



Apocalypse Now

Poppy Goodbrand explores the end of the world as we know it
Features, page 20-21

scan

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 3, Lent Term, Tuesday 26th January, 2010

Battleground set as NUS launch campaign ahead of General Election



- **'Vote for Students' website to be most effective tool ever used by NUS**
- **Idea is to increase awareness amongst students before May**
- **LUSU President endorses national campaign**

Collette McColgan
Lauren Hirst

MONDAY 1ST FEBRUARY will see the National Union of Students launch its campaign to raise awareness of the general election to students across the UK. Student awareness is seen as crucial at this time, considering the impending review on tuition fees and funding by Lord Browne, and the public perception of the three major parties.

The NUS will also launch its website 'Vote for Students', with the aim to inform students, increase interest,

and get them to pledge to use their vote and have their voices heard.

This website is expected to be the biggest campaign tool that NUS has ever used to increase student interest in a General Election, and hopes to achieve a greater student reaction than previous elections.

NUS President, Wes Streeting, who was a guest speaker at this year's LUSU Winter Officer Conference, spoke of how the website would include details of all the candidates standing for election in the constituencies representing all UK students' unions. He went on to explain how the website would list whether these candidates were in favour of or against the proposed raise in fees and cuts to the Higher Education budget.

The last term has seen Lancaster lead the way of other students' unions in its campaign against the proposed raise in tuition fees, the 'Fairer fees and funding campaign.' Due to students high involvement with the campaign, Lancaster students successfully got the local Conservative MP Ben Wallace to sign a pledge to say that he would vote against an increase of fees, under the current system.

At the Winter Officer Confer-

ence, Streeting spoke to SCAN of his concerns that most of the MPs signing pledges are Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs, and very few are Conservative – this could pose problems because of the increase in popularity of the Conservative Party in recent opinion polls.

"If every student registers on NUS's new general election website and uses it to make an informed decision – the seven million students in the UK together with their families will be political force able to pin politicians down on key issues seriously affecting them before the vote."
-Michael Payne, LUSU President

Streeting also spoke about "mobilising" the student population to turn out to vote in the election and make a vital difference, and was also keen to stress that students must be prepared to make their views clear to MPs if they were to be successful in their ob-

jectives.

In a blog on the NUS website, Streeting restated his opinion that he wanted the NUS to stand together with University leaders and Trade Unions to contest the expected raise in fees and cuts in budgets.

The campaign by the NUS also intends to stress importance of the student vote in the current situation of government. Many opinion polls are suggesting that the election later this year will result in a hung parliament, and that a coalition may need to be formed. With this in mind, the student vote has never been so important.

In a move to mirror that of the NUS, it is likely that the current 'Fairer fees and funding campaign' led by the students' union will develop into a campaign that will attempt to encourage student participation in the general election.

Michael Payne, LUSU President spoke about the campaign saying that the focus will be more being informed about voting, rather than students just using their votes. "The 2010 general election will be the first in decades where mass mobilisation of students can be a significant influence on the

final result," he said.

"If every student registers on NUS's new general election website and uses it to make an informed decision – the seven million students in the UK together with their families will be political force able to pin politicians down on key issues seriously affecting them before the vote."

He also spoke about how he intended to invite the parliamentary candidates for Lancaster and Fleetwood constituency onto campus for a Question Time style debate.

He also hoped that the campaign might attract the attention of government ministers, possibly resulting in visits to the University.

The importance of the student vote was shown in the last general election, in 2005. Most students voted Liberal Democrats in this election – two thirds of all students voted in the last election, and this turnout played a significant role in cities with large student populations.

The main issue influencing student votes at the last general election was higher education, influencing 43% of students, demonstrating the vital importance of the student vote and the pivotal effect it can have.

Preaching to the disengaged

Postgraduate and international students make up a large portion of Lancaster's population. But is the university and LUSU doing enough to involve them?

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I think those involved with the Students' Union and to some degree, senior management at the University would agree that not enough is done to engage postgraduate and international students.

The number of students that fall into those two banners is staggering. Yet, facilities and events are rarely catered to their needs.

Graduate College has shown signs of improvement in the past year. Their events such as the summer party and masquerade ball had enormous appeal to members of the international community as well as postgraduates.

The GSA (Graduate Students' Association) has also adjusted and changed to better meet the demands of those they are elected to represent. The new position of off-campus social secretary should become absolutely vital to enhancing ties between those who reside in town and those that live on campus. For students living away from Grad Bar and the college environment it is very difficult to generate an emotional

attachment and far easier to alienate yourself and focus on studies.

A major problem is that many postgraduates are simply not interested in getting involved in university life. For many, they have already lived the student life as an undergraduate and now, faced with crippling debts and personal financial burden have to focus on their degrees in order to protect their futures.

At the start of last term, LUSU ran a very prominent campaign to support the GSA to try and encourage involvement. As a postgraduate myself, I was convinced if we made the effort then we would get the results we wanted. However, the week went badly and participation appeared to drop off somewhat in the college as a whole compared to last year. This ultimately manifested itself in a sterile set of elections which generated little buzz, had numerous uncontested positions and left the GSA still requiring a President half-way into the term.

For international students, they

face a similar problem. As an institution I think it is fair to say we fall into a broad brush approach of categorising the international community as one. To compensate distinctions are made between EU students and non-EU but that is usually only for reasons regarding how much money they should be paying to be here in the first place.

There is nothing I would dislike more if I was studying in another country to be referred to as an international student whose needs were the same as someone from Germany, Venezuela or New Zealand.

I appreciate the difficulty in resources both in LUSU and the university but surely there needs to be a wider appreciation of the constituent bodies which make up our thriving international community at Lancaster.

There should be more creative thought and discussion between active members of international orientated societies to comprehend what we are not doing well enough and where we are failing. I personally do not think

there is enough dialogue and that is unacceptable.

There are some positive moves being made however. The LUSU VP EWD is currently looking at starting a Mahjong league specifically aimed at engaging Chinese students. Okay, the idea may not work but at least there is some creative thinking going on in this area to give reason for optimism.

I think it is a great pity that these two communities are somewhat neglected at Lancaster University and are not given the attention they deserve. Their personal student experience is suffering, and I believe the common factor is exorbitant fees quite simply. Obviously, cultural and social factors have to be taken into account, and there is no doubting a different calibre of student originates from that of the undergraduate community.

The current situation with higher education fees and funding means that we soon could have an entire disengaged community at Lancaster should fees rise. I for one, hope not.

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Learning Zone draws line under problems with official opening

- Sir Alan Langlands unveils special plaque
- JCR Presidents old and new attend ceremony

Lauren Hirst

ON FRIDAY 15TH January, over 70 guests were invited to the official opening of the state of the art Learning Zone, which had opened its doors to Lancaster students three months previous.

Sabbatical officers, JCR presidents old and new and University Directors were among those invited to the event hosted by Vice-Chancellor, Paul Wellings. At 9:15, guests arrived at the £3 million Learning Zone, which is situated in Alexandra Square, for registration and refreshments. Wellings welcomed everyone to the celebrations and promptly handed over to Amanda Chetwynd, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Colleges and Student Experience, who highlighted the transformation of the university in to a world class institution. Chetwynd also discussed how the Learning Zone was created in partnership with the students from the starting point.

Chetwynd commented, "Students told us that we have good, quiet spaces but they would like places where they could work in groups, areas to practise presentations, where they could work with a cup of coffee, with comfortable seating and wi-fi - and so we set up a group to design such a space".

The stage was then handed over to



A learning curve: Despite some problems since opening to students in September it was all smiles on Friday 15th January at the official opening ceremony, presided over by Sir Alan Langlands, HEFCE Chief Executive (pictured third from left)

Sir Alan Langlands FRSE, Chief Executive of HEFCE (the Higher Education Funding Council for England), who unveiled a plaque inside the Learning Zone to commemorate the official opening of the open plan learning space.

Langlands said, "I see this as a University that is fizzing with innovative ideas and which is very conscious of its responsibilities towards students with this high quality Learning Zone. What is especially well done is the combination of access to online resources

backed by highly motivated teaching staff and students."

The event ended around 10:30 with a few closing remarks from Wellings and an opportunity for guests to take a tour around the facility with celebratory refreshments.

Luke Anderson, Furness JCR President, commented "From aesthetics to technology, I think that the Learning Zone is very well-suited to working in groups, catching up on readings or seeing ISS. It did disturb the centre of campus and exams at the time

and some students see it as a waste of money that could possibly be spent differently but as it is functioning – despite the flooding- it has helped a lot of students".

LUSU President, Michael Payne, also attended the official opening, and told LU Text: "A 24/7 flexible space where students can study, socialise and relax is a massive welcome and it puts students right at the heart of campus and shows that the University is investing in their experience."

A first year History student, Sam

Georgiou, said "It's pretty good in there to be honest. It's a great place to get some work done and it is certainly a lot more comfy to do work in there than it is in the library. I know there have been a few problems with it but generally it gives a refreshing change as you have more options rather than just the library".

Over the past three years, Lancaster University has invested £3 million on new teaching, residential and social facilities creating the university into a world class institution achieving international recognition for the quality of its teaching with 92% of its research being recognised of an international standard. The university is ranked in the top 200 of universities in the world as well as being ranked number one in the North West beating high competition from its neighbours, Manchester and Liverpool Universities.

Despite the continuous refurbishments and construction of new facilities over the past three years such as the Grizedale social space, and a revamp of County South and Faraday Lecture Theatre, there is still more campus developments to come. The next two years will see the construction of the £20 million sports centre as well as a new hub for the Lancaster Institute for Contemporary Arts that will act at the public face for the LICA groups. Several refurbishment schemes will commence on Alexandra Square, the University underpass and both Bowland College and bar, transforming their current appearance into a modern facility. Also, several landscape improvements are underway from a new secure cycle shelters to electric BBQ stations with sinks and lighting.

LUSU budget cuts having major effect on welfare provisions

Chris Housden

THE INTRODUCTORY TERM of the 2009/10 LUSU budget has made a significant impression on Equality, Welfare and Diversity officers as a large budget cut takes its toll.

The budget, drafted at the end of last year by LUSU President Michael Payne, brought in a radical reorganization of the funding available to different sabbatical remits. The Education, Welfare and Diversity (EWD) funding became the largest casualty by far, incurring a 26% cut. The reorganization of funds also rearranged the manner in which money becomes available, placing the funds into a single EWD reserve which Vice President (EWD) Torri Crapper can organise amongst her part-time officers. The proposed budget passed at Union Council with very little opposition.

Crapper has experienced both positive and negative effects as a result of the changes. She has maintained since the budget was announced that the cuts were a detrimental move.



Cut to the quick: VP EWD Torri Crapper has struggled following cuts to budget

The decrease is particularly relevant in EWD, she argued, when "we are only in the second semester and I have a seriously depleted budget, with officers who want to run campaigns within their own colleges and across campus which I will be unable to fund [...] I have no right to dampen their enthusiasm for these campaigns which they believe are important to their students, but facilitating for so many campaigns with such a limited budget has had a huge effect."

She added: "I've only got £600 worth of my budget left for this academic year... people are asking me if I have enough money, and I think that's proving that I don't."

However, Crapper agrees she has gained control and focus over her remit because of the way for which funding is now applied. The principle of funding being allocated by the EWD Council to proposed campaigns and causes has been generally praised, with Vice Presi-

dent (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies) Andy Johnston reasoning at the time that "committees are where you get the flow of ideas."

The decrease in the amount of campaigns the EWD officers can run this year awkwardly coincides with a growing student response to the area. Chaz Ginn, Liberation Campaigns Officer, remarked that the cut is hardly ideal given "the positive increase in students attending EWD conferences; perhaps most notably sending delegates to the NUS BME conference."

Ginn feels that funding student attendance to conferences and events is a critical area that could suffer and suggested that alternative solutions, including an additional conference reserve, could be considered. The LGBTQ officers, attempting to cope with the largest specific cut, have had to apply to other reserves simply to pay for all their officers to be able to attend conferences.

A prevailing fear is that further areas under the EWD remit could suffer similar drawbacks, leading to failing officer effectiveness and an inability to run new initiatives. Newly-elected Wel-

fare Campaigns Officer Pete Macmillan reinforced this concern. "The budget cut could impact me in the future with campaigns such as BullyProof since large sums of the budget have been spent on other campaigns," he said.

Despite the budget cuts remaining a contentious issue, the principle of funds being placed in a reserve managed by the relevant sabbatical officers and their councils has been widely received as successful. "It empowers individuals and groups of students, as they can now request any amount of money, within reason and constraints, to initiate campaigns" Ginn reflected.

The consensus appears to be, however, that there is work still to be done. The largest concern remains centred around misrepresenting, or failing to represent, the student body. Crapper argues that "with so many officers, all of which support students directly, we do need a larger budget," something with which Macmillan fervently agrees. "When [budget cuts] impact on the welfare and equality rights of our students, I feel we have lost our way as a Students' Union," he said.

Illegal downloading the dominant issue for University Dean

- **Majority of 54 cases dealt with at highest level regard copyright infringement**
- **A quiet year overall for the College Deans**
- **Alternative punishments to fining have been considered in past**
- **ISS have attempted to publicise its download monitoring system**

Sam Newsham
Stephen Ashby
Bryony Gannaway

THE NUMBER OF students caught downloading copyrighted material continues to rise despite increased publicity from ISS.

Of the 54 disciplinary cases handled so far this year by the University Dean, Dr Matt Storey, the majority have been copyright infringement.

"Copyright infringement is the bulk of our workload at the moment, unfortunately," said Storey. "I would very much like to not have to deal with it."

Following the relaxation of campus residence networks two years ago ISS began monitoring downloads. Before this students living on campus were unable to use facilities such as Skype and video conferencing. However, this release has allowed a noticeable increase in illegal downloads.

"[We wanted] to give students a better experience; there's no reason why they shouldn't have the ability to do things like video conferencing," said Storey. "[Unfortunately] when you allow that you open up the network so you can communicate using traceable mechanisms."

"Copyright infringement is the bulk of our workload at the moment, unfortunately. I would very much like to not have to deal with it."
-Matt Storey, University Dean

Over the last two years ISS has attempted to publicise the dangers of illegal downloading, most notably through ResNet agreements. It has also been possible to identify students most likely to download illegally, especially some international students who come from countries with different copyright laws to the UK. ISS has worked with the International Students' Advisory Service to raise awareness of British laws.

"We are trying to get the informa-

tion out there but it would appear that we're not being very successful," Storey commented.

Student opinion of ISS's copyright campaign is mixed, ranging from "It is an invasion of privacy. [I'm] not sure if that is really any of their business" to "If there is illegal activity on campus they should have the right to deal with it as they see fit. As long as you are innocent this isn't a problem."

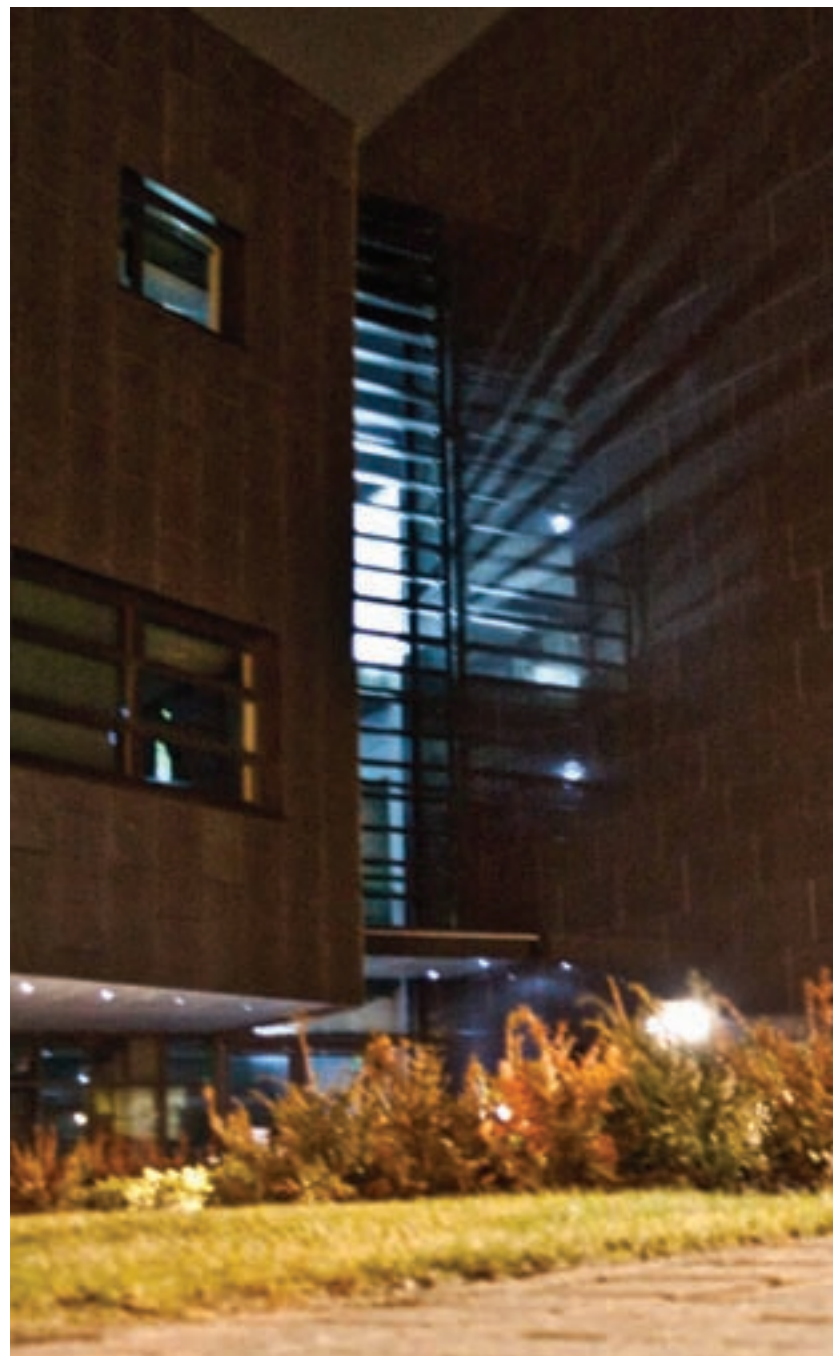
Some students were extremely vocal in their disapproval of the idea of the university spying on Internet usage. One fourth-year economics student said that "they have better things to do with their time, like improving student welfare."

Storey stressed that although the university has a legal duty to monitor Internet use this is only to ensure compliance with the network's Acceptable Use Policy.

"We monitor activity in the way that we have to to provide the service that we do," he said. "We certainly don't go looking around in anyone's private correspondence. That's nothing to do with us."

Other than the large number of copyright infringement cases, the year has been relatively quiet in terms of discipline. Overall university figures show similar or, for some colleges, fewer cases requiring intervention from college or university deans.

As University Dean, Storey only becomes involved in a disciplinary case if it is especially severe or involves students from several col-



Technical support: The new home for ISS is where issues such as illegal downloading

leges. The majority of disciplinary work is carried out within colleges

by the College Dean and Assistant Deans. The most frequent causes

Pendle search for new President following resignation shock

Chris Housden

JUST TWO WEEKS into their new term of office, six college JCRs across campus are having to hold by-elections for various officers.

The voting for college by-elections will open at 2pm on Thursday Week Four and close at 2pm the next day, meaning the simultaneous collegiate elections will coincide neatly with the LUSU elections for new NUS delegates. The relative proximity of the voting does mean that the colleges looking to fill JCR positions have already opened nominations; nominations will close in Week Three, between Tuesday and Thursday depending upon the college.

The fact that six colleges out of nine are calling by-elections can be defined by two causes. Regrettably, some officers have had to resign for personal reasons, admittedly ill-fated given the number of students who have been so affected this year. The more pressing issue appears to be that many roles were simply not



Position vacant: A number of colleges have unfilled JCR positions

run for by any students last term, leaving them unfilled and forcing the college and the other officers of the relevant JCRs to facilitate the vacancies as best

they could, co-opting people into maintaining the positions until a by-election could be called.

With a campus-wide drive for elections to be publicised this term, the hope is that students will get more involved. Robin Hughes, President and Acting-Chair for Grad College, said "I'm hopeful that many people will think that this is something they might be interested in, and nominate themselves".

Nominations and interest are certainly being driven hard this term. Not only are the colleges displaying their regular sign up lists for people to nominate themselves or other potential officers in the traditional way, but technology is also playing a large role.

LUSU Democracy have set up an online e-nomination scheme as a pilot venture for students to be further informed of the by-elections, and JCRs are taking it upon themselves to promote the events through Facebook groups. The colleges and positions being voted on in Week Four are as follows: in County College the positions of Webmaster and Magazine Editor for 'Pendragon' are

open, given that they were unfilled because of a lack of nominees running for them. Until now, the two positions have been co-opted to maintain them until the by-election. Bowland College are looking for people to run for the position of Treasurer after a resignation for personal reasons.

Furness College needs to fill three positions, taking nominations for a Male Education and Welfare officer as well as two Social Secretaries who have to run as a pair. These officer positions remained unfilled after the Week Eight elections; although as a college Furness has since co-opted people into the positions to maintain a certain order.

Pendle need students to run for the role of President of the JCR, after personal reasons saw the nominee elected in Week Eight step down. In Cartmel, the Female Sports Secretary became the most recent position to be opened, with the resignation of the previous position holder for personal reasons on Monday Week Two. The nominations were swiftly opened and they voting will run to coincide with the other colleges.

Graduate College were also affected by a lack of nominees in last term's elections, leaving the positions of Part Time Post-Graduate Taught Representative and Vice-President for Sports and Activities open. The position of Vice President for Democracy, Diversity and Inclusion, which reflects the roles of Chair and welfare officers from a JCR model, is also open for nominations after a resignation for personal reasons.

The resignations, while all understandable and justified, have not been easy to facilitate for the fledgling JCRs, just a fortnight into their terms of office. Carly Schult, the new Pendle Chair, commented that "the person now standing to run for elections will have no point of call from our president this year". The changeover period in that occurs in the first term of the year after Week Eight elections has been missed out on by anyone stepping into a position in the upcoming by-elections. Perhaps more importantly, Schult stated: "the training received in Winter Officer Conference week was vital and it would have been helpful if the President attended".



are monitored and passed on to the University Dean where appropriate (Photo: Ben Robins)

of a disciplinary investigation in all colleges are noise, damage to university property and fire equipment and smoking.

Procedure for beginning and carrying out an investigation can vary slightly from college to college. Generally, however, incidents are reported to the College Dean by the porters or the College Office and then subsequently investigated by Assistant Deans. Meetings between the students involved and the Dean are held to establish the particulars of a case and, if necessary, a disciplinary hearing is called.

"An offence need not be serious before it becomes a hearing," said Dr Steve Dempster, Dean of County College. "A hearing is called if there is a clear indication that a breach of university regulations has occurred."

A decision is then taken on whether a penalty, usually in the form of a fine, should be imposed.

"If a fine is deemed appropriate, mitigation expressed by the student and steps taken by the perpetrator to make good to those he or she has harmed is always taken into account in the level of fine levied," said Dempster. He added that the majority of students are willing to be held accountable for their actions and few take up their right of appeal to the University Dean.

Storey agreed, saying "A lot of people respond very well to knowing that something was taken care of in the case and that the people who perpetrated it didn't realise it was [so] serious."

Where a penalty is incurred, fines of up to £250 - £300 for tampering with fire equipment - can be given. Financial penalties are by far the most common, through Storey said that the university is "always on the lookout for a different mechanism." A community service scheme in conjunction with LUVU had been discussed in the past but had to be put aside due to the complexity of organisation and health and safety issues.

One of the most important roles in the security of residences and those living within them is that of the porters. Often responsible for instigating the disciplinary procedure by reporting incidents to college Assist-

ant Deans, porters deal with a wide range of problems, from lost keys to fire alarms being set off.

One porter, who wished to remain anonymous, drew attention to a recent article in the Lancaster Guardian which praised Lancaster University for having some of the best campus security in the country. He explained that the porters patrol the colleges regularly to check that everything is safe, and that the role of the porter is simply to help the students.

"If there is illegal activity on campus they should have the right to deal with it as they see fit. As long as you are innocent this isn't a problem."
-Anonymous Student

"There can be quiet nights, and there can be nights where we go out on patrol at midnight and don't come back for hours because there is so much happening," said another porter.

Porters are trained in basic first aid, but one porter said that if there was a first aid problem on campus they would immediately call the

nurse unit and tell the on-call nurse to attend. This is not only a safer option for the student, but the safer option legally for the porters in case anything were to go wrong. In extreme cases an ambulance would be called and it would then be the porter's responsibility to direct the crew to the necessary location.

Although most common situations require just a letter from the Dean and a report from the porter, more serious cases can necessitate a call to security or even the police becoming involved.

There is a police officer permanently posted on campus and there are always three security guards ready to help when necessary. More serious cases that have occurred include a drunk student driving a car directly at a porter and two students running round campus setting off fire alarms in the early hours of the mornings.

However, such incidents are rare, and when they do happen they are dealt with swiftly. The porters' main concern is with the welfare of the students. "It boils down to teamwork; it's about the porters' relationship with security, and it works well," said one member of the team.



Teamwork: The College porters and security lodge have a good relationship which means incidents are dealt with efficiently (Photo: Ben Robins)

Big headliners gear up for second Lancaster Loves festival

Luka Vujicic

THE BUILD UP to this year's first Lancaster Loves festival has already kicked in around the university campus. Scheduled for Thursday Week Three at the Sugarhouse, students and those involved with the event express a shared optimism that Lancaster Loves' Chase and Status DJ set will be a success.

The line up includes the likes of Chase and Status with MC Rage playing the headline, Ash Howell, Stylus DJs and Hear No Evil DJs. Dan O'Donnell, also known as D.O.D. (Dirty Dan) who founded and organised Lancaster Loves, promises that such a line-up will deliver a mixture of Deep House and Techno situated in the club's front room, with Dubstep, Drum & Bass, House, Techno and Breaks in the main room of the club.

In addition to the line up, the likes of T.C. - the original artist of the track 'Where's My Money' - will be performing, as well as Dan who has



Love is in the air: Big name acts such as Chase and Status will ensure the event delivers a mixture of Deep House and Techno for eager Lancaster music fans on Thursday Week 3 (Photo: Dan O'Donnell)

been signed to Gash Digital, giving the ticket holders something extra to look forward to.

Much of the optimism has arisen

from the amount to tickets already sold for Thursday night. O'Donnell said: "Ticket sales have already been a definite success... last term most tick-

ets were bought within the week of the night, but we've already sold around seven hundred tickets."

Simba, who supported last term's Lancaster Loves and will perform again this coming Thursday echoed this, speaking last week: "When you consider the amount of tickets already bought, next week will be a massive success."

Lancaster Loves, being the first festival dedicated to electronic music in Lancaster is helping transform the town's music scene. It proved to be "an amazing and memorable night," according to Pendle College first year, Adam Poole.

However, there was the feeling that it could have been more commercial. The choice to headline with the music of Chase and Status, an electro production duo from London, will allow this year's Lancaster Loves appeal to a broader range of audience.

Chase and Status are considered borderline underground and mainstream artists. Furthermore, with their music on the BBC Radio One playlist,

it is plausible to see how people, including Jack Davidson, the admin of this term's Lancaster Loves Facebook group, agree that "2010 is all about Chase and Status."

Unfortunately the after-party which was scheduled to take place from 4am-7am following the main event will no longer take place. Despite the town Bars' 24 hour licensing, no agreement was made to where the after-party would take place, and as campus bars are not as malleable in terms of opening hours, it will not be held on campus.

Andy Johnston, LUSU VP (FEDS), explained the reasoning behind the decision to not hold the after-party on campus. "We are part of a community at Lancaster University, we have to respect the welfare of the few thousand people whose residences are on the campus, and there are some things we just can't do," he said.

However, the Sugarhouse will still be open from 9pm until 4am for the event, and Johnston is certain that the event will be a "great night."

NEWS

Colleges combine for improved cross-campus social calendar

Yasmin Spracklen

FRIDAY WEEK TWO saw the return of a decade-themed 'Friday Fury', continuing in its success from previous terms. With Comedy Nights every other week this term, and numerous events on the social calendar, it is clear that the newly elected social officers are more than prepared to go above and beyond to provide students with a variety of entertainment.

Andy Johnston, the LUSU Vice-President for Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies said: "The social secretaries from all the colleges have been fantastic in creating their term calendars, and every college has a great line-up."

Johnston confirmed that the Socials and Events Group have many more cross campus socials planned for the rest of the Lent term, as well as a Campus Hunt and a few more large-scale socials that are currently being kept under wraps.

Matt Windsor, the Chair of the Social and Events Group, revealed, however, that there will be a campus-wide talent show with grand prizes for the winners later this year. The event will be open to everyone, and the finals will be hosted in the Sugarhouse. "If anyone has a performance that they think is worthy and they're up for a challenge then keep your ears and eyes out for more information coming soon," said Windsor.

Although multiple socials in the same evening was previously thought to cause too many clashes, this term the Socials and Events Group plan to have many different and varied socials both on and off campus, in order to provide as much choice as possible for students. "There is a lot to get involved in," said Johnston.

Windsor was also keen to stress that the events of last year were only the beginning, although they were extremely successful. Windsor admitted, "A few were less publicised than usual because a lot of our attention was focused on the fees and funding campaign."

The Comedy Nights in particular have been a huge success, with Cartmel bar filled with students every other Thursday night enjoying the great acts provided by the Socials and Events Group, who are planning to build upon the success and attract more famous and widely-acclaimed acts. James Hayward, a first year from Pendle College said, "I thoroughly enjoy the Comedy Nights – I think it's great that they have created regular sources of entertainment around the campus." The cheap tickets have also attributed towards its popularity - Windsor remarked, "We have to ensure that we're offering a really good Thursday night at a good price, whatever the acts."

A large amount of the successes of recent campus events can be put down to the formation of the Social and Events Group, in 2008. The Social and Events Group replaced the Joint JCR Social Committee, so that cross-campus socials could be organised more effectively.

Rumble in the jungle awaits marathon pair

Steve Feekins

TWO LANCASTER UNIVERSITY students have signed up to what is regarded by some as 'the most dangerous race on earth' to raise money for charity.

Richard Baron and Phil Harvey will undertake a gruelling 222km (140 mile) six-stage race through the Amazon rainforest in Brazil. The marathon takes place in extremely difficult conditions of around 35° heat and 80-90% humidity, with the contestants also having to deal with some interesting wildlife. They will be given various anti-venoms to deal with the dangerous local snakes, poison dart tree frogs and spiders, whilst also carrying approximately 15kg of equipment including food, water and first-aid packs.

The pair will put up with all of this and more in October of this year to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Kidney Research UK, charities that they both have personal links with.

Baron said the idea for joining the race came from an interview with the Royal Marines.

"They said that they look for applicants who had sought after an extreme physical challenge. I got back from the interview and typed in on Google 'hardest races on earth' and that popped up. Me and Phil had previously discussed that we'd like to go to the Amazon one day."

In order to pass his Royal Marines tests, Richard had been unable to rest a long-standing ankle injury and as a result will be on crutches for a month. He says that training will begin in earnest in a few months' time.

"Phil will be starting soon, and after the month's rest, I will begin cycling, rowing and swimming. Hopefully we'll be fully getting into it in around 8 weeks or so, we're both relatively fit anyway."

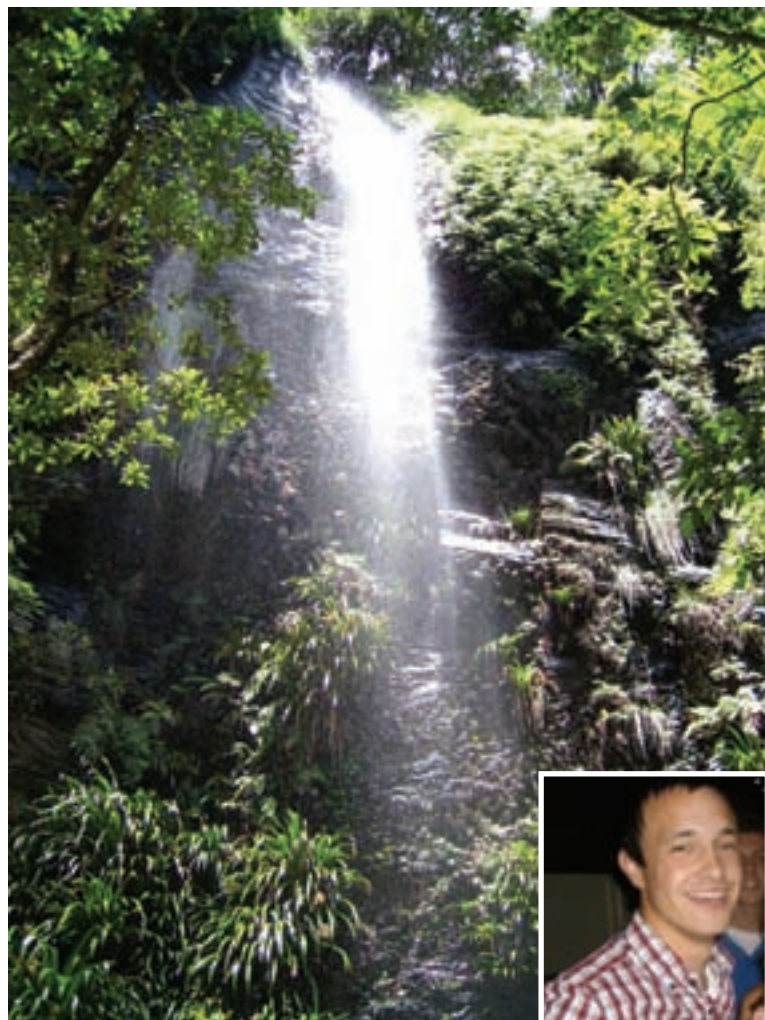
At the height of their training, Baron and Harvey will be looking to run up to 100 miles a week and will be hoping to incorporate the sand dunes in Morecambe and Formby into their training regime.

Pressed on their chances of actually winning the race, Richard highlighted the strength of their opposition.

"I doubt we can win it, the majority of the runners will be veterans of the Marathon des Sables (a 6 day race across the Sahara Desert). We will give it our best shot though. The first three stages will vary between 10-15 miles, and we should be able to get decent times in those, despite the climate. Phil will be setting the pace on those stages, due to him being better over 'shorter' distances. I will then set the pace on the 60 mile stage, as I'm better over longer distances."

The boat leaves on an overnight sail to the Jungle base camp on October 7 later this year and Stage 1 of the race begins on October 10.

To follow the pair's training progress



Amazon adventure: Richard Baron [inset] and Phil Harvey are raising money for MS and Kidney Research

and preparation, or to donate, visit their blog at <http://rickphilsjungleultramarathon.blogspot.com>.

More information on the race can be found at <http://www.junglemarathon.com>.

Change in direction for GreenLancaster

Jack Smith

GREENLANCASTER ARE CURRENTLY undergoing change as the previous manager of the scheme resigned before Christmas, with no permanent replacement installed yet.

Darren Axe, GreenLancaster's project intern, assured SCAN that this will have "no impact on day to day operations, with 175 students engaged in various projects, with new projects to be introduced over the next few weeks." He highlighted the work done by these students last term, such as those who had placements with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and the RSPB.

However, Axe added that there may be "small changes in terms of events and projects, it depends on the [new] staff member, but we have a highly specified remit from V [the national young volunteers service], who we have to report back to four times a year, and Facilities, who part fund us."

Sarah Hinton, assistant director of LUVU, said: "This term we are going to make a big push on promoting the work of the students and also advertise new opportunities, as well as raise the profile of the unit," adding that "we are also keen to hear from students who have their own ideas for projects as we want the work of GreenLancaster to be shaped by the students."

GreenLancaster have recently relaunched their carbon competition in



Go green: Following Mark Taylor's resignation, plans are afoot for what to do next with the various projects being run

Pendle, County, and Grizedale colleges, hoping to repeat the success of last term. The pioneering competition, which rewards the flat that uses the least energy over a set period of time, aims to encourage students living on campus to be more aware of their effect on the environment.

Axe suggested that ensuring the competition achieves its aims is a challenge. "It's difficult to engage all flats in a 52 flat college – how do you get number 49 on the league table for example to fill up less of the kettle? This is why last term we introduced a 'most improved' flat prize, to incentivize people."

Last term the project involved over

900 students, with some acting as 'light police' to turn off unused equipment and several flats holding 'lights out' nights once a week. Incentives throughout the term included trolley dashes in stores on campus, cinema tickets, cash prizes, and VIP nights at local bars. An awards ceremony was held at the end of term, which Hinton said was "well attended" and "celebrated the achievements of the most energy-conscious kitchens."

Hinton added that "technicalities with new computer systems have meant we have spent more time than planned on making the competition work", but they "hope that [the competition] can be rolled out to other colleges."

Currently the competition is limited to a certain number of colleges, as the smart meters used to measure energy usage are expensive – adding Pendle college to the competition last term took up a large proportion of GreenLancaster's budget. Axe added that the university's Facilities department are "potentially interested" in providing funds to extend the usage of the meters if they are "proven to reduce energy", although specific percentage targets have not been imposed. The two parties are instead more interested in using qualitative research, such as surveys, to see if the scheme raises awareness of the issues.

Funding improvements bring Glee to societies

Collette McColgan
Khairil Zhafri

WITH A MASSIVE increase in societies at the University in the last few years, the problems and setbacks for these societies are growing ever more apparent, but there is much being done by LUSU to combat some of these problems.

The students' union has over 100 societies ranging from Paintballing to Writer's Guild, Sky Diving to Sub-Aqua Club, with reports that around half of all students in Lancaster are active members of societies. This academic year, however, has seen society executives faced with two main problems: those of finance, and spaces for the societies to meet.

Joining a society can come at a cost, but since the beginning of the academic year, LUSU and the Societies Union have made changes to make funding more accessible to societies. Since this time, many societies have benefited – the Fashion Society, with its new magazine 'Tattered Lace', and the Dance Society to fund travel to national events, for example.

The single biggest issue for societies this year is space on campus. Not all societies can depend on meeting in bars, and need to book a regular space to hold their meetings in. New estates developments are one of the main causes for this impact on the way students are



Join the club: A new society has been formed based on the hit TV show at a time when space constraints are a concern

able to spend their free time.

Andy Johnston, VP (FEDS) sees it as a responsibility of the University to ensure that there are spaces on campus for societies to meet, because of the importance they have to students: "[Societies] should be placed high on the list of priorities and gain equal or even higher status than external bookings for space."

"It's important that these activities are protected, encouraged and supported by our Student's Union but

also by our University," he continued, explaining that societies are important for the mindset of students, and are often a better way to unwind than a night out.

The new system of funding has, however, brought a more optimistic attitude to forming societies, with the Lancaster University Glee Club currently being proposed to LUSU.

Lancaster University Glee Club (LUGleeC) has been started by Matt Saint and his theatre classmates, who

were talking about the show, which is shown on Mondays on E4, and decided that the University needed a similar style Glee Club.

"Although there are a lot of performing arts societies in Lancaster University, there is nothing quite like the idea we saw on the TV show," Saint said, adding: "The idea of the society is to involve all forms of stage performance, so we can get as many people involved as possible and do whatever they enjoy."

Over 150 students have already joined the Lancaster University Glee Club group on Facebook, and a proposal to be an official society of the Union is being made to the Societies Council and LUSU.

According to Saint, once set up, anyone in the Glee Club would be able to propose musical numbers for the rest of the members to vote. The most popular numbers would be chosen for the club's performances. "If voted in, the person [who proposed the chosen song] would then direct the show and everyone else can get involved with it," he explained.

Publicity Officer for the club, Matthew Power said: "LUGleeC is an exciting innovative society that I hope will capture a lot of people's imaginations," adding, "The television show has had phenomenal success and we hope to encapsulate that with some of the most talented people on campus. I think LUGleeC has a big future and I hope people get involved in it!"

Johnston was keen to stress that almost anyone can form a society, as long as there are 20 members of LUSU as starting members of the society. "Whenever anyone wants to start a society, I always ask the demand for it. [LUGleeC] produced a list of thirty people."

All societies are eligible to complete a simple application for funding from the LUSU Activities fund, since the reforms earlier this year.



SEG Presents:

Thursday 28th January

**Comedy Club
in Cartmel**

**Ryan McDonnell,
Tom Craine
& Adam Crow**

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Bar Snacks Available



Creating a stir with new initiatives aimed at young student entrepreneurs

Hannah Smith

THIS TERM, CREATE have organised networking and training events specifically designed to help students with creating career opportunities for themselves.

There will be 'Snapshot Events' held from Week 11 to Week 14, in which entrepreneurs who have been helped by CREATE in the past will be speaking to students about their experience of working with the CREATE team. These events are a great opportunity for current students to learn from past students who have started their own business; for instance from Fay Hewitson, who has started her own cheerleading club, and Tom Jenkins, who set up his own web design company.

There are also going to be events 'Enterprise in Heels' events, which are specifically for female students and aim to improve the confidence and social networking skills of anyone interested to give it a go.

Lizzie Whatley, who is organising these student-specific events, was keen to stress that the events are 'not just for people with a business idea; I understand that people get daunted by social situations and these events are designed to build a person's confidence within these situations'.



Be creative: CREATE have an office located in Alex Square (Photo: Ben Robins)

The 'Enterprise in Heels' is a good example of an event designed to improve confidence and networking skills – the first of these events is a networking and training event, and will take place on Wednesday Week Six. The second of these events will be held in the Management School, and will include entrepreneurs from the fields of fashion, PR, events management and a member of the ITV staff. Also attending the second event is a person whose identity is yet to be disclosed, but whom Lizzie describes as "an award winning

social entrepreneur."

CREATE has worked hard this year to become accessible to all students, and the Snapshot and 'Enterprise in Heels' events have been organised with the intention of improving the networking skills, confidence and commercial awareness of all, rather than just those with a specific business idea in mind. Lizzie commented that "these events are even just useful for those who find talking to strangers difficult, or people who want to appear more confident at parties."

Win tickets to see Sean Lock perform in Lancaster



LOCKIPEDIA IS A new stand-up show from the comedian Sean Lock, who is most famous for appearing on the hit comedy panel television shows, Q.I and Have I got News for you, to name just a few. As well as residing on the panel for 8 out of 10 Cats as team captain for the past four years, which is currently

in its eighth series. Lock begins his world wind tour on February 20th at the Curve Theatre in Leicester.

For your chance to win two tickets to the stand-up show in Lancaster Town Hall, please answer the question below Please send your answers into scan@lancs.ac.uk by 02/02/10

Why was comedian Jonathan Ross controversially suspended from the BBC in October 2008?

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University Court promises to be a trial for students and staff

Jen Day

UNIVERSITY COURT WILL take place on Saturday 30th January, bringing together academic staff, influential members of the community and the Students' Union; all of whom will be rallying to have their views heard. With the contentious topic of higher education cuts hot on the agenda, there is no doubt they will have much to discuss.

Court serves as an overview of the academic year with a greater representation of the student body than any other council, enabling students to voice the issues that really matter to them. Along with members of council including the Vice Chancellor, Paul Wellings, local dignitaries are invited to attend Court and have their opinions on key issues. This more varied body of representatives means that there should be a wider range of opinions discussed, with regards to making decisions. This is the opportunity for the students make their presence known.

Court has been known to be the occasion for many a student protest, usually relating to current topics of contention. Last year's Court witnessed a group of students protesting about the takeover of the college bars by University Catering. It is likely that this year's Court may see a protest about the anticipated raise in tuition fees.

At the last University Court, LUSU President Michael Payne's speech was met with a standing ovation. His message of 'Change' and the desire to re-evaluate how the University and the Student Union collaborate to make informed decision for the benefit of all will be a continuing theme.

When asked to comment Payne said: "A clear focus of discussion in Court itself will be Higher Education cuts that the whole sector faces in the year and years ahead ... my speech this year will focus on 'Innovation and Opportunity in the face of uncertainty.'"

With the recent campaign against



See you at court: Scenes from last year's University Court in which over 100 students protested about the college bars

the rise of tuition still fresh in many people's minds this is the time to continue to promote the cause and raise awareness to other officials. Payne commented that "University Court will be a key focus of our campaign on Future Fees and Funding and engaging students in the lead up to a general election."

With both Labour and the Conservatives holding their cards close to their chest, in the matter of university funding, more awareness about this subject allows the student body to be more informed and able to join in on the debate.

With Payne saying that he will particularly focus on the Independent Review of Student Finance and Fees, chaired by Lord Browne, drawing support from academics and other influential figures will be crucial to the success of the campaign.

Nevertheless, since Deputy Pro-Chancellor Stanley Henig, Chair of last year's Court, took a mere three questions after Payne's speech last year - despite many more hands being raised

- will the voices of the students be heard or simply brushed under the carpet? This is a forum designed for members with mutual interests to consult and compromise in the hope of reforming issues. The key question is how willing is the Vice Chancellor to take on board student views?

"A clear focus of discussion in Court itself will be Higher Education cuts that the whole sector faces in the year and years ahead ... my speech this year will focus on 'Innovation and Opportunity in the face of uncertainty.'"
-Michael Payne

Questions may start to arise after the recent mishap with regards to absent Court invitations for Union councillors. This could be seen as an attempt from the Vice Chancellor to avoid being put

in another awkward position after his embarrassing avoidance of the student protest at University Council.

LUSU Academic Campaigns Officer, Paul Lynch said: "The university secretariat said that it has sent out all the invitations for Court to all Union councillors, however only around half made it to the Students' Union. Michael Payne had to rectify the situation by assuring the secretariat that all Union councillors would be attending." Nonetheless, those without official invitations have yet to receive an agenda for Court and hence will be unable to fully prepare.

Despite problems that have previously occurred, University Court is intended as opportunity to debate the issues that are most prevalent to students and academics alike. After successful rallies of student support on the topic of tuition fees, highlighting this greatly contested issue at University Court is essential to promote the views of those who will be affected. The voices of the students need to be heard and Court need to sit up and listen.

LUSU set standard with disabled sport

Collette McColgan
News Editor

THE INTRODUCTION OF a new sport across campus will see LUSU setting the standard for other students' unions up and down the country, with regards to disabled access to sports.

Boccia is currently a sport in the Paralympics, and is suitable for people with disabilities, as it is a non-contact sport, and is more focused on skills than athletic ability.

Torri Crapper, LUSU VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) explained the importance of the introduction of the sport: "It's not something exclusively for students with disabilities, it's something all students can do together."

"It's moving towards a more supportive outlook [...] it means all students can participate in sporting competitions together."

Crapper explained how she and two LUSU Part-Time Officers had submitted the proposal to EWD Council, and had been successful in their application for funding.

This funding will allow for two Boccia sets to be bought by the Union, for students to then use when the league or tournament is set up.

Speaking of how Lancaster is being a trendsetter to other students' unions, Crapper said: "There's no other students' union in the country trying to set up access-friendly sports on their campuses so it will be us leading the way."

Boccia is a sport thought to have originated in Greece, and involves throwing coloured balls at a white ball, the jack. The game can be played individually, in pairs, or teams of three. The game has been organised on an international level by the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association.

"We're hoping it will take off and people will want to join in and take part and have a bit of a laugh with people, rather than some being excluded from sports across campus," said Crapper.

Heavy weather causes departments to extend coursework deadlines

Lucy Miller

SOME DEPARTMENTS WERE faced with having to extend coursework deadlines, due to adverse weather conditions at the beginning of the month.

Problems caused by the recent bad weather have been well documented, with stories of school closures and dangerous travel conditions appearing in the news every day. Although conditions had improved by the beginning of term in Lancaster, there was still the question of whether students who had coursework due for submission in week one would actually be able to get back in time to submit it.

This worry led to a small number of departments loosening the rules with



regards to coursework submissions. The Department of Sociology/ Gender and Women's Studies postponed the submission of essays from Monday 11th January to the following Monday, the 18th. In the Department of Linguistics

and English Language there was question over whether students would be able to return by the 11th, and it was decided that paper copies of coursework could be delayed as long as a reason was given, and an electronic copy was sub-

mitted on time.

Linguistics and English Language Undergraduate Co-ordinator Vicki Haslam made it clear that this was not an extension, and that students were still required to have had their work

done on time: "The rules were relaxed a little because of adverse weather, in that students were not penalised for late submission of the paper copy if their electronic copy was submitted on time and they contacted us in advance to notify us that they couldn't get to Lancaster."

Haslam went on to say that no other problems were encountered, that there were no more essay extensions that usual, and that none of these were because of the weather.

First year Linguistics student Emily Blanchard backs this up, saying that the advice given was very helpful and that because of it she knew of no one who had encountered any problems. Students had been informed through email of what they should do in the event of being snowed in, a week before the start of term.

Cartmel College to take on Pendle with new Thursday open mic night

Robbie Pickles

LIVE PERFORMERS AT Lancaster University are being given an opportunity to showcase their skills and develop their talents with the launch of the new open mic and entertainment night in Cartmel College, 'Next Big Thing.'

Following in the wake of the hugely successful Comedy Nights organised by LUSU Social and Events groups, 'Next Big Thing' hopes to bring a different form of live performance into the college and see Cartmel bar become renowned as a major entertainment venue.

As well as unsigned local bands, organisers are hoping to attract a wide variety of entertainers, from singers to comedians to magicians. Event organiser James Davies, Cartmel JCR AV Tech, saw the event as a unique opportunity for Lancaster students: "Currently there are no regular events on campus where people can feel comfortable to showcase their talents, especially those who are not part of a band," he explained. He went on to say that performing in front of a large

audience with professional equipment would be an extremely useful experience for up-and-coming acts.

The night would occur on alternate Thursdays throughout the term providing, in conjunction with Comedy Night, a full program of live events on Thursday in Cartmel. Pendle College, however, hold their own live entertainment night on a Thursday, which has proved popular in the past with local bands.

When asked about this, Cartmel's new President Mark Lord said "The clash is certainly not deliberate. Our event is designed to provide a full complement of Thursday night entertainment for Cartmel bar, a day established last term with LUSU's comedy nights."

Davies sees the event as appealing to a very different audience. "Pendle's night is for bigger, better established bands. What we are providing is a chance for new performers to make a name for themselves."

'Next Big Thing' starts on Thursday, Week 4, at 8pm in Cartmel bar. Tape will be performing at 9.30, and any students who would like to perform are encouraged to contact Davies at james@cartmelcollege.co.uk.

Postgraduates seething over degree class disparities

- Not all faculties award Merit for Masters students
- Divided opinion amongst academics on the issue

**Lizzie Houghton
Ady Gray**

MORE DEPARTMENTS ARE starting to adopt the Merit class when grading Masters degrees, as students and staff members say that the disparities within the marking system are unfair.

For the past five years departments have been able to 'opt in or out' of the using the additional degree class. Departments can use the additional degree class of Merit when grading Masters students, along with the standard Pass and Distinction grades, if they

choose. This option has been a point of contention between departments and between faculties. Different faculties have had differing stances of the virtues of the addition class, and within faculties there has been a disparity with some departments awarding the Merit class and others not.

"As a concept the awarding of Merits allows students who have excelled in certain aspects of their work to receive due recognition. For this reason I support it," said Robin Hughes, President of the Graduate Students Association. "However, in cases where there is great disparity between departments, and within degree types, then this is manifestly unfair and is a situation that should be reviewed and standardised across campus."

The university's internal regulations allow departments to award the grade of Pass to students who achieve marks of 50% to 69% overall, and Distinction to those who achieve



over 70%. The threshold for receiving a Merit is 60% to 69% overall, with marks of 65% or greater in modules whose credit values total at least 50% of the programme's total credit rating, but this is at the department's discretion.

But some students feel it is un-



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fair this inconsistency exists between Masters degrees.

Chris Hobbes, who recently graduated with an MA from the Politics and International Relations Department said: "I think all departments should have a merit system. I think it rewards you for doing just that bit more."

The current LUSU Part Time Post Graduate (Research) Representative, Mike Jenkins agrees. Jenkins said: "My personal view is that grades for Masters students should be set by the university itself, not the individual departments. The undergraduate marks are set by the university: we do not

have one department deciding that 50 to 69 is a second with another saying that 50 to 59 is a 2:ii and 60 to 69 a 2:i. There should be no reason that Masters students are treated differently."

Within some departments there has been a sense that Masters degrees should retain some distinction from

undergraduates degrees, and as such should not become classified in the same way as BA/BSc courses. Only Pass/Fail or Distinction should be awarded.

The Computing Department, which currently does not award the Merit class, believes that in not doing so they are staying on par with other institutions, both in the UK and internationally. Joe Finney, Director of Teaching at the Computing department, also feels that to change the system now would hamper the employment changes of past students. He said: "If the award criteria is changed on an operating programme parity can be lost between new students and students that graduate previously. A student graduating with a 65% average above adoption would get one grade – a Pass – and an equivalent student after adoption would again a Merit. This can be seen as having a negative comparative affect on the first student."

Hobbes however disagrees that this would be the case. In relation to his own department he said: "Our department awarded a Pass, a Good-pass and a Distinction. When employers looks at your CV they won't know what a Good-pass is. A Merit holds more weight to it."

Since SCAN started making enquiries about which departments use the merit system, the Faculty of Art and Social Sciences has revised a number of courses in order to standardise the opportunity for Masters students to be award the class of Merit. In the last fortnight the Department of Poli-

tics and International Relations has opted in to the Merit class system. The newly founded Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religious Studies will award Merits.

The disparity within the Faculty is something which members of staff acknowledge needs addressing. The Associate Dean for Post Graduate Studies at FASS, Professor Emma Rose, said: "I am strongly committed to equal opportunities for all our students, and when I became Associate Dean for Post Graduate Studies I realised I had inherited a number of ad hoc arrangements that I have worked hard to standardise across the faculty. The award of Merit is one such incidence."

Most departments within FASS now use the Merit class. The Creative Writing Department started using the additional classification two years so. The staff and external examiner of the Creative Writing department felt it was a "most welcome innovation" which would "allow students to get a clearer sense of what they have achieved, and how much more work needs to be undertaken on developing and extending their skills", according to Lyn Kellet, a course officer for the department.

Law, History and Sociology also use the class, as does the Department of Psychology. The Philosophy department does not currently, but if they want to opt-in before they merge with Politics and Religious Studies at any time, then Prof Rose says they are "encouraged to do so".

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Katie Jamieson
Media Board Chair

Criticism directed at the Sabbatical team is both contradictory and unfounded

Surely it is up to individual students to push themselves to get involved- the onus shouldn't be on elected officers

At this year's Winter Officers Conference, what started as a JCR and Part-Time Officers' critique of the work that LUSU do, soon became a criticism of the visibility of the Sabbatical Officers' presence in student's lives. It was largely felt that the six Sabbatical Officers didn't make themselves known to students enough, and as a result, students were confused by, or didn't care about, the role LUSU played during their time at university.

Amongst arguments from a range of officers, some debated that they didn't know what the 'Sabb Six' did, or, more importantly, who they were, even after their first term at university, and as a typical apathetic student for the whole of my first year at university, this was the case for me too. Now, it is a very different story for me, I am a student officer and I'm involved in societies and clubs – I'm a million miles away from the disinterested first year I used to be, and I know my lack of involvement with LUSU then was almost completely my fault. I don't think first years should be expected to know who everyone



is within their first term. Surely it's more important to learn the names of their flat before the names (and lengthy titles) of the Sabbaticals?

Another problem I had with the claim that the Sabbaticals weren't visible enough to students was that they were also accused of being celebrities around campus, a point which people weren't treating as mutually exclusive to the visibility issue.

The celebrity status is an argument which I thought was very valid. Even my flatmates, who are generally uninvolved in university politics, wonder what hair gel Michael Payne uses or are aware if they see Danny Owens propping up the Sugarhouse bar. Furthermore, if the Sabbaticals are perceived as campus celebrities, then they are just as likely to be accused of being rammed down people's throats

if they did try and make themselves any more visible than they already are. Some people are already worried about SCAN turning into LUSU's very own edition of Heat.

The issue that I felt was the most compelling, yet remained unaddressed, was how important visibility was to the students of the university and to LUSU. It is no doubt reassuring to see our elected officers fronting the LUSU run campaigns and being present at socials and events, as we would expect to find them, but if the general population of students don't know who they are, this seems futile. The work the Sabbaticals do shouldn't be judged solely on how often they are seen, but more credit should be given to the work people don't see LUSU do, like if a student needs academic representation, or has thought a sports club has been the pinnacle of their time at university.

If students are already enjoying their time at university, then the role which LUSU plays shouldn't be an issue. For students like me, who struggled initially, then the onus is on them to take the first steps in becoming

involved – start reading SCAN, become involved in a society or run for a JCR position. It is the duty of the Sabbaticals to help students that become involved to do these things and improve their experience at university, and be judged on that.

I am reluctant to turn this comment piece about the public role of the Sabbatical team into a cathartic piece of writing about my lack of involvement in first year, but really it is a warning to people; students and officers. If you don't push yourself to get involved with this university to some extent, then you won't feel like you are a part of it. The issue that should be discussed is not whether or not the Sabbatical Officers are visible to the students, but whether students are willing to make themselves visible to the Sabbaticals, and if the Sabbaticals are any use at engaging the students when they do. In my opinion, the current team is visible to students all over the university, and it is our duty in return to approach them, dismantle the negative connotations of celebrity they have, and make them work with you to better your experience of university.



Michael Payne
LUSU President

The student support system needs to be radically overhauled by the Browne review

With many still reeling from the loans fiasco; action not words is required from Vice-Chancellors

Rising cost of student support is widely attributed as one of the major contributors to pressure on higher education funding. However it is also one of the most important aspects of the sector as a whole. Student support may well be expensive but impact on increasing amounts of students whom are under significant stress due to financial difficulties whilst at university should not be underestimated.

There are many views on how student support should be reformed and who is best placed to make decisions on how financial support should be allocated. Bursaries are just one aspect of student support that has attracted a wide discourse from a variety of players in the higher education sector and for my sins I'd like to add to that discourse.

Massive under-spends in student bursaries are unacceptable and usually the result of poor communication and publicity on the availability of such funds rather than institutions wishing to save the money for their coffers at

the end of a year. It is also wholly inappropriate that bursaries should be distributed based on those students whom achieve the highest grades at A-level. Currently universities are the major deciders of how bursaries are distributed, which can often leave those with most need without any hope of getting any support. Surely it would be more suitable to see a national bursary scheme launched; where money is allocated on a needs basis and where funds are allocated by the government based on policy devised by elected officials after consultation with stakeholders in the sector, rather than university chiefs holding all the levers and sometimes wishing to use bursaries as a marketing tool to up recruitment at their own institution.

Just recently the Chief Executive of HEFCE, Sir Alan Langlands derided what he described as "megaphone diplomacy" as a way of a lobbying to protect your own organisation's interests in higher education. Many Vice-Chancellors have publicly agreed with Alan's privately expressed sentiments.

Although "megaphone diplomacy" may not be appropriate or effective all of the time, and although many VCs are quick to denounce it when they disagree with the views being expressed, the grave irony is that Vice-Chancellors are some of the biggest culprits of using this strategy.

Our own Vice-Chancellor was recently vocal on the issue of student support, stating "that is the issue – that in the design of the student loans system, whether we lost sight of directing it at those families that were most in need." However it is action rather than pontificating that is required if we are to tackle the possible threats to higher education in the short and medium term. No student will fall for spin on student support focussed on the poorest from a Vice-Chancellor who has been unafraid to call for greater contributions to fees from students. It is also vital to understand the nuance around needs basis funding for students; clearly the higher the tuition fees for students along with ever increasing accommodation costs and hidden course costs

at university only serves to widen the cohort of the students that most need financial support. Although the poorest are inevitably in need of financial support in higher education, middle income families with numerous children at university will also be under significant financial pressure.

With so many students still suffering from a total lack of funds as a result of the Student Loans fiasco this year and others having to learn how to navigate a complex application processes in order to receive much needed financial support from their universities. Less time should be spent squabbling over who got more column inches in the broadsheets, who shouted loudest and who was heard most and more time spent responding to the real problems faced by students every day.

Tinkering with individual aspects of the student support system will not solve the grave unfairness and numerous failings of it. A wholesale review is what's needed and is what student leaders nationally are lobbying for from Lord Browne's review.



David Sykes

Photoshop is the Conservative Party's new best friend

Cameron's altered visage is only one example of a phenomenon that many are turning to in the quest for self-improvement

Although I'm yet to see even a single one in the real world, I'm well aware of a new series of posters bearing the likeness of Tory leader David Cameron. I say 'likeness' because that it was it is: It is not his actual face. Much like in video games based on movies where they painstakingly try to make their lump of polygons appear like a well known movie star, the Photoshop-pers behind the new ad campaign have done the same with the visage of the forehead-heavy Etonian.

Adobe Photoshop is used all the time to doctor photographs from the covers of Grazia to architectural impressions and in all kinds of publication design. Generally I am a big fan of the easy-to-use program that is responsible for making our holiday brochures and movie posters increasingly pretty over the last decade or so. When used properly it can be of enormous benefit to countless professionals, from marketing people to artists.

But there is an alternative usage for Photoshop which has been increasingly used by the image conscious, the show-offs and the vain, and now the Conservative Party. This is of course



the 'touching up' of the human form. Skin is removed of spots and blemishes, six-packs grow and waistlines shrink to convert the imperfect subjects into God-like super-humans. This is used on almost all celebrities and in most publications.

However, these arguments lack substance. In reality, there is little more vain, deceptive and dishonest about utilising Photoshop to make one

prettier than there is about wearing make-up, hair dye, and even shaving. It is perfectly natural for a person to desire to make themselves as pretty as they can be and to want photos of themselves improved so they don't look quite so bedraggled. Surely there are photos on Facebook that you would love to alter, improve and manipulate in your favour, and if your face was being pasted up on posters around the

nation, you too would prefer to look as good as possible.

But Photoshop frequently doesn't make one look any better. All too often celebrities are given horribly stretched necks, stumpy limbs, or missing fingers. When done badly or excessively the technique of 'airbrushing' can leave people looking like some horrid mutant Barbie doll. The results of this are odd indeed but it is astounding how many unnaturally deformed models and celebrities make it from the computer of some overzealous RSI suffering nerd and into the public domain, and it is even more surprising how rarely anyone realises how downright weird these manipulated images look.

But on a whole, Photoshop is our friend. It is the comb that can fix a bad hair day, it is the diet that can actually make you slimmer, and it is the spot cream that genuinely removes spots. The primary reason why I condone the practice of altering, correcting and improving photographs of people in publications however is very similar to the reason why I prefer to watch The Hills to Eastenders: because it saves me from having to look at ugly people.

Politicians should practice what they preach

The First Minister and his wife have left themselves open for ridicule writes **Will McDonagh**

In 2002, Tony Blair refused to disclose information regarding health care of his young son; the matter being whether or not he had received the MMR vaccination. I can see why the former Prime Minister would not want to disclose such matters to the public, particularly the health of his child; but at the same time, this debate arose because during the period in question, the Labour party were attempting to enforce for all children in the country to receive this particular vaccination. The question, then, is: can the public really trust a decision by the ruling Government to impose such a change, when individually they may not be taking up such a change themselves? If we are to have trust in the political system and world leaders, should we be at all concerned with the lives of our politicians?

In recent news, First Minister Peter Robinson's wife Iris was accused, by the BBC, of breaking the law by failing to disclose her financial interest in a 2008 business deal that helped launch a café run by her nineteen-year-old lover. This was merely the first of a series of revelations that threw the Robinson family's private lives into the public eye. A member of The British Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly, Iris Robinson has been revealed to have attempted suicide due to her guilt over her extramarital affair, and has since proposed an intention to end her political career. Even though what she has done has been judged harshly by society, it is not her actual acts that have sparked much debate, but more for what the Robinson's stood for.

The Robinson's are part of a strict conservative political society, a society who sees themselves as examples of public morality, and to add more fuel to the growing fire against the couple, both are practising Evangelical Christians. Surely, by occupying a position of authority within society, it should be reasonably expected for such politicians to practise what they preach.

How can Iris Robinson's comments hold any strength when she has clearly lacked any sense of moral back-bone in her conduct? For such behaviour to continue undetected, and for us, to be ignorant of the misdemeanours of these figures of society isn't what our democracy was created for. A vote today is made by the people, for the people, and therefore the people should know whom they are giving authority to. Would any of us be comfortable to vaccinate our child with a potentially threatening medication when the Prime Minister himself isn't doing it? Would any of Iris Robinson's, or her husband's words, hold any ground following this detonation within their personal lives?

The professional and personal life of a politician is inextricably bound, and it would therefore be wrong to think of one without the other. Yet it seems that when it comes to our own lives, we're all too often being told 'do as we say, not as we do.'

How many of you know who your Sabbatical team are?

Do you know the names of all six of the Sabbatical officers? Could you put a face to a name? Do you know what jobs they each do? Do you know what they do for you? Because until this term I couldn't tell you.

January 2010 saw not only a white Lancaster and a Bowland Lady snow sculpture, but also the Winter Officer Conference. This was an opportunity for all the JCR and part-time officers across campus to come together to share ideas, improve their teamwork and build up their skills. Towards the end of the Winter Officer Conference, Michael Payne offered us the chance to put forward our views on how LUSU could improve. He looked very shocked when most people in the room put their hand up with an idea, rather than the select few he seemed to be expecting. The overwhelming majority of criticisms and comments were focused around the visibility of the Sabbatical team. It became clear that there was a cross-campus issue of students simply not knowing who the Sabbatical team were or what they did.

I think this is a problem that is particularly relevant to first years. Most students in the second and third years will have experienced the LUSU elections, and providing that they have paid a little attention, or at least seen the posters that plaster the walls, they

will have some idea as to what LUSU is or does.

On the other hand, first years will have had very little experience of anything related to LUSU and the team of elected full-time officers. I am a fresher myself, I have been here for more than a term now, and I spent the whole of the Winter Officer Conference asking second and third years who these Sabbatical officers were. And I'm on the JCR, so I can't really be accused of not trying to get involved.

I am told we were introduced to at least one of the Sabbatical team in our fresher's intro talk on our first night at university, but, if I'm honest, I was more worried about finding my way around campus than student elections, the next issue of SCAN, and Michael Payne's infamous hair.

After fresher's week, people stopped running around after us, life began to settle down, and LUSU got forgotten. Without the constant reminder of what LUSU does for us, we weren't that bothered about it. And yet, we should care about LUSU. LUSU is our voice, it is run for students and it deals with student issues.

There are many students out there who come to university to get drunk every night of the week. Similarly, there are many students who come to university to get their heads down and get on with their degree. These students don't

tend to get involved with what LUSU does. But this doesn't mean that they don't deserve to have a voice. Surely, it is the Sabbatical team's job to get students engaged, and get them caring about what their university should be doing for them.

If you have a problem at university, LUSU is the way to get things changed. They are there to fight for us and to support us. But I don't think it is very easy to feel supported if you don't know who is supporting you. It is all very well running events like Friday Fury, where it doesn't really matter who organises it, providing it is a success. But when it comes to issues like the campaign against the rise in tuition fees, it does matter who organises it, and it does matter that students know the person or organisation leading it, because if they don't, they won't care. If someone you know asks you to take the time out of your day to read a letter explaining why the tuition fee problem is relevant to you, and why you should help make an impact, you are much more likely to listen than if you were asked by a stranger.

This is why Michael Payne and the rest of the Sabbatical team need to get out of their offices and get to know the students. At the end of the day, they are your Sabbatical team and if they want your support they should be communicating with you.

Natalie Hook
Cartmel JCR Exec

LUSU needs to engage with students more and the only way to do this is to talk to them directly



Liam Kay
Comment Editor

Is sport the priority over societies?

A new Sports Centre is in development but what will be done to improve society space

Through the fog of the relentless construction that consumes campus, one project stands out as the marquee building of the current phase of development. The new sports centre has long been in the pipeline, and with construction now under way, the students at Lancaster can look forward to some of the very best leisure facilities in the country. That is if your activities revolve around sport.

Whilst the AU, and its many members on campus will no doubt be delighted, the question has to be asked why societies are not gaining a similar increase in social space from the university. Whilst it is commendable that a new sports centre is under construction, the university seems to have forgotten the other half of the student population that do not participate in sports and would rather join political, religious or simply fun societies. Where are the new facilities for these compo-



nents of the student experience?

Societies currently are forced to beg, scrape and borrow in order to find social spaces to congregate. Unable to use the bars due to the noise, and with many lecture theatres inaccessible outside of teaching hours, societies are often left searching for the nearest open room in order to conduct some semblance of a meeting. Societies are a big

a part of the student experience as the sports clubs.

The question can also be raised over the amount of funding that gets given to the colleges to organise outdoor and out-of-Lancaster based activities. Imagine if your college was able to offer activities such as theme park trips, weekends away and abseiling as part of the social calendar? Even the colleges

who do carry out these activities cannot do so on a regular basis, and use them as one-off activities to treat college members, rather than regular occurrences throughout term.

The university should be praised at the steps it has taken to ensure that new sports facilities will be ready for the students here. However this is simply only one part of a wide variety of clubs and societies that exist on campus; they also require the facilities to be able to suitably support the hard work undertaken by all those involved in organising student activities at the university. Whilst it would be sheer lunacy to expect the same amount of investment in societies that the sports centre has received, it makes complete sense to increase the investment that societies receive in order to both improve the happiness and quality of life for the students at the university, and ensure that Lancaster remains an attractive destination for UCAS applicants.

Free speech should be open to all

Banning the group Islam4Uk will merely fan the flames of extremism writes **Emily Robertson**

Most of the stories over the Christmas break were predictably about the snow. It seemed inescapable. However, once the story and the snow had both melted away, a rather more shocking and sinister story was revealed to be hiding underneath. The actions and the banning of the group Islam4uk have dominated the last few weeks' headlines. Is this justified in 21st century Britain?

The proposed march through Wootton Bassett is an expression of the group's anger at what they see as an unjust war. It is also a way in which to pay tribute to all the civilian dead in these warzones who don't get the same memorial as our soldiers. The march itself would probably never have gone ahead and is grossly disrespectful, but on the central protestations on the war itself and the recognition of civilian dead, there is at least some common ground.

That said, Islam4UK is labelled extremist for a reason, or several reasons. No group celebrating September 11th could expect to go by without being labelled as extremist. It is also true that numerous terrorists prosecuted over the last few years have been members of the group. A correlation starts to emerge. Is it unfair to label them a terrorist breeding ground?

The march was stopped by banning the parent group of Islam4uk, al-Muhajiroun. However, Islam4uk have received a generous amount of publicity by accusing the Home Secretary of denying them freedom of speech. This allows them to play the victim in a conspiracy to silence Islam and could engender anti-British sentiment amongst those susceptible to Islam4UK's message.

If the government saw this group as dangerous, as a breeder of terrorists, the last thing they would want to is increase its popularity by throwing them into the media spotlight through their prescribing. Previous bans of this kind have been ignored by similar groups such as al-Ghurabaa and the Saved Sect who were also proscribed but then simply reformed under a new name with no change to their agenda or views. Who is to say this won't happen with Islam4uk?

Although I cannot condone the march or the acts of Islam4uk, it also cannot be right to simply accept the civilian death toll in Afghanistan when we can try to build a better country for them. And it is debatable what a better country is, our society may be wanted by those our soldiers fight for and who are we to impose it upon them? And most importantly, do we even really have freedom of speech?

Few people would agree with the sentiments expressed by Islam4UK, but does that mean we only allow freedom of speech for views we agree with and we forcibly remove those we find disagreeable? Even the most despotic tyrant allows freedom of speech for views they agree with. If we truly believe in freedom of speech, our reaction to Islam4UK would have been a perfect opportunity to prove it. It is a shame that we didn't.



Alex Harris
Comment Editor

The Republican Party is incredibly dangerous in defeat

About a year and a bit ago I wrote an article in SCAN about Obama's recent election. The question asked was 'Where now for the American right?' - I reckoned that the right-wing had two choices. The first one was to move away from anti-government religious fundamentalism which borders on the insane and to modernise in a way that the Labour party were forced to in order to win the 1997 election.

The second option was to enter a period that most political parties enter after they've suffered defeat: a self-destructive, undignified wilderness where a desperate attempt is made to preserve the elements of the party ideology that made the party so electorally unattractive in the first place. For the Republicans, it would be an amplification of their fetish for torturing prisoners, abhorrence of the rule of law and insistence that domestic politics can be viewed as a real-life cage match where Jesus is pitted against a horde of Godless communists and the only way good can triumph is by bellowing platitudes at high volumes in the streets of Washington D.C.

It was fairly obvious that option two would be the way forward for the immediate future. A complete ideological turnaround would be essentially impossible, what with the millions of voters angered that the President was a man who they'd been led to believe was a nihilistic socialist bent on destroying everything the country stood for and who considers making friends with terrorists a higher priority than defend-

ing the lives of U.S. soldiers. With that kind of populist furore whipped up, it's hard to do anything other than claim you were right, just not right enough.

Not that furore and populism is bad. It's fine - providing there's some substance behind it. The most influential and inspiring moments in history have all been a result of some populist rage that materialises into political change. What is required is an argument to back it up. The Republicans have the rage and passion of any civil rights movement. A quick search on youtube will net you a lifetime's supply of clips showing citizens screaming at the top of their lungs at state senators, staging walkouts of town hall meetings and demanding that their voices be heard.

The arguments reinforcing their rage, though, are somewhat less inspiring. Sarah Palin dealt a massive rhetorical blow to Obama's proposed healthcare plan by claiming to her followers that the President was intent on setting up bureaucratic 'death panels,' in which a team of administrative officials would hold tribunals to decide on whether or not Granny gets to live or is deemed too costly to the state.

This was, of course, an outright lie. To call it even a fabrication is to render the term meaningless. There was literally no evidence of any kind of tribunals of death, and attempts to justify the lie referred to some lame references to drug rationing (something which is widespread in the current system) or end-of-life counselling (which is advice to senior citizens on planning their will). But the trick worked, and political

strategists realised that at that moment in time, creating anger and resentment was more important than being even remotely honest.

This has led to the rise of the insane news anchor. American news has always had its fair share of loud and crazy broadcasters, but during the Bush years they essentially touted the party line and were preaching to the converted in their defense of everything George W. Bush represented. Now their party is out of power and anchors like Glenn Beck frequently sob and wail into the camera about how the U.S. is fast becoming a socialist dystopia where even the most basic freedoms guaranteed by the constitution are doomed.

It would be easy to dismiss people like Beck as mere cranks, but the influence they yield is astonishing. To get anywhere in politics, you need the media to broadcast your message and the lies of death panels were snapped up by the powerful right-wing media and repeated enough to make at least some people believe it.

And so everything else followed. Healthcare reform would be castrated by comparisons to Nazi Germany. Economic recovery would be stultified by loud references to Soviet Russia and the Democrats' desire to placate a loud and vicious foe with no interest in anything other than starting a fire and scoring political points. It will be a while before the American right-wing manages to find its way out of the wilderness. When it does, it will be a better day for both them and everyone else.

Obama's administration is left incapacitated by the actions of a ferocious American right

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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.

Warning on tuition fees is misleading

Dear Sir,

Mr Mumford's 'warning' in the last issue over tuition fees is vacuous. LU Labour Club has passed policy pledging to fight against a rise in tuition fees, both consistent with Labour Students policy nationally, and our Parliamentary candidate Clive Grunshaw who has outlined his opposition to a rise in fees both in correspondence with SCAN and by signing up to the NUS Fees Pledge.

Furthermore, it is misleading not to highlight the recent move by the Liberal Democrats to abandon their opposition to tuition fees. Now, more than ever, we must pay attention to what candidates in constituencies are saying, and the pledges they are making. We cannot afford to focus solely on what distant party policy makers are advising, particularly given the track record of rebellion amongst Labour MPs regarding tuition fees.

Aidan Williams

Youth & Student Officer,
Lancaster & Fleetwood CLP.

The 'Q' in LGBTQ is an example of a self defeating exercise

Dear Sir,

I write to you in relation to Sarah Newport's article 'Q week will highlight minorities within minorities'. After reading the article I was surprised at the amount of what only can be described as illogical rambling the piece contained. This was particularly prevalent in Ms Newport's discussion of the need to incorporate the classification "Queer" into what is now the LGBTQ association, the reasoning for which she gives was particularly flawed.

The first of these flaws is the so called need for a definition for those who do not wish to be defined; this is surely a self-defeating exercise. I fail to understand why it is necessary to create so many categories in which to define sexuality considering the fact that such categorisation is why many homosexual people feel ostracised in the first place. Surely the objective of any article on the subject, particularly written by an executive member of the LGBTQ, would be to remove as many barriers as possible rather than enforce new ones. It is no surprise that many people find themselves ultimately confused about their sexuality when one

has a vast choice of, gay lesbian, bisexual, bi-curious, transsexual, gender curious and now "Queer" to choose from. I am sure that those who wish to be individual and ultimately uncategorised about their sexuality would desire to remain so.

Ms Newport then manages to link this irrational change of anachronism to the current global economic crisis, perhaps this is an attempt to reach a wider audience with a common theme which affects us all. Of course there is always the possibility that she is merely attempting to make her writing more sensationalist, whatever the reason for this argument it is illogical, unfounded and irrelevant.

Finally I must point out that I respect the work of the LGBTQ and its drive to promote equality and to provide support for those who may otherwise feel alone and victimised. However I feel that its efforts could be far better spent breaking down the walls of homophobia rather than subdividing homosexuals into smaller and smaller minorities.

Henry Russell
Furness College

Foreign languages have no place on campus

Dear Sir,

I'm just writing to enquire whether any other students at Lancaster University think foreign language adverts should be posted in such multitude around the Spine and in PC labs? In my eyes it's offensive, suspicious, exclusive, and alienating to British students whom this university was built to serve. If people have come to study here, chances are they have a fairly good grasp of English. Posting multiple adverts in Arabic or Mandarin, or any other such language is just plain rude. In addition, adverts of this nature only raise racial tensions and damage community cohesion (Bradford centre as a key example).

Exclusion on grounds of race and/or nationality can work both ways.

Anonymous,
Pendle College

Bob Dylan sighted

Dear Sir

I'm not being funny, but I think I just saw Bob Dylan in South West campus. I mean, really.

Is it possible that Bob was here visiting a friend? Perhaps he's interested in starting a degree here.

I wonder, is it Lancaster's excellent graduate employment rate that attracted him here? Maybe he needed a Zone to Learn in, and heard about Lancaster's newest £3million spend? Or perhaps it was just someone who looked very like him.

Harriet Murdoch
Bowland College

Students based around Alexandra Square are subjected to constant noise disruptions

Dear Sir,

I am becoming increasingly annoyed about loud music that seems to be frequently coming from Alex Square. I live in Bowland Main (for those who don't know, Bowland Main runs along the side of Alex Square opposite to the library and above the Learning Zone) and the music that is being played in the square to advertise certain events is starting to take

its toll. Last week Toast advertised its student night, which I'm not opposed to, but the hour of excessively loud music during a weekday prevented any work for that time. Not only Toast, but Winterfest played Christmas music for eight hours, three days running! It is not the music I oppose but the length and volume of music and I know I am not alone in the frustration of it. Possibly I could work outside my room but options are limited; the Learning Zone

is subjected the same volume and I'm sure it can be heard in parts the library. As a third year, every work hour lost takes effect further down the line. I ask can the music be limited in volume and time, please. PLEASE!

Deafened Student,
Bowland College

Eat
Sport,
Sleep
Sport,
Read
Wynes

Page 30



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9 Greenfield St

£69.50 per week (utilities included)



Mid terraced property in a popular student location close to the Town centre, ideal for groups of 4 or 8 if taken with no 11 as the properties share a rear yard.

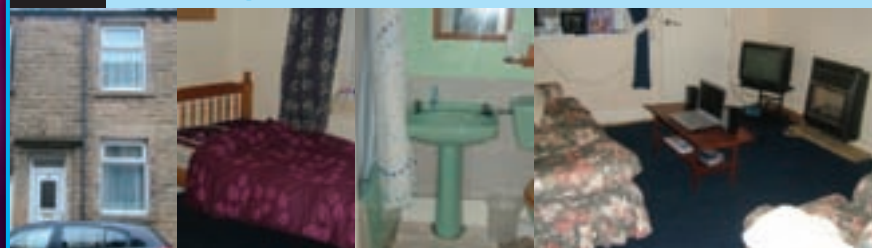
FEATURED HOME

MOORLANDS

**4
bed**

11 Greenfield St

£69.50 per week (utilities included)



As with no 9 this property would suit groups of 4 or 8 as it shares a rear yard, it is conveniently situated within walking distance of Town and Sugarhouse and close to main bus routes to campus.

BULK

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**4
bed**

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YouTube, Crocs, terror and Efron

A look back over the last ten years

Kristina Beanland on how the Noughties will be remembered

THE CLOCK STRUCK midnight on the December 1 1999 and a new decade was born. Once everyone got over the fact that the Millennium Bug was not going to happen, and the parties were brought to a close, people settled into the New Year, not knowing what the next ten years would bring. For a lot of people reading this, the Noughties will be remembered for being the decade in which we finally made it to university. But in another ten years time, will we still be able to remember the decade as being the years when Wikipedia was brought into our lives, when it became a look to be over the age of eight and still wear leggings, when one drop goal made Johnny Wilkinson a new sporting God, and when our whole world crashed around us when we realised that poor old Pluto was no longer a planet? So, is it even possible to sum up a decade, and what were the defining moments of the Noughties?

In the music world, the Noughties will be no doubt be remembered for

the death of Michael Jackson. On the June 25 2009, the King of Pop died in his home aged just 50 years old. The controversy surrounding his death is still yet to die down, as speculations began about the nature of his untimely death shortly after he died. The world was then invited to watch his slightly strange, but fitting memorial service, where artists such as Mariah Carey and Stevie Wonder paid tribute, and his £15,000 coffin was put on show.

In TV and film Pierce Brosnan handed over the license to kill to Daniel Craig and Hannah Montana - a.k.a Miley Cyrus - annoyed pretty much the whole world's population.

Fans of Britney Spears will also remember the decade for being the period of her infamous breakdown – how could anyone forget the pictures of her shaving her own head? With reports of her attacking the paparazzi with an umbrella, and having her children taken out of her care, Britney Spears never looked like she'd make it back into that school girl outfit for a bit of 'Baby One



More Time'. However, by the end of the decade, Britney somehow managed to turn herself around, with her latest album going platinum.

The fashion in the Noughties was all about shoes. Carrie Bradshaw and the Sex and the City girls taught us all about Jimmy Choo and Manolo Blahnik - shoes became works of art. Bad news for our feet however came in the form of Crocs, the oh so comfortable, yet oh so disgusting shoes were planted onto the feet of the old and young alike. If you own a pair, please, throw them away. In 2004, we were also brought

the Poncho, basically a blanket that you were allowed to wear in public. Wearing second hand clothes also became cool in the Noughties, when it was all about Vintage. Thanks to Kate Moss and Chloe Sevigny, wearing our grandma's cardigans was deemed acceptable. Unfortunately, the Noughties also brought us the skinny celebrity, where size 0 (a UK size 4) for some reason became attractive. Celebs such as Nicole Ritchie and Victoria Beckham decided skeletal was the new thin, eventually causing a long overdue response in Madrid Fashion Week where models with

a BMI less than 18 were banned.

The biggest news stories of the past decade will, of course, include the devastating 9/11 attacks of 2001. The images of two commercial planes flying into the Twin Towers was so shocking that many people can remember where they were when the attacks occurred. Overall, over 2,500 lost their lives. This awful event threw an unavoidable cloud of terrorism over the decade, something the Noughties will inevitably be remembered for. Other news stories included a new set of political and religious leaders – America welcomed

Apocalypse now?

Poppy Goodbrand
Features Editor

"IT'S UP TO you to be ready" warns the headline of the website Ready America. But ready for what? Winning the lottery? Alas no, according to the American council in excellence, the need to prepare for emergencies, American citizens and indeed citizens of the world must prepare to face the very worst of what are becoming regular occurrences in today's world (earthquakes, floods, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions) namely, the end of the world. The RQ - readiness quotient - quiz can be taken to determine how ready we all are. I personally scored a pitiful 0/10 which though initially made me feel ashamed of my lack of first aid knowledge, actually made me laugh out loud when reading of the absolute importance of preparing a 'Go kit', a 'Disaster supply kit', establishing a specific meeting place with my family and friends and devising a

communications plan in the event of a disaster. Call me naive but I don't think having box of plasters is going to save my life in the event of the apocalypse.

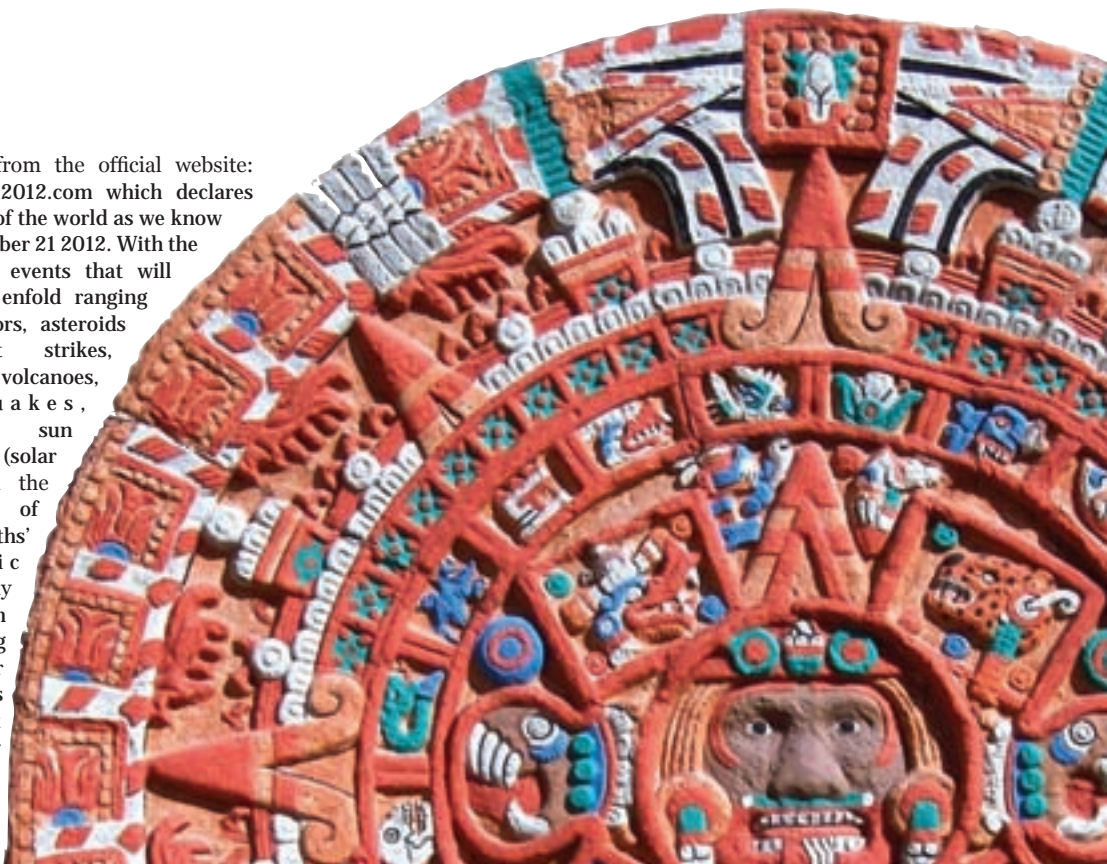
Now I do not want to give the impression that I am not aware of the importance of being prepared, being self-sufficient or indeed the seriousness of the climate problem, one merely need turn on the news for the effects of global

December 21 2012
The end of days?

warming to become all too obvious. We have polluted out of our depth it would seem, and the lack of success of the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen hardly bodes well for the future, in fact the majority of people are now finally turning to eco-friendly solutions, whether it be reducing energy consumption to buying a bike. But are we about to pay for our lack of conscious all too soon?

The readiness quotient quiz appears

as a link from the official website: december212012.com which declares the ending of the world as we know it on December 21 2012. With the cataclysmic events that will apparently unfold ranging from meteors, asteroids & comet strikes, super volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, sun storms (solar flares) and the switching of the earth's magnetic fields, it may not be worth worrying about your readiness quotient result or indeed your university debt, in fact perhaps





Dog days are over:
The Noughties were there the decade when dogs dated super models, geek became chic and politicians became even less popular than estate agents.
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in President Barack Obama, their first ever Black President, The Vatican elected a new Pope, and Tony Blair resigned from Labour Party leadership, making way for Gordon Brown as the new Prime Minister.

In TV and film, we were brought a new blonde James Bond when Pierce Brosnan handed over the license to kill to Daniel Craig and his teeny weeny swimming trunks. Disney gave us Zac Efron when High School Musical was brought to our screens, and Hannah Montana - a.k.a Miley Cyrus - annoyed pretty much the whole world's popula-

tion. Fantasy and sci-fi was the most popular genre of the decade - in 2008, it became ok to fancy a dead guy, when vampires became all the rage with Twilight, Doctor Who in his TARDIS returned to our screens after sixteen years away, and the Harry Potter films have so far brought in over \$4.47 billion - yes billion - making them the top grossing film franchise ever.

Finally, the Noughties was the age of the iPod. From the Shuffle, to the Nano, to the Touch, and now of course the iPhone, pretty much everyone has one. Social networking sites such as MySpace

and Twitter also became all the rage - in 2004 Facebook was launched from a university bedroom and now has over 300 million members. Aside from Facebook, the Internet also provided us with another means of procrastination in the form of YouTube.

So the last decade - that's 3,652.42199 days, or 5,259,487.66 minutes in case you were wondering - was full of events and occasions that will go down in history. Whether the Noughties have good or bad memories for you, we can at least say they were eventful. Here's to the next ten.

GRAD GOES 'ON THE BUSES'

Davy Garland

FOR MANY STUDENTS at Lancaster, especially those who come from foreign parts, such as India, China, or London, then the Campus can be bit of a lonely place during weekends, and there's always the problem of what to do and see. Of course what comes into this is money, with travel especially for a day out being quite expensive. With this in mind, for the last few years, Graduate College has been operating a series of coach trips that go out every two weeks during term time, and a few during the holidays periods. The aim is to travel around the North visiting sites and places, which offer both a cultural interest and can keep the shopping mania for some in control. This has meant that places such as Chester, York and Liverpool have been popular with near 200 people going out at any one time. Most of the trips are never above £10, which is much cheaper than getting there on one's own, and this year, it seems that keeping this price low has been fruitful, with four coaches going to Whitby in October, locations that normally do not always gather more than two coaches.

This term sees a busy schedule, with York coming up on the February 4, followed by Durham and Beamish two weeks later, and a Castle/Cathedral tour of Richmond and Ripon following that. At the end of term, a boat trip on Ullswater is planned, with Easter hopefully seeing a stop over trip to Oxford or Bath. In the past we have done Dublin and Edinburgh, with possibly these or the Isle of Man being suggested for the summer. Wales is also a popular location, and during the summer term, trips to Conwy and Llandudno will be arranged. For those who want to find out more details of these trips can find information on the website given below, or in the GSA office in Graduate College.

Over the years, the GSA officers have made it a matter of course to take these trips, with a certain amount of responsibility and involvement in making them go well. Of course, we enjoy the trips as much as the passengers, with some memorable stories to boot. The thing I find quite amazing is how much some people will overlook the cultural aspect in favour of pure shopping. Chester is an example, whereby I had to recently persuade a student who wanted to only stay at Cheshire Oaks all day, as she thought Chester was rubbish. When I asked her where she had gone

shopping in Chester, she stated that it had no shops at all. When I showed her the map, it turned out; she had spent most of her time in the wrong end, and never found the main shopping area!! This infatuation with pure shopping by some people has been evident in them catching the bus home; with on one occasion the coach almost leaving two students behind in York, as they had got a train out of the city towards Hull to find a shopping centre, and their train was late. Such confusion, also happened with another student who so overwhelmed by her shopping 'experience' at Cheshire Oaks, boarded the wrong coach, and I had to run after it as it went on its way to North Wales, the student suddenly realising her error waving her arms frantically and running up and down the coach.

With Graduate College, and the university as a whole now having many overseas students, then it is a great opportunity for them to experience some of the history and the culture that they might otherwise not experience. When I take a trip, I usually point out some of the old pubs where they can eat, sup real local ale, and soak of the atmosphere. On one occasion I found myself with five students from Kosovo, eating various traditional pies and Manx ale in a 17th Century pub, we were soon joined by about 30 other foreign students from the trip, packing the place out. I believe more time was spent in there taking pictures and posing with staff rather than out in the shops. But these trip are for everybody, and being a student from South of these Islands, then it has been a great opportunity to really see the north and Wales for that matter, and when lucky crossing the border to Scotland. When the mood has been down or the room feels like a prison cell, then a few hours in an entirely new place can do wonders not just for the mood, but sometimes in helping to take a fresh approach to ones work. With so much on our doorstep then it seems daft to waste the chance and at such a cheap price.

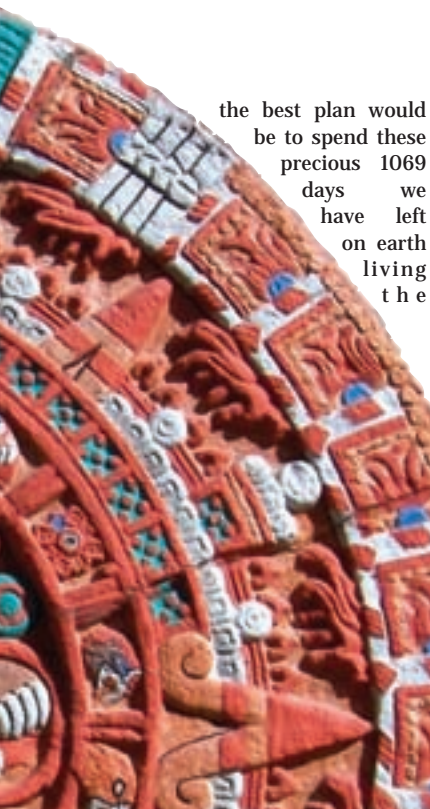
the best plan would be to spend these precious 1069

days we have left on earth living the

most hedonistic lifestyle possible: not much point buying a Toyota Prius then.

Believers in the approaching apocalypse apparently include Shirley Maclaine, Mel Gibson and the Smashing Pumpkins. A strange mix of devout followers: but could there be any truth in it all? Is God ready to apply his final solution due to our selfish ways? The widespread destruction beyond the control of mankind is what is foreseen by various prophecies, the Nostradamus 2012 doomsday prophecy, Biblical prophecies of Armageddon and the Mayan prophecy. It is perhaps the latter that has caused many of us to gasp in disbelief since it was the Mayan civilisation that predicted the ending of their Long Count calendar of cycles of 26,000 years precisely on the December 21 2012. With the ending of one of the earth's incredibly long cycles, the planet will naturally begin another, yet what this cycle will imply for humanity is

still unsure. Rather than announcing an apocalypse, as the site december212012.com insists, the Mayans saw the changing of earth cycles as a time of transformation and renewal, there is no reference to the end of humankind. It is in fact the misunderstanding of the Mayan prophecy that has encouraged apocalyptic websites and the recent film 2012 to distort the prophecy by associating 2012 with fear and destruction as shown in the global disaster scenario of the film. The changing of cycle does indeed mark a crossroads moment, an unprecedented time for readdressing the problems that threaten human life. Rather than perceiving the 2012 completion date as the end of life and of our problems, perhaps we should see it as a reminder of the precious times we live in. And let's not forget that it is our world politicians that hold the power to destroy the planet, many times over thanks to weapons of mass destruction. Personally, I'm slightly more worried about that thought.



TOP FIVE

WINTER ACCESSORIES

Forget boring Ugg boots, try some of the coolest winter accessories. Who wants wet feet anyway?

◀ **Headphone earmuffs**
Keep your ears warm and the music pumping! Can be plugged into an iPod or a games console.



▶ **Elbow length gloves**
Looks great with a cape coat, go for soft wool like Angora.



◀ **The Ushanka**
The ultimate fashion statement. Avoid real fur unless you want an animal activist on your back.



▶ **The classic striped scarf**
A cool scarf can update any coat or jacket. Wide stripes are particularly in fashion at the moment, and a classic cashmere scarf looks incredibly elegant.



◀ **Riding boots**
In the cold weather, proper leather boots are what you need. Wear with long socks or tights and go knee high if you dare!



Captain Bonny's world of food

The Captain goes in search of the Sun

CONTINUING IN THE vein of unknown gastronomic little gems in Lancaster, I think Sun street and its contents is worth a mention. If you head up the pedestrian area towards the crossing at Waterstones, you will see a little signpost on your right hand side which says Sun street. Through this tiny alley, one steps into a completely separate little world, one far away from the crowds in the main centre. Aside from a few novelty shops, (jewellery and fashions) the street possesses two gorgeous cafes on opposite side of each other, the Sunbury tea rooms, and the Sun Café.

For many years, I was a frequent customer of the Sun Café, which is an arty hangout for the luvies of Lancaster, with its board of events etc, plus its nice selections of paintings and prints upon the wall. It has always been known for its continental flavour with grand coffees, the hot chocolates (which I feel are a bit pricey) being exceptionally good. New management recently has made this atmosphere a little more European, with a waiter (who I must admit almost got a slap on

occasion for being pushy) pointing you to your seat when it's busy. The breakfasts are worth a try, with various styles of scrambled egg on toast, one with mixed mushrooms which is quite a treat. The music is Latinish and the staff generally keep out of your way. As to lunch, then again this can be hit and miss, though a stable and more reliable option is the Ciabatta's which have a range of superb fillings, (many vegetarian) and I must say seems relatively worth the price. With a range of beers this is a nice lunchtime hangout, but do get in early as the place can get packed. At night it changes into a high class restaurant, which personally is beyond the scale of most of us, and a little bit if not quite pretentious. But during the day, it's worth a try.

In contrast to this European hangout is the Sunbury, which across the street is a million miles away in both theme and menu on offer. As I think I might have mentioned before it is a good old fashioned tea room which does the basics, but I must add with style and flavour. For example, I can grab a tradi-

tional breakfast in there for three quid, with a nice vegetarian option available. The beverages are average, but worth it, with big pots of tea etc, so you get your money's worth and more. But it is the sweets that really get me going. Yes, it's nice to find a place that does wheat and gluten free cakes and tarts, so you can enjoy them no matter if you have a stomach weakness or not; Their carrot cakes absolutely gorgeous. The service is straightforward, with sincere cheerfulness and you do find that the atmosphere can seem like ones front room, with various aunts and uncles coming through the door. I ended up on one occasion discussing models of shopping trolley with a bunch of over 70s and a guy with a Mohican, all very eclectic there.

Of course aside from these two little gems, if you continue down the street you come to the Sun Inn, which is entirely a different ball game, with a respected menu of traditional dishes and cheese boards, plus very authentic British breakfasts. Though expensive, having locally sourced meat and dairy can be a treat, and for those who like their meat spiced, then try the 'devils kidneys'. With a nice variety of Belgian beers and local ales, then washing good food down with quality beer is a blessing, and one that the Sun can give in dollops.

So the next time you are in town and fancy a nibble or a warm drink, follow the Sun eh, you won't be disappointed.

Campus icons

A glimpse into the life of Lancaster's famous faces

NAME: Gareth Mawnsleys

PROFESSION: Spar Shop Assistant

STARSIGN: Sagittarius

How long have you been working at Spar for?

For this one about 14 months and I worked for two Spars previously for different stints and have worked for Spar five years in total.

Have you been to university?

No. As I put it to people bluntly, I'm an academic retard.

If you did go to university what subject would you study and why?

I had wanted to go and study history, but originally I wanted to do biology due to a family medical condition. History was largely just because as I was very interested in the World Wars.

What would you

recommend as a top student attraction in Lancaster?

A must-see for students is Williams-sons Park as you can throw on a BBQ, have a good time and then at night you aren't far from town.

What is your favourite thing about Lancaster University?

Generally everyone's nice and friendly and it's a really relaxed vibe, everything's really simple. You know it's just everything is there and if you want to go out it seems all to be catered for.

It is almost one month into the New Year, have you managed to keep to your New Years Resolutions?



I didn't make one. I am trying healthier so people who come to uni early will probably see me running around the campus

What do your find most students have in their shopping basket?

It is always really essential stuff like bread, milk, eggs. It is not what everyone thinks it is in a student typical basket of beer and stuff. It's nice to see people going a lot healthier.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I don't even know where I will be at the end of the week. I've no idea. I don't think to far ahead. I just tend to see where my life takes me and generally have a nice quiet life and if it happens it happens.

Start off the year injury free

By herbal therapist
Laura Van Tatenhove

Welcome to the Natural Health Care Centre's monthly feature article. Each month one of the therapists from the centre will provide students with their perspective on complementary therapy and how the various techniques work in relation to specific conditions such as stress, fatigue, back pain, asthma (to name a few that we see a lot of here on campus!). This month Laura van Tatenhove, Bowen Therapist at the Centre is looking at how the Bowen Technique is becoming increasingly popular within professional sports as a means for improving sports performance, preventing and/or reducing injury and as a treatment for injuries.

What is the Bowen Technique?

Originally from Australia and named after its inventor, Tom Bowen, the Bowen Technique consists of a series of gentle moves over the skin and underlying soft tissue, using the thumbs and the fingers. In between each set of moves the therapist leaves the room, allowing the effect of the treatment to 'sink in'.

Bowen and Sports Performance

Several research programmes have been undertaken to try and quantify scientifically the benefits of Bowen with regards performance. One such study at Coventry University in 2008 found that a single treatment of the Bowen Technique significantly increases the flexibility of the hamstring muscles in healthy subjects and maintains this increase for a period of one week in the

absence of tissue heating, stretching or specific joint mobilisation. Given that hamstring strains are the most common sports-related injury in the lower limb with high recurrence rates and lengthy recovery periods, this is good news for any runners or rugby and football players out there! In other studies it has been found that Bowen improves respiratory performance, particularly with those suffering from asthma, and is effective as a means for maintaining muscular strength and flexibility in endurance events such as ultra marathons.

Bowen and Injury Prevention

Why wait until something's broken before you try to fix it? Why do we not treat our own bodies in the same way that performance cars are maintained, that is, on a regular basis by professionals? Of course, injuries do happen, collisions, falls etc. but on the whole many injuries could be prevented if athletes tuned into the idea that sporting activity should not inevitably lead to injury, especially in healthy, young adults. Most, if not all sports injury prevention focuses primarily and quite sensibly on areas of training. These include the right shoe, building in rest days, warm up/down and so on. Yet there is much to be said of having treatment as part of a pre-management of sports injuries, and so employing the therapist as part of the global fitness regime rather than simply in times of emergency.

Bowen and Sports Injury

In saying all this Bowen practitioners see some great results in the realm of acute and long-term injuries such as cartilage/ligament damage, knee twists,



groin strains, shin splints, tennis elbow, Achilles Tendonitis, Plantar Fascitis and many more. Unlike most other therapies, the Bowen Technique is able to work directly on an injured area and does not require the normal period of rest whilst inflammation abates. In fact, the sooner you put the Bowen work in after an injury the better the results! In all cases the aim is to limit the impact of any injury and minimise the disruption that is experienced. In most cases (although inevitably Bowen will not work in every situation) clients will see change and improvement of some sort in three sessions, even with chronic

conditions. If maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle is important to you, this is a small price to pay to keep yourself in tiptop condition.

How does it Work?

A few gentle moves are put into the body and the client is then left alone in the room. The nervous system is aware that the body has been touched and that some disturbance in the underlying tissue has occurred (in such as specific way that the body is not overloaded with information) and that a response is required. In doing so one opens up the space for the body to in-

vestigate and set about repairing itself. More recently an understanding of how treatments like Bowen work has come from research being done on the superficial layer of fascia lying underneath the skin, as well as the fascial covering of the muscular skeletal system. The fascia has now been shown to have contractile properties and acts to give integrity to the muscle it surrounds. In terms of both function and injury this is an important concept, particularly in the realm of sports performance, where muscles are really put to the test!

For more information and testimonials from national and international level sportspeople check out the following websites www.thebowentechnique.com and www.bowen4me.com. To make an appointment or enquire about how the Bowen Technique might help you contact Laura at lauravt64@hotmail.com.

Meanwhile, all the best for an injury free, sports achieving and healthy 2010!

To win a complimentary Bowen treatment with Laura be the first student to e-mail Features editor Poppy Goodbrand at scan.features@lusu.co.uk with the correct answer to the following question.

In which country did the Bowen Technique originate?

Underwater basket weaving

Jo Taylor puts the case across for the Mickey Mouse degree

THE TERM MICKEY Mouse degree seems to pop up more and more in today's society, but the term is often misused or overused in many cases. Is a Mickey Mouse degree one where you learn nothing? One where the content has been dumbed down? One where the course title is ridiculous? One where there is no academic reasoning and that employers do not value? One where people pretend to study at University before embarking on a life-long career at the local Co-op? Or do you actually study Mickey Mouse? This last question may seem bizarre, but it is now possible, in America to take a degree in the Life and Works of Walt Disney!

So what courses exactly can be classed as Mickey Mouse? In 2000, Staffordshire University was mocked for providing David Beckham Studies as it provided a module on the sociological importance of football to students taking sociology, sports science or media studies. Also in the Mickey Mouse list you can find golf management, surf science, animal



Taking the Mickey: Putting your future in the hands of a mouse (photo: flickr 'honey-bee')

management, stained-glass studies, stand-up comedy, Wine Studies, Happiness degrees, basket weaving, the list goes on.

The hard part is telling the difference between a Mickey Mouse degree and one that merely looks like one. Degrees such as Film Making, Media Studies, Photography, Sociology, Philosophy etc were seen in the 1990s as Mickey Mouse, but are becoming more and more valuable to employers as they are largely vocational rather than purely academic. Every generation has their Mickey Mouse degrees. The arts were mocked in the 70s, sociology in the 80s and gender studies in the 90s. All of which are now recognised as legitimate by most academics.

If these students are taking courses in areas they are truly fascinated by, what right do we have to attack their interests? Boris Johnson is a supporter of so-called Mickey Mouse degrees, and he states that: "It is ridiculous for critics to denounce 'Mickey Mouse degrees' and say that the students would be better off doing vocational courses - when the whole point of these degrees is that they're largely vocational." Courses such as hairdressing and textile design are just as vocational as medicine and architecture, but still not held in as

high esteem. The point is that these provide for the service industry, a highly profitable field, yet not seen as needing a degree to enter.

Looking at post-graduate employment however, you see the relevance of these degrees. 70 percent of students from Lancaster University went straight into employment following a Drama degree. Compare this with the number of graduates going into employment following a History degree, 43 percent. All of the most distinguished universities offer a degree course in History, yet using the evidence and the proper definition of a Mickey Mouse degree, History would therefore be more suited to the term. This is obviously not true, but it shows that the term is misused.

Obviously there are still going to be ridiculous degrees which will never be revered in the same way as traditional subjects, but most Mickey Mouse degrees require just as much training and lesson time as other respectable courses. Perhaps we should learn to be more open minded about student's degree choices, as many of these degrees are thoroughly enjoyable and often lead people to their dream job, even if they have been seen to be taking the Mickey.

STUDENT LIFESTYLE

Weighing up the consequences

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

MONDAY. BRAN FLAKES. Tuesday. Bran Flakes. Wednesday. Bran Flakes. I think you get the idea. My personal trainer, Laura, has told me that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. I'm sure I remember my mum saying that years ago and never listening.

It is strange though that having breakfast every morning actually does make me feel better and more energised throughout the day. I was told not to change my diet too soon and too quickly but I think I may have done. Cereal bars have replaced chocolate and nothing has replaced Walkers smokey bacon crisps in my affections. Nowadays I only snack to eat fruit and my three meals a day are what I make do with. Lot's of tuna and soup (though not together) seem to form a large part of what I generally eat. Although I am also a bread fiend. Should probably keep that under better control.

Monitoring what you eat in the form of a food diary is actually very useful. Not only do you have that overwhelming sense of guilt when you fancy something really fatty because you know you will have to write it down afterwards but it also acts as a deterrent. I take an almost masochistic pride in going to bed at night knowing that the food diary can't get the upper

hand and grass me up to Laura. Yes, I have personified my food diary. But it will not win. I think this lower calorie count is making me hysterical to be honest though.

However, just cutting down on food won't help get you into shape. I needed to do exercise as well. I have to admit to never being someone who was terribly enamoured with the idea of the gym. I always thought it wouldn't be my scene and I wasn't enough of a poseur or didn't have an ipod touch to truly fit in. How wrong I was. There is no better feeling than going to work after an hour at the gym. And I'm not even being sarcastic.

Laura has prepared a routine for me to follow whenever I go to the gym. I'm supposed to do a treadmill warm-up, followed by 3 lots of ten minute sessions on the other new-fangled equipment that I can't remember the name of. I then finish off with a 15 minute run on the treadmill again and some stretching exercises. It's important not to overdo it, but if you can get to a gym and do a similar workout three times a week then you will gradually improve your health and well-being, and noticeably feel better.

My next big aims are to get into the weights room and to start playing squash again. I just need a partner now who isn't a million times better than me.



Recipes for disaster

Jo Taylor puts our culinary skills to the test

A simple and cheap vegetarian dish to be eaten as a snack or part of a main meal.

*Easy – serves 4
Ready in 15 minutes.*

Ingredients

- A cup of rice
- Half an onion
- A tin of sweetcorn
- A few mushrooms
- 1-2 eggs
- Half a cup of peas
- Soy sauce



Method

- Start cooking the rice however you do, and put some oil in a frying pan.
- Chop the onion and mushrooms and throw into the frying pan.
- Once the rice is cooked, drain it off and add it into the frying pan.
- Tip the drained sweetcorn into the pan as well and stir it all up.
- Break the eggs into the pan (OR beat them together in another bowl and tip into the frying pan) and stir the mixture up. At this point, you need to keep stirring the mixture, keeping the eggs moving.
- Keep going until the eggs have cooked, should take about 5-8 minutes.

Per serving: 145 calories, total fat 2.7g, cholesterol 53mg

Lecture break

THE QUIZ - Riddle me this

1. I can be seen when it's cold, but not when hot. You need me to live - take your last and you're not.
2. From the beginning of eternity to the end of time and space I am in every place. What am I?
3. What five letter word gets shorter when you add two letters to it?
4. I can flutter and take your breath away. I can take a beating but do not bruise. If I stopped you would be sure to lose. Everyday I am with you. What am I?
5. The man who invented it doesn't want it. The man who bought it doesn't need it. The man who needs it doesn't know it. What is it?

Answers below



The Wheel

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

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Satisfy Your Thirst

Thirst, Song Kang-ho, Kim Ok-bin
Dir: Park Chan-wook

Hannah Fearon
Culture Editor

THIRST IS A Korean horror from legendary director Park Chan-wook, (director of Old Boy). The film follows Sang-hyun (Song Kang-ho), a priest who volunteers for a vaccine research project for a deadly virus, EV. He is a well respected priest who is saddened by the suffering and deterioration of the world around him. During the tests, Sang-hyun is infected by the virus and is given a blood transfusion, however, the blood he is given is infected. Sang-hyun becomes a vampire, needing to feast on human blood in order to keep the virus away. The thirst that Sang-hyun feels for human blood tests his faith as a priest, as does his desire for Tae-ju (Kim Ok-bin), the wife of his old school friend. Whilst Sang-hyun manages to satisfy his thirst with the blood of the sick, he cannot resist his urges for Tae-ju who wishes to escape from her unhappy marriage.

Whilst *Thirst* follows the generic conventions of horror, it bears little resemblance to popular Korean horrors that Western audiences are familiar with. I was rather surprised by the lack of gore which is often expected of Korean horror films. Of course there's gore, it's Korean. There's just more style and subtlety to it. There is also little use of the supernatural and Park gives us a twist on the vampire myth

with Sang-hyun being infected by a blood transfusion rather than a bite. The central role in the film, a priest, also adds new layers to the story. The film isn't simply about Sang-hyun's thirst for blood, but his desire for sex and adultery, something that he has never experienced before as a religious man. Interesting fact, *Thirst* was the first Korean mainstream film with full male nudity, and Park certainly makes full use of this. Prepare for some rather graphic sex scenes.

Despite the advertising and obvious use of vampire myth and conventions, I'm not quite sure that I would describe *Thirst* as a horror film. It stands out from Park's previous work and my knowledge of Korean horror. The film could arguably be a satire of the genre as Park uses a great deal of black comedy throughout. Sang-hyun manages to satisfy his thirst for blood by drinking the blood of a coma patient through a tube, much like one would drink a milkshake through a straw. Whilst this may not sound rather dark and not particularly funny, the way in which Park presents these scenes makes it humorous to watch.

Thirst is a film offering refreshing originality to the vampire genre and Korean horror; films that often seem to follow Japanese themes and motifs, usually far too concerned with the typical creepy young girl with long black hair obscuring her face. Park's horror-comedy combination with its occasional moments of serious drama makes for an entertaining watch. But, the second half of the film tended to



trail off into too many separate events. It was one of those occasions where the audience are thinking, 'okay, here's the climax, oh wait, there's a whole new story, and another'. There are some great opportunities to end on, but Park keeps giving us more, too much more. The film does manage to remain entertaining and funny throughout, but the story becomes a little tired. Despite this, *Thirst* is definitely worth a watch. Stylish and inventive, romantic and dark, sexy and gory, the film's got it all. For those of you who can put up with subtitles for a good two hours, forget *Twilight* and *True Blood*, satisfy your hunger, with *Thirst*.

Thirst is showing at LU Cinema on Monday, Week 4 at 7:30pm. Tickets are £2 with a Purplecard.



The Tragedy of Macbeth

James Anderson on a very brief Scottish Play

TOWARDS THE END of 2009 the Dukes Theatre was the setting for a theatrical rendition of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. This abridged version of *Macbeth* did not feature elaborate set pieces, costumes or props, but focused upon the characters and the ambience of the scene.

The production effectively utilised a shadow for the murderous protagonists, *Macbeth* and *Lady Macbeth*, to emphasise their guilty conscience. These shadows also played a vital role in manipulating the deceased Banquo who, head bowed, is led to his encounter with *Macbeth*. A simple theatrical device to prove the division between the living and the dead without the

need for any cosmetic changes to the actor.

The Scottish play, by which name *Macbeth* is often referred, always provides great characters in the form of the witches and *Lady Macbeth*. In this version the witches appeared to be the central characters, and are twice multiplied, yielding six attractive female witches spouting incantations as they churn around the cauldron. The witches play their part as 'beautiful' women—as opposed to ugly wart befouled old smelly ladies—but they retain their cackling fervour. Which, I believe, is a more persuasive slant on the witches concept.

Lady Macbeth taunts *Macbeth* for

his weakness when he suggests leaving King Duncan to die naturally, rather than murder him in bed, and successfully persuades the new Thane of Cawdor to fulfil his role as the last traitor of the present King. This interpretation of *Lady Macbeth* remains true to the original character and proves herself to be an independent thinker, where possible taking advantage of the situation. Her part was well played, especially toward the closing stages of the play where she manipulates *Macbeth* away from his guests after his fleeting visions of Banquo.

The portrayal of *Lady Macbeth* and the witches are arguably the juicier roles, therefore, it would be un-

fair to make any direct comparisons between the energy with which these roles were enacted and such roles as Banquo or *Macbeth*. However, it must be stated that *Lady Macbeth* and the witches appealed greatly, these protagonists being convincingly acted. Despite their lack of years, these actors engaged the audience successfully and aptly portrayed their characters.

Meanwhile the titular character *Macbeth*, was less convincing, perhaps the darker and moodier nature of the character could have been explored to a greater extent. Especially the twisted nature of his conscience upon dispatching the killers to mur-

der Banquo, as the play expressly stated *Macbeth's* desire to avoid this particular gruesome crime, whilst this play did not.

However, the play was considerably abridged and this is perhaps the root cause of the problem.

I would have to conclude that the shortened nature of the script reduced the content of the play and this created the feeling that no-sooner had the show begun, than it had reached the middle and then the end. Nonetheless should a viewer be interested in a brief introduction to *Macbeth*, which covers the principal turning points in the original script, this particular version was more than suitable.

A whale of a time

Ady Gray on the catch that was Moby Dick

A COLD AND wet night in Lancaster saw me searching for alternative entertainment other than hitting the bars and clubs again. Luckily for me that the hangover from the previous weekend put me off drink as I ended up at The Dukes Theatre watching Spymonkey's Moby Dick. The classic book is an account of good, evil, fate and obsession. The play is an ironic juxtaposing of Herman Melville's novel of Captain Ahab's obsessive struggle to catch and kill the whale, Moby Dick, with the obsessive struggle of the leader of a theatre troop attempting to act out the narrative of the book.

Comedy is ensured as the head of the troop, Tony Parkes, is thwarted in his quest by a cannibal harpoonist from Bavaria; the love-struck Ishmael; a puppet for a crew member; a stowaway female and a mermaid figurehead that wants to get pregnant. The battle of Parkes' to recount Ahab's own epic fight is against his own co-

actors rather than one against the elements and fate. The "mistelling" of the narrative meant surprises all the way through, including the song about the aforementioned pregnancy-aspiring mermaid figurehead.

Nothing about this play was conventional from the neon-clad cast, depicting life under the ocean as flora and fauna, to the comedy of watching Parkes attempt to wrest centre stage from Ishmael. Far too often platitudes such as "full of belly laughs", "comedy geniuses" etc are doled out but in this case they would not be undeserved. Other reviewers

have said these guys deserve their own television show and The Times reported the play was 'gloriously anarchic, constantly entertaining' and 'inspired comic misrule'. These platitudes are wholly deserved. The only disappointment was that the show ran for a mere three days and hardly anyone will have had the chance to see it in Lancaster.



LU Cinema goes old school

Lauren Randall

THIS TERM, LU Cinema are showing classic films such as The Godfather, The Birds, Citizen Kane and An American Werewolf in London. I hope that everyone takes advantage of these masterpieces on the big (well, medium-sized) screen, particularly anyone under the age of 25. Yet, I disappointingly suspect that you won't. I get the impression that most people born post-1985 think that most films made pre-1985 are rubbish. So what are their reasons for not enjoying 'old' cinema?

At first, I thought that 'old' cinema is dismissed because it's black-and-white, thus boring and unappealing. However, there are numerous films that are equally exciting, if not more so, than some produced today. Actually, many recent gangster successes pay homage to the thirties/forties' mafia classics. James Cagney (little fella, big presence) is the Don – ahem – of gangster performances, always captivating, nuanced and believable, much like De Niro in Goodfellas. The Godfather, not black-and white but still thirty-eight years old, is unequivocal

genius: suspenseful, powerful with an unnerving script, equally chilling and tender. Also featuring a restrained Pacino and cotton-wool cheeked Brando, it's a must-see.

Then I thought about all the 'old' films that featured colour and the recent films that didn't. Technicolor was introduced into films in the 1930s and used to magnificent effect in films like Wizard of Oz. A majority of black-and-white films after the thirties were so because of budget or artistic direction. Night of the Living Dead, filmed in the 60s, used monochrome as a narrative aide as well as heightening suspense. For Schindler's List, Spielberg used black-and-white deliberately to keep the film 'era-less'. It's now the highest grossing black-and-white picture, showing that millions flocked to see it despite its minimalist palette.

Maybe it's the effects rather than colour; they've only been spectacular the last twenty years, right? Wrong! The effects in An American Werewolf in London are mind-blowing for a low budget film. Extensive prosthetics and camera trickery enabled the stretching out of actor David Naughton's face, hands and feet, turning him into



a convincing werewolf before the eyes of the audience. Go further back to the creation of King Kong in the 1933 classic. Effects genius Willis H. O'Brien used stop-motion making the massive monkey realistic for the time whilst protégé Ray Harryhausen expanded further with the extraordinary skeleton fight in Jason and the Argonauts. Effects obviously develop with age; the recent phenomenon of Avatar is a stark contrast to the 3D used in the eighties yet effects should be viewed in context to be fully appreciated.

So that leaves me with one thing:

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Sex, blood, shocks and howls as *Being Human* hits our screens once again

April James

ONCE AGAIN OPENING with Annie's paranormal tea making activities in the house inhabited by three supernatural tenants in Bristol, *Being Human* is back with a vengeance.

A curious blend of comedy and drama, *'Being Human'* garnered unanticipated popularity in the UK, leading to the commissioning of the second series- and so far, the show hasn't disappointed, upping the ante to include more battles, more transformations and more revelations than before. The second series of *Being Human* seems, so far, to be very much about picking up the pieces; in the wake of the revelation that her boyfriend caused her death, Annie the ghost is trying to forge a new way in the world. And what better way to do that than to get a job in a pub? However, while Annie may be enjoying her new-found visibility and confidence, the same cannot be said for werewolf George or the vampire Mitchell, who must now both contend with the effects of killing the leader of



the vampires while dealing with the unsuspected arrival of a pair of particularly promiscuous vampires who almost spell catastrophe for the relationships in the house

Telling of the ultimate supremacy of writing in *Being Human*, though, is the fact that the new series is able to open not in the centre of some gigantic battle between vampires. Instead, it chooses to focus on the domestic issues between the unlikely George and his girlfriend Nina, the spirited nurse won over in the first series by George's awkward charm. Unsurprisingly, though, the relationship hits a rocky patch fairly quickly- in the first series, Nina was scratched by George in his werewolf

form, and as becomes apparent, has inherited the curse. Cue the poignantly shot split scene between George and his 'normal' change in the woods and Nina, experiencing the transformation for the first time in the tiny room where she first received the curse. Following their horrific changes and unguessable night activities comes the reminder that *'Being Human'* is far from a purely supernaturally focussed programme, as Nina and George have a tense emotional exchange, culminating in the revealing of Nina's secret.

And this, ignoring the pulse-racing story line and amazing werewolf transformations, is what gives *Being Human* a real edge over the torrent of supernaturally focussed programmes (and specifically those about vampires) that seem to be working their way onto every TV channel. Just as the title suggests, the oddity of the trio's circumstances is truly secondary to their overriding desire to once again get on with being human. Hence George and Nina trying to resolve their issues. Hence Mitchell buying a pet fish for a moping colleague. Hence the tea.

dialogue. Some people might think it too fast, too clichéd and too complex. Well, *Citizen Kane* is a masterpiece of quotable dialogue, so much so that *The Simpsons* dedicated an entire episode to it ('Rosebud' if you're curious). The *Godfather* also boasts infamous quotes whilst film noir host a whole host of suggestive words for those looking for some smut. And isn't corny dialogue still a staple of cinema? Not just romcoms but Bond innuendoes, Arnold Schwarzenegger and horror films. We don't feel right watching certain films if there's a lack of 'Nobody puts Baby in the corner'.

Dialogue is much like the effects; appreciate the time of when it's written and it's brilliant.

I'm stumped. There seems to be little difference between old and new films. We've even taken to re-making oldies so that they're watched again. *The Birds* is even scheduled to be remade. By *Transformers'* Michael Bay. Mmm, taste the subtlety. Are these films then simply lost in translation? Modern audiences perhaps enter the world of 'old' cinema with certain assumptions. Here's an idea, take a trip to LU cinema and learn a whole new language. It'll be worth it.

old's cool

Palace

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In Focus: University Netball Team

Nick O'Malley

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY NETBALL is a club going from strength to strength with huge hopes for Roses this year after last year's disappointment. All three of the club's teams are doing very well in their respective leagues with the first team also on a fantastic cup run, seeing them looking to avenge the second team's loss to the University of Chester in the third round of the BUCS cup.

In terms of league positions, the first team is in fourth place in their league, level on points with third, having won three of their six matches. The seconds are the current stand out team at the club, sitting in second place in their league having won all but one of their games in the first term, in what was an agonising 47-44 defeat at the hands of Manchester University. Until that game, the team had led the league from the very first game of the season. Meanwhile the third team has been doing better than their position in sixth suggests, as they are level on points with third place in what is a very closely contested league. The third team could, by picking up a good run of results, show a complete reversal of fortunes and league positions and take third spot or possibly even better.

The cup run for the first team has been particularly impressive with two



Onwards and upwards: All three netball teams are enjoying fine seasons in their respective leagues whilst looking forward to good runs in the cups

outstanding wins gaining them a place in the third round of the cup. They have beaten Liverpool Hope University 72-19 and the University of Chester (out of Warrington) 73-18. However, in the third round the team will not only be looking to avenge the second teams defeat to league leaders, University of Chester (out of Chester), but also seeking payback themselves after having lost to the same team in the league. This fixture will see Lancaster have the

home advantage for the first time and they will be hoping to make this pay off.

The team has managed to achieve these good league positions and go on this fantastic cup run despite having lower numbers than they would realistically like at the club. The Captain Claire Higgins has paid tribute to the squad saying that 'the standard of players this year is great and the lower numbers has had its positives since everyone in

the club is playing regular competitive netball'. Although the teams are doing very well so far this year, the team is always on the lookout for new players and anyone interested in trying to join the club is more than welcome to attend a training session or email the Captain at c.higgins2@lancs.ac.uk.

In addition, the club has one eye on the cup. Soon to come is probably the most important fixture of the year in the form of York's visit to Lancaster for the

sporting battle of the Roses. The club has huge hopes and expectations for Roses and is targeting a win in all three fixtures, to help Lancaster bring back the Roses trophy. The club has seen a greater level of determination in training already geared towards Roses and they are also looking forward to what the AU has in store for all the sporting clubs participating at the competition. This includes a Boot camp style training appearing after the Easter break in an attempt to make sure everyone is at the peak of their fitness. Although the team's current priority is the league and cup, it is hard to not look forward to Roses where the Club has the chance to finish the season in style with three potential wins.

Overall the Club really has flourished this year; with intense training they are already reaping the rewards with better positions in the league from the previous year and now have what is a brilliant work ethic. Higgins said that 'credit really does have to go to the whole squad who has taken everything in their stride, with key players leaving, and new ones coming in, everyone has adapted brilliantly'. From watching the training sessions it is clear that there is a great camaraderie about the squad. Publicity officer, Josie Tyas, said, 'It is a great squad and a club that I am so proud to be part of', which is a sentiment that everyone within the club seems to share.

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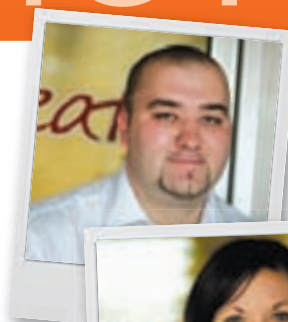
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Eat Sport, Sleep Sport, Read Wynes



So there are lots of new and exciting things happening this term, not to mention all the preparations we've got planned to get Lancaster ready for Roses 2010. Hopefully those of you that attended Refreshers Fair last week enjoyed finding out about new clubs and societies and got yourselves ready for a new term of sporting activity. I couldn't attend Refreshers fair myself as I was struck down with the dreaded flu, but I heard that many clubs and societies signed up new members and that's always great. It's never too late to get involved with anything regardless of what year you're in or course you are doing, it's always worthwhile to have a go at something new. You never know, you might actually enjoy it!

As I was saying earlier, plans for Roses are shaping up nicely. Now, I know I bring up Roses pretty much every column I write now, but that's because that's how much it is in my mind and in the minds of the teams getting prepared for it. I'm over half-way into my term of office now, I've enjoyed every second of it and all the tasks I get to do. But most of all now, it's the big swan song of the Sports Sabbatical officer, Roses that really will be the icing on the cake when I leave. I'm not suggesting that Roses is the be all and end all of my role, but it is a huge part of it and I want it to be successful. And I'm not just talking successful in terms of winning. If the event is a success and the teams do their best then I will have done my job. Of course, winning is the main aim and would be amazing, but I'd like to think that a failure to win Roses does not equate to a failure in my job. Besides, that's all hypothetical, because we are going to be giving ourselves the best chance to win the big competition this year so failure is not an option.

One of the most exciting parts of the Roses preparation which is coming up soon is the Roses Rally. It's an event taking place on Tuesday Week 4 (2nd Feb) in Barker House Farm. We have invited Olympic Bronze Medallist Swimmer, Steve Parry, to help get our teams and supporters geared up for Roses. He's an inspirational character and has achieved so much in his sporting career and hopefully he can push that winning mentality onto our own hearts and minds. The event is completely new for this year and certainly not one to be missed. Tickets are currently on sale just for the Roses competitors at £3.50 from the activities office in LUSU. From Monday 22nd Jan the tickets will be on general sale for those who wish to be involved in supporting Lancaster's bid to win Roses. Don't forget to get your ticket; it's going to be fantastic!

Edge Hill put Lancaster out of cup in cruel fashion



Stolen at the death: Lancaster were left to rue missed chances after their last ditch defeat to Edge Hill at home. Edge Hill's winner came in the dying moments of the match. The home side were missing their top scorer Sue Wynes (Photo: Fred Thomas)

LANCASTER 3 EDGE HILL 4

- Match finally played after recent bad weather
- Home side adopt cautious formation
- Lancaster succumb following sustained pressure in final minutes

Kim Megson

LANCASTER WERE LEFT wondering what might have been after suffering a last-gasp defeat in the second round of the Women's Northern Conference Cup.

The match had been rescheduled after the recent weather forced its postponement, and the fixture had to go ahead whatever the conditions. Luckily, despite a pessimistic forecast, the rain held off, although the playing surface was very heavy.

Lancaster, who currently lie sec-

ond in the league, were missing top scorer Sue Wynes due to illness, and so lined up with a cautious 4-5-1 formation.

After an even opening it was Edge Hill who took the lead in the seventeenth minute, with striker Stacy McMahon finding the bottom right hand corner after a scramble in the box.

The omens didn't look good for the home team, who have struggled to defend against Edge Hill this season. However, they did not lose heart and began to take control of the match. Before long they had the equaliser their play deserved.

A dangerous twenty-fifth minute corner was headed down to the edge of the box, and Carly Hoyle made space to score with a great finish in the top corner.

Some flair was added to proceedings when Lancaster debutant Sarah Dickinson, an American student who only arrived in the country two weeks previously, caught the opposition by surprise with an amazing long somersault throw in.

A number of decent chances followed and the away side were losing concentration, having seemingly underestimated their opponents. They were beginning to look tired, and were finding it hard to impose themselves back on the match. It was no surprise when, on the brink of half

time, Lancaster scored again. A good ball from Natalie Bird set up Emma Leahey who finished confidently to secure a lead at the interval.

However, Edge Hill looked rejuvenated after the break, and it was not long before it was all square again. Midfielder Annie Hand was given too much time and space, and took advantage.

'It was a good effort, and we've improved a lot, but we're very disappointed to lose at the end after we thought we could hold on.'
- Helen Lloyd,
Women's Football Captain

Lancaster had to recover quickly from this setback, and they pressed forward in search for another goal. They were soon rewarded minutes later; a good ball from midfield beat Edge Hill's very high defensive line and stopped almost completely on the wet surface. Laura Thompson took hold of possession and ran forward, engaging in a one-on-one with the keeper, and fired in to make it 3-2.

Edge Hill, sensing a real threat to their cup hopes pressed forward, but Lancaster were defending solidly and didn't look like budging. The hosts

had keeper Jess Smith to thank for some good saves, the best one a reflex stop from a close range header that had been set up by a huge throw in from the Edge Hill right back.

With the game entering the final ten minutes, the away side's comeback began, with Beth Rogerson's speculative effort bobbling agonisingly past Smith and into the goal.

With extra time beckoning, Edge Hill piled on the pressure in search of a winning goal, the ball hardly leaving the Lancaster half. Eventually something had to give. The breakthrough came with a huge slice of luck. With only minutes to go the lively McMahon's cross inadvertently swerved goalwards, eluding everyone and crossing the line.

Lancaster's late collapse had clearly demoralised the players, who had to find one last bit of energy. They pushed forward but were kept at bay by Edge Hill who now had almost everybody behind the ball. In the end it was too big an ask, and the hosts had nothing to show for a valiant performance.

After the game captain Helen Lloyd praised her players for a spirited performance. She said: 'It was a good effort, and we've improved a lot, but we're very disappointed to lose at the end after we thought we could hold on.'

Who will emerge triumphant in the first round of the LUSU Cup?

Julian Surface
Sports Editor

IT IS THE time of year when the inter-college teams get drawn together for the always surprising yet entertaining LUSU Cup. It is a competition in which college teams, both As and Bs, face each other in a free flowing and hard fighting battle against their rivals. The draw for Cup took place on Wednesday the 20th of January and the games are going to be hard fought as a lot of teams will be looking to prove themselves.

All matches will take place on the grass pitches as soon as the leagues are finished. This may mean, due to our harsh and unpredictable English weather, that the competition will probably be taking place in the summer term. It is time to pull on your college colours and show your support for your team. Be sure to keep your eyes on the fixtures and sports news at sports.lusu.co.uk for details.

The first game is a preliminary match before the first round begins. With Cartmel lying third in their league and Graduate in second, this should be an interesting match-up.

Graduate have played more than any other team in the inter-college competition so far and their league position is fairly deceptive. With three games under their belts, Cartmel have won, lost and drawn a game, and their tactics will depend on which team shows up. It will be a game that can go either way as both squads have played plenty of football over the year and so will be experienced on the University pitch.

The first round will see the winner of the preliminary game in the first round. No matter which team wins the preliminary game, they certainly will be given no room to breathe. Their next fixture will be against the Inter-college A league leaders, Fylde. The team remains without either draw or loss and has an outstanding goal difference of +15. However, they might be able to take consolation in the fact that Fylde have shown weaknesses in the cup competition in previous years, losing to Pendle last year. There is always a chance of an upset and both teams will be wary of this.

The first of the B team versus B team games promises great excitement. Sadly for Cartmel, Fylde Bs

have been matching their A team counterparts with their results, racking up four wins in four games. In an example of fateful symmetry, Cartmel As and Bs have an identical record; one win, one draw and a loss. It will be up to Cartmel to take the game to their opponents.

The only first round game where an A team plays another should prove intriguing. Even though Grizedale do sit second in the league with two wins and a draw, County have only played one game. The single game was lost and so it is hard to see much further than Grizedale.

The next fixture sees two underperforming teams face each other. Bowland are yet to win and Grizedale have a solitary victory next to their three losses. This will no doubt be a very hard fought battle between each squad desperate to prove themselves.

The second Bs game sees two rivals, who are both fighting at the bottom of the B league and will be determined to prove themselves with a much-needed victory. It is their chance to reclaim lost pride as they have the worst goal differences in both leagues. This game will guaran-

tee goals and both teams will be giving their all.

This next game may come down to which captain can motivate enough out of his team. Lonsdale sit bottom of the As league but have only played a single game. County have a decent record of three wins and a loss that puts them joint third and two games in hand over the team above them. It will truly be a question of whether County can step up to meet the challenge of an A team, and if Lonsdale can come out onto the pitch with the right attitude.

A mid table team in the B league faces its counterpart in the As. However, Bowland do have the confidence boost of three victories and Pendle have a negative goal difference. If the Pendle squad show professionalism, they are likely to defeat the under-rated B squad.

Although the Furness A team is not performing much better than their B team, Pendle Bs have also had a mixed season. Pendle's record of three losses out of their six matches shows that they have problems. However, Furness have the worst goal difference in the A league, with negative eight. This will be an inter-

esting match-up as both teams have defensive weaknesses and it is likely to be a high scoring game.

In any case, what has consistently been a factor in these competitions is the support of their fellow college members keeping the teams moral high. Depending on which college can bring out the larger group of supporters can have a rippling effect on the results. It is certainly going to be a great competition.

FIXTURES

Cartmel A v. Grad B (prelim)

Prelim Winner v. Fylde A

Fylde B v. Cartmel B

Grizedale A v. County A

Grizedale B v. Bowland A

Furness B v. Lonsdale B

County B v. Lonsdale A

Bowland B v. Pendle A

Pendle B v. Furness A

WEDNESDAYS

The Carleton

Student only night

Selected £1 Drinks All night

FOOTKING
Student Proms & Bars

Wednesday 7th October

Back 2 Skool

Commencing 7th October

Week 1 - Back to Skool
Wednesday 7th October

Week 2 - UV Party
Wednesday 14th October

Week 3 - Sports and Shorts
Wednesday 21st October

Week 4 - Halloween
Wednesday 28th October

Week 5 - Cowboys and Indians
Wednesday 4th November

Week 6 - Cops and Robbers
Wednesday 11th November

Week 7 - Children In Need
Wednesday 18th November

Week 8 - Dr and Nurses
Wednesday 25th November

Week 9 - Army
Wednesday 2nd December

Week 10 - Christmas Party
Wednesday 9th December

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

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

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Roses Rally announced to fire up teams ready for York showdown

- **Olympic bronze medallist Steve Parry lined up to talk at rally**
- **VP Sport excited new initiative will inspire clubs**

Robert Payling
Sports Editor

STEVE PARRY HAS been lined up as a guest speaker at the university's first ever Roses Rally in the build up to the 2010 tournament.

The Olympic Bronze Medal winning swimmer will give a motivational speech at the evening that takes place on Tuesday of Week Four in Barker House Farm. The event is aimed at getting Lancaster's AU sports clubs hyped up for this year's Roses competition. The annual sporting week-



Olympic hero: Bronze medallist Steve Parry will be speaking to teams in time for Roses in Summer term

end against York University will take place from the 30th April to 2nd May. 41 sports featured at last year's tour-

nament staged at York where Lancaster lost 194.5 to 79.5 against the home team.

VP Sports for LUSU Sue Wynes spoke to SCAN about the importance of the Rally as a way of improving Lancaster's prospects: "I'm very excited for the Roses Rally Event, it's never been done before and I believe it will be so important in instilling a shared mindset for those involved in our bid to win Roses 2010."

She added: "It's amazing to have such a prestigious sports person as Steve Parry, Olympic Bronze Medalist at the event. It's will be an absolute honour to be in the presence of such a successful sports person and the teams themselves realise the commitment Lancaster is putting towards the bid to win this year."

"I really think he'll be able to get everyone fired up and raring to get out there and win."

Lancaster University have not won the tournament since 2006 when Mike Allewell was AU President, so Wynes is hoping that the early preparations will give Lancaster the edge in Summer Term. She said: "Everything we've looked at in our plans and preparations have focused around what we can do to give the teams the support and investment they need to succeed."

The event is another sign of the university's changing attitude towards sport at Lancaster and is aimed at uniting each of the sports clubs towards reaching that much coveted win over York.

"We are doing everything we can to give our teams the best chance of winning and the Roses Rally is one of the places that they can all be united in their aims and get themselves geared up for the big competition."

"It should be a great event, getting people on board with the Roses bid whilst having some fun."

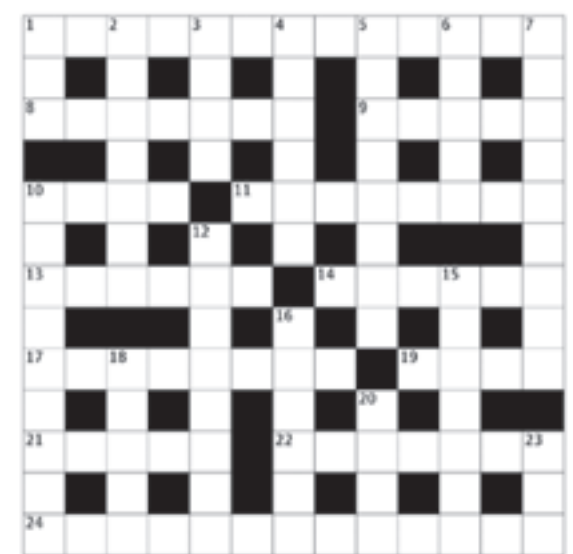
Tickets for the event are priced at £3.50 which includes entry, food and a drink.

Up for the Cup: Inter-college teams compete for LUSU trophy



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Quick crossword no 12,115



Across

- 1 Unwanted possession (5,8)
- 8 Seriousness – attractive force (7)
- 9 Stir from inactivity (5)
- 10 Wind in rings (4)
- 11 Walkway by road (8)
- 13 Filled with regret (6)
- 14 Take retribution (6)
- 17 Calmness – 8 – by Tories (anag) (8)
- 19 Incline (4)
- 21 Craze (5)
- 22 Person hunting game illegally (7)
- 24 Easily riled (5-8)

Down

- 1 Hairpiece (3)
- 2 Picture in the mind (7)
- 3 Send out (4)
- 4 Non-professional person (6)
- 5 Become aware of/by using senses (8)
- 6 Entertain (5)
- 7 Application of remedy (9)
- 10 Noel (9)

- 12 Cud chewing mammal (8)
- 15 Therein (anag) (7)
- 16 Principle – metal fastener (6)
- 18 Stringed instrument (5)
- 20 Harsh noise – file (4)
- 23 Scarlet (3)

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