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STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 7, Lent Term, Wednesday 24th February, 2010

Game on

- **Two week campaign period has begun**
- **Uncontested LUSU Presidency**
- **15 candidates standing for the six positions**

Liam Richardson
Editor-in-Chief

ELECTION CAMPAIGNING FOR positions on the LUSU Full Time Executive Officer team has officially begun as a field of 15 candidates began the battle for the six posts on offer.

The election period officially commenced once nominations closed last

Thursday evening. In a notable twist, only one candidate, Robbie Pickles, the former Cartmel JCR President, is running to replace two-term LUSU President Michael Payne in the week eight elections. Despite rumours circulating of a last minute competitor, Pickles is now well placed to take the presidency.

Other positions on offer are fielding three candidates, with the exception of Vice-President (Sport), which will be contested by Lonsdalian Marc Handley and Pendle student Erika Vann. Both have notable experience in officer roles within LUSU. Handley is the current Intercollege Sports Co-ordinator, whilst Vann is the Chair of the Sports Executive, a role which replaced the AU Non-Sabbatical officer in a restructuring review which occurred last November.

Full Time Executive Officers (formerly known as Sabbatical Officers) take a year out between academic years, or at the end of their degree, to work in a full time paid position within the student union. The positions up for election include the LUSU Presidency, plus five Vice-President roles, each with responsibility for areas ranging from Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies (FEDS); Academic Affairs; Equality, Welfare and Diversity (EWD); Media and Communications and Sport.

"I think they're very important; one of the key things that we've got with Lancaster University is that we have so many elected officers, around 180 elected officers throughout the colleges, but it's the six full-time paid officers that support these students, so it's important that we get the right people for the job and that those people are trained properly," said Andy Johnston, LUSU VP (FEDS) and the main Co-ordinator of the elections held by the student union.

Former Lonsdale JCR President Matt Windsor is competing against former Fylde JCR Vice-President Myles Harrison and LUTube.TV studio manager Alex Leonard for the position of Vice-President (FEDS). Current SCAN Assistant Editor Lizzie Houghton, former SCAN section editor and Furness JCR member Michael Holt and Bailrigg FM's Andrew Pillow are running for Vice-President (Media and Communications/SCAN Editor). Postgraduate student and current GSA President Robin

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RAG's raging success



Full Story on Pages 3



Let battle commence: Nominations have now closed (Photo: Ben Robins)

Library extends opening hours in time for exam period

Jonnie Critchley

AFTER MONTHS OF student demand the library has confirmed that it will be extending its opening hours during next term's exam period.

In Week 10 SCAN reported that discussions to extend the opening hours were underway. After further discussions in the last two weeks, it has been confirmed that from 19 April until 18 June Library opening hours will be

Monday to Thursday 8am-12am, Friday 8am-10pm, Saturday 10am-12am and Sunday 10am-9pm.

This equates to an 11% increase in the Library's weekly opening hours and comes after a series of meetings between Head Librarian Clare Powne and LUSU VP (Academic Affairs) Danny Ovens.

Some had been expecting changes to take the form of a few hours past the current closing time of midnight. However, as Ms. Powne told SCAN, an earlier opening time of 8am was the easier

option. "Opening later is considerably



Exam support: Opening hours for the library have been extended after discussions between the Librarian and LUSU

more complicated for us, what with staff who are already working until midnight," she said.

This compromise was not an issue for LUSU, with Ovens adding "I suggested any extension to hours should focus around the mornings as the Learning Zone should cater for people wanting to study out of their rooms into the early hours."

The role of the Learning Zone has been prominent in these discussions. Ms. Powne was reluctant to detract from the Zone's usage, saying: "The Learning Zone has only been open for one and a half terms. This is the first time that there's been any kind of fa-

cility like that open twenty-four-seven in this university. What the University would like to do is see over the course of a whole academic year what the use of the Learning Zone is like." There will be a particular focus the use of both buildings during the exam period.

The decision is, according to Ovens, "a very positive step and shouldn't be seen in any other light. Students have been asking for extended hours for a long time and with the support of the Library, LUSU has delivered on that request."

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Elections herald a new dawn for the Student Union

Although change is imminent, it is important that continuity is not totally abandoned when ultimate success is so attainable

Not everyone is enthralled by the Full Time Officer Elections at this time of year. The endless stream of block runs around accommodation blocks, the posters with gurning faces on every pillar and the constant pestering on a night out irritate a large proportion of students at this university.

This is a crying shame. It is not up to this editorial to encourage the apathetic to engage with the democratic process. For those who opt out then go ahead and shut yourself in your little room, or twitter with your pals in a corner of some dank bar and complain that nothing is done on your behalf. If that is what makes you feel better that is.

For those who want to get something out of their university experience then unfortunately the onus is on you to be pro-active and willing to engage. University is a steep learning curve and a serious challenge. Nobody at LUSU will hold your hand or nanny you to participate in its activities. Reticence and passiveness will limit the extent of what you can achieve and experience.

Democracy is at the heart of what a student union can do. It fosters a spirit of representation essential for any or-

ganisation. Electing the right people is crucial to build up sustainable success that will translate into positive action for students residing on this campus and beyond for years to come.

With every new team of officers that take up their post each summer, an agenda is pursued that is different from the one immediately before it. This coming election will no doubt herald another period of change for LUSU.

However, for three years a set of core principals and all manner of radical restructuring has been enshrined in the organisation that has seen it improve so it can feasibly consider itself to be amongst the best in Britain

Our housing arm and commercial services are exemplary in their field, as are our volunteering units. After a difficult period, The Sugar House has been re-established as the premier nightclub in Lancaster. Our constitution and sabbatical structure is fit for purpose and ensures effective governance. Our range of policies relating to education and welfare are leaps and strides ahead of other institutions, and our new e-voting system means our election turnout is considerably higher than many other unions. The tuition fees campaign has been

lauded by NUS as the best in the country with our slogan being used for their national General Election campaign.

The successes have been constant for three years at Lancaster, but this was only once effective political leadership took the organisation by the scruff of the neck and convinced the student body that unions can do much more than have a loud voice and promote a penchant for boozing. A culture of debate and understanding of politics within the union, spearheaded at the seat of command for three years has meant mutual respect and seriousness has been married with achievement and action. Since 2007 LUSU has emerged from the shadows of ineffectual leadership to become a major player amongst the student movement.

The gauntlet has been laid down to whoever emerges victorious from these set of elections. There are still issues to be debated, with solutions offered to the students and university that must be visionary.

Space for societies is a constant worry. Why should we not campaign for the old sports centre space? Communication is the strategic heart of LUSU. Does the budget and officer/staff support reflect

the need for innovation and progression in this area?

Following the Sabbatical and non-Sabbatical reviews why not assess JCR structures, streamlining the number of officers who occupy redundant EWD positions and who do very little. There should be a uniform structure for JCRS across campus in terms of process, total number of officers and remits that are agreed by a consensus amongst the colleges.

Finally, a truly radical LUSU President would return to the position of LUSU VP (Sport) and encourage the creation of a Student Activities officer responsible for both clubs and societies. Other unions handle this role successfully, with our own staffing structures and operations meaning that more effective representation would be guaranteed and ease the burden on the VP (FEDS) who has a remit that is far too large. Hopefully this change will also politicise the role and widen the potential for events such as Campus Festival and Roses, to make them more spectacular and far-reaching in their possibilities for engagement. Such changes may not be popular with all parties, but to continue on an upward trajectory must be delivered at any cost.

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Thousands raised in successful RAG Week

- **Three charities chosen for donations**
- **Charity showcase involves variety of societies**
- **Discounts made available with RAG bands.**

Hannah Price

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY SAW the return of Raising and Giving (RAG) during Week Six.

This year, RAG Week was 'bigger and better than ever before' with students raising money for three chosen charities: St John's Hospice, Stepping Stones and MENCAP. Events took place campus wide as well as on an individual level and a high level of support was received from Lancaster students.

Leah Smith, President of the RAG Society, said: "This year's RAG Week has been hugely successful. By the end of the first day we had managed to raise just short of £1000 which is a massive achievement and hopefully we will be able to beat the amount raised last year. We would like to thank each and every person who has donated; without your generosity none of this would have been

possible."

RAG Week was launched with a Valentine's themed bucket collection in Preston on 13 February which raised a grand total of £494.81, and was followed by a bucket collection in the Sugarhouse that evening. Sunday saw a free Valentine's disco in Lonsdale Bar and bucket collections were held in both Elements and Revolution on Monday night.

On Tuesday the Pancake Man arrived in Alexandra Square, accompanied by members of the RAG Society, who were in fancy dress and selling raffle tickets. There was a pirates and sailors themed bag packing event at Sainsbury's on Wednesday of Week Six as well as a Neon Night at the Carleton that evening.

Thursday evening saw a society showcase in Cartmel's Barker House Farm with acts including Lancaster University Dance Society, the Gospel Choir and the I Hate Rachel Green Club. During Friday of Week Six there was a cake sale in Alexandra Square as well as a bucket collection in Cuba. A pub golf event was organised for Saturday, starting in County Bar and ending

£3,500

Approximate total raised by the RAG team at the time of going to print.



Queuing to give: Just one of many events that took place over RAG Week was The Pancake Man in Alex Square

in the Sugarhouse and the week was brought to a close with bag packing in Sainsbury's on Sunday, followed by the weekly quiz in each of the college bars.

In addition RAG Bands were on sale throughout the week. Costing £4, they entitled students to a range of discounts and offers in businesses on campus and in Lancaster. Free entry to Cuba and the Carleton, queue jump at Elements, discounts on food at a variety of outlets in town as well as drinks offers at Hustle, Revolution and Lounge were just some of the perks that students with RAG Bands were entitled to.

Second year student Daniel Darragh of County College said: "RAG Week is an excellent idea that should be encouraged; not only is your money going to a good cause but the deals offered are really good as well."

Individual efforts included Anna Fenton who was sponsored to wear a chicken suit all day on Thursday of Week Six and Kelsey Arif and Rachel

Basnett who are being sponsored to have Fylde's windmill tattooed onto themselves during third term.

**"We would like to thank each and every person who has donated; without your generosity none of this would have been possible."
-Leah Smith, RAG President**

Another idea was pursued by David Titone, who spent the whole of RAG Week in a manual wheelchair to gain perspective of the impact this has on the lives of disabled people. Titone told SCAN he was inspired to complete this task after a conversation with his flatmate and has learned a lot from his experience.

"One thing I have observed is how people treat you differently when out on

the street," he said. "People will generally act in one of two ways - either they may try to turn a blind eye in a childish 'if I can't see it, it's not happening' style, or they become so overwhelmed with sympathy it is nearly impossible for them to avert their gaze; neither option helps empower yourself as an individual. After this week I can safely say that I have a newfound respect for people who are in wheelchairs."

The charities this year have been chosen to represent causes on a variety of levels. St John's Hospice provides palliative care for cancer patients across north Lancashire, south Cumbria and parts of Yorkshire, whilst MENCAP is the UK's leading learning disability charity. Stepping Stones is a charity based in Nigeria and supports the rights of vulnerable and exploited children.

The total amount raised from all of the events will be announced during Week Seven.

Fylde and Furness collaborate to celebrate Chinese New Year in style

Collette McColgan
News Editor

MONDAY WEEK SIX saw an event in Fylde bar to celebrate Chinese New Year, hosted by Fylde and Furness JCR Execs.

The event included the provision of free food, from Wong's Kitchen on campus, which had been bought by the pooled budgets of Fylde and Furness JCR Execs. As well as this, there was music and face painting, to celebrate the new year of the Tiger.

Ariel Lambert, Furness JCR's International Students Representative helped organise the event. Speaking shortly after the event, Lambert said, "I'm really pleased with it... a lot of people came, and they're still standing in the bar, which I think is amazing."

"Fylde got the food together, and we got the decorations... it was a really good effort from everyone really," she added.

The evening went largely without



Food's up: Wong's Kitchen provided the superb food (Photo: Olly Trumble)

any problems, though unexpected popularity of the food meant that the event ran out of paper plates part way through the evening.

A Furness student, Kate Utton said: "The JCR Execs worked really well together and it was pretty well organized - apart from running out of plates!"

A student from Fylde was pleased with the night. "It was really good to see

the two colleges coming together to organise this event - you can sometimes feel that individual colleges forget about international students, but the night was really impressive."

Lambert spoke about future plans for the two JCRs to work together, mentioning an Oktoberfest event, hosted in Furness bar, where she hoped the colleges could come together again.

Housing to avoid carbon monoxide chaos

Charlotte Urban

LUSU HOUSING HAVE begun a new initiative to install carbon monoxide detectors in all properties let out by LUSU.

LUSU currently leases more than 170 properties, and whilst 40 houses have already been fitted, it is anticipated that there will be carbon monoxide detectors in all properties by the beginning of the next academic year at the latest.

Although this proposal was principally agreed before Christmas, news of its initiation follows a recent document put out by Lancaster City Council which emphasizes the risk of carbon monoxide.

The initiative began last September when students began to move into properties. Currently whenever repairs are needed to a LUSU-owned house a detector is automatically in-

stalled as part of the process.

Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless, and tasteless gas which is highly toxic to humans and animals. It forms when there is not enough oxygen available to produce carbon dioxide, such as above a gas stove in an enclosed space.



Safe house: All LUSU Housing properties will be fitted with the detectors

Carbon monoxide effectively suffocates the body of oxygen. Less than 2% of carbon monoxide in the air can kill. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, nausea, vomiting and dizziness.

Statistics from the Carbon Monoxide & Gas Safety Society show that carbon monoxide poisoning kills over 40 people a year, and injures 300.

Goodbye Gordon, hello Hadfield

Hannah Smith

THIS WEEK SEES Deputy Pro-Chancellor Gordon Johnson hand in his resignation. Johnson has been a committed member of Lancaster University's Court since 2001, and was elected as one of two Deputy Pro-Chancellors in 2002. During his time at the University, Johnson has aided both the Court and the Council in becoming more efficient and effective organisations.

University Secretary Fiona Aiken told SCAN "during his time at the University, Gordon has taken the time to listen to stakeholder views and to form his own judgements." She added that "the University has benefitted considerably from his wise counsel".

LUSU President Michael Payne stated "the role of Deputy Pro-Chancellor is an important check and balance on senior management of the University. Although we have not always agreed, Gordon has demonstrated unparalleled professionalism in his role, his words of wisdom will be missed."

Mr Johnson is also the current Constable of Lancaster Castle, a position which he was entrusted with in June 2009, and which portrays his respected role in Lancaster's community.

Johnson is being succeeded as Deputy Proc-Chancellor by John Hadfield. Payne commented that "the Students' Union looks forward to a positive relationship with [...] John Hadfield, someone who has been equally as vocal on behalf of students as the Union themselves."

Police make PACT with students

MONTHLY MEETINGS BETWEEN students and local police are hoped to be a step towards reducing crimes on campus.

Though these PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings have been taking place for some time now, there has been a reduction in on-campus crime in the last month, from the same month last year.



Wynner: PC Gary Wynne is stationed at the University, and is keen to engage with students

The meetings take place in the LUSU Meeting Room, and any student is able to attend, either to raise an issue or to observe. The next meeting is on Wednesday 17th March, at 4pm, and students are encouraged to go along.

PC Gary Wynne and PCSO Andrew Wright are based at the University, and are currently appealing to students to contact them with any information they may have about the drug Bubble, after the arrests made at the Sugarhouse in Week Three of this term.

Forty-five year old Alexandra S

- **Project to be completed in time for next academic year**
- **Underpass to be rejuvenated**
- **Student opinion positive on proposals**

Charlotte Urban

FOLLOWING A POSTPONEMENT in Week Four of this term, the proposal for the re-design of Alexandra Square was unveiled on Wednesday of Week Five.

Work on the new plans is set to commence in April 2010, starting with the closure of bus stops in the underpass and the clearance of the square paving in Alexandra Square. The re-open of the underpass is estimated to be mid-September, in preparation for the return of students to campus at the beginning of October.

There are two potential options for the plans with the final design yet to be decided upon.

Option One involves a new ramp near the steps heading up towards Bowland, allowing easier wheelchair access as well as double height steps in front of the Learning Zone for seating. There will be seating planters around existing trees as well as entirely new granite paving with a creative design across the span of the whole square, and the covered pathway by Waterstones will be more opened out.

In addition, this option envisages blue LED strips of light along the edge of each of the granite paving slabs, each strip representing a college. The aim of this proposal was to amalgamate the colleges in a place that is central and integral to the university.

Option Two is similar to the first;



The old and the new: Alexandra Square will be transformed from how it looks currently. The current designs will improve

however the granite paving will be laid out in a different design, and the blue LED lighting will not be installed.

Both options involve a lift in a glazed tower that will descend to the underpass enabling better access for wheelchair users. The underpass itself will be entirely rejuvenated, the entrances to each of the stairwells being transformed into much lighter spaces compared to the current entryways. The new entrance will also include feature walls displaying a bus timetable, notice boards and a payphone.

notice boards and a payphone.

The construction of the lift pit and shaft is proposed to begin in May along with the construction of the new steps and ramp in front of the Learning Zone and the refurbishment of the stairwells. The waterproofing of the underpass and construction of the feature walls will occur in June. The final components of the re-design will be the new paving in Alexandra Square in July and the installation of the lift and refurbishment of arcade canopies in August.

Option One is believed to be the most popular at the moment, with students feeling it to be the "classier" and "cooler" option. One student said: "I've always thought Alexandra Square and the Underpass have needed an overhaul and these plans are even better than what I had in mind."

Another student commented that though the designs were good, the Underpass would benefit from seating, possibly in the form of a wooden bench that ran the length of the wall between

PITS campaign raising lymphatic cancer awareness

Yasmin Spracklen

ON NOVEMBER 2ND 2009 the Lymphoma Association launched the 'PITS' campaign, designed to increase awareness of lymphatic cancer amongst students.

The campaign highlights the common signs and symptoms of the disease. 'PITS' is an acronym of Persistent Lumps, Itching, Tiredness and Sweating, the main indicators of the illness. It is a three year project designed to make students aware of the key symptoms of lymphatic cancer, the most common form of cancer in 15-30 year olds, and see their GP if they experience any.

The first stage of the 'PITS' campaign was launched on 2 November last year and is due to end in March, with the second stage launching later this year. Sarah Harvey, Press Officer for the Lymphoma Association, said:

"The association has always worked at raising awareness of lymphoma in young people. However, this is the first time that we have received funding from the Department of Health allowing us to launch a targeted campaign."

The campaign currently takes the form of a website, www.pitfart.com, which enables students and young people to access important information about lymphatic cancer as well as read the stories of students who have been affected by the disease. The website is running a competition encouraging young people to upload a clip of themselves performing a 'pit fart,' a noise made by cupping your hand under your armpit. The clips can then be accessed by others on the website and the person with the highest number of views by 2 March will win a trip for two to Paris.

Currently, the number of young people being diagnosed with lymphatic cancer every year appears to

be staying constant. The latest available statistics show that in 2006, 831 people under 30 were diagnosed with lymphoma, 479 of whom were male and 352 female.

Lymphatic cancer is a disease that begins in the lymphatic system, which forms part of the immune system. Cancer occurs when normal cells undergo a transformation whereby they grow and multiply uncontrollably and lymphoma is a malignant transformation of white blood cells called lymphocytes. The exact cause of lymphoma remains unclear although it could be due to circumstances such as age, infection, or genetics. However, like most cancers, lymphoma is treatable if caught early enough.

The Lymphoma Association is the only specialist UK charity that actively supports people with lymphatic cancer, providing medical information and emotional support to patients, their families and friends as well as aiming to raise awareness of the dis-

ease. According to Harvey, services offered include "a freephone helpline, comprehensive free literature, a buddy scheme with telephone links to others with similar experiences, local support groups, regional patient conferences and a fully interactive website featuring a message board and chat room."

The Lymphoma Association also works closely with parliamentarians to lobby for better support, care and treatment for lymphatic cancer patients everywhere. They represent the patient perspective by providing evidence for National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraisals, working as an active member of both the Cancer Campaigning Group and the Rarer Cancers Forum and by being a founder member of the Lymphoma Coalition – an international group of lymphoma patient support organisations.

More information can be found at: www.lymphomas.org.uk or www.pitfart.com

Square to get a facelift



over the underpass and access to it, as well as replacing paving and rejuvenating the Square's general look (Photo: Ben Robins)

the two stairwells, calling this "A simple construction, [that] would provide much needed seating space without the need for any major construction, [that] would make waiting for the bus much less of a pain."

"I do think that the new proposed design can only be an improvement as the Underpass is a little dark and I am reluctant to go there at night unless I have to," added another student.

One student also pointed out that the ramp for wheelchair access should

be fitted with a fenced edge, in order to make it totally safe.

It is hoped that these criticisms and praises of the new designs will be taken on by Facilities when work begins on the rejuvenation of the Square and its surrounding area.

Mark Swindlehurst, the university's Director of Facilities has spoken about the new design of the Square. "The new design for Alexandra Square has addressed many of the issues that were raised during the consultation period

in 2009."

He added: "The most significant element of the [Option One] design is where it brings the colleges of Lancaster University into the heart of its most important space by introducing the lines showing the names of the colleges between their location and the area which they are named after, symbolising very strongly the importance of the collegiate system and demonstrating further the University's commitment to its colleges."

Game on: Election period begins

➤ Hughes is up against former Furness JCR President David Prescott and current Academic Campaigns Officer and former Grizedale JCR Vice-President Paul Lynch for the Academic Affairs role. Finally, Grizedale's ex-JCR President Chaz Ginn faces current Cartmel JCR officer and Chair of EWD Council Neil Smith, with the competition being rounded off by the presence of former LUSU Presidential candidate and current Welfare Campaigns Officer Pete Macmillan of County College.

The elections are notable for utilising e-voting for the first time in the Full Time Executive Officer elections. Following a 30% increase in voting in December's JCR and PTO (Part-time Officer) elections, there will be greater scrutiny than ever on the final turnout and whether the e-voting system can avoid the slowness and technical problems which were a minor issue when the new method of voting was

debuted in week eight last term.

The fifteen candidates can expect a tough time during the campaign period. This year, as well as hustings, which will be occurring Monday Week 8 in George Fox Lecture Theatre 1, they will be expected to perform mini speeches in Alexandra Square on the Wednesday before voting opens. Media appearances are also a major part of the process with Bailrigg FM staging panel debates with the candidates for each position over the course of the election period. After their success last year, LUTube.TV are pulling out all the stops for their live results show from Barker House Farm on Friday Week 8. Over 140 people watched their live broadcast for the 2009 elections and this time they are hoping to hit the 200 viewer mark.

Block runs around colleges also form a large part of the duties expected of the candidates and are considered invaluable in procuring votes.

This year, certain colleges will have a night in which all those standing get the opportunity to speak to residents to minimise disruption for those who are not willing to engage with the democratic process. Speaking of the elections and the pressures on the candidates, Johnston said:

"Electing them is a process that's really quite thorough and intensive. Different universities take it differently, they vary the levels of importance and seriousness they take it to. But I think it's good that at this university we take it really quite seriously to make sure that all the people that go for the jobs are tested thoroughly."

There have already been instances of posters being torn down and other election material vandalised. Last year, there were serious problems with the elections being disturbed by vandals, including the ripping down of all the banners located above Pizzetta Republic.

Referendum scheduled to approve LUSU constitution

Jack Smith

A REFERENDUM ON changes to the LUSU constitution will be voted on in Week Eight. Voting will take place on 4 March, the same date as the elections for LUSU full time executive officers.

The referendum will be to approve changes made to the Students' Union constitution in order to comply with requirements set for LUSU to register with the Charities Commission, which Michael Payne, LUSU President, described as "vitaly important."

This involves ensuring the Trustee Board is the supreme governing body of the Students' Union, which is a requirement of joining the Charities Commission. The board, formed a year ago, is made up of three student officer positions, six full time officers, and four external trustees, with the President of LUSU as the board's chair.

It presides above Union Council, the Union's policy forming body, but Payne sought to abate the suggestion that the board could interfere with policy, pledging that it "will not veto Union Council policy or political matters."

While the modifications to the constitution are not of immediate relevance



Constitutional reform: Adjustments made by the President

to students, with very few noticeable or political changes, it is seen as necessary for the referendum to be successful in order for LUSU to retain its charity status and the associated benefits, enabling the union to continue to receive charitable donations, for example. The constitution is believed to already be virtually compliant with the Charities Commission's requirements, with this revision only including some minor changes.

Payne sought to stress the importance of the constitution changes being passed when he addressed Union Council in Week Six, where he talked of "going forward" and "taking a leading role" when mentioning the changes.

Although the referendum takes place alongside the main elections, LUSU will run a separate campaign to promote it.

Family remove priceless collection from university

Paul Hannah

A FAMILY TRUST has reneged on its promise to keep priceless manuscripts at Lancaster, with repercussions likely to be felt throughout the university.

The Second Baron Hesketh's Will Trust originally agreed to a ten year deal with the university back in 2005 which gave the university the possession of a myriad of priceless Renaissance works, including letters signed by Queen Elizabeth I and an original folio of William Shakespeare.



Priceless: Lord Hesketh announcing the arrival of the collection back in 2006

But last year the trust officially gave Lancaster University 12 months notice that they planned to withdraw the collection, as permitted in the terms of the loan. Many here at Lancaster feel that this withdrawal will starve the university of both resources and funding.

Speaking to The Times, Dr Robert Appelbaum, senior lecturer in Renaissance Studies at Lancaster, said "Having access to these kinds of books put us on a level playing field with older

universities. It allowed us to provide a quality of resources that wouldn't otherwise be available because we are a newer institution.

"Students at Oxford can look at a Shakespeare folio any time they want to; students in Birmingham can. Students in the North don't have that access."

There is mounting concern that losing the rare works will also negatively affect the amount of research funding Lancaster will get in the future as the funding body, the Research Excellence Framework, takes such factors into account.

Among the valuable works in the collection is a four volume set of John James Audubon's Birds of America, kept within its own ornately carved bookcase and valued at up to £8 million.

Items from the collection have subsequently been viewed by interested academics in the University's Rare Book Archive and have been the subject of research and study by a number of scholars.

The loss of the works has divided the students.

Jon Wilby, of Lonsdale, said "It's a selfish move by the trust to rob the North of such priceless books and hold them to not fulfill a promise."

Josh Clearly, also of Lonsdale, said "To be honest, I had no idea that we even had any rare books. I think that the university could have done a lot more with them."

Fiona Aiken, University Secretary, said that the university has no plans to acquire any other collections to replace the Hesketh Collection.

'Shopping with respect' the aim behind the Fairtrade campaign

Rachel McCarthy

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT IS taking place this term in Weeks Seven and Eight, with various societies on campus aiming to promote 'The Big Swap' to Fairtrade products.

'The Big Swap' was launched by Fairtrade Foundation, which inspires different community groups across the country to raise awareness of ethical consumerism. As a Fairtrade University, Lancaster has seen many different Fairtrade Fortnight events taking place in the recent past. This year, SPEAK (the Lancaster Christian Justice and Peace Campaigning group), People and Planet and GreenLancaster will be running different campaigns and events throughout the fortnight, to encourage Lancaster students to choose Fairtrade alternatives to their usual goods. The LUSU store will have various offers on Fairtrade items during the fortnight.

Lancaster University Fairtrade Fortnight begins on Monday 22 February at 7:30pm in the Chaplaincy Centre with a film screening of 'Black Gold' combined with a Fairtrade wine and cheese evening. 'Black Gold' explores the impact of the traditional coffee trade in Ethiopia, and it conveys the incentive for buying coffee at a fair price.

According to Fairtrade Foundation, two billion people in the world survive on less than \$2 a day. Fairtrade Fortnight aims to show that this can change through the choices of the individual consumer. Hannah Henderson, President of SPEAK, said: "Everything that we buy has an effect on someone else somewhere in the world. It's important that we shop consciously, ensuring that where we can that effect is a positive one not a negative one."



SPEAK and People and Planet will be promoting swapping from Coca-Cola to Ubuntu Fairtrade Cola, which is available in the LUSU store, throughout the fortnight. There will be a stall in Alexandra Square offering free samples of Ubuntu Cola during Week Eight. It is the first cola in the UK to bear the Fairtrade Mark.

GreenLancaster will be reenacting an interactive 'big trade game' in Alexandra Square on Thursday 4 March, in order to engage students in the issue of international trade.

Mr. Ohemeng, Managing Director of the cooperative behind Divine Fairtrade chocolate, echoed the motivating factor of 'The Big Swap': "We all have to go shopping and Fairtrade is just going shopping with a bit of respect."

Library extend opening hours in time for exam period

He was, however, keen to emphasise the fact that this is a trial, and will only be successful if students make use of the changes. Making a personal plea, Ovens said "I have done my bit to get these hours, now the students need to use them." Demand during these extended hours will be closely monitored, to prove that it is something students want. Ms. Powne was quick to corroborate, adding "it's a kind of use it or lose it thing, people need to vote with their feet."

At this stage it would seem as though student support for increased availability of the Library is high. Of the students who gave SCAN their thoughts on the matter, a good deal said that they would make use of the Library during these extra hours. One first year student, approaching his first exam period, said that although he currently uses the Library just to take out books, he could be attracted to it for revision when the time comes.

It is hoped that next term's trial will be successful enough for the new hours to be implemented annually. This, it is felt, will represent significant progress, given the regularity with which the issue seems to arise each year. However, at the moment it is unlikely that this will lead to extended hours throughout the year, as it is clear that demand for the Library peaks around exam time.

Issues of security are the main opposition to more permanent changes. Any move towards this would be more complex than asking staff to work longer hours, probably involving some form of access control as is currently in use in the Learning Zone.



Step in the right direction: The library's extended hours of opening is an important victory for students

Another first-year student told SCAN that although they would probably use the extra hours for 'intense' revision sessions, they wouldn't welcome the security changes which would accompany any further move to round-the-clock opening. "The Library's not needed twenty-four seven, people have the Learning Zone or their rooms to use past midnight," he said.

Ms. Powne was, however, happy to call recent developments a "potential

stepping stone" towards a more full refurbishment of the Library to make round-the-clock opening more of a possibility. "I am in the very early stages of having conversations with people within the university about a possible refurbishment of the building, a possible revitalising of the kind of service that we provide," she said. However, she stressed that these were very preliminary discussions and realistically nothing will change for this or the next

academic year.

As well as increases to the opening hours Ovens was able to describe further improvements to the library's services. A new self-service system, not requiring a PIN, will be introduced which it is hoped will be easier to use. The former ISS service desk has been transformed into another group work room, and more and more journals and texts are being made available online for 24-hour remote access.

Tuition Fees Working Group reactivated

Shane Manning

THE UNIVERSITY'S TUITION Fees Working Party was re-activated in Week Three at University Court.

The Working Party, whose membership will be augmented equally with internal University officers (including academics), external Court members and Students' Union nominees, will work as a means of giving Lancaster University students a voice that will be heard at government level.

It was requested by the Court that discussions by the Working Party should incorporate evidence from and consideration of all student categories, therefore hearing the voices of those most affected by the proposed cuts and possibility of increased fees. After such evidence is collected, the Working Party must then consult the University Senate and report to University Council before its report may be submitted as evidence to the Government to use in the Browne Review.

The government is set to cut nearly £533m in Higher Education Funding in the coming financial year (2010-2011) and further long-term cuts have been set out in the Chancellor's Pre-Budget Report 2009. The results of such cuts

are likely to have a devastating effect on all concerned with higher education.

Such changes come as a government-commissioned independent review, chaired by Lord Browne, considers whether to raise tuition fees from £3,225 per year to up to £7,000. It has been suggested that over three years total cuts will amount to at least £950m.

University Court was told, in a motion made by LUSU – proposed by Union President Michael Payne, and seconded by VP Academic Affairs, Danny Ovens – that the expected cuts were "disproportionate" especially in comparison with other government departments, and are "utterly unacceptable and should be denounced by universities, students' unions and trade unions collectively".

Court was also told: "in a period of economic and political uncertainty, institutional clarity on such fundamental issues as university fees and funding are of paramount importance and that any view on fees should not be reached without full consultation and input from the students via their Students' Union and from members of University staff".

To give effect to such a view the Court requested the University Council to re-activate the Working Party on Tuition Fees. Although this move



Listen to us: Scenes from January's University Court protest

seems to be popular with students, its effectiveness remains to be seen.

After the meeting of Court, a paper was tabled at University Council, the University's senior most governing body, proposing the re-activation

of the Working Group with immediate effect. The Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council, Bryan Gray proposed that Rick Turner, former Chair of the University's Finance Committee should be the chair of the Working Group.

The interim proposal caused contention in Council, with the LUSU President expressing concerns at the process through which this had been made.

"Our concerns are not with Mr. Turner or his credibility at all, I have worked very closely with him over the past two years and have always found him to be experienced, reasonable and committed to his role in the University," Payne commented.

He continued: "Although Bryan suggested to Council this was an interim measure until they return to approve our motion in March, I am disappointed that no discussion was had with the Students' Union about this proposal before the meeting."

Payne went further to express his hopes for when Council next meet in March: "I am sure University Councilors will uphold the request for an independent chair to be agreed mutually between the University and Students' Union as expressed and unanimously supported by hundreds of members of University Court in our motion."

Big name speakers attend Islamic event

- **Over 500 people attend events**
- **Debates centred on array of religious topics**
- **Guest speakers increase prestige of the week overall**

Jonnie Critchley

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY'S ISLAMIC Society held its annual Islam Awareness Week from Monday 8 to Friday 12 February. A series of talks held throughout the week, featuring notable speakers including former Sunday Express journalist Yvonne Ridley, were aimed at raising and engaging a wider interest in Islam and addressing preconceptions about the religion.

Talks ranged from the traditional debate of the existence of God to the more contemporary area of Islam's relationship with science. Taking place in the Cavendish building each evening throughout Week Five, the event attracted over 500 people of mixed backgrounds over five nights. These crowds were given the opportunity to listen to, and take part in, discussion with the



Understanding Islam: A range of special guest speakers ensure the awareness week was a huge success (Photo: Fayeze Almari)

wide array of speakers on offer.

Islamic Society President Fayeze Almari was very pleased with the week's activities. "I felt the week turned out to be a success," he said, adding that "feedback from those attending was that they enjoyed it very much." Almari was especially pleased with the number of people attracted to the events: "For me it was really important that we hit the same attendance number we had last year, which we did comfortably."

This attendance rate may be attrib-

uted to the Islamic Society's organisation of top-level speakers delivering thought-provoking talks. Yvonne Ridley's talk on Wednesday, 'Yvonne Captured: Women and Education', it was felt, met its headline billing. Ridley spoke to the 150-strong crowd of her experience in Taliban captivity in 2001, and of how she has come to view the Islamic faith as the true religion after reading the Qu'ran to honour a promise to a Muslim cleric who spoke to her as she was released. Her talk also aimed to

alter preconceptions of the oppression of Muslim women, addressing issues such as forced marriages and honour killings.

The first two talks of the week discussed Islam and science. Monday's speaker, Dr Sharif Kaf Al-Ghazal of the University of Leeds, gave a talk entitled 'Islamic Medicine: A Light in the Dark Ages'. This covered medical advances made during Islam's 'Golden Ages' – medieval Europe's Dark Ages. This talk showed how modern medicine is in-

debted to Islam for the development of many surgical tools and techniques still used today.

The following evening, Dr. Salim Ayduz, of Fatih University, lectured on 'Muslim Contributions to Science', notably the preservation of a great deal of Roman and Greek knowledge through translation into Arabic and eventually into Latin.

The standard was maintained into Thursday and Friday with talks from international authors Hamza Tzortzis and Adam Deen. Tzortzis gave a talk asking 'Can we lead better lives without religion?' He formed a basis for an argument for God's existence with a series of nine points. These included the compatibility of Islam and science, Islamic financial and social support models and Islam's psychological benefits. Many questions and comments were drawn by Tzortzis's philosophical approach, with the lecture enhanced by a great deal of discussion.

The final talk of the week was Adam Deen's 'The Dawkins Delusion' – a response to Richard Dawkins's international bestseller *The God Delusion*. Deen used philosophical and scientific approaches to systematically discredit Dawkins's idea that belief in God necessitates a blind faith without empirical evidence. Deen went on to say that Muslims should make use of available evidence to come to sound conclusions.

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Campus struck by spirit of good will

Khairil Zhafri

THE LANCASTER UNIVERSITY Medical Society (MedSoc) has successfully raised £240 for Cancer Research UK from its fundraising drive in Week Five.

On Thursday and Friday before Valentine's Day, the society set up a stall selling roses in Alexandra Square, selling 70 in total.

MedSoc's Charity Officer, Jemma Mistry, told SCAN that "we chose Cancer Research UK as our main charity to support this year because as the adverts say, everyone knows someone who is affected by cancer.

"It has become quite pertinent this year because as part of the medical course, we are permitted to meet real patients in the hospital wards, some of whom are young. They have wonderful stories to tell but, due to illnesses like cancer, will most probably not leave hospital for quite a while, or may eventually pass on," she added.

Apart from raising funds for Cancer Research UK, the charity drive was also aimed at promoting cancer awareness amongst students.

"We were particularly interested in raising awareness of breast and testicular cancer, mainly because they are quite common and are treatable if



Big money medics: MedSoc have successfully raised £240 for charity

detected early," said Mistry, who is a second year medicine student.

"Cancer Research UK informed me that skin cancer is on the rise and I thought this was quite pertinent to students."

Several years ago, the society ran a campaign called 'Boobs and Balls' to encourage self-examination among young people. Mistry confirmed that MedSoc is planning to continue this campaign later in the academic year.

"We would encourage students to

take part in our awareness campaign too because part of disease prevention and cure is education," said Mistry.

"There is no reason why students and young people should ignore the fact that their body is constantly changing, which is why early detection through education can lead to successful treatment and prevention," she added.

MedSoc regularly organises academic talks throughout the term and in the past has supported various charitable organisations including Make

A Wish Foundation, Medics Sans Frontieres, and Down's Syndrome Association.

Cancer Research UK is one of the world's leading cancer charities that carries out research in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The London-based charity is funded entirely by public donations, legacies, community fundraising, events and corporate partnerships. Apart from research, it is also involved in promoting cancer awareness as well as influencing public policies in the UK.

Meanwhile, a group of postgraduate students from Lancaster University Management School is organising a seven-a-side football tournament and a fundraising dance party all in aid of Save the Children.

The tournament will take place on 6 March at the on-campus AstroTurf pitches. The dance party is to be held the same evening at County Bar.

The event has been organised by seven postgraduate students in Project Management and Environmental Management, as part of their academic requirement.

Sarith Sasidharan, a Masters' student in Project Management, told SCAN: "We, as a team, prefer a charity that works for children. We researched different charities and finally chose Save the Children because they are also providing aid for the Haiti earthquake

victims.

"We hope to raise at least £250 for the charity and absolutely anyone can participate," he added.

There will be 10 teams of seven players for the Footloose football tournament. In addition, the organisers will be selling raffle tickets in the days leading up to the main event. Each raffle ticket costs 50p and there are prizes worth £30 to be won.

The tournament's award ceremony and the raffle draw will be held during the dance party in County JCR.

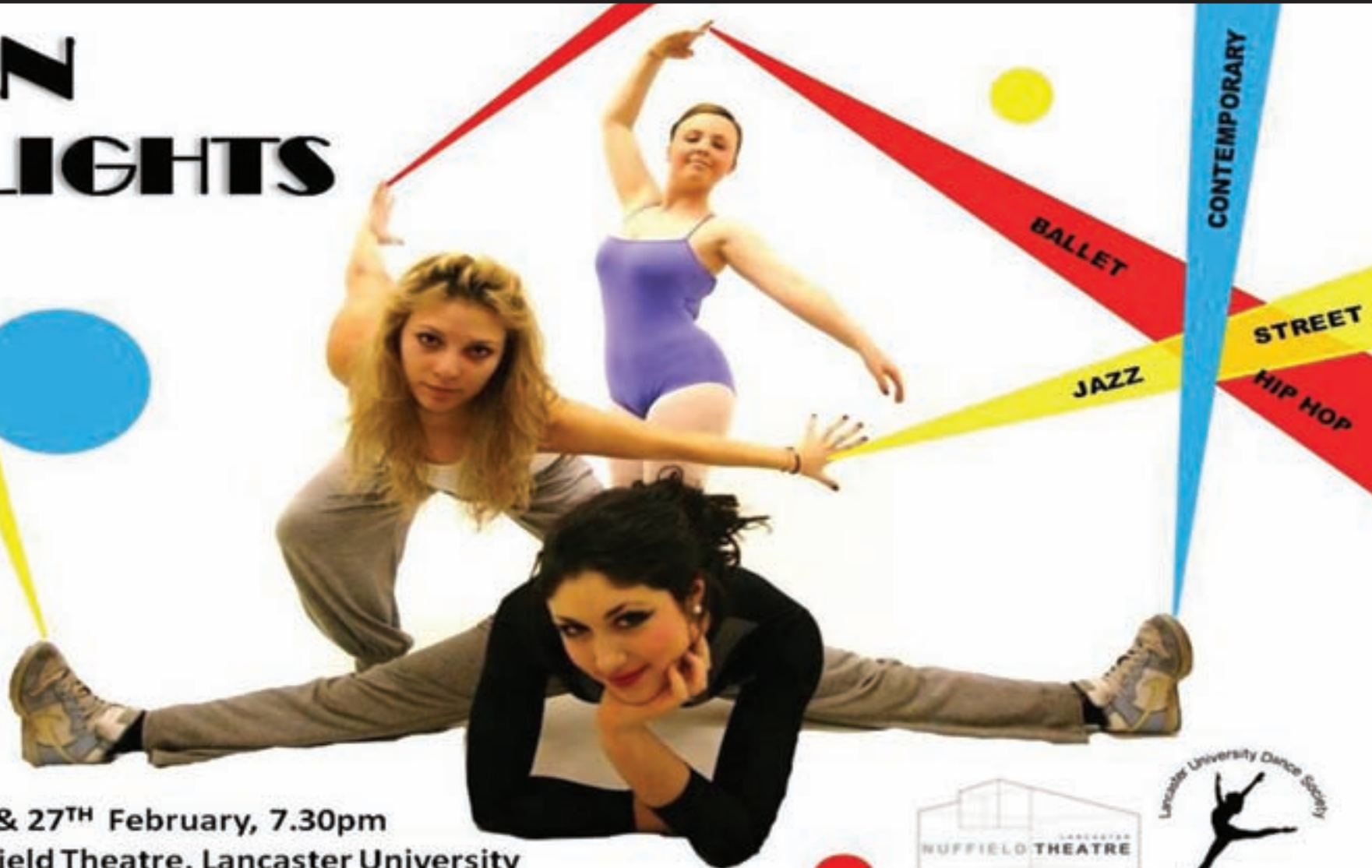
"Everyone should participate because every single penny that we raise from the event will go to a cause that helps those who are not as lucky as we are. Besides, they can have fun playing the most loved game in the world, in a simpler format," said Sasidharan.

Save the Children is an international charitable organisation providing aid to children around the world. The charity has offices in more than 28 countries with headquarters in London.

Apart from advocating children's rights, Save the Children is known for its involvement for its emergency-relief efforts in natural and manmade disasters such as the recent catastrophic earthquake in Haiti which killed more than 230,000 people earlier this year.

To take part in the football tournament email Sarith Sasidharan at s.sasidharan@lancaster.ac.uk.

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Concerns raised over Government clampdown on international student visas

- **VP EWD claims Lancaster students should not worry**
- **New regulations to come into force from March**
- **Restrictions aimed at short course students**

Lucy Miller



Crackdown: The Home Secretary is introducing some tougher restrictions

A RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT that student visas will be restricted by the Government has caused worry on campus.

New restrictions to the current visa system will come into force on 3 March. These restrictions will mean that students who have spouses or dependants will no longer be able to bring their families with them if they are on a course that lasts six months or less.

This restriction has been made in order to ensure that students from overseas are in the UK to study, rather than to work illegally.

Despite the changes, LUSU's Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) Torri Crapper says that there is no need for Lancaster students to worry, as the only students who will be affected are those on courses that last for less than six months. "For our students this change will not affect their studies or right to study in the UK. It won't have any implications for any potential inter-

national students who are here to study for their degree," she told SCAN.

Currently people from within the European Economic Area (EEA) can volunteer and work without any restrictions in the United Kingdom, and those with a student visa can work and volunteer part time for up to twenty hours per week. When the new regulations come into force next month this time allowed

for part time work and volunteering will be cut to ten hours.

The students who will be affected by these new visa restrictions are those in other universities and colleges in the UK studying for qualifications below degree level. For the most part, international students at Lancaster University will not be affected.

The restrictions have been imposed in response to worries over a scam that appears to have been taking place in North India, Bangladesh and Nepal. Applications from women in these countries has risen by 250% since 2008, and there have been significant concerns over the last few months that some of these women planning to bring their husbands to Britain, who will then work illegally. It has also been suggested that in some cases these women are not planning to study at all, and are in fact using the student visa as a means of fast entry into the country.

Alan Johnson, the Home Secretary, backs the new restrictions and believes that they will help to stop these kinds of visa scams. Quoted in The Times, he said: "Since we took steps to bar unskilled workers from coming to the UK, there have been clear indications that the student visa route is being exploited by those whose real intention is not to

study, but to find low, unskilled work for themselves and their families."

At the time of going to press Pat McFadden, the Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills, confirmed that this restriction on students who plan to take a course that lasts for less than six months will stay in place for the foreseeable future. McFadden pointed out that there are no restrictions on students from abroad who wish to come to the UK to study for any form of higher education, whether it is a foundation, undergraduate or postgraduate degree. She observed that international students bring a great deal of revenue to this country, almost £8.5 billion per annum, and that universities rely on them for financial purposes.

£8.5bn

The amount of revenue which international students bring into Britain per annum

Alan Johnson added that the restrictions have been designed to cut down on 'bogus students' and that international students are a valuable part of British universities.

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The candidate interviews

FOLLOWING ON FROM last year's successful trial with in-depth candidate interviews, we have returned this year with a similar aim: to really challenge the people campaigning to run your student union.

All fifteen of the candidates running for the six Full Time Executive Officer positions were subjected to a thorough grilling on a number of issues associated

with the role they wish to be elected into, as well as specific individual questions tailored to the issues they were highlighting in their manifesto and using as a platform to run in the first place.

These elections are absolutely crucial. Those who win shape the future direction of LUSU and have a major and tangible impact upon your lives as students here at Lancaster. Making an informed and educated decision is abso-

lutely vital, and here at SCAN, we hope we have gone some way to ensuring you are able to do this.

We do not wish to make candidates look stupid or deliberately deride their ideas, but instead challenge them and make them really think about their policies, seeing if they could stand up to scrutiny. It is not enough in an election to be able to use hollow rhetoric or make outlandish promises. Where this hap-

pens we hope to have called the candidate out on it, and then voters can make up their own mind on a person.

These interviews were conducted in as fair a way as possible with the same journalist interviewing all the candidates for a position and writing the same number of words. The subsequent write-ups from the interview have been moderated by Election sub-committee to ensure due impartiality is present.

Samantha Newsham
News Editor

Collette McColgan
News Editor

Chris Housden
Deputy News Editor

Steve Feekins

Jen Day

Julian Surface
Sports Editor

for more sabbatical elections coverage go to
<http://democracy.lusu.co.uk/>

LUSU President



Robbie Pickles

College
Cartmel

Degree subject
History, Politics & International Relations

Proposer
George Gardiner (Fylde)

Secunder
Katie Kitney (Lonsdale)

tions, [you can] put them on the spot, scrutinise them, find out what they're doing, make

life hard for them'. People should be coming along and telling officers what they think. At the moment [Council] gets to the questions section and no-one has a question because the people there know what's going on."

With this in mind Pickles plans to continue the review of LUSU's election process, which began last year with the introduction of e-voting. The next step, he believes, is to make the process of standing for elections easier and more accessible.

"The actual ability to participate in elections, to be a candidate, isn't something we've looked into," he said. "Somebody who's never stood in an election before might find it extremely difficult, particularly Part Time Officer elections."

He feels that as well as simplifying LUSU activities, the students' union must find better ways of communicating them to its membership.

"[It's] about communicating much more effectively by simplifying the process," he said.

"We've got Squeak, we can use that much more effectively to talk about elections," he added. "We can

provide students with this information when they first arrive. Why isn't there a booklet which says what all the officers do and how you can run for them?"

Despite agreeing that LUSU could improve its channels of communication, Pickles feels that the criticisms levelled at it of not listening to ordinary students are 'unfair'.

How would he, as President, challenge these beliefs?

"If students say that we're not listening to them I'd like to talk to them, I'd actually like to see them. I'm happy to talk to any student and I think that's exactly how it should be. We need to be bringing in the people who think we're not listening and find out what they think."

Pickles admitted that the LUSU bunker is an 'off-putting zone' and that the President's office, tucked away at the back, is not easy to find. To make himself more available to hear students' views, he suggested an office hour to be held perhaps in a college bar 'where people feel more comfortable'.

"It's about being visible and accessible," he explained. "It's just a case of putting time aside specifically for that. Every week I'll set aside a period of time when people know they can come and see me."

Other than simplification, the key issue Pickles would like to concen-

trate on is preserving and enhancing the student experience. To do this, he will call upon his year as President of Cartmel JCR 'learning how to represent the student voice'. He pointed to the new sports centre as an area where more can be done.

"If you're going to build a new sports centre, you've got to match that across the board. There's other issues that need addressing, you can't just do one thing and leave the others. The whole range needs to be improved. I think particularly space for societies, every year more and more people are joining societies and space isn't being provided."

Pickles' concern is that in the current financial climate the university may choose not to see the student experience as a core value.

"LUSU exists to enhance the student experience [and University Management] need to, if anything, be putting more money into the student experience. We need to make that case and we need to demonstrate to them exactly how students will benefit."

He agrees that a strong stance on what he perceives as the university's 'tough budgetary decisions' may put further strain on a relationship in which conflict is 'inevitable'.

"We're always going to have differences of opinion. What I think is important will be different from what the Vice Chancellor thinks is important because you're looking at it from different angles."

Whilst conflict with University Management may be a fact of the Union President's life, Pickles feels that the relationship with JCRs and Part Time Officers is very important.

"I think the relationship needs to be extremely strong," he said. "There's an element of trust – if the JCRs trust that LUSU are doing the right thing at a Sabbatical level then they will want to engage more. The JCRs really are part of LUSU, I think sometimes they act like they're not."

"Everyone's part of LUSU," he continued. "The Sabbatical team aren't LUSU, everybody's LUSU. The Sabbatical team are just co-ordinating the strategy of the Students' Union and that means working with all students, not just officers, to achieve what we want."

Working with all students is another area Pickles would like to focus on. Union Council, he believes, is not at all representative of LUSU's membership. That said, he doesn't think there's a specific group he should be targeting for inclusion.

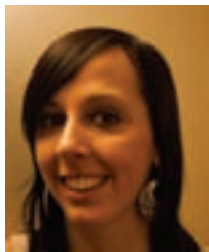
"There's as much difference between any individual as between any grouping of individuals. We can't say postgraduates feel under represented [or] international students feel under represented; we're representing all the students in the same way.

I don't think you can just say this whole group of people feel disenchanting and this whole group of people don't, it's much more complicated than that."

Although Pickles confesses that he doesn't see himself as significantly different from previous Union Presidents, he believes the tried-and-tested approach will help him succeed.

"I wouldn't say I had a completely different way of doing things [but] I don't think you need completely different styles of leadership," he said. "As long as you're bringing in fresh ideas I think that's what's important."

Vice-President (Sport)



Erika Vann

College
Pendle

Degree subject
History and Politics

Proposer
Ffion Davies (Lonsdale)

Seconder
Tristan Hirst (Fylde)

ERIKA VANN'S PLANS involve media coverage of certain events and increasing awareness to off-campus students through certain advertising.

The current Chair of Sports Exec says she feels she is "basically learning the VP role. I've learnt so much already during the six weeks and have been working with Sue [Wynes, current VP Sport] [...] with the organization for Roses and Carter Shield."

Her main focus is that of increasing participation in the Carter Shield: "I want to continue the Facebook groups and put up posters in Alexandra Square about upcoming tournaments. Also, I want to get a SCAN section that tells people

about taster days."

"I also plan on talking to LUTube.TV and Bailrigg FM to do coverage of matches, so that bars might be able to have highlights each week," she added.

Vann continued: "I want to make it more of a society than an event [with] socials so that people can feel more committed for off-campus students as well as on. I want a more central focus for sports so that even people who don't get involved with the sport [can] go down and watch."

Speaking of her input to Roses, she said: "I like the Roses Rally and I want to continue the Boot Camp. I want to focus on Roses throughout the year."

When asked about the recent problems with pitch destruction, Vann said: "It's always going to happen with terrible weather. I will try and make sure that teams are talking to each other."

Another topic she felt strongly about was refereeing: "I will continue checking the referees so that they don't get double-booked." She suggested organising a training day so that there may be more referees available.

Speaking about her confidence and passion for the role, Vann said: "I've only recently started getting involved and taking it seriously, but I feel like I know exactly what I'm taking on."



Marc Handley

College
Lonsdale

Degree subject
Sociology and English Literature

Proposer
Azmi Sbaiti (Lonsdale)

Seconder
Richard Howarth (Lonsdale)

ASINTER-COLLEGESPORTS Coordinator and Sports Representative for Lonsdale JCR Exec, Marc Handley is not short of experience.

"I want to spread my influence, not behind the desk, but getting out there and interacting with teams and supporters," Handley said, of how he will go about his role.

However, he believes that the first priority is to be sure that the new sports centre gets constructed on schedule. When the new building is finished, Handley believes it will "rejuvenate the sports teams and show that the University cares about support."

When broached on the subject of the old facilities,

Handley described the misuse as "disgusting" in the case of the tennis courts being used as a car park. He further said: "[It will be] something I will fight for. There should be other options."

He pledges to continue the Roses Rally event and "to increase and build on publicity for the college teams. The Roses event is where we need the University there, as much as the team."

Handley's solution is a "set up of sports committees within different colleges, where everything is shared between all the college captains, pushing the concept of sport within the colleges. It is through this wider spread committee that

I will try to increase support for each other sport, rather than just your own. It will bridge a gap between University and college levels."

As to the stress that the job can cause and the intense time devotion, Handley said: "It's easily a seven day week. But I have firsthand experience of some of the workload. I look at the deadlines as targets and they need to be done."

Handley said: "I want to sell the product of sport so that people want people to play for us. It won't happen overnight, but by increasing University respect and pride, it is a step in the right direction."

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Vice President (Media & Communications/SCAN Editor)

Lizzie Houghton



College
Furness

Degree subject
Sociology with Politics

Proposer
Luke Anderson (Furness)

Secunder
Tom Skarbek-Wazyński (Bowland)

LIZZIE HOUGHTON COMES across as someone with experience. In her two years writing for SCAN, she has held the position of News Editor, and is currently the Assistant Editor.

She has also presented a show on Student Media Board as part of her role in SCAN. She was also a LUSU Block of Six Officer from June until December 2009.

She feels this, and countless experience in her gap year, including working on the communications team of the Liverpool Culture Company, which was behind the Capital of Culture year in Liverpool, makes her perfect for the role of VP Media & Communications/SCAN Editor.

She is the first to admit that her strengths lie in the editing aspect of the role, but in her own words, "This doesn't mean I have weaknesses in the Comms side."

"The way I see this role is that I'm not Station Manager of Bailrigg FM, and I'm not Studio Controller of LUTube.TV. I'm here to help the other student media, not to run them," she said. "If they need new facilities, I will help them try and get those, if they need new equipment, I will fight for that. I will help them implement their strategic plans [...] so they can provide the best services for Lancaster students."

Houghton has recently created a Chapel of the National Union of Journalists for the University. She feels that this work with the NUJ will ensure that student journalists "feel their independence is never being threatened [...] the NUJ and NUS have currently drawn up guidelines that Unions who have Sabb Officer editors should follow, and I'd bring those into LUSU and make sure there's that safeguard."

Speaking of her ideas for SCAN, Houghton said: "The big change I would make would be to get rid of the Features, Student Lifestyle and Culture sections, and bring in a new pullout." The pullout would be named Carolynne, after one of the Students' Unions founding newspapers, and be "tailored to Lancaster students." She also intends to look at the News section, "making it more critical,

cutting and [featuring] more long term investigations, providing the counter-argument to the Union."

Houghton spoke at length about her relationship with JCR communications officers:

"I'm not going to be there to hold their hands – the JCRs do have battles, and they need to fight those battles by themselves. What I will make sure is that they are well equipped to fight those battles."

At the forefront of Houghton's campaign is the Union's communications. She feels that current methods are confusing, adding, "for someone who doesn't understand the Union, it's very hard to access [...] it's very easy to understand why people have so little interest in [it]."

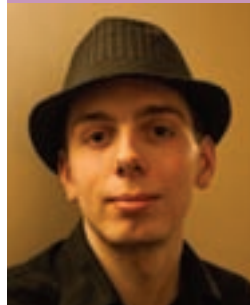
Houghton suggested more traditional methods of communicating with students, such as 'Out of Office Hours' – an hour each week where officers go sit in a college bar and talk directly to students about their issues.

She continued, "I think the Union needs to get over its love affair with Facebook – there are many other ways to communicate to a mass number of people over the internet, such as podcasting and live debate."

When pressed about whether she knew if there was room in the budget to fund her ideas, Houghton was less sure. "Communications [...] is now at the forefront of the Union's strategic plan, and as such the budget needs to be there to match, so even if there isn't a budget now, there certainly will be next time round, and that's something I'll fight for."

Houghton was keen to state that she knew the 'realities' of the job, given her past experience: "You get fat, and you get bald, and your hair goes grey, and you turn very grumpy, and you have to spend 36 hours in a windowless room, staring at a computer screen, waiting for copy to come in [...] the romanticised view is that there's more people to help out, that it's a well-oiled machine, that you don't have to dedicate your weekends to it, but unfortunately that's not the case, and I know that, and I'm perfectly willing to get fat, and bald and grumpy, and have no social life."

Andrew Pillow



College
Furness

Degree subject
Maths

Proposer
Kiera Olphert (Pendle)

Secunder
Emily Blanchard (Furness)

ANDREW PILLOW IS keen to stress that he may be stronger in the Media & Communications side of the role, but he is willing to learn the skills of an editor from the current editorial team at SCAN.

His strengths in the Media & Communications side, he feels, come from his experience at Bailrigg FM – as the Safety Officer, and a presenter and presenter trainer for the News and Music teams he has conducted interviews with musicians, previous sabbatical nominees and politicians. He has also written for SCAN in the past.

Pillow explained how he would divide the time between the two jobs when a SCAN deadline was approaching: "time management, mainly [...] It doesn't mean just after the deadline, SCAN Editor goes away – things for the next issue that can be done then; things that need to be done for Media & Comms, even if the deadline's getting close, if it needs to be done, it needs to be done then."

Pillow was asked if he had any major ideas for changes he would like to make to the structure and style of SCAN. "I think Lifestyle needs to become more of a magazine type thing – [...] at the moment it's kind of in the middle-ground. It's neither fun, like a proper magazine type thing, nor serious; it's stuck in the middle, and it needs to become more magazine to have a bit of variety in the paper."

He also spoke at length about the Comment section: "I think Comment needs to have a debate in every issue, so it's not just people's opinions you're reading because although some of them are interesting it does make it slightly... boring." He explained he would like to see a Comment piece for and against a specific topic in each issue of the paper.

When asked about his views on the involvement with the JCR communications officers, Pillow said: "I'm going to be loving them." He then began to explain his ideas about have a cross-campus social and sporting calendar in SCAN.

When the question was clarified, he commented that he would be working heavily with the JCR Execs to put this calen-

dar together, whilst also saying how he would encourage SCAN writers to write for their own college magazines.

When asked about the relevance of the college magazines, he spoke at length about how the popularity of them can largely depend on the "writer of the JCR newspaper", claiming that "in Furness [his college] I've seen really good [...] editors, and ones that haven't done anything." He concluded that he did still see a place for the magazines, and that they were important to college life.

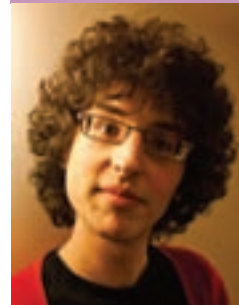
He generally felt the Union's current methods of communication to be good, but when asked if he had any ideas as to how to combat any problems with communication the Union may be facing, he replied, "I don't have the answer for that right now, I wish I did."

Pillow was asked to explain if he thought that the Union's media was too biased towards LUSU. He replied that some people may have this view of SCAN because "News articles, mainly [...] seem to only focus on [what the Union is doing]" and that this can largely be put down to the close relationship between SCAN and the Union, with the editor being an elected officer.

He felt that these articles "gloss over" a few points, and can be seen as "propaganda." He did, however, say that it would be the role of the Assistant Editor to make sure he did not become too much of an officer during his role as SCAN Editor, adding: "It's harder to keep LUSU out of SCAN, rather than SCAN out of LUSU."

Pillow's key issue for his campaign is that of making students aware of social and sporting events, through Bailrigg FM, LUTube.TV and SCAN. The SCAN side of this policy would include a wall chart, detailing all the fortnight's events included in the paper. He explained that on the back of this wall chart, there would be regular SCAN articles, and that it would be located before the Lifestyle section and after Comment and Letters to the Editor sections. He added: "The wall chart must be next to the Lifestyle section, come what may, so it's either before or after to make it flowing."

Michael Holt



College
Furness

Degree subject
History

Proposer
Robert Christie (Furness)

Secunder
Rachel Black (Furness)

MICHAEL HOLT FEELS that he is prepared for the pressures and time demands that come with the job of VP Media and Communications/SCAN Editor: "It's unavoidable that the main brunt of the job is editing the newspaper [...] that's the responsibility you're going to get called up upon more if it's not of a high quality," he said.

He was asked how he would cope with heavy time demands made on him near a SCAN deadline: "I think most of the work on a SCAN deadline happens after 6pm, and I think most of the VP Media & Comms remit happens during the day [...] you have to be prepared to work quite late into the night to get SCAN up to that kind of level [...] I think it's not too difficult juggling the two positions."

Holt listed his experiences with the media in his time at the University – he has written "approximately two dissertations worth of material for SCAN", produced a radio show on Bailrigg FM, been Furness JCR Magazine Editor for a year, creating the successful 'Furness Foyer of Fear' charity ghost walk as part of this role. He has also produced videos for LUTube.TV.

He was questioned about his ideas for SCAN, and any improvements he felt should be made to the paper.

"My main issue, and the thing I want to focus on is getting the content up to a higher level [...] I want to make sure there's interesting stuff on every single page, and try and make sure there's more on Lancaster specifically", explaining that he felt that there was too much content that was a "watered down" version of what can be found in most mainstream newspapers.

He was keen to make clear that Lancaster-specific stories could lead to more people being interested in contributing to the paper: "If you focus on local [issues] you get more people involved, and that works in your favour."

When asked if he had any major ideas about his relationship with the other Union media. "I think Bailrigg FM and LU Cinema do a really

stunning job [...] with LUTube.TV, on the other hand, I think there's an absolute vagueness about what they do [...] they're always at these events [...] but I don't think they're capitalising on it" he said, explaining his concerns that videos may not be uploaded to the website at a time when they are still relevant.

When asked about his role with the college communications officers and magazine editors, Holt had a clearer sense of what his direction would be. "You don't want to impose too much because people have a strong idea about what they want to do [...] you have to let people carve a niche for themselves," he said.

He feels that there is still a place for the college magazines, explaining that "they were there in the first place to publicise events, because that was the only way to do it." He listed other methods like E-newsletters and Facebook for college communication of events currently, and described them as creating "a shift in what the college magazine actually does", but still feels that they are necessary.

Holt was asked if he had any ideas as to how he could make the Union communicate better with its students. After a long pause, he suggested the introduction of a schedule for the approaching fortnight in every issue of SCAN, listing the upcoming events.

His opinion on current LUSU communications was positive, however: "I think the people that are going to be most responsive [to LUSU communications] do listen," he said, adding: "It seems misguided to say that LUSU don't communicate well enough, because I think they do a very good job under the circumstances."

Holt describes himself as an unorthodox figure in student politics: "I don't take myself especially seriously [...] I want to talk to people fairly truthfully, and sometimes I do embarrassing things or say embarrassing things [...] I admit my failings, but I think that makes me a more relatable figure."

Vice President (Finance, Events, Democracy & Societies)

Myles Harrison



College
Fylde

Degree subject
English Language and the Media

Proposer
Jen Webster (Fylde)

Secunder
Lee Harris (Fylde)

WITH TWO YEARS of JCR experience and a current employee of the Sugarhouse, Myles Harrison believes that he has an 'excellent understanding' of the Union and is able to see LUSU as a commercial venture as well as an organisation for supporting the students where their ideas are considered.

"I've got two years of experience on Fylde JCR, so I've got experience of how the union works. [I've sat] on Union Council, Social and Events and other committees such as EWD. I've embraced a lot of change over the last few years and I feel that this, coupled with working at Sugarhouse, [means that] I can see the Union as a commercial entity."

When asked why he was running for this role Harrison said "I feel like I have a lot to offer the role in terms of organisation, especially events such as Grad Ball and the Extravs. The students are here to have a good time as well as study and we should be providing that with their input not just making decisions for them."

Harrison wants more students to get involved with LUSU and share their ideas. He admits that at the moment it can be difficult to engage with students because they are put off by the LUSU bunker.

"[This role] is all about engaging with students, not over a desk or in the office [but] at a college bar, at a quiz, international events. [It's] just getting out there and seeing what the students want, being approachable."

After side stepping a question on deadlines, Harrison went on to say "Although there are very distinct parts of the job it is very finely balanced. It's going to call for very precise time management and I believe I can do that. We had a few people dropping out [of our JCR] and I had to take up the roles. There were many different jobs and it's all about choosing the right time to do the right thing and delegating."

Harrison went on to discuss his skills in organisation and how he believes they will benefit him in the events aspect of this role.

"Having organised an Extrav entirely by myself, I under-

stand the processes that go into that. [The] Extrav I ran was the most successful Fylde Extrav in years and one of the most successful of last year."

Harrison further discussed the 'appalling conditions' of society allocated space, believing that collaboration between LUSU and the University is needed to improve facilities.

"It's discussions that need to be held between societies with LUSU and the university as a whole. The university themselves advertise societies on their open days and in leaflets. They're advertising these societies, drawing people to the University, taking their money and not delivering on what they said they would."

When the question of LUSU finances was raised, Harrison felt that it was important to be able to budget carefully to prepare for future financial uncertainties.

"Everyone has seen that £135m is coming out of higher education next year and that is going to be a big cut. The university is obviously going to review how much money they put into LUSU, but I believe in the last few years LUSU has recognised this and have built up enough in storage. It is about using that to its full potential and not wasting money here and there."

Harrison wants to provide a Union 'for students, run by the students'. To do this he believes that more people need to get involved and have their views heard.

"It's not just the five or six people that sit in LUSU that should make the decisions. 15,000 students at this university should be making these decisions and when it comes up to elections they should have an input into what they want." Harrison believes that students need to get involved so that they are heard in order to target the issues most important to them.

Finally, Harrison hopes that if he wins this election that he will be able "to fulfil this role to its full potential and provide students with a service they deserve, but most importantly, that they feel a part of."

Matt Windsor



College
Lonsdale

Degree subject
History

Proposer
Alex Carlin (Lonsdale)

Secunder
Andrew Platts (Lonsdale)

HAVING BEEN INVOLVED in LUSU politics since his first term at university, Matt Windsor believes that he has the experience and skills required to be the 'pivotal cog' handling the day to day running of the Union on a personal and approachable level.

"VP FEDS probably works with the most people, [so] I have to be approachable, I have to be able to deal with people and I think I am very good at [this]. If someone has a problem [you're] no use if they don't feel they can come and talk to you about it."

Windsor feels that his experience as a webmaster and Lonsdale College President have given him an insight into how the Union works as well as experience in publicity, organisation of events, managing budgets and understanding the inner workings of the democratic processes.

Whilst Windsor believes that he has "the perfect amount of experience" for this job, he admits that societies "are my weak point. I have never been involved in one because I've been too busy with JCR for two years, but I am doing my research at the moment."

When asked what he thought was the most important area of the role, Windsor felt that societies demand the most time. "Over 50% of people in the entire University are involved in a club or society. There is something to cater for everyone and if you start to lose that then people wouldn't have [an] outlet from the stresses of their degrees."

Nonetheless, he feels that there is a major problem with society space at present and wants to put action in place to target this issue.

"At the moment there are Portakabins up by County that actually have rats in them that are gnawing away at society equipment which is ridiculous. The university are the first to say 'look at how many clubs and societies we have' [but they] should show a bit of respect because we're giving these people vital skills that will help them in the job market."

He went on to say that "in terms of society space there are a couple of options on campus,

possibly the sports hall or Fylde Coffee Shop. We need somewhere open so the cheerleaders can throw their flies up into the air without hitting their head on the roof. We need meeting rooms with computers, projectors, screens, all that kind of things. We need a dedicated societies' space."

Windsor believes that more money should be spent to engage more with the students, particularly with regards to the JCRs. "Lonsdale's magazine editor can afford to [issue] one black and white magazine a term. If people want to show more respect for the JCR's and [decide] if they're doing a good job, how are they supposed to [prove they're succeeding] without having the money to do so?"

As the current Social and Events Chair Windsor feels he has "got the events down to a tee."

Learning from past experience he understands "if we try to impose too many events from the top and say 'we're doing this, support us', then we're not supported. It has to come from the students."

He went on to say "I now respect that you can't do these things by yourself, you have to ask other people what they would like. I think especially with FEDS having democracy in the title you can't go 'I'm going to decide', you have to get an opinion from other people so that's what I will be doing."

One of Windsor's event ideas is introducing themed elections. With the turnout of voters for election being poor Windsor hopes this idea will encourage more people to get involved.

"To increase people voting I think we need more people running for these positions. A lot of people will look at the JCRs and [think] 'why would I want to go through so many hours of meetings a week?' In my opinion it needs to be promoted a hell of a lot more what you can get out of becoming an officer of the union. [My experience] is going to stand me much better than another candidate in a future job and I don't think enough people know that."

Alex Leonard



College
County

Degree subject
Chemistry & Biology

Proposer
Liam Turnbull (County)

Secunder
Maria McLenaghan (County)

AS A SELF confessed workaholic Alexander Leonard thinks that he has the ability to balance his time effectively to enable him to juggle this highly demanding and varied role. He feels that his intricate involvement with societies will give him the knowledge and experience needed to support students and give them what they need.

"[As current] head of Theatre Group and LUTube TV, [and a member of] Societies Union Executive Committee [I] know a fair bit about the inner workings of societies and what they want [since] I have been representing them for some time

I've been involved in quite a large amount of University events, such as Winterfest [and] Campus Festival [and have] been involved in organising them. I already know who to go to in the University to get things done. Knowing those things already is a good advantage to have [in this] role."

Leonard hopes to draw on these previous experiences if he wins the election.

"[This is] a step up from what I am doing now, and I enjoy what I do now. Once I get stuck in I give it my all. This role allows me to do that and help the most people."

With events playing a central role in FEDS, Leonard wants to include more students in their organisation.

"I want to get more students involved in the event making process as a whole, to say 'this is an event I'd like to run', and I want to work with them to help them run it as they want. I want them to have their event idea in mind, to push that forward and get more of them involved from the start."

Leonard feels this is probably the most important aspect of this job since "there always needs to be something on for students to do and it always needs to be good."

He admits that "I don't have one key issue. The remit is so large and diverse that focusing on one thing would lead to missing the smaller things. I want to be more focused on bringing everything closer together, getting the systems running more effectively and aiming for many smaller goals,

such as getting societies space, getting students more involved in events [and] fully digitalising elections."

Leonard went on to discuss his ideas for gaining vitally needed society space.

"Currently there's a bid going forward for some of the space in the old sports hall. Once that's gone through I want to follow it through as best I can and get that space for them. I will get something for them even if it's just another set of Portakabins, even if it's just another cupboard. It is about time they stopped getting the bad end of the stick of everything."

Gaining new facilities requires money and when asked about the possibility of having to handle a tighter LUSU budget Leonard said "It's not going to get much tighter in my opinion. You can still provide a good service with a couple of cuts here and there."

With this in mind Leonard explained his ideas on how he would improve the democratic process and increase voters through the introduction of a wider use of technology rather than spending finances on posters.

"I think most of the posters that are up are a little bit of a waste of time because most people don't look at posters anymore. I want to push more the electronic side of it, stuff like resnet [and] campus screens where an audio visual component can be chucked in. If it's making a lot of noise you're more tempted to look towards it."

This more interactive approach was followed through in Leonard's plans to help make the Full Time Executive Officers more visible to the greater student population.

"I want to do a question time session with officers, getting students to give them a bit of a grilling as to what they're doing, opening it up to the floor a bit more."

For Leonard this role will show him "a new side to LUSU." He commented "[I want] to see how far I can push my personal skills and develop better skills in events management, multi-tasking and enjoy Lancaster for another year."

Vice-President (Equality, Welfare & Diversity)

Neil Smith



College
Cartmel

Degree subject
French & Italian

Proposer
Mark Lord (Cartmel)

Second
Samantha Aldridge (Furness)

NEIL SMITH FEELS that his experiences of representing students, beginning when he sat on his sixth form council, give him an edge as he has run in elections from an early stage. Currently in his second term as Cartmel College JCR's equality officer, Smith also sits as EWD council chair.

Smith also feels that taking a year out and working in full time employment means he brings a different perspective to student life which he would use as Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity).

Having been an international student in a year abroad studying in Italy, Smith feels that he has gained a unique insight into being a minority national student in a foreign country. This is something he wishes to bring to the role, stating that he "understands aspects of the lives of international students that most officers will not see."

Speaking on the nature of the EWD role and its three distinguishable parts, Smith expressed the view that there are "three quite separate issues but [they are] also quite relevant to each other at the same time." His way of getting around the varied role would be "opening dialogue and gaining the opinions of the students I'll be trying to represent", recognising that communication "is a key factor in thinking out strategies for dealing with the issues that they experience."

Smith stated that the welfare provision, a contentious issue this year after large budget cuts, is "one thing I have discussed and I'm going to propose quite a radical thing." He would like to see specific funds set up for areas within the EWD, and stated "in my opinion [funds] should be going to the relevant councils." He was keen to reassure students that in the creation of these separate budgets there would still be a central fund able to be accessed by all requests.

The topic of funding is a large concern for Smith. As EWD council chair he recently saw "two sports requests made by two colleges that, in my opinion, should come out of a sports budget for sports exec council or the AU".

In Smith's opinion, despite next year's budget still being

planned by the current sabbatical, there is a "determination to keep the welfare budget at least as it is, I seriously doubt that any support will be given to a further reduction."

Discussing the non-sabbatical officer review from earlier this year, Smith reasoned that "despite initial worries I think that it has worked as it was intended to". He stated that representing students at their level with the part-time officers was successful. Smith passed over the topic of JCRs and their various EWD officers despite that being asked about them with regards to reaching students.

Asked about policy writing and reviewing, Smith immediately appeared hesitant, stating that the topic was "quite an interesting one." This year a review is being written by the current VP Torri Crapper to refine equality policy into a single document, a principal that Smith states he fully supports.

Smith's hesitance on the topic is involved with the process of the review. Explaining that "unfortunately I'm not on the equality committee," Smith has been watching the proceedings carefully. There is "something that is possibly going through that I quite disagree with" he said, but wouldn't state specifics as it is deemed "controversial in the EWD circle."

With this in mind, Smith feels that "in future more people should be included in the process and more consultation should be made during the writing" of the document. Smith feels that implementing this approach, rather than drafts being submitted by the few people on the team for the rest of the EWD to approve, would lead to more productive year.

Asked whether his acknowledged nature as an outspoken candidate could damage his campaign, Smith gave a balanced answer. He stated that he acknowledged the risks but argued that "if a candidate isn't willing to stand up and represent the groups that they have been elected to represent then they are failing at their job." He reasoned that while listening to the students "I am prepared to push as hard as I can to make sure that the students get what they deserve."

Chaz Ginn



College
Grizedale

Degree subject
Biology, Chemistry & Religion

Proposer
Matt Saint (County)

Second
Matthew Power (Lonsdale)

HAVING BEEN INVOLVED with both charity and youth work, standing as a campaigns officer on the LGBTQ exec and as Grizedale JCR president, Chaz Ginn feels she brings a lot of experience with her in nominating herself for the role of Vice President for Equality, Welfare and Diversity (EWD). She stated that "as much as you can do, I've done" in both JCR and non-sabbatical positions.

Asked about the budgets cuts that the EWD remit has been subjected to this year, Ginn gave a realistic outlook should she win the election. "Finding more money is not always possible, I think it's about getting the best quality for the money we have available" she stated.

In Ginn's opinion, the Union understands the need to fund EWD across the campus. She stated that while she couldn't promise an infinite budget, "I would guarantee that I'd fight to get it in the right places."

Ginn appears to have a well planned series of ideas for her proposed term as a full time executive officer. "There are a lot of great charities locally that we could perhaps make better connections with," she said, highlighting that the campus is often isolated from the wider world.

An attention to detail was evident in her examples. "I find it surprising we have a counselling service that does group sessions and doesn't do anything for self harm considering the number of students on campus that have issues with self harm," Ginn commented. She stated that in a similar vein, eating disorders and other areas could benefit. "People don't necessarily want to be told what to do but would get support from being around other people."

On the EWD representation at a student level, Ginn drew on her own JCR experience and stated that she'd "love to see an international officer in every college," but recognised that it has to be called for. "If the international officer exists purely because Union Council or whoever has mandated it, it will never be successful because there won't be the support behind it".

Ginn noted that one of her aims is to achieve better com-

munication across the university. She feels that there is a lot of scope for better multi-faith and inter-faith representation, not necessarily an officer position but a point of contact to air issues and views.

Issues with the Chaplaincy Centre would be one such grounding for a unified voice. Admitting that although now any redevelopment is two years away Ginn did state that it is unfair to have poor facilities for faith practice. It's "not a society or activity in that sense [...] but this is a part of them, intrinsically them and their belief system." Despite the delay, she said "that wouldn't stop me trying to fight for it."

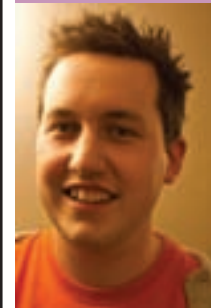
Ginn not only wants to work locally but is looking abroad too. She wants to work with the VP for Media and Communications to reach the satellite campuses the university now has, even though a she appeared a little vague on their locations. 'It's important that they know what's going on over here', she argued, proposing simple ideas like video linked hustings as a starting point.

Ginn wants to work with the VP for Academic Affairs in investigating different faculty intakes and asking questions about minority representation, citing her own experiences as the sole woman in a chemistry course. Ginn said that she would like to empower people, encourage them to study what they want, and run for what they want. An extension of this, she says, would be working with the VP for Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies in encouraging certain groups to get involved.

Ginn said her role would be "trying to empower everyone, in all elections but especially in FTEO elections, to empower everyone to be involved, get across the point that they should be involved and they can."

A key element that Ginn is keen to express is that her background in working with , and personal experience of, minorities and liberation will not be detrimental to the other focuses of the remit. She stated that she is a "facilitator, not a dictator", and promised that "I will cover absolutely anything and everything as it's required."

Pete Macmillan



College
County

Degree subject
Politics & Peace Studies

Proposer
Jessica Horsfield (Cartmel)

Second
Chloe Themistocleous (County)

WITH A FIRM background in student welfare roles, Pete Macmillan cited works in progress as well as past experience as elements he could bring to the vice presidency.

He defined the role as "a very fine balancing act" between the three areas, and acknowledged that to do well he couldn't just rely on welfare experience. "You need to be clued up across the board," he said.

Asked about ensuring welfare was secure and available, Macmillan vehemently defined the role as "looking after students, and if we can't budget for that then what should we budget for? That is the argument I would use time and again."

The welfare provision was cut severely in this year's overall budget. Since the budget proposal at the end of the last academic year Macmillan has stated several times that cutting the EWD budget is not a good idea. He commented that students "need to be realistic and to appreciate cuts are being made across the board but if there's going to be budget cuts I think it should be from other areas."

Asked about his proposed approach to the equality side of the role, Macmillan homed in immediately on women's rights. He began by summarising that "for the past two years I've been to see the Vagina Monologues, and that seems to be the main focus of the equality side of it."

He continued to briefly cite the upcoming review of equality policy, the single equality draft progressing at the moment, as important and "a really good work in progress".

Addressing the idea of equality still, Macmillan asserted that as someone who doesn't identify as LGBTQ he would still focus as intently on their proposals as other areas, stating all requests need to be 'respected' and facilitated by the EWD remit.

Asked about the openness of the role in comparison to the past incarnation of Women's Officer, Macmillan stated that if it was limited to only female candidacy it would "fly in the face of what the remit actually is. The title says equality and if you marginalise half the population and say 'no, you can't run for that' then it flies in the

face of what the position stands for."

He later settled on the argument that "I feel it has been strengthened, that it's opened up to everyone, and that it is only for the benefit of the students".

This year's non-sabbatical review saw drastic changes to the EWD part time officer count. Macmillan stated that, having seen the resulting few months of work, he "would rather have fewer positions, but each one of those positions filled, than have every position under the sun possible and only have a handful of students run."

As VP EWD Macmillan would favour broader roles, stating that too specific a set of remits creates a lack of interest if officers have to fill the gaps in duties they didn't run for.

The competition generated from having fewer officers brings out the best policies, in Macmillan's opinion. He argued that "you learn from running against each other," alluding that other candidates' ideas may come into play even if he is voted into office.

Representing faith groups, Macmillan hopes to address the increasing demand for space to practice faith. Admitting that with the Chaplaincy Centre 'there's never going to be an overnight solution,' he did argue that he'd want to reach a level of solution within his term in office.

Macmillan also brings large initiatives to the role rather than merely maintaining the status quo. "Things like the international event, I don't see why that couldn't become a campus wide event in the same vein as Friday Fury or the chocolate factory social."

Macmillan displays a keenness to work closely with other Vice Presidents for the benefit of the students, not only with regards to campus-wide events. He claims there is a very fine crossover with the Vice President (Academic Affairs), particularly with tuition fees being a pressing issue for many students.

Macmillan wants to leave the role having made a difference, claiming he'd be happy even if he could just think "I've made life better in this one area."

Vice-President (Academic Affairs)

Robin Hughes



College
Graduate

Degree subject
International Relations & Law

Proposer
Sarah Taylor (Graduate)

Seconder
Claire Dixon (Furness)

ROBIN HUGHES FEELS that he can be the voice of both undergraduates and postgraduates. He thinks that this can be done through co-curricular activities, project grants for undergraduates and highlighting a collaborative approach on the fees campaign.

"Lancaster degrees are seen as important and a very good achievement to have made, but [employers] are always looking for that extra something.

I think there is a slight gap in more clearly academic opportunities for people to go out and improve not only their personal student experience but also how employers perceive them as someone who would be a credit to their organisation."

One of Hughes' examples of such academic opportunities was to secure more project grants for undergraduates.

"It's a slight misunderstanding that [project grants are] just for postgraduates. The National Science Foundation, [for example], give about 300 grants out a year for projects submitted to them by undergraduates. [These] are not students having to take hours and hours out of their week to do another project which might damage their degree, they're things like working with current researchers, tutors and postgraduates to give them research experience. Firstly, I think awareness is a big thing, not many people are aware that these opportunities are out there. Secondly, I think support is needed. For example if people come in and say 'I'm interested in doing this', how can I support them in putting together a decent proposition for an idea?"

Hughes also believes a key issue is the level of academic control students have over their degrees.

"At University Court it was one of the topics noted upon by Michael [Payne] that students are becoming the navigator of their own degree. I'm not saying that they don't have enough but I'm saying that the more and more that they get can only be a positive thing. It's a progression towards total student autonomy over their degree, we don't want to take it all the way though because it's not something which needs to be at either extreme."

The ongoing 'fees and fund-

ing' campaign has also seen Hughes discussing students' academic rights.

"I think the fantastic thing about the campaign so far has been the amount of people wanting to get involved. I have been involved from grassroots stuff like stuffing envelopes to actively going around lobbying academics for their support."

When pressed on the current experiment of fast-track, or two-year degrees, Hughes discussed learning outside of the lecture theatre.

"I think it's very important to recognise that learning doesn't just take place in the lecture theatre. Most people who have been through a three year degree will have learnt so much life experience from the university lifestyle, cutting down a year on that would potentially damage the overall learning."

Hughes is currently President of the GSA and spent a stint on the Furness JCR in his undergraduate days, and some of his work can be seen today.

"I rewrote the Furness constitution and I was involved with writing the LUSU elections by-laws. Part of this paved the way for electronic voting, good for Graduate College with many people living off campus. In addition, it changed hustings to be in the middle of the campaigning period rather than at the start of it, which means that now in hustings people can ask questions from, if I'm right, these responses in SCAN, and from the campaigning slogans on my posters."

When it was noted that Hughes would be only the second postgraduate to become a sabbatical/full time officer if elected, he mentioned other facets of his campaign.

"I went through all of the old SCAN interviews and I cast my mind back to all the old hustings that I've been to and every candidate for almost every position says how important postgraduate issues are and I think that I'm in a fantastically lucky position to be able to say: 'yeah, they are', and I've got a lot of experience in that and I really want to be able to use it. At the same time, I do want to stress that I was an undergraduate so I'm trying to say that I can represent everyone, not that I'm really good at representing one group."

David Prescott



College
Furness

Degree subject
English Literature

Proposer
Philip Greaves (Furness)

Seconder
Ben Wells (Furness)

DAVID PRESCOTT WANTS to build on the work already being done by Full Time Officers in LUSU, believing that he can do so by being more personal with students and improving communication with departments.

"As a full time employee of the Students' Union who is paid to be there representing people, I like to feel that I could contribute some time at least to e-mailing people to reassure them of [LUSU's] support [with] any problems they might be having."

Prescott applauded the ongoing work training course reps and making people aware of their academic rights, and suggested he would like to improve those efforts.

"I think [we need to] do what we can to encourage people to participate in [the course rep] system. You see that system and think 'that's great, I've got academic rights' and see the course reps but we're not quite putting two and two together. The next natural step is to work on a series of posters, of flyer, of e-mails, feedback and events to try and encourage people to engage with that as much as possible."

When pressed on his involvement in the 'fees and funding' campaign, Prescott referenced his time in the Furness JCR.

"As Furness JCR President I was very involved, Michael Payne oversaw the strategic direction but I certainly advocated it to my college and put in a lot of time and energy getting people out to the protests, making banners and things myself. That's something which I think has been, thus far, an excellent campaign."

Prescott commented on the ongoing development on campus.

"There are areas of campus, for example the Learning Zone, which could be said to be in some ways just 'bling'. Don't get me wrong, it's a very useful service that they're providing there. I'm not criticising necessarily the way the University spends money; they spend a lot of money on attracting overseas students to the Management School which is obviously a very lucrative market for them."

When pressed further on the financial direction of the University, Prescott suggested that all students should be treated equally.

"If there's going to be more restructuring to the University's finances, which is inevitable given the cuts across the higher education sector, it's important that we make sure that the provision of services to students is fair and equal across the board and that certain departments and certain students in departments aren't getting more because the university sees their department as more profitable."

Prescott also mentioned that he had had his "fair share of academic problems", especially in his first year, and suggested some advice he would give to his first year self.

"I would want to make my old self aware that there was someone there who could support me because, as a first year student, I felt very isolated. Like many students I was away from home for the first time and didn't really have a grip on how to organise things like my own study."

In addition, Prescott proposed that he would like better links with specific departments.

"Obviously there are structures in place for students dealing with problems with the departments but as the VP (Academic Affairs) I would see it as my position to encourage departments to co-operate with students and to try and support students who are having trouble with departments. I would definitely take a personal interest in that."

When questioned about Policy Exchange's recent review which suggested higher tuition fees and the scrapping of interest free government loans, Prescott recommended a mature viewpoint on the subject.

"I think the important thing that we can do as student representatives is to engage in the debates fully rather than write off any ideas before they've had an opportunity to be discussed. If we can't take a mature stance on things then our position's never going to be credible anyway."

Prescott concluded that students at Lancaster required more of a helping hand when it came to graduate employment.

"I think we need to tell people as they arrive at university that if they don't start looking to make graduate plans then their investment at university isn't going to bring as much fruit as it would otherwise."

Paul Lynch



College
Grizedale

Degree subject
History and International Relations

Proposer
Jessica Horsfield (Cartmel)

Seconder
Chloe Themistocleous (County)

PAUL LYNCH WANTS more from CEEC, simpler applications for funding and co-operative talks with the Vice Chancellor.

"First and foremost we are a very good University and that's why a lot of high calibre people come here. I do think that one area that we are let down in is CEEC; we don't have as good an employability record [as] we should have."

Lynch believes that achieving a channel of communication with the Vice Chancellor is key to solving the big issues around campus.

"I think you've actually got to go up to him and say 'Paul, we are working together on this. We want to make the university the best it can be, but we need to work together rather than fighting over a lot of issues.' I'm still saying we should be strong on some issues, for example tuition fees, but I think we should try and work together closer on areas that we agree on. LUSU and the University both want higher funding for postgraduates and research students so we should talk to them about it."

Lynch also believes that maintaining visibility around campus is something that Full Time Officers should be looking to do throughout their tenure.

"The Sabbs have to keep up appearances at social events like comedy nights etc, trying not to look like 'campus celebrities' and instead like people who are students taking time off to do a job. I don't think there are that many average students who are fully aware of everything that LUSU does, I think we need to be more personal to get them to understand it."

When questioned on how he believes the Union functions, Lynch said he would like to see a group of people helping around the Full Time Officer team, much like in JCRs.

"You don't have to simply hold a title to help out in the union. You can help on campaigns, as people have done massively in the 'fees and funding' campaign. I think what needs to be done over the next few years is to get people to understand who these [officers]

are and what they can do and get people more involved."

When pressed further on the 'fees and funding' campaign, Lynch described his involvement thus far.

"I've been helping out with the poster around campus, I've been helping out preparing before protests getting signs ready, getting people actually involved, trying to talk people down. I've tried to explain in real terms how this is important. Sometimes, people don't grasp what our campaigns are about, but you make it real to them. For example, you say 'raising tuition fees won't affect you directly, but it raises the amount of interest you'll pay on your student loans which will massively affect you.'"

Lynch also described himself as the ideal candidate to simplify 'bureaucratic nightmares' such as the Access to Learning Fund (ALF).

"I understand why there's so many safeguards around the ALF because obviously it's a lot of money that they can offer and it shouldn't be abused, it should be kept for the people. Saying that, I know quite a few people who have had to use the ALF, who have been stuck for weeks without hearing anything, who have filled in every personal detail on the nine-page form and handed it in, only to find out that it can't be processed because of one other piece of information it isn't clear that you need. I think the instructions on the ALF need to be cleared up and more people need to be made aware of it and how it can help them."

When pressed on how he planned to improve graduate employment and salaries for students from Lancaster, Lynch stated that undergraduates needed more opportunities to meet future employers.

"We need to get more and more companies coming in, and get more people on things like the Lancaster award, which is backed by a whole host of top level companies to make people more employable. Basically what I'm saying is that we need to raise profile and we need to get more top-level companies coming here and actually taking us seriously as a University."



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scan:COMMENT



Liam Kay

Comment Editor

Foreign language posters enhance the student experience for all cultures

Those who claim they are alienating and offensive are narrow minded in their view of community cohesion

J'écris ce message pour ceux qui croient que l'université est un endroit où la liberté de la parole et la tolérance sont liées à notre capacité de l'interaction avec des autres cultures et des nationalités. A l'université, les langues étrangères montrent la vie autonome, alors on doit les utiliser plus souvent afin d'enseigner tout le monde des vies et des fois différentes.

Did you understand that? If you did, hopefully you will agree with the sentiments involved and agree with the principle that the right to freedom of expression is one that we, as a community, must hold dear. As a university we are entitled to communicate as we desire and can therefore choose whichever language we feel is necessary to publicise our views outside of the constraints of the lecture theatre.

I am, of course, commenting on a particular issue that has cropped up in recent weeks; that is the existence of foreign language advertisements on campus. It has been argued that, amongst the many claims put forward by detractors, that they raise racial tensions, damage community cohe-



sion and are alienating and offensive. However, these issues fail to take into account many counter-examples and counter-arguments that oppose their hackneyed and tired conclusions.

Firstly, the idea that a simple poster can be both alienating and offensive is ridiculous. Do these people watch foreign films and feel that they cannot enjoy the experience? Advertisements in another language can be comforting for students who may be thousands of miles away from their homeland, comparable to the British signs that litter southern Spain to cater for the British

community and tourist industry there. There is no harm in aiming a poster at foreign students, to try and make them feel accepted and to allow them to express themselves as they wish to without the fear of repercussions. Campus allows for this safe haven; it allows them to feel secure about who they are and where they come from. This is hardly the "alienating" and "offensive" tracts that some have claimed and to make these arguments is a testament to both ignorance and a lack of empathy for the wellbeing of others.

The idea that the existence of foreign

languages can damage social cohesion is a fallacy. Surely forcing a subsection of society on campus to communicate in English, even in issues that have nothing to do whatsoever with the university, is in itself damaging to social cohesion on campus? Students have the right to be able to communicate in any way that they want with other individuals; outside of lectures the idea that someone should be forced to speak a certain language, poster in a certain language and have meetings in a certain language undermines the university experience. If we cannot tolerate other ways of life here where can we be sure that they will be tolerated?

We should look to embrace the different culture, languages and people that exist at this university and should feel proud that we produce such a warm friendly atmosphere for incoming international students. It is a testament to campus that so many lifestyles are not only tolerated but actively encouraged. In this case, it seems that a small minority wish to challenge the legitimacy of these views and the social cohesion on campus; ironically undermining the very concepts that they

claim to support. Is it really an issue that damages race relations, either on campus or in wider society? It is not. The idea that we should dismantle our ideas on freedom of communication in order to attend to the paranoid ramblings of a select few is both lunacy and a gross misrepresentation of the issues at hand.

This is a message for all you who feel that your university is a place where freedom of expression and toleration are intrinsically connected with our ability to interact with other cultures and nationalities. Foreign languages on campus are an example of autonomous living and should be not only allowed but encouraged as a way of educating people of different ways of life and different belief systems. It would be a sad day if these ideas were removed due to ill-informed fear and suspicion by a small sub-section of those who come here for an education. Surely, allowing the promotion of foreign languages on campus is at least remaining true to our purpose here at university; to learn, experience and participate in different lifestyles. I for one see this as a positive. It is a shame some do not.



Michael Payne

LUSU President

A glimpse into the future: Lancaster University a year from now

Who would have thought that the academic year 2010-2011 would be one of the most challenging yet most fruitful for Lancaster University and its respective Students' Union in decades. It started, after all, with a mostly ordinary freshers' week, apart from serious delays to the Alexandra Square rejuvenation scheme. In October everything pointed to another year of battles over college autonomy and steady progress by the Students' Union in re-inventing itself and building its relevancy to its members.

The recent General Election began to spell difficulty for the Labour party who were re-elected with a narrow margin and now faced a political nightmare of needing to further invest in Higher Education, in order to satisfy their campaign slogan 'a future fair for all', whilst at the same time facing national backlash from students and political opponents, all unwilling to support calls for higher fees being levied on students.

Buoyed by the national recognition of their Vice-Chancellor and leading research Lancaster continued to climb the

league tables and build on its national reputation as a leading university in the UK. But all the gloss and publicity was not enough to hide the dissatisfaction of international students and postgraduates as they continued to be recognised only as a buoyancy aid in the financial crisis rather than as valued members of the community. Further investment in academic representation and diversity in LUSU meant unrelenting pressure built on the university to deliver a truly international experience but yet again aspiration failed to be met by action.

After a marginal victory in Roses at Lancaster a couple of months earlier in May 2010, the Students' Union again tussled to provide real political power, influence and leadership to the ever growing area of LUSU Activities – the Sabbatical Review of 2008 was returned to and the ground was prepared for a debate focussing solely on the issue of VP Sports vs. or VP Student Opportunities as a new role. After numerous SCAN articles were published, several Facebook campaign groups were established and a general meeting was called to discuss the matter – a coalition of JCR Exec of-

ficers and LUSU society members, unusually supported and led by a maverick but principled current Vice President Sports won the argument.

Elsewhere in LUSU the Sugarhouse benefited from a successful first term after undivided support from all JCRs, including the PGSA, who had finally found its place as a leading proponent for the recognition of postgraduates in every aspect of the student experience. A resurgent Cuba managed to poach small amounts of custom but struggled financially, meanwhile the Sugarhouse responded with an unprecedented programme of events – totally devised by LUSU's Socials & Events Group.

With the true impact of cuts to Higher Education beginning to be felt by Lancaster and talks of cuts to twenty-four hour portering services across campus and further reorganisation of the management of college bars (including a cut to the number of licensees) taking front page in SCAN, senior officers of the university were now tussling with discontented students and staff. Talk and credibly sourced rumours of the current long serving Vice-Chancellor and senior

members leaving for pastures new began to spread quickly around campus.

Late in lent term the Library planned to move towards 24 hour opening after the phenomenal success of its trial period of longer opening hours in Summer term 2010. The University librarian was revered by the students as a return to the 'old school'; reminiscent of the founders of the university, truly recognising the benefits of building consensus and coalition, with respect to tradition.

As the year came to a close Lancaster beat York for a second consecutive year at Roses. Postgraduate and oversees admissions failed to meet strategic targets and spelt a turbulent short-term future for Lancaster. And as the nominations board opened for the election of LUSU Full Time Officers – shockwaves reverberated across campus as four candidates stood for LUSU President; two of which were former JCR Presidents, one of which was a current Full Time Officer. All of this taking place as the institution reeled from the announcement that their current Vice Chancellor was moving onto a new and more nationally recognised role.

The university's reputation continues to grow despite international and postgraduate applications failing to reach strategic targets



Michael Indian

Housing horror stories difficult to sweep under the carpet

Landlords would do well to recognise the concerns of students during a period when it is getting harder and harder to secure a place to live in Lancaster

Accommodation represents a fundamental concern at the forefront of every student's mind. From the first room in halls to the tentative steps of house hunting, vast amounts of time, energy and concern are given over to the issue of living arrangements. If an Englishman's home is his castle, then a student's room should be a palace.

At Lancaster we can, in many ways, be proud of the living arrangements available to the student body. Recent years have seen massive investments in modernising campus accommodation. In addition, having a city voted the safest for university students in the country provides a suitable attraction for the independence of off campus living.

However, the distinct needs of both areas must be addressed. In my second year, LUSU Housing offered a chance to sample a different side of Lancaster living, whilst still maintaining a strong link and presence to campus. Who better to protect my interests, than housing provided by a university affiliated body?

Yet one finds that 'horror stories' abound. A house left uncleaned, reeking of stale cigarette smoke and covered in dust. Another tale is of gasman break-



ing a stand on an oven and causing carbon monoxide poisoning. Problems with internet connections are a frequent complaint, and also those of a general indifference of staff. With accounts like these, is LUSU Housing even worth bothering with?

Let me answer that with a steadfast yes. My own experience with LUSU

Housing was mostly smooth, contributing to a positive and different aspect of my second year at this university. This is not to say that there were not issues, but most of these problems were minor and can be attributed to the landlord, who had recently renovated our property. Every time a concern was raised with LUSU Housing it was promptly and satisfactorily handled. In addition, the inclusive bills option in the rent saved complexity arising from a "pay as you go" approach.

This is not to serve as a sermon to all those who voice concerns about the state of off-campus lodgings. All examples outlined above are real and relevant, justifiably warranting cause for concern. It is must be remembered though, that this must not be turned into a witch hunt. I believe, as I think most who were interviewed for this piece do as well, that the staff, at times, have to perform a difficult job under difficult circumstances, often in the face of rather prickly people. Let us therefore return to the core of the matter and identify some of the common concerns that have arisen.

Firstly, the cleanliness of a house. The condition of the property at the time of the previous tenants vacating should

be of an acceptable standard for the incoming ones. Should this fail to be so, then LUSU Housing must be aware of this by undertaking a thorough inspection before the beginning of the lease, extracting any cost from the offending predecessors.

Secondly, internet connectivity emerges as a common complaint. Away from the buzz of campus life, this represents one of the fundamental aspects of a student house, and a considerable consideration in the choice of the property rented. Should the internet be unavailable for any reason upon the arrivals of new tenants, then they should be made aware. Instead they are often left to discover it for themselves.

The most important point comes with the occurrence of events like the 'horror stories' described above. These should not serve as cautionary tales or be described as isolated events, but rather signs of larger significance. With the housing shortage for 2010/11, LUSU Housing must realise its job is not done. Lacking their own supply, they must direct students to alternative landlords and advise those who wish to have the "off-campus" experience in what will be a difficult year to do so.

We must remember the cost of the drug trade

As students seek legal highs, a war is being fought across the globe costing many people their lives writes Emily Robertson

Drug abuse made the headlines last week after Lancastrians were arrested at The Sugarhouse, and news of it seemed to shock campus. But it did not shock me; government statistics state that a quarter of all 16-29 year olds have taken drugs at some point in their life and those are just the illegal ones. 'Legal highs' such as Mephedrone, which the clubbers were believed to have been caught with, is the new 'it' drug, slowly becoming more popular in youth culture due to it being relatively cheap price tag and currently legal status. However legal does not mean safe and it is time to look into the long term effects when using this drug. Not only are you risking your health but also your reputation and your chances at success. Three hard years of working for your degree are futile if you have a criminal record; you only need to get caught once and it has all gone to waste.

However we are all adults here, we have been lectured time and again about the dangers of drug abuse and the papers are crammed with campaigns to make legal highs illegal highs; whether to take drugs or not is your decision, your body, your health, your career, you're not harming anybody else. Wrong. A recent BBC documentary delved into the secret world of drug culture, not that of trendy young people in swanky clubs and students wanting live it up whilst at university. They looked at those who want nothing to do with drugs; they don't want to experiment, they don't want escapism, they want a peaceful life free from drugs and violence.

The programme was based in Mexican towns along the border to the USA, a prime spot for importing drugs to people not too dissimilar to us, and revealed the truly shocking truth of the lives for the innocent people who lived there. Drug usage by people just like us is causing hundreds to go missing every year, kidnapped and held to ransom but those who control the trade. Drug use in this country is causing people to be brutally murdered. The most shocking effects of drug abuse was seen in the case of a local the show aptly called the 'stew-maker' for his horrific method of disposing the bodies of those butchered in vats of acid so as they could be simply washed away; or the case of a seven young old boy callously shot in the chest and face to pay for his fathers involvement in the trade. And all this so students can get a quick thrill; these are not the side effects we think of in relation to drug taking.

So next time you're tempted by drugs, it may not affect your health and you may not be caught, but you are causing these people to live in misery, living a life where death is an everyday occurrence, where children's only choice is to become involved in the drug trade or die.

The BNP are shaking up our electoral system for the better

The BNP are good for Britain. Fear not, I am no racist or fascist sympathiser, in fact I'm rather liberal. But I see a silver lining to their presence in British politics. I would go as far as to say their presence is actually a good thing.

First let us consider how much of a threat the BNP really are. State of the Nation poll in 2004 found that 76% of the electorate claimed they 'could never vote BNP', not even as a protest. The BNP's support is concentrated in strongly working class constituencies which are almost always safe Labour seats. Even if somehow the BNP won a seat in Parliament their influence would still be nonexistent as their MP would be just one person out of 646 other members, and they would be heavily marginalised for being extremist. The BNP has been sexed up by the media to a degree that would make Russell Brand proud.

So relax; the UK isn't on the brink of adopting fascism. We can continue to enjoy the thrills of capitalism, like Starbucks and constant unemployment, for years to come. So this is why the BNP is good for British politics:

Our electoral system (often called First-Past-the-Post), where each constituency elects an MP and the party with the most MPs wins, means that elections are fought in just a handful of

seats. One of the major flaws of First-Past-the-Post is that the major parties only focus their attention on a tiny amount of seats (and thus minuscule number of people) during an election. This is because there are only a few seats that can actually be won (or lost) by a party, and what's more is that these seats tend to be middle class areas, like Lancaster for instance. The places that have the worst problems in Britain, like Dagenham or Barking, simply don't get a look in at elections. This is because Labour are completely safe in these seats and so can afford to write them off as a guaranteed win, and focus their campaign somewhere else. Dagenham for instance has had only Labour MP's since World War II, in fact one MP held the seat for a record 48 years. Since their creation Labour have had a near monopoly over the working class vote. Yet since the early 1980's it has become undeniable that a party cannot rely on the working class alone to win elections; under Kinnoch, then Smith, then Blair, the Labour party shifted its policies to match 'middle England' and the winnable seats, consequently left wing promises were shown the door.

But is there potential for this now changing? For the first time since World War II, Labour are being challenged (at local and European level at least) in their traditional heartlands.

The BNP are focusing their attention on, and winning the support of, the towns that the other parties were forced to forget. There is some evidence that Labour may be once again returning its focus to the towns which need it the most; prominent Labour MP's Harriet Harman and Jon Cruddas have both called for a need to start combating the BNP in elections. In the Glasgow North East by-election of November last year, all the parties made a notable effort in their campaigns to directly address the BNP issue. The looming General Election too will surely see added focus on places like Dagenham, Burnley and Humberside, if not by the parties then certainly by the media, places which would never have received a second thought from the parties before the rise of the BNP.

I know that it is hard to accept that those awful people in the BNP are achieving something positive for the country, but it's a bit like supporting England in this upcoming World Cup; we know they're all promiscuous douche bags with more money than the whole of Iceland, but nonetheless come summer they'll be our national heroes. I'm not saying let's make the BNP our national heroes, but next time you see on the news that the BNP have made another gain, maybe think that it's not the worst thing in the world.



Tom Leach

The traditional parties are returning to long forgotten constituencies to combat the rise of extremism



David Guy

License fee critics would do well to realise that our national broadcaster is the envy of the world

The BBC is something this country should be proud of

The licence fee debate is raging once more after it was revealed that the compulsory tax is being used to fund massive salaries for just a few individuals. In a recent admission, the BBC has said that 6.4% of the annual fee is being spent on its highest earning staff and stars. As one of the corporation's biggest faces, Newsnight's Jeremy Paxman reportedly earns £1m a year; Top Gear star Jeremy Clarkson earns £2m per year, while Jonathan Ross's salary, at £6m, takes up nearly 3 percent of the entire 'talent budget'. In 2006, it was revealed that he earned £10,000 for every show he presented for Radio 2.

These astronomical figures have raised further questions about the legitimacy of the fee. Rob Godfrey, of the Campaign to Abolish the Licence fee, considers it unfair for a number of reasons. For one, it is not means tested so the fewer members a household has, the more the individual has to pay. He also points towards the fact that even if you don't watch the BBC, you are still forced to pay the licence fee. Those against the fee propose either its complete scrapping or a big reduction in its cost.

But many other European countries have licence fees at a similar cost, but do not have anything like

our BBC. The BBC may not offer life saving treatment or defend us against terrorism, but it does provide us with a solid source of entertainment, information and education. And, as a national institution, we seem to regard it with fondness and respect. They are, instinctively, the first broadcaster we turn to when a major event happens. The BBC always receives an overwhelming share of viewing figures during events such as 9/11 and the funeral of Princess Diana. On July 7th 2005, over 1 billion hits were received on their news website. They are also the official broadcasters of other British institutions, such as Remembrance Sunday, the Grand National and the National Lottery.

They are, by far, the biggest and most respected broadcaster in the world. Without the massive size of the Beeb, their news gathering capabilities would be undermined and quality would suffer. As the world's leading broadcaster, they have correspondents in every corner of the globe and can be on the scene, anywhere in the world, within hours. The BBC continues to produce the highest quality programmes and radio, without the pursuit of profit. No other broadcaster is able to match them for things such as wildlife documentaries.

The huge budgets mean that they

are able to take the time to gather the very best shots, using the very best equipment. Importantly, the licence fee enables minority and specialist programming to be made and broadcast. If the BBC had to rely solely on advertising, then they would be unable to make a high quality programme, knowing that only a handful of people would watch it.

Radio 1 also serves to promote non commercial, upcoming and minority music, with authoritative figures presenting, like Westwood, Mary Anne Hobbs and Annie Mac. If a list of the best British comedies was drawn up, then it would be overwhelmingly made up of those made by the BBC. Blackadder, Only Fools and Horses, Alan Partridge and Gavin and Stacey would not exist if the licence fee did not. Nor would Doctor Who, Top Gear or Eastenders. As the oldest, largest and most respected broadcaster in the world, the BBC is worthy of its licence fee. Without a publicly funded broadcaster, there would be greater financial pressure on the Beeb to appeal to advertisers and consequently water down their programming. It may seem to the layman to be legalised robbery, but without the license fee, the past 70 years of British entertainment would surely have been far worse.

Printing costs hitting hard

Why do tuition fees not pay for demands of printing coursework, writes Tolulope Openiyi

There are many printers spread all over campus in the library and the computer laboratories. Students are charged 5p per page to print an A4 sheet of paper, while a coloured A4 page costs 14p. Most of the printing needs for students are coursework related.

There are a few issues that have to be raised about the printing policies at this university. Why do we have to pay to print our university coursework when we have paid a lot of money for our tuition fees? This isn't fair when you consider how our degree depends partly on the coursework submitted. Is our printing policy green? Why are we given so little initial printing credit at the beginning of our degree and why is it just for first years? Surely this cannot be considered sufficient by the university and its staff and it most certainly isn't.

There has been a lot of talk about tuition fees recently. One of the issues pointed out is if we are really getting value for the money that we are paying. An average student pays in the region of £3000 in tuition fees each year. The tuition fees for international students are astronomical and next year international students studying band 3 courses would pay as much as £13,060 in tuition fees. If we are paying this much money, why should we pay for printing?

The coursework given to students is part and parcel of their education and it is immoral to ask students to pay to print their coursework. There are many occasions when students have a lot of lengthy essays to write and spend a lot of money printing them. Students who have dissertations to do have a lot of pages to print and may even have to print it multiple times. Postgraduate students especially have a lot of printing to do. It is not rare to find students often rounding up their coursework just in time and unable to hand it in promptly just because they have insufficient printing credit.

If we are really practicing a genuine green policy in Lancaster, we need to reduce the amount of printing we do. Lecturers are the worst offenders and print excessively. Why should they be allowed to do this when they can always make PowerPoint slides or verbal presentations? Even if a lecturer needs to write out notes, he can do that on his PowerPoint slide. It is not compulsory that students should print their coursework. It is possible that coursework can be submitted by email or on LUVLE.

When students start their degree, they are given £2.16 free credit to start off on their academic journey. This is not enough to cater for the printing needs of students. The initial printing credit should also be given to students at the beginning of their second and third year. It is also possible that for each piece of coursework that students receive, money is added to their printing credit. If students are to get a fair return for the money they pay, printing costs must be reduced accordingly.

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.

Management School has more money than sense

Dear Sir,

I'm writing in agreement with Liam Kay's article in the last edition of SCAN. It is true that the Management School is over funded. Why do they need so many flat screen televisions in their lobby is beyond me. As a history student it is particularly painful as we merely have a floor in Furness and as a result my lectures and seminars are strewn across campus (with the exception of the Management School which seems not to open its doors to other disciplines). I could well understand if management was a science and required expensive equipment but it does not. Hopefully, in the future funds will be more equally dispersed so the library can have enough books, otherwise I am tempted to suggest that those televisions could be used to fill the gaps in the ceiling in the history corridor.

Craig Barker
Grizedale College

Mephedrone story misleading with the facts

Dear Sir

I was glad to see that the news story about Mephedrone made the front page, once I began to read the article however I was less than impressed. The story was littered with errors which could have been prevented had even a small amount of research been done on the subject. To clarify, to date there have been no recorded deaths in which Mephedrone has been established as the primary cause. Gabrielle Price died of natural causes, a point which Dr Measham and Dr Moore elaborate on in their paper on mephedrone, but which was left out of the article. Sadly the whole article was a disappointment. I am currently doing my PhD on Mephedrone and would like to talk to any of your readers who have experience with this substance. Confidentiality assured of course.

Christopher Kay
c.kay@lancaster.ac.uk

LUSU should be tackling rent rises not just tuition fees

Dear Sir

Has LUSU forgotten recently that it is there to fight for its current students as well as those that come to Lancaster in the future? In all the rows and protests over tuition fees, LUSU seems to have forgotten about the issues of the students here now. For example, Cartmel's residence officer promised an increase of 1.9% in housing costs next year, when it came to it though, we are facing a 3.3% increase. Another cross-campus issue is the outrageous bills we are charged for repairs. Over Christmas my flat was charged £7.50 to put some gaffa tape over a crack in our fire extinguisher base! If LUSU wants student support on their fight against rising tuition fees, they need to prove they do something to support issues that matter to us. Especially as these university costs are contributing to our debts

Natalie Hook
Cartmel College

Foreign language poster issue rumbles on

Dear Sir,

You couldn't make it up, once again a storm of abuse from the looney-left.

I eagerly open up this week's copy of SCAN to be greeted by a mass of namby-pamby goings-on from the 'PC brigade'.

Examples such as Fffion McKeown's tirade of Celtic gobble-de-gook, its subsequent translation in effect useless, as it only sought to confirm the letter's rambling nature.

How strange that (she?) uses Wales and Welsh language as an example. Many Welsh universities, such as Aberystwyth, amongst others, possess 'Welsh language only' halls of residence... can you imagine the outcry if such halls were set up purely for English Speakers?

I will still stand by the old saying 'When in Rome, do as the Romans'.

Finally, how ironic that one of the letters should also use the premise

of free speech for an argument. They are hardly being tolerant towards the views of others.

Anonymous
Pendle College

Dear Sir,

I agree with Anonymous from Pendle, I also find that posters in Arabic are excluding me simply because I'm not Arabic. I found the negative replies, using terms such as "bigoted idiot", offensive. I think that freedom of speech should apply to everyone so they can freely speak their opinions without receiving this sort of abuse.

Anonymous
Furness College

Gym girls need guidance over weight issues

Dear Sir,

I am writing to highlight a particularly sensitive issue that has caught my attention of late. Whilst working out in the campus gym, I have noticed a small number of girls who appear to be significantly underweight. By this I do not mean naturally very slender, but so painfully thin that they look scarily gaunt and don't seem to fit their frame anymore. I was compelled to write to SCAN upon seeing a girl weighing herself, the individual vertebrae in her spine were visible to me from the other side of the gym.

It concerns me hugely to think that

these girls' excessive exercise habits and weight loss are being facilitated by our gym. Gyms ought to be advocating healthy lifestyle and body image, not turning a blind eye to cases like those I have witnessed. Gym staff aren't doctors or counsellors but surely the right thing to do would be to have a quiet word with the people in question and point them in the direction of someone who is equipped to offer help and support.

On the other hand it could be argued that gyms, like other businesses, aren't required to monitor the resulting outcomes of their customers' health. Intervening could offend or

embarrass the gym-user and may not actually result in help being sought. Also, refusing the custom of severely underweight people won't stop them exercising if they are determined to do so.

Although I can offer no answers or solutions, this complex issue needs addressing. Hopefully this letter will bring the issue to the attention of our sports centre and raise the question; should a gym be obligated to intervene when the well-being of its members is at risk?

Anonymous
Lonsdale College

No absolutes in world of alternative medicine

Dear Sir,

Alex Harris' article on alternative medicine draws a black and white line between it and 'real medicine'. Homeopathy is an easy target to go after. Acupuncture is very different, or so empirical evidence would imply. The WHO has suggested that acupuncture is an effective treatment for at least 28 conditions, and that there is evidence suggesting efficacy in many more. Many herbal medicines, particularly

anti-depressants, have been proven to have an effect beyond what could be expected of mere placebo. These are contentious claims requiring further research, as the WHO emphasises, but I do wonder which is more stupid: the idea that an 'alternative therapy' might work, or the idea that it absolutely cannot work because it is not currently accepted by all scientists.

Mark Goulden
Fylde College

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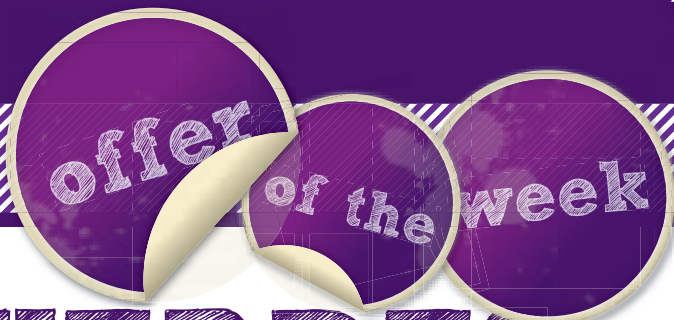
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In Focus: One World Week

Educate, agitate and organise

Davey Garland

ONE WORLD WEEK, or OWW as it has now become known, arrives around week 9 every year on university campuses across the country, and is a way for a diverse range of various causes and issues to be raised on campus. The idea is to provide a forum for people to engage with many of the social issues affecting society today. This may be the purely political, to the purely lifestyle, but whatever your inclination their will and should be room for you to find a niche somewhere where you can get involved

or just turn up, sit at the back and listen.

As this week is organized by a cross section of students and groups on campus, then as you can see from the timetable below, each day is quite full with speakers, film shows, square installation, stalls and of course partying in the bars in the evening, all reflecting the many interests of those involved and those represented at the university. This year especially seems to want to embrace diversity and inclusion with various international and cultural events being organized towards the end of that week. Week 9 also seems to correspond with a number of festivals for that week

the Graduate Music festival on the Thursday and Friday, and the Societies festival on the Saturday. The week actually does kick off on Saturday of Week 9 with speakers on Palestine and a big party in one of the bars.

As there is still stuff to confirm, then the timetable is still opened to change and can be found the OWW website, and large posters which will be in the colleges. There will also be leaflets nearer the events. Basically keep your eyes open, but if you do have any one you would like to speak at the university, or have contacts with then do contact the OWW committee, which meets on every Wednesday at 4pm in the Chapliny.

The Railway Children

Rachel McCarthy
People and Planet

THE INTERNATIONAL NGO Railway Children was founded in 1996, and runs grassroots partnering projects working with vulnerable children who live on the streets in the UK, East Africa and India. The charity emphasizes the importance of early intervention, and aims to support runaway and homeless children "before the streets get to them". Railway Children listens to the voice of oppressed and exploited children, who are often discarded by society, highlighting and challenging the root causes of poverty.

The organisation has a three step change agenda; it aims to provide for their immediate needs, change local prejudices, and lobby Governments to protect the rights of the bare-footed children.

It is estimated that there are around 11 million street children in India. Children sleeping on the streets and are often abused, raped and tricked into taking intoxicating drugs by older young

people on the streets. Railway Children partners projects which try to intervene early on and prevent children becoming ingrained in street life, through providing outreach workers and temporary shelter accommodation.

In the UK, 100 000 children runaway, with 20 000 sleeping rough each year. Railway Children funds five refuge beds and nine projects which work directly with these runaways. Children run away because of violence, family breakdown, abuse and neglect. Whilst on the street, they face hunger, violence, drug use, sexual exploitation and serious harm. Railway Children recognises a lack of front line services for children who run away, and seeks to improve the lives and safeguard the vulnerable children.

On Thursday night of One World Week, we will be holding a fundraising gig for this inspiring charity. Please come to enjoy an evening of good music and support a movement of committed individuals, dedicated to building a more hopeful future for street children across the world. (www.railwaychildren.org.uk).

A brief history of CND

John Basset

THE CND SIGN recently celebrated its 50th birthday and still remains one of the most iconic symbols of social resistance of our time. It has been used by diverse movements including the Civil Rights movement, the counter-culture of the 1960s and 70s, the anti-Vietnam protests, the environmental movement, women's and gay rights movements.

The image was designed to stand as a symbol of peaceful unilateral disarmament in a time of grave fear of nuclear destruction, and its simplicity and mass appeal soon helped to spread the message of CND. Shortly after its formation in 1958, CND gained wide ranging support, at a time when many were turning away from traditional politics to pursue a more radical agenda.

The movement was made up of a broad range of different groups including scientists, religious leaders, academics, musicians, artists, Trade Unionists and



members of the Labour/Liberal Parties, and remains as diverse today.

Peace, as a concept, can be somewhat ambiguous, meaning very different things to different people. To some peace relates to security, to others non-violent forms of conflict resolution.

Although some advocate nuclear weapons as a deterrent to warfare, CND believe a safe world without the use of nuclear weapons as a deterrent is possible. Although most of us would never expect nuclear weapons to be used in our lifetime, CND believe that the very existence of such weapons poses an ever present threat to humankind.

In recent years CND has branched out to include wider ranging issues in their campaigning remit. They were instrumental in the protests against the Iraq War and currently oppose nuclear energy through involvement in the Don't nuke the climate! campaign. They have also questioned and opposed the use of Depleted Uranium weapons, that have been instrumental in causing Gulf war syndrome and rising cancer rates in Iraq and the Balkans to never before seen levels. However CND remain committed to the same peaceful core values on which the movement is founded and at such a turbulent time in history it is more important than ever to wage peace not war - in the global community.



International Day

Shafaq Khan
County JCR Exec Officer

FRIDAY IN ONE world week celebrates the recognition, acceptance and representation of diversity and the many cultures that reside within the University. Internationalization and integration is a wide known issue, not just amongst students, but also around the world. Miscommunication, language and cultural barriers and general misunderstanding has bridged many a gap between our communities, and one world week, along with the students Union, intend on bringing people from any and every part of the world together under a single forum to celebrate, rather than shy or back away from difference and variety.



The idea is for people to come forth and represent whatever aspect of their culture sets them apart, whether it be their natural dress, their cuisine, dance, music or any trademark of their country or culture they may wish to portray for everyone to see and enjoy. There are so many societies for foreign students, so many socials and campaign taking place, however, eve-

rything seems to happen in its own individual, close knit group, and even though that may seem like the whole point of having a society, one world week and the Unions wishes everyone to come forth and integrate, get to know each other, share their culture, tradition and experiences, and stand united as a student body, rather than many groups in separate boxes, we all have so much to offer, why not come together and share the national traits we so proudly hold dear and show them off for everyone to see!

So, for diversity day, we hope to see a variety of nationalities as well as the local cultures and colours come together and colour the festivities with their uniqueness and specialities and to mingle and integrate and get to know each other and have a good time doing so.

The issue of water

ONE IN EIGHT of the world's population does not have access to clean water, and over 2.5 billion people in the world with no clean access to toilets, things we take for granted.

The lack of water and sanitation in the world leads to around 2 million deaths a year and effects peoples livelihoods, quality of life and health. Every day over 5000 children die from diarrhoeal diseases due to lack of clean water and sanitation, that's five times more than HIV/Aids related deaths.

Health is not the only problem that arises from lack of water, education suffers as well with children too ill to go to school, and girls not able to go to school either because there are no toilets or because they spend hours walking each day to collect water for their family.

Despite goals put in place by world

leaders in 2000 to ensure third world countries have cleaner water and toilets, there is a severe lack of political will leaving predictions that the goals are unlikely to be met before the 22nd century.

It is a common misconception that bottled water is safer than tap water, in Britain we are lucky enough to have a constant supply of clean and safe water wherever we go, and yet we spend, on average, £2 billion a year on bottled water. Bottled water not only costs us a huge amount of money, but costs 10,000 times more to produce than to get tap water.

The plastic from water bottles can take over 1000 years to biodegrade and to produce on bottle uses as much as 7 bottles worth of water. Why not try giving up buying bottled water and instead drink tap water.

The truth about Freaky February

Clare Hazel

AS WE SETTLE in for yet another month of dreary winter, February, the shortest month in the year, seems to fly by. Unlike the other months which stay at 30 and 31 days every year, February seems small in comparison even though it receives an extra day once every four years. But why does February have 28 days? Why not January or March? And most importantly, what is the significance behind February being the shortest month?

The difficulties with creating an accurate calendar spans back to Roman times; the Romans discovered that the moon revolved around a $29 \frac{1}{4}$ day cycle and the Sun a $365 \frac{1}{4}$ day cycle. Both of these had to fall in sync with the calendar in order for it to work effectively. The first attempt to resolve this issue was devised by Romulus, founder of Rome; he devised a calendar which consisted of 10 months, which added up to a 304 day year, it is believed that there were no defined months between December and March, and this is likely to be due to the winter months being unimportant to their harvests. As Romulus' calendar was $61 \frac{1}{4}$ days of the sun's yearly cycle, it was clear that his invention required more work.



Mysterious month: February has an interesting history in terms of its importance to the calendar

In an attempt to reach a greater sense of co-ordination between the Natural cycle of the sun and moon,

and a calendar which the people were to live by, the legend states that around 700BC King Numa Pompilius

added January and February, creating a year consisting of 355 days. To make up for the remainder of the days, Pom-

pilius developed an extra 'Intercalary' month known as Mercedonius, which would be added to the end of February every other year. January and February were added to the end of the calendar, making them the last two months in the year, this continued until 450BC and the time of the Decemviri, and the appointment of ten men to work as a commission to write up Roman codes of law, implementing the Roman Republic calendar which moved January and February to the first and second months.

It was Julius Caesar, in 46BC who chose to ignore the lunar cycle and focus upon the $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days of the sun. Caesar chose to remove the month of Mercedonius and instead arrange the 12 months so that they added up to 365 days, as February was the month which Mercedonius was attached to, it was chosen to have 28 days with the addition of a 29th day every 4 years to make up for the missing $\frac{1}{4}$ days, this was to become known as a leap year.

So as another 28 days of February draws to a close, we can look upon its striking difference from other months, and remember like other inventions such as Central heating, known as a hypocaust and aqueducts, the Julian calendar, which we have added just a few minor alterations too, and still remains a strong reminder of the Roman legacy.

Log My House

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Career Ladder

Mae Dibley

IN THE FIRST of a series of career profiles to give students a window into the sometimes very daunting looking world of work, SCAN spoke to Kevin Wignall- Lancaster alumnus and author of novels including, *For The Dogs* and *Who Is Conrad Hirst?* - about becoming a writer. The role of a writer can vary enormously and often requires links outside the immediate publishing sphere. Kevin for example says he has a lot of involvement with the film industry. Be aware that almost all authors are self-employed, there is no average salary, and often you will depend on a secondary income, at least until you have established a good reputation for your writing.

So Kevin, what subject did you study at Lancaster?

I studied Politics and International Relations.

How would you say your time at Lancaster helped you in your profession?

I was a terrible student. The good news is, it's simply being at university that gives you the right kind of background for becoming a writer, meeting new people, bouncing ideas off them, opening your mind, expanding your cultural horizons. Oh, I also set my second book, *Among the*

Dead, in Lancaster.

What is the typical career path for an author?

There isn't one. You can work in publishing and that will help you make contacts, you can do an MA in Creative Writing and



that will help you find your voice. But in the end, you have to sit down and write a novel that someone will want to buy. That's what I did - I realized I'd been talking about writing a book for too long, decided it was time and I finally did it.

What advice would you give to students at Lancaster who think they might like to become an author?

Most people reading this are likely to be almost too young to become a published novelist, and you'd still be considered a

young novelist if you've been published by your mid-30s. So don't rush in. On the other hand, time will eat itself once you graduate and before you know it you'll be in your retirement home, saying, "I always wanted to write a book". So take the time to live a little, find your voice and a story worth telling, then get on and write it.

Are there any resources you recommend for would-be writers?

The web is awash with good advice now and to some extent it's a question of searching around for your specific area of interest. www.thebookseller.com is a good place to learn about the industry. <http://everyonewhosanyone.com/> is an odd site, created by a despairing writer, which gives you the websites and email addresses of many agents and publishers - use it to learn about the different agencies but never email an agent directly if you don't know them. You could also do worse than to look at the "Writers and Artists Yearbook" (www.writersandartists.co.uk) as until 10 years ago it was pretty much the only way of finding information on agents and publishers and it's still a great resource [a copy of this is available for reference in CEEC].

Next Time: SCAN speak to Neville Thurlbeck, editor of *The News of the World*, on what it takes to be a journalist. Neville will also be holding a talk on Journalism this Friday (26th) in Faraday Lecture Theatre at 11am.

The 'Man Bag'

Lauren Ainscough

No doubt many people, mostly guys, will read this title and immediately identify the stigma. The 'man bag'. The ultimate dubious accessory that, in some people's opinion, sits on the fringe of being either stylish for men...or something that your girlfriend



should have on her arm, not yours. However, according to high-street manufacturer Topman, 'man bags' have apparently taken pride of place in mainstream male fashion, accredited for being both functional and fashionable. So, could it be said that male vanity in general is on the rise? Are men especially now more conscious of what they wear and their appearance, even perhaps to the extent of wanting to look younger for longer to the same degree as women?

The Leading pharmacy chain Boots have long been a haven of health and beauty supplies for women, but recently their

skin products have been given a masculine makeover. 'Protect and perfect anti-ageing serum'...for men. The packaging may have changed, but the purpose remains the same. This is just one of many examples that suggest men may be more easily succumbing to the image conscious consumer culture, something that has long been the drain of the woman's purse. Besides, it's not just female flavour of the month Cheryl Cole

gracing the pages of magazines any more. Male celebrities are also jumping on the endorsement bandwagon for promoting everything from skin cream to hair colour. With the likes of Patrick Dempsey and Matthew Fox as the faces for L'Oreal's anti-ageing products for men, high expectations to achieve the perfect 'air-brushed' look now apply to both genders. So, is male vanity a hidden secret that most men won't admit to? Over-hyped media? To be honest guys, daily showers and a reasonable dress sense are enough to satisfy most women. Don't bother with the make-up.

The cheap and easy way to detox

Laura Van Tatenhove is on a mission to revitalise the student lifestyle with healthy tips to get us through the winter blues

I DON'T KNOW about you but I cannot wait for spring! My body is well and truly ready for a bit of warmth (not from sitting with my back against the radiator!), more light, less lying about, fewer layers and stodge free meals. In fact, if someone could just transport me to Sydney right now, where it is averaging about 26 degrees I would be one happy camper. Alas, no such joy. What I do have however, are three very simple and cheap ways in which I try to give myself a bit of a late winter detox and improve my energy levels. It's all about giving my kidneys a bit of a holiday, helping them to function more effectively which, in turn, lessens the load on the excretory and lymphatic systems.

The Kidneys: Master Chemist of the Body

Sitting quietly nestled under the rib cage; the kidneys do the job of cleaning the junk that we insist on piling into our systems. If we examine the side of a packet of food and read that it has any number of messed up ingredients, then it is the kidney that will have to deal with most of the fall out. Caffeine, alcohol, salt and sugar also have to be dealt with by the kidney on a regular basis, (for some more than others!) including monitoring salt and mineral levels, the regulation of body temperature and are part of the systems that address blood

pressure.

Enough of the physiology....lets get down to business. As I already stated our detox consists of three elements. They are water, beetroot and cranberry. Let's start with the most important, water.

Water

There are some schools of thought that suggest that the body doesn't need to take in additional water other than what our food contains. This might be the case if we consumed foods as our system originally intended. Instead the average diet consists of high levels of ingredients likely to put stress on the renal system and the kidneys need all the help they can get. Water improves the functioning of the lymphatic and nervous system and helps rehydrate the body as it rids itself of toxins via the kidneys. The average recommendation is that everyone should drink at least two litres of water a day. If this seems insurmountable start with 500 ml per day, taken in small quantities to avoid excessive increase in urination.

And in case any of you are thinking that other fluids might count as water, unfortunately they don't. Tea and coffee actually leach more water from the system as they act as a diuretic, and herbal teas, juice and squash are all identified by the body as food and are thus metabolised differently.



Beetroot

The use of beetroot as a cleanser for the liver and kidneys is widespread and has a very long history. It also provides a good source of anthocyanadins, a natural antioxidant that contributes to its deep, red colour and it is particularly rich in Vitamin C, calcium, phosphorus and iron. It has been used traditionally as a blood building food for thousands of years.

Beetroots are rich in the nutrient betaine. Betaine supplements, manufactured as a by-product of sugar beet processing, are prescribed to lower potentially toxic levels of homocysteine, which can be harmful to blood vessels, thereby contributing to the development of heart disease, stroke and pe-

ripheral vascular disease.

Beetroot is best taken raw where possible, grated or juiced and consumed in small quantities. Betacyanin in beetroot may cause red urine and faeces in some people who are unable to break it down. This is called beeturia and readers should be warned of this possibility. It can otherwise be quite a shock to look into the toilet bowl!

Cranberries

Cranberries are a source of polyphenol antioxidants, compounds that are currently under active research for possible benefits to the cardiovascular system, immune system and as anti-cancer agents.

Cranberry juice has been shown

to help against formation of kidney stones. The tannins in cranberries have anti-clotting properties and may reduce urinary tract infections. There are several ways of taking cranberry including juice, but several brands do contain either sugar or aspartame as a sweetener and these should be avoided. Concentrate in tablet form is readily available and easy to take.

Just starting with these small additions to your daily diet will give you a bit of 'spring' in your step...just in time for the daffodils!

This month, the first to answer the following question will receive a complimentary reflexology session at The Natural Health Care Centre.

What gland sits just above the kidneys? Is it:-

- the adrenal gland
- the submandibular gland
- the salivary gland

Email your answers to scan.features@lusu.co.uk

Laura van Tatenhove is the Bowen Therapist at the Natural Health Care Centre in the Chaplaincy Building on Campus. For more information visit the [Natural Health Care Centre link on the Chaplaincy website](#).

Please note that any information given must not replace the advice from your doctor. If you are in any doubt about your symptoms you must contact your GP.

Mardi Gras mayhem for party revellers

Kristina Beanland

FLOUR, EGGS, MAPLE syrup and numerous amounts of pancake stuck to your kitchen ceiling. This is how many of us would have spent last Tuesday, otherwise known as Pancake Day. To be honest, a day where it is tradition to gorge yourself on a variety of sickly sweet pancakes, each one more drenched in lemon and sugar than the next, is fine by me. But in this country we seem to be missing out on something even more fun than stuffing our greedy faces. While we were busy eating pancakes last week, elsewhere in the world this pre-Lent festivity was celebrated by one of the biggest parties in the world – Mardi Gras. And what an awesome party it really is. What started off years ago as a bit of fun and merriment before the serious business of fasting for forty days and forty nights, has now turned into a fully-fledged carnival. So if you let last Tuesday go by in a haze of batter and flour, here is your whistle stop tour of international Mardi Gras celebrations to see what you really missed out on.

By far the most famous place for Mardi Gras (or Fat Tuesday as it so beautifully translates) is Rio in Brazil, the carnival capital of the world. The idea of a Rio carnival conjures up im-

ages of sequins, feathers, ruffles, colour and whole lot of fun – and that's basically what Rio carnival is. Rio transforms itself into a rainbow of fun; from gorgeous costumes (or lack of) being shown off in colourful parades



and street parties, to the legendary Samba Parade where people dance and sing their way around the streets of Rio. This is a party in the streets of a sexy, fun and vibrant city, no wonder it's seen as one of the best.

If you didn't think of Rio when you

read the words Mardi Gras, then you would have most definitely thought of New Orleans. The party here has a three month build up that starts on Twelfth Night, and people patiently wait until early on Shrove Tuesday

when they take to the streets of New Orleans' French Quarter and party like it's... well, Mardi Gras. The New Orleans' celebrations are particularly famous for their parades, especially the Rex Parade. Rex is Latin for King, so the parade celebrates the King of

Carnival. This parade is responsible for creating the carnival's theme tune, and its official colours – gold, purple and green in case you were wondering. It also has a theme every year, drawn from the worlds of mythology and lit-

erature; this year the floats, bands, and Rex's loyal subjects were adorned in the theme of 'Fables of Fire and Flame'. New Orleans' Mardi Gras also has the traditions of The Throws. This is where the parades throw trinkets into the crowds in answer to the traditional cry

of 'Throw me something, mister!' Mardi Gras in New Orleans is scandalous, drunken and second to none.

Europe also has its fair share of Mardi Gras celebrations – rightly so since the idea of Mardi Gras was originally imported to the Americas by European settlers. Venice has one of the oldest and most luxurious festivals, each year with a more elaborate theme than the last - this year's was 'Six Senses for Six Districts'. The backdrop of such a romantic and beautiful city is also perfect for the variety of balls and magnificent parties. However, if you're planning on doing a Mardi Gras in Venice next year, don't even think about going anywhere without a costume – you might as well not even bother going at all.

From Venice, we go to France, the nation that gave us the gift of Mardi Gras in the first place. Nice is most famous for Mardi Gras there, when the city comes alive with light – Nice seems to become obsessed with firework displays and parades filled with colourful lights.

I have to be honest, after finding out about all this fun and frivolity, I feel pretty let down that all I did on Shrove Tuesday was eat a load of pancakes. Where exactly were our carnivals and parades? Next year I'm finding some sequins and popping on a plane, although I might treat myself to a few pancakes on the way!

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TOP FIVE

GADGETS NO STUDENT SHOULD LIVE WITHOUT

With the release of the new iPad from Apple, we take a look at what gadgets have become nothing short of essential in our lives



◀ **Mobile Phone**
Whether its for the (occasional) call to your parents, texting during lectures or following social networking, it seems that nobody could live without their mobile phone.



▶ **Mp3 Player**
“And they shall have music wherever they go” used to be the old nursery rhyme, who’d of thought we’d take it literally.



◀ **USB Memory Pen**
A whole new world of storage that fits on your key ring, it’s absolute genius.



▶ **Digital Camera**
They say a picture paints a thousand words, and there’s nothing quite like that photo which sums up a classic night out or a flat-based prank.



◀ **Game Console**
Be it old school N64 or top of the line PS3, nothing screams “stress relief” like shooting up some bad guys or winning a virtual race against a flatmate

The lowdown on catered accommodation

SCAN Editor Liam Richardson got a taste of what is in store next year at a trial in Barker House Farm

WHEN ASKED TO participate in a trial for catered accommodation earlier this month, I did wonder whether it was anything to do with views I had expressed in SCAN last term.

Despite my protestations, the university is ploughing ahead with a scheme to introduce blocks in four colleges (Cartmel, Lonsdale, Bowland and County), which are reserved for those who have bought into a catering scheme. Personally, I think this money spinner is directed at the worried parents of freshers joining the institution in the Autumn. Adding an extra £1500 onto rent for those tied to the scheme, it is incredibly pricey, especially considering that many families have had their pockets hit hard by the recession.

The meal times for the week long trial were 8am-10am for breakfast and 5pm-7pm for dinner. The timings will surely have to be altered for September’s intake as no first year will be rising that early in the morning, particularly on a Thursday after a heavy night at the Carleton. The

evening times may have to be adjusted as well as many will be in lectures until 6pm, leaving only an hour for them to schedule their meal time.

The service itself was excellent. The catering staff were very attentive and helpful each day. More staff will be required to man what will become very busy periods. There were occasions when despite being half-empty, Barker House Farm had tables with empty plates left strewn about. The



Photo: Ben Robins

university will have to fork out to ensure that staffing levels for this initiative are maintained. In terms of food, the quality was far better than I have come to experience from university catering outlets. At dinner, three courses were served with roast dinners, curries, and other traditional foods on the menu. Pudding was always a treat with staple favourites like bread and butter pudding on offer. My only complaints about the food are that there didn’t seem to be much in the way of healthy

alternatives, or much thought given to making them as appealing as the fatty alternatives. Also, the food served will not appeal to international students who may not be overly keen on traditional British grub.

Pricing is also an issue. £6.50 a day is a lot for a meal despite the fact that what was being provided was worth the cost. Not many students (takeaways excluded) would spend that much per day on food. This cost is made even more prohibitive when lunch is not provided and no account is taken of students who miss the scheduled meal times.

Another factor to consider is rent. By using less energy cooking or storing food in kitchens, utility bills will surely be less, so will there be a reduction in rent for those who are opted into the scheme? Surely in the long term, new accommodation blocks linked to catering will have smaller kitchens to correlate with the decreasing need for space and facilities in this area.

I think that the university is wise to trial such a scheme. Lancaster is rare in that most other institutions run such an initiative. Unfortunately, less than noble concerns are what have driven this plan to be wheeled out in time for the next academic year. This is yet another way for the university to hit the pockets of cash-strapped students and bring in much needed income for the university’s depleted coffers.

Campus icons

A glimpse into the life of Lancaster’s famous faces

NAME: Ady Gray
PROFESSION: LUSU Shop Senior Retail Assitant & PhD Student
STARSIGN: Gemini



What is your best memory of your time in Lancaster?

After nearly six years I have so many but if I had to pick one it would be going out for my Masters graduation last December with 10 people. I walked onto the bus we had organised to take us to the Carleton to find 40 more clapping and cheering me as a surprise. It left me speechless, and that takes some doing.

What item do you never leave home without?
My iPod, I must have music

with me! At the moment, I’m listening to Frank Turner, a lot, or Pearl Jam’s ‘Backspacer’ and, as those who know me could testify, I am a massive fan of The Jam with my guilty pleasure being ABBA.

What is the worst thing about working in the LUSU shop and Central?
Rude and miserable customers. If I’m going to be cheerful, and offer good customer service, it’d be nice to get it reciprocated.

What would be your “best buy” from the LUSU shop?

One water and Ubuntu cola, as one member of staff said they are ethical...and fit. I’m big on promoting ethical choices in consumerism. If we must have this economic system then at least we should play fair.

Who would be your next Campus Icon and why?
Easy, Davey Garland, Resident Tutor for Grizedale College and all-round nice guy. He’s been here longer than me, finger in so many pies and all for the benefit of students!!

The iPhone: Worth the Price?

Mae Dibley explores the technological takeover of the iPhone and Blackberrys

I STILL REMEMBER a time when to get in touch with a friend you had to call their landline and ask their parents politely, or simply go and knock on their door. Until recently, the ability to send a quick text or call at any time, anywhere, satisfied our need for instant communication. Now however, in keeping with our society's rapid technological development, communication has been taken to a new level; and it's not just for the high flying executives. Take a look around campus and everywhere people seem to be holding the latest iPhone, Blackberry, or other smartphone. I don't have the figures but from my own observations I'd say at least a third of students have moved beyond the need for simple call and text phones. So what is so special about these new gadgets that warrant the admittedly higher price demanded by smartphones?

I have owned an iPhone for seven months now and I am still discovering ways that it can make my life easier. Despite the hefty price tag, it actu-

ally has some fantastic features that are beneficial to students. Obviously there's the instant and constant access to the internet, allowing you to see and respond to tutors' and societies' emails immediately, and be able to Google anything in seconds. Emails and Facebook alerts come through in the same way as a text so you are constantly 'in the know.' The voice recording feature is fabulous for recording lectures, or even recording yourself and then listening to it through your headphones on the bus for revision. On the downside, there are those who find the touch

There is also no denying the increasing lure of the Apple logo. The Apple Mac has always earned its trendy image for those who can afford it. But since Apple's commercial bulls-eye with the iPod, the brand has attracted wider popularity whilst still maintaining its impeccably stylish designs. In an age where image is everything, people are ignoring the price difference in favour of a piece of fruit that is recognised by the entire world.

screen keyboard of the iPhone too fiddly. For those people, the Blackberry proves itself the more attractive option of the two with its built in keyboard, though you do then sacrifice some



screen space.

I think ultimately it comes down to what students find essential. The internet and computers are so insatiably integral to any young adult's life, that if we are going to splurge on anything it is going to be a little device

which encompasses all that is important to our generation. The iPhone, in particular, trumps the rest. With its hard drive size and added applications in comparison to the iPod classic, although this has already proven its worth and popularity (plus is only

going to set you back £193) it isn't too much of a push to spend £35 a month for effectively unlimited calls, texts and internet along with all the other functions of the iPhone. Especially when you could easily spend that amount in a single night out at the Sugarhouse!

Weighing up the consequences

SCAN Editor **Liam Richardson** continues his journey into the realm of healthy living

After the failures I alluded to in my last column, it was time to get back on track and make up for the disappointments of the last week. I reckon Laura, my personal trainer, scented blood and wanted to really push me this time around and take me to another level of physical exertion. What followed was basically tantamount to abuse!

I myself was conscious that I needed to leave my comfort zone and push my body harder than I had been doing previously. The fitness programme we trialled this time in the life fitness room was based around competition. Targets were set on the various machines that had to be reached.

Aiming for 2000km on the rowing machine required a marathon effort. Twenty minutes interval training on the treadmill was also extremely challenging.

I certainly felt more tired than I had ever done once my session had ended. The life fitness room itself was quite busy due to it being early in the evening and it is very easy to become self-conscious at all the ultra fit people barely breaking sweat whilst I myself was sprawled out in my sodden grey T-shirt- certainly not a wise choice of attire.

The sessions had certainly stepped up in terms of difficulty, but although incredibly challenging, it was satisfy-

ing to be able to meet the requirements Laura had imposed upon me. The interval training was a measure of endurance, whilst reaching a certain amount of ground covered was a test of stamina and desire.

The next step for me is to stick to the schedules Laura has drawn up and get to the gym myself an extra three times a week. I am well aware that with independence comes the opportunity to not push myself as hard as when my trainer is there. That is another hurdle I will have to jump at a later date.

I also need to monitor my food intake again and make sure that I am taking in enough energy for everything I am burning at the gym. I have successfully cut out a lot of the bad food I had been reliant on, and cooking healthy nutritious meals for myself is a very worthwhile enterprise, though finding the time is difficult.

These are the next steps in my quest to improve my fitness. I also still want to start playing squash again, though my quest for a regular playing partner has so far been fruitless. Sticking to a routine is very hard when other commitments take centre stage. Aspiration and willpower are essential qualities for anyone wanting to change their lifestyle for the better.

Finally, next time out, I will be purchasing some new gym wear. This challenge is already hard enough without looking unfashionable as well...



Recipes for disaster

Poppy Goodbrand puts our culinary skills to the test

Vegetable Kebabs with Mango sauce and Tropical Rice

This easy yet exotic dish will definitely whet your appetite as it is packed with flavour and is a great vegetarian dish. Ideal in summer or winter!

Serves 4
368 calories per serving



Ingredients

- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons mango chutney
- 3 tablespoons tomato purée
- Grated rind and juice of 1 lime
- 150 ml (5 fl oz) natural yoghurt
- 8 shallots or baby onions, skinned
- 2 courgettes, chopped into 1 inch pieces
- 225 g (8oz) button mushrooms,

wiped

- 175 (6oz) baby sweetcorn
- 225 g (8 oz) basmati or long-grain rice
- 40 g (1 1/2 oz) creamed coconut, diced

Method

1. Heat the oil in a non-stick saucepan, add the onion and garlic and cook for about 5 minutes until softened. Remove from the heat and stir in the mango chutney, tomato purée, half the lime juice and the yogurt.
2. Put the shallots in a saucepan of boiling water, return to the boil, and then drain well. Thread the shallots, courgettes, mushrooms and sweetcorn alternately on to eight skewers.
3. Arrange the skewers onto a piece of foil lining on a grill pan, Brush the kebabs with the prepared mango sauce and cook under a hot grill for 10- 11 minutes, turning frequently, until golden brown.
4. Meanwhile, cook the rice, drain and blend with the lime rind, remaining lime juice and coconut.
5. Gently heat the remaining sauce, pour into a serving bowl and serve with the vegetable kebabs and tropical rice.

Bon appétit!

Lecture break

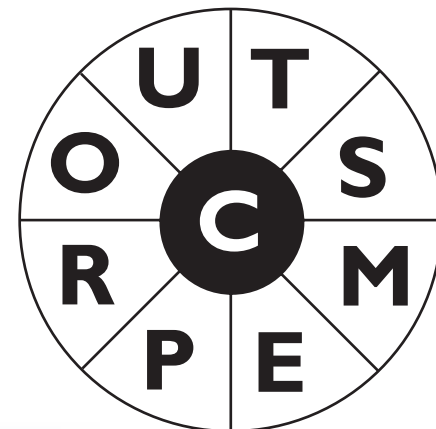
THE QUIZ - Make the connections

1. Earl Grey and Stanley Baldwin
2. Jon Pertwee and Christopher Eccleston
3. Anthony Hutton and Nadia Almada
4. Arctic Monkeys and Phil Collins
5. Bobby Robson and Peter Taylor

Answers below

The Wheel

Using the given letter no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs, adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives are disallowed.



How to do Su Doku.

Fill the grid of that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

			1			9		
3		9		5			6	
6			2			4		
		1		7	8			3
	9						8	
5			3	4		1		
		5			3			2
	3			2		8		7
		6			7			

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		6	1		4	5		
	9	8	6				7	
7				9			4	2
2				5			6	1
		3	8		7	2		
9	4			6				8
5	3			8				4
	6				2	3	5	
		4	5		9	8		

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Answers: 1) British Prime Ministers 2) Both played Doctor Who 3) Big Brother winners 4) Won 5 Brit Awards as British Artists 5) Both England football managers

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Living in a Cave

By Cal King



There are classic quotes that everyone knows: "Here's Johnny", "I'll never let go, Jack", "Bring on the wall"... but a lot of the time, I find myself quoting things without having actually seen the source material. *The Godfather* (1972) is one of the most quoted films in history, with classic lines like "My father made him an offer he couldn't refuse" and even though for years I'd been telling everyone that it was one of my favourite films, I'd never actually got around to watching it.

People would ask me, "Do you like the bit when Marlon Brando does that thing?" and "Oh, that's definitely one of the best bits," I'd reply, "in fact it's just a really good film in general." Then I'd go quiet and hope there weren't going to be any follow-up questions that might catch me out.

So, last week, after only thirty-eight years since it was released, I sat down to watch the film for the first time. There were a couple of technical hitches that might have affected my viewing pleasure; I'd fiddled with the subtitles (I do that a lot, I find that a lot of actors mumble far too much). It turns out that these parts in Italian are pretty crucial, so I watched baffled as seemingly key plot points flew past, and I began to think that Francis Ford Coppola might have gone a bit potty while he was filming. It was only later on that I discovered it wasn't some kind of avant-garde filmmaking technique, and it was actually just thanks to me not being able to work my own DVD player. Without subtitles or at least a basic grasp of Italian, the film is particularly disappointing; but with subtitles, it's really rather good.

Marlon Brando gives a cult-classic performance as the ageing head of the Corleone crime family, his chin jutting out majestically from the rest of his body, giving his voice the raspy, locked -jaw effect of someone with a sore throat, trapped in a neck-brace. I can't help thinking that if the Corleone family were as close as they made out, they'd at least offer their old Pa some warm Ribena or something. But then again, they're not particularly close, and the film shows the struggles faced when running a Mafia crime family; the ups, the downs, the relationships and the attempted murders. What makes it so much fun is seeing a young Al Pacino turn from an innocent passive member of the family, into a killer, and ultimately, head of the Corleones.

The fact that *The Godfather* is nearly four decades old doesn't make it any less fun; the setting is authentic, the violence bloody and the cast are surprisingly recognisable, and even though I spent the first two hours telling myself that it definitely wasn't Al Pacino, it turns out it was, and he's joined by Brando, Robert Duvall and Diane Keaton. And at least I've seen it now, so I can quote with confidence. (Except the Italian bits; babada-boopie?)

Back to basics

Lauren Randall takes a look at the cinema craze of 'reboots'

IT WAS NO surprise when a new Spiderman film was announced. Despite lukewarm reviews and fanboy despair, Spiderman 3 took so much money that it's the fifteenth highest-grossing film of all time. However, news of a reboot rather than a sequel was unexpected. Retracing origin stories and revisiting very old friends seem to be the new vogue at the minute. The question is, are they a good thing?

There's been a shed-load of rebooted franchises recently. Arguably the most infamous is the Batman saga. It began back in 1966 with Adam West in the campy *Batman: The Movie*, a spin off from the TV show. This was given a make-over in '89 by gothic supreme Tim Burton. Starring Michael Keaton and Jack Nicholson the film was a massive success paving the way for sequels. The sequel *Batman Returns* was considered by some to be too dark for kiddies. Danny DeVito as the Penguin chomping on someone's nose, an unhinged Michelle Pfeiffer and Christopher Walken earned a 12 rating.

Joel Schumacher took over the next two sequels and injected it with some of the TV show's campiness to make it more light-hearted. Cue lurid sets, stilted dialogue ("Ice to see you") and batsuit nipples: cue audiences leaving in disgust. The series was left alone on the big screen for a decade. Studios considered numerous scripts before plumping for Christopher Nolan and David S. Goyer's screenplay with the former directing, fresh off the back of his indie film success. The franchise once regarded with trepidation was rebuilt into a neo-noir world of realistic, psychotic villains and a multi-layered hero. Yeah, it's still scary for kids but

the sheer quality is unmatched in any other superhero film.

Another franchise riding high on the back of a successful reboot is the *Star Trek* series. J.J. Abrams obviously took note of the success of *Batman* and went back to the beginning. It was deemed so good that a sequel was commissioned before the film's release, eagerly awaited for by Trekkies and non-Trekkies the world over.

The horror genre – that well-known remake lover – is also salivating over the prospect of reboots. One of the most successful horror series, *Scream*, has had a 'new' trilogy commissioned. Waiting a decade seems to have done the trick as original screenwriter Kevin Williamson and the trilogy's three main stars are returning whilst director Wes Craven is a possibility. Whilst it's hard to see why they've re-commissioned a series that was almost laughed to death by *Scary Movie* it shows that the reboot is very much back in business.

However, reboots aren't always on the button. The much-hyped *Superman Returns*, from X-Men director Bryan Singer, promised so much from its trailers. Nevertheless, the film faltered with fans who queried the plot's narrative and the young casting. Unsurprisingly, a reboot of the reboot is being considered, 'mentored' by *Batman's* Nolan.

There's also the critical mauling of *The Godfather III* released in 1990, sixteen years after *The Godfather II*. *Indiana Jones IV*, despite its popularity at the box-office, received critical indifference. Maybe it's expectations that make or break a re-boot. No-one expected anything from Daniel Craig in the Bond revamp; surely even he's



Rebooted: The Batman saga was successfully re-established thanks to the 2008 film, *The Dark Knight*

laughing now.

What are we to expect from the new reboots? Will putting Spidey back in high school and starting again help the franchise or bring it to its knees? Does it even matter? Despite the odd

disappointing review reboots generally make big bucks. So, whilst the jury's out on whether reboots are any good they're still guaranteed bums on seats. Move over remake; reboot's scooping top dollar now.

Reclaiming the vagina

The Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler

Catherine Holdsworth
Natasha Farnworth

THE 'VAGINA MONOLOGUES', written by Eva Ensler is a series of monologues performed by a variety of female characters. Each monologue relates to the vagina through different experiences. Delivering a strong feminist message, the play focuses on the vagina as a tool for female empowerment. The play is the inspiration behind the V-Day movement, a global movement seeking to end violence against women and girls. V-Day is a non-profit charity, which raises money for the cause by staging benefit events annually. The 'Vagina Monologues' is always the cornerstone event and this year Lancaster University is staging three showings of the performance in aid of V-Day. This year's showing of the 'Vagina Monologues' at Lancaster also supports the women of the Democratic of the Congo where rape and abuse are used as tactical weapons of war.



Enduring work: Eve Ensler has enjoyed phenomenal success with the play

The cast of over twenty female students worked together to perform the piece. The play aimed to take people out of their comfort zones and make them view the issues from a new perspective. The play is not a feminist boy-bashing experience, more an expression of peace and unity, aiming to empower women. The play was genuinely funny at times but always poignant and honest about the message it was delivering. The entire cast were mature and disciplined and handled the piece with the sensitivity and humour it so richly deserves.

Highlights included; 'My Angry Vagina' by Lowri Jones and 'The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy' by Kathy McGuirk, however there was a stark contrast in the mood from the first half to second half. The most emotional part of the piece was at its denouement where the three directors, Tori Crapper, Hannah Sauer and Chaz Ginn retold the story of the rape and imprisonment of a fifteen year old girl. The whole play culminated in an acoustic rendition of 'I Wish I Knew How it Would Feel to be

Free.'

Many of the cast had their own personal reasons for partaking as well as an overall desire to contribute to the movement that helps women worldwide. Assistant director Chaz Ginn described the experience as an 'emotional roller-coaster' yet made it clear she would 'do it again a million times over.'

Money was also raised on the night by selling tongue-in-cheek goods such as naughty cakes and 'dirty word' biscuits as well as other home-made 'vagina purses' and cards. The atmosphere on the evening was light hearted and friendly without forgetting the real reason we were all there.

The play was deeply moving for the both audience and cast members and we were certainly left with a lot to think about, particularly the more distressing issues connected with the play. However, the positive work carried out by the charities and the V-Day movement gives hope that women are able to fight back and reclaim their liberty.

The Reviews

The Gig by Hannah Fearon



Rammstein Tour: Liebe Ist Für Alle Da Venue: Manchester MEN Date: Tuesday 2nd February



LASERS, EXPLODING DOLLS, fireworks, pyrotechnics, a foam cannon and a rubber dinghy. A band always buried deep in controversy, Rammstein, came to the MEN Arena earlier this month to perform their first UK gig in 5 years. For those not familiar with the band; Rammstein are a German industrial group, responsible for creating Neue Deutsche Härte, a term translating as “new German hardness”. The style is influenced by German rock and Heavy metal, and the band’s music is often labelled as “Dance Metal”.

Over the years there has been much controversy surrounding Rammstein, often caused by the content of their lyrics, music videos and live shows. Their latest album *Liebe ist für alle da* is banned from being on display in shops on Germany, thus removing it from sale over there. Rammstein argue that the content is not to be taken seriously, and that they are trying to make a statement. However, the graphic sexual content in the music video for ‘Pussy’ certainly doesn’t help their case.

Despite this controversy, or perhaps spurred on by it, Rammstein are a highly respected band in the metal scene across the world and have an enormous fan base. So when they performed at the MEN arena at the beginning of February, I was lucky enough to be at one of only three gigs in the UK.

Rammstein are renowned for their over-the-top theatrical live performances and use of pyrotechnics. On the *Liebe ist für alle da* tour, the band are back; bigger, and bolder. The sold out show opened with guitarists Richard Z. Kruspe and Paul H. Landers smashing their way through glass as frontman Till Lindemann burnt his way through with a blowtorch. The audience response to Lindemann’s solemn appearance, dressed in a butcher’s apron, was phenomenal. With a quick signal of his arms, the crowd became silent instantly. The band opened with

Band Members:
Till Lindemann (lead vocals),
Richard Z. Kruspe (lead guitar and backing vocals),
Paul H. Landers (rhythm guitar, backing vocals),
Oliver Riedel (bass guitar),
Christoph “Doom” Schneider (drums and electronic percussion)
Christian “Flake” Lorenz (keyboards).

the first track on *Liebe ist für alle da*, ‘Rammlied’ which seemed to be recorded for the sole purpose of opening a show. With the repeated cheers of ‘Rammstein’ throughout the song, it was a great show starter. The stage set up was incredible. With the immense amount of lighting, industrial fans, suspended engines and a treadmill, the set is difficult to describe, but it is similar to the one used in the music video for ‘Ich tu dir weh’ which is worth checking out purely to see the stunning stage.

Rammstein’s use of pyrotechnics in their shows is part of the bands appeal, and they certainly didn’t disappoint. Almost every song was accompanied by pyrotechnics, such as setting the stage on fire for one of the lesser known new tracks and using the trademark Lycopodium Masks during ‘Feuer Frei’. During the band’s performance of ‘Benzin’ a man was set on fire by Lindemann, and I’m still not sure if this was a stunt or not. The heat of the pyrotechnics was unbelievable, and members of the stage team had to keep running up and down the front barrier squirting water at the crowd. I was lucky enough to be right at the front of the crowd in the standing area, and one of my highlights of the night was Rammstein’s fantastic performance of ‘Pussy’ in which Lindemann rode a metallic canon across the stage, covering the front of the audience in foam, and then confetti. Another highlight was the final song of the night, ‘Engel’ in which Lindemann emerged wearing huge metallic angel wings, which shot fire out of either side. Standing so close to the stage made for a very intense and sensory experience overall.

Whilst Rammstein sang popular classics such as ‘Du Hast’ and ‘Ich Will’, the show was dominated by their new album, of which they played nine out of the eleven songs. The band played for almost two hours, even without stopping to humour the audience with any conversation or introductions. At forty-seven, Lindemann certainly still has it. Sadly, he has announced that he plans to retire at the age of fifty, which means that this could be the last time Rammstein tour the UK. For any fans that haven’t had the pleasure of seeing the band live, Rammstein will headline Sonisphere festival which takes place on the 30th July - 1st August this year with all tickets on sale now.

The TV Show by Miles Pilkington

Skins



From the people I’ve asked, it seems like *Skins* is a very polarizing TV show. Everyone I’ve asked about it seems to either love it or hate it. However, this new series might be able to win back some nay-sayers and claim a few more viewers, through more ways than one. The series started in true *Skins* fashion –an unknown girl finishes her bag of drugs to go and kill herself by leaping from a club balcony. The drugs are blamed, and the police search for who gave her aforementioned drugs. This is the main plot for the first two episodes, a kind of mini-whodunnit to find the dealer who killed her, and, surprisingly, it is quite engaging, with some great amateur detective work. Episode three then centres on crowd-favourite Cook, and his attempt to stay out of jail after a drunken brawl. This new series feels quite different from older series of *Skins*. There are fewer “OMG COOK’S GOT A TATTOO ON HIS PENIS” shock tactics, and the focus is more on the actual drama, of which there is plenty. With sex, fights, infidelity, lesbians, drugs, and police, this sounds like par for the course with a show like *Skins*, but this new series seems to be trying to make the story a bit more serious, and, god forbid, a bit more realistic. Basically, it’s more *Skins*. Fans of older *Skins* series will love it, but it is also a good place for new people to jump on the wagon, since the whole thing is a bit more accessible this time round. If you’re looking for a quirky drama to hold your attention, *Skins* will definitely satisfy.

The Book by Lauren Randall

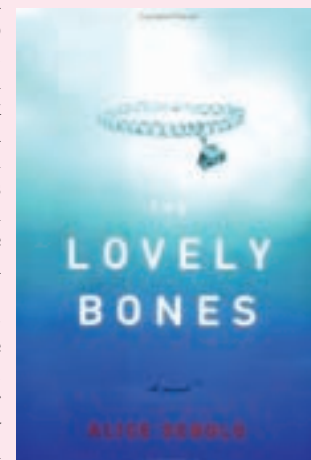
The Lovely Bones



The *Lovely Bones*, much like its heroine, is a fighter. Published back in 2002, it was written by author Alice

Sebold who only had one other published novel to her name. With the author being so young and the material so unconventional, a few thousand sold would have been considered a success; however the book shipped a million copies worldwide and became. It’s easy to see what provoked such a global response; the story is ambitious and wonderfully fascinating. Told from the perspective of fourteen year-old Susie Salmon in heaven after her brutal rape and murder, it’s certainly captivating.

The narrative is particularly character-driven so what is lacking in action is made up for by the well-rounded characters, although there are some tense and rather brutal moments. Mr Harvey, the sleazy neighbour who kills her, is such an uncomfortable character who preys on your mind even when he doesn’t appear in the text. The *Lovely Bones* is a surprisingly honest and uplifting novel considering the subject matter. Despite some critics dismissing it as being overly-sentimental, The *Lovely Bones* is a subtly fierce piece of fiction that lingers in the mind long afterwards.



The Single by Kate McKeown

Ellie Goulding *Starry Eyed*



Rising singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding’s single *Starry Eyed* is definitely a refreshing addition to the electro sound mixes for 2010. She gives us three minutes of sparkling excitement through a mix of electro and acoustic sounds blended together, making it quite a versatile track to listen to.

The exhilarating beat is addictive even if a little repetitive at first, but this only makes it a perfect choice for a futuristic electro single. It is a heavily instrumental track with electro drum patterns creating the baseline, particularly noticeable in the second verse where a mechanical sounding drum beat features in the background. Lyrically, the themes are a little scattered, making references to carousels, playground games the stars and lightning but the relevance of the words is not particularly important for a track like this as the rhythm and music style speak for itself.

Ellie’s voice has a child-like nature and is not particularly strong but definitely striking. The authenticity of her voice and the track itself has similar sultry tones of Imogen Heap, a soprano pitch of La Roux and inventive keyboard electronics of Little Boots. She has a warm and inviting texture to her voice marking her as a distinctive and unique artist for 2010. This was confirmed by winning the Critics’ Choice Award at the Brit Awards 2010 following in the footsteps of acts such as Florence and the Machine and Adele.

The single will be released February 22nd so keep your starry eyes on the look out for Ellie Goulding, she’ll have you hooked. Her highly anticipated debut album titled *Lights*, is out in shops now and ready to download from iTunes.

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The advertisement features a black background with colorful speech bubbles in yellow, green, and blue. At the top left is a gold "Winner" seal. The text "the National Student Survey" is in white, with the website "www.thestudentsurvey.com" below it. The main headline "YOUR OPINION MATTERS" is written in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Below this is the website "WWW.THESTUDENTSURVEY.COM". A white speech bubble contains the text: "Are you a final year undergraduate? Do you want your opinions on your student experience to be heard? Take part in the National Student Survey. It's quick to complete and you'll be helping prospective students make the right choices of where and what to study." At the bottom, there are logos for Ipsos MORI, hifce, Unistats, UCAS, tda, and other partners.

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Across the weekend we'll be needing people to work in loads of different areas from promoting the matches across campus to stewarding the lines at the games themselves to making sure the scores are handed in from every single competition.

If you would like to get involved then email lusu.feds@lancaster.ac.uk as soon as possible or pop down to LUSU and ask for AJ.

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Fylde and Grizedale slugging it out for supremacy as Carter Shield finals day looms

Nick O'Malley

GRIZEDALE AND FYLDE lead the way in the Carter Shield after the events of the first term, both tied on 53 points. Then there is a fairly significant gap to joint third place which sees Lonsdale and Bowland battling for bragging rights over their rival college, on 38 points a-piece. The points are awarded as follows: fifteen points for an event win, twelve for the runners-up, nine for the losing semi-finalists, and six for third in the group stages. Finally three



Taking a pop: Pop Lacrosse is one of the final day activities

points allocated for the team that finishes bottom of their group. On top of this there is a reward for colleges that participate in every event in a term in the form of five bonus points. This is a new incentive for this year in an attempt to gain maximum participation at all Carter shield events.

The first event of finals day last term saw Grizedale triumph over Bowland in the final of Dodgeball, edging their opponents out 3-2. The women's indoor football was the next event in the finals day and saw Fylde defeat Grizedale,

meaning they picked up the maximum points for that event, with Grizedale closing the gap for their courtesy of finishing runners-up. Volleyball saw Lonsdale, who were unbeaten from start to finish in the tournament, win the last game comprehensively against Grizedale. The concluding event of finals day was Korfbal, which saw Fylde remain unbeaten throughout the whole tournament for the second year in a row, and defeat County comfortably in the final.

In this term's Carter Shield the four events to come under the inter-college spotlight are Pop Lacrosse, Men's Basketball, Aeroball and Kwik-Cricket. The taster sessions at the start of the Lent term saw a massive increase in participants in comparison with the sessions of last term. This is thanks to the individual college sports representatives, as well as a new incentive created by the Inter-college sports co-ordinators; Lauren Forrester and Marc Handley, and it sees the college with the highest turnout to the four tasters in terms two and three winning a cash prize.

At the moment, there has only been one competition day this term and that came in the form of Pop Lacrosse, which is an indoor variation of field Lacrosse. The event involves plastic sticks and uses a much softer ball than field Lacrosse. Each college is represented by a team of six players, with a minimum of two female players on each team. The event is played in the sports hall and the game is played to every wall, meaning the game is non-stop for each of the five minute halves and therefore is very tiring to play.

Group 1 pitted Lonsdale, Cartmel, Grizedale and Furness together, with Bowland, County, Fylde and Pendle



New kit: Carter Shield sponsors IBM provided new bibs and kit for the college teams who participate each weekend. The VP Sport and their Intercollege Sports Co-ordinators are at the front of the picture.

comprising group two. Group one saw Lonsdale and Grizedale qualify, with Lonsdale scraping through in second thanks to a scrappy 1-1 draw with Furness. The result gave them five points and Grizedale seven. The latter college went through top winning two games, and drawing the other 0-0 with Lonsdale, in what was a battle of the two

defences. In group two Fylde qualified in first place winning every game, and Bowland went through in second in what was a closely contested battle the position between Bowland, County and Pendle.

This sees the first fixtures of finals day confirmed already, with the first semi-final between Group one winners

Grizedale and Group two runners-up Bowland. The other fixture in place is between Group two winners Fylde and Group one runners-up Lonsdale. Finals day for all four sports will take place early next month, and with so many points still to play for, it will definitely be worth a trip up to the sports centre to watch.

Lancaster edge out Manchester in top of the table clash

LANCASTER 2 MAN MET 1

Chris Bill

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY MEN'S seconds went into Wednesday's match against Manchester Metropolitan University, anticipating an intriguing 1st meets 2nd in the table clash, with Lancaster needing nothing less than a win to ensure their title challenge remained intact.

On the bright February afternoon, Captain Adam Williams went with his preferred 4-4-2 Mike Bassett formation, with his usual starting 11 except for James Mofunanya coming in for Dan 'twit' Whittingham at centre back and Ian 'like I care what foot it's on' Dawson coming in to partner Jack

'bleeeuuggghh' Griffiths upfront. Dawson incidentally, still holds the record for the most goals scored in a university season.

After negotiating the quick tempo start that Manchester made to the game, Lancaster started to attack their rivals with Dawson and Williams combining well on the right hand side and Leon Vaughan galloping on like Seabiscuit at fullback to put in some decent crosses resulting in numerous Lancaster corners, which were never fully capitalised upon with the ensuing set pieces. At the same time, Jamie Smith and Andrew Castle provided similar width on the left hand side. The midfield pairing of Rob Cregeen and Chris Bill was mopping everything up in midfield, without too much football being played.

Around half an hour in, with the game very tight, tackles started to fly in and one Manchester player

caught Williams with a Hiroshima after he had got to the ball first, with the Manchester player going over the ball and connecting with the skipper's ankle. The referee, Frank Butcher, to the Lancaster player's disgust opted to keep his cards in his pocket and as a result of this, was definitely not having one of his finest days. Subsequently, William's had to be substituted and was replaced by the talented forward 'Davvers'. Soon after, and completely against the run of the play, Manchester scored with a break-away goal down the left, with the crossed ball glancing off the helpless Bill's leg and falling to his runner which left a simple tap in. Goalkeeper Ashley Hannay's first job was to pick the ball out of the net.

After a rocket at half time given by Lancaster coach James Huck, Lancaster went out in the second half determined to change the game around. And around ten minutes in,

a ball played over the top was latched onto by 'Davvers', who took the ball around the keeper and coolly finished at a tight angle with his left foot. All the momentum was in Lancaster's favour now, with Bill and Cregeen (captain now) dominating the midfield and the defence having little to do. Soon the pressure told and Griffiths, used Bill's decoy run to take the ball down, hold off a couple of Manchester defenders and finish brilliantly in the bottom left corner from 20 yards.

With Half an hour to go and so much at stake, Lancaster naturally started to drop deep inviting pressure onto them, particularly in the form of the long throw down the left. Fortunately during this period, Tom Rudnick and Mofunanya were defending like lions, displaying their true potential with absolutely exceptional defensive performances. The aerial ability of Andrew Castle was also

greatly appreciated who rose higher than anybody on several occasions to clear the ball away from the Lancaster penalty area. With 10 minutes to go however, the pressure still mounted and the only communication from the Lancaster team at this stage was from full-back Smith telling everyone to 'chill out'. Admittedly, time was wasted in the form of Ash Hannay taking an eternity to pick the ball up and long term injury lay-off Gerry Adam's whose numerous drag backs in the Manchester half have certainly put Sinn Fein back on the map one way or another.

Yet Lancaster held firm and referee Butcher finally blew his whistle to end a very tightly fought game resulting in a deserved victory, with jubilant scenes on the pitch as Williams, Harris and Huck came running on to celebrate a magnificent team performance. Lancaster remain very much in the title hunt.

Eat Sport, Sleep Sport, Read Wynes



I recently had a meeting with a Sports Sabbatical officer from another institution. We discussed various aspects of sport, the way it is run, how it works, the funding and facilities available and what works well. It made me realise how in certain aspects we are extremely lucky, but in other aspects we are far behind and have a lot of work to do to improve the sporting experience of students here at Lancaster.

One of the things we do so well here at Lancaster is intercollege sport. In the 4 years that I've been here I have seen intercollege sport grow and grow with the participation levels at an all time high. The intercollege football and netball leagues are incredibly successful, so successful that this year we have introduced a B league in netball to provide for the high demand. Our bar sports leagues have been running successfully for a number of years with every college fielding team for darts, pool and dominoes on a weekly basis. Even our Carter Shield competition, which although has had its problems in the past, still gets many new people involved and provides a great opportunity for students to get active. When we compare our intercollege sport with other Universities it is clear we are ahead of the game and we should be proud of that.

However, perhaps one thing we don't do so well is support all those students who wish to represent the University in competitions. We do provide a lot of opportunities for students to compete; all AU clubs are funded to compete weekly in BUCS competitions and are able to compete in cup competitions and tournaments. However, those students who are not in an AU club or aren't able to compete in certain sports may miss out on the opportunity to represent their University at their chosen discipline simply because of lack of funding. I'm not suggesting that having more money as such would solve the issue, because of course there is always a limit to the amount of funds available. But I think perhaps the University should recognise someone who is reaching high levels within their sport and should give them opportunity to represent the University whilst doing it. For example sports scholarships, which other Universities have successfully implemented, is a great way to recognise those high achievers and allow them to continue pushing themselves to the top. I wish we had unlimited amounts of money to ensure we allow everyone to compete when they want to and I know that's wishful thinking, but hopefully access routes for these people will be improved upon.

Karate society bring the medals home after triple tournament success

Becky Clark
Gareth Dunkerley

IN THE MICHAELMAS term the newly formed Lancaster University Karate Society travelled to two competitions to allow members an opportunity to compete, and for some to gain experience in competition karate.

They also attended an event at the end of Week Four of Lent Term with the aim to get some more competition practice before BUCS in March which all members will be aiming to peak for to build on the success the squad had there last year.

The first competition was an invitational event in Welbeck, Loughborough. The society took five competitors; Gareth Dunkerley (Captain), Craig Noble, Chau Nguyen, Paul Meadowcroft and Becky Clark (President).

In one of the first events of the day, Becky just lost out on a bronze medal in kata, making it to the quarter finals and then narrowly missing out in repechage. Paul made it to the semi-finals in kata but unfortunately lost in this round.

In the individual fighting categories Craig, Chau, and Paul all performed very well, but were unfortunate not to make it to a medal position with Craig having to withdraw due to injury and Chau losing in the quarter finals. However, Gareth managed to win all of the preliminary rounds and also won the final fight to secure a gold medal. Becky also made it to the final of the fighting where she gained silver.

The second competition was held at Teeside University and the society was represented by four competitors, Gareth Dunkerley, Alisia Evans, Sarah Williams and Becky Clark.

In kata, Becky performed well and gained a bronze medal. In the individual fighting, both Becky and Gareth narrowly lost in their respective finals resulting in both taking silver medals, whilst Alisia and Sarah were awarded bronze medals. This was a particularly impressive result for Sarah as this was her first competition, having only done karate for 10 weeks and for Ali-



Karate kids: The newly formed Karate Society enjoyed massive success in tournaments staged in both Loughborough and Teeside this year

sia as she has not competed in several years.

Gareth was then invited to join another men's team with competitors from Leeds and Middlesbrough. The men's team event was filmed and showcased as it was trialling a different rules system where instead of 3 fighters having a 2 minute fight each, they fought for 24 minutes between them. Despite the new and unexpected rules, Gareth and his team members fought well to come out with the gold medal.

The last event of the day was the women's team event, where Becky, Alisia and Sarah defeated Teeside University, having secured their place in the final, to take a gold medal away from the event.

The third competition was again

held at Welbeck, specifically arranged for BUCS preparation. In the kata event, Becky and Alisia were unfortunate to be eliminated in the bronze medal rounds. In the individual fighting, Gareth stormed through the preliminary rounds winning 9-1, then 10-0 and took Gold in the final with a score of 4-0. Similarly, Becky reached the final winning 10-0. Alisia also won her preliminary round (7-1) and gained a silver medal in the final fight. Sarah performed well in her individual rounds, but unfortunately lost out on a bronze medal after some questionable decisions by the officials.

The women's team consisted of Becky, Alisia and Sarah who won the event, beating Lincoln University and the Welbeck women's team. The vic-

tory was clear with scores of 8-0, 6-2 and 4-1 to Lancaster. Gareth joined another male team on the day and helped them to also secure a gold medal by defeating the Welbeck team and Loughborough University on the way to a final against Lincoln University where the team Gareth was part of came out convincing winners. This event proved to be great preparation for the BUCS Championships.

Having only been training since Michaelmas term, and as a brand new society for this year, to take 8 individual and 4 team medals away from 3 competitions is a great achievement.

Anyone who is interested in joining the society, please email lancasterkarate@hotmail.co.uk - we accept new members at any time in the year.

Last ditch penalty sees Lancaster dump minnows out of BUCS cup

< 36 goalkeeper looked uncertain every time he was put under pressure.

However, Lancaster did have a golden opportunity when a corner fell to the edge of the box, but the resulting shot was struck high over the bar. They were nearly forced to pay for this wastefulness when minutes later a Chester long ball narrowly beat the offside trap and their substitute winger went through on goal. It looked a certain goal, and Lancaster were preparing to appeal offside to the referee, but he managed to miss the target with the goal gaping. It was a big let-off for the home team. Moments later they threat-

ened again, a good block was required from the Lancaster keeper and the ball was desperately cleared away. As the game entered its final stages it began to look more and more likely that extra time and possibly penalties would be required to separate the two teams. With this prospect beckoning, Lancaster made a late surge forwards. In the dying minutes of the game the Lancaster left winger made a threatening run into the box. The Chester defender slid in, completely mistiming his tackle, missing the ball and sending the attacker to the floor. The referee was well sighted to award the penalty. Chris Brown stepped up and

calmly sent the keeper the wrong way, sending Lancaster into the semi finals. Wild celebrations followed, while the Chester players surrounded the referee. One player, already yellow carded earlier was sent off for his continuing protests. The final whistle went soon after. It was a good win, but Chester had battled hard, and Lancaster know that they will have to play better in the next round, where they will face MNU Chester, the team immediately below them in the league.

After the game, stand in captain Simon Thompson declared himself delighted with the result and said 'we want to dedicate this victory to Lewis.'

Robert Payling



Can Balotelli become a football role model?

MARIO BALOTELLI IS by no means an ordinary Italian teenager. At 19-years-old he is already known across the world as a football superstar with the potential to become one of the most gifted players of his generation.

His superb talent has led to him become affectionately nick-named "Super Mario" by those who adore him. However, there is another side to the teenage prodigy, a petulant side to his character which has drawn strong criticism from opposition, supporters, and on numerous occasions, his own coach.

The biggest factor in Balotelli's story though, the thing that separates him from becoming an Italian legend, is the colour of his skin. For sure, he is Italy's first high profile black footballer, and he has suffered because of it.

Balotelli was born in Palermo to Ghanaian parents who abandoned him when he was young. He was raised in Brescia by adopted Italian parents and has a strong Brescian accent because of it.

His career began in the Italian third division when he made his debut as a



15-year-old for Lumezzane. Soon afterwards he was signed on loan by Internazionale in 2006 with the option to buy him permanently. He impressed the club so much that he made his first team debut the following year.

Ever since his first game for the club it has been impossible to take your eyes off the talented youngster. He spectacularly came on as a substitute in the 2008 Supercoppa final against Roma to score in the 83rd minute and take the match into extra time. Inter went on to lift the trophy after winning 6-5 on penalties.

However, his success is often overshadowed by his clear gamesmanship. The most memorable example of this was during a match against Juventus when the Brazilian midfielder Felipe Melo elbowed Balotelli in the chest. The Italian chose to collapse to the ground clutching his face instead though. The referee gave Melo a red card, and almost immediately afterwards Balotelli jumped to his feet, seemingly unscathed.

It is the fans of the same opponents

from Turin that Balotelli has received the brunt of his criticism from. He has received the general abuse one would expect from opposition fans. However, he has also received repugnant chants of a racist nature such as "a black Italian does not exist" and "Balotelli, black piece of s***."

Juventus have been deservedly punished for their failure to control their fans' behaviour. Fines have been handed to the club and they were also forced to play behind closed doors without supporters for a game.

Internazionale's coach, Jose Mourinho, has also criticised the teenager for his lack of effort in training and during matches. He rues the possibility that Balotelli could be wasting his potential by picking petty fights and arguments when he could be showcasing his talent instead.

Mourinho substituted him in the latter stages of their recent 1-0 victory in the first-leg of the Coppa Italia semi-final match against Fiorentina after he chose not to help defend an opposing

attack. Rather than accept Mourinho's decision and sit on the bench, Balotelli threw the gloves he was wearing to the ground and stormed down the tunnel.

It is no secret that racism is a huge problem in Italian football, but Balotelli's case has been brought to attention again after racist chants at a lower league match led to a team leaving the pitch in protest.

The team made the decision after one of their players of Nigerian origin and his brother were racially abused for the fourth time this season. Not only were fans and opposing players involved in the chanting, but even more worryingly, the match referee was too. The team stood up for their values and forfeited the game in order to make a stand against racism.

Serie A may be a far cry from the lower divisions in Italy, but one has to think that if Balotelli put his petulant teenage angst to one side and focused on fulfilling his talent, perhaps he could become the role model to create a new footballing culture across the country.

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Last ditch penalty sees Lancaster dump minnows out of BUCS cup

LANCASTER 2 CHESTER 1

Kim Megson

LANCASTER SECURED A last gasp winner to knock Chester (Warrington) out of the quarter finals of the BUCS cup.

On paper Lancaster, who beat Welsh side Glyndwr 2-1 in the last round, were the firm favourites coming into this fixture. They lie two leagues above Chester, and came into the game on the back of an unbeaten run that stretched to nine games. Chester were in no mood to let their opponents run away with it though, and for long spells they looked as though they would be able to spring a surprise and keep Lancaster at bay.

The match kicked off in the sun, but it was not long into the match when it

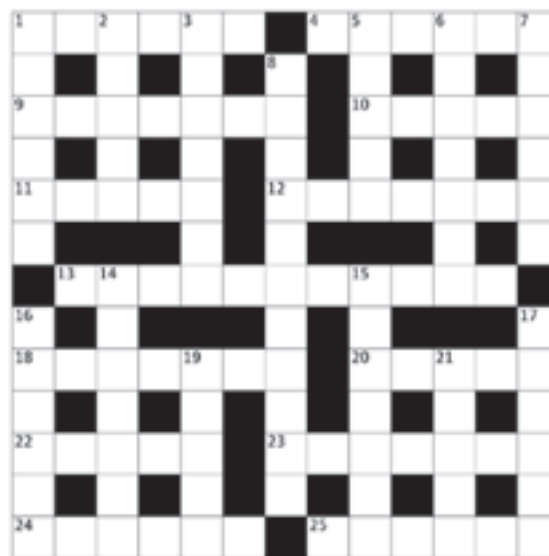
began to snow, and the temperature dropped noticeably. It was an ominous sign.

Lancaster were passing it around nicely, but could find no way past Chester's towering centre backs, especially on the cut-up playing surface. The away side had a clear height advantage running through the spine of the team, and constantly looked dangerous from set pieces. Sure enough, twenty minutes in a free kick was conceded near the corner flag. The resultant ball flew into the heart of the box, and Chester's centre back lost his marker to head in for 1-0. Lancaster looked startled.

Lancaster were playing most of the football, but, a few half chances aside, were struggling to create much of note. They looked to be missing captain Lewis Rowland, who had suffered a broken leg in the previous fixture, something that seemed to be weighing on the minds of the players. Their main chances came from corners and the long throws of Craig Hickford, as the Chester

34 >

Quick crossword no 12,117



Across

- 1,4 Flaubert novel (6,6)
- 9 Large water falls (7)
- 10 Long past (5)
- 11 Praise highly (5)
- 12 Amateur singing to recorded music in bars and clubs (7)
- 13 Batch of goods (11)
- 18 Wild (7)
- 20 Tortilla chip (5)
- 22 Polish monetary unit (5)
- 23 (Of a ship) stuck on the seabed (7)
- 24 Spring festival (6)
- 25 French philosopher, 1905-80 (6)

Down

- 1,16 Araucaria - Chile pine (6,6)
- 2 Distributed the cards (5)
- 3 Childhood disease (7)
- 5 Smell (5)
- 6 Et cetera (3,2,2)
- 7 American - bet (6)
- 8 Travel agent's arrangement (7,4)
- 14 Choices (7)

- 15 Balearic island (7)
- 16 See 1
- 17 Scribble (with a ??) (6)
- 19 Perhaps (5)
- 21 Hard outer coating (5)

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