



Staying stylishly warm

Lancaster students wrap up to show us their snuggest looks

Student Life, page 18

scan

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 1, Lent Term, Tuesday 12th January, 2010

Wind turbine project receives mixed reception from general public

- University receives £5m grant
- Energy consumption to reduce by a third
- Work to begin this year if planning permission approved

Bryony Gannaway

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY IS awaiting a decision on its plans to build two wind turbines to significantly reduce its carbon footprint. A public consultation has been held and the plans have been submitted to the local council.

Lancaster is one of just three universities to receive a £5 million grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England's Transformational Fund, which promotes innovative approaches to sustainable energy. The university will invest £2.3 million of its own money towards constructing the two 2.1MW wind turbines, which will be built on the Hazelrigg site to the east of the M6 motorway.

The creation of the turbines would reduce the university's energy consumption by one third – equivalent to a cut of 72,000 tonnes and £8.1 million – which was described as “exceptional” by the Deputy Chief Executive of HE-FCE. This development would give Lancaster the accolade of being the

first university to install a wind energy source and give another boost towards meeting the targets set by the UK government in the Climate Change Act, which includes an 80% cut in greenhouse gases by 2050.

Lancaster is currently waiting on the City Council's approval of the scoping request. With an approval, the university will submit their planning application and, following the completion and positive assessment of the community consultation process, construction is projected to begin in 2010.

The project has met with mixed feedback from local residents and other environmental groups. Between 14th and 18th December, the official consultation period for the project, members of the public came to University House to submit their thoughts. Many praised the proposal and spoke of their support for the project. “I think it is an excellent idea and will be an example to Lancaster” was one resident's comment. However, the negative viewpoints were very much in line with common criticisms. Concerns were raised that the two wind turbines would be ‘unsightly’ and ‘too imposing’.

Modifications have been made to the original plan, including a decrease in the power of the turbines from 2.3MW to 2.1MW.

“This is a smaller scale wind turbine development proposal and taking into account its size and the detailed assessment of the impacts we have prepared we are hopeful that it will be successful,” said Jonathan Mills, Environment and Sustainability Manager.

“We have carried out a

4-5 >



Locals blowing hot air: Resident reaction has been mixed during the consultation process despite the university radically improving its green credentials with the two new turbines

International students left short changed by foundation course

Sam Newsham
News Editor

A JOINT PROGRAMME between the university and a private company has been described as ‘questionable’ by Lancaster staff.

The International Foundation Year is offered to overseas students whose school-leaving qualifications are not seen as equivalent to A-levels. It is operated from Bailrigg House by Study Group, a private company specialising in university preparation courses.

Although the prospectus describes it as ‘rigorous and academically demanding,’ staff aren't convinced.

“Whether [students] need to learn some of the stuff in these courses is really quite questionable,” said one academic. “There is an issue of whether the academic tuition they get is necessary.”

Students agreed; one current participant told SCAN: “The Foundation Year is just a waste of money. They charge almost the same fee as the normal year and the syllabus is the same as we have studied in our school.”

Running the Foundation Year allows the university to recruit international students – who pay almost four times as much in tuition fees as UK students – at a fraction of the usual cost.

As well as the Foundation Year Lancaster has been developing stronger links with universities overseas in the last five years, which has provided a further source of student recruitment. Not only does this provide financial benefit, it raises the university's overseas profile and places it firmly on the global map.

full investigation, pages 4-5 >>

Political parties cannot treat students as last resort says Streeting

Lizzie Houghton
Assistant Editor

POLITICAL PARTIES CAN expect to be kept on their toes at the forthcoming general election according to the president of the National Union of Students, Wes Streeting.

Speaking to SCAN whilst visiting

Lancaster last week, Streeting referenced the NUS's campaign to get MPs and party candidates to pledge to vote against any increase in fees in the next parliament. He said: “What we are seeing at the moment, in terms of sign up amongst the parties, is a lot of Labour parliamentary candidates signed up and a lot of Liberal Democrat candidates signed up. But we are seeing

very few Conservatives and that really worries me. The Conservatives are riding high in the opinion polls.”

One of the few Conservative MPs to have signed the pledge is Lancaster and Fleetwood's outgoing parliament member, Ben Wallace. Eric Ollerenshaw, the Conservative candidate who will be standing for the seat this year has yet to sign the

pledge. Streeting added: “I think if the Conservatives want to get into power at the next election, and if they want students to vote they are going to have to be a lot more forthcoming about what their student offer is and they are going to have to give us some better assurances and safeguards.”

The NUS President acknowledged that the union did have a great deal of

dialogue with David Willetts, Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, but warned: “I won't be wasting any time at the next general election attacking parties where I think they have fallen short. Each of the three parties can expect to be kept on their toes.”

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Will these new officers serve us well

As incoming JCR officers begin their terms in office, will LUSU's modified training schedule help mould a year group that the Student Union can be proud of?

Editor

Liam Richardson

scan@lancaster.ac.uk
 01524 592613

Assistant Editor

Lizzie Houghton

assistant.editor@lusu.co.uk

News

Sam Newsham

Collette McColgan

scan.news@lusu.co.uk

Meets Monday 2pm Furness Bar

Comment

Alex Harris

Liam Kay

scan.comment@lusu.co.uk

Meets Tuesday 3pm County Bar

Features

Jo Taylor

Poppy Goodbrand

scan.features@lusu.co.uk

Meets Thursday 2pm Furness Bar

Student Lifestyle

Position Vacant

scan.features@lusu.co.uk

Meets Thursday 2pm Furness Bar

Culture

Hannah Fearon

Simon Bulmer

scan.culture@lusu.co.uk

Meets Weds 1pm Learning Zone

Sports

Robert Payling

Julian Surface

scan.sport@lusu.co.uk

Meets Tuesday 6pm Learning Zone

Head of Production

Lauren Hirst

Head of Photography

Ben Robins

Web Editors

Matthew Power

Adverts & Marketing

Louise Mason

It always begins well. January is the period when new JCRs are all smiles and laughter to be together in a big happy family. Arguments, votes of no confidence and dissatisfaction within the college population will surely never arise.

This year, the student union has updated its training programme. New Officer Training was a typically jolly affair before where cliques could be formed early and very little serious training actually occurred.

A sea of change within the union has, however, now led to the newly branded Winter Officer Conference delivering a series of training sessions which can aid your elected officers to be as good as they possibly can. For those officers re-elected it may be something of a culture shock to see the fun element toned down and the event arguably becoming a little grander and just a little

more pretentious. So what exactly is so different?

Thematic sessions led by Sabbatical Officers are now structured to be more relevant to the remits of the officers involved. A series of optional sessions led by LUSU staff focus on improving students skills in key areas such as motivation, public speaking and finance. Couple this with plenary sessions explaining the role of LUSU within the university and within the national student movement and you hopefully get officers more involved, prepared and inspired to begin their year in earnest actually striving to make a difference.

Evening events are, of course, more chilled out and focussed on building relationships and further cementing links within each elected body. This year also saw a gala dinner take place involving speeches from the Chancellor, Sir Chris Bonnington and NUS President

Wes Streeting. The idea of getting these prominent individuals to speak not only makes the whole conference more prestigious but also gives officers a clearer idea of the scale of the task they have signed up for when they put their names on the nomination sheet.

A further incentive this year is the launch of LUSU Officer Awards which, when first awarded in January 2011, will recognise the contributions of those who have truly made a difference and have a track record of success in their positions.

It is important that these relationships fostered during Winter Officer Conference survive and flourish throughout the year. Training is not a week long activity and LUSU needs to recognise that skills need to be honed during the entire year if those elected can seriously progress in their roles.

If officers take anything from the

week it should be the enormous privilege their colleges have bestowed upon them. They are there as responsible figures to help facilitate activities and lead, advise and support their peers. A role should not be squandered or taken lightly. To do that merely strengthens the hand of those who feel JCRs are cliques, for winners of popularity contests and merely there as ego-boosting opportunities for CV merchants who care little for helping improve life within their colleges.

Eighteen months ago SCAN ran a column entitled 'T-Shirt Tyrants' about JCR officers who give other members a bad name and use their role for reasons not entirely honourable. Many JCRs were not happy about being singled out yet the bubble needed bursting and should be done so again. There is work to do and people are relying on you to do it. It would be wise not to let anyone down or waste a unique opportunity.

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Political parties cannot treat students as last resort says Streeting

In response to Lord Mandelson's announcement last month that £600m would be cut from the higher education budget, Streeting said that it was unfair for the government to continuously see students as the only means for funding universities.

"Students are already paying significant amounts of money for higher education. The graduates jobs market is really dire at the moment. We need to send a clear message saying 'enough is enough'. We want our universities to be funded. But students can't be seen as the first and last resort in the funding debate. On too many occasions over the last fifteen years students have been seen as the last resort."

He added: "I wish we could get to a position where universities were talking about with the same feeling of enthusiasm and affection as schools and hospitals. We would never think of such savage cuts to in those areas."

"It's self-defeating on so many levels. Universities make massive economic contributions: they make massive contributions to society through the graduates they turn out and the professions that they fill. The cuts that universities face now really are just the tip of the iceberg. We can expect even worse after the general election."

Since the government's long-awaited review on higher education fees and funding was launched three months ago, the NUS has been campaigning to increase students understanding of the current political climate and rallying public support against any rise in fees. In a survey carried out by the union at the end of last year, less than 13% of the population felt fee increases should be considered.

"We do need to show just how serious we are," Streeting said. "That is why it is not just the responsibility of student union leaders or talking heads in NUS giving sound bites to the press. It really is about mobilising the thousands, if not millions, of students up and down the country to make their voice heard on such a fundamental issue."

One of the debates that has hung over Streeting's two term premiership,

and has resurfaced in light of the fees review, is the union's stance on free education. Some in the left of the union feel this should still be its main aim. In the last year this debate has taken on a new angle, as Streeting explained: "If free education looked unrealistic before the recession then it's just pie in the sky now. The NUS as a credible campaigning organisation needs to focus on making an impact on decisions that affect students and if we consign ourselves to the sidelines then student just lose out. I think what we have done is catapult ourselves back into the centre of debate."

Faced also with the challenge of how to engage students who are at the end of their time in higher education in a debate which they feel will not effect them, Streeting asked student voters to remember those who will come after them. "If we all just went about voting on issues that affect only us we'd make it much worse for the next generation ... It is really important that students at the end of their courses think about how they have struggled and just ask themselves as UK citizens, is the future of universities one where there is a real market in fees with students choosing courses based on cost rather than suitability?"

To coincide with the general election, the NUS will be launching a new website informing student of the stances of their local candidates on tuition fees both in their home and university constituencies. The aim will be to make students as informed as possible when casting their votes.

"Sometimes people see the NUS as a discount card, something distant," said Streeting. "But it's important to remember that the NUS is a union of students and it is only as strong as its membership. Students can vote however they like and for whoever they like, but I want to make sure students are making informed choices about fees. This is going to be a huge issue after the general election and politicians cannot hope to jump the difficult debate by just hoping it will go away after the election."

The Prime Minister is expected to call the general election for May 6. June is the latest it can take place.



Presidential address: Wes Streeting, the NUS President, delivered a keynote speech for new LUSUIJCR officers at a winter training event before term started

Lancaster students attend Copenhagen climate conference

Emily Turner

FOURTEEN STUDENTS FROM Lancaster University attended the Copenhagen climate summit in December to show their concerns for the environment.

Travelling alongside two Christian Chaplains from the university's Chaplaincy Centre, who organised the protest, as well as Christian Aid supporters from all over the UK, the students attended various events over the weekend.

The group travelled to Copenhagen in order to express their concerns over the effects of climate change, especially on the world's poorest countries. "Climate change is a question of conscience. It isn't just about caring for the future of our planet but being aware of the moral implications of climate change on the poor, on the way it affects whole communities and countries," said Hannah Henderson, President of SPEAK, the Lancaster Christian Justice and Peace Campaigning Group.

Rev. Steve Charman, Methodist Chaplain at Lancaster University and one of the Chaplaincy Centre's representatives in Copenhagen, said: "It is vital that the negotiators are aware of the views of people all over the world."

On the Saturday the students joined thousands of campaigners in a mass march in Copenhagen city centre. A rally was held on Sunday at which South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu gave a speech identifying the importance of a legally binding agreement to achieve the goals of the summit. This was supported by over 500 000 signatures on a petition calling for Climate Justice given to United Nations climate chief Yvo de Boer. Some students met Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was also present at the summit.

"We must not forget how powerful we are as individuals, and together our power is vastly greater," said Henderson. "If everybody decided it was too far to travel then no one would have gone and it is important to show our democratically elected leaders that people care enough about these issues to travel so far."

The trip was funded by the students, with some donations from local Christians also helping with the cost.

Learning Zone to receive official opening by HEFCE Chief

Chris Housden

THE LEARNING ZONE will be opened officially on Friday 15th January by Sir Alan Langlands, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). The opening ceremony marks the £3 million investment's formal launch as a 24-hour study area for students on campus.

With the Learning Zone now entering its fifth month of operation the official opening should serve as a turning point with teething problems a thing of the past. The Zone, which is open twenty four hours a day, seven days a week,



Learning the easy way: Official opening long-awaited (Photo: Simon Bulmer)

offers communal work areas, bookable bays with interactive boards and both Mac and Windows computer workstations for students to use.

It is the first area of its kind to be provided for students at Lancaster, but its first term has been fraught with difficulties. The Zone has not received universal acclaim, with the bay furniture and cycling lights criticised as unnecessary by some, whilst the automatic security doors led to humiliating problems with weight restrictions for disabled students. The resilience of the building was also called into question in the middle of November when adverse rainfall rendered newly installed Mac computers out of action as they

were sheltered away from leaks.

Nevertheless, Sir Alan's presence at the opening displays how pleased the university is with the Learning Zone's performance so far. Among other accolades Sir Alan is an honorary professor at the University of Warwick and was previously Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dundee. His agreement to attend appears to display an acknowledgement from HEFCE that the money spent on the new Zone was wisely invested. There is also a strong indication that twenty four hour study areas, which Lancaster has not had available before, are seen by higher bodies as the way forward.

In Focus: Lancaster's links overseas

University lays foundations for luck

With international students bringing in more revenue than ever, **Sam Newsham** asks

- **Foundation years called into question**
- **Last 5 years has seen a growth in international relations**
- **Drive to raise university's profile abroad**

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDY Centre at Lancaster University is run from the first floor of Bailrigg House. Since 2007, around 500 Chinese, Indian and Eastern European students have come here to prepare for study in Britain by taking the International Foundation Year.

Signs of their preparation cover the classrooms and corridors of the Study Centre, where students have written their thoughts and impressions of British culture on large sheets of paper pinned to the walls. "It's interesting to see the sorts of things the students come up with," explained Sunil Banga, the Head of the Centre. "The tutors leave the papers pinned up and let them write what they think."

Unsurprisingly, much is made of familiar British stereotypes: tea, cricket, stiff upper lips. There are references to the Queen and our 'traditional, old-fashioned' way of life, but also to the modern Briton abroad; frequent mentions of 'alcohol' and 'drinking culture' can be seen.

The Foundation Year is run by the university in partnership with Study Group, a private company which provides university preparation courses across the world. Banga and his administrative staff are employed by Study Group, although the academics tutoring the courses are from the university.

Designed for students whose secondary school systems are shorter or broader than those in the UK, the Foundation Year gives a preparation for the degree course to follow. This includes basic English, maths and study skills, as well as more degree-specific courses.

Departments are closely involved in the course design and setting of entry requirements and ensure students are fully integrated; each department has a Link Tutor who liaises with the ISC. Students on the course are, in effect, members of Lancaster University: they have Lancaster email accounts, access to all university facilities and membership of LUSU.

Although three different Foundation strands are offered – Business & Management Studies, Engineering & Computing and Law & Social Studies – Business & Management is by far the most popular choice. Over 80% of students take this course on route to a degree in the Management School.

The arrangement is simple: Study Group take the fees whilst the university gets a steady stream of international students made ready to begin a degree course. The benefits for both parties are clear.

What is perhaps not quite so clear is the benefit for the students.

The majority of those who take the Foundation Year do so because their school-leaving qualification is not seen by UCAS as equivalent to A-levels – a decision which, in the eyes of some university staff, is 'completely ridiculous'.

"I can believe a lot will need a decent English language education, but whether they need to learn some of the stuff in these courses is really quite questionable," said one departmental Link Tutor. "There is an issue of whether the academic tuition they get is necessary – in effect we're saying to people who have pretty good qualifications that [they] have to come and do a foundation year."

The example most often quoted is the Gao Kao, the school-leaving exam taken by Chinese students, which is widely acknowledged to be considerably harder than A-levels. Banga agrees that it is mainly language issues rather than any real gaps in students' knowledge that may hold them back and admits that in some areas, especially maths, international students are ahead of their British counterparts.

"They're mainly trying to get to grips with the UK education system, which is quite different from what you'll find in other countries," he said. "A number of things go into preparing a student, it's not only academic studies."

Entry to Lancaster University requires an IELTS (International English Language Testing Service) score of 6.0

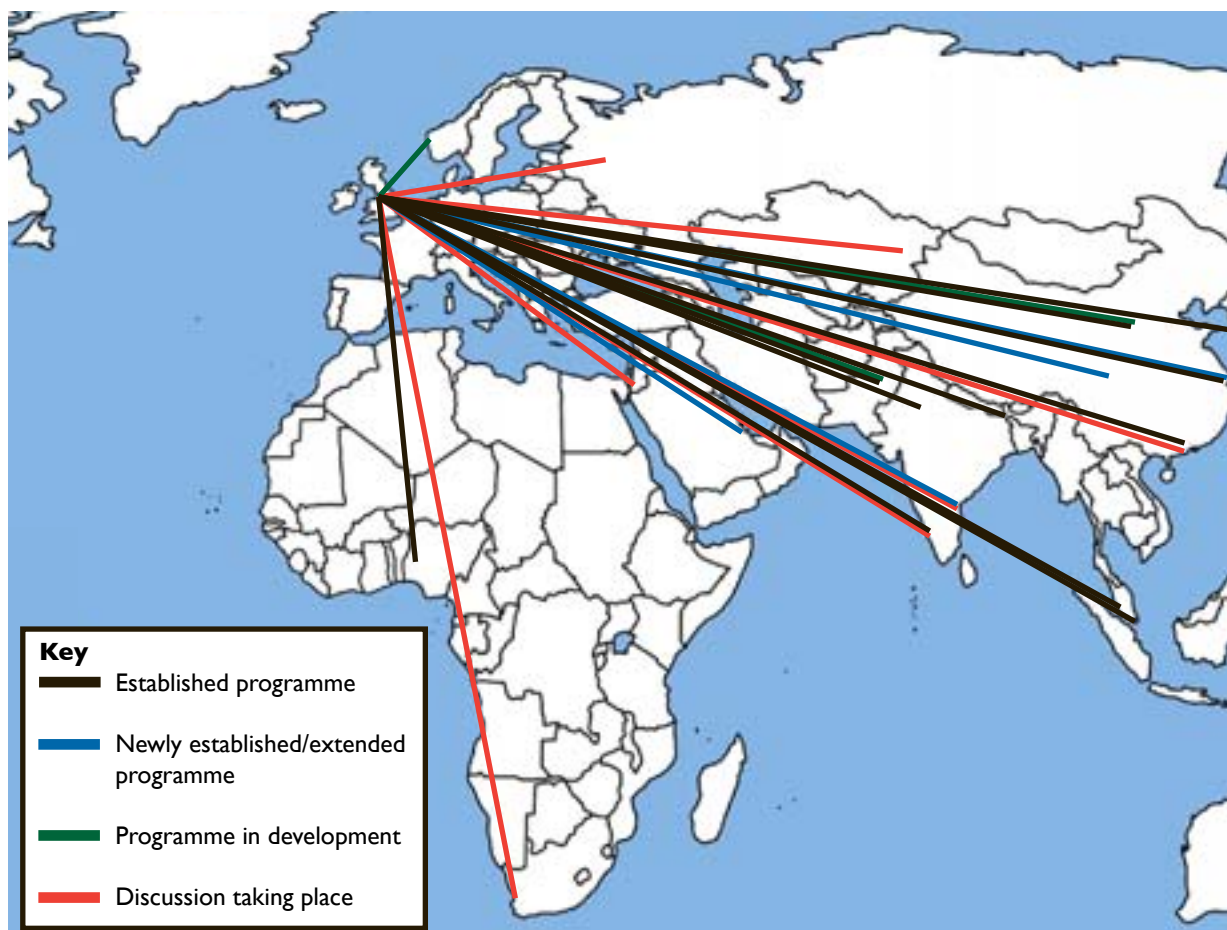
£1.9bn

The amount of tuition fees paid by international students in 2008

(6.5 for Management School degrees). Entry to the Foundation Year requires a score of 5.0. For students who score less than this, Study Group runs separate English Language Preparation courses, to be taken before the Foundation Year. At £9,975 for the year (£10,500 for the more popular Business & Management Studies course) plus £3,325 per term of English Language Preparation, it is a fairly expensive preparation by anyone's standards.

"The Foundation Year is just a waste of money as I don't think many students will be helped by [it]," said one student. "Moreover they charge almost the same tuition fee as for the normal year and the syllabus is the same as we have studied in our school."

Sagar Taneja, a Business & Management Studies student, agreed. "Foundation is helpful to those students who



have a weak academic base and who can hardly speak English. [However] I have scored 70% in my 12th year with 70% marks in English. The Foundation Year for me is a waste of my one year."

The key factor is recruitment. UK students tend to be recruited through departmental open days and Higher Education fairs – events which at Lancaster are often held on campus. International students, on the other hand, are generally recruited in two ways: by Lancaster staff attending British Council Education fairs abroad, or via agents appointed as representatives of the university. In both cases the cost is much higher; agents generally receive 10% of a student's tuition fees as commission.

By running the Foundation Year, the university allows Study Group to recruit the students and thus absorb a lot of the costs.

"[It's] a very cost-effective way for the university to get students," said Banga. "[There are] 180 students this year – if the university had to go out and recruit 180 students it would have cost them a lot of money."

Students from outside the EU pay up to £11,100 per year to study at Lancaster, compared to £3,225 for those within the EU. Universities receive HEFCE funding for British and EU students to cover some of the cost of their tuition which, accounting for variations between courses and departments, is in the region of £7,000.

International students' fees have always been recognised as a source of

university income. In August this year, Lancaster's Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings remarked on the importance of international students' fees, telling *The Times* that "To some extent international students are making sure the research and knowledge fabric is being maintained."

With Government cuts in university funding of £135 million announced just before Christmas by Lord Mandelson – who has himself said that international students are vital to the economy – on top of £533 million cuts made in the Pre-Budget Report, it is likely universities will be needing all the funding help they can get.

"Once upon a time income from international students was the icing on the cake, but no more. Income from international students is core funding," said Terry Bray of the Overseas Programmes Unit. "For better for worse there's less money around. The money

15.8%

Lancaster undergraduates are from outside the EU and 46.7% of postgraduates

that international students bring in becomes even more crucial."

This has not gone unnoticed by the students themselves. "There's a perception amongst some international students that they're called 'cash cows' – that's the phrase used in China," said

Bray. "[There's a] suspicion they're brought to this country and relieved of their money."

Given the current state of university funding it is likely the suspicion will only grow in future. The most important question, then, is this: do international students get what they pay for?

Torri Crapper, LUSU VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), doesn't think so. "International students are not getting value for money for their education," she said. "They continue to be a source of revenue without the university providing for their needs in terms of religion, English levels or culture shock."

Crapper identified financial support and Freshers' Week orientation events as areas that need most work, but admitted that the Students' Union should also be doing more. "In the past LUSU hasn't had an internationalised outlook, which is something we are trying to change," she said. "[I am] trying to secure funding to continue work and research on what international students actually want."

Much of it comes back to the drinking culture. As seen from the displays in the ISC, it's identified by students as a large factor in British life. Often coming from completely different cultures, the extent to which international students can – or want to – completely integrate is debatable.

"There's a lot of focus here on bars and that's not always what all students want," said Fred Binley, Undergraduate Recruitment Manager. "Some of

Strategic overseas partnerships

...ks if the so-called “cash cows” are getting value for their money



international students around you, here is some space for international students to do what they like with, then maybe UK students will integrate into that if they wish to.”

As part of his work with the Overseas Programme Unit, Bray organises a summer school in Beijing for 15 Lancaster students each year. Held at Beijing Foreign Studies University, Lancaster’s longest-standing partner in China, the school aims to give students with an interest in China an insight into the Chinese culture. Both Bray and Michele Luxon, Head of the Unit, feel that programmes like these are key to making integration a two-way process. “The more student exchange that there can be the better,” said Luxon. “The summer school helps [because] when [students] come back they understand [the culture] a bit more.”

It was Wellings who instigated the summer school as a way of showing that Lancaster has a commitment to its students going overseas. All costs of the trip are covered by the Vice-Chancellor’s Reserve, a sum of money which Wellings can spend at his discretion.

“[Wellings] has visited China and been to our partner university there and felt that business was one-way rather than mutual,” said Bray. “This is one way he could do something about it.”

The Overseas Programme Unit forms part of the International Office, the department responsible for raising Lancaster’s international profile and facilitating recruitment of international students. It has been developing programmes and partnerships abroad for the last ten years. Recently, though, the university’s commitment to these links has grown even stronger, with a stream of programmes in development all over the world.

The role of the unit is to oversee programmes run jointly by Lancaster and universities abroad, known as collaborative provision. These can be exchange programmes or access programmes, where students study for a year or two at a partner university in their own country then come to Lancaster for the final years, leading to the award of a Lancaster degree.

Access programmes managed by

the unit are offered in a variety of subject areas in China, Nigeria and India, with new programmes in development in countries including Kazakhstan, Norway and South Africa.

Whilst the university’s commitment to its partners overseas cannot be doubted, its commitment to more local partnerships is less certain. Until recently Lancaster validated degrees at a number of Further and Higher Education Colleges across the North-West. Although links with the two largest partners, Blackburn and Blackpool & the Fylde, will continue, the majority of the others will be shed and no new links are planned.

“Further Education Colleges offer foundation degrees in areas outside

50%

Roughly the amount of Lancaster students from the North West of England

the university’s core activity,” said Lesley Wareing, Academic Registrar. “We don’t really have parallel courses in these areas or staff to act as advisors.”

Roger Gould, Schools and Colleges Liaison Officer, sees it differently.

“It’s a way for students who need [to take a part time degree] can go to their local college. Lancaster doesn’t offer an enormous amount of part-time opportunities,” he said. “It’s a way of the local community getting higher education and Lancaster having a connection with a big college of Further and Higher Education.”

Perhaps it comes down to benefits again. There’s money, of course – Lancaster receives around 120 international students via access courses each year, all paying international students’ fees for the two or three years they’re here. But it’s not just the money that the International Office feels is important.

“There’s exchange of staff; staff will get to understand the culture so when we get students here they understand a bit more about the study habits of the people they’re teaching,” said Luxon. “With the access programmes there’s

research collaboration; there could be joint research, joint funding.”

The biggest benefit, though, is that all these overseas links should put Lancaster firmly on the international map – a position many currently fear it doesn’t occupy.

“In this age of globalisation [overseas links] put us on the map in these countries and raise our profile,” said Luxon. “Having a presence in country is beneficial to the university.”

Unsurprisingly it is the Management School, the faculty with the most glittering international reputation, which attracts the majority of students from abroad.

Overseas links make Lancaster’s campus feel and look diverse, a fact that Gould and Binley use as a selling point to recruit UK undergraduates. They’re also involved in raising awareness of what’s coming to be known as the Lancaster Brand.

“Because we’re [a] small [town] part of our job is profile raising. The question we still get asked most is ‘Where is Lancaster?’” said Gould. “Lancaster is brilliant at what it does, but not brilliant at telling the rest of the world about it.”

This problem is one that is currently being discussed at strategic level. Over the summer a new department, of which Gould is deputy director, was created, Marketing and External Linkages, which is responsible for raising Lancaster’s public profile.

Luxon feels that external linkages are raising the university’s public profile already. “When I go to India I go on Jet Airways, the local flight to Bangalore or Delhi,” she said. “You open up the in-flight magazine and there’s a great big spread showing Lancaster University in Goenka. So people are getting to know about our university.”

For Stephen Parkin, Director of the International Office, there’s even more to it than profile raising: Lancaster’s creation of overseas links is an investment in its future.

“We need to establish ourselves as a global university – this will launch us into the next level to keep us at the forefront of where we want to be” he said. “We can’t stand still, otherwise we’ll be left behind.”

Sunway University: validating Lancaster’s links abroad

LANCASTER’S LONGEST-STANDING VALIDATION agreement is with Sunway University College in Malaysia. Beginning in 2006, the first group of students to obtain Lancaster-validated degrees overseas graduated in October 2009.

Following the creation of the link with Sunway, further links have been developed with GD Goenka World In-

stitute in India and Comsats University in Pakistan. Students began undergraduate degrees at both universities in 2009.

Although courses are taught by local academics, Lancaster staff act as course consultants and Lancaster provides the external examiners, to try and ensure that partner institutions run equivalent courses. The idea is that students gain exactly the same degree they would have gained had they graduated from Lancaster.

As with all other overseas links, the

International Office is keen to ensure that their partners are of the highest quality. Stephen Parkin, Director of the International Office, stressed that partners are specifically chosen because of their high academic standards.

“We’re a leading university, we want to associate ourselves with leading universities. Academic quality is absolutely key in what we do,” he said.

Before a partnership agreement is made the International Office studies the quality of the partner’s research and teaching to make sure it is a viable

link.

“There’s a whole system that we go through to make sure that this is a solid partner we can build a long term relationship with,” Parkin said.

It is hoped that some of the universities will eventually become branch campuses of Lancaster abroad. Relationships between institutions are being built up; staff go backwards and forwards and later in the year the Chancellor’s Scholarship will fund two students from Sunway to spend a term studying at Lancaster.

“I don’t think the degree programme is worth that much but studying abroad is always expensive. The Foundation Year is quite helpful indeed. I’m doing law now and without the basic stuff I learned last year life would be very tough. The course also helped us familiarise with referencing skills and seminar discussions which makes life easier for me.”

**Valerie Hui,
Hong Kong**

“The Foundation Year is quite expensive and it is almost like paying for another full-fledged undergraduate university year. I do think that by experiencing the campus life and the attitude to studies the professors show, it should be beneficial in the long run.”

**Business &
Management Studies
Foundation Student**

“I personally think that it is totally unfair on us, as international students, to pay almost three times the fees that the UK students pay. We do not get any special services or any extra help from the university [and] still we have to pay higher fees just for the university name and their degree. The majority of international students are entirely self-funded, especially the undergrads. The university should definitely do more to help the international students and just holding a couple of talks in Freshers’ Week isn’t enough.”

**Sonakshi Saran,
LU Indian Society**

“Tuition fees at Lancaster University are very high. Paying £12,000 a year is a burden to parents. Increasing fees for residents of the UK may solve some of our international students’ problems if they use it for good purpose. Good purpose in the sense, if they reduce the international student fees by increasing UK student fees.”

**Anjani Srikar Bandla,
transfer student
Manipal University**

“LUSU makes sure that there are a lot of extracurricular activities for students. However the communication of these events has to be more aggressive so everybody has an opportunity to participate. Students need more events and more chances to socialize both in and out of university.”

**Huneeya Mazari,
LUSU Part-Time
Officer for International
Students**

Christmas Conference stimulates science debate

Sam Newsham

THE FACULTY OF Science and Technology held their annual Christmas Conference in the Management School on Tuesday 15th December.

As well as presentations from each of the faculty's eight departments two external speakers addressed the conference and a poster competition for postgraduate students and contract researchers was held.

The theme this year was research impact, currently a subject of much debate amongst scientists. In keeping with the theme each departmental presentation included a description of the impact the speaker's work had.

The poster competition, judged by departmental and external speakers, gave an opportunity for postgraduates and early-career researchers to present their own work. Over 100 posters were submitted with 55 being selected for presentation at the conference. First prizes of £200 were awarded in both categories with a runner up prize of £100 for postgraduate students.

Katie Turnbull of the Department of Communication Systems and Jamie Adams from Engineering won first and runner up prizes respectively in the postgraduate category and Ruth



Miles of Psychology was the contract researcher winner

During the afternoon the external speakers, Lesley Thompson, Director of the Research Base at the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and Paul Hubbard, Head of Research Policy at HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England), presented their organisations' views on research impact.

A Government plan to significantly reduce funding for research considered worthless was criticised by scientists last October. Over 200 academics

signed a statement opposing plans for funding to become conditional on 'perceived economic and social benefits' on the grounds that many scientific discoveries came out of research that would not have been possible under such criteria.

The EPSRC, however, feel that as research is ultimately funded through taxes it is important the public understand its value. They have recently introduced impact plans that all researchers must fill out when applying for funding bids in order to demonstrate the value of their work.

Skating on thin ice



CAMPUS WAS HIT by icy weather conditions last week with gritters out in force to battle the harsh weather that have hit the UK. Despite their best efforts, pathways and roads were still dangerous for students staying on campus over the festive period with stu-

dents and staff ice skating to and from campus. Some course have had to organise alternate plans for students with essay deadlines as they won't be able to return to the university for the start of the lent term due to the frosty weather.

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Wind turbine project receives mixed reception from general public

continued from front page

thorough communications strategy to ensure the public have been consulted with and given the chance to voice their opinions."

On campus, the project has met with some very favourable views, including newly elected Green Officer Simon Mair. He told SCAN: "I am very pleased with the project's proposal. Reducing the electricity consumption of the university by a third is an impressive, and much needed, reduction in our emissions."

In an attempt to quell possible criticism, the university has been upfront with digital imaging and predicted where affected areas would be by using shadow flicker and the turbines' theoretical visibility to residents of Hazelrigg Lane.

Nevertheless, it seems despite the real advantage of allowing the university to become more self-sufficient and an example for all other universities, the problems that affect all wind turbine sites do not avoid Lancaster.

The criticism of noise is a problem, given that any noise from the wind turbines would add to that of the M6. Another critic queried the logic behind two large turbines instead of several smaller ones, feeling that the planned positioning of the two wind turbines would place one "too near the properties."

"Background noise levels are already relatively high in the proposed turbine locations, due to the proxim-

ity of the M6. Comprehensive assessments have been undertaken for noise and shadow flicker as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)," said Mills.

The decision as to the advancement of the project now rests with the council, but there is every chance of a problem for the university as they are not the first local group to submit a wind turbine proposal for consideration.

As recently as the beginning of December, a plan for a £54 million wind turbine near Caton by Community Windpower was rejected by 6 votes to 4 at a special meeting of Hornby Parish Council. The Lancaster Gazette reported that the meeting was attended by members of several anti-turbine groups and, speaking afterwards to a Gazette reporter, Parish Councillor Arthur Grundy said: "I think only two people spoke in favour of the windmills." The city council is planning to review the decision at a later date. A further proposal by Wind Direct to build wind turbines in Garstang received over 300 local complaints.

Whatever the outcome Lancaster will not give up its quest to reduce its carbon footprint. GreenLancaster has been running a Carbon Footprint league table of flats from the County, Grizedale and Pendle eco-residences during four weeks of Michaelmas term. The top three flats received awards at a ceremony held in Week 10 and there are continual opportunities to volunteer and get involved with eco-work.

Top 5 New Year's resolutions to break

Student Life, Page 18

Government announce £600m cuts for universities as part of efficiency drive

Andrew Pillow

UNIVERSITIES WILL BE feeling the squeeze as they are told to become more “efficient” in December’s Pre-Budget Report. It is almost certain that universities across the country will have their funding cut under proposals to come in with 2010’s Budget.

The degree of cuts in university funding is yet to be decided and the situation will be clearer once the review of higher education funding and student finance, by Lord Browne, has been published following the General Election in May.

The size of the expected cut is at least £533 million, a figure put forward by Lord Mandelson, the Business Secretary, in December. As well as this, and according to senior sources within the Government, the bulk of those cuts could be found within the student support budget. This could mean that it will be harder for students from poorer families to move away from home and have the same choice of universities they have at the moment.

Another reason for concern is the fact that the Higher Education Minister, David Lammy, said in the House of Commons that the cuts would amount to 4 - 5% of the government spend on Higher Education, Science and Research. This has sparked concern as it may force a drastic reduction in the amount of research the UK can do, potentially crippling the economy in future years. One way universities are coping with this around the country is disinvesting in certain courses, particularly the ones where there are issues around research funding.

The Spring Budget is not the only problem universities face. They will also be fined £3700 per student above



Bearer of bad tidings: The Chancellor’s pre-budget report will have done little to inspire students ahead of the election

their quota, in an effort to combat universities taking on more students than they are supposed to.

Also suggested in Mandelson’s report were shorter two-year degrees and providing flexible courses. For some degrees this may make sense, but for others it will mean that degrees will get harder and necessary skills might not be taught.

The Pre-Budget Report also confirmed the reintroduction of the 17.5% VAT rate at the beginning of this year, which should not affect the cost of living for students immediately. As the term carries on, however, prices are likely to rise as shops try to improve the

amount of profits they receive, making the weekly shop more expensive for both students and their families.

The Pre-Budget Report was not all bad news. The guarantee to anyone

£600m
Expected cut in funding to universities from the Government

under the age of 24 of employment or training after 6 months of unemployment will mean that anyone leaving

university will be given a helping hand and graduate unemployment may be reduced. This time frame is a cut from the originally proposed 12 months.

There is also going to be financial support for 10,000 under-graduates from poorer backgrounds to get internships, helping a selection of students who would otherwise be unable to gain relevant experience.

Whether the Pre-Budget Report becomes the actual Budget or not will be discovered in the spring, but whatever it contains hard times are ahead for universities, students and their families, but recent graduates the future looks a little brighter.

Fashion magazine launched by society

Emma Follis

THE NEWLY FORMED Lancaster University Fashion Society has brought out the first issue of its magazine, ‘Tattered Lace’.

The much awaited fashion magazine was finally launched on Thursday Week Ten with a party in Mint Cocktail Bar, the sponsor of the society. Special drinks offers were available for those with guest list tickets, and the first edition of the magazine was available on sale for an introductory price of £1.80.

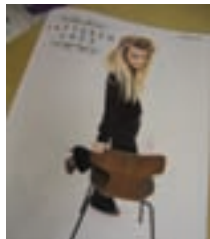
The idea for the magazine was brought about by the large number of people in the society who wanted to write about fashion on a regular basis. In order to put the idea into motion, the society needed considerable funding. In total the magazine cost £1,000 to produce, fortunately the society was able to obtain just under half of this from LUSU, and the rest was taken from the membership fees and money raised through sales.

One of the Presidents of the society, Sophia Miles, a second year student said: “We wanted to create an outlet

in which everyone in the society could have the opportunity to get involved, whether with photos, modelling, writing or editing,” adding “From the feedback we have got from members everyone is very proud of the first issue, and we hope it will be the first of many.”

Those involved with the magazine

Tattered Lace: The first issue of the magazine was sold at the end of last term and will return on sale in week one.



have done everything themselves, including providing the clothes for the models and designing the layout of the magazine. The Photography Society did the photo shoots.

The first issue will be on sale again in Alexandra Square on Thursday and Friday Week One. If the magazine proves to be a success, and sufficient funds are available then the society intends to publish the magazine once every term.

Jailbreak around the world this month

Lucy Miller

SIFE LANCASTER HAS organised a ‘Jailbreak’ weekend for Week Three of this term – an event which will see students using their people skills to get as far away from Lancaster as they can, armed with nothing but their passports.

SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) Lancaster is an organisation that assists with the development of sustainable businesses in countries such as Tanzania. Set up and run by students, SIFE has organised a number of charity events in the past, and they are hoping that this will prove to be their most popular event to date, thus raising a great deal of money for the charity projects.

The event will begin on Friday 29th January at 6pm, and participants will have until 6am on Sunday 31st January to travel as far as possible.

Students taking part will have 36 hours to travel, without spending any money. Serious people skills will be needed, the organisers have warned – and those taking part are advised to try and get a return ticket for wherever

they are going, in order to avoid finding themselves stranded.

“Jailbreak is an amazing opportunity to help other people and communities around the world while having loads of fun with friends. Also, as it is voluntary, you can use the experience as a CV booster,” said Charlotte Leggett, co-president of SIFE and one of Jailbreak’s organisers.

The Jailbreak organisers are asking for a £100 deposit in case students do need help returning, although it has been strongly advised that they do not get on a plane without ensuring the deal includes a return ticket. The winners will be announced after 8am on the Sunday, and there will be prizes available.

Before they set off participants receive a t-shirt and SIFE documentation for their journey. Travel insurance will also be provided by SIFE. The teams must comprise one boy and one girl and the organisers are setting up a ‘speed date’ evening, in order that those wanting to take part but unable to find a partner will be able to do so.

More information on SIFE Lancaster can be found on the website www.sifelanaster.com.

Beijing summer school in store for selected students

Emily Turner

A SUMMER SCHOOL in Beijing for second year students will take place in July 2010.

Selected students will attend a three-week programme at Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), one of China’s leading universities in foreign languages and culture. Courses will include classes in Mandarin classes and lectures on Chinese culture and society, as well as elective classes in topics from Chinese film to Tai Chi. Trips to cultural sites will also be arranged.

The opportunity is available to 15 students who have passed all first year exams with an average of at least 60%. It aims to give students with an interest in China the chance to explore the country’s cultural diversity and experience firsthand its culture and language.

Full university scholarships will be provided to cover the cost of travel, tuition fees, and campus accommodation. The group will be accompanied by a member of university staff.

The cost of the trip, around £1,175 per person, is arranged by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings, who was instrumental in setting up the school.



Beijing: Hou Hai Lake

Selected students are encouraged to become ambassadors for the programme the following year.

“The feedback that we get – it’s almost like a life changing thing; people come back and say ‘I’m so glad I went,’ which is great,” said Terry Bray, Overseas Programme Officer with the Overseas Programme Unit, who is responsible for organising the summer school. “A lot of them join the Mandarin Society [and] some of them are talking about going back to China to study, [which] is exactly the sort of thing we want.”

In previous years five students per faculty were selected, but with the creation of the School of Health and Medicine a new arrangement will be decided upon in January.

Students from the 2009 summer school will be giving a presentation on 29 January in Faraday Lecture Theatre 1 at 1pm for interested students. The deadline for applications is 19 February. A process of interviews and short listings will follow with successful candidates being informed by the end of March. All successful students will receive a ten-hour induction in the Summer term.

Attendance drop hits Christmas Balls

Jen Day

COLLEGE CHRISTMAS BALLS have seen a decrease in sales across campus this year despite more luxurious venues, increased value for money and continued positive feedback.

County College began selling tickets for their Winterball, held in the glamorous Blackpool Tower ballroom, during Freshers' Week in the hope of encouraging more students to attend. Nonetheless they were unable to match last year's sales, which ex-college President, Chloe Themistocleous put down to the timing. "Perhaps [it] was a little too early and overwhelming therefore people did not feel the need to snap them up," she said.

Similarly, Grizedale's ticket sales were down for the third year in a row with only 165 sold despite the venue being closer to the University, distance having been a criticism of the previous ball.

Bowland and Fylde also suffered from disappointing sales, which have been attributed to a rise in ticket prices and a lack of disposable income from students. "I think the fact that many first years in Bowland are still awaiting their loans has meant a decreased demand from freshers compared to normal," commented ex-President of



Guess who's not coming to dinner: Attendances have dropped for Christmas Balls this year (Photo: Jess Horsfield)

Bowland Tom Skarbek-Wazynski.

The rise of ticket prices prevalent across campus was seen as another leading cause of the diminishing sales. Lonsdale's Co-President Katie Kitney said: "We sold 92% of the available

tickets and I think the reason we didn't sell out was because of the ticket price - understandably, [it] was a lot to ask people to pay, especially towards the end of term."

Cartmel was one of the most suc-

cessful colleges when it came to Winterball sales and still had difficulty clearing tickets. Robbie Pickles, ex-Cartmel President, pointed out that "a lot of people this year chose to go to a Christmas ball with a society which may have

caused a lower turnout campus-wide." This view was echoed by Grizedale's ex-President, Chaz Ginn, who said: "The lower sales may be in part due to faculties having balls or meals which students pay for so maybe they don't want to pay for both or perhaps they clash."

Nevertheless, colleges seemed to pull out all the stops this year with County boasting a champagne reception, Fylde having exclusive use of a nightclub with DJ, casino and a chocolate fountain and Lonsdale including a jazz quartet to perform during dinner followed by a DJ set by Simba.

"The venue added a real sense of glamour. I simply cannot fault the Tower's service," said Themistocleous. "Everyone I have spoken to said it was a fantastic night."

The increase of value was illustrated by Fylde's ex-Ed and Welfare officer, Lisa McNamara who commented: "I really enjoyed it [and] think we got a lot for our money."

Feedback from other colleges has also been positive; some Grizedale students said their ball had "the best quality food and nicest venue" they had been to. Second year Lonsdalian Stephanie Paul said: "A lot of credit needs to go to the JCR as they put together a great night. Music was fabulous, food was excellent and there was such a good atmosphere."

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LUSU and university combine forces to help ease employability fears for students with disabilities

Yasmin Spracklen

THURSDAY WEEK NINE saw the Student Union host the 'Students with Disabilities Employability Talk and Advice Session', in collaboration with the CEEC, Disabled Student Services and Human Resources. The talk was designed to raise awareness concerning students' career options.

The Student Union officer heading the campaign, non-sabbatical Students with Disabilities officer Cat Clark, organised a series of presentations from various members of staff, intending to erase misconceptions and to clarify the entitlements of students with disabilities with regards to the working environment, whilst highlighting specific schemes in place to provide help.

"Helping students prepare for work and giving them the edge is important. We want a diversity of students within the workplace."
- Christine Quinn

Clark initially organised the one-day campaign to highlight how almost all occupations are open to those with disabilities. There are currently laws to



prevent unlawful discrimination and strategies in place to tailor to people's individual needs. "Discrimination is not acceptable", said Clark, "I wanted to offer help and advice."

The campaign opened with Clark, JCR Equal Opportunities Officers, Non-sabbatical and Sabbatical Officers handing out flyers in Alexandra Square between 1pm and 3pm, as well as putting up posters around the university, advertising the talk held in Bowland North at 4pm.

Although pleased with the response from students, Clark hopes that next time there will be more students will-

ing to participate in the campaign. "It is especially important during the recession to highlight students' options, so we tried to make the campaign constructive," added Clark.

It is the first time the Students' Union has attempted to run an event like this. "I am interested in knowing what opportunities are available to me and glad that a talk like this has taken place," said Dere Coker, a first-year student present at the talk.

The CEEC (Centre for Employability Enterprise & Careers) initiated the talk, providing an overview of the assistance available. The CEEC produces

various workshops and insight courses frequently during term time, aimed at developing students' skills. These can include teacher training, confidence building and interview preparation workshops.

The Lancaster Career Mentoring Programme and the Lancaster Award are also available to students. The mentoring programme allows students to gain insight into the working world through a graduate mentor, allowing development of personal and career management skills, whilst the Lancaster Award is an additional qualification that prepares students with necessary skills for a working environment. Both can be tailored to a student's individual needs, and Disabilities Adviser Christine Quinn affirmed "Helping students prepare for work and giving them the edge is important. We want a diversity of students within the workplace."

Rob Kemp from Human Resources also provided information, more specifically to rules and regulations on discrimination in the workplace. "Anti-discrimination begins at application," said Kemp and according to British Law, if a person with a disability fulfils essential criteria necessary to a job they have applied for, they are guaranteed an interview. Equality principles are applied throughout the workplace as employers are required to follow a strict set of rules.

Kemp also highlighted a governmental scheme, 'Access to Work', which provides financial and practical support for new and existing employees with disabilities and has been successful since it was founded in 1994. The scheme can provide help in areas such as travel, special aids and equipment, support workers and communication support. The scheme is funded completely by the government, although there is an application process.

"Discrimination is not acceptable. I wanted to offer help and advice."
-Cat Clark

In addition to this scheme, Christine Quinn discussed the key changes to the Equality Bill as of April 2009, which saw the introduction of single equality duty, covering discrimination by association, dual discrimination and discrimination arising from disability. The Bill is part of Governmental measures to improve equality and equal opportunities for not only people with disabilities, but women, minority ethnic groups and older people.

Information on workshops available can be found in the CEEC Centre.

Information on the Bill can be found on www.commonleader.gov.uk.

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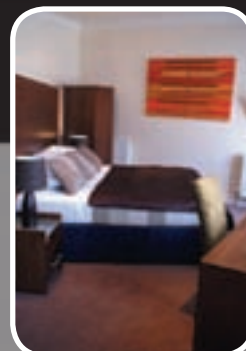
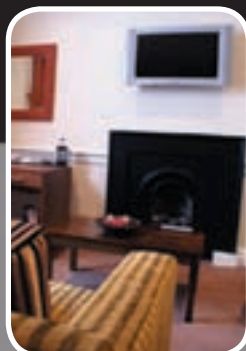
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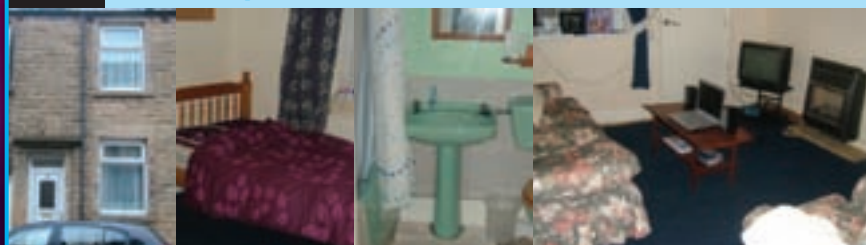


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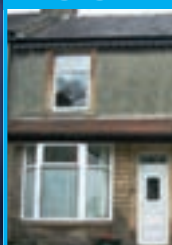
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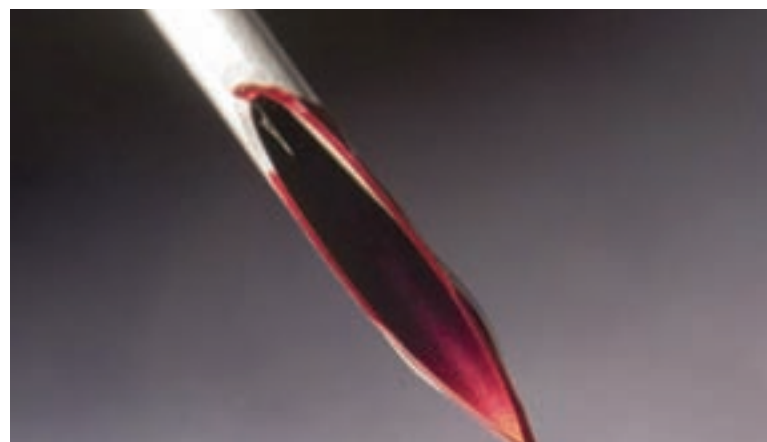
Alex Harris
Comment Editor

The world's biggest superpowers cannot claim to be civilised nations

The execution of Akmal Shaikh in China reignites the debate surrounding their judiciary system

Akmal Shaikh was by no means a perfect person. A brief look over his life reveals a sub-par mess of failed businesses, broken marriages and migration from place to place chasing the myth of a new, better life that we all believe resides in the next city we move to, but that fails to materialise for the majority of us. His conviction for sexual harassment and subsequent refusal to pay the £10,000 in damages reveals a stark immaturity that is only further emphasised by his migration to various countries in the ridiculous hope of becoming a modern-day John Lennon, despite everyone around him agreeing he possessed no discernible musical talent whatsoever.

His life, were it to be fictional canon, would be closer to a 21st Century Dickensian tragedy than anything else. It would be a tale that forces us to realise our own delusions of grandeur whilst being surrounded by banality. We are all guilty at least some of the time of believing that we are capable of greatness and the only reason our name isn't up in lights as well is the fault of everyone else around us, but for most of us this



is channelled into ambition and few of us spend our lives chasing rainbows. Skeikh, however, couldn't deal with that. His delusion was who he was. It was this kind of blank-minded insistence on his time to shine that allowed a gang of criminals to dupe Sheikh so easily into smuggling 4 kilograms of heroin through Chinese customs.

Obviously, Sheikh was caught with the 4 kilograms of heroin, which he claimed to have no knowledge of. Either way, there was no possibility that a man

of his mental capacity could have anticipated the consequences. After a pathetically short 30-minute trial, Sheikh was sentenced to death by the inexplicably cruel and barbaric Chinese judges who proceeded to laugh and jeer whilst he humiliated himself in the courtroom for almost a whole hour screaming, crying and begging for his life, before they had him carted away and upheld the sentence without even allowing the man to plead his own obvious insanity.

Throughout a lengthy and torturous

appeal process, which was ultimately rejected, the Chinese government refused requests for clemency on humanitarian grounds and arrogantly refused to offer even a basic mental assessment of Sheikh in order to confirm his mental disability. Skeikh was executed on 29th December, 2009.

These events are shocking, but not surprising when considering China's record on human rights. The state that has become the standard bearer for imprisoning and torturing dissenters also brutally forces abortions on families that dare have a second child and is frantically trying to crush the internet, the single biggest free speech revolution in human history. It's no shock that they would relish the opportunity to execute a man and antagonise the international community in the process.

The spectre of capital punishment hangs over any state that wishes to declare itself properly civilised. The knee-jerk ritual of society washing its hands of its least wanted in a pool of blood has long since been realised by any ethically curious minds to be at its very best impractical. The practical arguments in favour of capital punishment

are shockingly thin and fall beyond any serious consideration. Capital punishment is all about our desire to see our least wanted hung, drawn and quartered in the town square. Yet for every Ted Bundy that is killed or even every ten, there is one mentally deficient child-man, incapable of understanding the implications of his actions or the legal process that condemns him to his fate. During his 1992 campaign for President, Bill Clinton proudly flew back to Arkansas to execute Ricky Ray Rector, a mentally retarded man on death row for killing a police officer. It became a stain on the legitimacy of Clinton as a person and to this day serves as one of the best examples of murder being used as a political tool.

Sheikh, in this regard, was another Ricky Ray Rector. His execution was an international political stunt by the Chinese government, an act of defiance against the international community and an assertion of China's increasing dominance on the world stage. Until the world rids itself of capital punishment, which is the root of all state barbarism and injustice, we will never be able to declare ourselves fully civilised.



Michael Payne
LUSU President

A little less conversation, a little more action please

With the university aspiration to increase international student numbers and postgraduate research numbers, they not only have to get real about financial and welfare support for such cohorts but also find a sense of reality about the facilities and services that they have to offer for these students.

It is true to say that one student experience does not fit all and that the many different cultures represented in our student population require different needs. That having been said it is my belief that we should not treat "traditional British undergraduates" and "traditional international students" as being mutually exclusive groups of scholars who require entirely different provision altogether. Proper integration and a wide range of opportunities that are appropriate for all our students are what's needed.

In 2010 British universities and universities across the globe must internationalise; after all we are all international students. We live in a global

economy and an age where students may spend a year studying in another country or graduates may go on to work in many different continents. We live in an era where travel and technology allows us to be in one country one day and studying on the other side of the globe the next. Virtual study space allows instant communication with many different cultures, races and religions throughout the world and universities should truly embrace this.

As well as the strategic vision regarding internationalising a university, there are also the important operational issues. Should British universities or indeed any universities only be fully operational and providing a range of services when the majority of their student population is here – that is throughout the three terms, semesters or study periods. These issues do not focus necessarily on the academic side of the student experience; questions about the level of service and the facilities that are provided throughout the calendar year at universities are in fact about the equally important non-academic side of the student experience.

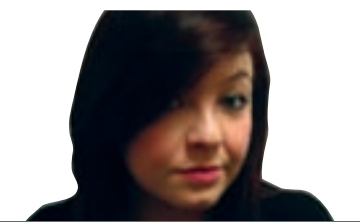
Surely universities, as a place where most students live for three years or more should be accommodating, supportive and flexible enough to make sure that no matter what the nationality of their students, no matter what the age of their students or no matter what the vacation plans of their students are, they are all equally catered for. This argument is not about philosophy, theories or rules and regulations, nor should it be about do we have enough money to open services in the Christmas and Easter vacations (particularly). Providing relevant services for students' right throughout the year, even when the majority are taking vacation is about a basic level of humanity and hospitality.

It also cannot be ignored that the majority of students who fall into the aforementioned bracket are those who struggle the most financially. International students pay disproportionate amounts for their tuition fees in comparison to the already high fee that home undergraduates pay and

postgraduates are more often than not self funded. The least we can do after opening our tills to take their money is to provide them with basic social provision and services throughout the incredibly lonely periods of vacation at universities.

And as always the proof is in the pudding; after continuous lobbying by the Students' Union along with the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Colleges and the Student Experience we saw the opening of Lonsdale college bar over this years' Christmas vacation, despite a level of reluctance at first. The results speak volumes; the bar was packed, the trade was good and free coffees and complimentary mince pies, courtesy of the university's catering department meant that our students staying here on campus over Christmas could also have a jolly good festive season too. I know the university will agree that this is clear evidence for properly planned and well advertised social provision to be on offer throughout the coming Easter vacation and in the years ahead.

The university needs to ensure facilities are available for students throughout the year



Sarah Strachan
LUSU Comms Officer

It is no secret communication is a two-way process and LUSU needs to remember this

Students need to be kept in the loop as to why what the union is doing is relevant and how they can be involved

Communication is a word I shall no doubt soon be overly familiar with, being LUSU's new part-time communications officer. But why is it so important that there are individuals devoting all their time to it? We now have both a sabbatical and part-time position to ensure that we get our message across.

During my time here LUSU has often been criticised for not communicating effectively with students which has resulted in less people knowing what is provided for them by their union and often making those who are involved look cliquey. However, recently there have been many positive changes. The Non-sabbatical review passed, which outlined roles and titles of officers more clearly. The elections process was also revamped, with the creation of the elections promotions teams and the implementation of the e-voting system. We have also seen some new and successful social events, including Winterfest and Comedy Central.

The change to electronic voting showed a 30% increase in the number of voters, which in itself is of course a very good thing, but also shows how effective the efforts of those involved in promot-



ing the elections were. A massive presence in Alexandra Square, the college bars and continual use of Facebook helped explain the process and ensured it seemed like something which was fun to be involved in.

Throughout the term new social events have proved a massive success, ranging from the small scale International Night, the repeatedly sold out Comedy Central event which filled Cartmel bar every fortnight, to the three day spectacular which was Winterfest. The

turnout to these events shows that, be it through posters, the internet or word of mouth, communication is getting better.

November saw the start of the Tuition Fees Campaign, which within a very short space of time had utilized SCAN, Bailrigg FM, posters, Facebook and even delivered letters to every flat on campus. The effort involved alone in a campaign like this shows a positive attitude towards communication, but is topped by the huge numbers of students who showed up at the two protests to campaign for change. Compared to the turnout for the Save Our College Bars campaign last year, it cannot be denied that we are improving.

These changes are impressive, and more importantly have started to utilise what is to me the most valuable and under-used method of communication: talking to people. Students could put names to faces, interact with the people involved and really feel a part of something.

With Facebook obviously becoming an important resource for anything LUSU wishes to communicate, and the posters which blind us daily across campus seeming less and less effective, it is

clear that the internet is the way forward when we want to get a message across. This being the case, why are Bubble and Squeak, LUSU's website and newsletter, not as popular as they could be? There are still many students who receive Squeak but do not bother to read it, and who do not know what Bubble is. As the internet is such a valuable resource, this is definitely something we need to improve. To do this doesn't necessarily mean that the services themselves need improving, but means people need to be told what they are and why they are useful. The more that LUSU makes itself seem approachable and useful to students, the more motivated they will be to use the services it provides. We need to advertise our online resources whenever we are trying to convey something, so that people understand what they are and start to use them more, whilst ensuring that they are always up to date and relevant.

Hopefully as more people become interested in LUSU they will be able to find the information they need. Communication isn't just about telling people that you are doing something, but telling them why it is happening and how they can be involved.

Societies must now find their voice and be heard

The university hierarchy must now listen to our concerns over funding and space allocation, writes Ben Gibbins

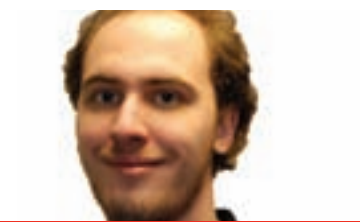
As the new Chair of Societies, it seems useful to convey the thoughts I have had over the Christmas period whilst ascertaining the impact I wish to have in this new role. What with societies occupying a central part of the 'student experience', it is important to enable societies to reach their full potential. From my experience of being in many societies I know that most see LUSU as a necessary evil that requires a lot of paperwork with little reward. I want societies to know the support and resources available to them through LUSU, and crucially how easy it is for them to utilise it.

Mainly I hope to ensure societies are aware of the support LUSU can give them to open more doors for activities they can do and partake in. As Chair of Societies I am going to pull societies together in events and activities to allow bigger and better things to happen. Small societies don't have the members or resources to put on big events and large societies cannot cover the demands and needs of individual members, so events that cover a multitude of areas really make a difference. To contrast this each society has individual needs and by working closely with execs these needs can be fulfilled.

In the wider view of things societies are easily overlooked, especially higher up in the University hierarchy. I want to show that societies are a large part of the students union, make our voice heard about the matters that effect societies. These matters include funding, publicity and allocation of resources; but more importantly the increasing issues of space for societies to use for their activities. So many societies have problems with space; hopefully by making these issues known we can find solutions to these problems.

Having not only sat on SUEC but getting actively involved, I have seen that one point where things need to be addressed is communication. We are all guilty of receiving an email, briefly scanning over it and thinking, "I'll do it later", and then forgetting all about it. There is not a lot that can be done about this but by combining e-mails with talking directly to societies I am sure communication can be greatly improved. After all, good communication is the lubrication to all great things.

Finally I wish to shamelessly plug an event I have been planning over the last term. 'Lancaster Goes Camping 2010', an event hosted by the Outdoor and Physical Steering group. It is open to all members of any society across campus, a chance to get away to the Lake District for the weekend and partake in activities such as cycling, fell running, backpacking, obstacle courses, orienteering, pioneering, kayaking, hiking and so much more; all culminating in a social in the evening where all societies can mix and integrate in a relaxed environment. And, hopefully, something that can only improve societies further in the coming months.



Mike Indian

This coming election could herald a period of momentous change

On the Today programme in early December, Conservative Party Chairman Eric Pickles declared that New Labour were going "back to the future" for the forthcoming election. For Labour, he said, it was 1970 again and they were determined to restart to the so-called 'class war.' Mr Pickles' remarks have greater significance than simply referring to the potential battle lines for the next general election. In the current political climate, we risk missing the opportunity for much needed progress.

There is no denying that the political turbulence generated over the last year has damaged all major parties. In terms of electoral cycles, any government at the end of its third term will be facing severe levels of political disaffection. As far back as 2007, Anthony Giddens, one of the key academics behind New Labour, wrote that it would be hard to see the party 'winning big' at the next election. In addition, the sluggish progress of the British economy in pulling out of recession drains what little hope remains in a government whose reputation was built on skilled economic management.

Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrats seem to be political limbo, hovering around 20% in the opinion polls. Traditionally, the party has presented clear aims, but most recently it has ap-

peared muddled. Issues like the mansion tax and the handling of tuition fees have highlighted rifts in the party. If they are to make substantial gains in the coming year, then the Lib Dems must present a strong and united front behind Nick Clegg. Only then can they present themselves as a viable alternative. By contrast, the Conservatives have enjoyed a glorious period in the opinion polls under David Cameron's leadership. However, the electoral mountain facing the Tories (to win 117 seats and not lose any that they currently hold) is one that they have not achieved since 1945.

The fight David Cameron has to win is not with Labour, but rather with the political disaffection that has gripped the country. He has to convince the people that the Conservatives are the real vehicle for change this country so badly needs. Whilst the last local and European elections did see the Conservatives make considerable gains, it also witnessed two other trends. Firstly, a move away from the main parties to a range of minority parties such as UKIP, the BNP and the Greens. Still, a second and far more significant trend has been the rise in voter apathy and disengagement with politics altogether.

Electoral disaffection, and more specifically, disaffection with the three main parties reinforces the chance of

that rarest of events in British politics: a hung parliament. Such a result could finally provide Westminster with the meaningful cross-party dialogue needed to bring meaningful changes. The end of 'two party plus' politics at Westminster would be momentous.

The potential for change highlighted in the last year should not be underestimated, as the coming election will be very different for the ones preceding it. Televised debates on the major channels are one such innovation. At the very least, it shows that British politics is finally catching up with the times. In the age of mass media and personality politics, the lack of such an event in previous elections is astonishing. Most importantly, it underlines a major step forward in the cautious march of progress usually seen in Britain.

There are other pressing elements of development on the lips of politicians, such as the first open primary in the selection of a parliamentary candidate earlier this year. Measures like this, as well as reform of parliamentary expenses and (above all else) electoral reform are vital if politics in Britain are to be revived. With the election of Barack Obama, we asked when our time for change would be. That time is now, if the political system in this country is going to be fit to represent the interests of its citizens.

As Labour spirals into decline and the Tories improve their fortunes, the chances of a hung parliament have never been greater



Our electoral system is in dire straits; it is time to change the record

As millions vote in the X-Factor, the democratic right this country fought for is being diminished writes **David Sykes**

It's no big secret that our voting turnout is in dire straits. That is, the voting turnout for the election of our representatives in government is in dire straits; the X-Factor however is doing incredibly well.

This year, over 10 million people voted in the final show of ITV's most popular talent show, compared to the 15 million that turned out to vote for the European Parliamentary elections and only 10 million who voted for the Labour government in 2005. And this was only the final night of the series, not considering the many more that voted throughout the whole run of the show.

The numbers, then, are very encouraging for turnout in a meaningless vote that bears no significant impact on our lives. When it comes to voting for a body that has massive power, however, results are less than encouraging.

Democracy is in real danger. There is a definite reason for concern as more and more people are throwing away the right to vote that has been fought for by millions on our behalf. There is a democratic crisis across the continent as the European Union continues to grow and develop with worryingly little input from us, and our government continues to chug along despite only having approximately a sixth of the country having voted for it. How did we get into this sad state of affairs?

Well it's because of you. Well maybe not you, but certainly someone you know. Less than half of the public voted in the latest general election. The same election that coincided with a catastrophic and pointless war in Iraq.

People should be eager to pull themselves away from the television once every few years and decide how they're going to react to being marched into a war with no clear purpose, which costs a stupid sum of money that has an impact on our economy and gets lots of people killed. But 35m people still didn't vote because they were too busy doing other things. Busy doing what exactly? A lot of readers of this article will have been too young to have taken part in a general election yet (myself included) and so have not had the chance to do what your forebears killed and campaigned to achieve and defend. That is the right to exercise your democratic right.

The fact that mindless drivel on the television can even come close to the same turnout as a real election for your representatives in government makes a mockery of your ancestors' lives.

So I guess what I'm saying is that you should get yourselves to the polls this year, even if ITV2 decides to show X-Factor reruns all day. Your great-great-grandparents will be proud if you do.

It is vital that the wind turbine project gets the green light



Liam Kay
Comment Editor

Opposition to the project is to be expected, but the benefits of conserving energy far outweigh other concerns

If you have ever travelled to Lancaster by train, especially during the winter months, you will be familiar with the sight of the university as you enter the area. The university is almost a city in itself, full of lights and people; a glorious symbol of your entry into Lancaster. It is also a stark reminder of the excessive levels of energy consumption on campus.

On campus, we waste staggering amounts of energy. A quick walk round campus and you will see the majority of kitchen, room and corridor lights left on, burning away man-kind's precious resources as if they would last forever. And it is exactly for these reasons why the plans for the building of two wind turbines, to be built to the east of the M6 motorway, should be applauded. It is vital that planning permission is given, despite some local opposition to the scheme. The question to ask is how can there be any real opposition? The land near a motorway is hardly scenic landscape and they will have little impact on the local environment in comparison to the building of power plants. The opposition is born out of selfishness and self interest and it is vital that plans continue.

Whilst it is understandable that the local population will not want these turbines near their homes (a case of "anywhere but here") the potential benefits far outweigh any of the potential negatives that could arise from the building

plans. They would reduce energy consumption on campus by one third. That is a phenomenal amount and one that offsets much of the universities carbon footprint and showcases the universities conviction that it can help to meet targets set by the HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050 from 1990 levels. The importance of the turbines for the nation as a whole is crucial and key initiative in showcasing the university's, and Britain's, green credentials. They must be allowed to be built.

It is therefore a vital for the university to do all it can to ensure that planning permission is accepted by the local council and building can begin. The failure of the recent Copenhagen talks portrays the urgency that we, as a people, must put aside differences and accept changes to our lifestyles for the good of the world, the environment and for mankind as a whole. This is why recent local opposition must be overcome; the turbine project may only seem a minor local issue but it is a microcosm of greater issues and a symbol that we can progress and accept that we can either adapt to the problems that face us or live with their terrifying consequences.

However, the university itself must also increase its commitment to green issues. The building of wind turbines cannot be a single act but it must be

part of a greater series of improvements on campus. Whilst offsetting a third of campus' energy is an overwhelmingly positive step forward and one that should be commended, we must aim for further reductions. Automatic lights, a reduction in the use of paper and aims to reduce the amount of waste produced by the university must all be considered due to their potential for saving vast amounts of resources over the next few years. Short-term investment must be made to ensure long-term prosperity.

Opposition to the turbines goes against the needs of the majority and the necessity of the current environment we exist in. Whilst it is commendable that the local population is scrutinising the plans, and that it is only a minority that seem to oppose them, outright opposition to the scheme is both unhelpful and damaging. Can the benefits of a picturesque view really be upheld over the production of cleaner, greener energy? It is for the greater benefit of Lancaster, the university and for the country that these plans are accepted and that opposition is defeated. We should soon reap the benefits of the scheme, due to be started as soon as the council makes a decision on the plans in the coming weeks, hopefully providing power for the campus within months. Let us just hope that the desires of a few don't damage the needs of the many.

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.

Good luck to new JCR officers

Dear Sir

After 4 terms in office as a JCR member for Cartmel College, I wanted to write in and congratulate all the new officers and wish them luck for the future as Union Officers.

Being a Union Officer, and more specifically a Cartmel JCR Exec Member, has been one of my highlights at Lancaster University and I can honestly say the people, the experiences and laughter have all been worthwhile.

To all the new officers, I wish you all the luck in the world and hope you get out of your term in office what I got out of mine.

Helen Thompson
Cartmel Vice-president 2009

Gritting teeth over dangerous footpaths

Dear Sir

I have been wondering whether asking for a bit of grit being laid around the main paths on campus outside term time is a bit much to ask from the University?

It wouldn't hurt to be a bit more prepared for the bad weather instead of letting standards (and students) slide. This isn't the only way that standards drop to a bare minimum during the holidays but I feel that walking around the campus in this state is nothing short of dangerous! Even the steps on Alex Square and near LUSU bunker are iced up. Surely safety on campus should be a priority?

Michelle McShane
Furness College

Election coverage a SCAN success

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you on your coverage of the elections and E-voting that were held last term. I found it very informative and kept me up-to-date with what was going on around the university. I particularly enjoyed Sam Newsham, Stephen Ashby and Andrew Pillow's article, as I found it interesting to see the percentage of Lancaster student's involved in the JCR and Union elections and comparing my college to the other colleges on campus.

Keep up the good work

2nd year,
Grizedale Student

Heavy weather causing havoc

Dear Sir

I am writing to express my concerns for myself, and the entire student body, with regards to the current weather conditions.

The dangerous layer of snow and ice, which currently covers campus, has caused me to fall on a number of occasions, and it seems that the university does not feel it necessary to spread grit effectively.

A few snowballs, sledging, or the artistic snowdog located in Bowland North, cannot mask the harsh realities that this weather has caused.

The irony of a box of grit outside my block is almost too much to bear, given the lack of a shovel. Who would I have to sleep with to get the path to my lectures gritted?

Lydia Bennet
Graduate College

Warning to the wise over fees

Dear Sir

I am pleased that Michael Payne has managed to get pledges of support for the LUSU campaign against tuition fees from Labour and Conservative representatives, as well as Stuart Langhorn for the Liberal Democrats. It is perhaps worth bearing in mind, however, that both Labour and Conservative parties are in favour of tuition fees, so their representatives are opposing their own party's policies in this area.

Michael Mumford
Bowland College

Does uni care about students?

Dear Sir,

I have been an avid reader of SCAN since I started university and have enjoyed the diverse content within the newspaper. However, over the past issues several articles have seen to imply that those in charge of the university just simply do not care about the student. From University directors' shunning students protesting to making awkward and money grabbing demands to the university pharmacy. Surely, if university directors cared about students they would make it easy and simply for the pharmacy to move to a nearer location and would of showed their support to their students who stood outside despite the horrible weather condition. I do not want to class everyone in the same bundle but it does seem like student's are on the backburner of university decisions and should want to make my opinion on the matter heard.

Politics Student
Cartmel College

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

Page 26

Armed forces deserve donations for their work

Dear Sir

Although it sounds like it came straight from a Women's Volunteer Force working at home during in World War II, the notion of care packages is alive and well today. There are currently just shy of 10,000 UK troops serving in Afghanistan today and the total number of coalition forces as of October 2009 was 71,030. Whether you agree with the reasons for going to war or not, it is a reality that these soldiers put their lives on the line for a noble cause. To show your appreciation of their sacrifices, the sacrifices of

their comrades and the sacrifices of their families, you can send care packages via www.supportoutsoldiers.co.uk - all the details of how to do this are on the website. I urge you all to take some time to show your support regardless of political leanings and to ask you not to underestimate what difference such a small gift can make. There are so many students in Lancaster that even if only a fraction of us sent packages it can make a massive difference to the lives of servicemen and women overseas.

Erin Royle
Bowland College



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Bus times from Lancaster Bus Station			Bus times from University Underpass		
Thurs	Fri	Sat	Thurs	Fri	Sat
0130	0130	0130	0108	0108	0108
0200	0200	0200	0152	0152	0152
0230	0230	0230	0222	0222	0222
0300	0300	0300	0252	0252	0252
			0320	0320	0320

All times apply during term times only

rail connection

unilink

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Bus times from Lancaster Rail Station			Bus times from University Underpass		
M-F	Sat	Sun	M-F	Sat	Sun
0815	0840	1310	0909	0909	1336
0840	0905	then at	0929	0929	then at
0905	0925	10	0949	0949	36
0925	then at	until	1009	1009	until
then at	45	2210	then at	then at	2236
45	05		29	29	
05	25		49	49	
25	until		09	09	
until	1425		until	until	
1425	1445		1509	1509	
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1710	1740		1809	1809	
1740					

All times apply during term times only

On Sundays, the X1 also departs from the South West Campus 5 minutes earlier



Where will U take ur Unirider?

The Lancaster Unirider is a bus ticket, which is only available for students and staff attending Lancaster University and St Martins College and offers unlimited bus travel on all our services in the Lancaster area (same travel area as the Bay Megarider).

Doesn't cost U the earth!

You can buy your Unirider from either the Lancaster University Student Union Office, the Stagecoach Travel Shop on Lancaster Bus Station or purchase in advance online at www.buymyunirider.com

To travel using your Unirider, you'll need to have a current University Library ID Card, as Unirider is only valid and accepted on board, when you show your Student ID.



Don't forget, you can purchase your Unirider in advance on-line at www.buymyunirider.com

Please give blood (if we let you)

David Guy extracts the vital information on NHS blood donation

THIS MONTH SEES the annual national donor campaign to encourage people to give their blood. Every day hospitals desperately require blood to help combat diseases, give emergency treatments and provide organ transplants. Without the generosity of the donors, this wouldn't be possible. But for many people, giving blood is not an option.

They may be one of the people who rely upon the charity of those who can donate, or maybe the fear of needles is stopping them from taking that step towards giving. The NHS's 'should not give blood' list states that you can't donate if you are suffering from a cough, sore throat or active cold sore. Having a tattoo done in the last six months or using acupuncture will also prevent someone from being able to give blood. The list also includes current or former prostitutes and anyone who has ever injected drugs. These precautions may seem reason-



able and most were drawn from scientific findings, but many people have a big problem with this list.

Within the 'should never give blood' category are men that have had sex with other men. This not only

means that a gay man, who engages in regular casual sex, can never give his blood, but any male that has had sex, even once, with another man can never donate. If protection has been used, the rules state that a life time

should still be enforced. Women too, who have slept with a man, who has in turn slept with another man, can't donate for at least 12 months. Campaigners have called the policy unfair and misplaced and are asking for the

current review to reverse the rules. The research, though, which determines the policy, states that if current exclusions on gay men are removed, then the risk of HIV-infected blood entering the supply will rise by five times. Even a deferral of 12 months would lead to a 60% increase in the risk.

The dangers of HIV getting into the system has also led to the rule that anyone who has been sexually active with anyone from a place where AIDS and HIV are common is also unable to donate blood. However, this is only for a period of twelve months.

Vital blood is needed every day for patients undergoing cancer treatments, burns treatments and for blood disorders. If some of those unable to donate are desperate enough to campaign for their right to, then maybe those who have never given blood, but can, will give it another thought. It takes about an hour to do and an NHS blood donor team come onto campus several times each year to collect the red stuff. It's always in the Great Hall and the next ones will be taking place on the 22nd February and the 5th March. The walk in service means that you don't need to book in advance. Just turn up, fill out some forms and await the dreaded needle.

IF YOU NEED SOME ADVICE...



...SEE IF WE CAN HELP

advice.lusu.co.uk

Be resolute in your resolutions

Lauren Ronsdale is at hand to offer some tips on making New Year's resolutions

LET'S FACE IT. How many people do you think will be making some form of New Year resolution this year?

It's a tradition that dates back as far as 153 BC with the concept to have some form of self improvement annually. Everyone feels the need to make one at some point or another because after the decadence of Christmas is over, a new year generally means a new start. Be it you want to lose weight, drink less, quit smoking (or on a smaller level, attend that Tuesday nine o'clock after a night out on the Monday) there's always something along those lines.

If everyone was brutally honest, how long is the resolution that you make on New Years day kept? Does it take long before that gym card begins gathering dust in the back of your purse/wallet? Is it more than your first week back at university before Elements lures you



Laying off the booze: Cutting down on alcohol is a common resolution that people fail to stick to

back through its doors along with the rest of your friends? It's not particularly easy to keep resolutions when a lot of the time there is something else you'd rather be doing. However all is not lost. How do you keep a resolution when temptation is telling you to walk away from it and forget about making

it in the first place?

Help is most certainly at hand for this one. Two words, aim low. A high expectation is one of the problems of New Year's resolutions because the higher your expectations; the easier it is to fail. Be realistic and set something which is more achievable and better

for you. It's probably the only time you'll ever legitimately get away with aiming lower.

Secondly, this may sound a little silly but why do resolutions have to be made in January (potentially a bad month because you've just finished Christmas)? Why not make them in

February or any other month for that matter? Fit it around your own needs and ideas. In the words of the mighty He-Man "I have the power!" Making a resolution shouldn't be a chore, bring in 2010 with a resolution which is easy and something that you can realistically stick to.

Log My House

Often when students move into private, off campus accommodation they will be asked to pay a deposit.

Protect yourself. 'Log my house' gives you the opportunity to store photos of the condition of your property, your lease and a copy of your inventory. Send copies to us at:

lusu.advice@lancaster.ac.uk

If and when you need them, we'll be able to produce the information and support you in any dispute you may have with a landlord.

For more information regarding accommodation please check out our website, and if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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advice.lusu.co.uk



TOP FIVE

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS TO BE BROKEN

80% of resolutions are broken by Valentines Day. Lauren Hirst lists the easiest ones to break:

To get out of debt
The excuse? I'm a student. Think we'll worry about this one after graduation... and the January sales.



Quit smoking
Many people make this pledge each year to knock the habit, but as we can see from our Campus Icon, it doesn't happen.

Complain less and take more action
Enjoy the year ahead more by keeping a positive mind frame and aiming for the stars, until someone breaks your favourite mug.



Try something new
The sky's the limit: anyone for a bit of skydiving next week?

Too lose weight and get into shape
It's never uncommon to see the gym more crowded in the first few weeks of the year.



One coat wonders

During the winter months your most important clothing investment should be a warm winter coat. A good one may cost a bit more than what you'd normally pay for a piece of clothing, but if it fits the bill then a new coat is definitely worth the expense.

Important points to consider are fabric, colour, length and weight. A warm coat should be made of at least 40% warm fabric such as wool, since lighter fabrics like cotton and polyester won't keep out the cold. There are lots of styles to choose from that will match your size, shape and taste.

The duffel coat for example is a great wool coat though it can be rather heavy.

Military style coats generally contain wool, and can look very elegant if worn with a belt. If you prefer a lighter coat then a good quality leather jacket is a good option, just make sure it has a thick lining and wear something warm on your legs. Perhaps the most versatile coat though is the Parka. Light, generally waterproof and warm it's perfect for wearing throughout the day.

Take a look at some of the most elegant and fashionable coats below for ideas, modeled by our very own Lancaster students.

By Poppy Goodbrand



Campus icons

A glimpse into the life of Lancaster's famous faces

NAME: Daniel Howes

PROFESSION: Manager of Diggles

STARSIGN: Gemini

What is your favourite thing about the university?

It's really laid back and it's got a very friendly feel to the campus.

Did you make a new years resolution?

To give up smoking, but it only lasted two days.

What is your favourite Diggles milkshake?

Mars Bar - I love it. But there are some new flavours coming out this term, such as bubblegum and cherry bakewell.

How did you come to work at Lancaster?

I worked in Diggles in Lancaster then moved up here. I have been here for nine years and will probably be here until I retire.



Why do you think Diggles is popular with students?

Hopefully it's the customer service as we try to keep a smile on our faces 24/7. Well, roughly 24/7.

“young enough to be all pissed off, but old enough to be jaded”

Lizzie Houghton tries examining student life

YOU KNOW YOU’VE reached a certain point in your student life when you find yourself sat outside of Sultans on a Saturday morning - hungover and in your pyjamas - eating a cold Spar sausage and bacon bab and swigging from a carton of cranberry juice in the desperate hope that it will resurrect your long suffering liver. And all the while other people’s parents are walking quickly past you, hoping to God they don’t find their own son or daughter in the same position.

Or when you hit the even lower point of stockpiling highlighters, because when poster season comes along you know they achieve a higher street value than crack. Or spending almost 90 minutes in the wee small hours of the morning photocopying the same page onto eight different pieces of coloured paper just to see which colour works best. No to mention the seminal low point in anyone’s student life: walking home alone from the Sugarhouse. I’ve not done that yet, but I know three people who have – one of them through a field, which she fell asleep in – so I feel that’s been experienced by proxy.

These slightly shameful confessions are inspired by a song I heard over the Christmas break. It wasn’t Rage, although I may blame the incomplete essays on the Christmas spirit of “fuck you, I won’t do what you tell me”. No,

the line in this song was slightly more classically inspired. “I’ve heard it said that the unexamined life isn’t much worth living, and I’m sure they’re right”. So, half way through my student life I have decided to sit back and examine it.

I should warn anyone now who looking for a funny-haha column now this isn’t it. It’s going to be petulant, cynical and worthy of something of the BBC’s ‘Grumpy Old Men’ series. Grumpy Young Students perhaps. Or

We’ve already got our futures sorted. I’m going to get kidnapped leaving a small child for her to raise so she can live off welfare benefits to supplement her Starbucks salary.

Grumpy Young Female Students, as we seem to be far grumpier than most of the men we know, at least as a result of circumstance and not just natural inclination (or PMS).

Grumpiness, I suppose, is the only natural way to respond to some aspects of student life. Anyone who can write 10,000 words in one week, living only off Blue Bear and Maoam, without being a bit cantankerous is obviously some sort of superior being not of any world I know. Or when every time you’ve got some time to spare you end up drunk or sleeping in, and then you end up even grumpier because actually you didn’t have that time to spare: your word count is 500 words longer than you thought it was and

you’ve got nothing left worth writing about. These are the times when “sigh” seems to be the easiest word.

And when we’re not being grumpy about the present, there’s the ever looming, ever glooming future to worry about. The debt. The lack of jobs. The adulthood. Going out into the big wide world, and realising that in just a few years time, we’ll have all successfully turned into our parents.

Despite this we diligently prepare for the after-student life. We partake in all the extra curricular stuff they keeping telling us is essential – especially if like me and so many mates you are taking subjects that end in ‘ology/osophy’ but aren’t BSS. (Me and an aforementioned grumpy female friend already have our futures sorted. I’m going to get kidnapped leaving a small child for her to raise so she can live off the welfare benefits to supplement her Starbucks salary.) We spend our weeknights locked away in offices, working for what we like to think is the greater good, but is probably just taken by most to be CV padding. We fall asleep in said offices and then have to go home the next morning with greasy hair and smudged make-up/ itchy stubble, doing a very different sort of ‘walk of shame’.

It’s the catch 22 of any student’s life. Spend all your time working on your degree, and you’ll be told you don’t have enough ‘real world experience’ to get any job, decent or not. Spend all your time getting that ‘real world experience’ and suddenly you find yourself referencing your JCR or society’s constitution in a politics

essay, because you don’t have time or inclination to find any other examples (and you wouldn’t know as much about anything else anyway). Try and find the middle ground and your head explodes in a putrid mess of overload.

They say students today are more stressed, but actually we’re just more moody. It’s not a case of being emo, it’s having a start-of-life crisis. It’s buying flash teapots instead of flash cars, or dressing like your dad instead of your dad dressing like you. We don’t so much have the weight of the world on our shoulders, but we do have the weight of campus - and with bad backs and dodgy knees from carrying around too many text books - what a weight it feels like. We could cheer ourselves up by going to the Carleton or Sugarhouse, but being perfectly honest, we’d rather just stay at home eating crumpets and tea.

The soundtrack for my grumpy young students this year has been Frank Turner, and although any aficionados will have spotted the countless references throughout the above, I’m going to give him the credit he deserves by devoting the last paragraph to his own great words. To sum up:

“I had a go, I tried examining life. It wasn’t much worth living, I guess they’re right. Because I’m young enough to be all pissed off, but I’m old enough to be jaded. I’m of the age where I want things to change but with age my hopes have faded. I’m young and bored of being young and bored; if I was old I could say I’ve seen it all before. In short, I’m tired of giving a shit.”

Fight off the winter flues and blues

By herbal therapist **Laura Van Tatenhove**

WINTER IS GREAT for so many reasons: we love snuggling up in the evenings beside the radiator, rugging up in our favourite scarves and hats, bunkering down in the pub, shopping for boots and making new years resolutions. Yet despite all the goodness that comes from this time of the year, let’s face it, it plays havoc with our immune system, our bodies and our mental state. Added to this is the prospect of a lot of work and study that needs to be done between now and Easter. To get us through, we pump our bodies with various pharmaceutical potions, skip class, sleep more and eat erratically and for comfort rather than health. And yet, fellow students, there is another way to cope, a way that is longer lasting and based on the principle that we are all capable of immunising ourselves against these winter blues and flues.

At the Natural Health Care Centre, established in 1995, and based in the Chaplaincy Centre on campus, there is a group of qualified therapists trained to treat a very large majority of the ailments that afflict us on a seasonal and day-to-day basis. This includes muscular aches and pains, mental and emotional stress, sleeping disorders, dietary and digestive problems and respiratory conditions, just to name a few. The clinic has recently expanded and offers treatment in a range of highly respected and accredited therapies including the Alexander Technique, aromatherapy, acupuncture, the Bowen Technique, herbalism, homeopathy, massage, stress management advice, and reflexology. If you check out the website on www.chaplans.org.uk you can find out more about each therapy and contact the various practitioners with your questions. They are more than happy to have a chat and all offer discounted rates for students. Go on, give yourself a break and get yourself back to health.

As a special offer this month we are giving away one free consultation with your choice of the therapist from the Natural Health Care Centre. To win this great prize be the first person to e-mail Poppy Goodbrand, features editor at SCAN (scan.features@lusu.co.uk) the correct answer to the question below.

If you don’t win this time, keep your eyes open as you read future issues of SCAN. Each month we’ll be offering more giveaways and useful tips to keep yourselves healthy and less stressed throughout the year.

What part of our body specialises in immunity? Is it:

- a) the muscular system?
- b) the lymphatic system?
- c) the cardiovascular system?



Captain Bonny’s world of food

Captain Bonny tangles with Moby Dick

NOW THEN, THERE seems to be a bit of a gastronomic secret in Lancaster that sadly many students only find out about before they go, especially those who are veggie. That is of course the Whale Tale, which is located down Penny Street and in a little alleyway up stairs above the whole food shop. This out of the way little gem has been established for years, but sadly aren’t always great at advertising. However, this word of mouth reputation has got around certain circles and it is worth investigating.

Lancaster is known for its rather alternative scene in places, and certainly for the university, its radical past, so the Whale Tale seems to epitomise this philosophy, with a very folksy, neo-hippy, student, and community-eating environment. This is clear through its policy of sourcing locally produced food, vegetarian and vegan dishes, and fair trade cakes and beers. However

it is not all roughage and toilet paper food, with some good old English dishes and pies, and of course the traditional breakfast which is to die for.

Like Soupanova, that I’ve mentioned before, the Whale Tale is the place you go when in town shopping or wanting to escape the humdrum and lunacy of the usual coffee shops. Breakfast as I said above is a must, and I do love the idea of being able to design your own breakfast, so for the fussy buggers it is perfect. With organic fried eggs, (and my gawd you can taste the difference) on huge doorsteps of bread, then I’m happy all day. As vegans do have a bit of problems finding something to eat, or if you are allergic to things, then again this is an idea place.

Lunch is another grand experience, and I must admit, I’m always torn between either the pita bread and humus or the Hommity Pie. Both are great snacks/meals, but it is the salads with them that really flick the taste buds. Try their Whale Tale salad, which has a

varied of separate little gems, like radish and alpha sprout, pasta and walnut or spiced chickpeas etc. And as you have realised from previous writings, I do like my chips, so these are a must at this place, nice and succulent, and with their organic tomato and brown sauce, I’ve just about hit the ceiling at this point. Of course if you want to reach nirvana then go for the home made carrot cake or chocolate sponge, and you do get a big slice for your money.

On beverages, then having an option of so many fair trade coffees and teas is a blessing, as well as those other caffeine free solutions such as roobosh or dandelion. But I must admit having a good organic cider of a lunch time

with a tender and crunchy pie is a real treat. One does feel that they have been spoiled when they leave.

So for the healthy conscious or for those who want to pretend to be healthy by being seen going into an alternative-eating house (and then gorge themselves on a fry up) then the Whale Tale is for you.

As usual the décor is perfect with local painters exhibiting their work and the music is retro enough to coming out singing the tune. And when you have finished eating you can go down stairs and shop in the whole food shop or browse the alternative magazine rack.



Weighing up the consequences

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

FIVE YEARS AT Lancaster University have taken its toll. Diet? Terrible. Fitness? Vanished. Stress? Trebled. Drastic action was required and so after speaking to the Sports Centre I am now a premier member with my own personal trainer.

For many readers, with a new year comes a desire for serious lifestyle changes. However, changing the habits of a lifetime can be a difficult process and one in which with all the best will in the world you can struggle to adjust because of self-consciousness or a hectic lifestyle. When I took my gym induction, it wasn't the most enticing prospect to work out in the weights room, surrounded by men who could probably pick up a small car (a Fiat Cinquecento for argument's sake) with one hand. It also wasn't great that it came after ten hours spent in the office tearing my hair out.

Part of what I hope to achieve with this column, apart from spectacularly failing in my endeavours, is to let people witness the tips and advice, the trials and tribulations that I go through and perhaps take them on board for themselves if they so wish. When deciding who should write this column, it soon became obvious that I was the ideal candidate. Who better than someone whose idea of exercise

is sat watching Man United with a pint in hand in a pub somewhere, or whose healthy eating regime consists of getting an un-battered sausage from the campus chippie.

My first meeting with the personal trainer, Laura, was an eye opener to say the least. In one hour I learnt that I had been doing press-up and sit-ups completely wrong, that all my left side muscles were tighter than the right and that I was totally rubbish at basic stretching exercises. Laura spoke about how these tests can be rewarding when viewed later after some serious improvements.

I also discovered I had high blood pressure, which is probably no surprise to many people. So what causes high blood pressure I nervously ask? "Poor diet." Check. "Lack of exercise." Check. "Little sleep." Check. "Stressful job." Check. Thanks. Laura reassured me that "anomalous results" are common the first time. Here's hoping on that one.

I left after my first session cautiously optimistic about the challenges ahead. I now have a food diary to check on my eating habits and have sessions in the life fitness room scheduled for next time. Who knows, in a few months I may be able to lift a Fiat Cinquecento with one hand. If the blood pressure doesn't get to me first that is.



Recipes for disaster

Jo Taylor puts our culinary skills to the test

Cold Weather Hotpot to warm you up this January.

Easy- serves 6
Ready in 45 minutes.

Ingredients

- two onions
- 300g carrots
- 1kg potatoes
- 450g lean minced beef
- two beef stock cubes
- 400g can baked beans
- a splash of Worcestershire sauce



Method

- Cut each onion into eight wedges. Roughly chop the carrots and cut the potatoes into large chunks.
- Heat a large pan, add the mince and fry quickly, stirring all the time, until evenly browned. Crumble in the stock cubes and mix well. Add the prepared vegetables, then pour in 1 and 1/2 pints of hot water. Bring to the boil.
- Reduce the heat, cover and simmer for 25-30 minutes, until the veg are tender. Stir in the baked beans and a generous splash of Worcestershire sauce and heat through. Add salt and pepper if necessary.

Per serving: 417 calories, protein 29g, carbohydrate 55g, fat 10 g, saturated fat 4g, fibre 8g, salt 2.9 g

CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.



BIN IT

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.



KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.



Lecture break

75 years of the King of Rock and Roll - The Elvis Presley Quiz:

1. Where was Elvis born?
2. Why did he spend time in jail?
3. How many Grammys was Elvis nominated for, and how many did he win?
4. How many films did he make?
5. When and where did Elvis die?

Answers below

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Answers: (1) Tupelo, Mississippi (2) He altered a \$4.00 check to read \$40.00. His family was in desperate need of money for food (3) Nominated for 14, won three (4) 33 films as an actor (5) August 16th, 1977. On the toilet at his home in Memphis, Graceland.

The terrible trio of children's films that have ignited the debate over increasingly adult content in movies for kids

Lauren Randall

THERE'S BEEN MUCH debate in recent months over the content of kids' films and whether they're becoming too frightening or, god forbid, 'adult' for said children to handle. *Coraline*, *Where The Wild Things Are* and *Up* in particular have come under scrutiny by worried parents who fear that their children will be scared stiff by the entertainment supposedly made for them. So, is this true? Are children's films becoming too deep and mature for youngsters or is this another extension of the politically-correct society that we now find ourselves in?

From a certain perspective, you can see exactly what parents are worried about. *Coraline* features 'other mothers' wanting to replace the heroine's eyes with buttons as well as pretty surreal imagery. *Where The Wild Things Are* contains monsters, moderate 'violence' and plenty of psychological issues. Don't even get them started on the opening five minutes of *Up*. It's fair to say that anybody with a heart will fill up but for a child it might raise a few, how shall I put it, awkward questions that their little ears might not be quite ready for.

Then again, do children really notice the same things that parents do? Is



Going up: Critics are arguing that children's films are becoming too adult in content

a child afraid of twelve foot monsters? No. And the simple answer is because they're monsters. Children are fascinated by things out of the ordinary and monsters are definitely out of the ordinary. The same goes for *Up*. Children will know that there's something sad in the narrative, will question this but all of that goes away as soon as the house floats away attached to a million balloons. Children have more capable imaginations than adults. They seem

to be able to focus on the happy rather than the serious in films. Adults watch *Finding Nemo* and focus on the fact that Nemo's held hostage and without a mother; kids look at the pretty talking fish and the adventure.

Besides, what's the alternative for a child to watch? A musical? *Oliver*, for example, contains children being taught to steal, the horrors of the work houses, domestic abuse and murder. Disney? Oh God, where to start. Bambi's moth-

er, anyone? Then of course there are the horrors of *Pinocchio*, absent/dead mothers, wicked stepmothers and the death of Mufasa. There's more genuine terror in Disney films than in half the horror remakes pouring into cinemas. Ok, let's put aside musicals and Disney and select a happy Christmas film like *Miracle on 34th Street*. You know, the one where they nearly imprison Santa Claus thus effectively destroying Christmas. Take your pick.

Obviously, the ages of children need to be considered. All three of the films mentioned were PG so surely it's the parents' prerogative as to whether their child is old enough to cope with the material that will potentially fill the screen. It is, after all, 'parental guidance'. A child only watches what captivates their imagination; their attention span is as fickle as the public's attitude to films. When these parents were children I'm sure they watched a whole host of films that terrified them and they wouldn't have wanted it any other way. By complaining about every 'disturbing' feature in a child's film, you're eliminating near enough every child's film ever made. Just because parents are only just noticing the adult qualities in films doesn't mean they have the right to halt a child's imagination. Let the kid speak for itself; it's when they ask to watch *The Omen* that you know you've got a problem.

Retina Dance Competition

FOUR GREAT YOUNG male dancers are joined by a double bass player as they perform a raw and exhilarating piece of athletic dance. Powerful and energetic movement demonstrates the skill of the dancers and emphasises their connection with the live sound-score.

Performed by Retina Dance, Antipode takes its initiation from innate polar opposites in and around the human body. As human beings we are constantly being challenged by opposition, even verticality commits us to engage with gravity, significance, magnitude and energy. How do we counteract the force of gravity and how do we survive in a world of other people and objects, in an unmistakable web and game of opposites?

Antipode is coming to the Nuffield Theatre on Tuesday 26th January at 8pm. There are limited free tickets available for under 26s as part of the A Night Less Ordinary scheme. SCAN are delighted to offer a prize of two tickets to the show to one lucky entrant. All you need to do is answer the following question, sending your response to scan@lusu.co.uk by 19th January 2010.

Question: Who founded Retina dance company?

WEDNESDAYS

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Student only night

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Student Promoters

Wednesday 7th October

Back 2 Skool

Commencing 7th October

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

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

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Why you should listen to The XX: Think New Order with a dash of Rihanna and you get one of the best new bands of 2010

Ignat Ostanin

IN GENERAL, THE music industry appears to have adopted the business model of an unregulated prison kitchen. It's aimed at serving all the people they can with a portion of diluted and barely palatable grey sludge. Occasionally though, you get a real chunk of meat, or maybe a carrot that slips through the pulverising process, and some of the inmates gather round and look at its glistening orange properties and for a brief fleeting moment their humanity is restored. Well, The XX are that carrot.

Consisting of Romy Madley Croft on guitar, Oliver Sim on bass and Jamie Smith as an all round beat-maker, The XX have appear to be a very close, if shy, trio of 20 years olds. They met whilst studying at Elliot School, which should clearly be renamed "original talent factory" since it was also the stomping ground of other outstanding talents like Hot Chip and Burial. They have enjoyed reverential praise from the music press following the release of their self-titled debut album and are in the midst of a busy touring schedule that had led synth player Baria Qureshi to leave the band out of exhaustion in November. You can hardly blame her



Double X: The band have enjoyed mammoth attention from the press due to their self-titled debut album and have been noted for their emotive lyrics and haunting guitar playing

I suppose, after all most 20 year olds get exhausted typing the Wikipedia URL into their browser.

What's most obvious about The XX is their air of understatement. After all, they take a minimal approach by adopting hushed singing styles and eliminating conventional drums out of the equation. Understandably this might strike people as being in-

capable of working, or as evidence for some sort of technological trend in rock where guitars are traded in for laptops and microphones are scrapped in favour of vibrators. However, their style is more of a reflection of their unashamed love for R&B. They cite Aliyah and Rihanna in the same breath as New Order. This may seem like a downside to The XX, but

through their use of slower tempos, direct and emotive lyrics as well as breathy melodic singing, they have clearly taken the best parts of R&B and not the Usher bit.

Their minimalism might seem off-putting for people who like to hear different things happening in music. However, what they actually set out to do is allow us to make out every detail

of expression in their emotion saturated voices. They avoid the overused Pixiesque quiet-loud-quiet dynamics of many popular indie bands, and aim to sound evocative and surprising through subtlety instead. And boy, do they succeed. In fact, the vocals on Crystallised sound cathartic enough to make a robot feel melancholy to the point of actually ringing the Samaritans. Notably, the group's musicianship makes their album seem expertly crafted, which is no small feat considering it is self-produced.

Sim's bold, finger-picked bass lines interweave with Croft's delicate yet haunting guitar work as pounding drums and claps highlight Jamie Smith's love of hip hop producers like RJD2. Songs like Heart Skipped a Beat are made to feel unsettling by his addition of contrast through the use of noisy electronic elements, as well as by his construction atmospheric soundscapes. These work beautifully as the setting for narrative in The XX's lyrical world, which always focuses on an unknown other by addressing "You". Of course, since Sim and Croft have known each other since primary school, and their vocals almost feel like a joint commentary sometimes, we are listening to something shared and mutual, which just makes the experience feel genuine and personal.

MASHED
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**Comedy Club
in Cartmel**

**David Morgan,
Bryan Lacey
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Barker House Farm
£3 with Purple Card / £5 without
Bar Snacks Available



Boat club power through in indoor champs

Aaron Sims

THE WEEKEND OF Week 7 was supposed to hold the closing races of 2009 for LUBC. The senior squad was expected to travel to York to compete in the Small Boats Head race, this was not to be however, as with the heavy rainfall of late, the river was flowing at dangerous levels and the race was cancelled.

The only racing of the weekend was at the British Indoor Rowing Championships in Birmingham. Due to the last minute cancellation of York, the seniors were unable to enter the event and so stayed in Lancaster. Taking their place, the Club was represented by a selection of novice rowers, who would be testing their progress since joining the club. For the squad, consisting of 13 guys and 6 girls, this would be their first time competing in a national event and as an added incentive, Team GB were also in attendance showing what is possible, dominating the tops of the scoreboards.

The event itself is held in Birmingham's National Indoor Arena (NIA), wherein clubs from all over the country come to compete against each other in a test of pure physical strength and endurance over a 2000m digital course; several hundred rowing machines are all linked up to one system with the



Novice class: Lancaster University Boat Club novices enjoyed much better performances in the indoor championships than was originally predicted (Photo: Aaron Sims)

positions displayed in real time to the crowd on a giant screen.

LUBC's performances over the 4 divisions entered were impressive (3 of the guys and 2 of the girls were entered in the respective <75kg and <61.5kg lightweight categories) and with many of the freshman rowers ex-

ceeding expectations and holding their own against rowers from other universities and clubs that have much more experience in such events. Overall it was a successful venture for the LUBC novices and there are now real aspirations to succeed within the group as the senior and novice squads begin to

merge ready for the trials during second term.

The term wasn't over there though. Week 10 closed the term with the whole club taking part in 2km testing. Nerves were running high, as it had been decided people wouldn't just come and go for the tests as normal, but every mem-

ber would stay to cheer on those competing after them and to support those rowing before them. This would be the first time the novices would be tested alongside the seniors which added to the high pressure atmosphere. This format proved successful with almost everyone breaking their individual records and people ripping huge margins from their previous bests.

Special mentions go to Alex Evans, Bernhard Kreipe, Adam Burgess and Will Johnson, who, had their times been entered at British Indoors, they would have placed 13th, joint 14th and 16th respectively in the men's open weight student division. Mentions also go to Sam Nahk, Chris Cluitt and myself, who would have placed 17th and joint 19th in the men's lightweight student division. To Jenny Tonkins and Alice Lees who would have come 6th and 8th in the women's student open weight division and finally to Helina Meos, who, had she been entered, would have won the women's student open weight category outright setting a new club record in the process.

Overall LUBC shed over 450 seconds off the club personal best total with 43 people going below their previous best times. With every second shed bringing the club one step closer to victory, the club hasn't just taken strides but has broken into a full sprint towards head season in second term and Roses and regatta season come third term.

Intercollege league tables

IC Football League A

	P	W	L	D	GD	Pts
Fylde A	3	3	0	0	15	9
Grizedale A	3	2	1	0	3	6
Cartmel A	3	1	1	1	0	4
Pendle A	3	1	1	1	-2	4
Bowland A	2	0	1	1	-1	1
Furness A	2	0	1	1	-8	1
County A	1	0	1	0	-1	0
Lonsdale A	1	0	1	0	-6	0

IC Football League B

	P	W	L	D	GD	Pts
Fylde B	4	4	0	0	16	12
Graduate B	6	3	1	2	1	11
County B	4	3	1	0	5	9
Bowland B	4	3	1	0	4	9
Pendle B	6	2	3	1	-2	7
Cartmel B	3	1	1	1	-1	4
Grizedale B	4	1	3	0	1	3
Lonsdale B	5	1	4	0	-9	3
Furness B	4	0	4	0	-15	0

IC Women's Pool

	P	W	L	D	SD	Pts
Bowland	8	8	0	0	24	64
Fylde	8	5	3	0	12	52
Lonsdale	7	5	2	0	13	48
Graduate	8	4	4	0	2	45
Pendle	8	3	5	0	-4	40
Grizedale	7	3	4	0	-7	34
County	7	2	5	0	-5	33
Furness	7	3	4	0	-9	33
Cartmel	8	1	7	0	-26	25

IC Netball League

	P	W	L	D	SD	Pts
Fylde	6	6	0	0	107	18
Bowland	5	4	1	0	38	12
Lonsdale	6	4	2	0	-5	12
County	6	3	3	0	24	9
Cartmel	6	3	3	0	-14	9
Grizedale	5	2	3	0	11	6
Pendle	6	1	5	0	-48	3
Furness	6	0	6	0	-113	0

IC Men's Pool A

	P	W	L	D	SC	Pts
Graduate	8	7	1	0	16	58
Cartmel	8	7	1	0	12	56
Bowland	8	6	2	0	6	51
Furness	8	4	4	0	4	46
Lonsdale	8	3	5	0	0	42
County	7	4	3	0	-1	39
Pendle	8	1	7	0	-8	34
Grizedale	7	2	5	0	-9	31
Fylde	8	1	7	0	-20	28

IC Men's Pool B

	P	W	L	D	SC	Pts
Lonsdale	8	6	2	0	22	59
Pendle	8	7	1	0	16	58
Bowland	8	6	2	0	16	56
Fylde	8	4	4	0	2	45
Furness	8	3	5	0	-2	41
County	7	4	3	0	-5	37
Grizedale	7	3	4	0	-7	34
Cartmel	8	1	7	0	-20	28
Graduate	8	1	7	0	-22	27

Trigger happy clubs axe 54 managers in under five months

Kim Megson

FIVE MONTHS INTO the English football calendar and the number of managers sacked in the Premiership and Football League has just reached fifty four. It is hard to see the trend changing in 2010.

Examples of stability at football clubs are becoming much harder to find, and managers are given less time than ever to make an impression. It is difficult to find a conclusive answer to why the turnover of managers is currently so high.

Of course there is a lot of money at stake in the running of football clubs but when clubs panic and sack managers there is rarely a change in fortunes in the long term.

It is generally agreed that a manager should be left to do their job while the chairman takes a back seat. A good appointment, with time and money should lead to relative success. Yet this model is becoming rarer with clubs settling for short term solutions.

The pressure increases for almost everyone. Successful clubs demand that success continues, ambitious clubs seek instant success, and the owners of smaller clubs becoming increasingly jumpy when their team begins a slide down the table.

QPR, whose wealthy owners are targeting promotion to England's

top flight, have a habit of removing managers, and have had seven in two years following the recent firing of Jim Magilton. In the last few weeks the number of baffling sackings has increased, with Alan Irvine losing his job at Preston, Darren Ferguson at Peterborough (after leading them to two successive promotions) and of course Mark Hughes, whose harsh but inevitable dismissal from Manchester City caused something of an outcry (with the way it was handled becoming a damaging PR disaster for the club).

In these cases it is hard to imagine that poor form is the only reason, al-

though it is the one most often given. Conflict behind the scenes is usually veiled behind confidentiality agreements, hefty pay-offs, best wishes for the future and talk of 'mutual consent'.

Having made the difficult and expensive decision of getting rid of a manager, you would expect the board to ensure they hire the right person as a replacement. Instead the choice often seems to be ill considered, with the same faces cropping up again and again as clubs settle for short-term, quick-fix solutions.

If a club doesn't have the financial

muscle to attract a top manager they could take a risk on a young, unproven boss. However, with so much money at stake they will usually prefer to go for a safe pair of hands amongst the usual suspects (the bookmaker's favourites always include the same names – Alan Curbishley, Paul Jewell and David O'Leary - who despite this has been without a job in over three years). At Bolton it looks like Peter Reid will be offered the job purely on the basis he is a popular former player. It is hard to imagine he will be any better in the long-term than Gary Megson.

Sometimes even this route is too

costly, and instead the club will reward the caretaker manager (usually a member of the old coaching staff) for a few good results with the job on a permanent basis. It is hard to think of one of these appointments that has turned out to be successful in the long term – with Ricky Sbragia at Sunderland, Paul Hart at Portsmouth, and Bryan Gunn at Norwich being fired almost as soon as they walked through the door, ready to join the managerial merry-go-round.

Obviously this abundance of hirings and firings rarely helps things, and it is easy to bemoan the trend of badly run clubs, and hard to understand how it can still continue.

However, it is this fascinating backdrop that helps make football so interesting. It is the teams like Manchester City, Newcastle and more recently Notts County that attract the headlines – usually for the wrong reasons. Football is celebrated as 'the beautiful game' but more often than not it is the ugly side of it that we like to talk about.

We can always hope that someone will follow in the footsteps of Manchester United or Arsenal, and build success around stability. But in the meantime we should just accept that this is unlikely to ever happen again, and enjoy watching as another manager leaves Notts County, or as Mike Ashley finds new, more inventive ways of shooting himself in the foot.

The sack race: Premiership managers who didn't see in the New Year



SACKED: Paul Hart



SACKED: Mark Hughes



SACKED: Gary Megson

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Firstly I hope you have all had a good Christmas break, got everything you wanted from Santa and not overdone it too much on the mince pies and mulled wine. It's a new year, a new decade and a new term and if you haven't yet got involved in sport, what better time is there? So if you have made a new year's resolution to get yourself more active, there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved in this coming term. You may be reluctant to get involved because you may feel its too late and there's no room for you. But you couldn't be more wrong. The start of the new year is a great opportunity for new players to get involved in teams or simply have a go at some college sport or recreational leagues. In fact, Refreshers Fair is a great opportunity to kick start that healthy lifestyle. You can check out different clubs and societies and find out how to get involved. That's taking place on Tuesday Week 2 so stick to your resolution and give those cardio vascular muscles a good work out this term.

Talking of New Year's resolutions, I have made one this year which I intend to stick to. My resolution is to completely and convincingly win Roses. I like to think that it's not just my new years resolution, but one which Lancaster University as a whole can share. The only chance we have of winning Roses is if we all pull together, give the support and spirit that is needed for such an event and work as a team, regardless of your department, society, club, faculty, college or friendship groups. I'm not saying you have to suddenly become best buddies with that guy who lives next door, or the girl you sit next to in your seminar group, but we have to be united as a University in our goals, aims and objectives if we want to be triumphant come May bank holiday weekend.

That having been said, I'm already feeling confident that Lancaster students are investing support and dedication into our bid for success and that is being matched by those with the task of organising the event, because we do also want the event as a whole to be successful and not just the result. I'm sure a successful event will lead to a successful result as the pair go hand in hand as far as I'm concerned. If the event is amazing, but we don't get the result we want, we will be disappointed, but if we do win and the event was awful then it's a shallow victory. I think we have the tools and ability to make Roses the biggest and best it's ever been and most importantly of all the most victorious it's been for years for the mighty Lancaster.

Everything still to play for in George Wyatt leagues at halfway point

Nick O'Malley

ALL SIX OF the George Wyatt leagues are still up for grabs after the first term's matches. Some leagues are closer than others with four or five teams battling for top spot in the Men's Darts league and Dominoes. However, Women's Pool has a runaway leader with Bowland opening up a twelve point gap at the halfway mark of the season.

Men's Pool A

The Men's A Pool league sees three teams up at the top; Graduate, Cartmel and Bowland. Graduate are currently leading the way on 58 points, with Cartmel just behind on 56 points, as both teams have won seven of their first eight matches. In third are Bowland, ready to pounce on any mistakes made by the top two. They are just seven off first spot which could be cancelled out with a 7-2 win over Graduate, meaning all is still to play for in the A league.

Prediction: Graduate will be too strong in the final term

Men's Pool B

Elsewhere in the B league, it is even tighter at the top with three teams within three points of each other; Lonsdale, Pendle and Bowland. Lonsdale are currently leading the way on 59 points, but Pendle are just one off top spot on 58, and Bowland a further two behind on 56 points. There is an eleven point gap between 3rd and 4th meaning that realistically the league is between the top three teams.

Prediction: Lonsdale will pick up where they left off

Women's Pool



Out of sight: Bowland lead the way in Women's Pool but can Sarah Garner's Grad team catch up?

In the Women's Pool league, Bowland are runaway leaders on 64 points, having won all eight of their games. There is a twelve point gap to second place Fylde on 52 points. However in third place lie Lonsdale who although are 16 points off top, have a game in hand, and with a big win against County, could close the gap and take second place from Fylde. However Bowland just look too strong this year and could even go the whole season unbeaten.

Prediction: Bowland to win the league in style

Men's Darts

Men's darts is one of the tightest leagues with all five teams having a realistic chance of winning the league. Pendle and Bowland are joint leaders on 58 points with Cartmel just one point behind. Lonsdale are still close on 54, while Furness remains in fifth place with 45 points and a game in hand against Grizedale. Furness won their

last three matches 7-2 and would be expecting a similar scoreline against Grizedale which would put them on par with, or better than Lonsdale. This would mean the darts league could see an amazingly tense last night of the season. Bowland completed their fixtures a week before the other teams, and the other four teams will know what they require to beat them. Furness will play at Grizedale, Lonsdale host County, meanwhile two of the main contenders meet on the final night, with Cartmel playing at Pendle bar.

Prediction: Cartmel to win on the final night

Women's Darts

Women's darts sees County leading the way on 47 points, with Pendle following closely behind on 44. However, it is not just between these two since the other four are close together; Cartmel (40) Fylde (40), Bowland (39) and Furness (38) and all still in contention

if they can put together a good run of results in the final term. Still, County do look the strongest having won all but one of their matches so far.

Prediction: County will be too strong

Dominoes

Although some people regard Dominoes as a game of luck, many colleges employ tactics, and it is taken quite seriously. Furness are currently joint leaders with Lonsdale on 25 points but the former have a game in hand. Just two points behind, on 23, lie Cartmel also with a game in hand and are joint third with Fylde. Finally, with a point off the pace is Bowland on 22 points, so five teams are vying for top spot. It is one of the biggest honours to be had in the George Wyatt league; to be crowned Dominoes Champions.

Prediction: Furness to dominate in the second term

Who will be the biggest sporting success stories in 2010?

<28 Aside from these big teams, there is always a danger from Cristiano Ronaldo, even if the team around him is not up to his level. The Italians always manage to play games at their own pace, whilst Gianluigi Buffon remains the only goalkeeper in the world who can win games for his team, even with penalty shoot-outs. Holland's Sneijder is upping his performances for Inter Milan which will make him a threat wherever he is played on the pitch for Holland. Finally, Michael Ballack, has shown year after year that he is a born leader for the Germany team, and could lead them towards a surprise victory.

England must be capable of dealing with threats from each of these countries, avoiding injuries throughout. Rio Ferdinand has been a doubt and his injuries combined with a lack of match fitness may lead to a hole in defence next to John Terry. Our Goalkeeper situation has been a worry for years and still remains unresolved. The form of both Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard must improve as the season draws to a close, since they both have the potential to win games and dictate play.

However, key aspects for England this tournament will be Rooney performing the role of goal scorer and provider, the former of which he has sacrificed on previous occasions for the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo. In addition, Capello with his calm tactics and work on set pieces, may be the essential point for England overcoming past demons.

World Cup Prediction: Spain will be passing circles around the other teams, and scoring for fun.

Formula One

THE FORMULA 1 season starts on March 14th, with the Bahrain Grand

Prix and there are bound to be many surprises this year. Lewis Hamilton, joined at McLaren by Jenson Button, is the early pre-season favourite according to bookies, but with long odds of (3/1) it is very much anyone's year. The focus of all the off-season reports have been regarding Michael Schumacher, at 41 years old, returning to the sport. As probably the greatest driver of all time, there is no doubt that joining the Mercedes (previously Brawn) team with his fellow German Nico Rosberg, will be one to watch. Ross Brawn, the established head of the team and former technical director, and Schumacher were a phenomenal team together, winning titles at Benetton and Ferrari. If the team can again manage to create a strong some package, as they did last year, the two Germans could dominate this season.

However, most likely the young drivers with quick reactions will be

successful this year. Lewis Hamilton has broken the record of being the youngest world champion only three years after Fernando Alonso managed the same. The age has gone from 25 (Schumacher, 1994) to 24 (Alonso, 2005) and finally 23 (Hamilton, 2008). Now it may be time for the even younger Sebastian Vettel at Red Bull, to continue this pattern. He finished second in the Championship last year, and could break Hamilton's record this year, by five months. Even though the cars have not been seen yet, it will no doubt be an incredible season for the Formula One fans, who are now getting the full excitement back into the sport.

Formula 1 Prediction: Sebastian Vettel will fearlessly emerge over all his elder competitors much like Hamilton did a few years ago.

Time for a sporting makeover

Robert Payling Sports Editor



By my calendar I make it 2010, in China it is soon to be the year 4707, but in the world of sport the year remains stuck somewhere in the 1940s. Just like a cheesy American diner franchise where the year always stays the same, sport continues to work on its own timeline.

I say this because there are still unresolved issues in sport that should have been stamped out in previous decades. There is still racism and sexism; there is still homophobia and widespread oppression, yet there is no sign of any change ahead.

There still seems to be a persona that sports people have to adopt in order to compete in their respective fields. Whether it is to please supporters, managers, or even sponsors to create the perfect image of what a sportsperson should be.

Revolting against such a persona can lead to controversy and disaster. The tragic case of Justin Fashanu remains one of sport's most horrifying examples of how people are treated if they rebel against the image required of them.

Fashanu decided to come out in

1990 and his career suffered badly for it. However, even before his admission he received condemnation from those closest to him. During a spell at Nottingham Forest during the early 80s, managed by Brian Clough at the time, rumours started to appear that Fashanu was gay.

When Clough learnt of Fashanu's sexuality he humiliated him in front of his team mates and banned him from training with the squad. He became an outcast at the club, lacked the support of those around him, and made a swift exit.

He went on to look for employment at a number of clubs but struggled at each of them. When Fashanu sadly committed suicide in 1998 he spoke not of pride, but embarrassment. A truly brave individual felt unable to live the life he wished to lead because he didn't fit the mould made for a footballer.

Following his death it was hoped there would be a change in the perception of sportspersons who differed from the stereotypical masculine athletes of the past. However, top level athletes still seem frightened to admit to being different to the image required of them.



Tragic suicide: Robert Enke

The former Wales and British Lions Rugby player Gareth Thomas waited until he was 35 to come out publicly. As a player he has achieved great success, he became the first Welsh player to re-

ceive 100 caps and he is the country's second highest try scorer in history.

His admission was made so that younger generations of gay rugby players would not feel the pressure he felt to keep his sexuality secret. Thankfully, the Rugby community embraced his admission. His present and former coaches backed him and he was applauded at his next match for Cardiff Blues.

The question remained though, would Thomas have been given the chance to have achieved so much if he had come out 10 or 15 years ago? Probably not, but if so then perhaps Rugby could have got the monkey off its back a lot sooner.

The most shocking part of Thomas' admission was that he contemplated suicide in the past. Thus, the fear of being made an outcast still loomed over the figure.

Such fear was shown again through the tragic story of footballer Robert Enke's suicide last year. How a man married with children, at the top of his sport, and set to star as Germany's number one goalkeeper at this year's World Cup could take his own life was impossible to understand for most peo-

ple. For his wife the answer was simple: her husband suffered from depression.

Enke had suffered from the condition for six years before his passing, his wife knew of his problems but those who looked in from the outside knew nothing. Enke's story should not be unfamiliar though, mental illness has been present in society and sport for many years. The problem is the outdated public perception of the illness.

One only has to think back to how Frank Bruno was appallingly treated when it was revealed he suffered from bipolar disorder. The front page branding of the boxer as 'bonkers' exemplified the outdated view of society on issues they would rather have belittled than understood.

Hindsight is a great thing for those who use it properly. Unfortunately, the sporting world still seems unable to reflect on the mistakes that have been made in the past and take the much needed steps to eradicate the negative stereotypes in sport.

As 2010 begins and we venture in to a new decade of sporting history, let's hope sports governing bodies and supporters alike make those steps to help remove taboos from sport

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Who will be the biggest sporting success stories in 2010?



SCAN Sports Editor Julian Surface predicts what to expect in sport this year

Wimbledon

THE BEGINNING OF the New Year brings with a great sense of anticipation for the upcoming sporting events. The Premiership is building up to a great climax, where no one can really make a sure-fire prediction whether Arsenal, Manchester United, or Chelsea will win it. Just as unpredictable is the Champions League, with all the top teams still in the competition.

The tennis at Wimbledon begins on the 21st of June. It is where Roger Federer last year fought back to regain his crown and broke Pete Sampras' record, with his 15th grand slam title.

The Swiss, widely dubbed as the greatest of all time, will be determined to prove his ability is not deteriorating despite reaching the tender age of 28. His worry might be that Andy Murray can finally start performing up to his ability in grand slam tournaments and may pull off an upset. Although yet to win a slam, Wimbledon was Murray's most impressive result last year, as he reached the semi-finals only to be edged out by Andy Roddick.

It is difficult for confidence to build for British fans, with the likes of Del Potro winning the US Open and the sleeping giant Novak Djokovic always a potential threat. Moreover, Rafael

Nadal is returning from injury and will surely be back to his energetic and determined self, which is likely to be too much for Murray. Nadal has the potential, not only to win Wimbledon, but to overthrow Federer and establish himself as the best in the world again.

Wimbledon Prediction: Roger Federer will show his professionalism throughout the competition and at his best, should be too good for his rivals.

World Cup

THE WORLD CUP is kicking off on the 11th of June and predictions are easy to come by from all those with national pride. However, when we look realistically at what threats are out there,

it is going to require more than some Wayne Rooney flair and magic to earn us the trophy.

Aside from a somewhat easy group stage including USA, Algeria and Slovenia, the other national squads are seemingly brimming with more confidence and ability. Brazil have always been the greatest threat and the unnamed favourites for every competition. Kaka has been producing his own vintage form this season, despite spending a month on the sidelines, for Real Madrid and at 27, he is as close to his peak as possible. As a playmaker he will always dictate play and be the greatest threat on the pitch. His quick paced running off the ball as well as with it makes him one of the key threats in Brazil's arsenal.

Spain is ranked at the top and with good reason. Fernando Torres and

David Villa would be the strike force that would intimidate any defence. Although Torres has not been able to perform consistently this season, due to injury, for club and country Villa has been in incredible form, scoring four in five games for Valencia, and 15 goals out of 18 games for Valencia. With supply, from the vast selection of Xavi, Iniesta, Xabi Alonso, and Fabregas all players who can place 40 yard pinpoint passes, goals will be easy for Spain to come by.

Argentina will be aching for a result this year after some frustration in the qualifying. However, no matter what mistakes were made, Maradona must be proud with his player of the year, Lionel Messi, and free-goal scoring Carlos Tevez. The two will be key for this campaign and if they play well together, may form dangerous partnership.

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League tables

Carter Shield

Tuesday, January 12 2010

		Pts
1	Fylde	53.0
=	Grizedale	53.0
2	Bowland	38.0
=	Lonsdale	38.0
3	County	35.0
4	Cartmel	29.0
5	Pendle	15.0
6	Furness	12.0
7	Graduate	3.0

George Wyatt Cup

Tuesday, January 12 2010

		Pts
1	Bowland	290
2	Lonsdale	253
3	Pendle	249
4	Cartmel	229
5	Furness	228
6	County	213
7	Fylde	194
8	Graduate	185
9	Grizedale	158

Quick crossword no 12,113



Across

- 5 Small avian nectar-eater (11)
- 7 Sanctimonious person (4)
- 8 Sudden disastrous failure (of nuclear reactor) (8)
- 9 Guaranty – authorisation to make an arrest (7)
- 11 Speed and rhythm (5)
- 13 Change to suit circumstances (5)
- 14 Farewell (7)
- 16 Fighting ship (3-2-3)
- 17 Substance burned to source power (4)
- 18 See-through (11)

Down

- 1 Overly complacent (4)
- 2 Carbon gemstone (7)
- 3 Nimble (5)
- 4 Convolvulus (8)
- 5 Rigidly applied (4-3-4)
- 6 Deposit towards a purchase (4,7)
- 10 Admonition – rap lover (anag) (8)
- 12 Coarse rug for wiping shoes at entrance (7)

- 15 Wind spirally (5)
- 17 Run away from (4)

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Solution no 12,112

