turbulent times ahead for student finance.

Following the introduction of top-up fees in 2006, a review of the new

system was scheduled. The focus of this review will be the question of whether the cap on tuition fees, currently set at £3,225 per year, should be increased or even removed altogether. It is set to begin within the next few weeks.

On top of that, the Government is struggling to balance its wish that 50% of all young people enter higher education with its own diminishing funds. Thanks to the recession, it has had to impose a limit on the number of stu-

dents it can subsidise this year. Consequently over 140,000 people were left without a university place in August.

Finally, Gordon Brown announced last week that as part of its attempts to reduce its £3 billion deficits, the Government is to sell off the Student Loans Company. As anyone who is still waiting to receive their loan will agree, the SLC would be hard-pressed to be run any worse than it is already. But there are questions raised by the thought of a privatised SLC loans system – how will it affect the process of applying for a loan? Will it change the way we pay off our loans once we graduate? All this adds to our sense of uncertainty.

Whilst no-one can predict the outcome of the review into the cap on tuition fees, the signs do not look good for students. University vice-chancellors across the country are calling for the cap to be raised significantly to increase funding. Lancaster's own VC, Professor Paul Wellings, said over the summer that universities face the choice between cash and students. Either the number of students is limited or the cap on fees is raised; the former would mean a lot of able students missing out on the opportunities a univer-

sity education offers and in years to come deprive the job markets of their talents, so we must choose the latter. It's hard to disagree with Professor Wellings' wish that as many students as possible obtain a degree, but one cannot help wonder if he and his fellow vice-chancellors – who will never have to struggle financially to pay for their children's education – are in the best position to comment. The country will be deprived of a significant amount of talent if – as looks increasingly likely – the fees are set too high for students to afford them.

Behind all this one thing is certain. A General Election will be called for in May 2010 and with students making up around 15% of voters, any political party wanting to be elected will need to address these issues. The NUS are calling for all politicians to express their views on the way higher education should be funded, and for all students to get involved in making their voices heard. A series of Town Takeovers has been planned this autumn to raise awareness of the NUS's campaign for fairer fees. There has never been a more important time for students to get involved in politics.



Michael Payne
LUSU President

Developing a strategy for sport is key if we are to enjoy Roses success

The role of sport at universities should never be underestimated – prestige and pride are vital for any institution

Roses; the biggest inter-varsity sporting competition in Europe, one worth winning and one that brings great prestige to the victorious university and students' union. Yet it remains a competition Lancaster has lost for the past three years.

With the next Roses due to be held in Lancaster this summer, now is the time to begin galvanizing support for our Athletic Union, now is the time for our sports teams to begin strategic planning and training and now is the time to seriously realize the challenge that lies ahead.

Hoads of support for our teams over the weekend will go a long way to lift the spirits of Lancaster but in order to win we must begin planning meticulously. We must show discipline, organization and unity on a level that Lancaster has failed to display in recent years.

Roses will be won on the pitches, on the courts and in the sports halls. Last year York laid the gauntlet with

a formidable event and an exceptional display of discipline and commitment. Lancaster is not devoid of talent, nor is it devoid of the grit and determination that is required to bring home the Carter-James trophy, but if we are serious about winning this accolade, we have to be equally serious about our sport and the preparations that are required.

On the contrary success in sports isn't totally about organization and discipline, it's about adequate resources, suitable facilities but more than anything it's about a sports strategy with vision and ideas. A robustly developed sports strategy would help deliver all of the above. Lancaster University lacks such a strategy; this is our university's Achilles heel when it comes to success in sport.

Whilst the new sports centre is undoubtedly welcomed by students, a more than £15m facility alone will not provide a basis for the development of success in sport at Lancaster, nor will it encourage wider recreational involvement in sports. This facility must be

matched by a vision and plan that takes into consideration the views, needs and ideas of many stakeholders within the university.

For many years the students' union and athletic union therein have been calling for a sports strategy which clearly addresses the needs for facilities, space for students wishing to play sport for recreational purposes and areas where support can be properly coordinated to build on the long term offer that Lancaster can make to prospective students.

And in order to retain a reasonable level of accessibility for participating in sports at Lancaster, the university must ensure a reasonable pricing strategy is put into place in the new Sports Centre facility when it opens in 2011.

The role of sport at Universities is an important one; not only does it allow for the building of prestige and pride in an institution, which comes with winning. It provides opportunities for skills development and a chance for enjoyment away from academia for

students.

But whilst calling on the university to make serious progress in sport, we must demonstrate our seriousness about it too. If we truly want to win Roses 2010 we should be serious about alcohol prohibition ahead of games in the competition, we should be serious about providing extra funding to those who most need specific support in training their teams and players in order to win points. We must also realize our strength as one unit, not as individual teams only concerned with their own pride and own victory.

With the advent of a brand new sports centre, real progress must now be made in de-coupling the concept of sports centre management from that of sports strategy. These are clearly two distinctive tasks, which require two different approaches. As for Roses, a personal plea from me to students and sports players alike in my last year as President and last year at Lancaster, let's show York what we're made of and bring home the Carter-James Trophy.



Mike Indian

Racism in Britain cannot be solely measured by support for the BNP

Recent media skirmishes merely emphasise the underlying presence of race as an issue in everyday life

The message of Home Secretary Alan Johnson was clear cut in his appearance on Question Time, the Friday before the BNP's debut on the programme. Defending his decision to decline a debate with an "illegally constituted party," he said it would grant "currency" to the far right in British politics. However, debate over, the validity of the BNP is only one facet of the issue. Shadow Immigration minister Damien Green retorted that the BNP deserved an appearance, because the voters had put them on the programme. This bold claim underlines the real issue, which is how prevalent is racism in British society?

We must not make the mistake of using the BNP as the sole measure for racism in Britain. In face of the statistics, a claim of significant electoral support for the BNP, and by extension to their views on race, is blatantly wrong. In the European elections earlier this year, voter turnout was down by 3% to just above the third of the national electorate. Despite the slight increase of 1.3% in support nationally for the BNP, the Green Party actually secured



a 2.4% national increase and finished over 275,000 votes ahead of Nick Griffin's party in fifth place. Falling voter turnout and growing political apathy bred BNP electoral success, not a mass surge in support for the party seen as the main symbol of racism in Britain. The only way Damien Green's claim stands up is if we accept that 'apathy is a glove into which evil slips its hand.'

Obviously, the presence of racism

is in society, and is merely reflected in the politics of the day. The row centred on Strictly Come Dancing's Anton du Beke highlights one of the more familiar aspects of its presence in everyday life. His choice of language was all too familiar to us. Are the uses of such words born wholly out of ignorance? In the case of du Beke, I believe he rightly deserves the tabloid tag of "du Berk," rather than being branded a bigot.

On the other hand, British society is acutely aware of racism in the 21st century. Back in 2002, the BBC commissioned a poll that found more than half of people believed they lived in a racist society. This awareness is reflected in the Government's long awaited Equality Bill, which seeks to clarify and simplify existing legislation, including the Race Relations Act of 1976. With the 2002 poll showing that one in three black or Asian people believed that race had prevented them from getting a job, this measure is long overdue.

Any law or power would have to reach into every aspect of British civilization to gag the Carol Thatcher's before they utter the word "golliwog" or create ever present police cordons throughout the most split communities. Elimination of racism from our social order does not lie with the state, but in the hands of individuals.

If we are to wholly eradicate racism, then we must first understand it. It is not, as many liberal intellectuals believe, a class repression by the white majority against non-whites. Racism is a two way street, and to cure it, understanding needs to flow both ways.

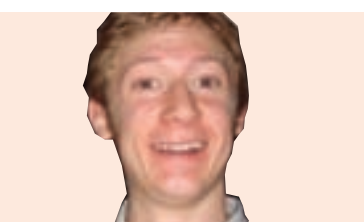
Thriving gay community ill-served by campus

This university has a history of engagement with LGBT issues, but currently this has stalled writes **Patricia Shore**

Lancaster University has a good reputation for being an open and inclusive University. Just a quick search on The Student Room offers nothing but good words about its social environment. It is quite a well known fact also that Lancaster and its University has an active and vibrant gay community. However, many LGBT students are often at a loss as to where to go to be open and relaxed with each other. I have been here for some years and aside from the overtly titled bar 'Kampus', which sadly didn't last very long, one of the only openly welcoming bars in town is of course the Duke of Lancaster on Church Street (which as a friend of mine affectionately calls 'The Queen'). Various theme nights, Karaoke, cabaret occasionally, and a decent drink selection makes it certainly a place to pop into during a night on the town. Aside from this of course, we have the Gregson Centre - also has a reputation for putting on events, and particularly the women's only spot certain times during the month, the largest being the Halloween Divas - women's only disco which is on the Friday 30th October. Obviously through these venues, one can find out all the various city based support groups and other activities.

On campus, there does seem to be a renewed interest of where to go, with Grizedale's new bar getting a reputation or at least a rumour of being the ideal place to hangout. Why this is, is another question, and possibly lies with the stylish cocktail lounge décor, lighting, atmosphere and attractive staff, with some punters comparing it to something one might find on Canal Street or Soho. It certainly has that air, and I was quite surprised to see so many friends drinking in there, and happily meeting their partners quite openly. This is so important, where people can be relaxed and not feel threatened, both during the day and at night. With the 'Pink Pound' being a strong incentive for any bar on site to open its doors, then it's good to see that Grizedale has possibly 'unconsciously' taken the initiative. It is hoped the LGBT will exploit this and possibly organize some events within the bar.

The problem still remains, however, that Lancaster has a significant lack of variety in venues aimed specifically at LGBT students. Whilst non-LGBT students are spoiled for choice with theme nights for societies and elaborate drinks offers at various bars, Lancaster's gay community is comparatively lacking in options. Though the various JCR staff, societies and support groups do much to make students feel welcomed and not threatened or intimidated by the environment at Lancaster, the fact still remains that we aren't exactly inundated with choice. If Lancaster and the University both want to live up to their projected image of being open and inclusive, perhaps more options are needed for minorities wishing to socialise with one another.



David Sykes

We need to put a stop to the BNP once and for all, not just aim to make them more acceptable

The insidious British National Party's constitution demands that its membership must consist only of indigenous British ethnic groups" including the "Anglo-Saxon folk community" and the "Celtic Scottish folk community". However, the UK's equality Watchdog has demanded that the party change their constitution to cease to be so blatantly discriminatory and the party's leader, Nick Griffin, has agreed to 'use all reasonable endeavours' to revise the constitution. This means that he will encourage the party to vote to change these particular clauses of its charter at a meeting in November.

Unfortunately, this is not going to be exciting and will not be helpful in defeating a worryingly popular political movement. The real danger is a long-term benefit for the party of gaining the legitimacy it so desperately craves. Once the party changes their constitution we can expect them to turn around with their hands held high, proclaiming their inclusiveness and boasting their supposed progressive credentials: this runs the risk of having a positive impact on their disturbingly swelling numbers.

Enemies of the party have been too focused on chiselling away at the edges of their structure: attacking the media for either reporting about them too frequently and fairly, treating the party as a reasonable and viable alternative

to the not evil parties. This plays into their hands. What the BNP would like more than anything for their PR campaign is to appear as the victim of bias and discrimination- and that is exactly how they are working it, and they are lapping up the pot-shots and snide remarks with glee as it spurs them on, believing that they are the voice of the repressed, the silent majority who are forced into accepting acceptance as though they were second class citizens.

There are questions over whether it is fair to repress the right to free speech, and it can in some respects make those concerned about the detrimental effects of the group almost as discriminatory as the party itself. So what needs to be done to slay the beast that is the British National Party is to make it obvious to all how insipid and malevolent they really are. Forcing them to be a bit less racist on the surface however, but ignoring the core ideology, will serve to benefit them in the long run.

After all, this is the party that has encouraged violent attacks, has links with the Ku Klux Klan, has had high ranking members such as Mark Collett (who was recently overly politely interviewed on BBC Radio 1) who was recently shown on a Channel 4 documentary as saying: "Blacks, drug abusers and gays all have it. So really I've got no problem with AIDS. In fact, I would call it a friendly disease". He also predicted that he would lead mili-

tant gangs of white people to fight in the coming 'bloodshed' in an effort to protect "the white community" Furthermore, he said that Nazism was the 'best thing' for 1930s Germany and that he "can't understand how a man who's seen the inner city hell of Britain today, can't look back on that era with a certain nostalgia and think yeah, those people marching through the streets and all those happy people out on the streets, you know... saluting and everything, was a bad thing". I could go on quoting this man who is now the BNP's Director of Publicity but it would be far more effective for me to urge you to seek out the information for yourself- it's not hard to find: it's on a lot of video sharing sites, and believe me, there is far more evidence everywhere of how ridiculously heinous this party really is.

So it's time for us to stop dancing around the issue of BNP's probably acceptance of non-white members and its media exposure. We should instead be focusing on the issues that represent the core ideology of the party: it is an ideology that our own ancestors fought against. Why has nobody bothered to ask Nick Griffin what he was doing when he was talking to the KKK in America just a few years ago? If the party wants a political debate, then let's have it: a real exposure of their views will be the biggest blow they could hope to strike against themselves.

Enforced changes to their constitution will merely give the BNP a platform to break through into the mainstream



Alex Harris
Comment Editor

The ugly face of journalism rears its head

Jan Moir highlights the power held by the media, despite not having the knowledge to back up her controversial viewpoints

Following the death of Stephen Gately, there was a near-unanimous outpouring of sympathy and kind words about the former Boyzone star. It seemed nobody had anything bad to say about the guy. Public figures like Stephen Fry expressed shock and awe that a man of his talent and personal humility could die at such a young age. Truly, only kind words.

The exception to the rule is, of course, the now-infamous Daily Mail column by Jan Moir in which she bizarrely uses the tragedy to decry homosexual lifestyles and civil partnerships in general. After making a series of irrelevant connections to other high-profile gay people who have died recently, she concludes by telling us 'the ooze of a very different and more dangerous lifestyle has seeped out for all to see'.

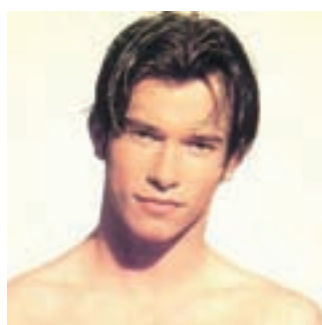
The sheer amount of the outcry against Moir's obvious ignorance and homophobia has been refreshing and has resulted in the article receiving a record 22,000 complaints in a single weekend (more than it has received over the past 5 years). The amount written in protest of Moir's hate speech would make another article on it just

an extra drop in the ocean, so I decided to re-read it for a new approach.

Missing from a lot of the condemnation is Moir's decision that Stephen Gately's death was somehow 'unnatural'. 'Healthy and fit 33-year-old men do not just climb into their pyjamas and go to sleep on the sofa, never to wake up again', she claims.

Obviously Moir is factually incorrect – there are thousands of people with undiagnosed heart conditions that can cause people of any age and of seemingly good health to suddenly die in their sleep. It doesn't take much research to become a Wikipedia expert on the ways in which people can just die without any apparent ill-health. The problem with the hostility in Moir's article towards medical science is not just that it's her view, but that the sentiment itself is so ubiquitous in journalism.

The whole mainstream media is littered with support for 'alternative' therapies and condemnation of so-called 'western' medicine. Obvious examples like the MMR autism hoax are picked up and perpetuated by lazy journalists without an eye towards investigating outlandish scientific claims (and perhaps without the intelligence



to do so). Eventually the ignorance spirals out of control and a nationwide campaign is wrought by the tabloids against the evil, baby-murdering, organ-stealing doctors and their drug company tyrants.

It's hard to see how this train of thought is considered logical at all. Recently in the U.S., talk-show host Bill Maher (who is usually a rational, intelligent voice) decided to set his sights on vaccinations as somehow being bad because, essentially, you're injecting yourself with a virus (he seemed to ignore the fact that it's not a live one). Maher and Moir share one thing in common and one thing only – neither of them are doctors.

It seems a strange phenomenon that we accord journalists the respectability of national newspaper columns and national talk-shows when they use those platforms to ignorantly denounce science and demand a 'debate' about issues which are considered to be fairly settled by those in the scientific community.

After all, when else do we allow for this kind of inherent distrust of expert opinion? It would be absurd if the panel on Loose Women spent 10 minutes arguing and debating just how wrong a lawyer's explanation of statute is or if The Guardian ran a campaign against mathematicians' conclusions on prime number theory. We would rightly condemn the arrogance of someone with expertise in journalism alone to tell us that they are correct and those who study subjects for decades are just incorrect pinheads.

For some reason, scientific distrust in journalism has become almost acceptable. It's because we accept this ignorance as being somehow enlightened that we are subjected to bile like Jan Moir's column. Until we learn to call bullshit on our journalists, we can expect a lot more of the same.



Liam Kay
Comment Editor

Tories need to get a grip on economic policies

About a month ago conference season hit us: the time of the year where the politically keen get excited and the apathetic roll their eyes and watch the music channels. The most animated party this year were the Conservatives; confident that this would be the last conference before they take office after the next general election - dreaming of the majority that would cement their place in the annals of history.

The big question though is will the Conservatives be victorious in the next election? Or will they succumb to a shock defeat, spectacularly combusting just when the premiership seems to be Cameron's? The truth of the matter is that the next election is theirs to lose. But it is not quite a sure-fire result just yet. The real question is how the modern Conservatives will survive the kiln-fire that is the election period.

Cameron has an easy job. Labour are the party in power and are trailing in the polls. The Liberal Democrats seems unable to agree on the most basic ideals and are little threat to the ascent of Cameron. However, there is something in the background that instils Cameron as a man who is dependent on the inadequacies of others rather than ideas that will take the Conservatives and the nation to further progression. The past few months have been filled with suspicions of Cameron's own weakness as a leader and his party's ideological failings.

We should not forget that the Conservatives opposed the fiscal stimulus in the economy which, as evidence has now proved, prevented a descent into further economic difficulties and have helped to rebuild the economy. Would we be sat here with an even worse crisis under Conservative rule? Most probably. The current noises about cuts emanating from the party only serves to underline the still-prevalent economic naivety of the Tories. If you make cuts whilst unemployment is still rising, you run the risk of catastrophically reversing the economic upturn that slowly but surely is occurring. Cuts need to be made, but not in the midst of a financial crisis such as this one.

If their frankly dangerous economic policy was not bad enough, the whole problem of the Lisbon Treaty and Ireland's 'Yes' vote also seems to have highlighted substantial weaknesses within Cameron himself. He seems too easily swayed by key elements in his party such as Boris Johnson and William Hague, yet seems unsure of what policy to undertake with regards to the renewed call for a referendum, regardless of the signing of the Lisbon treaty. He also seems too easily taken with popularity rather than the policies that he feels are right to undertake.

The conference proved that Cameron has the political style and the support of the nation to win the next election. However, his lack of sub-

stance in the wake of the recession is still a key concern for many. Regardless of what people thought about Thatcher, weakness and a lack of substance are not criticisms that can be levelled at her. Whether Cameron would be able to weather any upcoming storms within the party remains to be seen.

These factors combine to suggest that David Cameron's Tories hold their lead not due to people believing they are the right party to take Britain forward but rather they do not wish to see a Gordon Brown led Labour party in power after the next election. These soft leads in the polls are very susceptible to changes in the political landscape. Whilst it seems relatively likely that David Cameron will be our Prime Minister in May, his chances of more than one term in office currently look precarious to say the least.

If Cameron can produce an ideologically united Conservative party, he has the perfect chance to establish a Conservative government at the next election. However, the substantial question marks that remain over his long-term prospects could still have a say in the upcoming election. Whilst Cameron would need a near catastrophe to lose the next election, he should be careful that any mistakes could rapidly lose him support. If the Conservatives want to prove they are worthy of government, in the next few months they need to show it.

Animals can make the big time when it comes to YouTube

All jokes aside, the question of how best to utilise the internet as a form of communication is a potent one writes **Tom Leach**

We've all got our claims to fame; whether it's "I once saw Noel Edmonds skateboard-ing," or "I citizen arrested that Richard from Richard and Judy because he was causing a raucous during a production of the Lion King" or even "I talked Dave Benson-Phillips down from the Humber Bridge once... naked." But I've got a rather interesting one; my cat is a 2-million hit YouTube sensation.

If you type 'cat trampoline' into YouTube one of the top results is a 10 year old home video my father put on the internet, wherein my sister is under a trampoline and my cat is attacking the bump she makes on the surface. That's all it took to make my cat bigger than Jesus (its true- I typed 'Jesus' into YouTube and the top video only had 1.5million hits- take that God.) Now, I'm pretty sure my cat is unaware of the fame that so many applicants to Big Brother dream of, but still, she has developed quite the attitude (or cattitude if you will.) It's almost as if her fame, without her even understanding it, has turned her into a douché. She doesn't even do charity work like Bono.

As with all YouTube videos, the beauty is in the commentary. Yes, it seems that even my cat is victim to vicious YouTube hatred:

"The kid is straight up retarded, never did what the dude asked. The cat is pimp though." "Race of cat?" "This is the most stupidest video I've ever seen!!!!!! i fell asleep and it didn't even start!!!! wen i woke up i thought i'd watched a video called STUPID!!!!!!"

But it wouldn't be the internet without a conspiracy theory; a number of people have accused the cat of being a fake somehow. Personally I think a video of a robotic cat attacking a trampoline would be an even bigger hit than what we've got at the moment, so why would we try and deceive the public?

The saddest thing that my cat's fame has highlighted is how unfair this society we live in is. My horse for instance is also on YouTube, with a much better video, yet can't even get off the ground; currently it only has 71 hits, and no one's even commented or rated the film; no wonder we're selling the animal. My horse could have really done with the moral boost too; it does so much more work than the cat, but my cat gets to live inside, eat meat and is famous. If I were a horse I'd kill myself (probably hang myself with my own guide-rope)

So what has this video taught us? Well for starters my cat can make a more successful YouTube video than Gordon Brown. Moreover, that whilst the internet is an incredibly powerful medium, it's not terrorists or fascists, but cats which has successfully wielded this resource. The most obvious and important lesson however is that there are a lot of stupid people out there, a lot of stupid people with the vote. Let's just hope they stay distracted by more cat videos and conspiracy theories when the next election rolls around.

Cameron's confidence should not spill over to arrogance just yet- his party's fortunes could alter rapidly before May

Letters to the Editor



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

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

Page 30



Dear Sir,

I agree with Mr. Marsden's comment that, since the music industry uses technology, it would be more practical to teach this to their students rather than the modules they specifically chose. Actually, I think we can take this concept to other departments! I know, for example, that the medicine students write essays in English for their course, so surely it would be a more economic use of university money to stop wasting money on all those medical lectures and simply put them in an English lecture? After all, I'm sure that even if they have no real knowledge of the subject they came to Lancaster to study, they will still use this vital communication skill in their work. And as long as the department approves and still calls it a "medicine" degree, it's the same thing... right?

V. Ellis
Cartmel College

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my confusion about the role of GreenLancaster. As someone who is supportive of environmental concerns, this initiative definitely intrigues me.

However, their various schemes seem to lack a clear focus and any sense of direction. I am usually supportive of the opportunities offered by the students' union. CREATE impresses me greatly and is something I will definitely involve myself in at some point in the future. LUVU is also active in the volunteering sector and has achieved national media coverage in recent months thanks to its recent projects.

GreenLancaster is new, of course, and will take time to develop. However, a few dodgy bikes and a carbon competition will hardly excite students.

Ramsey St John
Graduate College

Short notice for building of new road riles Bowland residents

Dear Sir,

I imagine that I speak for a large number of residents of the houses 1-6 in Bowland Hall, when I say that I am unimpressed with the very short notice we have been given about the upcoming construction work taking place behind our houses. Starting Monday (19 Oct), for the next two months between the hours of 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, we will be disturbed by the building of a new "access road" to the site of the new LICA building, which will just so happen to be replacing the small footpath within a few metres of our flats. We received this information just before 5pm on Friday (16 Oct), not only meaning that we had a mere 40 minutes to possibly get a word in edgewise about this, but also meaning that for the entire weekend before the work begins, there is absolutely no-one to talk to about it. Perhaps this was planned in advance, so as to avoid the somewhat inevitable protest that would commence after the message was sent round? In any case, I would merely have liked someone around so that I could send them a thank you for reminding me what I am spending my £90 per week on; a study room that I won't be able to study in.

Anonymous
Bowland College

Dear Sir,

Okay, firstly, what the hell!?! They're going to be building a road. At the back of our flat. They themselves admit it will be noisy. Oh joy.

Secondly, they are building a road that will effectively bypass a section of the pre-existing road, taking basically 100-200 metres off of the vehicle's journey. My, doesn't that seem in absolutely no way completely pointless?

Thirdly, they will no doubt say that this is because it will be too difficult to get the construction traffic to the site on the usual road, however, since construction on the new LICA building also begins on Monday, they are blatantly capable of doing so, as they'll have to for the next 2 months.

Fourthly, they will keep the hours of work between 8am to 5pm, so that its not too disruptive, however, has it occurred to them that some people would like to work in that time, and would like to work in their rooms.

Also, they "aim to set up a meeting to take place within the next couple of weeks with representatives from the affected houses". Well, gee, thanks! After a couple of weeks of drilling and disruption, its nice that you actually want to have a chat! And the fact that they say this is to "ensure appropriate communications"! Appropriate communications would have meant telling us before now, when we could actually talk about whats about to happen!

Celeste Pidcott
Bowland College

Student opinion divided over Fresherphiles

Dear Sir,

Ms Houghton's article in the last publication of SCAN is to be welcomed. The author shall no doubt face cries of 'sexism' from both sides of the debate, yet these only serve to distract from the real purpose of the article. Ms Houghton has articulately defended the autonomy of women, and documented a perverse social phenomena unique to university lifestyle. For provoking debate, and standing up for the rights of women when faced with an example of what one can only describe as an onslaught of male aggression, Ms Houghton should be praised!

Aidan Williams
LU Feminist Society

Dear Sir,

I read the article entitled "The 'Fresherphiles' have their own disturbing agenda when it comes to freshers week" and was extremely insulted by it. As it happens I am a 3rd year male and when fresher's week came around I was very much looking forward to crawling round campus singing badly and generally having a good night. I went on some of the bar crawls with a couple of friends and we had some excellent nights. I can't see why I supposedly have "no reason for being there", isn't enjoying a good night out and having a laugh a good reason? The idea that I was only there to bed naive freshers is insulting, unjustified and wrong.

Simon Albright
Pendle College

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Ich bin ein Berliner



Jo Taylor
Features Editor

BOTH OCTOBER AND November are significant months in the German calendar this year. October marks the 40th year anniversary of statehood for East Germany, and November celebrates the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. On November 9th the capital will gather at the Brandenburg Gate for the “Festival of Freedom” in order to remember these significant dates in history. Over 1,000 foam domino tiles will be used as symbolic blocks, and stacked along the former route of the Wall, before members of the public topple them over.

After World War II, Berlin was divided into four sectors; the Russians, Americans, British and French. The Russian sector was by far the largest and covered most of Eastern Berlin. Initially, the citizens of Berlin were allowed to freely move between all of the sectors, but as the Cold War developed, movement became restricted. To stop migration, the communist party in East Germany decided to construct a wall through the heart of the city. It was first made of barbed wire, but was later replaced by concrete slabs. The initial barrier was put into place on

August 13th 1961, and remained there for 28 years.

The Wall divided East Berlin from West Berlin, and prohibited the Eastern side from fleeing West and escaping communism. This enabled the Soviet-controlled East German government to be even more oppressive, and the conditions in the East continued to deteriorate, whilst conditions in the West continued to improve. The erection of the wall physically separated families and friends, and many in the East lost their jobs and all financial prosperity.

This was not the first time though that the Germans came face to face with hardship, so they did the only thing they could do : they did their work and tried to get on with their lives. Things became easier with the passing of time, and as the younger generation began to emerge, a certain amount of pride came back into the country. The East German government invested millions into sport, and trained athletes from a young age. The strict and vigorous training resulted in many successes at the Olympic games, and it was East Germany and big brother Russia who brought home the medals.

Many people tried to cross the border over its 28 years of existence, and

there were around 5,000 successful escapes into West Berlin. 192 people were killed trying to cross the wall, and around 200 were seriously injured.

On October 8th 1989, a group of pacifists took to the city of Leipzig, and were joined by thousands in the street, shouting “no more violence, join us”. By October 16th the number of protesters had reached literally millions, with a message of opposition; “We have worked our fingers to the bone for this country, and we are not standing by to see it all fall into ruins.” Protesters were demanding the right to free access of information, freedom of thought, a plural ideology, to travel freely, and to exert influence over the government and the state.

This peaceful revolution had finally cracked the grim symbol of political oppression. Gunter Schabowski, leader of the East Berlin communist party, announced that the border would consequently be opened. The message soon spread and massive gatherings began around the Wall. On November 9th the first border crossing was opened, which marked the beginning of a new era for Germany. In the evening of November 11th, wall “woodpeckers” began to remove the first concrete slabs to the cheering of thousands. The following day the Wall

The Prize

A city break to Berlin, courtesy of Generator Hostels (www.generatorhostels.com). Europe's leading party hostel is offering the winner and a friend a three-night break in the German capital including travel, food and accommodation.

Guests will be provided with three nights accommodation in the hostel's private rooms in central Berlin. As well as en-suite accommodation, guests will receive complimentary breakfast and dinner throughout their stay.

Lucky winners will also receive free entry to Madame Tussauds as well as tickets for the widely acclaimed Blue Man Group theatre show. A free walking tour of the city is also available for those wanting to take in Berlin's many cultural sights.

To enter email the answers to the questions below to scan@lancaster.ac.uk with the subject line BERLIN PRIZE. Be sure to include your full name.

For further information on Berlin hostel please visit: <http://www.generatorhostels.com/berlin>

Terms & Conditions

The competition closes on November 4 2009 at 23:59 GMT. The competition is open to all UK residents, excluding employees and their immediate families of Generator Hostels and Scan newspaper. Entrants are required to complete the required form (available from Scan). No responsibility can be accepted for any entries that are lost, misdirected or delayed or for any incorrect, incomplete or inaccurate information provided. Only completed entry forms will be included in the competition. The winner will be selected by Scan and Generator Hostels on November 5 and announced in the next issue of Scan. The decision of Scan and Generator Hostels is final and no correspondence will be entered into. No alternative prizes are available and the winner must redeem their prize within one year of the competition closing, excluding bank holiday weekends and UK public holidays. Generator Hostels will make transport arrangements subject to its preferred airlines and routes. Winners must give Generator Hostels a minimum of one month's notice in order to redeem their prize. Bookings and attraction tickets are subject to availability at that time. All responses will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Scan newspaper and Generator Hostels reserve the right to terminate or modify the contest or the terms in its sole discretion.

- 1. In what year did the Berlin Wall come down?**
- 2. After Berlin, what is the second biggest city in Germany?**
- 3. Where is the German parliament held?**
- 4. Which Lord of the Rings and Lost actor was born in Berlin?**
- 5. When did the first air strike on Berlin of World War II take place?**

Forefathers of civil rights would be proud of how far we have come

Claire-Louise Hazel

DO YOU BELIEVE we live in a free and fair world? Perhaps now, we may be able to say that the society we live in is a place of greater freedom than a hundred years ago, but it wasn't until our recent history that this began to change. Inequality between races was a great problem through out the world and this was widely realised but only a select few chose to stand up and fight for an end to discrimination. So when was Equal rights introduced in the US? 1920's? 30's? 40's even? The outlawing of Racial segregation did not occur until the Civil Rights Act of 1964, giving great emphasis to how new and fragile our 'free world' is.

The slave trade is a common thought in peoples mind when asked about unequal treatment of Black people, this can be traced back in Europe to 1518 when King Charles I of Spain set up the African slave trade, sending over 10 million African's to the America's until it's abolition in 1807. Although it was alleged that others had travelled in search of slaves before him, the man believed to be the pioneer of the African Slave trade in Britain was John Hawkins (1532-1595) he set out on three separate voyages each with a goal to attain more slaves than the last. England it's self did not take up an substantial role in the slave trade until the reign of Charles II , where in 1663 The Royal African Co. was set up to trade slaves, recent estimates believe that Britain enforced the transportation of 13 million Africans to the America's, however Slavery was not made completely legal until 1672.

History also contains many incidences of intolerance towards Black's. During a food shortage Elizabeth I decreed all African's should be removed from the British realm as a way of dealing with the crisis.

As early as 1791 the call for change began, The Haitian Revolution, a 12 year struggle, was resolved and the originally enslaved African's overcame the British, Spanish and French armies, to set up the first independent Black republic in the Americas. As time moved on more became aware of the struggling of those enslaved, due to this groups of people worked together to fight for justice and the 'Society for the Abolition of the Slave trade' was born in 1787. Although many still flaunted the law the British Slave trade was abolished with an act passed on March 25th 1807, slavery itself was abolished in the British Empire in 1834 but the twist to this new law was that the slave owners were to receive the compensation and not the slaves.

Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation proclamation in 1863 and slavery was abolished in America after the civil war in 1865. However this was to also be a troubling year for Blacks in America, as they were given the vote but had it swiftly taken away

again after intimidation from the Ku Klux Klan.

As more people came to believe in equal rights it was not long before important political stands took place. Rosa Parks, an African civil rights activist was one of the first to take action, as she refused to give up her bus seat for a white passenger. This action sparked the Montgomery bus boycott to oppose the city's policy of racial segregation.

By the 1960's the race equality movements were in full swing, the British empire began to disperse as the African states began to gain their independence, this was to be declared as a

"wind of change" blowing through Africa by then British prime minister Harold Macmillan. Martin Luther king made one of the most famous speeches of all time "I have a dream" in March 1963, inspiring many nations and raising the awareness for black civil rights. He received a Nobel peace prize for his works in ending the racial segregation before his assassination in 1968.

To this day the discriminatory walls continue to crumble between Black and white. We can see how far we have moved on, 201 years after the abolition of the slave trade and 44 years on from the Civil rights Act, the first Black American President, Barrack Obama,

was elected in 2008. An achievement which would never have been considered a mere 44 years ago.

So what would the great figures of the fight for civil liberties, say if they were alive today? They would see that how far our world has moved so that black and white people can ride alongside each other on the bus, they can be friends without fear of persecution, but the most important thing a Black African America can rule the most powerful nation in the world. They would be proud to have risked or lost their lives for a cause that is worth fighting for, a cause that we will always remember.



CAPTAIN BONNY'S WORLD OF FOOD

THERE HAS BEEN a lot of fuss about Mr Jones, the American style Dinner in town (New Street) which advertises itself as a much as you can eat for 6 quid. Some of the fuss not always beneficial, as s some rumours are flying that it is not always student friendly. However, that can quite easily be overturned by more students using it. Basically for the uninitiated, Mr Jones, promotes a buffet style food house, where by you either pay 5.99 for a lunch (which lasts until 5.30pm) or £8.99 for Dinner,. It is a novel concept mainly because it has such a range of foods, Chinese, Indian, Italian, Trad English Road etc, whereby you can cram your plate with an at times very strange combination. For those who eat fish, then the battered fish is rather nice, and quite dinky in fact, reminds me of the 'kids menu' in the old 'Little Chefs. The reminiscence of childhood is not more pronounced than in the desert, (which is also included in the price) where fruit salad, jelly, apple pie and of course various flavours of ice-cream are on offer. Again, its simple fare, but your eyes do bulge and I was amazed at the numbers of adults, rubbing their hands and shouting 'ahah' and pointing enthusiastically to their friends.

With the place now having a licence and selling a variety of lagers, including some more obscure ones then it is an ideal place to go for a society dinner or lunch. Of course the way to get around the price difference between lunch and dinner is to go around 5pm and make use of the lunchtime price.

As said at the beginning, it is a cheap and cheerful place, and do not expect too much. Because of the buffet style, at times the food can seem dry and possibly left out too long on the hot plates, and I did find that the noodles and pizza were rather cardboardy!! The staff can also on occasion look slightly dazed, and do check your drinks, as you might just end up with the wrong one!! It's not a place you go for a romantic dinner or for adventurous cuisine, but it is a location for groups or a bunch of mates on the town for a big slap up prior to drinks.

As we are on the American theme, then why not try out the New York style – Soupanova in church street. This place is I feel one of the coolest undiscovered places in town. It's tiny, with some stool seating, but it's the soups that really shine. For a huge bowl of soup, heaps of local bread croutons, and a huge piece of bread and butter, I'm paying 3 quidish. Loads of soup recipes, both meat and vege/vegan, so grub for all. But I'm sorry; it is the retro feel that really appeals to me. Appropriate Movie posters deck the walls (A girl in my Soup.). The place also has a great list of local gigs and events too. 'Feel the grove and soup-out baby.

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THURSDAY 29TH - SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

THE HERDWICK



The Graduate College Bar



Michael Holt

The Grey Lady of Furness Foyer

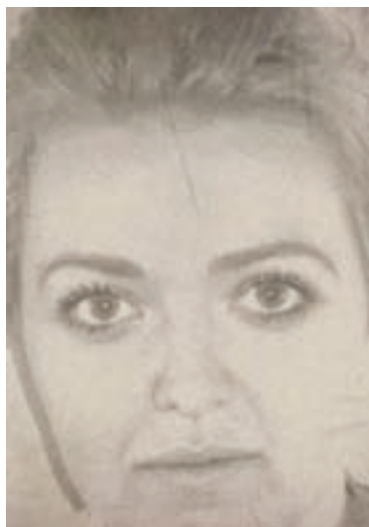
The Student Life editor examines the truth behind the rumours

Furness College has a lot of history; largely because it houses the University's History department but also because its building is one of the founding structures of the University.

Founded in 1968 the College has been host to thousands of different students and staff. Many hold such an attachment to the College that it's conceivable that they might never want to leave, even in death.

It is midnight. One of the porters has kindly let me stay in the foyer over-night. Like many I have been intrigued by the rumours of the Grey Lady of Furness Foyer for some time now. I'd always thought it was just one of those campus legends like the Bowland tower suicides or the SPAR staff orgy sex-tape, until last year.

I was waiting to borrow a key from the porter's lodge quite late one night when I couldn't help but overhear a conversation between the on-duty porter and one of the Asian tenants who rents one of the upstairs flats.



Ghostbusting: *Who you gunna call?*

He told this story that just weirdly chilled me to the bone about this time that he'd been climbing the stairs late one night to get back to his flat and as

he turned round one of the corners he saw, standing at the top of one of the flights of stairs, staring directly at him, a tall grey woman; he felt himself just completely 'turn to ice'. She walked calmly up the stairs and when he'd worked up the courage to follow there was no trace of her.

Naturally I thought his story was rubbish. But I found it exciting nonetheless. I've always wondered what it would be like to see a ghost. I really love it when people tell me about their experiences with ghosts, but I always can't help but think that the person is completely round-the-twist, even when they explain what they saw with the utmost sincerity. However sceptical I am, I do always secretly hope that one day I'll see a ghost. When I was younger I would frequently, inadvertently, keep myself awake at night; genuinely convinced that I was right on the verge of seeing one. Sadly though I've yet to definitively have an experience with a ghost (I did once have an annoyingly vivid dream where I was bummed

by a ghost, I'm not sure that counts though).

As I set up my sleeping bag in the foyer I talked to the on-duty porter about whether he'd ever seen anything strange late at night as he'd prowled the corridors. 'I've seen some stuff yeah; heard weird noises and that. But it's not the dead you want to be afraid of son, it's the living.'

He did let slip a tantalising hint about who he thought the tall grey woman might be, if indeed there was a ghost.

"I reckon it might be this woman called Judith Porch. She was one of the Furness porters in the eighties, she was apparently very good; Really well liked, the students would always complain 'is Judith not on tonight?' if they had to be let in by some of the other porters. Anyway, in about 1988 she got knocked off her bike when she was on her way to do the night-shift. Quite a few of the students apparently went to her funeral out of respect. So I reckon, if there is a ghost in Furness, It's most likely to be

her I would think."

I needn't have packed a sleeping bag because naturally his story left me awake all night. I would jump out of my skin whenever I heard someone loudly laughing and shouting as they came back from a night out.

After he'd done one of his night patrols the porter managed to fetch me out Judith's old I.D. card. There's something really weirdly sad about her photo; mainly because it's so mundane. She was well liked and nice enough that students had made a point of attending her funeral; and yet her only surviving picture has her looking utterly formal and joyless. It made me wonder what unrepresentative fragments will provide the sum of my life.

Then I quickly remembered that the limitless archive of photos and insane ramblings that is the internet has made anything like leaving an ambiguous spooky legacy very difficult. Ours is the generation that can't come back as ghosts.

LU.2000

#1 ballroom dancing society

words: michael holt pictures: naomi gale



Of Mice and Men competition winner:
Catherine Byrne of Grizedale correctly answered that the novel was first published in 1937.

Society Girl

Taking a walk on the wild side

Kristina Beanland tries to be accepted by societies

If the Carleton had a society, I'd be president. Waking up early to head down to the Sports Centre, ready to do actual physical exercise, however, has never been my idea of fun. Before I came to uni, I'd told myself that I'd try new things, so when I went to Fresher's Fair in my first week, I queued in the inevitable rain eager to (say sufficiently cringe-worthy) 'get involved', joining a ridiculous amount of societies. But when it came to the time that I actually had to attend these clubs I was not so enthusiastic, and after one horrendous trip up Old Man of Coniston in two feet of snow with the Backpackers, which resulted in an ugly onset of wind burn to the face, I resigned myself to the fact that participating in university societies was not for me. But this year I've come back with that familiar feeling that I am not living university life to the full, so again I've signed up to numerous societies, and, using the 'I'm a scan reporter' line, have even managed to blag my way into a few extra sessions here and there too.

The first society on my list was the Canoeing Club. The response I get when telling people I'd joined was: '...and what made you do that then?' How encouraging. To be honest the main reason was so I could get the hoody. In the first session we had to swim a few lengths in full canoeing gear – that's a



Phoney war: LURPS in full swing at one of their meetings

spray deck (something that can only be described as a rubber skirt), a lifejacket and a helmet like an American footballer's. Then, you have to get in a canoe, capsize, and get yourself out without drowning. So getting in the boat – which is a whole other mission entirely – and floating about in the water ready to capsize, I was certain I would not survive. So yes, I nearly had a panic attack and gave up, but, shockingly, I was

capsized and managed to survive the ordeal without injury. I have of course yet to make it on an actual river, but you can't rush these things...

In the spirit of writing this article, I knew I should go along to a more quirky society; I couldn't think of any to better suit the job than the notorious LURPS – the Role Players. LURPS has quite the reputation, so I was a little concerned about going along to

one of their meetings. Going into the seminar room, mostly filled with heavily bearded, long haired men was a little intimidating, and I pretty much worked out from the word go that this society would not be for me. However, putting my reservations aside I tried to see what it was about. From what I gathered, LURPS is a mixture of drama, board games, and Lord of the Rings – not really me. On one hand all

the talk of vampires, werewolves and weapons was a little too much for me, on the other, the people were nice and enthusiastic, and they were really eager to show me what they were all about, so each to their own.

The last society I visited was the Karate Club, and for someone with almost no pain threshold, I knew it would be interesting. So, turning up and having to bow (yes bow) before I walked through the door, I was already slightly worried about what I was letting myself in for. But all in all, the Karate Club was a lot of fun, and kicking and punching the air is actually a lot more satisfying than you would expect – although being made to yell out as you did it to fit in with the karate 'attitude' was slightly awkward. I was also made to punch another person on the chin, and then put them in a headlock, which left my partner at the end of it all asking, 'Can we be friends again!?'.

On the whole, my experience of Lancaster's roster of societies was a good one, whether it's jumping in a chilly pool on a morning, or rolling dices with friendly bearded fellows, there's something for everyone. It's also encouraged me to make sure I actually bother to get out of bed and go to all the things that are on offer, and also, if I ever get groped at the Carleton again, I'll always have my Karate moves to sort them out.

facebook SINS

Saving Our Social Networking Souls

3 Thou shalt acknowledge 'friends' in real life

Facebook has now made the ties that bind people together more transparent than ever. Someone you are aware of but never talk to can turn up gurning in a friends photo and you find yourself instinctively deciding to 'add' them. The two of you are 'friends', but without the real world conversational consummation of friendship you become two people who are aware of the mutual minutiae of each other's lives and yet other eyes slide past each other whenever you pass by in Alexandra square.

I know that you had a 'messy night last night' and that 'you can't be bothered with your seminar today' whereas you must surely know that I 'got rat-arsed at my Grandma's funeral this weekend' and yet we pass each other by like ships in the night. We are the most intimate strangers you could hope to find. Let it be decreed that the standard way of overcoming this interpersonal-impasse should be to do a hearty salute. Anyone who doesn't salute back is most likely not worth being 'friends' with.



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 possible 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

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

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Salon du Chocolat caters for food lovers and fashion followers

Jo Taylor

AN ANNUAL FESTIVAL in celebration of chocolate is a dream come true for chocoholics...but also for fashion lovers! Each year the Paris Chocolate Show fuses two French passions: food and fashion, in the form of the incomparable "Chocolate Trends Fashion Show". For 2009 the pageant was presented as a fairytale opera. The catwalk reveals a prestigious couture collection through the collaboration of couturiers and chocolatiers. Celebrity models glide down the runway in mouth-watering outfits that are literally good enough to eat.

From a red Spanish flamenco frock boasting chocolate panels, to a heart-shaped chocolate dress, to a bizarre Hiawatha-meets-Hershey's chocolate-studded headdress, the designs are as eyebrow-raising as they are edible. Perhaps the most unusual amongst them was a multicolored bridal gown made entirely out of M&M's. Surely this is every bridegroom's dream, and this was just one of the twenty-one designs that prove just how tasty haute couture can be. Of course fashion is not the only reason people come from across the globe to this tempting event. There are a number of chef's demonstrations and many opportunities to sample truf-



Food Fashion: Karine Ferri models a chocolate covered dress in Paris (Photo: Julien M. Hekimian)

fles, chocolate-dipped fruit kebabs, hot chocolate and cakes.

Many of the stalls at this event are worth talking about too. This year, the Belgian chocolate company Leonidas, and the Austrian crystal specialist Swarovski teamed together to build a replica of the Paris Opera House out of chocolate. One stall took on the form of a fishmonger to display chocolates in

the shape of seafood, and another was made to look like a florist selling colourful chocolates in the shape of pretty flowers.

One of the many benefits of this event is to showcase the latest trends in the ever evolving chocolate market. This year we are going to be faced with the solution to chocolate addiction; a chocolate flavoured inhaler! Taking on the form of a cigar, the new "Whif" allows addicts to breathe in all of the sumptuous tastes of chocolate, without having to take in any of the calories. Just as delicious as it is surprising.

Maybe it seems slightly bizarre to have such a lavish and luxurious festival during an economic downturn, but economists and chocolatiers alike maintain that chocolate has a track record for defying bitter downturns. Chocolate sellers remain positive, as sales are inversely proportional to the economic crisis. The more people have stress and the more they are depressed, the more they will buy chocolate.

The Salon du Chocolat is the largest worldwide event dedicated to this sweet treat, and there are 15 international annual meetings across the globe, ranging from Paris to Tokyo to Shang Hi and Austria. The event focuses on the enthusiasm chocolate generates, the pleasure it provides, and the passion of the chocolate makers who transform it.

No surprises with Brand New album

Lorn Rory

IN A RECENT U.S interview, lead singer Jesse Lancy said that Brand New 'care a lot less...about the people who are going to be buying the record.' Instead, the record he was referring to, the recently released 'Daisy' is entirely for them. A move of extreme confidence and one which could prove to be as destructive as it is brave.

Daisy marks the fourth full-length record from Brand New, who face the task of following their critically acclaimed long player 'The Devil and God Are Raging Inside of Me' which had completed a trio, of arguably, genre defining records. Long since ditching their pop punk roots of 'Favorite Weapon' and what seems like a lifetime ago since the commercial breakthrough of "Deja Entendu", Brand New have refused to stand still and it should come as no surprise that 'Daisy' is not simply a record of appeasement. 'Daisy' even goes as far as changing songwriters with the majority of material coming from lead guitarist Vincent Accardi.

'Daisy' is very much business as usual, which has seen a move to far darker territory than the gang vocals of songs like 'Jude Law and a Semester Abroad' and 'Seventy Times 7' ever hinted at.

It is hard to listen to 'Daisy' without thinking of 'The Devil and God...' and just like its predecessor it only really started to make an impact after a couple of listens. This impact, however, is not quite as big to shake the doubt, that unlike its predecessor, Daisy may become no more than a 'good' record rather than a great one.

An angry, dark and seemingly impulsive sound threads the record together, creating a sound very much like that of Nirvana, giving an overwhelming sense of confidence from every track. This confidence best heard with the scream vocals on opening track 'Vices', which sets the tone of the record perfectly.

The relatively simple themes of God, Religion, Death and the Afterlife continue to dominate Brand New's work and are no worse off because of it, while comeback single 'At the bottom' reminds us all what we have been missing since 2006.

Continuing themes and the familiar dark intensity of 'Daisy' make the jump from 'The Devil and God...' far easier than Brand New fans would have been expecting and instead of moving to a new, fan-free, musical world, Brand New have simply moved further into the dark. 'Daisy' may turn out to be a slight disappointment to many fans but it should be a great complement to Brand New that this could be their worst record to date.

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Commencing 7th October

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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

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SCAN Book Club: Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

Michael Reffold

EXTREMELY LOUD AND Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer is the tenderly written story of Oskar Schell, a nine-year-old boy whose dad was killed in 9/11. When his dad was alive, he often left clues for Oskar to go on a treasure hunt. So when Oskar finds a mysterious key in his father's closet, he sets out on a treasure hunt again, journeying across New York to find out why the key was there. Along the way, he encounters a whole host of interesting characters, each with their own stories to tell – including an old man who hasn't left his apartment for 24 years and a woman who has made a museum for her husband in their living room, even though he's still alive. His quest brings him closer to finding not only the truth but also a way to cope with his dad's death and the feelings of sadness Oskar describes as "heavy boots".

Extremely Loud is Foer's second novel, after 'Everything is Illuminated'. Unfortunately, while Foer occasionally manages to write the poignant story I was expecting, there is one aspect of this novel that makes it very hard to fully appreciate - the writing style.

Foer intersperses Oskar's story with letters written by his grandmother (to Oskar) and by his grandfather (to Oskar's father). These are often the most emotionally engaging parts of the novel, but Foer makes them difficult to read

by having Oskar's grandfather write in a hurried stream-of-consciousness, while his grandmother, conversely, uses short, stark sentences. The story of their relationship is very touching at times, and the structure does get easier to handle as the book progresses, but I found Foer's experimental style off putting, particularly at the beginning, and unnecessary. I would have preferred a more conventional and accessible structure, and these quirks – along with pages of photos from a scrapbook Oskar has compiled, and others with only a few words on them – took away from what could have been a very powerful book.

Perhaps surprisingly, there remains a lot to admire in Extremely Loud Oskar himself is a confidently created, lifelike nine-year-old (no mean feat, as anyone who has ever tried to convincingly depict a young child will tell you), whose curiosity and thirst for knowledge drive the story. His adventures are lightly humorous, and one section in which Oskar plays 'Yorick' in his school's modern version of Hamlet and imagines taking revenge on the school bully (presenting this fantasy in script form), is highly entertaining: "I knew him, Horatio; a jerk of infinite stupidity..."

Once I became accustomed to the odd style of the book, I found it to be a gentle study of a boy dealing with loss, powerful enough to linger with the reader after its conclusion, but not quite living up to the promise inherent in Foer's writing.



Meet the author: Jonathan Safran Foer has penned two novels, the most recent being *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

Next time in SCAN Michael Reffold reviews *Nine Princes in Amber* by Roger Zelazny.

Duffy's wives stepping out of the shadows

Natasha Farnworth

A ONE WOMEN play about feminist poetry? It's a thought that strikes fear into the hearts of most men, with visions of an angry woman parading about the stage screaming "why do you hate me?" Relax though, the Dukes' latest offering - a dramatised version of the poetry of Carol Ann Duffy - proved to be a humorous and engaging experience.

Playing from 16th-17th October at The Dukes Theatre, 'The World's Wife' is a dramatisation of some of the works of the current Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy. Focusing on famous characters from the past, the poems are written from a female perspective - either in the form of a wife, or a female alter-ego. From Mrs Midas and Frau Freud to Queen Kong and The Kray Sisters, Duffy shows history from a female point of view.

Exploring each poem in succession, the play, directed by Di Sherlock, had actress Linda Marlowe portraying a myriad of characters and personalities. She managed to catch the clever witticisms of each character and the whole piece was funny as well as intellectual sensual and passionate.

Frau Freud stole the show with her hilarious and fast-paced delivery of 50-odd synonyms for the male dangle bits. And Mrs. Tiresias was the



Behind every great man is an equally great woman: Carol Ann Duffy's poems are brought to life in this all female production

epitome of an average, middle-class housewife coming to terms with having a decidedly female husband.

Unfortunately the play lost momentum with the arrival of Mrs. Quasimodo, whose performance was painfully slow and uncomfortable. Though Marlowe tried here to exaggerate the character's slow and encumbered movements and speech, this just became stunted and hard to follow. Queen Kong was such an en-

dearing character you could almost overlook her turning her husband into a necklace post-mortem.

The piece was overtly-sexual in parts as Duffy's poetry often is and this unfortunately marred certain parts of the performance as you were left wondering whether it was necessary to know about Mrs. Beast's sexual habits or Mrs. Quasimodo's first time. However, readers of Duffy will know to expect this and not be turned off or

offended.

Video designer Anna McManus and sound designer Mishi Bekesi created an effective technical experience which complimented the piece. The introduction of each character was accompanied by a projection slideshow and music, helping to give the audience a sense of each character.

Linda Marlowe is to be congratulated on her performance which although unsuccessful in parts was still

effective and cleverly humorous. Marlowe has fulfilled Duffy's wish to create a collection of strong and independent women, as well as a showing some of the most famous men in history to silly little boys. The women were relatable (in part) and realistic, leaving most of the audience thinking "I know exactly what you mean"

Definitely not one for the men, but most certainly an empowering experience for woman-kind.

Halloween Horrors

Emma Ashley

HALLOWEEN IS UPON us again and it's become part and parcel of the yearly circle that around October cinemas receive some great and not so great horror films.

They're seen as one of the most hated genres of film by critics because they can often be stupid, cheap and without plot; who can blame them after titles like, Attack of the Killer Tomatoes and Zombie Rednecks. However horror is also a much loved genre and perhaps the one of the most varied, within the genre of 'horror' there are many sub-genres that tend to have their moment then disappear again where people either a. forget the movies or b. the films go down as 'cult cinema' for horror/fantasy/sci-fi fans.

This year we have four horror films out each of a different ilk, the problem however is that the limits have been pushed, they're no longer the classical days of actors like Vampira, Bela Lugosi, Boris Karloff and Christopher Lee. The films have to be more gory, shocking, challenging and grotesque in order to provoke a good audience reaction.

Michael Myers is back this Halloween in another slasher film as we see the release of Halloween 2, a remake of the classic 1981. The film is directed by Rob Zombie who also directed House of a 1000 corpses and The Devil's Rejects and often does a pretty good job of creating a classic gore-fest film. The special effects are pretty good and Sheri Moon Zombie plays Deborah Myers and in her usual fashion manages to be ever so eerie and plays the character perfectly. No the film isn't the scariest of horror films and the slasher had its moment back in the 80's but still it's humorous, gory and pretty darn good.

The monster horror films are ones that never grow old and in early October, Zombieland hit our screens. The film is directed by Ruben Fleischer and stars Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrrelson and Emma Stone. The film is hilarious, it's packed full of blood and gore but it's also full of hilarious memorable lines. When one kid has to survive alone after the population of the world are turned into Zombies he creates a set of rules to survive.

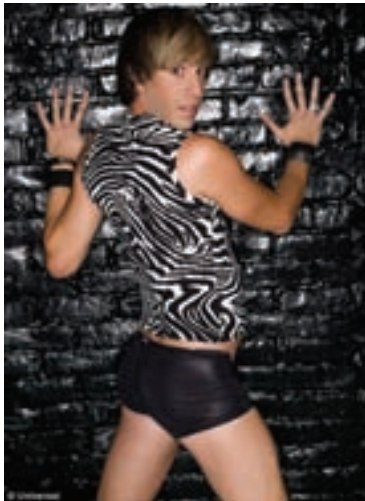
Saw VI with the tagline "The game comes full circle" is out on the 23rd of October and promises a lot of gore and choices that the protagonist will have to make to save or say goodbye to work colleagues. Saw is intelligent horror, sometimes a little confusing but hopefully will be an epic conclusion to the series.

Another lesser known horror film to be realised this Halloween is Austrian film Triangle which was released on the 16th of October, directed by Christopher Smith. The story is about a group of passengers on a yacht who are hit by mysterious weather conditions and jump onto another ship and experience greater havoc on the ocean. So perhaps horror films aren't the most intelligent of genres but one thing's for sure, they keep entertaining, scaring us and offering new gore and things to have nightmares about!

Film Review: Bruno guaranteed to offend

David Toft

FOLLOWING THE MASSIVE success of Borat: Cultural Learnings of America For Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan it is understandable that the creators of Bruno decided to repeat their award-winning and mega money-making formula. As a result, Sacha Baron Cohen's documentary style account of his third comedic character Bruno, an overtly gay, Austrian fashionista, provokes more than once the slightly disappointing feel of deja vu. After a slapstick fall from grace the humiliated hero decides to head to America and aim for fame and fortune; this is the scene set for hilarity which promised, in its highly publicised advertising campaign, to be cutting edge.



Deja Vu: Sacha Baron Cohen's character Bruno is as offensive as other creation Borat

Of course comparison between Baron Cohen's latest and previous film is inevitable but both the star and director Larry Charles have made this job incredibly easy for any critic; like Borat, the story relies heavily on the greasy sidekick foil, a wide range of unsuspecting victims, stereotype and controversy. In regard to controversy, Sacha Baron Cohen seems a little too desperate to cross the line wherever possible by straying far into the frequently visited and highly sensitive, areas of celebrity culture, religion, politics, race and sexuality. If you're very squeamish, easily offended or uncomfortable with nudity this probably isn't for you. But while it may be possible to admire or despise these creators who make so much fun out of really very serious issues, their reckless courage cannot be called into question.

Structurally simple and loosely held together, the film is unlikely to be modelled on the catwalk of Greatest Ever but, if you like this style, you will find it fairly good imitation. Continuing the fashion metaphor, the flamboyant, über-trendy persona doesn't quite fit Cohen as well as the misfit Borat did but it still works effectively to incite numerous shocking and genuinely funny reactions across our surprisingly naïve, complicated and consumerist world.

The last two minutes of the film does not redeem the hour of silliness like Borat managed either. The song 'Dove of Peace' showcases cameo appearances from Bono, Chris Martin and Snoop Dogg who are either loved or loathed for their talents; not a great tune and not exactly as profound as it sounds, it sets the standard for the film. Either you're a fan or you aren't... "in order aus".

Bruno will be showing at LU Cinema in Week 5 on Thursday and Friday at 7:30pm. Tickets are £2 with a Purplecard.

Revolutionary Gaming



Hannah Fearon
Culture Editor

IN 1990, CHARLES Cecil started a gaming revolution, Revolution Software to be precise. They are the masterminds behind such games as Beneath A Steel Sky and the legendary Broken Sword. On 13th September 2009, the Urbis in Manchester hosted a talk with Cecil as part of their Videogame Nation exhibition. The exhibition was put together by games journalist David Crookes and explores the timeline of gaming from the ZX80 all the way to the DSi, offering gamers the chance to play some of the great games that changed the industry forever. I went along to take a look at the exhibition and have a few words with Charles Cecil myself.

Charles Cecil gave a great talk on the history of gaming and an inside look at getting involved in the industry. Cecil is the Founder and Managing Director of Revolution Software and is perhaps best known for designing adventure game Broken Sword. During

the talk he described his job, 'You will have an autocrat who is a basically a bastard, that's me, who will come up with a story and drive it forward'.

The first Broken Sword game sold one million copies worldwide, and Broken Sword 2 was ranked 5th best game ever by PlayStation Magazine (ahead of Resident Evil 2 and FIFA 98!). For those who are not familiar with the series, Broken Sword began as a 2D point-and-click game, moving to 3D and direct control with Broken Sword 3, then back to point-and-click with the fourth game. He remarked that his mistake with the games was returning to point-and-click with the fourth game, and that he felt that the 3D graphics were 'a little too realistic'. When I asked Cecil about the decision to move away from 2D which divided many fans, he explained that 'A lot of the grammar conveyed in a 2D image cannot be conveyed in 3D. It created a division. For me, it was about cinematography. In 3D you can have camera movement and in terms of cinematography, the move to 3D was extremely

helpful'.

I asked Cecil whether he thought that the popularity of the Wii is returning back to the point-and-click game in a new way, 'Yes, definitely. The PlayStation 3 has the brand, XBOX 360 has the money, but the Wii and DS won. The audience is everyone'. Cecil explained to me that he is particularly fond of the Wii and DS and has recently helped Disney to design the game 'A Christmas Carol' for the DS.

Cecil talked about the future of gaming; he spoke about how Apple and the iPhone have changed all this. 'If a game is sold in a shop, the developers get 10%. If it is sold as an Apple application, the developer's receive 70%'. Beneath A Steel Sky and Broken Sword are both being remastered for the iPhone. Beneath A Steel Sky will be available in October, Broken Sword is yet to be confirmed. I asked him whether he thought that Microsoft's Project Natal for the XBOX 360 could change all this, his answer was simply 'No, not at all. I have my doubts'. Revolution really value their fan base, 'We

rely on them and are flattered by them getting communities together. Forums are so valuable; people are not scared to say what they think. If you don't listen to them, you are a fool'.

Charles Cecil's favourite game is Day of the Tentacle which was created by LucasArts; 'Lucas Arts really shook things up, I really admire them'. He also enjoyed Grand Theft Auto 3 and the first Metal Gear Solid games. Cecil is currently developing a Broken Sword film based on the first game with Radar Pictures who produced films such as The Last Samurai and The Invention of Lying. Cecil remarked that he would rather 'there be no film, than there be a bad film'.

For those interested in getting into the games industry, Cecil has some useful advice. He recommends the Skillset accredited courses, particularly for programming. He said that the industry is always looking for people with good maths, physics and electronic engineering degrees. For artists, classical training is an advantage, along with technical training.

Microsoft bosses target gimmick gamers with Project Natal

James Mullarkey

XBOX CLAIM THERE'S no need for a new console, their new brain child of Project Natal will suffice. Although Project Natal does sounds like an over-organised attempt at trying for a baby, it's actually something quite different. The announcement came at the E3 conference 2009, arguably the largest get together of middle age men still under the care of their mothers. Amongst the announcements of games that I will be handing over large portions of my youth to (namely: Metal gear solid and Final Fantasy XIII) they revealed the capabilities of their new Natalian toy.

So what is it? It's basically an awe-

somely good motion sensor that boasts voice and facial recognition. I would presume it could recognise other body parts, but this will be subject to experimentation behind a securely locked door. The presentation of the technology was gob-smacking. The official advert illustrates how you can play a racing game using only your hands on an imaginary wheel, you can scan your skateboard then skate on the floor as you fly off half pipes in game, it even has a microprocessor that can see your thoughts then project them onscreen! Ok, I made the last one up but nonetheless Microsoft have really pushed the boat out on this one. And don't they know it. They claim that making your body the human controller 'revolutionises' the way we play games. But is this really the new direction of gaming?

Yes, the technology is cool, and yes it does bring some new possibilities to gaming, but when watching the slick presentations of men in suits I can't help but see dollar signs behind their smiles. The Natal advert presented a typical family having a whale of a time playing with the technology. I mean they were having a riot. Below them, the carpet, covered in circles, much like the Xbox's spherical logo. Behind the presenters, circles, much like the Xbox logo. And the floor they stood on...Circles! My point from all this being: is Xbox genuinely looking to enhance the gamers experience or are they simply searching for all the money they can brainwash us to give them!

Let's take the Wii, the previous 'revolution' in gaming technology. My I did

enjoy the times with the family when my little sister would beat me into the ground on the boxing, or making my tennis expert father cry by beating him all aces on the tennis, but after that silliness, off I'd go back to the Xbox. The reason behind this is that this technology is offers only shallow enjoyment to a real gamer. Real games that have lasting power place an emphasis on story, skill and achievements. Also the buttons of a controller are important as they are reliable and therefore have the ability to offer the gamer a 3 dimensional experience. The argument might be made that the technology will enable the playability of good games such as Call of Duty or Halo on a new level. But was it these games that they were showcasing at E3? No, it was one

where you had to hit a ball into bricks with your body.

In my eyes, gaming sells as both a hobby and a gimmick. People start with the accessible gimmick games then move on to the more hobbyist game. The games that have lasting playing power for the Wii are not ones that depend on the motion sensing technology, but the ones that involve story and immersive game play (Zelda, Mario Galaxy, Resident Evil). Although these gimmick games do provide a good introduction to gaming, X-box's market at the moment is the hobbyist gamer. I believe if they depend too heavily on their need to broaden their audience to the gimmick gamer it could be harmful for both their following, and for their profits. But that said, it's still pretty cool.



Cutting edge technology: Project Natal relies on motion sensors and facial recognition

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Lancaster defeat hopeless Liverpool side

Kim Megson

LANCASTER PUT IN an assured performance to secure an impressive 3-1 win over Liverpool Hope in their first home game of the season.

Lancaster, who finished second place in the league last year, were fielding a number of new faces after losing several players from last season's successful team. They seemed to have gelled well and played with great spirit and commitment, recovering from a heavy 7-0 defeat the week before.

The teams battled to impose themselves on the game in the early stages, with the midfielders seeing the

most of the ball. Lancaster missed a glorious opportunity to take the lead with the first real chance of the game after seven minutes. A deep corner caused problems for the Liverpool defence and the ball fell to two Lancaster players in quick succession, but neither could get a decisive touch towards goal, and eventually the ball was cleared.

Lancaster did get the opening goal only three minutes later. Good work on the left saw the ball fall into the path of Laura Heppenstall, who switched onto her left foot and fired in well from distance.

A Liverpool defence that conceded the most goals in the league last year did not collapse, and for a period the away side looked like they could find

an equaliser. Lancaster were very lucky to escape when a seemingly innocuous ball into the box took a bad bounce past the keeper and missed the goal by inches.

The Liverpool midfield were working hard to find a way through, but Lancaster restricted them from having any other clear-cut chances. Their hopes of drawing level were ruined when Lancaster's Holly Butler created something out of nothing to make it 2-0. After a scrappy exchange of possession the ball fell to her, and her long range effort sailed past the keeper who could do nothing.

After forty-two minutes Emma Leahey scored a third goal, giving the hosts a comfortable lead as the match

headed towards half time. Liverpool again failed to clear on the outside of their box and lost the ball, leaving Leahey to net with a confident finish.

It had been a perfect first half for Lancaster, and they knew that a first win of the season was well within their grasp. Liverpool looked more resilient after their team talk however, and they were giving Lancaster less time and space on the ball. Despite this resurgence, they were still finding it difficult to test the keeper, and neither team was looking like adding to the score line. Several attacks were flagged offside, and both defences were looking solid.

The next clear chance didn't come until the seventy-fifth minute when Caroline Murphy, who had been work-

ing hard all game for Lancaster, forced the Liverpool goalkeeper into making a good save; reacting quickly to tip the ball over the bar.

The home side's lead was reduced to two in the eightieth minute when Liverpool's right winger, who had perhaps been their best player, whipped in a corner, and their midfielder lost her marker to poke the ball home.

The goal set up a nervous final ten minutes for Lancaster, but they did not panic and defended well to see down the clock and ensure that it proved to be only a consolation.

Lancaster's performance brings promise for the rest of the season, although they will face sterner tests along the way.



In for the tackle: Erin Royle (left) plays for the ball against opposition side Liverpool Hope (Photo: Ben Robins)

Narrow victory for women's basketball team

Joe Hardacre

THE FIRST GAME of the season for Lancaster did not disappoint, as the home side held on late for a 46-45 victory against UCLAN's 1st team.

The visitors started strongly, taking a small lead early in the first quarter which they would not surrender until early in the second half.

Lancaster looked pensive on offence, often allowing the shot clock to nearly run down before taking a rushed shot to avoid the impending turnover.

Despite their early offensive struggles the hosts excelled in defence, not allowing UCLAN's shooters any room for easy shots.

The first quarter remained a close affair with Daphne Sakellariou keeping Lancaster in the hunt by scoring the team's first 7 points. Her teammates had been struggling up to this point but started to show promise through their retention of multiple offensive rebounds, but they were not able to capitalise on these consistently enough.

A difficult start to the second quarter meant UCLAN were able to stretch their lead to 9 points, and with the scores at 9-18 it was clear Lancaster needed something special from their players.

Amanda Schaupp was able to provide just that, grabbing multiple offensive rebounds and scoring 5 points in the quarter with the half finishing

20-18.

The third quarter saw Lancaster take the lead for the first time in the match as the team started to put on a much more positive performance in offence. Point Guard Elena Falzon recovered from a quiet first half with a variety of intelligent passes that the UCLAN defence struggled to adjust to.

Schaupp and Sakellariou also continued to look dangerous, with the latter seemingly promoting herself to the role of ball hawk by stopping a number of UCLAN's chances with key steals throughout the quarter.

Unfortunately their momentum did not last and the teams' hard work on offence was undone by UCLAN's effective fast break offence. The visitors went on to receive a much needed

3 pointer and cut the Lancaster lead in half as the quarter finished 32-31 with Lancaster only up by a single point.

UCLAN started the fourth quarter brightest by retaking the lead. Both teams missed a series of free throws before a passage of surprisingly fluent offence from each side, both exchanging field goals and keeping the score close.

Lancaster took a 3 point lead late on through a 3 point play from Schaupp after a shooting foul, but this momentum was quashed again by yet another 3 pointer from UCLAN.

With 90 seconds remaining and a 3 point lead in UCLAN's favour victory looked beyond Lancaster, but ultimately Sakellariou proved too much for the

away defence to handle. At 42-45 she took the game into her own hands, scoring two clutch field goals in quick succession to restore a 1 point lead with 20 seconds remaining.

Returning to the hustle defence of the first half, Lancaster denied UCLAN a clear opportunity and forced them to take a poor shot at the end of the match to secure the victory.

Sakellariou was the stand out performer of the night, putting in a great performance on both sides of the ball and leading the team in steals and points.

Her ability to rise above the pressure and score vital points at the end of the game to give her team the victory was the most impressive feat of the night.

Eat Sport, Sleep Sport, Read Wynes



Times of change always provoke the most profound moments of reflection. Last week I went down to bury a time capsule to mark the construction of the new Sports Centre. In 50 or 60 years time, when things will have no doubt changed from now, some builder will happen across our treasure chest of memorabilia. Maybe I'll still be around when the time comes for it to be opened, and, titanic style, I can regale stories of a time gone by. If not, I only hope that the finders will look back at how it used to be and really appreciate how things have changed.

So I thought it would be interesting to take a walk down memory lane and see how things have changed, even over recent years, into what we have now. This new £20 million Sports Centre is the most they've invested in sport at the University in over 20 years, but it's not just about the resources, it's about the structure, the participants and even the attitude. Many years ago back in the 1960's when the colleges were newly established, intercollege sport was the main outlet for competitive sport when University representation was rare. Intercollege sports were chosen in line with the University sports clubs to give them a chance to play competitively in their chosen sport. But as inter university sport grew, things turned on their heads and intercollege sport fell into the background. So much so, that nowadays there's a constant debate whether students should be allowed to play for the University AND their college. Students are spoilt for choice, but in my opinion that can only be a good thing.

Talking of changes in society, the general attitude of sports these days is completely different to the mentality of years passed. Emphasis in the media and all around us is about getting involved in sport and activity, living healthy lives, being fit & well and staying off obesity. Because of this attitude, sport and recreation has advanced beyond anything ever thought of. For instance, looking at our recent structure changes, the introduction of the B-active leagues 3 years ago just highlights the demand for recreational sport and activity. So who knows what sport will be like in 50 years time.

We must remember that change often comes with sacrifice, and whilst in 2 years time we'll have a brand spanking new Sports Centre with all the bells and whistles, for now we have to live with a building site and a severe lack of changing areas for our sports teams. But, boy oh boy, won't it be worth it!!

IC Football B-League: Start to a new season

Fylde 7 – Graduate 2

IT WAS A stalwart game of inter-college football as Fylde defeated Graduate 7-2 in the first game of the season. Early pressure from Fylde never truly relented as Graduate were left helplessly defending for much of the game.

The match opened with Fylde attacking strongly. An early shot was tipped over the bar, a corner was cleared off the line, and a free kick drifted just

wide of the post. Fylde found their way through as Stuart Rowland powered the ball into the roof of the net on seventeen minutes and the floodgates opened.

Despite Tom Blythe of graduate college replying with a penalty, Fylde were always in control. The striking partnership of Akif Colakoglu and Matt Hinton was devastating, as a well worked series of passes ended with a cool finish from the Turk.

A penalty from captain Matthew

Poison was calmly dispatched and a deflected cross ended in the back of the Graduate net. In the final few minutes Matt Hinton rounded the goalkeeper to make it 5-1 at the end of the first half.

In the second half Fylde made two early substitutions but it was Graduate who came out with some purpose as Fred Bauknecht scored on the counter-attack.

Fylde picked up the pace again, as a long throw leading to a powerful head-

er from centre back Ben Hacking, put them right back in control.

Three minutes later Matt Hinton turned well and with the help of both the crossbar and a goalkeeper deflection, added his second of the game.

There was a late penalty appeal from Fylde as the Graduate goalkeeper managed to take down a player in the box, but the referee waved away the protests. Both teams saw the rest of the game off and 7-2 seemed a justified score line.



Bowland 3 vs. Grizedale 1

A CRISP, COLD but fairly bright evening marked the start of this season for Bowland and Grizedale.

An attacking opening to the match saw Bowland's defence tested thoroughly, as centre backs Dave Geel and Billy Haigh were forced in to a number of uncomfortable clearances.

The 21st minute brought the first chance of the game after a Bowland penalty was given for an unfortunate

tangle of legs in the penalty area. However, a poor effort from Lorcan Searson saw the ball travel not just over the bar, but nearly out the astroturf arena.

Grizedale came back with renewed enthusiasm after this and only an outstanding save from Bowland's keeper Stainsby could stop a low drilled shot from the Grizedale striker

The Bowland defence were put under sustained pressure and finally faltered in the 36th minute. Excellent forward work from Grizedale's star striker

saw a bouncing ball 16 yards out with a half-volley in to the bottom corner.

Conceding a goal seemed to wake Bowland up, no heads dropped and the game started to turn in their favour. Nigel Benjamin made a superb run down the left before knocking the ball into the area for Simon Gorini to volley into the right side of the net. 1-1 the score, but it didn't last long. A 28-yd looping strike from Jan Breuer marked not only a 2-1 lead, but what could certainly be one of the best strikes of the season.

The first chance of the second half came from Grizedale's Craig Parton in the 56th minute as he sent a low shot towards the left of the goal only to see it stopped once more by on-form keeper Stainsby.

On 63 minutes Bowland's victory was confirmed when a controversial decision was made to award another penalty. Searson made up for his early mistake by coolly slotting to the left of keeper Igor Petkovic to make it 3-1 and put the win beyond doubt.

Men's Badminton put Manchester to the sword

Julian Surface Sports Editor

THE LANCASTER MEN'S Badminton teams fought through controversial circumstances to get wins over Manchester University. Both the first and second teams managed to get a superb result against one of the top rated universities in their division.

After watching James Mullarkey running his heart out in his first game and still losing 16-21 9-21, it seemed like it might not be Lancaster's day. However, the first team took a 3-1 lead after the first round of games.

Both doubles teams won their games in three sets, demonstrating superb fitness and composure. Afterwards, there was a nervous second round as Manchester pulled two victories back to even it up 3-3. It was a relief as Tom Huggon pulled off a tightly matched victory in his singles three setter, 20-22 21-16 24-22.

Captain Neil Rylander and Jonny Kyffin stepped up to their second doubles match with the pressure on



Gunning for glory: Badminton team begin season successfully

to pull off a victory. The two worked tirelessly getting some fantastic smashes in to win the game 21-19 21-10. It ended 5-3 to the home side against tough opposition.

The second team managed a more comprehensive victory as both singles players, Jonny Lee and Mik Shaikh won their games in straight sets. In the doubles, there was a win

from the captain Paul Heaney paired with John Lane, as they came from a loss to dominate their second opponents 21-11 and 21-13. Both players were stronger and more confident in the second game and winners flew past their opponents. The other pair, Papa Oppong-Frempong and Jon Hancock had a hard fought win in their first game 21-16 21-23 and

21-16, which meant Lancaster won 6-2 overall.

The result was somewhat marred by the controversy that has surrounded Badminton. In their previous game, due to the lack of courts and time allotted, Lancaster was forced to forfeit their final three games.

The first team was losing 3-2 and the game ended 6-2 after time ran out. On eight courts, an hour was never going to be enough to finish the sixteen games required. Luckily for both teams, their time was extended to two hours and Lancaster got their much deserved victories.

It is a shame considering the passionate play that was going on and hopefully the opening result will not ruin the season for the first team.

Whilst the second team enjoyed their second dominant victory, it looks like a prosperous year is ahead of them. So long as the lack of space and time does not impede the first team, their season in a top division looks to be an exciting one.

Lancaster is looking to be a strong threat in Badminton at the moment, though there is much of the season left to come.

Lancaster show no mercy as inferior fitness and skill results in defeat for rival

Nick O'Malley

LANCASTER MEN'S SQUASH team destroyed Liverpool's third team 5-0, with each individual match ending up 3-0.

The hosts outplayed their counterpart's from the start thanks to a combination of superior fitness, shot choice and stroke play. The match was played using English scoring meaning each set is first to nine, and you can only score off your own serve, as in Badminton.

Alex Mealing was Lancaster's number 5 seed, and was pitted against a left-handed player from Liverpool. The Lancastrian dominated from the start, demonstrating a far more confident and consistent backhand stroke than his opponent. Mealing went on to take the first set in style 9-1.

The second set saw a mini-revival for his opponent, who exhibited a couple of exceptional boast shots, to take a shock 2-0 lead. This faint hope didn't last long though, as they were the last two points he won, as Mealing easily

dispatched his opponent 9-1, 9-2, 9-0.

The contest between the number 4 seeds was also a non-contest with Dave Wood easily winning 9-4, 9-0, 9-1. He epitomised the gulf between the two teams, as he played with confidence throughout and the result never looked in doubt. Wood played an outstanding boast shot to win the match, leaving his opponent bedazzled before offering a consoling handshake.

The match between the number 3 seeds was the biggest walkover of the day with Phil Lowrey playing exceptionally all game. He dropped only one point all match and tied up a 9-0, 9-1, 9-0 win in emphatic fashion.

James Hill, Lancaster's number 2 seed made light work of his opponent in the penultimate game of the day. He dominated his opponent all over the court, leaving him mesmerized at points by some truly fantastic shots.

At points Hill frustrated himself, by not appealing to the ref for lets or strokes; however he was unflustered as the result of the match was never in doubt. Hill easily picked off his opponents mistakes and lack of a killer instinct and won effortlessly 9-1, 9-2,

9-1.

The final match of the day pitted the two captains and number 1 seeds up against each other, with Ben Holden representing Lancaster. Holden seemed on a mission to finish the match as quickly as possible, winning the first set 9-0 without losing a single point. He continued in this fashion for eight more points winning back the serve and taking the score to 7-0 before his opponent had the opportunity to win his first point.

This run ended after a fantastic rally resulted in Holden unfortunately hitting the tin (the bottom line), which is out. The comeback was as short lived as all of Liverpool's other attempts, with Holden winning the second set 9-1. The final set saw their captain pick up 4 points, equalling the joint highest in a set on his team.

However, this meant Holden had secured a 9-1, 9-0, 9-4 victory, playing exquisitely throughout and using the greatest variety of shots of any player on the day. All in all, a great result for Lancaster; however they will be expecting much more of a challenge from their next opponents.



Serve them right: Lancaster demolished their rivals on route to victory (Photo: Ben Robins)

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