



Labour isn't working for students

Michael Payne on why this government must pay come May

Comment, Page 13

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STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 6, Michaelmas Term, Wednesday 11th November, 2009

Mandelson launches tuition fee time bomb



- Labour finally unveils fees review
- Findings to be published after General Election
- Vice-Chancellor in favour of increase

Lizzie Houghton
Assistant Editor

THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG awaited review on tuition fees was announced on Monday following months of speculation and debate. Lancaster has joined student unions across the country in protest against any rise in the fees, which many feel is the likely outcome of the review.

Although the framework of the review has been welcomed by university and business leaders, student representatives are concerned that student voices will not be taken into account. This concern has been exasperated by the apparent lack of student representation on the review panel. At Lancaster there is extra concern as Paul Wellings,

the Vice Chancellor, is the first university leader to have publically spoken out in favour of an increase in fees.

Since learning of the announcement of the review on Saturday, Lancaster University Students' Union has been coordinating a campaign to make sure that students are as informed as possible about what the review entails. Every flat on campus has received a letter from LUSU President Michael Payne explaining the situation. On Friday the union will be gathering students outside of Lancaster's townhall to deliver their message to local MP, Ben Wallace.

Payne, who is also Chair of Union 94 – a collection of 19 leading student unions – has said in his comment piece for SCAN: "This Labour government promised no top up fees in 2001, they promised to increase access to universities by setting up the Office of Fair Access (Ofa) in 2003 and they promised to stand up for those from under privileged backgrounds. They have now reneged on many of those promises and turned their back on students in higher education."

Over the summer Wellings spoke out in favour of an increase in fees in order to "bring in sufficient funding and

enhance competition to further drive up quality." Speaking in his capacity as Chair of the 1994 Group – a collection of 18 of UK's leading research intensive universities – the Vice Chancellor said: "The government and higher education sector now faces a clear choice: reduce student numbers or increase funding for higher education. It would be wrong to reduce volume [...] the only viable option is that funding needs to rise to maintain quality."

Replying to Wellings' comments Payne said: "Although our Vice Chancellor's position is that the fees cap needs to be high enough to maintain quality, this is most certainly not the position of LUSU nor Unions 94. The review panel must consider more progressive and alternative options and not simply bow to Vice Chancellors' wish lists."

The review was announced on Monday in a written statement from the Business Secretary, Lord Mandelson. Lord Browne, former chief executive of BP and personal friend of Lord Mandelson, was named as chair of the independent review. He will report on its findings after the general election, denying students the chance to treat the election as a referendum on the review.

The choice of a businessperson over an academic is in line with the government's view that universities should

"All the parties must clearly state their fee policies to ensure that students and their parents can make an informed choice at the ballot box,"

be treated more like an industry than a service.

There will be no official student representative on the review panel. The criteria outlined for members of the panel made clear that they would have to remain independent and would not be able to speak out in the media throughout the duration of the review. These restraints mean that the Nation Union of Students has ruled itself out of the process, preferring instead to step up its campaigning activity in light of the review and general election.

Currently students pay around £3,500 per year in tuition fees. Some Vice Chancellors, along with business leaders, have called for this figure to be increased to £7,000. A more likely

figure is £5,000.

Recently, the Confederation of British Industries called for interest on student loans to be charged at the Government's own borrowing rate, rather than the subsidised rate linked to inflation. The CBI has also said that the threshold for student maintenance grants should be cut from a parental income of about £50,000 to £38,000.

Sarah Strachan, a LUSU part-time officer who has been involved in the LUSU's awareness campaign from the early stages, said: "The review panel needs to be open with the public, and involve groups such as students and parents in their discussions. Without factoring in the real needs and opinions of those individuals, universities are going to turn highly valuable minds off of the idea of higher education. If universities want to be treated more like businesses they need to remember that the customers come first."

In his statement announcing the fees and funding review Lord Mandelson claimed that tuition fees have not put off students from poorer backgrounds applying to university. This statement has been refuted, with student leaders arguing that with fewer jobs on offer more

Changing the face of the Union for the better

Council's decision to amend the bye-law means an end to years of irrelevant officers occupying redundant roles

How many of you have any idea what a Non-Sabbatical officer is? How many times have you voted in elections for faceless individuals who mean nothing to you whatsoever?

I hate to crush the egos of the assortment of Union officers who currently clog up the workings of Council and exist for the sake of existing whilst bearing no relevance to the student body at all. I'm sorry but most people will have answered yes to those two questions. Nobody knows who you are. Nobody knows what you do. When the LUSU President describes you as irrelevant and proposes to remove your position and adjust your remit; consider it an act of mercy. You were dying a slow death and needed expunging forever.

There are many who will complain of a lack of consultation. How about

five years of observing the current system not working with engagement lessening and numbers standing in elections dwindling.

Union Council is now the exclusive province of the self-serving hacks desperate to raise their profile and fashion themselves as hard hitting political masterminds. Unfortunately, this is a mere illusion. Union Council has long since ceased to be an effective body. It has gone stale and become lifeless as the closed shop of elected officers slowly suffocate any form of effective policy making.

The problem with Union Council was that it had become too big to function properly. Too many roles required too little effort thanks to sketchy remits which ceded power to the Sabbatical Officer on every level. The plethora of officers associated with the liberation

movement merely served to tick a demographic box rather than fulfill a role that engaged with the students the position was supposed to represent.

The antiquated Block of Six officers mean nothing to students in general. The notion of officers without remit is dangerous and should have been rendered obsolete. Officers should be taking ownership of their role and by inviting them to do nothing more often than not that is exactly what happens. What exactly have any Block of Six officers achieved in the last five years? I would wager that you could count the successes on one hand and still have fingers left over.

The amendment to the bye-law, passed in an explosive and stormy edition of Union Council signalled a step change. It highlighted that people were ready to modernise and accept change.

Following on from the Sabbatical Review last year, the intention should always have been that the process should be followed through to every level of LUSU. However, a year ago the Athletic Union were unwilling to embrace change and voted against a single Student Activities Officer to represent both clubs and societies. This time around the AU were willing to have the Inter-College Chairs responsible for running events such as the Carter Shield elected cross-campus. This is important as it brings the AU more in line with the Union and marks a shift away from that body considering themselves autonomous when in fact they're not.

Hopefully this review will reignite Council with new officers taking ownership of larger and more rewarding portfolios which cover every strategic area of our Student Union.

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Find a Flu Friend

NHS North Lancashire is urging residents to identify a network of 'Flu Friends' in preparation for further outbreaks in the area.

'Flu friends' will be vital, as when people are diagnosed with swine flu they will be advised to stay at home to prevent spreading the virus. The flu friend would be a member of the family, a neighbour or a friend. They could be contacted to pick up any medicine or do any essential food shopping.

If you do not have a 'Flu Friend' then contact by telephone your College & Residence officer in your college or the Student Services Office.







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Campus gets into festive spirit

Stephen Ashby

WEEK NINE OF the Michaelmas Term will see Alexandra Square being transformed into a winter wonderland, as Winterfest 2009 hits Lancaster University. The three-day event will include Christmas market stalls, a stage with entertainment from various university societies and plenty of other surprises.

The first day will see stalls selling mulled wine, cocoa, Christmas cakes and other festive treats. On Thursday, Christmas stalls will be added, including some run by Voltage, a business project organised by Lancaster University Volunteering Unit (LUVU) involving local sixth forms. Gift stalls will be added on Friday, with local traders selling jewellery, cards and decorations, as well as much more.

To accompany this, there will be Christmas music and a Bailrigg FM broadcast coming live from the Square, as well as the stage being filled by various performances from societies. The debating society will be discussing whether Santa Claus is real, ULMS Big Band and Brass Band will be playing, and the Theatre group may make an appearance with a Christmas Pantomime.

A 20ft Christmas tree will be the centerpiece of the celebration that starts on Wednesday Week Nine, with a snow machine built by the Engineering Society adding to the lights and garlands to give a festive feel to Alexandra Square.

Both the Lancaster University Alumni Friends Programme and UPP, the company responsible for most of the building work across campus, have funded the huge event. Together they have raised a huge amount for this and several other events over the rest of the term.

The Friends Programme relies on donations from the Alumni, as well as parents of current students to help raise money for such events as this. They get around 1300 donors a year, mostly via telephone fundraising employing current students. Since the start of the program in 2001, over £600,000 has been raised and over 140 programs have started from the



funding.

Rachel Newbury explained why the Friends Programme is so excited about this year's events: "It's a fantastic initiative and we are hoping that, as well as appealing to students, many alumni will want to return to the University to see how much things have changed and to remember the good times."

LUVU is also playing a large part in the project. Ben Matthews, director of LUVU said, "It is part of LUSU's strategic plan to help students gain new skills and event management experience. Each of the events will see a team of students getting involved with the design, development and delivery. The team will include elected officers, but also students who want to gain

new skills."

Similar events that will be happening later in the year include a Societies Extravaganza happening in the Lent Term, and a Roses event that will happen when the sports competition returns in the Summer Term.

Michael Payne, the LUSU president, said: "The funding given by the Friends Programme and UPP for our seasonal events will be great. The event will bring the campus to life and give groups like societies the chance to showcase themselves."

The Societies Extravaganza is still in the early stages of planning, but it is hoped that as many societies as possible will be getting involved and showcasing what they do. There are over 100 societies on campus, and

this is their chance to show off the great things that they do to the rest of the University.

As well as that, it is the aim of LUSU to make Roses the biggest it has ever been this year, thanks to the funding that is coming from UPP and the Friends Programme. There will be evening events as well as LUTube. TV broadcasting the competition across the campus.

LUVU will also be joining in, with a Charity Fun Run, as well as a giant It's a Knockout obstacle course that they're hoping will get students, staff and the local community all involved.

If you want to be involved with any of this year's events, contact Martin Ennis: m.ennis@lancaster.ac.uk

Mandelson launches tuition fees time bomb

young people have been forced to look into higher education as the only viable option to unemployment. Almost half a million 18 to 24-year-olds are currently unemployed. The number of 2009 graduates out of employment after six months looks set to hit 30,000.

A survey carried out by the NUS last week found that less than 13% of the population felt that fees increases should be something the review panel considers. Half of those questioned said that fees should be abolished outright. Three-fifths believe there must be lecturers represented on the core review group and 81% said the review must be conducted in public. The survey was open to everyone over the age of 18.

Sally Hunt, the general secretary of the Universities and Colleges Union, emphasised that the review needs to be conducted properly with the relevant voices, particularly those of academics and students, being heard. "All the parties must clearly state their fee policies to ensure that students and their parents can make an informed choice at the ballot box and add their voices to the debate on the future of university funding," Hunt said. "There is little doubt in my view that a higher fees policy would cost a party valuable votes at the ballot box. However, that does not make it acceptable for the main parties to use this review as an excuse to duck the issue ahead of the election."

In 1997 Sir Ron Dearing produced a landmark report, in which he concluded that students would have to start paying towards the cost of university. Dearing's original plan was for students to pay 25% of that cost. Currently, the amount students pay stands at around 80%. The Dearing report was followed in 1998 by the Teaching and Higher Education Act, which set an annual tuition fee of £1000 for students in England. The fees were dubbed a 'student poll tax'.

Three years later David Blunkett, the then Secretary of State for Education and Employment, promised that there would be "no levying of top-up fees in the next parliament if we win the next election." In 2003, the government announced its plans for variable top-up fees. The upper limited per year was set at £3000.

Lonsdale President to get chop for charity

Yasmin Spracklen

MATT WINDSOR, PRESIDENT of Lonsdale College JCR (pictured right), is planning to shave his hair into a mohawk in the name of Children in Need.

The amount of sponsorship Windsor receives between now and 20th November, when he'll shave his hair, will affect the type of mohawk he creates and the amount of time he has to keep it for. If he hits the one hundred pounds benchmark he intends to dye it neon yellow or bright orange and keep it for two weeks. If he raises over two hundred pounds he will dye it shocking pink and keep it especially

for Lonsdale's Christmas Ball in December.

"I've never done anything big for charity and I thought it was time to. Shaving my hair into a mohawk is also something I thought I'd never do, but why not?" said Windsor.

Depending on the amount of interest, it is possible that Windsor may actually shave his head publicly in Lonsdale Bar on the day. He added, "If anyone is interested in joining me, they're welcome to".

If you are interested in joining Matt by shaving your hair into a mohawk, or you wish to sponsor him, you can find his group 'Matt's Mohawk - Yes Mohawk' on Facebook or send an email to m.windsor@lancaster.ac.uk.



Christmas carols in Chaplaincy

Ellen Clayton

THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP is working in partnership with the Chaplaincy Centre to hold a Christmas carol service at the centre on Sunday Week Nine. The service will be free to attend and is open to all.

Though a free event, organisers will be requesting donations towards 'Stop the Traffik'; a charity dedicated to raising awareness of human trafficking and helping protect those involved and persecute traffickers. As well as this, donations will be requested for 'Christ Church Night Shelter'; a Christian charity that provides aid to the home-

less in Lancaster, primarily during the winter period.

"This is a prime opportunity for those who may not usually come to church to come together, bringing flatmates and friends to sing and experience the Christmas message," said Claire Wood, a student at Lancaster who is one of the people involved in organising the service. She added that she hoped people would see how the service can be relevant today.

The service is held annually at the University and those who have attended before can expect a similar experience this year. The service will follow a traditional format, consisting of nine lessons and gospels. Mulled wine and mince pies will be provided after the service.

In Focus: Part-time Officers Review

Fireworks at Union Council

- Societies turn out to make their voices heard
- EWD lose out at end of three hour Council
- New roles in place in time for elections

Collette McColgan
Sam Newsham
Chris Housden

DESPITE CONTENTION FROM societies and liberation campaigns LUSU's non-sabbatical review passed with just one amendment at Union Council last week.

The review, proposed by LUSU President Michael Payne, creates an entirely new team of non-sabbatical officers. It follows the 2008 sabbatical review, also proposed by Payne, which created the current system of President and five Vice-Presidents.

Whilst before the Union had 26 non-sabbatical officers, the review means a slight decrease in numbers to 24 but more focussed remits for officers, to be known as Part Time Union Officers from now on. Titles as well as remits have been given a complete overhaul by the review, in the hope that a better representation of the student body would be created.

"There is increasing perceived and actual irrelevance of non-sabbatical officers," Payne told the Council. "There's a series of roles that don't have a place in the students' union in 2009."

Even before the meeting it was clear that not everyone would approve. The most contentious issues were the reduction in societies' representation from two officers to one and the removal of some Equality, Welfare and Diversity (EWD) officers. However, the review as a whole was felt to be a very



Keeping Council: Union Officers debate the Part-time Officers review. (Photo: Ben Robins)

positive step by the majority of Council, as seen by the decision to make only one amendment, the creation of a Student Campaigns Officer to replace the current Block of Six.

Whereas in 2008 the Sabbatical Review was voted on by the student body at a General Meeting, the non-sabbatical review, which involved a change to a by-law of the LUSU Constitution rather than the constitution itself, could be passed by Union Council alone. However, over thirty representatives of societies

and liberation campaigns filled the observers' rows to see if the changes would pass.

As the author of the proposal Payne began the debate with a presentation to Council of what the review would entail and the rationale behind it. The review, the product of twenty months of work and observation on Payne's behalf, drew on his five years' experience in Lancaster, four of which he spent as a Union officer.

Payne cited a series of statistics backing up the perceived irrelevance of

non-sabbaticals as he saw it. He drew Council's attention to a significant decreasing trends in attendance of Union Council meetings and proposals of items and motions by non-sabbatical officers.

"This body hasn't done what it should have been doing, which is disappointing to someone like me," he said. "I'm trying to bring [it] back to life."

Payne stated that it was imperative to move away from "highbrow shenanigans" that put people off

relaying views to Council. "We've got to open our doors," he declared. "We have to stop the political jargon, stop the highbrow shenanigans and stop the off-putting comments that we make."

Difficulty understanding in layman's terms the agendas, motions and officer titles that make up pivotal bodies such as Union Council is the biggest obstacle to student involvement, Payne feels. If those running LUSU are inaccessible it can breed indifference among the students they apparently represent.

It is for this reason that Payne

Amendment not enough for EWD officers as their numbers are cut

WITH REDUCTIONS TO the EWD positions, Torri Crapper VP (EWD) proposed an amendment to the by-law to add an extra Welfare Campaigns Officer.

The reforms to the positions that come under the remit of the VP (EWD) meant that there would be fewer people performing these roles with the aim that they would have a more direct and focused role.

Michael Payne, LUSU President, said at Union Council that the Union had to move away from "electing an officer for every problem," adding, "We absolutely have to move away from the idea that you have to be an elected representative to be represented."

Tom Skarbek-Wazynski, Bowland JCR President, backed up this argument. "All of those people that signed

that petition [to keep a women's only post] could get involved if they wanted to," he said.

However, Crapper felt – along with other EWD officers – that more people were needed in this area to help with the workload. "The majority of the review is really good," Crapper said, "But I'm disappointed with the minority group representation that has disappeared." She added, "It just puts more onus on me and the other officers to represent the student population."

Students agreed with them. "In a region where a member of the BNP is our European representative and on a campus where getting out of Alexandra Square on a mobility scooter is not easily done... we're losing our welfare officers," said Hannah Sauer, a member of the Feminist Society and the Vice

President for the International Mandarin Society.

Another student, Hazel Monforton, who is VP for the Writers' Guild and an international student said: "The people who had no direct experience with working in [EWD] positions just dismissed [the EWD officers'] comments and wouldn't listen to them."

Sam Johnson, the Non-Sabbatical Women's Officer spoke on behalf of Catriona Clark, the Non-Sabbatical Students with Disabilities Officer, in favour of the move to have two Welfare Campaigns Officers.

The amendment failed to pass at a council vote, and so the by-law was passed with the original suggestion of there being just one Welfare Campaigns Officer.

Johnson spoke up later in the

evening, to propose an amendment to protect the interests of her position; a position that will no longer exist with the passing of the review.

Johnson wished to make the position of Liberation Campaigns Officer a position that only women could run for. She made the point that this would guarantee that there would be at least one woman in an EWD position.

Matt Saint, one of the current Block of Six Officers, made the point that "women should be able to run against men to get that position." Payne agreed with this point, and when taken to a vote, the amendment did not pass.

It was important to Johnson to fight for this, she said, in light of the loss of funding for the women's only bus being stopped by LUSU in the budget for this academic year.



as Payne's review is passed



In defence of the roles he had removed, especially in the area of EWD, Payne argued that for too long the Union's answer to problems had been to create an officer to deal with them and called instead for greater student engagement and involvement.

"[Creating officers] is not the answer," he told Council. "It's not one officer that solves the problem, it is a movement across campus that includes as many students as you possibly can."

Following Payne's presentation the debate was opened to the floor. Almost immediately amendments were proposed and discussions became heated.

The first two amendments, to replace the Societies Exec Officer with two Societies Council Reps and create two Welfare Campaigns Officers instead of one, were voted down following considerable discussion. A further amendment, proposed by current non-sabbatical Women's Officer Sam Johnson, to restrict the post of Liberation Campaigns Officer to women only, was also thrown out. After the failure of the first two amendments to pass, many of the observers left the meeting.

In addition to the proposed amendments, the argument was raised during proceedings by Gemma Evans, a current Block of Six officer, that the review wasn't complete enough to be passed. Evans suggested that Council should delay their judgement until the issues raised by the representatives of societies and EWD could be addressed fully within an amended review. Through administrative errors petitions brought to Council by union officers were not official and therefore could not be viewed or acted upon. To this end, Evans felt it was clear that representation of the student body needed to be incorporated.

"Until we've had that consultation period and we've actually sat down

and worked out a solution we shouldn't be in a position where we can keep ignoring what people are saying," she argued.

Edwin Burrows, Chair of the Societies Council, shared this view. Having brought a petition that wasn't on the agenda and therefore did not stand, Burrows told Council that "there are enough people who want to have a say on what this non-sabb review structure is, so why are we not

"We should never get hung up with titles and cosmetics but they go a long way towards suggesting to students what your role actually is,"

letting them?"

Bowland JCR President Tom Skarbek-Wazynski countered Evans, saying that "the chair has said we will visit the petitions if they're resubmitted to the next council, so they will be listened to," voicing many officers' views.

Evans still urged Council to "vote this down, not because it's a bad thing but because we need more consultation for it." Payne replied that for twenty months he had welcomed opinions on the matter and "under a handful of union members have contacted me."

Alongside the failed amendments, there were amendments Council deemed to pass.

The majority were "purely logistic" and included changing sports officers' elections to suit the Carter Shield season and a moniker change for the LGBT officer to include the usage of "queer" in his or her title.

Only one major amendment was passed. As the proposed review removed all Block of Six officers – officers without specific remit who can reflect any issue important to the student body – a similar position was proposed. Helen Thompson, Vice-President of Cartmel JCR, suggested a

Student Campaign Officer be added to the list of part-time officers, acting as an officer without portfolio akin to the Block of Six.

Thompson emphasised that uniquely the role was "about facilitating students, not being a leader" thanks to having no portfolio or agenda. She also claimed that they would be in a position to "resolve a lot of problems, helping Ed and Welfare, helping Societies, helping anyone."

Tom Mackrory, Academic Affairs Officer, balanced his negative view of the idea, admitting that "it could end up being fantastic." His doubts, however, were voiced strongly and he declared that "you do run the danger of someone running for it perhaps for CV purposes" due to the vague remit.

Both Mackrory and Payne opposed the idea on the grounds that students should be encouraged to involve themselves rather than requiring a campaign leader to do it for them. "It's the role of any student on this campus to have a say on the issues they want to have a say on," said Payne.

Although opposed on several fronts, when it came to the vote there was significant support for the new officer and the amendment was passed. Due to constraints of time this was the last amendment to be proposed. A vote was taken and the non-sabbatical review was voted through overwhelmingly.

After the meeting, Payne told SCAN that "We should be proud that we've made a positive step forwards in opening our doors to all students."

Touching on the concerns raised by societies that their representatives have decreased, he said "I don't think they should see it as 'this is the end of the line.'"

"If at the end of next term when these officers have been elected there is a clear demonstration they're engaging in the task at hand and we can mutually write a job description then I'm more than willing for them to have extra representation on Union Council."

The new order

- Faculty Representative: Arts & Social Sciences
- Faculty Representative: School of Health and Medicine
- Faculty Representative: Management School
- Faculty Representative: Science & Technology
- Chair of Academic Council
- Academic Campaigns Officer
- Postgraduate Research Officer
- Postgraduate Taught Officer
- Equality, Welfare and Diversity Council Chair
- Welfare Campaigns Officer
- Equality Campaigns Officer
- Liberation Campaigns Officer
- LGBTQ Officer
- International Students Officer
- Chair of Green Committee
- Chair of Student Media Board
- Communications Officer
- Chair of Social & Events Group
- Chair of Societies
- Societies Executive Officer
- Chair of Sports Executive
- 2x Inter-College Sports Coordinators
- Chair of Elections
- University Council Representative
- Student Campaigns Officer

proposed the complete overhaul of titles and remits. Titles that are opaque and descendant of the trade union system that initially spawned student unions are to be removed and replaced with accessible, self-explanatory officer labels.

"We should never get hung up with titles and cosmetics but they go a long way towards suggesting to students what your role actually is," Payne said. "The current situation is a mess. It has no strategic view and doesn't reflect our structure."

Large turnout failed to help societies

WHILE THEREVIEW was well planned and generally welcomed by the Council there were differences of opinion on some of the finer points. The planned reduction of societies' representatives on Union Council was a particularly contentious point of debate.

The original proposal of the non-sabbatical review was focused on streamlining and efficiency, and as such suggested a reduction of officers on Union Council. Societies stood to lose one of their two non-sabbatical representatives. VP (FEDS) Andy Johnston and Societies Union Chair Edwin Burrows consulted the societies on Wednesday. From this an amendment was proposed to the review, which suggested changing the proposed one Societies Exec Officer to two Societies Council Reps.

The amendment was not passed

when put to a vote. Burrows was particularly vocal, causing the debate to become quite heated. He had been relying on a petition signed by over 150 students which called for a general meeting so the student body could decide. This petition was not accepted by the council, with the Chair of the meeting Robbie Pickles explaining why the procedure of petition deadlines existed. Burrows had organised the petition late on and therefore it had not been submitted into the agenda.

Burrows blamed the late council agenda release containing the review details for leaving "no opportunity for students to voice their opinions." The counter to this was that policy exists for a reason, with Pickles stating that once submitted correctly, Burrows' petition could be taken into account.

Speaking after the Council, Burrows stated that he felt it "somewhat hypocritical that the points in this non-sabb review that have had the most consultation with students are the ones that have been shot down by the union council," claiming he had had no chance to submit an official petition.

Several students involved in societies were present at the meeting and were angered in reaction. Fred Bullman, Vice President of the Philosophy Society, was critical of the council as a body, calling it a "room full of yes men". He feels the sabbatical officers' arguments were no more than "people getting off on who they were and what position they were".

Johnston is adamant that this isn't the case, calling the council "democracy as democracy is supposed to work".

He was clear at the societies' council that he had already made a recommendation to Michael Payne to remove both society non-sabbs. He argues that "myself and Edwin decided to take the view of the societies' council," despite his own view.

Ben Griffiths, a Steering Group Representative and President of Rock Soc, openly supported the students who attended and significantly feels they were acknowledged and represented. He commended Johnston's role, praising how "he wasn't actually in favour of that amendment but he still argued on its behalf".

Johnston was keen to stress that this isn't a permanent change, and as a bye-law there can be further amendments once the system is tried.



NEWS

University to host a week of entrepreneur events

Luke Anderson

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY IS taking part in the worldwide 'Global Entrepreneurship Week' which is to be held throughout Week Seven.

'Global Entrepreneurship Week' is an international event that includes many different programs aimed at improving the prospects of students interested in business, as well as providing a platform for those who would like to learn more about it.

The events will include the development of enterprising ideas, the possibility of learning new skills and help to inform and assist those interested in self employment and starting their own business. The university is also hosting individual workshops presented by those involved in business, ranging from career mentoring to insight into the music industry.

Create have organised several events on the Tuesday and the Wednesday of Week Seven to encourage budding entrepreneurs in many different ways. They will collaborate with those interested from fine art and IT to BBA and graduates. The events will include a 3 day 'flying start' intensive course with mentors to help. "It's a great opportunity to encourage those interested and excited [and] to get more students [involved]," said Lizzie Whatley from Create.

The events will be held on campus in seminar rooms and halls as well as Bailrigg House. Other events will take place in town at the Storey Institute and there will also be an excursion for women interested in business to the Houses of Parliament, focused on debating and networking.

LUVU has been involved in organising the enterprise week, including a program running on Wednesday called 'Voltage.' This hopes to provide information on organising events through the student union. They are also providing a new scheme with volunteering in schools and aiding students in setting up business aimed at helping the community.

"Students are encouraged to try something new," says Sarah Hinton from LUVU, adding "this week is to encourage entrepreneurs and empowerment, a vital commodity in the current economical climate."

The week has been organised with the purpose of improving the prospects of students and young people in an otherwise unstable economic climate. The organisers believe that the week can help provide necessary skills to individuals to make them stand apart. The university's current graduate employment rate could also benefit from programs such as this.

The globally known event began in 2004 in the UK, originally called 'Enterprise Week'. The event continued to grow, and has since gained acclaim from significant economical and business figures such as Sir Alan Sugar and Gordon Brown. Two of the largest entrepreneurial foundations in America ('Make Your Mark' and 'Kauffman Foundation') have taken this idea and founded the 'Global Entrepreneurship Week,' to take it to a global scale. This event last year included nearly 2500 events and 77 countries.



Road works spell chaos for local transport

• Extra vehicles and drivers brought on to cope with demand

Collette McColgan
Steve Feekins

STAGECOACH, THE BUS service operator for the Lancaster and Morecambe area, has had to bring in extra vehicles and drivers from other depots to deal with problems caused by the road works in Lancaster city centre.

It seems that even this has had little impact on the traffic in and surrounding the city centre. Stephie Barber, the operations manager of Stagecoach for Lancaster and Morecambe, has been dealing with the situation.

The worst of the problems seemed to occur on Friday Week Three. "We must have 80 plus buses stuck in the traffic gridlock across the City Centre all unable to move," Barber said. She added that some services managed to move as little as 100 yards over a two-hour period due to the volume of traffic in the city centre.

"We even tried to get buses down to campus via the M6 and Galgate but everywhere was at a complete stop," she said, speaking of the situation that left an enormous amount of students waiting on campus for over two hours for a bus into town.

"Many of our customers have been encountering delays which they should not have," she added. "We have expressed our thoughts on the matter to the Chief Executive of the City Council, as well as to the County Council."

Becky Green, a Grizedale 3rd year who is studying Psychology, lives in town and has been directly affected by the lengthy road works and the tem-

peramental bus schedule.

"I haven't missed anything, but I've had to wake up earlier and it's fairly lucky that I lived in town last year as well as I'm pretty organised when it comes to buses. It makes it much harder to organise when you can't rely on the bus timetables."

However she thinks there have been both positive additions to this year's bus service, with the increase of staff. "It's been really good seeing that they've got more conductors on the buses. I've been regularly riding the buses for two years and I've never seen as many as I have this year."

She added: "They've sometimes missed out stops due to the traffic in town, and they've just not told us, meaning that I've had to get off at the next one and walk back to where I live."

However, the road works have not just affected the bus routes. "They've been doing this incredibly noisy road resurfacing near where we live... and there has been no information from the council to let us know," she said, adding "They've got no idea whether we've got exams at the minute or dissertations to write and they could be really hindering our studies."

Barber added that the road works would soon be coming to an end, and so the services should soon improve. "There are controversial plans to build a northern link road linking the M6 to Heysham which should reduce traffic flows thorough the city centre," she said. "At that time we should be able to get more bus priorities through the city centre... but that is a few years away."

Bowland bar refurbishment delayed for a second time

Chris Housden

BOWLAND STUDENTS HAVE been disappointed once again this week by the university as refurbishments to the bar have been set back a second time.

Despite being planned for over a year, the much needed refurbishment of the university's oldest bar has once again been delayed. Initially proposed to close last May for the building work to commence over the summer break, the bar is still open but will hopefully close for refurbishment next March.

The earliest plans included a combined bar and café built around the existing bar and Bowland offices, but that was seen as impractical to staff. A redesign is in progress, with a meeting being held in Week Six to look at options. Joe Thornberry, the College Principal, is confident that "once they're finalised and costed [the plans will] be contracted out", although he did warn that "all this

takes time".

There were several factors that delayed the proposed refurbishments, the chief of which was the delays of affecting the Learning Zone. This major project demanded a large proportion of the faculty's attention, reducing their willingness to undertake another large build simultaneously.

At a more concentrated level, the bar's takeover by University Catering under David Peeks, who was reluctant to quickly refurbish, provided what Thornberry described as "a complication but not a major obstacle". Bowland JCR President Tom Skarbek-Wasynski agrees that this was a challenging takeover, stating that "Peeks' news came too late". The JCR had already organised a collegiate student and alumni farewell weekend for the bar. Skarbek-Wasynski felt that "greater consultation could have come from the university, especially at a college level".

The wider problem now is that the university will be less willing to fund a project at the near £1 million mark it was



proposing to invest. The original plans would have placed Bowland as having the most expensive bar on campus. For this reason, although optimistic that the bar will eventually receive its makeover, Skarbek-Wasynski admitted "there's a possibility it will be pushed back again". This could leave Bowland without a bar for Extrav, something Thornberry is keen to avoid after the mixed success of

last year's relocation to the Great Hall.

For all involved, however, the crucial aim is to get the bar design right for when it is eventually built. The JCR, college officials and students are happy with the concept of a comfortable, traditional bar that echoes the current feel according to their president, who said he'd "rather push it back than rush in with a bad design."

Union event brings international razmataz to campus



Mixing pot: International and home students mix in Fylde Bar. (Photo: Supplied by VP (EWD))

Hannah Price

AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT to raise awareness of racism and promote diversity was held in Fylde Bar on Friday Week Four.

Organised by LUSU VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) Torri Crapper and Aidan Williams, non-sabbatical Race Relations Officer, the event was the culmination of a week-long campaign to increase awareness of racism within both the university and Britain as a whole. The event was a showcase of the broad range of cultures repre-

sented within Lancaster University.

The night was very well attended, filling Fylde Bar with ease. Food and music from a broad range of cultures were provided, followed by free buses to the Sugarhouse. "It made me feel a part of something here at Lancaster. This university is clearly very proud of its diversity" one attendee commented.

"I was really impressed with the hard work from the officers, they are the people who made it a success," said Crapper. "I was thrilled with the number of people who attended, and if the demand is there we do want to run another event, but probably not until

after the new year."

Publicity around campus, produced as part of the campaign, showed a snapshot of indicators that racism still occurs within society today. Sources such as the NUS Black Students Campaign, UNISON and the Equality and Human Rights Commission show that when anonymous marking is not in place, black students are more likely to receive lower marks. Their studies also found that job applicants with an African name are 25% less likely to get an interview than those with a British sounding name, while those with a Muslim name are 18% less likely to get that same interview.

These findings, showing how ethnic background can still be a barrier to equal treatment, are highly relevant to today's students. Graduating students are also affected – black graduates are three times more likely to be unemployed than white graduates within six months of graduation.

"There is an increasing trend in society to dismiss notions of what constitutes racism with an unhealthy cynicism, to treat racism as though it no longer exists," said Williams. "Yet all available research suggests otherwise. Only by making ourselves aware of the facts can we work together for a society free of racism".

Secretary of State sets out agenda against "indivisible struggle"

Sam Newsham News Editor

POVERTY AND CLIMATE change are an "indivisible struggle", a Cabinet Minister told Lancaster students last week.

Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State for International Development, visited the university on Friday of Week Five and spoke to a group of around fifty people in the Faraday Lecture Theatre.

Alexander leads the Department for International Development (DFID), which was created by the Government in 1997 to tackle poverty around the world and promote sustainable development.

"In the previous eighteen years [to 1997] the UK aid budget halved," said Alexander. "I'm proud to say that since



Douglas Alexander

1997 it has tripled. It's a conscious decision the Labour party made."

DFID is also concerned with climate change, an issue Alexander believes is inextricably linked to poverty.

"Some of the poorest countries on earth have been hit the hardest [by climate change]," he told SCAN. "It's not a future threat in the developing world, it's a contemporary crisis."

Alexander cited his experiences travelling in Bangladesh and Kenya, where the impacts of climate change have already been felt with changes in weather patterns affecting millions of people's lifestyles.

In his speech Alexander concentrated mainly on environmental and economic issues. He spoke about the forthcoming climate change negotiations on Copenhagen in December and concerns that no agreement will be reached.

"The world has a choice on whether to come together or just split apart on climate change," he said.

Following the speech Alexander took questions from the audience on a variety of subjects ranging from the World Bank to nuclear disarmament to the influence students can have on the sweatshop industry. Students, he said, are vital to ensuring that clothes producers in developing countries get a fair deal.

"People in this room have more influence than you realise," he told the audience. "The voices [designers] listen to most are the voices of their customers."

Alexander was in the Lancaster area to join the Lancaster and District Fairtrade Group in celebrating their fifth anniversary at Lancaster Town Hall. Recently he announced that £12 million of Government funding would be invested in Fairtrade.

Uni alters local plans to seek friends abroad

Lauren Hirst

THE UNIVERSITY'S RELATIONSHIPS with overseas universities have been prioritised over those relationships held with regional colleges during the past year.

The Office for Associated Institution has been reorganised, with regional relationships being pushed to the backburner and International relations being made number one priority. The newly named Academic Standards Quality has joined together with part of the Teaching Quality Support Office to ensure that partnership with both regional further education colleges and overseas institutions, that offer Lancaster-validated degrees, are equivalent to those offered here at Lancaster University.

Lancaster University has regional teaching partnerships with several colleges in the North West since the sixties. This has resulted in universities such as Edge Hill and Cumbria being able to build towards recognition as an independent University Institution.

However, in a recent Senate the policy was altered and ties with Nelson & Colne College and Accrington & Rossendale College were ordered to be terminated by August 2011, with no additional HE course being validated in the interim. Links with Blackpool and Blackburn colleges will no longer grow but be fixed in a steady state in terms of the number of programmes the university validates. Each new programme introduced must see the withdrawal of another course in its place.

With regional ties being slowly diminished, International links are blossoming with affiliate institutions all over the world. Located in Malaysia, Sunway College witnessed its first graduation where students were awarded a degree from both Sunway College and Lancaster University due to the academic partnership that was set up in September 2006. The two Sunway students; Tay Ee Lin and Chan Jinn Yee were chosen as Chancellor's scholars for their persistent hard work and high level of dedication and performance thus being able to experience university from different perspective in a two week visit to study at Lancaster University.

This year, also sees the introduction of the launch of five masters degrees under this partnership. Money, Banking & Finance, Management, Management with Law, Mobile Systems and Computer Science will be offered at Sunway College, in collaboration with the course at Lancaster University.

Other partnerships with Lancaster University include Shaghai Jiao Tong University and the Indian Institute of Management.

With a continued increase in the courses being offered at Universities abroad in conjunction with Lancaster University and an abrupt reduction in regional affiliates, Lancaster University has made it apparent by its actions on its plans for the future and what direction the University is taking.

GSA left without President or Reseach Rep following elections

Edwin Burrows

THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' Association has been left in disarray following its Week Four elections after they failed to find any candidates to stand in two of its most important positions.

Without a GSA President or VP Post Graduate Research (PGR) Representative, postgraduate students will find themselves dangerously under-represented on academic issues and within the Students' Union itself.

With only eight of the original eleven candidates left in the race by the day of the elections, Vice President Finance was the only contested position and Abhinav Sharma narrowly beat Mike Jenkins to the role. All other candidates standing in the election unopposed were duly elected.

As well as the President and VP PGR Rep, no one stood for the position of VP Sports and Activities. It is planned that the positions will be either co-opted or filled at a bye-election, to be held alongside JCR elections in Week Eight.

"[President] will always be a highly demanding and time consuming



role even when all the other nine executive members are functioning to full capacity. Potential candidates who've been fully informed of the role

have decided to put their postgraduate studies first," said Ellie Fitton, outgoing acting GSA President and previous PGR Representative.

She added that with its much larger constituency of 3,500 students "the GSA can't and shouldn't be seen as a JCR. Not to denigrate the fantastic work of the JCR officers but the GSA has very different responsibilities and the commitment is far greater."

In response to the failure to elect a GSA President, one student who wished to remain anonymous remarked that they were surprised at how the fortunes of the GSA had changed. "If the GSA is so overworked then why does it not campaign for a Postgraduate Sabbatical Officer again? The reason why grads don't stand for the GSA is that they see the GSA as JCR politics for postgraduates and grads want something more grown up."

A few years ago the GSA successfully passed a motion for a postgraduate sabbatical officer at a Union General Meeting. However it was later invalidated by a change to the LUSU Constitution.

With the GSA elections being potentially the Union's final paper ballot election before it turns to e-voting many have stated that this will greatly help the turnout of voters. With just over a hundred postgraduates voting out of the potential 3500 turnout was disappointing this time round.

Lancaster is safest university city

LANCASTER HAS BEEN voted the safest city to study in for the second year running.

According to the Independent's Complete University Guide, Lancaster is the safest university city in Britain. Canterbury and Bath came second and third, with Manchester coming bottom of the list of 21.

The study lists the crime statistics that are most relevant to students for cities with two or more universities. The data, derived from officially recorded statistics for categories of crime committed outside London, relates to all victims, not just students.

Dr Bernard Kingston of Mayfield University Consultants, said: "Security of person and property are sadly important considerations that young people have to take into account when selecting a university. The choice of institution is not simply based on academic reputation and performance, but on the quality of life students will enjoy for the three or four years of their course."

"Unlike many other factors, the incidence of criminal acts is outside the control of the university. Nevertheless, this does not mean that potential students should ignore it. It is simply one more question they are entitled to ask."

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Course reps given greater scope to tackle issues

Chris Housden

STUDENT COURSE REPRESENTATIVES have been given greater responsibilities and clearer duties after a system overhaul this year.

The established setup of previous years has been replaced with a more streamlined version. Updating the old course rep system to a more efficient structure of department representatives will bring the views of the student body to the University staff in a quicker and proactive manner.

LUSU VP (Academic Affairs) Danny Ovens, who has implemented the changes, hopes that it will encourage students to stay in touch with their departments. Reaffirming that the reps responsibility is to accurately relay what they hear from their peers, he commented: "Students really need to know who their reps are and actually use them."

The main changes in reviewing the system involve a downsizing of the reps across the University. A reduction from around 270 reps last academic year to an efficient 190 has been made possible by simplifying their duties and giving them direct purpose. Whereas students used to be elected for all course modules regardless of their duration, now there will be only a few students from each year group elected to represent



Leading the way: The new department rep system will mean issues are dealt with quicker and more effectively. (Photo: Ben Robins)

the department.

Saoirse Crean, in her second year representing art students, noted that though the old system worked well for her thanks to the small size of her department others may have struggled with a larger body of students to represent. Encouragingly, grievances she aired last year have been acted upon, and art students have actively sought her out already this year due to other changes. She supported students' increased action while noting that the

reps have to be sociable, saying "I think it's important that people know who their student rep is so they feel okay approaching them, especially for bigger departments."

A change made by the Academic Council to a bylaw also means that there will be a lot more communication with the Student Union. Policy decisions made at the Council will now carry direct student input from the reps as approximately eighteen seats will be reserved for selected department

representatives. Ovens has stressed that this additional avenue of voicing concerns or views outside collegiate or society routes relies upon "the reps to feedback any important information."

With this in mind, the new system has been engineered to directly promote activism from the elected reps. With fewer people to organise LUSU will be able to react quickly to any feedback received, and reps are given more proportional responsibility making it less likely for them to fall into complacency or

inactivity within their remit. A reward system has also been set up by Ovens to congratulate those who make the most effort on behalf of their student peers.

The message being sent by LUSU through these changes is one of endorsed activism. With better representation now available to them, LUSU hopes that students will increase their feedback and opinions, letting the faculties and University grasp what it needs to improve for the student body.

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Learning Zone weight restrictions deny students access

• **Anti-theft system backfires as students are left stranded**

Luka Vujicic

THE LEARNING ZONE'S Air Lock doors have proved problematic in their first few weeks of use, with an enforced weight restriction frequently denying students entry.

The doors, situated at the end of the zone closest to University House, were originally restricted to users weighing less than eighteen stone. They are the only means of access to the zone after the automatic doors are locked at 5pm.

The weight restriction has meant that disabled students have faced difficulties trying to access the zone: students confined to wheelchairs have been among those discriminated against.

Access for disabled students had been considered likely to cause problems ever since the Learning Zone opened. However, LUSU VP (Academic Affairs) Danny Owens said that



"solutions are being considered at the moment regarding this issue in the Learning Zone Users Group" of which he is a member.

Alerting the university of problems has also proved difficult. According to Owens, the button which a student,

when stuck, should press to call for help "is not connected to anything."

When asked about the faulty alarm system, Patrick Montague, Service Desk Manager of ISS, reassured SCAN that "phones are being placed in both air lock doors to call security." He also

remarked that "a push to open button from within the zone and live CCTV" are to be installed.

The restriction was initially enforced to prevent theft of the zone's equipment and to stop more than one student from using the doors at the

same time. It has in fact denied entry to a number of students who use the doors appropriately, issuing the potentially embarrassing message "one person at a time".

The restriction was increased to 21 stone, but with the continuation of the same problem has now been taken off.

"Overall we have had some really positive feedback from students using the Learning Zone," said Louisa Duff, Communications Officer for Facilities, who apologised for the inconveniences that have arisen. "Work is currently being undertaken to make it clearer and easier to use."

"Although it's early days, if success is measured by popularity, the Learning Zone looks like a success story in the making," said Montague. "ISS and Facilities are working hard to resolve the Zone's access problems." There is a general consensus among staff that echoes Montague's verdict.

Students interested in making a comment on the Learning Zone can do so through an online questionnaire being run by Owens and Torri Crapper, LUSU VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) whose details will be included in Squeak for Week Six.

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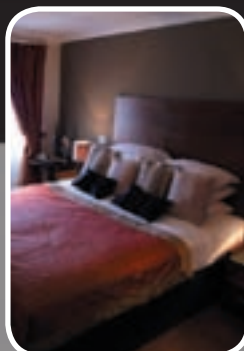
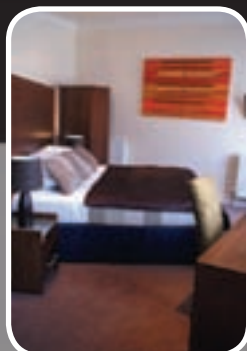
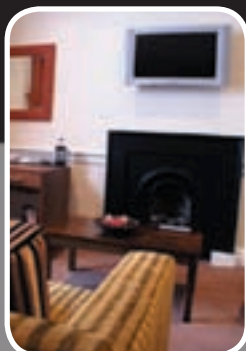
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On Dashers: Santas storm the streets of Lancaster



Lauren Hirst

ON SUNDAY 15TH November, the streets of Lancaster are paving the way for The Santa Dash and Reindeer Run.

The family-friendly fun-run lasts 1.5 miles and is fully accessible for both wheelchairs and pushchairs. It starts at 11.00 am from the Salt Ayre Sports Centre and finishes in Market Square, Lancaster. The day will draw to a close with the switch on of the Christmas lights at 4:30 pm. The event will include a host of festive fun and games to be enjoyed and will also signal the opening of the

Christmas shopping season.

This is the first time The Santa Dash has taken place in Lancaster, although sister events have taken place in countries all over the world from America to Germany.

When asked why The Santa Run was coming to the city of Lancaster, Jerry North, who has helped in the organisation of the event, said: "The Santa Run makes a change from the formal Christmas light switch and it is a great way to get everyone involved. Hopefully, this will be come an annual event."

Commenting on why students should take part, North said: "It will

get them all out of bed on a Sunday morning and it is all in the aid of a local charity".

Entry is £12.50 each and all the money raised from the fun-run will be donated to Cancer Care, a local charity dedicated to the support of people with cancer, their families and carers and those bereaved by cancer. All the Santa suits, antlers and noses are provided and you can hop, skip and jump your way to the finish line, or just simply walk.

If you are interested in taking part visit the website www.thesantadash.org.uk or drop into LUSU and pick up a registration form.

Students left in dust after racing car sponsor's U-turn

Stephen Ashby

A GROUP OF ten Lancaster engineering students are custom-building a one-seater racing car to allow them to compete with over 100 other universities from 21 countries in the Formula Student competition.

The car should hopefully be completed by next Easter, with a provisional date for the race weekend being set as 15-18 July 2010 at Silverstone race-track near Northampton.

For the last two years UPP, the company responsible for most of the building work and maintenance across campus, has provided two thirds of the funding for the team, which relies on sponsorship from outside companies to help pay for the car. However, this year the deal with the company ended, and the team is now struggling with a budget of just over £5,000.

The team is now looking for another company willing to provide support for the project, with the incentive that they can offer significant exposure in a very competitive engineering area. The Silverstone race day has had the likes of Damon Hill and Ross Brawn opening the event in the past, and is world renowned.

In previous years the car has won the award for lowest fuel consumption, something which team member

Alex Goldman, who is responsible for various electrical aspects of the car including the braking system, attributes to its "light and efficient design." The car can manage 0 to 60 mph in 2.9 seconds. However, the competition is not all about speed, with areas such as cost, design and presentation all playing a part in the final result.

Lancaster has been competing for 11 of the contest's 12 year history, and has one of the smallest teams. Last year's victors from Universität Stuttgart had around 50 members, a budget exceeding £100,000 and a sponsorship deal from Audi. The contest itself is the largest in Europe, and is second only in the world to the USA's version.

Due to a technical fault that ruled the car out of two of the eight events, last year's result was disappointing for the team, placing them 49th out of 82 competitors. The best placing by the University so far has been eighth.

"We're aiming for top 20 if not higher this year," said Goldman, adding "Although we are the underdogs we can punch above our weight due to the dedication and expertise of the group."

Despite the small setbacks, Goldman is confident about the team's ability: "I think the Lancaster Team can achieve its ambitious goals and effectively implement the cutting edge technology that it has built on from previous years. There is no reason why we can't do very well in this year's competition."

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scan:COMMENT



Alex Harris
Comment Editor

Government stance on drugs is a desperate attempt to appear tough on crime

The human cost of substance abuse is ignored by politicians only concerned with opinion polls and their own image

To say that Labour has been having trouble recently would be a bit like saying a leg amputation is a minor removal of non-essential services. It's difficult to overstate the sheer amount of catastrophic wrong-footings, poor decisions and just plain old bad luck the once organised and united party has undergone over recent years. It's almost too easy to reel off a list: unconvincing reactions to expenses, backbench unrest and petty squabbling. The list is endless. Now to add to this they can say that only they had the courage to sack Professor David Nutt, a man who had the audacity to suggest government classification of drugs was not representative of the harm they pose.

The background to the story seems to run in contrast to the government's warped version. Professor David Nutt was fired from his role as chairman of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, essentially for giving a lecture in which he presented the potential physical and psychological harm of illegal drugs such as cannabis and ecstasy and suggested that the decision to move cannabis back up to Class B was the wrong decision.



The government's position is that in delivering this lecture, Professor Nutt was acting as a 'campaigner' against government policy. Yet it is common knowledge that the government went against the ACMD in its decision to re-classify cannabis and this means Professor Nutt's advice to the government was public a long time before he was sacked. Was Professor Nutt supposed to pretend that he agreed with the decision all along and the ACMD was either incorrect or lying when it suggested leaving cannabis as Class C and declassifying ecstasy?

These kinds of mental and political gymnastics are just another instance of a trend that has existed for decades. There hasn't been a time in recent memory that drug policy hasn't been simply a political tool, used by politicians whenever they want to appear 'tough' in the face of public criticism. After all, would Nixon have been the 'law and order' President without his War on Drugs? How would George H.W. Bush have countered claims that he was a wimp without standing behind

the podium and ominously declaring "this scourge will stop!"

Back in reality, the human costs of this kind of approach are obvious for people to see. Where I come from in Peterborough, crime and the drug trade are as much of a problem as in any city. Until very recently, the local Cathedral was notorious for being a hideout for heroin and crack addicts and, like any large city, there are just some areas that are out of bounds at night.

Over summer, me and a few friends were walking into town past the local Accident and Emergency ward, where we saw a girl that couldn't have been much older than seventeen walking out the doors. Presumably on some kind of illegal drugs (there was no way this girl was sober and she didn't appear drunk), she proceeded to stumble through the middle of the main road, deliberately into the path of oncoming cars. Had we not pulled her to safety, she could have been killed that night.

In trying to stop her walking back into the middle of the road, a few of us began to talk to her. It seemed she'd had a tragic life, with parents that had abandoned her and forced her to move between foster homes on a

regular basis, leaving her with no real base to call her own and leaving only the dregs of society ready to pick her up and give her some kind of familial bond. It's stories like this that are frequently told by those using drugs even recreationally. A drug such as heroin becomes a means of self-medicating their feelings of alienation or depression.

In the government's minds, these people are criminals. Surplus people, ready to be thrown straight into the harsh environment of prison whenever the polls drop or the Prime Minister appears soft on crime. This is a grossly immature and ignorant attitude to a problem that has been right in front of us for decades. It's not like solutions aren't available. In Portugal, for example, drugs have been decriminalised and regarded as a medical issue, resulting in dramatic decreases in drug use and deaths resulting from drugs and a massive increase in the amount seeking treatment and being successful. It might be a long way off, but hopefully the debate currently going on in Britain will result in some real questions being asked, and getting the answers right this time.



Michael Payne
LUSU President

Labour has lost its way on education and should pay for it

Twelve years after Tony Blair was swept to power on a promise to focus on "education, education, education", this Labour government has lost its way and forgotten its roots.

Students are leaving university with over £20,000 worth of debt, graduate unemployment has increased over 40% this year and many students are left penniless without having received a single loan payment yet.

This Labour government promised no top up fees in 2001, they promised to increase access to universities by setting up the Office of Fair Access (Offa) in 2003 and they promised to stand up for those from under privileged backgrounds.

They have now reneged on many of those promises and turned their back on students in higher education. You are all currently paying more than £3,000 in tuition fees and as result of conspiracy and collusion between some universities and politicians students could soon be expected to pay up to £7,000 per year for their degree.



We cannot and must not allow a repeat episode of the narrow defeat for students in 2004, when the government last voted on tuition fees.

There is always a tendency for students to reply to campaigns about increasing fees with the cliché "it won't affect me", but believe me it will and it is. Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson along with many other parties and sellouts of the Labour movement have left students out to dry over fees and funding in higher education, and for that they should pay.

Ask yourself this how many of you have yet to receive your first student loan payment? How many of you have to work part-time to survive? How

many of you rely on others to support you at University?

With over £12,000 worth of debt myself, I too know the harsh realities I will face when I move into the graduate employment market next year.

But if like many students you leave with a debt of £30,000 you will have to earn £28,000 per year just to pay off the interest. Adding insult to injury 70% of you will earn a starting salary of less than £27,000 and therefore not even be able to afford the interest on your debt repayment. But it isn't just a rise in tuition fees we need to fight. The whole system needs to change. This fight isn't just about the £3,000 you pay in fees, it's about the hidden costs of university as well; books, equipment, food, rent and the dreadful bursary system that this Labour government has presided over.

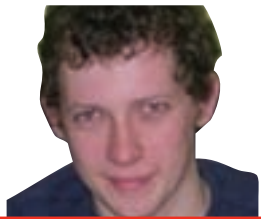
With a recent poll by Compass, NUS and YouGov revealing that only 12% of those asked wanted fee increases to be considered, the government and universities should fear student reaction to any greedy attempts at backdoor

deals. This time we have to realise our responsibility and be unafraid to act in numbers if necessary. When our own Vice-Chancellor is vocal in the press on fees, ask yourself this: does he speak for you?

The noticeable silence on this issue from prospective parliamentary candidates for Lancaster & Fleetwood (a constituency with two major universities) is shameful. If Labour's Clive Grunshaw, the Conservatives' Eric Ollerenshaw and Liberal Democrat Stuart Langhorn have any concern for a large part of the electorate in their prospective seat they will have to start vocalising their opinions on this issue and stop toeing the party line.

I ask you to join our campaign. I ask you to be prepared to take action. I ask you show that students aren't just here as a commodity for propping up the British economy, but rather they are a valuable and active demographic in society. Give yourself a fighting chance in your future career by fighting now to free yourself from mountainous and unnecessary debt.

The tuition fees review should not be a cosy stitch-up between politicians, universities and government stooges



Keiran Seymour

Question Time gave viewers the opportunity to listen to the BNP's policies on immigration

It was refreshing to witness politicians united against a tangible threat to democracy

More people tuned in to watch Nick Griffin on Question Time than that week's Strictly Comes Dancing. In light of the programme, the obvious debates are: should they have even been on the show, and were they the victims of a 'witch-hunt' perpetrated by the BBC? But there are other issues that arose from the programme that are just as important and will no doubt become a key factor come May when the General Election takes place.

The BNP's focus on race and immigration is what has appealed most to their core followers. Their recent rise in support shows that immigration is regarded as an important issue to a lot of voters in Britain. During Question Time, Griffin was almost entirely attacked on issues of race. His comments on homosexuality, despite being scrutinised, were not accorded the same intense questioning and ridicule by the panel, leaving Griffin ample opportunity to put forth his ridiculous views on immigration.

Yet how much stock can we put in it being a significant topic for debate in the next election? We can at least



say with some certainty that the issue cannot be ignored. People are dissatisfied with current immigration policy. A tougher approach may seem isolationist in a globalised world, but the increasing influence Europe has over domestic policy has increased popular pressure towards forming a tougher immigration stance.

The current recession and rising unemployment has further helped Griffin's party to gather more sup-

port. With more people falling below the poverty line and increasing deprivation in urban areas, tensions within communities are being stretched. The recent surge of immigrants settling in the UK from Eastern European countries and successfully finding jobs can only make some of those who have become unemployed victims of the recession sympathise with some of the BNP's xenophobic ideas. The government's lack of clarity over this issue has resulted with people feeling disconnected from the government and this in return has helped the BNP rise in popularity.

This disillusionment also applies to British politics in general at the moment. When Westminster was rocked earlier this year by the MP's expenses scandal, the majority of the public felt unable to trust senior politicians. The BNP's perceived distance from the scandal may have increased their support as voters look for an alternative. Griffin stated on Question Time 'Why should any of us trust any politician?' Had he pursued this issue more as a response to the questioning of his party he may have come out better than he did. If the expenses

scandal is still fresh in the mind of voters next May it could result in bigger support for the BNP and Britain's other small parties.

Griffin's appearance on Question Time generated small signs of something that has not been very apparent in British politics for a long time, and could ultimately help reduce voter apathy. The fact that we were seeing parties and politicians united in their cause to help try and reduce a threat to democracy was refreshing. If there was more of this move to towards consensus politics in the House of Commons, surely it could only help the tarnished reputation of the main British parties? In a time when Britain is facing big challenges it has not had to deal with before, many of the people are looking for guidance and a sense of 'togetherness' from our politicians. Less fighting and bickering would surely only help to set a good example for communities in the country where racial tensions are high.

There is much that can be taken from Question Time. But will the main parties realise this and use it to their advantage in May when the public have their say?

World Cup cannot disguise South Africa's problems

Evicting the poor to appease FIFA harks back to the country's troubled past writes **Emily Robertson**

With only 205 days until the World Cup in South Africa, and in the build up to the groups being announced next month, fears are growing that the country will not be able to cope with the influx of football fans to its cities next summer. As a regular visitor to the country myself, I share these fears. For starters it would seem that the country runs on its own, rather relaxed time scale, making public transport inefficient and not up to Western standards. Worse, though: crime and poverty have become a factor of everyday life, posing a major threat to unsuspecting Brits searching for the nearest pub.

To combat this problem, Jacob Zuma's government has begun evicting innocent, impoverished Johannesburg citizens from their hard-earned homes for the supposed comfort of Western visitors. The public transport may indeed be shoddy and heavily reliant on gang-run mini-bus 'taxis' piling on twenty or thirty passengers at a time, but to say this warrants the removal of people from their homes is perverse. It seems to me that pleasing FIFA is being seen as more important than a person's livelihood in this case. Football simply cannot be that important.

Whilst it would appear that stripping citizens of their homes would add to one of the cities major problems, homelessness, Zuma has the answer again: internment camps. That horrible collocation conjuring images of the starving tortured Jews of World War Two and of dissidents rotting in Soviet Gulags is going to be a key feature in next year's World Cup, a fact that I'm sure very few football fans are currently aware of. It is estimated that there are around 3000 homeless persons in inner city Johannesburg. With the construction of the public transportation improvements, this number can only be set to increase as more South Africans are forced onto the street.

The plan, therefore, is to split the displaced into two camps outside the city centre; out of sight, out of mind. Further adding to the cruelty is the plan to separate families: the first camp Hillbrow will house adults and the second Wimbley, children, it is as if these people have no rights at all.

It seems to me that a country which prides itself on its vibrancy and diversity is in fact ashamed of its own people so much so that it wishes to hide a large proportion from the public's view in a way that is eerily close to the separation in apartheid. Shouldn't football fans know about this whilst they enjoy the beautiful game on big screens in pubs across the country? Is this all really necessary when the Confederations Cup earlier this year was reported as running so smoothly? What will happen to those displaced families when the hype of the World Cup has died down? If this is happening in a relatively free country with a free media, one can only imagine the horrors that still lay unreported in Beijing in the wake of the Olympics.

Department Rep system the refurbishment required

Over the Summer myself and many colleagues have worked tirelessly to analyse, revise, amend, and re-write the outdated Course Rep system and move to a Departmental Rep format.

For those in the dark, let me enlighten you. In the past, it was always the case that any student could stand to be a Rep for their course or module, go through training with LUSU, and be the liaison between students and staff. The role of these Reps played a vital part in University life – they were the people on the ground, students representing students, ensuring everyone was reading from the same page and improving the academic experience here at Lancaster. At least that was what they were supposed to do. The old system had so much untapped potential and has been in dire need of a refurbishment for many years. It was ineffective and barely representative at best. Some Reps would be elected and then sit back, some would only be elected for one term, some would get bored with the job. Last year, did you know who your Rep was? More to the point, what did they do for you? Don't get me wrong, there were exceptions; cases where the system was a credit to all involved, but these were rare and few and far between.

This new system allows for so much more. The overall number of Reps across the University has now gone

down. How can that be a more representative system you may ask? Bear with me, there is method to my madness. During my time in office I have spoken to and met many of my counterparts from other Student Unions around the country, most of them (if not all) are looking at their course reps systems, seeking improvements. For the majority, this means more Reps, simply put more fuel on the fire and problem solved right? Wrong. Merely throwing more people into positions isn't going to solve issues; one Union I spoke to had around 650 Reps and was hoping to increase that number to 1000 by the end of the year! Now if you are thinking 'they must have more students than we do', you would be right, but not by many. Personally, I would be on the verge of a heart attack with that many Course Reps running around.

So, that's the madness, now here's the method. Each of these Reps has more responsibility than their predecessors, and in turn, more reward. It makes the position more worthwhile, more tangible. Now that there is a more manageable amount of Reps, LUSU can offer more sustainable support. Each person will have their achievement of being a Department Rep embedded in their degree transcript – a nice thank you. On top of that there is a new reward scheme that has never been done before. An extra bonus is the opportunity to engage more with the Union, with the chance to sit on one of the

Union's policy making and academic advisory bodies.

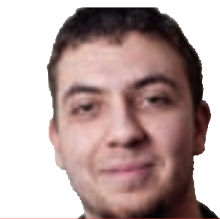
However, this isn't a free ride. A lot is expected of Reps and they cannot sit idle, especially now. New quality assurance mechanisms that are to be put in place will alert me to any Rep not fulfilling their role. No role equals no reward.

I'm not saying I've created the perfect system; I already have a rather large list of things I would have changed given the time and the gift of foresight. Unfortunately, I have only hindsight to keep me company, and what a beautifully vile thing it is. Nonetheless, I will be passing the list on to my successor.

Anyway, that's enough of me rambling; I've done my part for this system – now it's up to you, the students.

These Reps are in place for a reason, to represent you. Don't wait for your Department Reps to contact you, help them out and go find them. Use the system that is in place for you, don't make life harder for yourself. So many problems I have encountered as a Union representative throughout my Undergraduate years here at Lancaster could have been solved at a Departmental level if people would just talk to each other.

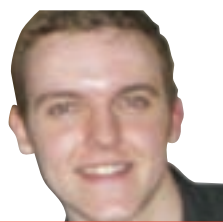
This is what I want: for people to answer 'do you know who your Rep is?' with a resounding yes, and at the end of the year to know what their Rep has done for them. Is that too much to ask?



Danny Ovens

VP Academic Affairs

The Course Rep system needed overhauling and this new model offers the right balance between reward and responsibility



Will McDonagh

The Royal Mail must stand firm against selfish union action

Public support for postman is diminishing as letter writing becomes an obsolete form of communication

A dispute about pay, modernisation and working conditions within Royal Mail caused a delay of over thirty million letters and packages during the company's initial two-day strike last week. A strike that is due to reignite this very week, presumably causing similar disruptions all over the country once again. Workers are apparently protesting against "panic-driven" cuts being made at Royal Mail to pay, jobs and services. But the main question arising is what benefit will these strikes bring to the Communications Workers Union (CWU) in our recession-obsessed world today? And are there demands really possible for an organisation which is becoming more redundant each and every passing year?

Royal Mail alone delivers 99% of all letters and packages in the UK, but they have said the number of letters and parcels its core business delivers is falling by 10% each year, resulting in losses of £170m per annum. One major reason for this is increased competition from e-mail and social networking sites. Job cuts are obviously a necessary evil and the CWU agreed. But don't countless other business firms and organisations



have to pay such strict prices as a result of the longest recession experienced in history? Of course they do. Yet other state services do not come to a standstill as a means of avoiding such hardship.

We don't see doctors and nurses striking in a bid to save as many jobs as possible, nor do we see our civil servants abandoning their duties because they are not fully satisfied with the change in working conditions experienced due to our economic downturn. Although this is different situation and context, the point still stands that as a state funded organisation we as tax-

payers should have the trust and belief in our services.

This strike itself is taking its toll on small businesses in particular who are on the brink as they wait for payments, and also job seekers are missing out on interviews because of the delays.

The image of the postal service has transformed into that of a mere corporate machine. I personally have started to wonder whether my postman actually attempts to fit my packages through the letterbox, or even checks if a neighbour is available, before leaving his dreaded "Sorry, you were out..." card.

The fact that CWU are even pre-

paring to go to the High Court to stop Royal Mail from hiring agency staff to help clear the backlog in time for the Christmas rush shows this point in its most petty form yet. The threat of further industrial action in the run-up to Christmas would place acute pressures on Royal Mail. The CWU has warned that the current backlog of letters and packets could rise from around 65 million to 150 million as the autumn progresses. The truth of the matter is that public support for postal workers is nearly non-existent, and the CWU leadership must know that if these strikes continue into the Christmas period then any public support they may have will disappear completely.

The CWU has to realise that the postal service must modernise to fit into the present world we live in today, and with such developments come change, even though this will involve severe job losses. The harsh reality is that precious few of us write letters of any kind anymore. The CWU must face reality – either they re-invent themselves in light of modern standards, or face the fact that soon the postal service will be non-existent and their striking will have been in vain.

Major flaws in department merger

The lack of student consultation or representation is a bitter pill to swallow writes **Joe Wright**

The merger between the Politics, Philosophy and the Religious Studies department left a lot of students confused and bewildered, myself included. One of the most unusual aspects of this case was outlined by Professor Rose during the senate report. Apparently students had been widely consulted over the issue and that we had not been "inundated" with information for our own convenience.

As a student of both the Philosophy and the Politics and International Relations department, this statement made by Rose was far from representative of my personal experience. Nor was it representative of any of the other students I talked to on my course. Nor was it representative of our department representative who had only been informed of the proposed merger the day before it was put to university senate. Here we receive a disturbing glimpse into the way that the senate view its students. Apparently consultation would have been too lengthy and cumbersome a procedure, that would have hindered the smooth transition into this new PPR department.

Even more shocking than this was the absence of any sort of representation from the Philosophy department itself. In a vital meeting when the degrees and careers of so many students were to be altered it is beyond belief that a department would not send a representative. Fortunately a LUSU delegate Ms Ellie Fitton raised the point during the proceedings that the Philosophy department was largely unconvinced and anxious about the speed with which these decisions had been made. If this was the case how can we possibly expect students to have their interests properly represented if their departments cannot even defend the positions of their staff?

More horrifying than this was the Vice Chancellors objection to the proposal to prolong the merger to ensure that students and staff were informed properly, questioning LUSU's right to even have a say in the matter. This shows not only a lack of respect for LUSU but a lack of respect for students as a whole. It is within our rights as students to demand consultation, and if the departments cannot represent the interests of students who pay to study on their course then it is the role of LUSU to demand this consultation. To question LUSU's right to have any influence on the structuring of departments is to question a student's right to influence their degree. The meetings proposed to assuage students' fears were laughable, especially since they happened after the decision was made to go ahead with the restructuring.

The Vice Chancellors attitude is deeply unnerving, if he is so concerned with maintaining the quality of this university then how can he allow this sizeable change to go through without discussion. The actions of the Senate and of the Vice Chancellor show a very narrow and cynical view of students which is neither accurate nor fair



Liam Kay

Comment Editor

The Learning Zone is just a white elephant

As any student will tell you, university is a time to discover what kind of person you are and will become, a time to become more independent and a time to encounter new, exciting people and interests. But most importantly, it allows you to gain the education that not only enlightens oneself but also ensures you have the mental preparation to succeed in today's cut-throat world. The education you will receive at Lancaster will most probably be the final time in your life when you can devote your entire self to academia.

However, despite these truths, you cannot help but feel that for a university sitting amongst the top 20 universities in the country that we have got one decision terribly wrong. Walking through Alexandra Square, you see the great modern cavern that is the Learning Zone, a precious multi-million pound refurbishment to provide students with what is essentially an empty space. In comparison with the library opposite, it is sparkling new and a worthy facility for a centre of elite education; but not a necessary one. The problem is though that you cannot help but feel that spending money building the Learning Zone is like putting a conservatory on a semi-detached; it is there for show rather than for any tangible purpose.

Compared with the Learning Zone, however, our library is far behind. Having visited libraries at other universities, you can only come to the conclu-

sion that ours is vastly underfunded in comparison to the large archives at many other academic establishments. The amount of information that the library has is in desperate need of updating and expanding; some publications have only one or two copies while hoards of students clamour to grab hold of one in time for the next seminar. The question is if Lancaster's main purpose is as an academic facility, why does our library get ignored in favour of projects such as the Learning Zone?

The Learning Zone's plush surroundings and modern communications systems look very agreeable when planted in a prospectus and fed to potential students, but is it really worth the money? From the poverty of students who actually use the facility, you can only presume that it is fast becoming a "white elephant" for the university; a colossal waste of funds when more deserving projects are clamouring for money. Why could the library not have been modernised, expanded and made into something worthy of the status the university desires to obtain in the future?

The fact that the library does not have anywhere near 24 hours access also insinuates that the Learning Zone's money would be better spent elsewhere. Why do we need a 24 hour learning zone when the library is shut at 12? A library that opens to the early hours of the morning would solve almost all of the problems that the Learning Zone

was created to rectify: lack of space and lack of time to do work in. Surely paying staff to work the night-shift would be preferable and would be more in the students' best interests? When it comes to the exams and the essay deadlines, wouldn't a late-opening library earn a substantial number of students?

The point is that the university has traded substance for sleek modern furnishings. An improved library was necessary for both the students and the university as a whole but has been ignored in an attempt to attract students with showcase projects and a facade of modernity. The university has to remember what brings students to the university; the degree they will take and the quality of the education they will receive in their time here. Without a properly funded and updated library, the average student will look to join other universities who have far superior academic facilities than us. There are no Learning Zones in the world that can hide this particular fact.

The university does need modernisation. The university does need investment to update its facilities. However, what it needs is investment and modernisation in the right areas, in places such as the library, in staff, in computers and other important amenities rather than investing in a veneer of empty sophistication to meet short term goals. It is a fallacious argument to even suggest otherwise and, hopefully, a lesson that the university will take on board.

It may look pretty in a prospectus but isn't the library more deserving of funds than the empty shell that lies opposite

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.

Dear Sir,

I'm writing in response to a letter in the last edition of SCAN about GreenLancaster which questioned the volunteering opportunities available for students. I'm really pleased you like Create and LUVU as these two units have developed over 4 and 7 years to become the successes they are to date.

GreenLancaster has proved to be quite popular with students since it opened to them in October this year. 85 students attended the intro talk and have registered, a further 46 volunteered on a conservation site in week 3 and the carbon competition is working to engage 1000 students across the Pendle, Grizedale and County colleges.

Though these are promising figures in the first 5 weeks we are always keen for students to speak with us and tell us what they think should be happening through GreenLancaster. Like LUVU and Create, we want GreenLancaster to be shaped by the students and encourage them to make contact and tell us what projects / issues they think are important and should be addressed. We believe GreenLancaster has the potential for great things but this will only happen with the support, energy and enthusiasm of our students.

Sarah Hinton
Deputy Director of
Opportunities (LUSU)

Dear Sir,

I should like to correct the impression given in your leading article last week that I am connected with Walkabout. Looking again at the Facebook post from which you quoted I can see that its source is perhaps ambiguous, so I should make it clear that it is an extract from an email I received from the administrators of Regent Inns in response to a query about Walkabout's sudden closure.

Cliff Laine
Graduate College

Results of Non-Sabbatical review pave the way for a brighter but uncertain future

Dear Sir,

I was very pleased with the results of the recent non-sabb review. I think is a great step forward that more focus has been put on Academic Affairs, which will help improve the educational aspects of student life. I think sometimes people forget the reason we are here, which is to get the best education we can. Of course, there are other important aspects to student life, not least ensuring that individuals welfare needs are cared for and that there are plenty of non-academic opportunities, but it is vital that we maintain a high standard of representation when it comes to academic concerns.

Anonymous
Grizedale College

Dear Sir,

I am concerned about the reduction in the number of part-time officers from certain areas within the union following the non-sabb review. Both welfare and societies have had the number of student representatives reduced. I know the president is hoping that all officers will try to work on many different things and support one another more than previously, but I'm not sure that with the current poor communication between students and the amount of work they have to do whether this can be achieved. I suppose we can only hope that the new student campaigns officer pulls their weight.

Anonymous
Furness College

Dear Sir,

The recent LUSU know the facts anti-racism campaign is simply 'doing my head in'. The hundreds of posters plastered around campus are for good intentions, but I'm black and live with all white flatmates who are utterly amazing! they're constantly being told that I'm disadvantaged in every aspect of life and I don't want them to feel like they should owe me anything or that they should feel guilty to be white. I have been discriminated against and yes I've been racially abused, but by

constantly pointing it out to a community which I find 100% accepting is useless. The posters are generally about being discriminated against in the academical field... yes it may happen, but by simply pointing it out and 'showing the facts' is pointless if it's not leading to anything. Surely spending LUSU money on an 'anti-BNP' campaign is better than purely pointing out to people how bad it is to be non-white, because it's not.

Anonymous
Pendle College

Dear Sir,

I can't believe Walkabout in Lancaster has closed down. Admittedly it wasn't the classiest place in Lancaster to go for a night out but seeing as I live off campus it was a great place to get cheap drinks and the bus to the Carelton. Will off campus students like me have to get a Carelton bus from campus now?

Cara Elliott
Lonsdale College

Dear Sir,

Walking around campus this week I noticed the posters for the Anti Racism campaign. I'm glad to see that there are still people who recognise that this issues is on going, and want to continue making changes for the better. So many people think that race discrimination is an issue of the past, but it isn't. I think there are those who believe that, because there has been a massive decrease in reports of discrimination between black and white communities, that racism can no longer be an issue. But we live in a multicultural society and there are still tensions and misconceptions between different cultures. I am optimistic that with support like the kind seen here at Lancaster, we can continue to educate and inspire people from all backgrounds.

Matt Colman
Bowland College

Berlin Competition Winner:

Joe Henderson from Grizedale

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

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FESTIVE FAYRE

AVAILABLE FROM 22ND NOVEMBER

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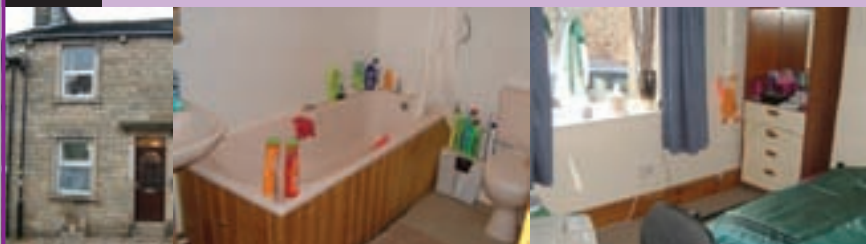
- Our average rents are **£71.50**
- Leases with us are 44wks long - that means you're not paying for weeks your unlikely to want to use
- Unlike other providers **we don't charge deposits or retainers**. There's no money up front to find!
- No need to worry about bills, our deal includes **energy, water, phone and broadband costs** and we even throw in **contents insurance**
- We've **hundreds of homes** to choose from, in all sizes and locations. We even help groups of friends live close to each other
- If you rent your house through us, any proceeds go straight back into providing more opportunities and services for students.

FEATURED HOME

BULK

4
bed

13 Devitre St
£71.50 per week (utilities included)



A modern mid-terraced 2 storey house situated in a quiet cul-de-sac adjacent to the canal, the sugarhouse and city center. This property like all our houses benefits from full gas, electric, plumbing and drainage cover - so there's less to worry about.

BULK

4
bed

41 Devitre St
£71.50 per week (utilities included)



Close to No: 13 these houses would be ideal for a group of 8. Located near to the sugarhouse. Property has excellent cellar/utility room.

TOWN CENTRE

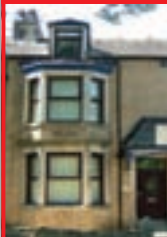


6
bed

76 Dallas Rd
£76.50 per week (utilities included)

A BIG mid-terraced property situated in city center. The house is decorated to a high standard with large bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.

TOWN CENTRE

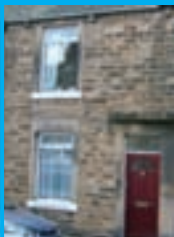


6
bed

78 Dallas Rd
£76.50 per week (utilities included)

Taken with No: 76 these properties would be ideal for a group of 12. Decorated to a high standard, with 2 bathrooms and additional living spaces.

MOORLANDS

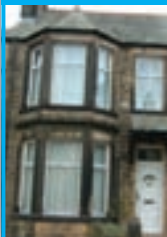


3
bed

18 Argyle St
£71.50 per week (utilities included)

A cosy house with good sized bedrooms and decorated to a high standard. Within walking distance of the city, Uni of Cumbria and bus routes.

MOORLANDS

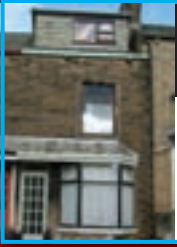


4
bed

25 Balmoral Rd
£71.50 per week (utilities included)

Large terrace providing a high standard of accommodation in a great location. 4 large bedrooms and a utility room. Nice yard.

MOORLANDS



4
bed

9 Kirkes Rd
£71.50 per week (utilities included)

An excellent mid-terraced house offering great access to both the city and Williamson Park. This property includes a utility space and washroom.

MOORLANDS

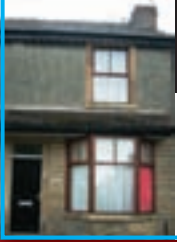


4
bed

16 Balmoral Rd
£71.50 per week (utilities included)

Nice house situated on a popular street. Decorated to a high standard. Modern kitchen and bathroom facilities, with excellent furnishing throughout.

MOORLANDS

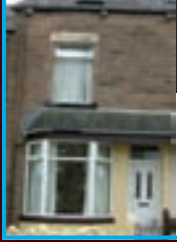


4
bed

5 Ayr St
£71.50 per week (utilities included)

Lovely house in a popular residential area. Located very close to University of Cumbria Sports Centre. Great views of city and Lakeland hills.

MOORLANDS

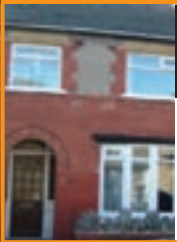


5
bed

23 Kirkes Rd
£71.50 per week (utilities included)

Well proportioned property with 5 nice bedrooms. Modern through lounge/kitchen with a high standard of furnishings.

FAIRFIELD



4
bed

56 Sibsey St
£71.50 per week (utilities included)

A nice terraced house offering a good standard of accommodation. This property is close to the train station and city centre, plus good for parking.

FAIRFIELD



4
bed

33 Wingatesaul Rd
£72.50 per week (utilities included)

A large terrace with good sized bedrooms, a large lounge, kitchen and dining room. Well maintained throughout like all our LUSU Let houses.

FAIRFIELD



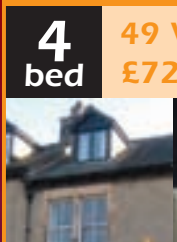
5
bed

35 Wingatesaul Rd
£69.50 per week (utilities included)

A nice house next door to another excellent LUSU Lets property. Providing high quality accommodation for 9 when linked with No: 33.

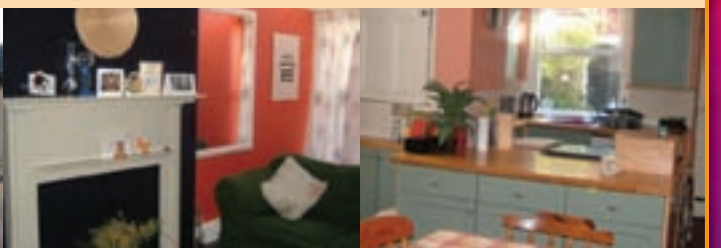
FEATURED HOME

FAIRFIELD



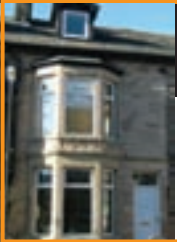
4
bed

49 Westbourne Rd
£72.50 per week (utilities included)



A large mid terrace property with something for everyone. Great bedrooms over 3 floors and plenty of storage. Decorated to a high standard with excellent furnishing throughout and many original features. Plus a dishwasher!!

FAIRFIELD



5
bed

12 Redvers St
£72.50 per week (utilities included)

A great 3 storey terrace. This property has new furnishings throughout with the majority of rooms now benefiting from double beds.

Don't forget to come to our **housing talks** in wks 7&8:

Monday 16 November – **County**, Faraday LT

Wednesday 18 November – **Pendle & Fylde**, GF LT1

Thursday 19 November – **Cartmel & Grizedale**, GF LT1

Monday 23 November – **Lonsdale**, Faraday LT

Wednesday 25 November – **Bowland & Furness**, GF LT1

ALL TALKS BEGIN AT 6PM

Areas to live in Lancaster:

Bulk close to the Sugarhouse and only 5 mins walk into the city and the main bus station.

Town Centre offering a wide selection of pubs, restaurants, night clubs & easy access to Bus and Train Station.

Moorlands is just behind primrose and covers the area stretching up to the Ashton Memorial. Many properties benefit from great views across the bay and Moorlands offers something for everyone.

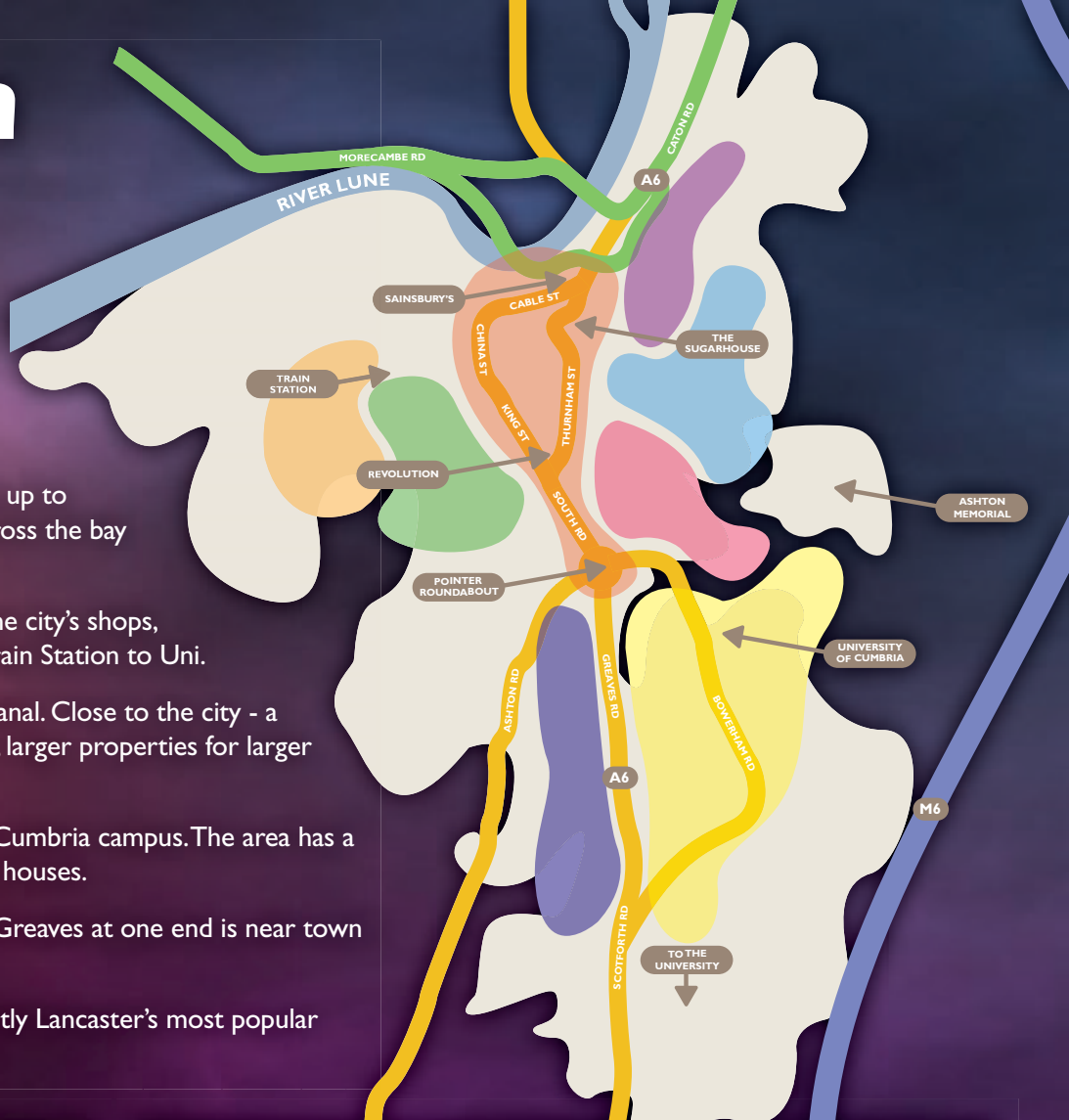
Fairfield is just behind the Train Station providing easy access to the city's shops, restaurants, pubs, cinema etc there's also a regular bus's from the Train Station to Uni.

Aldcliffe Road is the area by Chancellor's Wharf and Lancaster Canal. Close to the city - a fantastic location, providing good public transport to the University, larger properties for larger groups.

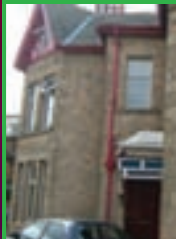
Primrose is next to Bowerham and backs onto the University of Cumbria campus. The area has a great mix of students and families - offering a selection of 2 - 4 bed houses.

Greaves & Scotforth offers a good selection of 2-5 bed houses. Greaves at one end is near town and Scotforth at the top end is near the Uni.

Bowerham is just 10 mins walk from the city center and is currently Lancaster's most popular student location due to its proximity to the University of Cumbria.



ALDCLIFFE



**8
bed**

56 Aldcliffe Rd
£71.50 per week (utilities included)

LUSU's BIGGEST house. Opposite Chancellors Wharf. Always a popular property. With large bedrooms, spacious living areas and 2 shower rooms.

ALDCLIFFE



**5
bed**

64 Regent St
£76.50 per week (utilities included)

Beautiful Victorian terrace offering large study rooms throughout. – Within walking distance of the canal and the city centre with a nice yard to rear.

PRIMROSE



**4
bed**

7 Dale St
£72.50 per week (utilities included)

A traditional terraced house, close to the City and all local amenities. This property is one of to 5 other LUSU houses on Dale Street - Ideal for larger groups.

PRIMROSE



**5
bed**

64 Dale St
£69.50 per week (utilities included)

A large terraced house, spread over 4 floors. The property has a back garden and 2 bathrooms. Large bedrooms and great communal space.

GREAVES & SCOTFORTH



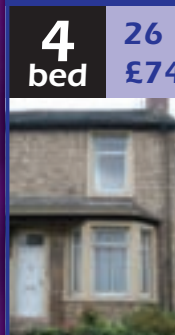
**4
bed**

28 Brunton Rd
£74.50 per week (utilities included)

Situated next to No: 26 this lovely house is superbly situated in a popular location. Good access to city & Uni these properties are suitable for a group of 8.

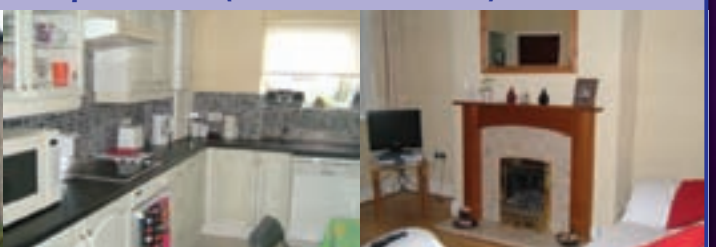
FEATURED HOME

GREAVES & SCOTFORTH



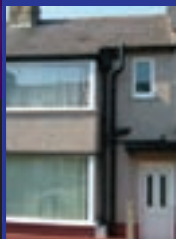
**4
bed**

26 Brunton Rd
£74.50 per week (utilities included)



A beautiful 4 bed terraced house providing the highest quality of accommodation. Furnished to a high standard this house is located on a very popular residential street. Greaves offers good local amenities and good access to town/uni.

GREAVES & SCOTFORTH



**3
bed**

16 Devonshire St
£71.50 per week (utilities included)

A nice 3 bed terrace with large communal areas and a back garden. Houses in this area are popular due to their proximity to the No:4 bus route.

Getting in touch with us:

Housing office enquiries: **01524 592170**

Email: **lusu.housing@lancaster.ac.uk**

Web: **housing.lusu.co.uk**

Edward Roberts Court, Lancaster University,

Bailrigg, Lancaster, LA1 4YA

Open: **9am - 4pm Monday to Friday**

GREAVES & SCOTFORTH

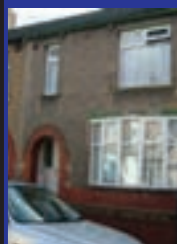


3
bed

21 Chatsworth Rd
£72.50 per week (utilities included)

Superb house situated in a popular location. This property is maintained to the highest of standards benefiting from good sized rooms and regular buses.

GREAVES & SCOTFORTH



3
bed

11 Franklin St
£72.50 per week (utilities included)

A cosy terraced house, situated in a popular location. Decorated and furnished to a high standard, with a spare room that can be used as a study.

GREAVES & SCOTFORTH



6
bed

19 Scotforth Rd
£74.50 per week (utilities included)

HUGE mid-terraced property situated on the main bus route. This property offers excellent accommodation and a MASSIVE 1st floor lounge.

GREAVES & SCOTFORTH

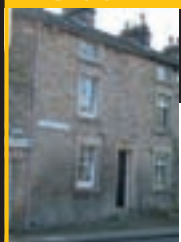


6
bed

25 Scotforth Rd
£74.50 per week (utilities included)

Located very close to No: 19 this LARGE property offers a high standard of accommodation. With original features and beautiful enclosed garden.

BOWERHAM

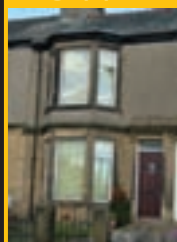


3
bed

10 Golgotha Cottages
£71.50 per week (utilities included)

This charming listed property faces Williamson Park has a garden and a large utility room. Located next to the Uni of Cumbria this property is always popular.

BOWERHAM



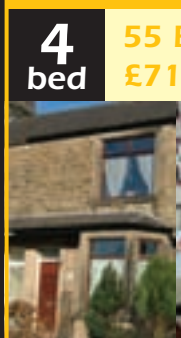
4
bed

95 Bowerham Rd
£71.50 per week (utilities included)

Great house. Large bedrooms and a good sized lounge, Close to local amenities – including Bowerham SPAR and main bus route.

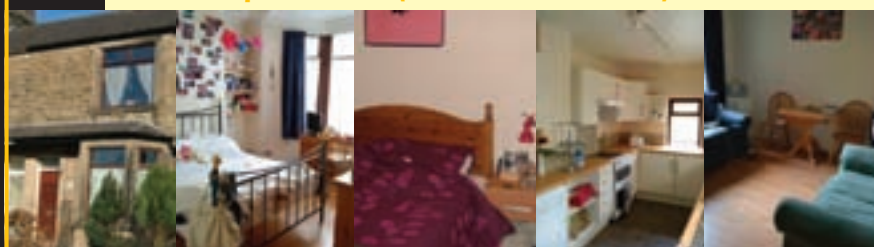
FEATURED HOME

BOWERHAM



4
bed

55 Bowerham Rd
£71.50 per week (utilities included)



A nice mid-terraced house in a great location. Bowerham is the most popular of areas providing excellent access and amenities for both Lancaster University and University of Cumbria students.

BOWERHAM

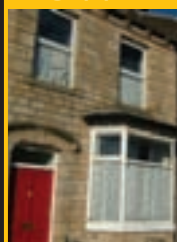


6
bed

1 Golgotha Rd
£72.50 per week (utilities included)

Decorated to a high standard and in a great location, with private car parking. Good sized bedrooms, 2 bathrooms & laundry room.

BOWERHAM



5
bed

3 Bowerham Terr
£71.50 per week (utilities included)

Superb location outside University of Cumbria entrance and the bus stop for Lancaster Uni this house offers a high standard of accommodation.

“Vedi Napoli e muori.” (See Naples and die)

Poppy Goodbrand
Features Editor

“SEENAPLESAND die.” Goethe coined the famous saying during the reign of the Bourbons in Naples, considered by historians to have been the city’s Golden Age. Until its annexation to the Kingdom of Italy in 1861, the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies was the wealthiest and most industrialized of the various Italian states. Naples was the third most populous city of Europe (after London and Paris), and certainly one of the most opulent.

The Goethe quote has various implications. The first, and the more poetic, is that once you have set foot on magical Neapolitan soil, gasped at the threatening form of Vesuvius in the background and most importantly, taken in the fascinating scenes of everyday life there, nothing can get better than that. You will never be able to live life in the same way again. Unfortunately, the quote’s literal meaning is just as valid. Naples has always had a dark side, so much so that many believe the city to be cursed, forever to be haunted by the ghosts of the past and by men of the present: the city’s “protectors”, “men of honour” who demonstrate their power by controlling most aspects of every day life. Indeed, to disturb the Camorra, the Neapolitan mafia, means a certain death.



Yet despite the mafia wars, the drug gangs, prostitution lines, racial segregation, frequent attacks and killings described by the Neapolitan journalist Roberto Saviano in Gomorra, Naples still celebrates life, still lives and breathes its culture with passion and refuses to accept its reputation as the ‘problem’ city of the Meridionale. Neapolitans grow up aware of the power of the Camorra, aware of the strong threats many will have to face: violence, unemployment and poverty. To overcome these they rely on each other, gather strength from their families and above all, take pride in their culture, for “La cultura napoletana” isn’t just a set

of traditions, but “un modo di vivere, di essere”, a “way of living and of being”. This is embodied by the local dialect, il napoletano, which is spoken by the majority and has an attractively vulgar sonority to it that makes it instantly recognisable. Though not taught in schools, children generally speak it at home and with friends; it is the obligatory code to a microcosm celebrating an astounding variety of Neapolitan literature, art music and cuisine. Popular icons such as the poet Totò and actress Sofia Loren are but a few figureheads symbolising the Neapolitan way of life, humour and Carpe Diem philosophy.

Though such a strong sense of regional identity is surely necessary in a city such as Naples, where every day life for many people is a struggle, it does suggest a rather inward looking society. The fact that Neapolitan TV channels are viewed more than RAI Uno (Italy’s first national channel) indicates a lack of national consciousness, though given that the South is generally ignored and looked down upon by the more prosperous north certainly gives reasoning behind this.

With little or no support for the disadvantaged, the disabled or immigrants, and with the constant

threat of unemployment on the horizon, leaving Naples often presents the only alternative to a life of crime. The city still has one the highest unemployment rates in Europe meaning many graduates only land a job through nepotism, thus encouraging the view of an unjust society. Yet unsurprisingly, those that attempt a life away from the city in search of a regular job and prosperity tend to feel a deep sense of loss, magnetism too strong to be ignored that seems to go beyond sense of identity or culture shock. Indeed, for many Neapolitans, being brought up in such tough surroundings explains their stereotypically strong character. It is by their roots that they define themselves and their values, values that imply a strong sense of responsibility towards their family, (financially supporting them especially if you are male) and the obligation to carry on family traditions.

Since the horrendous images of Naples suffering under its rubbish crisis in 2008, things seem to be looking up for the ‘capital of the south’. Major reconstruction is now under way to salvage the beauty that had been left to decompose under tons of debris, buildings that testify of the golden age in Naples and its unpretentious grandeur. Communication systems are to be improved too, the new metro system is currently underway and there is regional pressure to discourage pollution which frequently spirals out of control.

WEDNESDAYS

The Carleton

Student only night

Selected £1 Drinks All night

Commencing 7th October

- Week 1 - Back to Skool**
Wednesday 7th October
- Week 2 - UV Party**
Wednesday 14th October
- Week 3 - Sports and Shorts**
Wednesday 21st October
- Week 4 - Halloween**
Wednesday 28th October
- Week 5 - Cowboys and Indians**
Wednesday 4th November
- Week 6 - Cops and Robbers**
Wednesday 11th November
- Week 7 - Children In Need**
Wednesday 18th November
- Week 8 - Dr and Nurses**
Wednesday 25th November
- Week 9 - Army**
Wednesday 2nd December
- Week 10 - Christmas Party**
Wednesday 9th December

Admission £4
with NUS or Library card all night
Arrive early to avoid disappointment

Advanced Bus Tickets available from the LUSU Shop from Mondays £1 or from the Underpass and walkabout on the night £1.50
Buses depart from:
Underpass (9.30pm until 11.15pm)
Walkabout (9.30pm)

www.FOOTKING.co.uk
find us on our
 facebook **'we love the carleton'**

Marine Road West, Morecambe, Tel: 01524 414224

FEATURES

A life away from home

With many degree schemes now offering the chance for students to live, study and work abroad for a year, there are so many possibilities available. Here eight different 4th year students talk about their experiences of a life away from home.

Amara Ashraf
Italian and Music
Student
Bologna



I THINK ONE of the best aspects about studying a language is the year abroad. I spent my time studying music at the music conservatoire in Bologna, Italy. Being able to spend an entire year in a foreign country, in order to better the language, understand the culture and meet so many interesting people was absolutely fantastic. I loved every second of it. At first, I must admit, it was a little daunting after being thrown in at the deep end and having to really push myself to understand and express myself in Italian, but once you get over the first hurdle, by settling in and making friends, it becomes a lot easier to enjoy the new country and culture that you're in.

I think one of the key aspects which helped me to progress and develop my language was to have all my lectures taught in Italian. I didn't understand much at first but after a few weeks had passed, it really did just become second nature for me, not just to have a lecture in Italian, but also to speak and write in the language too. One of the main differences for me about studying in

Italy, was that the majority of exams were oral. This changed the way in which the lectures were carried out, as you were expected to give verbal answers. On the plus side though, Erasmus and international students weren't given such a hard time about this.

After learning that I would be studying for my year in Italy, I was quite apprehensive about the idea of not having much time to socialise or travel as much as I would like. However, with a set timetable for all

my lectures, it wasn't that difficult to find the time to go travelling around the country with my friends, in fact, it made things easier knowing when I would have the free time to do whatever I wanted to do. The greatest part of my time in Italy was meeting the natives and other students who were there on their Erasmus year abroad. It was brilliant being able to socialise and explore the country with them, and being able to share different aspects of our own countries and cultures.

Helen Boys
English Language & French
Studies
Student
France

TEARS, LAUGHTER, HAPPINESS, sadness; a variety of emotions throughout my Year Abroad. I spent eight months as a student at Rennes 2 in Northern Brittany, and looking back now, it seems like a lifetime ago. Whenever anyone asks me what my year abroad was like I say "it was interesting" and it certainly was.

To start off with, the education system really set me back with its lack of organisation and preparation, and its sharp contrast to education here at Lancaster. I gradually became used to this way of life though, and it was no surprise that my timetable was forever clashing, and that teachers didn't show up. Despite getting annoyed I'd always use the phrase "j'ai l'habitude" – (I'm used to it).

It was clear from the onset that the students dominated the university. They organised pretty much everything, from day trips to registering new students. The students were always at the forefront to what was going on within Rennes 2. Their increasing role and presence was more noticeable from February onwards, where the student strike dominated uni

life. Disruptions varied from blocking lecture theatres with chairs to holding the President of the University hostage. The students certainly knew how to make an impact and show they were in charge. I took part in many of the strikes myself to experience this culture and way of life, because I'd never seen anything like that in England. It just went from one extreme to another, but the students always seemed to get what they wanted. It was a great experience, and I'd never go out without my camera. All I can say is that I'm glad I didn't have to pay tuition fees, as practically all of my lectures were cancelled.

This experience always provided me with something new to talk about, and it was great to share with other people on my course to see how my year abroad was different from theirs. The only downside was that I didn't feel my French language was improving, so I signed myself up to CIREFE, a night school where I could improve speaking and grammar for four hours a week. I loved it, especially because I was able to meet people from all over the world.

Despite the strikes, I had some great times on my year abroad, and I was able to travel from the North of France to the South. I spent time in Bordeaux where I went to see the French version of the ballet 'Romeo et Juliette'. This was one of my favourite



experiences, and something which makes me smile when I think about it. I also went to Paris several times, and it was my friends there who made my year abroad what it was. We had a great time and visited so many places, and I have fantastic memories of this.

There were times in Rennes, when I thought, what am I doing here? When will this be over? But one thing's for sure; it is that the year abroad experience is different for every individual, there's no right or wrong way to go about, your year abroad is what you make it, and I did it my way.

Jenny Burns
Economics & French Studies
Student and Work Placement
Paris

ALTHOUGH MY YEAR abroad was nothing like what I expected, it was one of the best years of my life. First I spent four months at a prestigious, private French business school in the heart of Paris, and I think the best way to compare it with Lancaster is to say it's different. It was very small with less than 1000 students, and the lessons were three hours long with no presentations or handouts, just one man talking for three hours straight - in French. This proved possibly the most challenging part of my whole year abroad, and at times was upsetting, as I felt I would never be able to understand and would just fall behind in the work. Fortunately for me there were some lovely people in my class who helped me out. The social side of the university was amazing. They had a system where two groups of students would battle it out in the first term to be the socials organisers for the rest of the year. This led to impressive parties being held within the school with free alcohol, or elephant rides being offered around the schools courtyard. It felt a bit surreal at times, but was a lot of fun. Although I enjoyed my time at the university, I was happy when it ended and I had the chance to move onto something new, as I felt I wasn't getting the chance to practice my French enough, seeing as the students viewed me as an excellent way for them to practice their English.

I worked for a company called Alcatel in the outskirts of Paris. My job was fairly simple - I did whatever was needed. It was challenging at times but I enjoyed it so much, and my boss was lovely, helping me to practice my French and introducing me to other people to help me settle in. She would end up explaining some of the more specific French traditions to me for hours at a time, but always making sure I understood. I got the chance to practice my French a lot more here, and really enjoyed the fact I was learning about so many things at once. I personally feel working in a business is one of the best ways to spend your year abroad, and is the thing that will benefit both your language and your CV the most.

Overall, I loved my year abroad. It was an amazing chance to experience everything I fitted in. Paris is a beautiful city and very unique, but it can be overwhelming at times, and the amount of English speakers that live and work in Paris means if you wanted to, you could possibly get away with not speaking French at all.



Abby Britten
Spanish & Mathematics
Student
Granada

MY YEAR ABROAD was one of the most memorable, and incredible experiences of my life. I spent the year studying in Granada, Spain, where I was able to fully experience Spain both culturally and linguistically. Being dropped in the middle of Andalucía with no friends was probably the scariest thing about being an ERASMUS student; that and the scary phone calls trying to find a flat. I had decided before I set off to Spain to try to meet as many Spanish natives as possible to improve my language. I noticed that at the beginning of the year the loneliness and scariness of the situation almost tempts you to cling to the English people who know, but I resisted, and I think that overall, I have come out much better off for it. I ended up with groups of Spanish and Italian friends and as it turned out, no English friends at all.

I joined various language exchange groups in Granada and sat next to new people in my lectures, who were just as scared as I was. Being sociable definitely pays off. I ended up going to my Spanish friends' houses to have dinner and chat with their families, and travelled more doing this, as often my friends commuted to university and lived in the main cities around Andalucía. I joined the Spanish water polo team and started salsa lessons which were something I had always been interested in. It put me in contact with Spanish people and gave me a few more "going out" groups of friends, which made me feel far more accepted and generally happier. The challenging beginning of the year turned into a successful end, as this year I am finding listening tasks, translations, and writing comprehensions easier to do, thanks to attending my lectures and making the effort to write notes (even though sometimes, at the beginning, I had no clue what was happening). The funniest thing and the thing that made me realize how far I had come in terms of my Spanish language skills, was that when I returned this year from having spoken very little English last year, I had forgotten some of my English and actually went through a small phase of English culture shock. I had such a good time last year, that I have plans to return to Spain to work next year to fund a masters as a "spanish" student, which may hopefully lead to creating my own business in the language field, which is a path I had never even considered before. The year abroad will open up doors for you and give you extra independence, language skills, and even some lifetime friends.

Emily Rockingham
Euro BBA
Student
Madrid

I MOVED TO Madrid last September for what I thought was going to be 2 years and the rest of my time at Uni. Having had the best two years at Lancaster and knowing I had to leave behind so many friends made it a hard thing to do. Even though I did not stay the full two years in Spain, I would not change my time spent living in Madrid.

My first day at ICADE was one of the scariest days of my life, I didn't have a clue what to expect from a business school in Spain and had not received any help or information from Lancaster to give me any indication of where I needed to be or what I was supposed to do. All in all, I survived, and although ICADE turned out not to be the place for me, it was an experience that I won't forget.

Madrid itself is an amazing city to live in, with so many places to go and things to do. I watched bull fights; saw a champion's league football match, visited art galleries, palaces and castles. Living in a capital city, the



nightlife is incredible, with amazing clubs such as Pacha and Kapital that stay open until 7am, plus hundreds of smaller bars and clubs, making it almost impossible not to find something you will like.

The best part of studying abroad is the people that you meet and the

friends that you make. They are the ones that make the experience for you, and without my group of friends in Madrid, I know that the time I spent there could have been completely different. Although I only ended up staying for a term, I wouldn't change it for the world.



Mae Dibley
French and English
Teaching assistant
Paris

THERE ARE TWO sides to every story, and my time spent in Paris was no exception. It was a mix of the cold hard reality of being alone in a foreign country, contrasted with the undeniable vibrancy of living in the city of lights. No matter how prepared or excited you are to move abroad, you have to be aware that struggles will always come your way. But each time you succeed- signing that apartment contract, throwing back a witty response in French without having even

thought of your mother tongue- the feeling of "I did that; all on my own" makes all the frustration more than worth it. I think Paris is as magical as everyone believes. It's not just a stereotype. But that doesn't make moving to another country any easier. It's not easy.

One thing is certain: no matter how much I tell you about my year abroad, yours will inevitably be different, since whatever happens to you is entirely down to chance. It is up to you to make the most of whatever situation you are presented with. My school was in the northern part of Paris, where most of the kids received little motivation from

parents or their surroundings. What did they care about English when some of them had never been as far as the Eiffel Tower (yes that is true)? But one week, I started talking about sexism in rap music and suddenly they had something to say. Only I made them argue in English. Some of my worst kids became the most fun to teach. I found out some would sit at home translating English lyrics into French so as to understand their favourite songs. And yet they had pretended they didn't like learning the language, just because it was school. Once I cut through that wall against learning, I found some really quite amazing people in front of me. My point is that you will learn things about people, and about places, that you could go a lifetime not knowing.

For those of you planning your year abroad, or just thinking of living in a foreign country for a while, I cannot recommend it enough. To end I will simply say this; in my own experience, the excitement and adventure you will experience during your time abroad, is nothing compared to the sense of achievement and maturity you will feel at the end of it all when you realise that you survived. And if nothing else, you will never again sweat phoning BT customer services, once you have attempted the excruciating process of trying to have a phone line installed by France Telecom (I wish you all luck with that).

STUDENT LIFE



CAPTAIN BONNY'S WORLD OF FOOD

Yer can't beat a good pudding.

WITH WINTER NOW closing in, there is a growing longing to go out for a nice traditional bit of British or Irish fayre, beyond of course the fish and chips or a burger. No my hearties, I'm talking about Puddings and Pies, and savoury puddings at that. The top of the list for this kind of nosh is of course the Plough Inn down at Galgate, the old 17th century coaching inn which still has that rural but sophisticated air about it, especially when the fire is roaring. This year they have made a concerted effort to attract students, offering some handsome student deals and a loyalty card, so it's worth exploiting the opportunity.

It's not too far too walk, and personally I think its ruddy well worth it, with feeling totally stuffed on the walk back and with a few jars of good ale in my blood to boot. Recently I went with a few shipmates down for a meal, and was happy to see a constant change in the options available on the today's board. I would say from the outset, that there is a few Vegetarian options, with myself usually opting for the Mediterranean burgers (blended with couscous and peppers), or the wild mushroom Lasagne (and those mushrooms are tasty and wild I assure you). But it is the pies that

really are the speciality. On this occasion there was a gorgeous Guinness and Beef pudding with a spicy savoury sauce, and succulent new potatoes that seemed to just glow under the

"The apple pie was one of the best, with the pastry so softy and tender, and the list offered more puddings, the word tradition again comes to mind. Aside from celebrating with your friends, then it is a grand place to be spoilt by one's parents, or similarly to spoil them."

the old fashioned way. Whatever that old way is, it works. They are large and tender, and go down an absolute treat, especially with a nice Porter ale on its tail. If that is not enough, then wait for the desserts. I will not reveal too much, as you must go down and try yourself. But let's say this, the apple pie was one of the best, with the pastry so softy and tender, and the list offered more puddings, the word tradition again comes to mind. Aside from celebrating with your friends, then it is a grand place to be spoilt by one's parents, or similarly to spoil them. My only criticism is we need more veggie pies please.

Three Mariners and a ghost

ON A MORE nautical note, but still keeping with traditional food, have you tried eating at the Three Mariners yet? If not then do. Down Cable Street, not far from the bus station and opposite the student accommodation there, is one of the areas oldest pubs, and haunted to boot. It's ideal for a Saturday lunchtime before or after your shopping. Not much for veggies, but a great big slapping meal one does get. I could hardly walk after that one (a huge role with Lancashire cheese and tomato). And do try the home made onion rings. Biggest ever seen and really stuffed with onion.

butter. My friend was claiming that this was definitely better than sex, and asked for extra sauce just to reassure herself that it was.

On the regular menu, you can indulge in their lamb and mint pudding, or their Steak and Merlot Pie, and with all the burgers (the Kiwi lamb burger sounded a bit exotic) made traditionally and a emphasis on local produce then you feel that you have been really spoilt. Though the ride doesn't stop there. There are the chips; my god they are good, and there are notices about the place that explain that their chips are done in

CAMPUS ICONS

A glimpse into the life of Lancaster's famous faces

NAME: Dave Howarth

STARSIGN: Cancer

PROFESSION: Funness Porter

What is your favourite thing about the university?

"The students, else I wouldn't have a job."

How did you come to work at Lancaster?

"By chance. I was at a loose end. I was a long distance wangan driver and I wanted to be at home more. The wife worked up here, she got me an interview."

What is your favourite childhood memory?

"Being able to roam free and run around, getting up to everything that kids get up to."

Do you have a favourite Disney movie?

"No, I liked them all. That could come under childhood memories."

What do you never leave your house without?

"Other than keys? My watch. My wallet. Money, cash and a card."

What do you think about the possibility of Tony Blair becoming EU President?

"No way. A postive no from me that. He split Europe right down the middle to go with Bush, and now they want him as President. So no from me."

What is your philosophy on life?

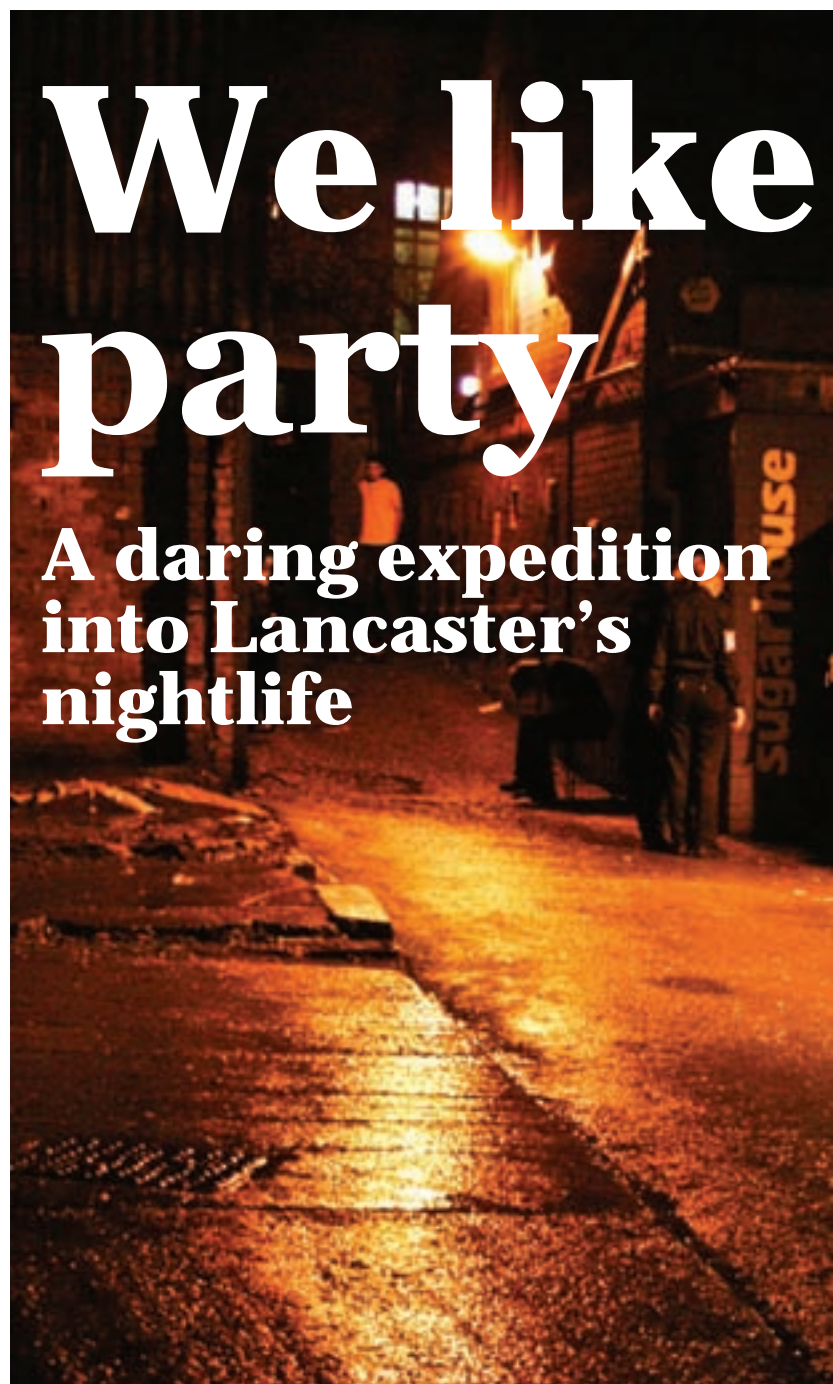
"Stay healthy, and that brings everything else. I think it brings everything. Just stay right. Keep right."



Recommend your Campus Icons on the SCAN Facebook group

We like party

A daring expedition into Lancaster's nightlife



Ellen Clayton

IT IS MY firm belief, as a strong supporter and employee of the Sugarhouse, that the club is the cornerstone of student nightlife in Lancaster. Sure, Lancaster may be a small city, particularly in comparison to nearby locations such as Liverpool and Manchester, and there may not be scores of different clubs and bars to choose from, but I think those we do have make for a pretty decent night out. This is one girl's humble interpretation of how good (or bad) student nights get, and what can happen when you venture into the unknown territory of a night out with the locals.

The campus bars, for many, start a good night out. Be it on a Monday in Furness and Cartmel before catching a bus to Revs, or a cheeky cocktail in Grizedale's swanky new bar, or even a self-made bar crawl, the bars always have something to offer.

Of course, on special occasions, the aim of the night is to go to as many bars on campus as possible, before ending up in our very own Sugar. Many of you old timers, and hopefully some of the freshers will know of Friday Fury. You get around campus as fast as you can, go to as many bars as you can collecting badges or wristbands, then depending upon how many you have you get into

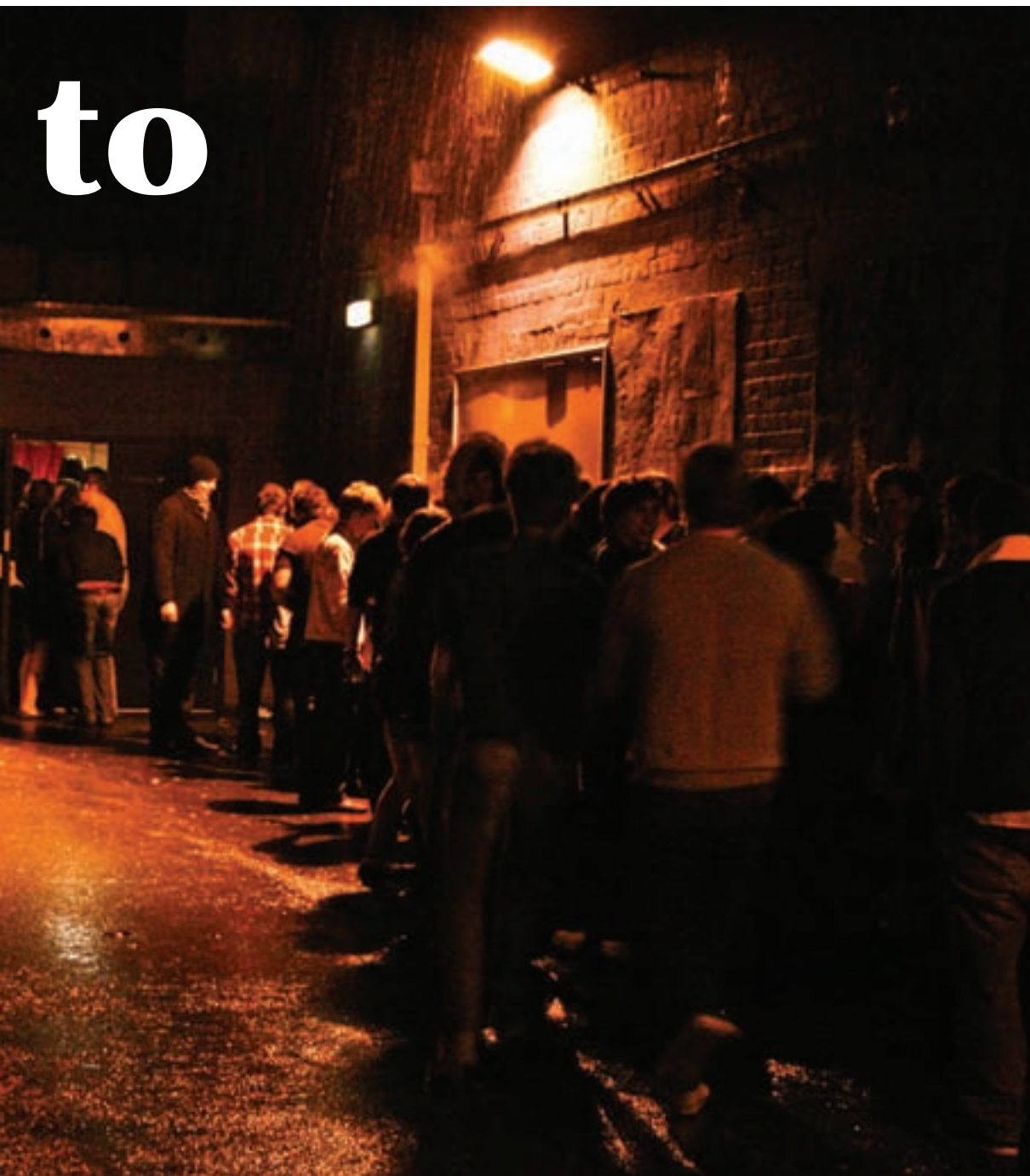
the Sugarhouse free or cheaper. Fury is infamous for queues; both across campus and at Sugar but people seem to love it every time. Some feel Fury has

The Carleton. Based in Morecambe along the sea front the bingo hall-cum-nightclub is famed for boozy nights and cheesy tunes. It is essentially a school disco for adults. Personally I can only face Carleton approximately twice a term; the effort in choosing a decent fancy dress outfit, coupled with the hangover from the £4 bottles of sparkling perry means I need a good few weeks to summon up the courage.

run its course as it has been done too many times. Beth Backhouse, a second year student said "I have never been on a Friday Fury, it always seemed too much effort and not that special." The most recent Fury saw campus quieter than expected but Sugarhouse was as packed as ever.

Last Friday saw an interesting new idea, hoping to be on a par with Friday Fury was 'Chocolate'. Spreading some edible love across campus, each college had their own confectionery theme and finally the Sugarhouse was

to



the chocolate factory. This saw staff (myself included) dressed up as oompa loompas: a beautiful sight indeed. A few dedicated students had also joined in the theme. It was a relatively busy night in the Sugarhouse, with most people high on sugar and therefore in good spirits.

I can honestly say that working at the Sugarhouse is equally as entertaining and fun as going there on a night out. Despite the hoards of drunken people, we seem to manage to always have a great atmosphere and a minimal amount of trouble. And the space behind the bar is as good a dance floor as any.

Everyone will have noticed by now that fancy dress and themed nights are huge in Lancaster, as in most student cities. Whether it be army themes, school girl, cross dressing or the more adventurous (recently some UCUM students chose to come to the Sugarhouse dressed for the theme 'you wouldn't start a night like this', causing much concern amongst the staff until we realised) you can't escape fancy dress on a weekly basis. But just why is fancy dress so popular? One Furness student said "Students wearing fancy dress is a great ice breaker, particularly in first year when you are still trying to meet as many new people as you can."

To prevent this from becoming too Sugar-centric, I feel I should talk about some of the other venues in Lancaster. Places like Revs and Lounge are often

considered warm-up venues, to drink cheap cocktails and shots before moving on to a club. Monday nights see Furness students and Cartmel students in particular descend upon Revolution for flavour buckets and 2-for-1 cocktails. Rachel Pimperton, a County student said: "Monday nights are really good. Usually Revs is a bit expensive for me but they have some good offers."

Toast has some interesting nights; a few times last year they hosted a £10 all you can drink night, something I'm sure they regretted. Elements, one of my personal favourites, became popular at one point last year with a string of 89p drinks nights on Fridays. This was more complicated than it should have been though, as to get the drinks at that price you had to keep the glass or bottle your drink came in; queue lots of theft.

If we're talking about student nights, one place cannot be ignored:

Despite what some consider deficiencies in size and numbers of venues, the amount of students that reside in Lancaster mean that there is always a party happening, always something interesting going on and somewhere you can drink and be merry for a minimal price.

The Carleton. Based in Morecambe along the sea front the bingo hall-cum-nightclub is famed for boozy nights and cheesy tunes. It is essentially a school disco for adults. Personally I can only face Carleton approximately twice a term; the effort in choosing a decent fancy dress outfit, coupled with the hangover from the £4 bottles of sparkling perry means I need a good few weeks to summon up the courage. A subculture does exist of those people who go to the Carleton every week; you'll have heard them on campus on a Wednesday night, and seen them looking ill the next morning.

Of course, the big debate is always the locals. Some places in Lancaster are usually best avoided because of their popularity with the locals. Hustle on a Saturday night can be a terrifying battleground of old men and middle-aged women dancing around their handbags, staring disdainfully at drunken students. However, once you get started on the array of interesting coloured combination shots you can all unite in the cause of drinking until you feel sick.

Despite what some consider deficiencies in size and numbers of venues, the amount of students that reside in Lancaster mean that there is always a party happening, always something interesting going on and somewhere you can drink and be merry for a minimal price.

TOP FIVE

NOVELTY GIFTS

With Chirstmas fast approaching here are some of the quickest and cheapest ways to keep your mates entertained

For the one who likes drinking games

Level Headed, £11.99, Hawkin's Bazaar, www.hawkin.com



For anyone who's ever lived in Lancaster

Umbrella Hat, £4.49, Amazon, www.amazon.co.uk

For the one who's always saying: "When I was your age..."

Retro Game Sweets, £5.99, Firebox, www.firebox.com



For the one you don't really like

A Lump of Coal, £4.99, Firebox, www.firebox.com

For the one who'll eat anything

Insectalix Lollies, £3.79 each, Lazybone, www.lazyboneuk.com



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Primitive comedy from Year One

David Toft

IT WAS A good idea. We could have had neanderthal fun on a biblical scale and director Harold Ramis, whose past comedic ventures include *Ghostbusters* and *Analyze This*, might have helped to bring forth another epic into the world. Unfortunately however, the obvious talent behind this film never really manifests. Don't go into the cinema expecting an epic; the makers of *Year One* chose to stay at square one.

The story starts simply when lazy hunter 'Zed', Jack Black, and geeky gatherer 'Oh', Michael Cera, decide to leave their primal tribe in search of a more fulfilling destiny out in the wider world. Their journey leads them into a slightly more technological society than they had anticipated and the plot moves a little too suddenly from prehistoric setting and into biblical parody. The film requires the abandonment of historical knowledge; it casually lumps together stone age with iron age and incorporates a few well-known, but random, bible stories as well. These stories are somewhat irreverently portrayed as film maker Harold Ramis seems to assess with humour the influence of personal Jewish heritage and crudely

translate the old moral teaching into new comedy value. This feat has been better accomplished by other Hollywood names. The film makes no attempt to entertain intellectually so the only demand placed on the viewer is to wait patiently through the 'hmpf' bits to get to the 'ahaha' bits.

Slapstick violence and poorly managed impulses are inherent in the human condition presented and they somehow link the whole series of events together. The deadpan delivery and tomfoolery of 'Oh', as he tries in vain to woo long term crush 'Eema', is reminiscent of Cera's previous teen films and the presence of his *Superbad* co-star Christopher Mintz-Plasse, a.k.a 'McLovin', can hardly go unnoticed. It certainly has the same spoofy sense of humour... if you enjoy jokes concerning hairy armpits, farts and meat which resembles genitalia... you're in for a treat!

But are Jack Black and Michael Cera cavemen without fire? Comics without comedy? Has Harold Ramis stepped on ground made holy by the historical comedy of Monty Python? Its probably better that you decide that for yourself! Look out for unpolished performances from the Simpson's Hank Azaria and House M.D. actress, Olivia Wilde, along the way.



The dawn of Man: Jack Black on fine comedic form as Zed in Harold Ramis's latest film, *Year One*

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

The resurrection of science fiction

Lauren Randall

IT'S NO SECRET that Hollywood likes its binges. When something is successful in Tinseltown it's often followed by a whole host of films of a similar nature. Take the Harry Potter/Lord of the Rings era, notably followed by films like *The Golden Compass*, *Eragon* and a whole host of fantasy epics. Genres have cycles as well in the film industry. No one could fail to notice the recent splurge in horror remakes or the comic-book fest that appears to have been one big apology to whoever watched *Batman* and *Robin*. Now, it seems that science-fiction is having its own resurgence.

It's been thirty years since the last proper sci-fi love-in. The *Star Wars* saga, *Alien* and the original *Star Trek* film were surrounded by the likes of *Superman* and *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. Hell, even *Bond* went into space in the ill-advised *Moonraker*. So, what's prompted this renaissance? Two little words: James Cameron.

Cameron, who most of you will know as the visionary behind *Terminators 1 and 2*, *Aliens* and *Titanic*, is no stranger to science-fiction. Neither is he afraid of pushing the boundaries of effects. For someone whose inaus-



Boldly going back....: Sci-fi on the rise once more

picious beginning was *Piranha 2*: The Spawning, it's incredible that his desire for new effects brought us the liquid alien in *The Abyss*, the shape-shifting T-1000 in *T2* and that sinking ship. Ever since the goldmine that was *Titanic*, Cameron has been planning a spectacular return to science-fiction with his upcoming 3D film *Avatar*. A film set in space, using revolutionary filming methods rumoured to be costing upwards of \$190,000,000 and a cast of sci-fi regulars (step forward Sigourney Weaver), it looks set to be a modern

classic. Film-fans are salivating at the prospect of a Christmas release and the opportunity to see a whole new world.

There's also *Tron 2: The Legacy* coming out next year. What? You don't know *Tron*? No, but I bet your dad does. *Tron* was to the eighties what *Avatar* is to the noughties, featuring brand new effects which paved the way for films like *Toy Story* as well. Now, twenty eight years later a sequel's coming our way and people are still excited.

Then there was *Star Trek*. The original film series fizzled out despite

featuring William Shatner and then Patrick Stewart but J.J. Abrams gave it a big kick up the jackie with a cast of promising newcomers (including Zoe Saldana who's now in *Avatar*) and a burst of everything the original had. Now, a series that was, let's face it, laughed at and derided by non-Trekkies has become the third highest-grossing film of the year so far and a sequel's in the works. What happened then to bring around such a turnaround? It's all well and good having an in-vogue director but the thing's still got to be good.

So is it nostalgia that's brought about this regeneration of sci-fi? Maybe for everyone over the age of forty who remember Shatner and *Tron* but what about our generation? Maybe it is the fact that *Avatar* could be the first film we can really appreciate as one that changes the face of film forever. Maybe it's because technology is at the forefront of whatever we do and films like *Wall-e*, although just a sweet little 'toon, have a lot of resonance in our modern world. Maybe it's just because we've been craving some galaxy filled action to go with our politically charged films of late? Whatever the reason, sci-fi films haven't been this good for a long time. Make the most of it. It's even resurrected Buzz Lightyear and that's good news for everybody.

Mixed Up North fails to emerge from melting pot

Louise Williams

OUT OF JOINTS rendition of Robb Soans' *Mixed Up North* is a compelling snapshot of the lives of a mixed race youth group based in Burnley. The play, based on real events, traverses cross-racial barriers by representing the lives of white British and Asian youths.

Headed by Trish and Bella, an over-enthusiastic youth worker and a heavily pregnant director, the youth group are attempting to put on a show aiming to bring together the Asian and White communities. The first act shows the final dress rehearsal for the show, where tempers flare and the stories of the characters are told. It is quite chaotic with multiple personalities vying for attention, this is perhaps due to the fact there are too many characters on stage at a time. Whilst this shows the chaos of the youth group and the different characters struggles, it was sometimes messy and difficult to get a clear idea of what was being questioned. Things only seem to settle when the characters begin to tell their stories and there are less people on stage, making the audience really focus in on the issues at hand.

There are moments of interaction with the audience where we are told we are there as guests for the final rehearsal where the cast all make an effort to include us and comment on us being there, then seem to completely forget about the fact we are there not just as a theatre audience. A strange combination of trying to break the barrier between the audience and the stage that sometimes seems a little too difficult to continue for the purposes of the play. This is seen most at the end of the first act where the character Wendy has her story to tell, she has no intention of telling the people she actually knows but seems perfectly fine telling a complete room of strangers making her character seem a little uneven at this point. However the story is one of the most moving and by making just Wendy and Trish the only characters on stage it is a compelling performance by Rose Leslie.

Act two shows the youth groups attempt to still put on a show despite the lead actor walking out. They decide to have a question and answer session with a mixed race couple talking about difficulties they have faced. Though generally effective, it can be confusing, as it is mainly an argument between the couple on stage against a 'council official' sat in the audience making it seem as if the entire audience is in the wrong. The debate gets heated and it did get a little difficult to understand exactly what the characters were saying and I did not get the sense of a clear message that the play wanted to convey.

Overall I felt the play tried too hard to get messages across and instead of choosing one main focus it seemed to go off into many disparate directions. Despite this the acting was good, especially when individuals offered their personal stories, which were often mixed with sharp humour, making them accessible to the audience.

Litfest 09: The main event



Sounds great: The Ian McMillan Orchestra headline Litfest this year with their unique blend of comedy and music

Michael Reffold

THE IAN MCMILLAN Orchestra was the headlining event for this year's Lancaster Litfest, a tall order considering the vast array of literary talent adorning the city over the course of the festival. But I can't think of a better way to get it all underway than an evening in the company of the genial McMillan and his incredibly talented band at the Dukes Theatre.

From the very outset, it was clear we were in a safe pair of hands – McMillan and the orchestra launched straight into 'Song of the Quarryman', a jaunty folk tune combined with a

flurry of words from the poet, and the audience were swept up in a night of what McMillan saw as "stories and poems that don't often get told". This turned out to mean we were as likely to hear a gleeful poem about the world's worst ever train-spotter as we were to be regaled by a mock-angry tirade about people listening to their iPods on the train.

While the crux of the performance was comical, based on the poet's observations of the world around him, we were also treated to two tender poem-songs about McMillan's parents. Both of these were very moving, particularly McMillan's reminiscences of his dad ("that rare thing: a teetotal Scottish sailor") and their shared hob-

by of cloud-watching. The switch from this kind of poem to the surreal concept of a "shanty attacker" who lurks at bus stops waiting to kill people with sea shanties was impressively handed by all involved, and the frequent opportunities for audience participation helped to maintain a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

No matter the topic, McMillan found the lyrical potential inherent in the everyday, and accordion player Luke Carver Goss created expertly arranged musical pieces to accompany McMillan's earthy, gently witty recitals. While McMillan was the focus of the night, ensuring that the audience remained entertained throughout, honourable mention must go to

the orchestra itself – Dylan Fowler, Nathan Thompson, Oliver Wilson-Dickson and Carver Goss were more than a match for McMillan's writing, all clearly enjoying themselves as they showcased their considerable musical skill. This was particularly evident in a post-interval instrumental section during which the orchestra played us two beautiful Bulgarian folk tunes, and this admiration for the historic was also demonstrated by McMillan's pledge to continue 'old storytelling tradition' in his poetry and the orchestra's performance.

Still, the highlight of the evening was an entirely new poem-song: in fact, McMillan managed to seamlessly improvise a piece based on audience

suggestions: considering the fact that these suggestions were 'Royal Mail', 'Red shirts' and 'Halloween', and that McMillan decided to mix a "sylvan glade with a hint of burlesque", the end result was quite frankly astonishing and caused a near-constant stream of laughter at the sheer inventiveness of McMillan and the band.

The night finished with a very silly song about ten forgotten moments of history and the aforementioned celebration of Derek the world's worst ever train-spotter, a fitting conclusion to an evening filled with "joy and happiness and delight and glee": definitely a fun way to spend a Sunday night, and a brilliant way in which to start this year's Litfest.

Lancaster alumni dazzle with latest work

Natasha Tyson

ANDREW MILLER AND Sarah Hall both attended Lancaster University, both have become very successful in writing and both spoke at Litfest this year. While they share these similarities, their work is very different but equally enduring. On attending the Litfest, the dimmed lights and decorated tables provided a comfortable atmosphere for when both Miller and Hall read.

This year's Litfest was held in The Story Auditorium and this handy



Sarah Hall (Photo: Martin Figura)

location makes it just a bus ride away to attend the inspiring and fun events taking place. The ticket prices are also quite reasonable and well worth it if you want to try a different night out. Drinks are also served, making the atmosphere relaxed and enjoyable.

Sarah Hall was first introduced, reading two extracts from her fourth novel 'How to Paint a Dead Man.' The novel covers half a century, following different characters within each chapter. However, they are linked through many themes, such as identity and art's place in each of the characters' lives. Each story has a different structure and the characters' voices are well

developed, but the dark humour is present throughout, reflecting Hall's take on society. Her research for this novel is also quite intriguing, as she is interested in art and the different types out there, she spoke to several tattoo artists (one here in Lancaster) and they took her through both the history and technical side of tattooing.

Next, Andrew Miller read from his latest novel 'One Morning Like a Bird' which is set in 1940s Japan and follows the main character, Yuji (torn between tradition and modernity) and the war between China and Japan. Miller elegantly captures the scene and his abrupt, comedic characters

make light of serious events. Miller lived in Japan for several years, providing an insight into Japanese culture. However, Miller confesses that it is difficult to get people to envision how Japan was in the time which he writes about, yet I feel from the extracts he read, he achieved it successfully.

At the end of the event there was the opportunity to purchase books of people speaking throughout Litfest. If you're not familiar with other writers, it is still worth bringing some money because you will want to buy the books from the novelists you have just seen – I know I did.

Jaws v Lenin: Steven Hall and Ellis Sharp

Lauren Heeley

WHEN YOU THINK of a moustache, two characters names Bulb and Bodram hacking their way through the coarse upper lip hair isn't the first thing that comes to mind. Usually it's "Get that man a razor", but for the author Ellis Sharp, this is perfectly normal. His fascination with bodily functions and strange political scenarios became increasingly apparent (and bizarre) as the evening progressed. His first reading was taken from "An interview with Nietzsche's moustache", in which the previously mentioned characters battle their way through crumbs and pea soup in search of an interview. The second reading, from "Lenin's trousers", increased the odd tone of the evening, and highlighted Sharp's interest in political satire. In this short story Lenin swaps anecdotes with a number of unlikely characters, including the 60s singer Janice Joplin. Not your usual Saturday night then. Both of these, plus a collection of other equally humorous and strange accounts, can be found in the morbidly titled "Dead Iraqis". Perfectly normal so far.

Steven Hall's novel "The Raw Shark Texts" is, quite simply, a "mind fuck." The Ludovician shark attacks the victim's thoughts and memories, and the fact that there are 36 "un" chapters residing outside the novel, for example on the internet, just goes

to show how experimental writing in the twenty first century has become. When asked whether the tag of "experimental author" was an unwanted one, both authors agreed that the timing for such work was right. Hall explained that he simply wrote the book that he wanted to read, and Sharp added that the diversity of ideas in today's society allowed for such works to be popular.

By making his novel applicable to many different categories, Hall created a story that transcends the typical genres such as "science fiction". Indeed, the fact that science fiction questions reality was a subject both authors were enthusiastic about. Hall argues that his novel is many different books, as it can be read with many different interpretations. Sharp stated that the science fiction genre highlights how the boundaries of the imagination are limitless. Hall explains that he wanted to explore the techniques that are only achievable in print, demonstrated by the incorporation of a shark flick book in his story.

The apparent uniqueness of Steven Hall's novel attracted Hollywood interest, including none other than Simon Beaufoy, the screen writer of *Slumdog Millionaire*. Excitement and dread seem to be the two prevailing emotions, and Hall explained that he simply did what was best for the book by selling the film rights. Expect a bizarre version of *Jaws*. The novel is well worth a read if you're feeling normal, it will definitely sort you out.



Steven Hall (Photo: Jerry Bauer)

Review: Milk & Martha Proctor

April James

STANDING IN THE cosily-lit foyer, I began to wonder whether I really should have caught the bus alone to come and see the 'Milk & Martha Proctor' reading. This being the first LitFest event (and, for that matter, the only one) that I attended, I was very unsure of what to expect, and I honestly don't think that the beautiful yet intimidating Storey Institute building helped with the nerves.

But stepping into the warmly lit, intimate auditorium packed full of chairs, I remember my trepidation melting away - it was evident from the soft burble of friendly voices and inclusive stage setup which placed readers and audience on the same level that 'Milk & Martha Proctor' was going to be one of those rare readings that managed not only to evoke, but sweep away the dusty charm of the past to rediscover something tarnished yet still infinitely enthralling - the lives of the dead.

Set to a slideshow of monochrome images of days gone by, amateur writers read out their poetry and prose which had been inspired by the letters, photographs and other articles preserved in the Lancashire Records Office, while piano music tinkled in the background. Perhaps not the most exciting of events, but certainly one of the more quiet, dignified and nostalgic.

What truly struck me about the event, though, was the crucial role of family during the readings - one man read out his brother's poem about an individual trapped in the grips of 'Alcoholic Insanity'. Another read her short story about an eight year old (inspired by the story of one of her own, distant relatives) while a proud family looked on, encouraging her through her nervous performance.

Throughout the wonderful show of support and family participation, the true spirit of the work shone through; these were not just random citizens, independently reading their works about a lifeless piece of data from the Records Office, but rather a community spanning all ages, drawn together by the common history and seemingly boundless interest in the diverse and inspiring tale of their county.

Most evocative was the closing poem of the event, written and recited by Avril Scott, an ode to the bygone days of written communications - 'what record do we leave?' she implored, 'with text, blog and twitter... history does not record us, our lives stay unmarked'.

Perhaps we have something to learn from 'Milk & Martha Proctor'; we may eventually die, we may, for a brief time, be forgotten, but through the fragments and mementos of life that we leave behind we can be born again.

'Collect your letters, put them in a box tied with ribbon... let them wait to be discovered in years to come by strangers who, reading your careful words, travel back in time'.

Poetry indeed.

Poetry goes digital: Lenm Sissay

Aydan Savaskan

POET LENM SISSAY believes poetry is all around us in our everyday lives and that we should actively seek out that poetry and share it with the world. With this idea in mind, and with the help of the South Bank Centre in London, Sissay has come up with the Global Poetry System, a sort of Flickr or YouTube for the poetry world.

Using this online platform, members of the public can upload and view poetry in the shape of an audio or video clip, a photograph or simply through

typed word. Users are free to upload what they like, be it a photograph of a few scrawled words of graffiti, a typed out poem by a well known poet or a recording of themselves reading something aloud.

There's no rules on the site about what can be uploaded, no set definition or criteria in terms of what constitutes poetry. As a result there is a great sense of freedom and imagination about it all, and it's the users who are defining for themselves what poetry is and where it is found.

I found recordings of football chants up there, a photograph of a child's wish messily written across a colouring book

page in felt tip pen, an original poem inspired by one man's journey into to work, and many familiar poems cited to be significant to the uploader.

It's interesting to read the descriptions people give for what they have uploaded, why something was felt to be poetic or significant for them. One man uploaded an old poem he had written twenty odd years ago describing a place now disappeared into the sea. Others remember a particular memory or person they associate their poem with.

Whilst GPS is connected to Facebook and Twitter, in that a poem can be 'published' on those sites, it is not properly a networking site itself.

Being used to virtual spaces such as YouTube I was rather disappointed to find I couldn't 'favourite' certain poems I enjoyed and might have liked to view again.

This got me wondering whether or not this interactive exhibition is even going to remain online permanently or not. I hope so, and after spending some time looking around I believe I'm not alone in that. It seems that many people share Lenm Sissay's point of view, finding poetry almost everywhere and feeling inclined to share it. In the words of Fleur Adcock: 'Art's whatever you choose to frame'. Long may we continue framing it.



Passion Pit: A style all of their own

Nikki Cummins

'SYNTH. DANCE. POP. Sugar. Sweat. Explosion.' Not a bizarre case of Tourettes, but how Passion Pit's Nate Donmoyer describes the unique sound of the band. Despite being constantly compared to fellow Americans MGMT (it once even being rumoured that they were in fact the same band under two different names), Passion Pit maintain that their fun, experimental style is all their own and nobody else's. The rather quirky group of Bostonians take their influences from performers such as Wilko, Grizzly Bear and drummer Donmoyer uses the 'awesome' drummer in Phoenix as inspiration. Surprisingly they also confess to really enjoying Dubstep and Ambient Trance.

At the beginning of the year the BBC listed Passion Pit as one of their Top Ten Sounds of 2009 alongside the likes of Little Boots, La Roux and Lady GaGa. The band certainly proved they deserved this accolade when they released their second album *Manners* to great reviews.

Manners is Passion Pit's first full

length LP. Although not everyone will be familiar with the album you will almost definitely have heard some of their tracks. Advertisers repeatedly used Sleepyhead and I've Got Your Number throughout the summer whilst Calvin Harris recently remixed their single *The Reeling*. Keyboard and guitarist Ian Hultquist explains that the main theme throughout the album is human interaction and how we deal with each other in various situations. This message sounds far more meaningful than their original EP album *Chunk of Change* which was originally only intended as a Valentine's Day gift from Angelakos to his then-girlfriend. For the record, the other boys have never done anything anywhere as romantic. The best Donmoyer can come up with is 'I gave flowers to my girlfriend that I'd ripped out from next door's garden... She's not my girlfriend anymore.'

The creation of *Manners* was a very smooth process apart from one minor hiccup; sole songwriter Angelakos got himself arrested during a day of recording. Some might think that's just your average day in the life of a cool young musician, but one look at the young

bespectacled faces of these boys and you realise it could only be something innocent. In this case, Mike didn't have enough money to pay for a taxi fare. His manager bailed him out. The rest of the guys bullied him. Recording and normality resumed.

As performers, the band are always full of child-like energy bouncing around like they've been let loose on their favourite toys to make as many different sounds as possible and will soon have you imitating their odd little movements. The boys agree that the best live performance they've ever done was at Oxegen Festival last year. However the one gig that stands out the most for them was their set at Bonaroo. Hultquist describes that as the moment the band realised they'd actually made it. When asked if there was anything else that made them think they were now a famous band, they giggle and reminisce about a San Diego gig when a girl flashed at them. 'I had to stop playing' explains Donmoyer. 'I couldn't stop laughing. Nothing like that had ever happened to us before.' Hultquist quietly adds that nothing like that has ever happened since and both boys sigh sadly and begin to daydream.

COMPETITION! Win a signed copy of Passion Pit's new album. Answer this very simple question:

What was the title of Passion Pit's debut album?

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The rise and rise of Dizzee Rascal

Nick Dodd

"EASY BLUD. WE'RE all cool 'ere, shake 'ands an' be friends." Dizzee advises to an overexcited fan that had just lost a small tussle with one of the bouncers. Playing to a packed 53 Degrees, it's evident who's in charge as he swiftly reverts from riot police to re-starting the song with an assured "play dat again".

Since 2003's Mercury Award winning 'Boy In The Corner', Dizzee Rascal has cockney charmed his way from underground grime subvert to one of the UKs most prominent hip hop artists. Now on his fourth album 'Tongue 'n' Cheek', the owner of his own record label and having seemingly developed a musical mind-meld with Calvin Harris, it seems Dizzee is at the height of his success.

Playing to a sold-out Preston crowd, an emphatic Dizzee and friend bound onto the stage like they've both just been tazed. Opening with Tongue's 'Bad Behaviour' its 'Flat Beat'-esque riff and catchy chorus provides an immediate bounce to the crowd. Next

song 'Flex' - seamlessly blended with David Guetta's 'Sexy Chick' - again proves a perfect opportunity for people not only to dance, but to start wafting their arms in a way that they believe to be 'street'. Ridiculous dancing aside, Dizzee engages the crowd expertly, immediately establishing the dynamic atmosphere for the rest of the night. He pulses through this first set, even playing his more challenging and lyrically aggressive songs to a largely politically uninterested student crowd. 2007's 'Sirens' - a general dig at the police - gets the crowd riled up enough for quick authority attack on the bouncers. Though Rascal, and the enormous biceps of security, put a stop to any revolution for now.

He's clearly a more confident showman on the stage than ever. Inciting the crowd with several "gimmie an oooooiii!" or chatting up the majority of the women present after commanding "if you see them fine girls, point 'em out" demonstrates that Rascal is more than in his element. After a breather, he opens the second set with personal anthem 'He's Jus a Rascal' before venturing onto the chart toppers. The delicately named 'Pussy 'ole (Old Skool)'

precedes his most recent successes. 'Dance Wiv Me', this summer's soundtrack 'Holiday' briefly takes us to Ibiza - glowsticks and all - while 'Bonkers' is an energetic bustling closer.

The music throughout is fast paced, kinetic and enigmatic with Dizzee shooting his lyrics with more rhythmic accuracy than a gun that fires crotchets. Though you can't help but wonder with his new direction, if he has lost the dirty social commentary that made him famous in the first place? Rascal spits that "Being a celebrity doesn't mean shit to me" on first set closer 'Fix Up Look Sharp'. The statement is somewhat lost however, as this is said while wearing a t-shirt with his face on it, against a backdrop of a massive picture of his face. This could of course be an elaborate irony and as the album title may suggest 'Tongue in Cheek'.

Dizzee Rascal has confirmed here, that his recent chart popularity isn't just down to good production. It's spawned out of an artist who has hit his musical prime by dropping his musical grime. And if that's the direction he wants to take, the cheers to which he left the stage is probably all the support he needs.



Come Dance Wiv Me: Dizzee Rascal sends temperatures soaring with an amazing performance at 53 Degrees



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Robert Payling



Sports Villain of the Year 2009

WITH A MONTH still to go until Christmas, sports' pantomime villains have opened their selection boxes early and revealed a number of controversial treats that would provoke boos and hisses in any audience, from Hackney Empire to St. James' Park.

Whether you have a disliking towards Mike Ashley or Mike Tyson, either of these caricatures could stake a claim for a starring role this December. However, it seems Andre Agassi has beaten them all to the lead role in this year's Panto. His revelation that he failed a drugs test during the 1997 season and later lied to the ATP to avoid expulsion from the game, has knocked the stuffing out of the tennis association's Christmas turkey.

The admission features in his newly released autobiography, *Open*, in a list of revelations the American has kept in his head until now. Another startling insight into Agassi's head is his apparent hatred for the sport given that this is a man with eight major titles



to his name. The most memorable of these being his 1999 French Open title, when he defeated his opponent Andrei Medvedev with a performance which is still regarded as one of the greatest sporting comebacks in the modern era. Anyone who witnessed that final would strongly argue against the idea that the teary-eyed victor was a man who detested his sport.

Agassi's timing for such a critique of the ATP, which is essentially what his comments are, also seemed strange as the methods of testing athletes for banned substances has drastically altered since the 90s. Of course, the most likely reason for his timing was to increase the sales of his book, but Agassi has caused untold damage to the sport and made a mockery of an organisation

created to protect the interests of professional tennis players.

Mike Ashley, another pantomime villain who has attracted endless criticism from his peers and spectators, declared that Newcastle United were no longer up for sale last month, but in the same move decided to sell the naming rights to St. James' Park Stadium instead.

Although some football teams have taken similar commercial decisions and found them profitable such as Arsenal with the Emirates Stadium, Ashley has come under scrutiny for the change. And Rightly so. Newcastle's changes contrast greatly with the move to the Emirates as Arsenal's fans were moving away from Highbury and towards a new beginning. Newcastle United is not moving anywhere though. St. James' Park is the club's past, present, and for the moment, future home. The move may make commercial sense to Ashley, but for most fans he is ripping the soul out of the club.

Another of sports' pantomime villains, Mike Tyson, has also come in to the limelight recently. Since the emotive scenes of the boxer's last professional fight where he revealed that he was only fighting for the money and seriously risking his health, he has been touring with his *An Evening with Mike Tyson* show. The events, described as 'A Grand Charity Cabaret Theatre Show' ended last week with shows in Wolverhampton, Belfast and Cardiff. For a man alleged to have earned around \$300 million during his career, his fall from grace should be a message to the current breed of pantomime villains to watch their step.

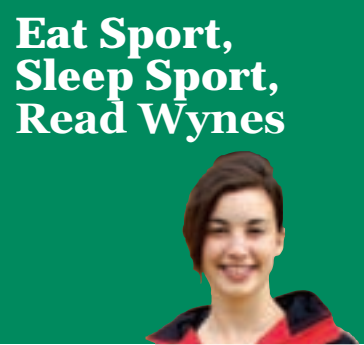
If you missed that tour then don't fear; this year's production of *Aladdin at the Empire* is sure to be a real festive treat. Andre Agassi stars as the impoverished street peasant who is forced to play tennis to provide for his starving family, and Mike Ashley will play the genie trapped inside an empty lamp, formerly known as St. James' Park.

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Eat Sport, Sleep Sport, Read Wynes

Sports is about competing and battling to be the best, to show you are superior to your opposition and winning more than just a trophy or medal. But it seems that sometimes we are battling with more than just the opposing teams. First and foremost it seems we are battling against one of the only things we can't control which is the infamous Lancaster weather. After spending £30,000 on draining, reseeding and nurturing the pitches back to health over the summer, we have already felt the impact of mother nature. Last Wednesday all the matches on the University pitches and the college pitches had to be called off. A battle like this is not easy to win and it's hard to not get disheartened and question if we are investing enough in the facilities to help our sports teams shine.

However, hope is not completely lost; the work that was put in over the summer will not be wasted by any means. Giving the pitches a rest for a week will mean they are playable for the next set of matches and the care and attention they received over the summer will hold them in good stead. So although we've lost the battle this week, I for one will not let the weather beat us. If we continue to invest in our pitches and ensure proper use of them, we will be securing better facilities in the future and we will have the opportunity for our sports team to show what they can do.

Talking of battles, have I mentioned the War of the Roses? I know regular readers of my column may be getting fed up with my constant references to the Roses competition. I feel I am justified in my over-excitement for the event considering it's 7 months away; but I'm all for the bigger picture and forward planning. I'm not suggesting Roses is the be all and end all, but it gives the sports teams a focus, a goal to work towards, whilst achieving their own goals throughout the year. Last year, at around this time, I signed up to do the London marathon and it gave me a focus to aim for and a goal to achieve. But I ended up achieving so much more than just crossing that welcome finish line. I was able to use my focus to compete in other races in the lead up to it and improve all aspects of my life. My achievement was not just about completing the marathon course; it was about the 7 months I spent to get there. I see it in the same way for the sports teams, Roses can give them a focus to achieve whatever they aim for throughout the year. See, so I am justified. The more early excitement and preparation the better.

George Wyatt Season Update

Nick O'Malley

THE GEORGE WYATT season is under way for 2009. Traditional bar sport powerhouses Bowland and County have suffered early season setbacks to give the others the scent of victory.

Pool

Lonsdale College led the way in the A league before week three after an impressive start to the season with two wins, 6-3 and 8-1. However, after five of their players had booked tickets to watch premier league Snooker at Preston, their scheduled fixture against Graduate had to be postponed to Wednesday of Week 5.

The other unbeaten side in the league Cartmel, had to come back from 4-2 down at County to maintain their impressive start to the year. The fixture was even throughout and had to be settled with a decider.

There were cries of disbelief as the County player jawed the black tantalisingly over the middle pocket leaving

Davies to secure a second consecutive 5-4 win for Cartmel, who will hope to keep their run going against Fylde next week. Fylde will also be looking for a response in that game after they were brushed aside by Pendle who raced to an impressive 6-3 victory, reigniting their high hopes for this year.

Elsewhere in the A's league Bowland were away to Furness, with the home side coming through in the end, 6-3. Hanley sent Bowland 1-0 up before Gibson, Pearson and Lin turned it around and made it 3-1 to Furness. Bowry and Catterall pulled it back to 3-3, creating a tense end to the match.

Furness' two Roses players of last year, Wong and Smith won the 7th and 8th games of the night to make it 5-3 and put the match result to bed. Meal-ing won the final game to see Furness pick up 8 league points on the night.

Darts

The opening week of November marked County College's week off from the darts league, meaning the two unbeaten teams in the league,

Lonsdale and Pendle were in action.

At the start of the night Lonsdale had led the league by two points, with 26 against Pendle's 24. This lead was cut to just one point by the end of the night though, as Lonsdale won 6-3 at Grizedale, and Pendle overcame Graduate 7-2.

Lonsdale seemed to be cruising when 2-0 up at Grizedale before Stokes and Kenny struck back to make it 2-2. The comeback was short-lived however as Walton, Osborne and O'Malley won consecutive games to make it 5-2 and secure the result.

Next up came one of the bizzarrest moments of anyone's darting career as Price of Grizedale won his game 2-1, hitting the decisive double with his jeans around his ankles. Willemse won the final game of the night as Lonsdale took the match 6-3.

Pendle easily despatched Graduate College and were unlucky to not have an 8-1 win. Under university tradition this would have meant Shane, as the only loser for Pendle, would have owed each of his team mates a pint. Webb, as Graduate's only winner, would have received a pint off everyone else on his team, as Floyd had the week before af-

ter losing 8-1 at Lonsdale.

Graduate's Johnson stepped up to save his team the embarrassment and their £2 worth, by beating Postinger in the final game of the night. This was to Shane's relief and Webb's severe disappointment, as 8 pints had disappeared from right before his eyes.

Bowland beat Fylde 5-4 on the night more easily than the score-line suggested. They were leading emphatically at 4-1 before Deeker-Harris and Williamson marked a mini-revival for Fylde taking the score to 4-3.

Meal-ing won 2-0 for Bowland to take the game beyond Fylde at 5-3. Duncan won what in the end was a consolation game for Fylde making the scoreline more respectable, and earning what could later in the season prove to be an invaluable point.

Cartmel comfortably beat the reigning champions Furness with a game to spare as they secured a 3-6 win. After a solid 2-0 start, Furness hit back to bring the tie level, but after that point Cartmel were always ahead, with Matt Chard and Matthew Todd pulling off important victories. With the game already won, Andrew Horton stepped up to make it 6-3 with a 2 leg win.



Oche, Oche, Oche: The intercollege darts league has enjoyed an impressive start with Lonsdale and Pendle proving to be thr early-season pacesetters (Photo: Ben Robins)

Determination not enough as Women's Volleyball team succumb to defeat

Julian Surface
Sports Editor

THE 1ST VOLLEYBALL team suffered a painful defeat against Manchester as they failed to grab a single set in a late afternoon game. It ended 3-0 to the travelling Manchester team, who showed their confidence and team spirit throughout the game. Despite the support from those who watched, it was the opposition who appeared more loud and united and it proved to be vital.

The first set opened fairly evenly and at 5-5, neither team looked any better than the other. Both teams were making errors as each succumbed to early nerves, serves were mishit and returns lacked strength. However, the Manchester team managed to stay calm and turned it up a gear. Their serves were consistently difficult to deal with and the layups were superbly

placed for each other to find gaps in the Lancaster team. It was a dominant first set as Manchester took it 25-10.

Little changed early in the second set and it seemed to be somewhat of a depressing afternoon for a determined but visibly shaky Lancaster squad. There were long rallies in which both teams raced desperately to all four corners of the court and it was Manchester that came out on top with a 7-1 lead. Lancaster did manage to claw back a few points as Manchester started to drop their intensity. It looked to be a close finish at 15-21 to Manchester. Susan Kern and Petra Monn were doing their best to block the shots at the net, and Lancaster began to gain some momentum. It was a few strong serves that condemned Lancaster to losing yet another set. Manchester's serves more than once glanced off the net with no hope of return and a hard fought set ended with Lancaster losing 15-21.

Captain, Laura Davies must have

shot some life into the team in the third set. Lancaster came out with real purpose. It became a phenomenally entertaining game as rallies seemed to last forever. Lancaster were not going down easily and even took an 8-7 lead, the first point in the match that they were ahead. Layups were finally smashed with full force and Lancaster looked to be showing good stamina, after a tiring previous set. It came down to indecision amongst the team and a failure to cover gaps in the centre that lead to Lancaster going behind. Manchester consistently found the holes in Lancaster's defense with a strong variation in their game. Lancaster's team was winning long rallies, but losing their concentration as the next one began. In contrast, a very united, focused and loudly chanting Manchester team, remained alert. They took the lead back at 14-12 and increased the gap to win the final set, 25-15.

Although the result must have

been frustrating, it was not without encouragement. There were moments where the home team was showing a superb resilience to win long lasting rallies. Laura Davies spoke of it being "hard to get a team together with a 1pm cut-off", and certain players could not make the game. It was clear that the team was not used to playing with each other. She was forced to play a rotational system that has lead to contrasting results in their season so far, winning their first 3-0, losing their second 3-0 and now another loss. However, Davies was proud of the team, and the rest of the season will no doubt be a well-fought battle from Lancaster. It is a shame to see that players have a choice between degree and sport. It is always difficult on those who put such passion into the game, which was evident from this performance. Depending on the situation, this season could go either way for Lancaster women's volleyball.

Charlotte Hall



The contractual minefield: Broken promises and manipulation

THE ONGOING FARCE between Sol Campbell and Notts County has highlighted a growing problem in sport today: that of contracts and to whom or what a player is obligated.

Having agreed a five-year £40,000-a-week deal and playing just one game for the club, Campbell walked out. Various reasons for his departure have circulated, ranging from his own lack of fitness to the gulf between his and the club's ambitions. If the first reason is to be believed, questions must be asked of his commitment to playing. After all, it was he who agreed to join the club in full knowledge that he would be playing regularly so surely then he had a duty to keep himself match fit after his release by Portsmouth at the beginning of the summer? As for the disparity between his ambitions and those of Notts County, it is clear that Campbell willingly agreed to join them knowing that he was part of a Five Year Plan for their elevation to the Premier League, not a Five Week one. Campbell had gone into the club, perhaps wearing rose tinted glasses, fully aware of the lack of proper training facilities and that he was not going to be playing Barcelona in the Champions League next season yet he chose to sign the contract. And it is he who broke it. For the moment he is in limbo, refusing to play for Notts County and without another club. Having joined the club as a free agent he is now free to join another club in January who, like Notts County, will pay nothing to any other club for his services; the only money to pass hands will be his wages (and any other bonuses



he may manage to accrue.) Should he find another club before January, he has the right to ask for special dispensation from the Football Association to let him become a member of their playing staff sooner. So off he goes, completely free to do the same thing again.

Last year's NFL saw another contractual chaos though this time the player, instead of breaking an already-signed contract, decided to hold his club to ransom so he got the contract he wanted. The NFL works on a 'draft

system. There are seven rounds in the draft and each of the teams gets one selection per round; to select a player who played in college during the previous season. It is a case whereby a team decides it wants a player and the player does not have any real say on where he may go. On being selected by a team, a contract is then agreed. This is done by the player's agent and the controlling element of the team; the manager, owner or chairman. The player then decides whether or not to sign the deal. If he decides against it,

he may be traded but if this is not possible, he will spend his time on the sidelines for a year. In the case of Michael Crabtree, he was unhappy with the deal reached between his agent and his new team, the San Francisco 49ers. He subsequently refused to report for training at the end of July, only highlighting the pitfalls of the NFL system. The club had until mid November to agree a deal with him and should negotiations collapse, it would not be until the following March that the 49ers could trade him. Any trade deal reached within the time

limit would not have enabled Crabtree to play until the start of the 2010 season. Furthermore, accusations were made that the New York Jets attempting to unsettle Crabtree by offering him a better salary were he to force his own trade by not signing the contract. It was not until 6 months after the draft that Crabtree and the 49ers agreed a six year \$32 million contract and he made his first appearance for them later that month. The contract he signed was one year longer than the original offer and was worth \$8 million more. Although the situation was finally resolved, the time it took to reach its conclusion must question: the fairness of the system and, more importantly, why these loopholes have not been rectified.

Although the established reputation of sports clubs and teams is that they are the ones who hold the power and so can manipulate players for their own ends, these two cases highlight the growing power of the individual. They also underscore the problems in the contract systems. Whilst I am in no way against players having power over their own careers, there is a point at which they are simply abusing the system. A player is committed once a contract is signed. Unless the clubs have purposely misled that player in his contract or broken any promise made for the future of both parties, he or she must remain that way. Many remain at a club until a solution amenable to both parties can be reached, but the sport, team and players suffer because of the delay.

Men's Hockey: Defiant UCLAN thwart Lancaster

Joe Hardacre

THIS WAS HIGHLIGHTED perfectly early in the fourth quarter with UCLAN holding a comfortable lead. Charalambos Hadji-theodosiou, or simply 'Pampos' as he's known to the team, was called for an offensive foul. While most felt nothing was out of the ordinary, the official stat sheet showed it to be his 6th foul, resulting in him fouling out of the game.

It was a tough break for the Lancaster team, Pampos had been heavily involved in the beginning of the fourth quarter, and he expressed his frustration at the decision by throwing his jersey angrily into the bench.

With the team down by over 20 points it seemed as though this would be the final straw in a frustrating game. Despite this, they began a frantic fightback led by Dan Conway and Aaron Kuiper and limited UCLAN to only 6 points from that point on. Despite eventu-



Furious Fightback: A rousing finish was not enough for Lancaster (Photo: Jonathan Kinnear)

ally reducing the deficit to only 10 points, in the end it proved not to be enough, with the final score 84-73 in UCLAN's favour.

Team president Peter Isebor singled out Lancaster's lack of concentration early in the game and at the start of the second half as being areas for improvement. This has been an issue the team encountered in their last game and even stretches back to last year, but he expects the team to improve on this as the season progresses.

Lancaster's intensity and effort in the fourth quarter was a positive they could take from this fixture, though the fact the team couldn't match that level throughout the duration of the game was disappointing.

The hosts can take many positives from the match; they will not lose many more in this fashion if they display the same passion and effort throughout. If Isebor is correct, improved focus in the opening periods of the game will prevent Lancaster from falling behind early in games.

Men's Hockey taken down by UCLAN



Running on empty: Lancaster put up a brave but futile fight (Photo: Jonathan Kinnear)

Joe Hardacre

FOLLOWING TWO VICTORIES against UCLAN last year, you would be forgiven for expecting Lancaster's men to follow the example set by the women's 1st team, who beat UCLAN in this fixture a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, this was not the case, as Lancaster fell short despite a furious comeback at the end of the fourth quarter.

Fixtures between the two sides have garnered a reputation for being notoriously gritty in the past, and tonight's game matched those expectations. The tone was set very early on. Lancaster started poorly with turnovers on the first few possessions displaying a slight lack of focus, while UCLAN, keen to avenge those losses last year, were quick to capitalize on these early mistakes. They hounded the ball carrier at every opportunity

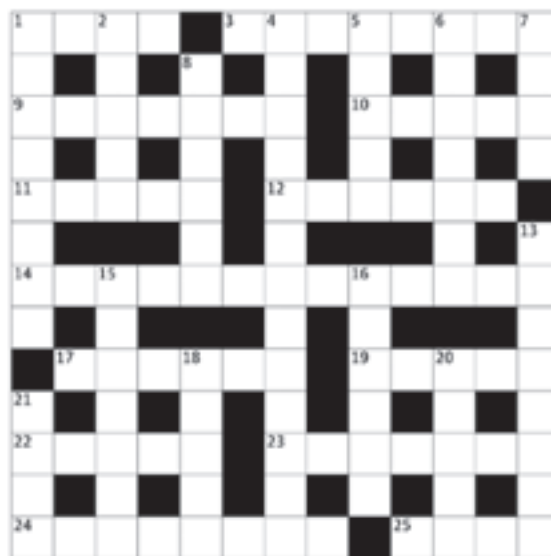
on defence, forcing rushed passes which resulted in some quick fouls as Lancaster's transition defence was exploited.

This pressure continued throughout as UCLAN utilised a full court pressure system, something which Lancaster seemed unable to deal with. When the hosts attempted to progress up the court they were forced to make hurried passes or ill-fated dribbles through a one or two man defensive presence not normally encountered so high up the court. The home side never fully dealt with this problem, repeatedly losing possession after not supporting the ball carrier enough.

These early difficulties should not overshadow what was an encouraging performance from the Lancaster team though. If there was anything that punctuated the host's performance, it was the indefatigable desire and effort to win until the very end.

Continued on Page 35

Quick crossword no 12,110



Across

- 1 Be bold enough (4)
- 3 Lent – ahead in development (8)
- 9 Spiteful (7)
- 10 Nobleman – have importance (5)
- 11 Senior member of professional group (5)
- 12 One skilled in creative works (6)
- 14 Device for operating equipment from a distance (6,7)
- 17 Oriental market (6)
- 19 Suit (5)
- 22 Tree or shrub whose wood is resistant to underwater rot (5)
- 23 Melancholy (7)
- 24 Colourful incendiary device used for entertainment (8)
- 25 Ostrich-like bird of South America (4)

Down

- 1 Type of compass used for measuring distance (8)
- 2 Unstable – full of crags (5)
- 4 Mounted courier (8,5)
- 5 Racecourse with royal associations (5)

- 6 Old warship (7)
- 7 Information (4)
- 8 Large wasp (6)
- 13 Group of small boats (8)
- 15 Take a winding course (7)
- 16 Illegal delivery (2,4)
- 18 Missile fired from bow (5)
- 20 20 per cent (5)
- 21 Abandoned child (4)

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Solution no 12,109

O	V	E	R	R	A	T	E	F	A	F	F
R	P	E	R	R	S	E	I				
G	R	I	M	M	O	V	E	R	S	E	E
Y	T	U	P	L	E	E	L				
F	A	I	N	T	H	E	A	R	T	E	D
L	P	E	E	Y	T						
A	D	H	E	R	E	G	I	B	B	O	N
M		A	C	O	E	G					
B	O	U	N	T	Y	H	U	N	T	E	R
C	N	I	N	I	S	H	S				
H	E	I	N	O	U	S	H	O	I	S	
O	O	N	E	I	V	A					
P	O	N	Y	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	Y