

What becomes of the broken hearted?

Two Lancaster students give their verdict
on the holiday of love

Features, page 18

scan

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 5, Lent Term, Tuesday 9th February, 2010

Seven arrested after Sugar House high

- Doorstaff discover unknown white powder
- Drug thought likely to be popular party drug Mephedrone
- Incident occurs at Lancaster Loves Festival

Lizzie Houghton
Assistant Editor

SEVEN STUDENTS WERE arrested on the night of Lancaster Loves after Sugar House doorstaff found them to be in possession of an unknown white powder.

The students claim the power was 'Bubble', a common alias for the substance mephedrone. Although it is currently not illegal to possess mephedrone, it is illegal to sell it for human consumption. The substance has now been sent off for forensic analysis. The students have been released on police bail pending results of the test. At the time of going to print it has yet to be confirmed where the students are studying.

The incident occurred on January 28 as the students were trying to enter the Sugar House. Staff at the club altered the police after compulsory searches on the door revealed the seven to be possession of the powder. They told police they believed it to be Bubble.

Although the seven students were apprehended at the door, there are reports of drug use inside the club. One Lancaster University student who was at Lancaster Loves said: "I was having a cigarette outside and got talking to someone for a few minutes. They said they came from Lancaster but didn't go to the university. They asked if I

wanted some drugs 'because they were legal'. I've never had anyone offer me anything at the Sugar House before, it was a bit of a surprise." Another Lancaster student claimed to have been offered the legal high whilst in the smoking area.

Mephedrone has emerged as a drug of choice amongst British clubbers in the past year. Also known as 'Meow Meow', the chemical takes the form of a white powder or crystals, and can be packaged as tablets, capsules or liquid. It is marketed over the internet as plant food to keep its sale within legal boundaries.

Following the incident Lancaster Police Detective Chief Inspector, Neil Gregson warned students against the use of the drug. He said: "As is the case with all drugs which appear in powder form, Mephedrone lends itself to being 'cut' with other drugs.



Mephedrone: A type
of plant fertiliser

"This means you can never know exactly what you are putting into your body. Mephedrone can cause very bad reactions when mixed with alcohol - people have died from taking this substance - and there is the risk of paranoia and possible mental health problems in the long term."

A report into the emergence of the

drug by Lancaster academics Dr. Fiona Measham and Dr. Karenza Moore states that symptoms of mephedrone use include hot flushes, a racing heart-rate, insomnia, nose bleeds and shrunken genitals in men. In November the drug was linked with the death of 14-year-old Brighton schoolgirl, Gabrielle Price.

According to the report mephedrone has become the fourth most popular drug with clubbers since it came onto the market last year. Being relatively cheap, easy to acquire and fundamentally legal, it has found a core market with students and young professionals. But given the dangers it presents to users health government is currently reviewing mephedrone's legality. Dr. Measham sits on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, which is expected to recommend to the Home Secretary the outlawing of mephedrone. The County Durham police force already has a policy of arresting people for the possession of the substance.

DCI Gregson added: "Aside from the health risks, if you are found to be carrying drugs you may be arrested and will be under investigation until it is determined exactly what that substance is. Mephedrone is currently not illegal, but that looks set to change, and a criminal record could impact heavily on your future."

The Sugar House has a zero tolerance policy on drug use. Random searches are routinely carried out at the entrance. Michael Payne, President of the Lancaster University Student's Union said: "Our policies did exactly what they are designed to in cases like this - inform & allow the police to deal with issues relating to drugs as soon as we are aware of any such problems.

"We will continue to work with the police and local authorities in bringing entertainment to the local community in a safe and sensible manner, as well as raising awareness of such harmful substances to our students."

Silence is golden: Protest at University Court



Full Story on Pages 4-5

The relationship between JCRs and SCR is crucial

Colleges thrive and develop when common goals and ideals are shared by junior and senior members; ultimately mutual cooperation is the secret of success

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The collegiate system is often touted as one of the defining features that sets Lancaster University apart from its immediate rankings rivals. Many students comment that their primary reason for accepting an offer to the university was because the lure of mini-communities where similar minds share a fostered sense of belonging and spirit was something they could not resist.

They are often whisperings and murmurings that the Vice-Chancellor is not a fan of the collegiate system. The centralisation of the college bars was perceived as an attempt to weaken the power of the colleges. Rumours persist that the College and Residence Office would prefer to centrally manage accommodation rather than have to deal with nine separate colleges. Obviously, from an administrative and business point of view there is a lot sense in scrap-

ping colleges and having one campus community. However, that would not correlate with the founding principals of this institution and the big heart that underpins it.

However, sometimes there can be internalised threats to colleges at a more local level. JCRs often feel under enormous pressure to follow what the SCR wants to do, or are undermined in their activities and not given the responsibility and respect they deserve.

The most successful colleges are the ones where the SCR and JCR enjoy a healthy relationship. Where there are multiple opportunities via College Councils, Management or Syndicate meetings to thrash out and debate any points of difference.

The colleges that thrive are the ones where the SCR recognise the strategic priorities of the JCR and support them with guidance and finance to achieve their aims. Many

colleges also run social activities like away days, quizzes, games and meals to help the relationship between the junior and senior college members flourish. These colleges are the model of how to develop college relations.

However, some colleges occasionally deviate from this philosophy with SCRs losing sight of the students they are supposed to support and interact with. How many college Principals could name all the members of their JCR? How many SCR members could say they have regular interaction with the JCR President and support them in all their activities wherever possible? How many criticise the activities of the JCR and attempt to play them off against the Students' Union for their own benefit?

Most college SCRs have positive relationships with their JCRs and could answer these three questions very positively. But there are some who are openly hostile towards the

JCRs and have little to no contact with them. This is a major problem as breakdowns in support networks and communications channels weakens the strength of a college and lessens its appeal to new students. Some have been known to persistently deny requests of support to their JCR and have little to no interest in their affairs. Sometimes, for academics it is difficult to engage in a college as research and teaching commitments can get in the way. However, if they are unable to fulfil their duties it is important, if they are in a very senior position, that they do not leave the college in the hands of those least qualified to run it.

At a time when there is probably good reason to determine that the college system could be under genuine threat and possibly even cease to exist in twenty years, then unity and harmony within college environments is essential.



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Colleges sever ties with Toast as Tuesday night is scrapped



Mash up: The demise of the official Tuesday student night at Toast has raised questions over whether there will be a replacement night with Cuba already touted as a possibility (Photo: Ben Robins)

- **Lack of popularity cited as reason for deal collapsing**
- **Monday Vodfest at Revolution will continue as normal**

Steve Feekins

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS seeking a Tuesday night out will have to look further than Toast, as the colleges involved with the 'Mashed' social decided to end their involvement with the nightclub in Week Two of this term. The decision leaves the elected JCRs of Lonsdale, Pendle and County searching for an alternative event after poor turnout forced their hand.

After the continuation of last year's 'Fusion' socials at Cuba was halted due to monetary irregularities on behalf of the nightclub, the colleges involved decided to instate Toast as the host of this year's follow-up to 'Fusion'.

Matt Power, President of Lonsdale College JCR, voiced his sadness that the

'Mashed' socials had not been as popular as had been hoped, and suggested that the nightclub and colleges had done all they could to provide a catalyst for a successful social event.

"Mashed had the potential to be a great night. Toast is an excellent venue, they put on some innovative drinks such as college fishbowls, and Simba is a DJ who always attracts crowds," Power said. "However, the three colleges involved (Lonsdale, Pendle and County) sat down in Week Two and discussed how the night was sadly not working due to a lack of popularity. Reasons suggested were the huge success of Monday nights at Revolution and Elements, and similarly the Carleton on Wednesday."

Power went on to describe the next step for the JCRs.

"For the rest of this term, our JCRs will be working hard to deliver the best socials possible. As for a weekly night for the colleges involved in Mashed, we are yet to decide how it will progress. We all appreciate Toast's hard work and there is a feeling of disappointment that Mashed didn't achieve the success we thought it could."

Richard Johnson, a third year His-

tory student in County College, attended 'Fusion' socials last year, and also attended Toast for a 'Mashed' social in the first term of this year.

"Cuba Tuesdays were a really good night out, good atmosphere and usually packed, Mashed at Toast failed to live up to the standard set by Fusion. I think it was poorly promoted and had overpriced drinks. I would gladly welcome a return to Cuba for Tuesday nights."

A return to Cuba could be problematic though, as Matt Saint, President of County College JCR, revealed the reason behind the move of the Tuesday night social to Toast.

"Fusion at Cuba stopped last year for a combination of reasons, mainly that the previous management owed money to LUSU and that they were also difficult to work with," he said. "This resulted in the JCR execs who they were working with getting annoyed after publicity was provided late or not at all, drinks offers not being put on after discussions on what they would be and decorations not being provided for that week's theme."

When questioned on the unpopularity of Toast for the 'Mashed' socials, Saint cited the size of the nightclub and,

like Power, the success of other student nights in Lancaster as some of the possible reasons for its downfall.

"I think 'Mashed' was unpopular because it was trying to be 'Fusion' at a different venue. The size was an issue as Toast is considerably smaller than Cuba. Toast is a great venue, but I think it attracts a certain type of student and some people possibly weren't willing to give it a go. The rise of Monday nights was also obviously a factor with Revolution and Elements doing so well at the moment."

Saint's final word on future Tuesday night socials seemed to be one of caution and careful planning.

"We are looking into starting a new night with another venue in town but the colleges involved with 'Mashed' are wary of rushing into anything as we need careful planning and feedback to be looked at before starting anything new or it's likely to fail. With the help of the Social and Events Group we will maybe have something ready for summer term. We are looking at several venues and Cuba have indeed shown an interest, but we need to make sure all finances with them have been set straight first."

Fylde girls to get tattoos for charity

Paul Hannah

THE SPIRIT OF charity is alive and well in Fylde College as two girls are getting tattooed to raise money for the Haiti Earthquake Appeal.

Kelsey Arif and Rachel Basnett plan to have the Fylde windmill permanently tattooed on their bodies as part of RAG Week.

"To be honest the idea came about after a few drinks, games of Uno and a slice of pizza," Arif explained. "We were talking about whether we thought anyone had done any crazy statements to show their love for Fylde and decided a windmill tattoo would top the lot."

"Then Rachel had a good idea to seriously do it for charity and as Haiti is the most current we chose them," she added.

It is estimated that the Haitian earthquake on 12 January, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale, could claim up to 200,000 lives. With an increasing danger of roaming gangs and epidemics, the need for relief in the country has never been more urgent.

Arif and Basnett will be patrolling campus and knocking on doors of Fylde residences as well as placing a donation bucket in Fylde Bar to help reach their target of £500.

This charity event is not just restricted to Fylde, however. "Anyone is welcome to stop us to contribute or ask questions at anytime," said Arif.

News of the girls' planned act has spread far and wide across campus. Emma Williams, of Lonsdale, said "It shows college pride and is something a bit different. I doubt they'll regret it too much and it's for a good cause."

Liam Shepherd, of Bowland, agrees. "It shows great commitment to a great cause. More people should be willing to do things like this for charity," he said.

RAG President Leah Smith said "I hope they get lots of sponsors to raise awareness of what they are doing for Haiti's charity," adding "if they would like to come along to our RAG meeting to get sponsors from members of the RAG society then they are more than welcome."

RAG Week will be held in Week Six and is a university-wide drive to raise money for a whole host of charities including Mencap, St. John's Hospice, and Stepping Stones Nigeria.

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University Court: The Verdict

Liam Richardson
Editor

FOR WHAT IS supposed to be the most formal meeting in the university calendar, this year's meeting of Court proved to be somewhat lacklustre.

There were rows of empty seats and a very subdued atmosphere. Perhaps, nobody could really be bothered this time around.

The hundreds of students protesting outside were not directly referred to by any member of senior management or by visiting external stakeholders in any of the questions they put to the Vice-Chancellor.

Whilst we were hoping for fireworks we got a damp squib that was mercifully over in time for lunch. The Pro-Chancellor, Bryan Gray, was brief and to the point and made sure to resist sermonising which he appears to have the urge to do on almost any occasion normally. The Chancellor, Sir Chris, was in good spirits and drew warm applause from the assembled audience when it was re-announced that he would be serving another term in his role.

The Vice-Chancellor's report was free from controversy and covered many of the successes of the university in 2009. To be fair, Professor Wellings was gracious to his staff and those who support him, and answered questions put to him on regional partnerships and the local economy in convincing fashion. It was a steady display for a man who had been confronted by over a hundred likenesses of himself pressed up against the glass doors of George Fox foyer. As the leader of the institution, whatever my own political differences with him, it was heartening to see him show some real leadership and graciousness under pressure.

The soon to be out-going LUSU President Michael Payne also delivered a much tamer speech than the previous year. However, it undoubtedly touched the hearts and minds of Court much more. Payne's admission of the need for students and staff to work together during hard times in the sector, due to shared love for the institution, was reffered back to by Sir Chris in his closing remarks. The sentiments expressed highlighted Payne's increasing maturity as a President. It is important that his successor realises the need to be both tough and contrite, supportive and resolute, smart and cunning when dealing with the university. Skills that are hard to acquire, and are put to the test when dealing with operators at the top table who are quick to spot weaknesses and are clever enough to gain a political advantage wherever desirable.

Perhaps, the subdued nature of University Court will foreshadow the tough times that universities across Britain will face over the coming twelve months. With the Browne Review reporting back towards the end of the year, a probable change in Government looming in May, and sector cuts approaching like the executioners axe, it is more important then ever for friend and foe to unite against a far greater threat. Court may have been the tentative first steps.

The masked crusaders make

- **Protestors wear masks of the Vice-Chancellor outside Court**
- **University accept student action is 'reasonable'**
- **Court members made aware of 'Fairer Fees and Funding campaign'**

Jen Day

LUSU'S 'FAIRER FEES and Funding campaign' took an innovative new direction as students sported the face of Vice Chancellor, Paul Wellings as part of a silent protest outside University Court on Saturday 29th January.

University Court is attended by many local dignitaries, including local councillors, business owners and famous alumni as well as members of Union Council. Court is a significant event in the LUSU's calendar since it is able to reach out to a wider group of representatives about the issues that really matter; the focal issue of the moment being the future of Higher Education's funding and fees.

The eerie atmosphere created by over 150 students standing silently along the walkway from Central to George Fox created a huge impression on councillors and other dignitaries alike. LUSU's key strategy involved the use of masks and "I owe..." posters illustrating the vast amount of debt students already owe. The masks created the illusion that the faces of Paul Wellings and Lord Mandelson were staring out of the crowd, which was unnerving to some passersby.

When asked to comment about the new style of protest, LUSU's VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), Torri Crapper said "The last two protests have had banners and chants so we chose to mix it up and catch the councillors off guard. The masks are a bit of a gimmick ... we wanted to do something a bit entertaining."

Creating a visual impact was central to this success of the protest since it surprised officials and security who



Just another face in the crowd: The congregation of over 200 protestors waved their banners and p

were expecting the rabble raising that has been seen previously. Grizedale

JCR Women's EWD officer, Sarah Wiles said "If you say three chants over again they're not going to listen, but this way they will. People have been coming up and talking to us about the campaign."

Professor Mandy Chetwynd, Pro-Vice Chancellor for College and Student Experience, took a particular interest in the protest, taking the time to praise individuals on their commitment to student issues. She later said: "I think it is great the students have turned out to speak out for both funding of the students and funding of the university. I think it will make a difference and is being done in a very reasonable way."

This view was echoed by university policeman PC Gary Wynne who said the protest was "very effective and will get message across in a responsible manner. Everyone is very well behaved which is very much appreciated

by the police."

Student support is essential to this campaign, and this was emphasised by LUSU President Michael Payne. "Facebook will not win this fight, online petitions will not win this fight, people will win this fight," Payne said.

Many politicians believe that students don't care about politics and that they think it is not going affect them so will not act. Nonetheless second year Cartmel student, Matthew Young comment "Being here at 9am on a Saturday morning shows that we're committed to the cause."

Many turned out not simply because of the affect that rising fees and lower budgets will have on them but want to prevent the effects it will have on future students. LUSU Welfare Campaigns Officer, Pete Macmillan said "The students of today are fighting for the students of tomorrow. If we don't take action now then in ten



March to victory: Protestors gathered in Alexandra Square before moving on to George Fox where Court was taking place (Photo: Ben Robins)

their point at Court



ut on masks of Lord Mandelson and Professor Paul Wellings just before the Court protest (Photo: Ben Robins)

years time other groups of students will have to fight for the same issues." This feeling was reaffirmed by Bowland's Sofi Hall who said "I came today to protest about the raise of tuition fees for the future generations."

As the protest developed the students moved to the front of the George Fox building, still wearing their masks, and stared into the foyer at the Court members. There were members of Court taking photographs, illustrating the surreal yet evocative nature of the student action.

The 'Higher Education Funding and Fees' motion that was presented to Court, by Michael Payne was passed without any issues. Furness JCR President, Luke Anderson said "I don't believe the motion would have passed with so much ease without the protest. It was innovative and showed that we are more than just a bunch of rabble rousers."

Payne commented that "The protest was the most effective visualisation of student concerns about fees and funding I've ever seen. Student views were not only well received they were embraced, supported and championed by everyone."

"I think it is great the students have turned out to speak out for both funding of the students and funding of the university. I think it will make a difference and is being done in a very reasonable way." - Professor Mandy Chetwynde, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Colleges and the Student Experience

Local dignitaries were full of praise for the students and their actions. Lord Taylor said "I thought the students were excellent and protested in a dignified way which fitted well with the eloquence of the speech given by the LUSU President."

The success of the protest, however, does not mean an end to the campaign. LUSU's VP (Academic Affairs), Danny Owens said "Once the motion is passed it is the people behind us [the students] that will make the difference not the councillors."

It is felt that student support must remain strong if they want to make a difference. Payne enforced this point, saying "This campaign has proved that students do still care about their education. The campaign is going to be long and no-one should pretend otherwise – but Lancaster is already fighting and winning for students and will continue to do so."

Learning Zone launch competition to design a pod

Khairil Zhafri

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY IS offering £200 of Amazon shopping vouchers to find the best design for a new Learning Zone pod.

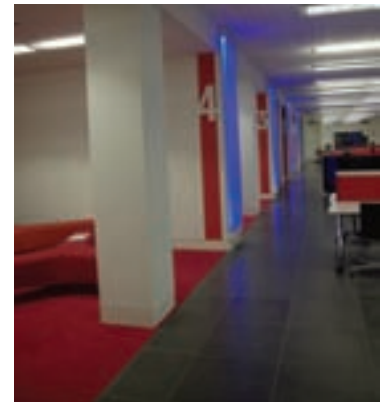
The competition is open to all current students at the university. Students who are interested in participating may enter individually or as a group.

"The competition gives students who are interested in future developments of the zone an opportunity to describe and develop their ideas," said Professor Amanda Chetwynd, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Colleges and the Student Experience.

"There has been considerable interest in the Learning Zone. Last term, there have been a number of student projects about the Learning Zone features," she added.

The winning design will be displayed in the Learning Zone and will be submitted to the Learning Zone steering group for possible implementation in the academic year 2010-11.

The design competition has been organised by Chetwynd's office which is responsible for student experience in the university including academic,



social and welfare issues.

To enter, participants must first nominate a pod to be redesigned. The design must be submitted in the form of PowerPoint presentation slides showing, amongst other things, the layout of the pod, different roles the pod can be put to and a list of furnishing and technological equipment.

The winner will be decided by a panel of judges based on novelty, flexibility of use, visual appeal, overall integration and presentation.

Entries for the competition can be submitted to ISS Help Desk via email at iss-feedback@lancaster.ac.uk. The closing date is 19 March.

Indian Society aid Haiti victims

Hannah Smith

IN RESPONSE TO the recent and highly publicised earthquake in Haiti Lancaster University's Indian Society held a charity week in Week Three.

The event aimed to raise awareness of the ongoing difficulties in Haiti and help with relief efforts in some way. All proceeds raised throughout the week are in the process of being channelled directly to Haiti to help those whose lives were affected by the quake.

The society organised four bake sales, a charity dinner with entertainment on Friday night and a table-tennis competition on Saturday. The bake sales were held in Alexandra Square and according to the secretary of the Indian Society, Sonakshi Saran, "helped us to collect a lot of the money." Tickets for the charity dinner were also available

throughout each bake sale.

The dinner was held in the Minor Hall on 29th January and was attended by 60 people. Saran told SCAN that the event itself was 'extremely successful'. The success of the charity dinner was further boosted by the dance performances of Arpit Chaudhary and Jerry Jack, who has been chosen to perform in Britain's Got Talent.

As a result of these efforts, Saran said that "the society was able to collect a total of £400." This money will be divided between two causes: £100 will go to India for an orphanage, whilst the remaining £300 will be given to UNICEF.

The Vice President of the Indian Society, Ashutosh Kumar, commented that "the society has done very well for charity and both the students and staff of Lancaster University have been extremely helpful and supportive of this noble cause."

County left in the dark over lighting

Emma Follis

LIGHTING IN COUNTY College has proved to be a major problem over the winter period, with some areas having insufficient or no lighting in place along footpaths.

Although the Spine and other areas of campus are relatively well lit, much of County has little or no lighting, and is in a location set away from the lighting of central campus.

County is a large college, and it is seen as essential for student safety, by County JCR in particular, to have the area well lit, particularly during win-

ter when the daylight hours are short and there is a high risk of ice and snow. The responsibility for making sure students are safe in areas of campus falls to the college, and also the Facilities division at the University. According to Matt Saint, County JCR President, "the problem has been brought up with the Director of Estates, Mark Swindlehurst on a number of occasions."

Despite repeatedly informing the Facilities of the problem - including mentioning the problem directly to Swindlehurst at a talk he gave at this year's Winter Officer Conference - it still seems that nothing has been done to make improvements to the current situation.

NEWS

Teach First Week attracts the best and brightest

Bryonny Gannaway

TEACH FIRST WEEK 2010 saw high profile personalities from the worlds of politics, education, business and sport entering into Teach First schools and swapping their day jobs for teaching between 1 and 5 February. Some of the UK's most influential people are persuaded out of their normal daily lives and into the classroom to experience life as teachers in challenging urban schools.

Teach First was set up in 2002 as a graduate recruiter and a charity to launch exceptional graduates into challenging schools to help raise the aspirations of the pupils. In using graduates who have worked hard not only academically but socially and in the community during their life, Teach First aims to give the pupils role models to aspire to further and even higher education.

Included in those who lent their talents was Satnam Rana, an alumna of Lancaster University and now the Midlands Today presenter. Like the rest of her cohort of Teach First Week 2010, she found the experience challenging yet fulfilling. Gillian Joseph, Sky News presenter, who taught a history lesson on the Wall Street Crash, had this to say to the press: "To take responsibility for a child's learning is an extraordinary thing to do."

Brett Wigdortz, CEO of Teach First, told the press on the first day that "by putting the spotlight on teaching through the week, we want to demonstrate that it is one of the most demanding yet rewarding and important professions."

As recently as 2008, the Department of Education and Skills has found that one in five 11 year-olds did not meet the expected targets in their English tests. Coupled with this shortage in attainment is the way that wealth still determines too much of the social mobility of a child. Indeed, statistics show that between children eligible for Free School Meals (a key indicator of poverty in education) and those who are not, the children eligible are likely to have half the chance of getting 5 A*-C GCSEs. Research shows that teacher quality is integral to raising the achievement of the poorest pupils.

Guests who took up the challenge in 2010 included Dame Vivienne Westwood, Patrick Flaherty, Managing Director of the Investment Banking Division at Credit Suisse, Schools Secretary Ed Balls, Today Programme presenter Justin Webb, the BBC newscaster Huw Edwards, The Apprentice's Tim Campbell and Channel 4 News' Krishnan Guru-Murthy and Samira Ahmed.

Teach First is still recruiting for the 2010 recruitment year for shortage subjects in mathematics, science, ICT and engineering. For the 2011 recruitment year, all positions remain open. For more information please visit www.teachfirst.org.uk. In 2009, Teach First gained 8th place on the coveted League of Times Top 100 Graduate Employers.

LUSU seek to ease student concerns over housing crisis

- **Influx of UCUM students onto market**
- **Hundreds stuck on waiting lists**
- **Worry over fewer bed spaces on campus**

**Stephen Ashby
Robbie Pickles**

MANY STUDENTS EXPRESSED concern last week over the difficulties of finding on-campus accommodation for the next academic year. A large number have found themselves on the waiting list for accommodation, leaving them stuck between waiting in queues or looking for alternative arrangements in town.

Added to this, students were worried that the number of houses available to rent from LUSU Housing was lower than in previous years. This problem was exacerbated by an influx of students from the University of Cumbria, as their Ambleside campus made no accommodation available this year.

However, Torri Crapper, LUSU VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), wished to calm people's worries. She stressed that "the problem isn't as large as we first expected. My advice would be not to panic."

Crapper went on to explain that those on University waiting lists should wait a little longer and that there will be houses from private landlords available which will come up in the next few weeks.

On campus, the worst affected col-

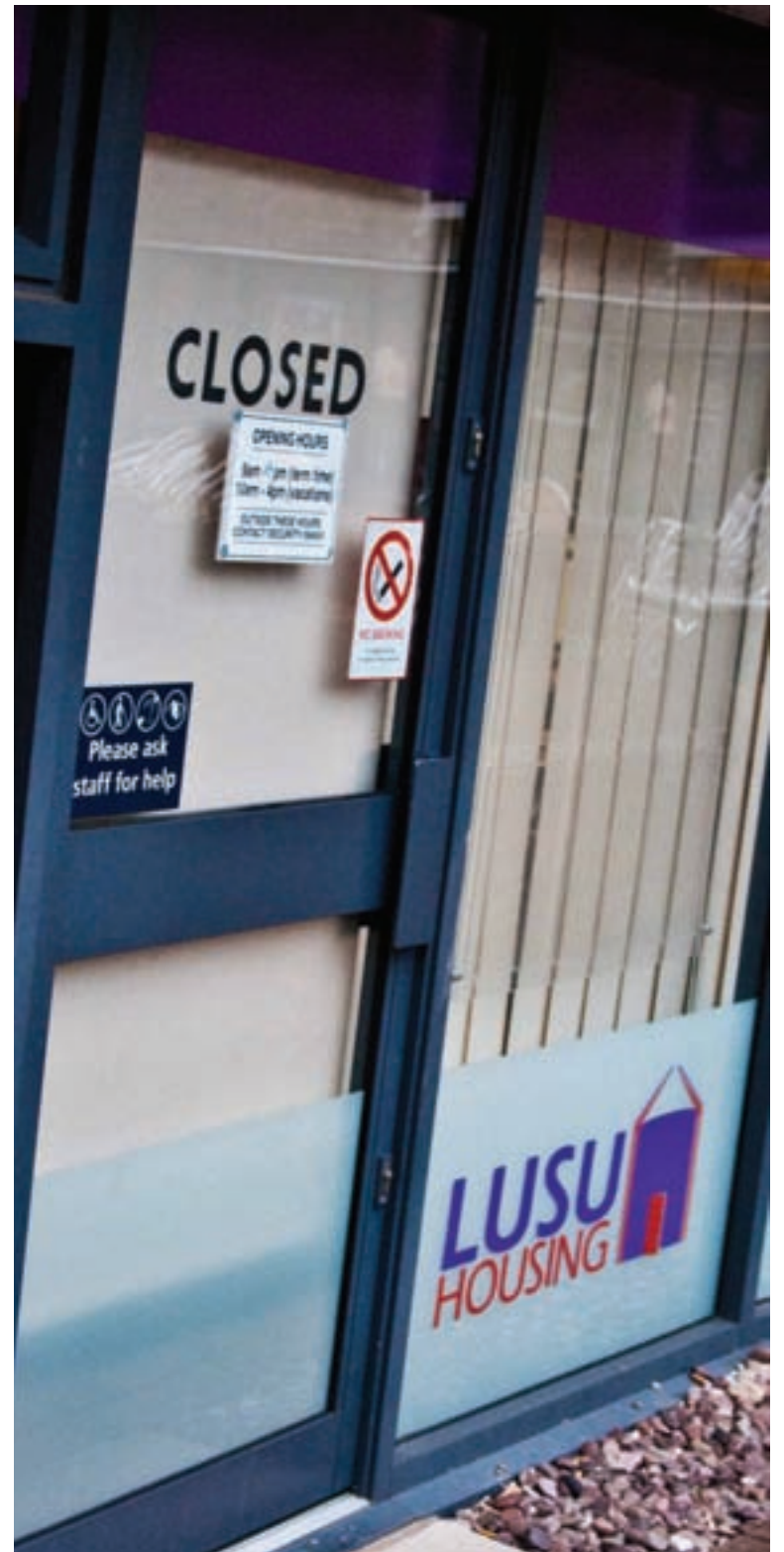
leges were the three largest: Lonsdale, Cartmel and County, with hundreds of students waiting to be accommodated. Some students felt that they were being 'pushed out' into town to make way for Freshers for the 2010-11 academic year, who will be paying a larger sum over the year to take advantage of the new catered accommodation scheme, bringing extra revenue to the University.

This does not, however, appear to be the case. The 200 rooms which have been allocated for catering are being deducted from the usual quota allocated to Freshers at the start of the year, and will not result in a lower number of available rooms for continuers.

What may result in a squeeze in on-campus places for students in all years is the University's continuing drive to increase the number of overseas students studying at Lancaster. These students are guaranteed a place on campus each year and, with numbers expected to increase to over 20% of the total student population by 2015, there will be a significant strain on the ability for colleges to accommodate students from the UK, especially if it continues to also guarantee places for Freshers.

In line with this, continuing students have expressed outrage at the phenomenal rise in rent in some colleges as the weekly figures come close to £100. For fourth year students this represents a rise of over 10% in real terms since they arrived at Lancaster, a burden they could not have predicted.

It is notable that these issues have been raised before at Lancaster, with housing being a recurring problem for students. Next week LUSU will be holding a landlords forum at which they hope they will be able to solve any remaining concerns that students may have.



House worries: LUSU Housing has nearly allocated all its houses for 2010-2011 (Photo: Ben Robins)

Entrepreneurs set paperclip challenge

Shane Manning

THE LANCASTER UNIVERSITY Young Entrepreneurs Society (LUYES) are holding a competition based on a story of a man who traded a paperclip for a house.

The basic premise of the competition, which was launched on Wednesday of Week Three by the LUYES executive, is that each entrant will be given a single paperclip. The challenge will then be to trade it for bigger and better objects, repeating as many times as possible before the deadline on Friday 7 May.

Kyle MacDonald, the American entrepreneur who inspired the competition, started out with just one red paperclip and, 14 trades later, on 12 July



2006, bagged his dream house.

The final trade will be sold at a charity auction where all the money raised will be donated to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), a charity chosen by

LUYES for its hard work and dedication to providing support and protection for young people all over the country. The item that fetches the highest price at this auction will win a cash prize equal to the value of their item's final sale

price (up to the value of £250).

When asked what they hoped to gain from running this competition the President of LUYES, Lauren Dalton-Jarvis, said that the basic aim was to "raise money for a good cause and get as many students as possible involved with entrepreneurial activity, whilst having a great deal of fun in the process."

To get involved all you need to do is pick up a red paperclip and trading log from your porter's lodge or download a digital version from www.luyes.eu/paperclip and then register by sending a blank e-mail with the subject 'TRADE' to trading_event@hotmail.co.uk. Further details such as times, dates and locations as well as tips to help you get the most out of your trading experience will be sent over the course of the event upon registration.

Baffled students restricted by room bookings

- **Students unaware of system changes**
- **Societies stalled by webmail failures**

Chris Housden
Deputy News Editor

SOCIETIES AND STUDENTS are reporting frustration after a series of issues with a recently introduced room booking system.

The way in which undergraduate and PhD students reserve rooms was changed during the Christmas holidays, with the students involved having been given no warning. Previously a website system was used, in which the student could stipulate a room and time. Confirmation of the booking would then be received by email if the room was available.

The online system had not been mentioned to students as being subject to change in Week Ten of Michaelmas Term. PhD students were fully expecting to have continued access to room bookings for presentation practice and undergraduate teaching.

The new system was introduced at the beginning of this term, completely unannounced until unaware students began to use it. PhD students are unable to access the system, which is now solely reserved for staff.



The baffled students were redirected to their departmental officers after the first difficulties were raised. This in turn only caused more confusion, as many students weren't clear on who their departmental officers were.

Mike Jenkins, LUSU Representative for Postgraduate Research students, raised the issue with LUSU VP (Academic Affairs) Danny Ovens. Ovens said that "Graduate Teaching Assistants and PhD students should be able to access the system themselves, especially when they are booking rooms for additional sessions to help undergraduate students."

Jenkins said that "a sort of compromise was reached" with PhD students

being given the option of contacting timetable manager Andrew Harding directly.

This should not, however, be a long term solution according to Jenkins, who pointed out that besides being inconvenient for students, it also takes Harding away from his work unnecessarily.

With presentations rapidly approaching for many postgraduate and PhD students, Jenkins maintains that there is cause for concern over this compromise. With a growing demand for rooms to practice and present in, Harding is going to be increasingly unable to provide the service the students need.

With the PhD access looking likely to be at least in part re-established, the rooms available to undergraduates remain solely Learning Zone pods, an approach which Ovens agrees with. He said, "I can understand the changes from an undergraduate perspective," reasoning that most undergraduates do not need rooms for their use.

A separate system change for society room bookings has also experienced issues. All societies must sign up for a university webmail account to submit their room booking requests.

LUSU VP (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies) Andy Johnston is overseeing the assignment of the webmail accounts, and recognises that it

hasn't run perfectly.

The issues with the system were raised at Societies Council on Thursday of Week Four. Johnston admitted that there had been difficulties, mainly with the fact that societies are still in a transition period.

Johnston is at present determined to unify all society room bookings through society assigned webmail addresses. However, some societies have had trouble even beginning to set up a webmail address, due to problems contacting the ISS personnel they have been told to.

The combination of webmail addresses and private email addresses contacting Andrea Kitchen, of the Room Bookings department, is problematic. Johnston said that they are "constantly asked 'are they a real society?'" when bookings from a private address are received.

The societies were vocal on the subject of setting up a webmail account, itself an apparently confusing process. John Harrison, representing the English Literature Society at Societies Council, stated that "it's splendidly unclear, a matter of guessing."

At present societies have the option to contact Johnston or Kitchen directly or alternatively through their new webmail address. Johnston confirmed that the confusion stemming from the transition is "definitely something to work on, and it will be [worked on]."

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NEWS

Faculty plans for new building shelved over budgetary concerns

Chris Housden
Deputy News Editor

AMIDST THE MANY redevelopment and building projects in planning and progress across campus, the university's newest faculty, the School of Health and Medicine, has encountered severe setbacks in the plan to attain its own building.

Created in 2008, the School has always been factored into the large scale reorganisation of departments across the campus in the ongoing building projects. The initial idea was to include Medicine, Biomedical Life Sciences and Health Research in a newly refurbished Faraday building extended across the existing car park to create office space and teaching areas. This would have been close to the CETAD offices and also would have granted a noticeably central building to the faculty.

The School of Health and Medicine encapsulates the four departments of Medicine, Biomedical Life Sciences, Health Research and CETAD (Centre for Training and Development) and as such represents a vast amount of students attending Lancaster University. The faculty, however, occupies spaces spread across the whole campus and which are regrettably almost unnoticeable, with rooms in Faraday, Alexandra Square above Greggs and the newsagent's, sharing facilities with Biology students in their building, and occupying some space in the Hale Building. Unlike the university's other three faculties the argument is that the School of Health and Medicine is without a central, visible presence on campus.

A vast amount of time was spent in 2009 looking into the feasibility of such a move, with £12 million reserved by the university for the project. Professor Tony Gatrell, the Dean of the School, stated that the project's "aspiration is to see that the School of Health and Medicine is highly visible on the campus", citing involvement with NHS staff and other visitors as just one of the many reasons that warrant such a relocation.

The proposed project was estimated to overspend beyond the budget at a projected £15 million minimum, although that was likely to move towards £18 million. Despite attempts to control the overspend the project was recognised by the faculty as impossible at the end of last year. The project executive then asked Director of Facilities Mark Swindlehurst to look into other options for a move, and a new plan is currently favoured by the school.

As part of the campus-wide building work Furness College B and C floors are scheduled for refurbishment. They currently house History, Politics and other departmental offices. These departments are all relocating to allow the refurbishment to happen in the academic year 2011-12, with a proposal already for History to occupy space in Bowland Main.

"As Dean of the faculty I want to see what the Vice Chancellor referred to as a front door to the School of Health and Medicine, not it being tucked away."
- Professor Tony Gatrell

Although the School of Health and Medicine will have moved some of their departmental offices into Furness by the summer of 2012, this proposal will not enable a centralisation of the department as planned. Teaching areas for Biomedical Life Sciences are likely to remain shared with Biology. The project is, however, estimated to cost far less than the reserved £12 million.

The new plan has been resignedly accepted as the best possible avenue to pursue by the faculty staff, with Gatrell choosing to look to the future rather than dwell on an overbudget past proposal. He stated that the department is "not outraged by [the change in plans], but looking forward to the plans being developed" but admitted some disappointment, saying "it's a pity that it's two and half years away."

Gatrell welcomed the opportunity



Build them up and knock them down: The School of Health and Medicine is spread across campus and this will continue to be the case due to a breakdown in funding for a new building

to relocate to a refurbished Furness, commenting that if it was improved to a similar standard as Bowland North the faculty would be eager to move there. Gatrell did state, however, that the proposal is still imperfect, asserting that "as Dean of the faculty I want to see what the Vice Chancellor referred to as a front door to the School of Health and Medicine, not it being tucked away." This request, he argued,

was simply asking for the School of Health and Medicine to have an obvious presence "in the same way that the other faculties do." He stressed, however, that "it would be wrong to say there is loads of uproar within the School."

The faculty's apparently mixed response has been reflected by the students. When told of the plans to build the faculty their own building, first

year medicine student Andy Blanshard responded that "it's the first I've heard of it." He stated that, on balance, "the system we have now seems to work quite well. We're only on campus for our first year, for a few days a week, so it almost doesn't seem worth investing all that money in a building." A fellow medicine student, Kirsty Bull, followed this consensus, stating "it sort of isn't worth it."

Many different cultures and traditions but only One World Week

Luka Vujcic

THROUGHOUT WEEK NINE Lancaster University will initiate this year's One World Week, a festival made up of cultural and communal activities to help raise awareness of the world we live in.

A different theme will be allocated to each day from Monday to Friday and celebrated by students and staff in both an educational and social approach. Although still early days, the preliminary schedule for One World offers five main themes: Peace, Green Issues, Water and Sanitation, Libera-

tion and International Day.

Each themed day will be made up of activities such as talks from CND, partnership with SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise) to organise a cycling day and interactive actions with the SPEAK society expatiating on water and sanitation poverty. Furthermore, social events including a Latin themed cocktail party offering an opportunity to raise awareness of social justices in Latin American countries, a Love Music Hate Homophobia open mic night at County Bar and a Global Cafe organised Easter egg hunt are planned for the week. The organisers hope that this, along with entertainment from quality live



music in Grad Bar, should make One World an exciting and fun as well as an educational experience.

With last year's One World Week a success, Torri Crapper, LUSU VP

(Equality, Welfare and Diversity), who is helping organise this year's One World along with the Campus Festival which will follow on from International Day on the Friday into the weekend, sees this year as a chance to be "bigger and better, with different charities and events to help build this year's One World as a real success."

Outside the university there is support from local organisations. A farmers' market will hopefully open a fresh fruit and veg stall during the week, strengthening the atmosphere of community and solidarity. Davy Garland, an organiser of One World Week, trusts that this, along with

the social activities and the potential opportunity for a bicycle workshop, will be a "step aside from just drum thumping on issues", and allow practical solutions to the realities the week aims to focus on.

As the organisers have only just begun to draw up the final blueprint for the week SCAN was unable to confirm all the events that will take place at this moment. Nevertheless it is hoped that, like last year, One World will be an opportunity to learn about the issues that face the world in the 21st century and simultaneously celebrate our own diverse and culturally rich society at Lancaster University.

Knowledge lies open to all

- **Annual Academic Forum open to all students**
- **VP Academic Affairs wants to see students talk about their problems**

Collette McColgan
News Editor

TUESDAY WEEK SIX will see Academic Council host the annual Academic Forum. The event, which is set to take place at 6.30pm in George Fox LT1, is open to any student member of the University, and allows students to voice any concerns they may have about the academic side of university life.

Academic Forum is seen as important by LUSU VP (Academic Affairs) Danny Ovens because it allows students to talk about their problems directly, rather than through an elected or department representative.

Ovens explained this view further: "There are students who trust in the Union Officers they elect to handle these sorts of issues for them, and who use the Department Rep system to help them," he said. "There are, however, those that choose not to engage with these processes and shout from the sidelines. This is a chance for them to put their criticism to a practical use and see that when it comes to academic issues, LUSU is there to support them."

The Forum will have two themes: Assessment & Feedback, and Anonymous Marking; the focus on these issues reflect the concerns of the student body. There are, however, other issues that students experience in their academic lives. A main issue



Stressed students: The forum will provide an opportunity to debate concerns over deadlines and coursework return

that occurs each academic year is that of the four-week deadline for the return of marked coursework.

Another commonly occurring complaint is students struggling to get extended deadlines, due to illness, for example. Most of these problems do, however, seem to be a thing of the past, with LUSU campaigns making students more aware of what their academic rights are and departments being more lenient.

Cartmel student Ffion McKeown spoke of her own experiences, saying "I have had issues submitting [essays] on time and making it to seminars [due to illness] and [my departments] have all been nothing but sympathetic."

McKeown had to apply for extensions to her essay deadlines before the Christmas holidays. With help from her college administrator, Cath Gorton, she was able to gain extensions from both her departments – the Department of Modern English Language and Linguistics, and the Department of Sociology and Women's Studies – as well as being able to cancel all submissions she had made while she was ill.

This lack of recent academic problems for students is largely attributed to the recent campaigns by LUSU elected officers. The Know Your Academic Rights posters, which have been placed around campus, may have made students more aware of

how their department should be operating with regards to coursework.

LUSU have also launched an academic campaign through Squeak, making students aware of the risks and rules of plagiarism. In previous years this plagiarism awareness campaign has involved the Departmental Reps, who were given posters and leaflets.

Plagiarism has been seen as a problem for international students, whose home universities have different rules about referencing than Lancaster, and LUSU hopes to target this in the future.

The campaigns are likely to take a more central role with the approach of exams next term.

Business ideas the focus for Create with new workshop

Jonny Critchley

Ten potential entrepreneur students attended a workshop last Wednesday aimed at helping them to create business ideas. The event was run by Create, Lancaster University's enterprise scheme, and gave the students the opportunity to win a £50 prize for the most original idea produced.

The workshop taught students about creative thinking and ideas generation. Create Manager Joe Buglass introduced several of his own techniques to encourage the generation of ideas, including an ideas matrix and ideas mapping. The matrix combines what Buglass calls the four primary sources of ideas: passions, anger or frustration, hobbies, and necessities. The technique allows links to be made between the four to produce original ideas and was, according to Buglass, particularly well received.

Students were encouraged to consider personal issues relating to their ideas such as ethics and time management. Financial issues such as future profitability were other areas mentioned as important to consider, as were market access and product protection.

For privacy reasons he was unable to disclose details of the idea winning the cash prize, as Create are now looking to help with its further development. However, Buglass was able to explain why the winner was chosen. It was "original, picking up on a current market, a market I know exists. I was impressed with the breadth of ambition."

Buglass hopes that the workshop has put out a positive message about Create.

"There's a perception on campus that people think they need a business idea already to come to Create with, and I think what we've proven is that we have the ability to sit down and help you develop an idea."

Bus campaigners launch petition in fight for north-campus route

Chris Housden
Deputy News Editor

A STUDENT CAMPAIGN to obtain the university's agreement to include the north of campus on bus routes has begun to gain momentum this term.

The initiative is to establish a stop in close proximity to County College, giving students travelling to campus's northern-most college a less inconvenient journey. At present the buses stop at the underpass in the middle of the main campus and at two points in the South West campus.

There are two reasons why it is felt by students that a stop needs to be installed at the north end of campus. Aside from County being one of the biggest undergraduate colleges and a closer stop to town, making many students' trips into Lancaster vastly more convenient, it would make an even more sizable difference to students with disabilities. The underpass stop, used by all colleges not on the South West campus, is particularly inaccessible



sible to wheelchair users, who have to deviate from the staircases on the main route and take an unwelcome and long-winded detour. The current situation was described by Torri Crapper, LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), as "ridiculous".

The campaign has so far taken the form of a petition, which is gaining more and more signatures as awareness of the awkward reality faced by disabled students grows. Begun by last

year's SWD officer on County JCR, Emily Richards, the idea is being continued by her successor Genevieve Agnew and has gained wider attention with Crapper's involvement. Already having discussed the campaign with the Students With Disabilities Council, Crapper has stated that in the near future the petition will be presented to the University at a meeting which both she and LUSU President Michael Payne will attend to support the student initiative.

Charity begins on campus thanks to GSA and RAG

Lucy Miller

GRADUATE COLLEGE BAR hosted a live music and charity night on Saturday of Week Three.

The event, held in aid of Charlie Clarke Cancer Research, raised nearly £200 with a raffle, a 'guess the sweets in the jar' competition and a challenge to see who could correctly guess the name of a toy.

The night also involved live music, including campus-based band October Skies playing their first ever gig. The band delivered an upbeat jazz set, which proved very popular with the crowd. Saxophone and keyboard player, Cartmel second year student Jess Roe, said: "We were really happy with the audience's response. The bar was really busy, which was nerve racking since it was our first gig."

The band was hit with a technical problem early in the night when one of their microphones failed to work. The problem was however soon re-

solved, and the night was not unduly affected.

Grad Bar was packed on the night, and staff member Davy Garland commented that it was particularly impressive since it was a Saturday, a night when most students would usually be going into town.

"What was great was that it brought in students from all colleges and all nationalities, which is what Grad is all about," he said.

Garland is now hoping that the night's success will be repeated in Week Six, when a similar charity night will held for Save the Children's Haiti fund. The night will consist of a ska and reggae band, as well as other live entertainment and a raffle.

This event in Week Six will coincide with RAG (Raising and Giving) Week. This year's RAG Week will focus on the charity St. John's Hospice in the local area; Mencap on a national level; and Stepping Stones, internationally. RAG will be selling £4 RAG bands, which offer discounts throughout Week Five, Week Six, and Week Seven.

Catered accommodation trial should give sceptics food for thought

- Pilot scheme to take place in Cartmel
- Quality of food over service the focus for first trial
- Cost of two meals per day expected to be £6.60

Jack Smith

THE UNIVERSITY CATERING department are to hold a trial of next year's catered accommodation. The trial, which will last a week, is expected to be a small operation in comparison to the final offering, providing a very restricted version of the service to a limited amount of people.

Tim Holmes, the university's Food Operations Manager, told SCAN that the trial aims to "test the menus on offer, to allow people to sample the food and hopefully get feedback on what they think. We want to see if there is a big enough choice available."

Around 25 people will be involved in testing the scheme, which involves



Food fight: Barker House Farm is the venue for a scheme which has torn both students and staff alike (Photo: Ben Robins)

"a selection of people involved with the catered accommodation scheme", including principals of colleges as well as college officers and some LUSU officers. Next year's pilot scheme will involve a significantly higher number of people, raising questions about the size of the trial, although it appears the

trial is more about choice and quality than infrastructure and service.

Holmes was able to give SCAN further information about the food offering that will be available, confirming that students participating in the scheme will only be able to eat at County Diner and Barker House

Farm. He added that "the idea was to have one location in the north of the campus and one location in the south. Places like The Venue are not suitable for this as they don't have kitchen facilities." It was also confirmed that the scheme will involve a set menu for each day, although the extent and the

size of the menu still remains unclear.

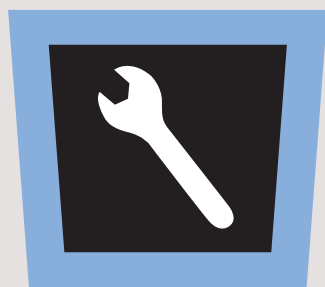
Next year's catered accommodation offering will be provided on a pilot basis in Cartmel, County and Lonsdale colleges. It is apparent now that the choice of colleges is related to the availability and proximity of the two catering locations.

Prices for the catered accommodation next year are expected to be in the region of £6.60 per day for just two meals each day: breakfast and dinner, with students expected to use existing self catering facilities for lunch. Based on this pricing, catered accommodation would add an extra £1405.80 on to the total accommodation cost for a year, which is rising by 1.9% next year.

Some students still feel negatively about the scheme. Ben Showell, a third year student from Lonsdale, said that "the menu will have to be varied, considering the lack of places to choose from to eat," while Vaishali Vaghela, a first year student, said she is concerned that "some ethnic minorities might not be catered for by the scheme." Rory Sands, of Pendle, added that "it is possible students might miss meal times, in particular breakfast – this might cause problems for some."

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Jailbreak students flee Lancaster and escape to Morocco

Charlotte Urban

LANCASTER IS THE latest in a series of universities to join in the new craze of Jailbreak. Over the weekend of Week Three 21 students embarked upon a 48-hour journey to raise money for SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise).

The aim of the scheme was to travel as far away from Lancaster as possible by means of flights, boats, hitchhiking, or any method imaginable, without spending a penny.

The seven teams participating in the event did remarkably well, with two teams negotiating their way to Marrakesh, Morocco, the furthest destination reached. Other teams made it as far as Bruges, Belgium and Geneva, Switzerland. Another group travelled to Heathrow Airport before being impeded by the poor charity of the airlines. However, they did manage to convince Premier Inns to allow them a free night in one of their rooms before hitchhiking their way back to Lancaster via a KitKat lorry driver, a fireman with a hobby of driving coaches and the kindness of people along the way.

SIFE, which is non-profit and co-ordinated entirely by students, estimates that the event raised funds of over £1000 to contribute to one of the



On your marks: The SIFE Jailbreak participants before their departure (Photo: Ben Robins)

many projects they have running.

Katie Vernon, SIFE's fundraising officer and Charlotte Vernon, Co President, were involved in the operation of the base camp which determined where each of the participants were at any given time. Vernon and Leggett have suggested that it is most likely the money raised will aid the 'Sale Through Project', which works with a community in Uganda to get their local products into the UK market.

Ben Hession, one of the 21 participants and SIFE Co President said: "We all had a great time. All money goes to a good cause and I would definitely do it again."

Due to the massive success of Lancaster's first Jailbreak, the students running SIFE are optimistic that they will be able to hold another next term. This will hopefully be on a much larger scale and harvest more money to sustain the causes SIFE are supporting.

Scullion fighting for third term as Pendle College Principal

Emily Turner

PENDLE COLLEGE IS looking to appoint a new Principal from July.

Following two terms in the role, Peter Scullion, the current Principal, will be running again for a third term. However, this decision has been received with controversy. After six years as College Principal, it is the feeling among some that perhaps a new face is needed.

According to university guidelines, the term of office for a Principal will be three years in the first instance. They may be appointed for a further three years without election, subject to satisfactory performance and after that, the candidate may stand for election for one further term.

Should Scullion be elected it will be his final term in office. He told SCAN that due to the appointment being a process of interview he would rather not comment in case it could be construed as lobbying for the position.

Hilary Simmons, Head of the College and Residence Office, will be accepting applications and nominations until 26 February 2010. The interview process will then follow.

There are approximately 1,500 students in Pendle, and so it is necessary that an effective leader be appointed



to continue what has been a successful running of the College up to this date.

The role of a Principal is seen as one of the most rewarding jobs on a college SCR, as well as being one of the most challenging. The role mainly comes down to making sure that College life is what both students and staff expect it to be.

Principals are appointed by the relevant College Council on the recommendations of the Senate of that College. The search committee is usually made up with at least three college members; at least one is from the JCR and one from the SCR.

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scan:COMMENT



Alex Harris

Comment Editor

Homeopathic medicine does not work and is also extremely dangerous

A billion dollar industry has been built out of an aversion to the miracles of medical science

I think everyone should take an overdose. At least once in their lives. Take that pack of over-the-counter remedy and scoff the lot. Then maybe another one. Third time lucky. I think it could teach you a valuable lesson. But before you all start mindlessly walking into Boots to stock up on paracetamol and ibuprofen, muttering only the mantra 'SCAN told me to do it,' let me clarify that I don't think you should overdose on just any old medication. You have to be specific in your choices.

Pretty much all of the medicines that you'll find in your local drug store will be either very harmful or fatal if you take them in large amounts, let's be clear. There is one specific kind of medication, however, that is proven to be completely side effect free when taken in large quantities.

A few of you will already have guessed that I'm talking about the recent mass 'overdose' of homeopathic remedies staged by the Merseyside Skeptics Society. The stunt basically involved a group of happy-go-lucky doubters doing what I just recommended you also do. Entire bottles of homeopathic 'medicine' were downed



in front of shoppers and journalists. No skeptics were harmed in the process.

Okay, so maybe all the skeptics proved was that homeopathy is the safest medicine on the market. After all, not being able to overdose on it is surely a bonus, right? Wrong. Homeopathy is free of side effects only because it's free of virtually any effect at all. The practise is derived from a time when medicine was more elaborate

guesswork than anything properly scientific. It essentially states that symptoms rather than illnesses should be treated and 'like cures like.' In other words – if you have a headache, you take a dose of something that gives you a headache.

Before that starts to sound absurd, the second stage of homeopathy is to take the remedy and dilute it heavily. And when homeopaths say heav-

ily, they really mean it. The dilution of the initial solution is such that it's the mathematical equivalent of taking a drop of tomato sauce and placing it in a container the size of the solar system, then trying to pass it off as Heinz.

If this is all sounding ridiculous, it's because it is. Every time homeopathy comes up against any sort of real double-blind trial the results are basically the same as the placebo effect, whereby people take a fake cure for an illness and suddenly get better. This is all well and good for your average cold or flu-like illness, but then when you use it to try and treat cases that are immune to high self-esteem, bad things happen. Really bad things.

Meet Tom and Sydney Sam, who decided that conventional western medicine wasn't appropriate to treat the severe eczema condition of their child and decided to instead treat her with homeopathic remedies. The child's condition improved during the rare times the parents allowed conventional medicine to be used, but the parents arrogantly asserted that pills of water were just what were required. Tragically, the child died of her condition and both parents are currently in

prison for manslaughter.

Most of us are unlikely to experience such extreme circumstances in which alternative medicines are genuinely harmful, but they exist and are a direct result of this faux-rebellious snubbing of real medicine. The desire to shrug off the shackles of Western civilisation by rejecting one of its foremost achievements – that of medical science – is tempting, but ultimately stupid. There is a reason that people in countries favouring so-called 'natural remedies' are so malnourished and in such ill health and that is because of a lack of proper medical care. People with AIDS in Africa rarely call out for more acupuncture needles.

Yet homeopathy and alternative medicine continues to remain a billion-dollar industry and people continue to remain amazed when their headache clears up a few hours after taking their 'natural' headache cure (clue: it would probably have cleared up anyway). I, however, can't help but be baffled by it all. Next time you have a mild illness, why not try picking up a 10p pack of paracetamol and using the money you save to donate to the relief effort in Haiti? Just a thought.



Michael Payne

LUSU President

We must stand our ground against the university over the Fees Working Party

Senior management control the processes of governance but they must be held to account by the student population

The recent LUSU campaign on Fairer Fees and Funding has attracted the attention of thousands of our students. Postgraduates, undergraduates, sports clubs, societies, JCR Executives and Part-time Officers have all contributed to and developed a robust and effective campaign.

Our achievements thus far should not be understated but nor should we be complacent. We must make sure the University does not attempt to use our calls for the re-activation of the Fees Working Party as a chance to pre-determine the institutional outcome before the group has even received its first piece of evidence.

Any right thinking individual who has followed the recent journey of the Chilcot Inquiry into the war in Iraq will realise that the independence, credibility and trust of an inquiry such as this relies on two key aspects – real independence and perceived independence.

It would be ludicrous to see the re-activation of the Fees Working Party as a mere continuation of the work it

started back in 2007, by the same token it would be foolish to believe this working party should meet without any consideration of the political and economic circumstances and arguments that have gone before it.

The Students' Union's motion submitted to University Court, which called for several key principles to be followed and outlined a clear process for the re-activation of the Working Party on Fees cannot and should not be ignored by University Management.

All stakeholders can agree that we must move quickly with the re-activation of the Working Group but this should never be to the detriment of our students.

It is clear that motions of University Court are not binding on our governing body of the University and we understand that. However to undermine the process requested by students along with the wishes of hundreds of external stakeholders is merely setting the scene for yet a further political tussle.

Senior officers of the University worry and twitter on about concerns of

students expressing their upset, passion and dissent through direct action. A few Senior Officers have alluded to the concept of occupations rearing their head in the fairer fees and funding campaign going forward. It would be far better to reach a positive and progressive outcome that is fundamentally beneficial to our students (the most important group of people to be considered throughout this process) by reasonable and mature negotiation than by petty politicking.

But the University is as much in control of this process as the Students' Union is: every time the University chooses to plough on with their own process regardless of warnings by elected student officers they merely create a climate of distrust and resentment. More often than not it would be easy for them to reach a compromise but their own egos and frustration with student representatives supposedly blocking progress take primacy over their desire to provide the best possible student experience for their students.

The message from students in the recently launched national General Election campaign by the NUS to politicians is you have wrecked our future, now we have the power to wreck yours. Senior University officers would do well to take heed of this warning. LUSU has demonstrated its willingness to co-operate in a mutual partnership on this divisive issue and in a mutually beneficial way, but if the University continues to behave as though students are merely seeking to undermine their wish to bolster the sustainability of Lancaster University and to ignore the warnings of student representatives, we will be left with no other alternative than to make our voices heard in the most vocal rather than reasonable way possible.

No mistake should be made this will be the priority campaign of both the Students' Union and all the students in the terms ahead. The pressure by elected representatives will not cease until we are satisfied the interests of our members are protected and being taken seriously.



Michael Indian

Could the end of the recession be Brown's saving grace?

Labour built their early reputation on prudent financial management and now need to prove to the electorate that they can do so again

With the announcement that the UK economy grew by 0.1% in the last quarter of 2009, we have emerged from the longest recession on record. It is an almost insignificant number, but the publication of it comes at a crucial point in the run up to the General Election. For all parties, the economy may prove to be the lynch pin for the coming ballot.

Under Labour, financial success underpinned their first decade in power. Public spending initiatives were funded by money drawn from economic expansion rather than the solution of the traditional Left of raising taxes. Public services without making the public bleed for them, the perfect situation for New Labour. At the centre were Gordon Brown's macro-economic policies. To have the former Chancellor in charge at the time of unprecedented instability is a poisoned political chalice.

Mr Brown is now driven to tackle the area of policy that once so strongly defined his party's accomplishments. At the time he assumed power in 2007, only 8% of the electorate cited the state of the economy among the key problems facing the UK. People did not



feel the need to question a system that greatly benefited them. With the recession, the rug was pulled out from under their feet. We began to realise how little we knew or cared about a system that is so integral to our way of life. So, for the first time since the early Nineties, the economy is back on the electorate's minds.

So what is the meaning of last quarter's growth figure to the Government? Certainly it represents a tiny chink of light in the gloom engulfing them. Although he would have preferred it to

be otherwise, the financial crisis and subsequent policy has come to define the Brown era. Aside from wrapping up inherited foreign policies; the bailout of the banks, bonuses and G20 meetings are, in the minds of the voter, the hallmarks of Gordon Brown's premiership.

Consequently, Labour realise this represents their last great policy gamble. With a leader who lacks the personable approach with the media and a party dogged by internal friction, could concrete proof that their grand economic scheme proof to be their saving grace? This is certainly their hope. The figures of growth for the first quarter of 2010 are due to be published on April 23rd. Only two weeks before the most likely election date of 6th May, in the last minute run up to polling day, Gordon Brown could finally claim that the bitter medicine had worked. He could present himself as the long-suffering, but ultimately vindicated, leader.

Any such hope Labour holds will prove to be vain. Whilst the economy is at the forefront of voters' minds, so are their worries about the budget deficit and the levels of spending. Even within the ranks of the Government, there are qualms about effects like the extreme

weather and the restoration of VAT harming what is evidently a fragile level of growth. Should Labour receive their deepest desire of a second consecutive quarter of growth, such a development would come too late in the election campaign to make a significant difference. Even if Labour were to use this as some form of damage limitation, they must move beyond the tedious "spend/save" argument they are caught in with the Conservatives, and convince the electorate they have a solid plan for continued recovery.

As for the Tories, now the party of economic inexperience, the possibility of a recovery spells uncertainty. Not the vindication of the Government's policy, but rather calling into question their role as the Opposition. Simon Heffer claims that the David Cameron and George Osborne are as complicit as the Government in their obliviousness to the realities of economies, thus threatening the UK with a "double-dip" recession. How wise was the Conservative opposition to Labour's fiscal plans in 2008-9, and the decision now to promise deeper and faster cuts at such an early stage? When it comes to the economy, could they do a better job?

Obama's approach to politics is the right one to take

Michael Payne could learn a few things in his handling of the tuition fees campaign writes **Simon Armitage**

Barack Obama is just so cool. He is a great orator, speaking clearly and definitely. On TV the other night, he was talking to an audience comprised mainly of army cadets and reserves, the people he will be sending into conflict and potentially to their deaths; yet he received a standing ovation, spent several minutes after his speech shaking the hands of eager audience members and even managed to stump the BBC News analysts in finding flaws in his performance.

It's the little things that make the difference. Not once did he slur his words or make a mistake. He didn't even appear to be reading from a script. Obama kept his audience and by the end you would be hard pushed to find anyone who could, on the strength of that argument anyway, oppose him.

Everything he says just seems to make sense. His economic reforms were spot on and have started to bring the US out of depression. He is pushing through a health care reform bill, making state sponsored facilities and treatments available to all which, surprisingly for an observer from a welfare state such as ours, has been met with staunch opposition. He has listened to his advisors and experts, such as Stanley MacChrystal, the Commander of the US armed forces, who called for more troops, and has acted on their suggestions.

Michael Payne could learn important lessons from the US President. The subject of money, is obviously an emotive one for students. The campaign should be looking for the Vice-Chancellor and the other decision makers at the university to treat their arguments as those of mature and informed adults. Instead the campaign has thus far come off as the immature vitriolic whimperings of stingy students. Tuition fees do need to rise; they will enable greater expenditure on university teaching and facilities and will make a degree worth more. Claims that any increased revenue will be directed into the board's pension pot or towards a new car for the Dean are just pathetic attempts to clutch at straws. The campaign should not be attempting to refuse any and all attempts to increase university charges – no argument is ever won without compromise – but Payne should be trying to ensure that fees are not raised to a level that will exclude too many, and gain assurances that proceeds will go towards areas that will benefit students.

I have not spoken personally to Mr Payne or other members in the higher echelons of the campaign so am not party to the details of their discussions, but I sincerely hope that he is more Obama, calm, sensible, taking on board the advice of informed experts, than Bush, who acted in the wrong way in reaction to a controversial issue and rallied uninformed and easily agitated supporters who eventually became the laughing stock of the world community. Campaigns such as this one have the chance to make an important impact on the lives of both current and future students. Let us hope it is for the better.



Liam Kay

Comment Editor

It is wrong that the Management School receives the most funding

I don't know if you've noticed but there is an awful lot of building work happening on campus at the moment. This never-ending flow of builders are primed towards one place: the Management School.

Don't get me wrong, I have no problem with the Management school gaining some of the funds the university has received in order to improve the learning experience. In fact, if anything, it should be commended for giving students a truly world class department to study their degree in. However, what I truly despise is the despicable preference for this faculty of the university above all the others on campus. That is something that cannot be allowed to continue.

The Management School seems to be viewed by the university establishment as a cash cow, bringing in the investment that the university wants to further its development plans. But surely, as fee paying students, we should be able to expect equal investment in all the faculties on campus? It is shocking that whilst some departments, for example Humanities, have had funding cut the Management School has a new annex built. If we are all paying the same amount in fees we should be able to expect equality in the amount of money each faculty receives. Even if you add student num-

bers to the equation, it is very difficult to come to any other conclusion than the management school is over-funded and preferred by those in University House.

The Management School's facilities are second to none but the university has used this as prospectus filler – it needs it to attract students to Lancaster using the plush surroundings to promote the advances that have been made on campus. However, these improvements mean nothing when investment is not carried out across the whole university. With crumbling seminar rooms across campus, is it not unfair that the faculty that has the best building, the best rooms and the best facilities for teaching gets further improvements? Whilst these improvements may be necessary in the long-term, a university that is over-reliant on the success of one faculty will only damage its standing as an academic institution. We need a successful university, not just a successful management school.

This is part of a more critical section of the university policy; the promotion of short-term success over long-term stability. The Learning Zone was built over more worthy investments such as an improved library and the primacy of the Management School's projects over other departments at the univer-

sity are a continuation of these ideas. To make Lancaster a truly great university it needs to be strong in all its faculties and have the resources to compete with the top ten universities in all areas of its academic curriculum. To single out the Management School for preferential treatment is a sorely misguided policy that, whilst it will reap some immediate benefits, will only do this establishment a disservice in the long term. Only the improvement of all faculties on campus at an equal rate, in conjunction with the number of students taking the course, can help the university progress further up the rankings and compete with the best that the country, and indeed, the world has to offer.

For investment to continue to flow into the management school whilst other worthy projects are left aside cannot continue. The library, the School of Health and Medicine, around half of the lecture theatres and seminar rooms on campus all need investment. How about allowing Lancaster to train doctors, journalists and nurses? Is it truly justifiable to take money away from these projects in order to extend an already gigantic management school? There is so much that can be improved at this university; I only hope that we don't see more management annexes anytime soon.

University House should realise expenditure is required in a number of other faculties and this obsession must now stop



Amar Mahmood

Interventionism has quite simply failed

Foreign policy should be altered to take account of catastrophes across the globe

Intervention in Afghanistan has not succeeded. Many soldiers and journalists have died, as well as untold numbers of civilians. Yemen has experienced an influx of Al-Qaeda activities. The sanctions that have been enforced on Burma, Sudan and Zimbabwe so as to stop human rights abuses are also failing. Alternative tactics have been suggested. The neo-conservatives believe that we need to be more aggressive with regards to terrorists and despotic regimes. Many on the left take a slightly different view. They believe we should make peace with the terrorists and impose more sanctions on countries like Burma, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

It is my opinion that neither the current nor the alternative approaches for Britain's foreign policy mentioned above are correct. My view is that we should take a non-interventionist approach in foreign policy. The idea stems from the Old Right, paleo-conservative and libertarian views on foreign policy in the United States. For an example of a mainstream non-interventionist voice, look to the Republican Presidential candidate Dr. Ron Paul. He and other non-intervention-



ists believe terrorists do not attack us for who we are, but attack us for what we do. This is certainly true with regards to the July 7 bombing in which four British citizens detonated themselves on public transport. The reason for these attacks was our involvement in Afghanistan, Iraq and our support for Israel and treatment of the Palestinian resistance as terrorists. Though there can be no justification for what these people did, the British govern-

ment has continued to ignore the motives of these terrorists, whilst playing up their actions.

The intervention that has been undertaken with the War in Iraq and Afghanistan are bound to fail. The reason is because we are not seen by the as liberators but as invaders. What better recruitment tool could there be for Al-Qaeda than a catastrophic intervention regarded by a substantial portion of those in the region as

imperialist? Furthermore, Al-Qaeda believed that once the US and Britain had invaded, it would be so much easier to target them as they would be on their soil.

As well the hostility faced by the British in Afghanistan, there has been a large financial cost. If we continue in Afghanistan, Britain's deficit is only going to increase. The money that has been used on the War on Terror could have been used to fund our transport, schools and hospitals.

With regards to the sanctions placed on countries like Burma, Sudan and Zimbabwe they ought to be removed. As for a reason as to why this should be done - the sanctions only make problems worse and leads to excessive government interference in the free market. It is none of our business whether there are human rights abuses being committed or not.

The failures of rampant intervention are obviously apparent. The benefits of a non-interventionist foreign policy are too numerous to mention. With millions of citizens calling out for change, what better change could there be than trying something which hasn't been done before?

Celebrating the history of LGBTQ

This month is an opportunity to mourn losses and assess achievements writes **Sarah Newport**

LGBT History Month is an event which has taken place every February since 2005. The event encompasses every aspect of the LGBTQ Community from celebrating specific achievements in the past year, looking forward to campaigns for the year to come and bringing together the whole community through a series of smaller events. It's a time of great emotion for the LGBTQ Community; mourning our losses and facing up to the battles still to come, whilst celebrating our victories, both personal and political.

It is evident in the current political climate that the LGBTQ Community has lost a lot of ground in its fight for equality. The amendment to the single equality bill allowing discrimination of LGBTQ people on religious grounds and the appalling anti-homosexuality bill proposed in Uganda are both pieces of legislation which show that there is still a serious level of inequality for LGBTQ people throughout the world. However, thanks to the "Donation Not Discrimination" campaign headed by NUS LGBTQ Campaign, the ban on gay and bisexual men giving blood is currently being reconsidered. In addition to this, Barack Obama repealed the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" initiative in the US military meaning that, for the first time ever, LGBTQ people can sign up to the Armed Forces and not be forced to closet themselves.

It's this amalgamation of celebration and sadness which makes LGBTQ History Month the most unique LGBTQ campaign of the year, and makes it so relevant to the LGBTQ Community. As the LGBTQ History Month website says "Our lives are both ordinary and extraordinary. [LGBT History Month] celebrates all we were, all we are and all we may yet be."

In previous years, the Lancaster LGBT Association has put on a variety of campaigns and events including setting up a time line of pivotal points in the LGBTQ rights movement throughout the 20th and 21st Centuries. This year, in a landmark venture YOURlgbtq and LU Cinema bring you the first ever LGBTQ Film Festival on campus. Every Wednesday during February, a film which highlights an aspect of the LGBTQ Community will be played in the Cinema in Bowland Lecture Theatre 1. The 4 films, Milk, But I'm A Cheerleader, Transamerica and Boys Don't Cry, vary from Academy Award winning films to cult classics.

The festival, funded by LU Cinema, YOURlgbtq and EWD Council, demonstrates the crucial point put forward by LGBTQ History Month which is the necessity for involvement which goes beyond the self-defining of the LGBTQ Community, both at Lancaster University and throughout the world. The LGBTQ Community cannot campaign with the level of enthusiasm and success which it has enjoyed at points during its history without the help of wider society. In order for the LGBTQ movement to progress, we need the support and fair treatment of politicians, judges, religious leaders, our families and people that we meet on the street.



David Guy

The Tory brand grows stronger

When New Labour swept to power, it's third way ideology and fresh faced young leaders seemed to promise a 'new dawn' for Britain. The tried, tested and dated Socialist policies were scrapped and in came a vision of hope, equality and prosperity. Underlining their bold new vision for the country was the controversial policy shift towards the economic right. The dropping of Clause IV (an Old Labour, socialist mission statement) and the embrace of the free market was a declaration that Thatcher had been right. It was time to pack away the flat caps, roll up the union banners and crack open the champagne.

That was 1997. Today, as a result, the two main parties inhabit a piece of turf in the political centre, and the public seem to be joining them. For decades, a loyal working class supported Labour. Though each election would be determined by the swing voters, Labour knew they could rely on the loyalty of those they could genuinely say they served. When Blair and Brown promised power, after nearly two decades of opposition, they and the country went and placed an X in the New Labour box. For a time, the party seemed to be pushing Britain into a new golden age. 'Cool Britannia' was booming and there was no sign of a slow down. The charismatic new Prime Minister was a star on the world stage and the Chancellor was gearing Britain

up for boom without the bust.

Of course, being politics, the scandals came and so did the unpopular decisions. But for many people, the shine really came off the New Labour vehicle when Tony Blair left office. It is difficult to think that Labour would have experienced quite the landslide that they did, had Brown led the party from 1994. Blair was New Labour. His seeming enthusiasm, oratory performances, charisma and, of course, smile gave the party a youthful, exciting and powerful front. In his PMQ performances against Major, as opposition leader, he was eager and confident to take power.

He was right to feel so. Blair took his party into an election which granted them a massive electoral landslide. New Labour, under Blair, wiped the Tories off the political map for a decade and established them as the kings of the commons. Though the grin wore down and mistakes were made, much of Blair's appeal remained intact. It was more than enough to head off a string of unremarkable Tory leaders and could probably have left Cameron sitting firmly on his opposition bench after the next election. With Blair gone, Labour has been left with the un-charismatic and seemingly bumbling Gordon Brown. And without the glaring shine of Blair, the ideological bankruptcy of New Labour is being exposed. A confused identity has left the party clinging onto vague ideas of equality and education which the public are

finding difficult to identify with.

Before 1994, Labour could confidently declare a commitment to equality. Their socialist backbone was reinforced by the beliefs of countless thinkers, theorists and movements across the world. Even if the ideas proved unworkable, the ideology from which they took direction was born out of a real optimism and passion for future change. By abandoning those beliefs, New Labour has given the impression that the centre ground is a progressive position. The recent British Social Attitudes Survey confirms that this idea has gained credibility. For the first time in over 20 years, more people are now identifying themselves as Tory. As the Conservative party has never felt forced to drastically alter or abandon it's principles, more and more people are beginning to see them as a stable alternative to a confused Labour. And with Blair's smile faded, that now distrusted and greying middle aged man, who took his seat to defend the Iraq war, can not reaffirm the crumbling message of New Labour.

Nor can they return to their left wing roots when Socialist ideas of nationalisation and wealth redistribution seem like relics of the Cold War. Increasingly, more people are seeing David Cameron's party as providing a more secure ideology for them to identify with and to take the country further into the new century. And so, like it or not, we are all Tory now.

The dawn of New Labour heralded the death knell for socialist values and now more people than ever consider themselves a Conservative

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.

Policies over Photoshop skills

Dear Sir,

Perhaps it is more convenient to look at the world “without ugly people”, but this really evades the main issue. He makes the argument for Cameron wanting to look as attractive to as many people as possible- which is fair enough- but seems to think that the public want to judge him as if he is one of these “God-like super humans” rather than on his traits as an individual and a politician. These, surely, are the more relevant issues we face as a democracy- so why are we allowing ourselves to be lulled into a pop-culture type beauty show?

Before Cameron brushes up his Photoshop skills, he needs to brush up on his policies. Because as attractive as he makes them look, there will always be some almighty flaws in the big picture.

V. Ellis,
Cartmel College

EWD budgets a concern for all

Dear Sir,

SCAN is right to highlight the pathetic amount of funding that LUSU allocates to the EWD budget. The £4000 that EWDs have access to is half of what was spent on the (now discontinued) women's bus service alone last year. When considered alongside over £20,000 of LUSU money that was not spent in the societies budget last year, and that the EWD budget provides for only 25p for each student at Lancaster, those who supported the budget change at Union Council last year should be ashamed.

Helen Wilkie,
Bowland College

Response: Foreign language posters

Dear Sir,

As I sat down to eat my lunch just this afternoon, I settled down to read the new copy of Scan. What I was greeted with was an anonymous, bigoted idiot from Pendle college who claims that it is offensive, suspicious and rude for posters and adverts to be written in a foreign language and posted around campus. I was outraged to read this, can this idiot not understand that it might be reassuring for foreign students to have an advert in their own language when they are far away from home. It does not mean that they are refusing to learn English, or that they are belittling the English students that are already here, and it most certainly DOES NOT incite racial tensions. I invite this Pendle to imagine how they would feel in a foreign, non-english speaking University; would they not feel slightly comforted at the sight of something familiar? Would they not like

to feel that the Uni was doing their best to make them feel at home?

Exclusion on the grounds of race can certainly work both ways, however this is definitely NOT an example of exclusion of any kind.

Natalie Williams
Lonsdale College

Dear Sir,

I completely understand where your anonymous correspondent was coming from in the previous issue. It is incredibly frustrating and alienating to see so many posters on campus written in a foreign language.

This is damaging for inclusivity and community cohesion. The PC brigade will no doubt be up in arms.

Anonymous
County College

Dear Sir,

It was particularly disturbing to see a letter in the last edition of SCAN launching a vitriolic attack upon the multicultural diversity of our campus. Quite why the anonymous student from Pendle College is offended by the existence of other languages at the university is bizarre, and that the student finds the use of other languages ‘suspicious’ is particularly revealing of their mindset.

Lancaster University is a proud community of people from over one hundred different nationalities. It is right and proper that these students feel comfortable in expressing their identity on what should be a welcoming campus.

If indeed there does arrive an epidemic of ‘racial tensions’ at the university, then I am confident that the overwhelming majority students at this university shall unite to oppose the racism behind the paranoid intolerance of multiculturalism.

Aidan Williams
Equality Campaigns Officer

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to the letter from ‘anonymous’ claiming that foreign language adverts are offensive. In his/her letter the writer says they are offensive to the “British students this university was built for” - apparently the writer is unaware of the university motto “Patet omnibus veritas” meaning ‘Truth Lies Open to All’. This university was built for anyone willing to learn. Perhaps the writer will be taking one of the arabic classes recently advertised (in english) on the spine? This way they might be less offended.

Simon Mair
Cartmel College
Green Committee Chair

Annwyl Syr,

Tybed os bysa ‘dienw’ o Coleg Pendle, pwy sydd yn teimlo bod posteri sydd ddim yn ‘Prydeinig’, yn ‘sarhaus, cyfyngol, tybus ac estronaidd’, dal yn teimlo’n sarhaus tasa fo’n darganfod bod nifer o’r ieithoedd ‘tramor’ hyn yn gael eu siarad gan bobl Prydeinig. Mae yna nifer o rhannau o Brydain lle nad yw Saesneg yr iaith cyntaf, megis Cymru sydd yn ddwyieithog. Yn ein cymdeithas cyfoes ag aml-ddiwylliannol, mae yna ganoedd o ieithoedd gwahanol a siaredir gan siaradwyr brodorol i Brydain, gan gynnwys Mandarin, Punjab, Ffrangeg, Hindi ac Arabeg. Mae Brif Ysgol yn sefydliad lle dylai pobl o bob diwylliant teimlo’n gyfforddus i fyw ac astydllo, heb ofal pa wlad lle’u ganwyd. Mae rhyddid i siarad yn rheol berthnasol, pa bynnag iaith y siaredir.

Ffion McKeown

Dear Sir,

I wonder if anonymous from Pendle College, who finds ‘non-British’ posters so ‘offensive, suspicious, exclusive and alienating’, would still be offended if he discovered that these ‘foreign languages’ are spoken by British people. There are a number of parts of Britain where English is not the first language, such as Wales which is bilingual; in our modern, multicultural society there are hundreds of languages spoken by native British speakers, including Mandarin, Punjab, French, Hindi and Arabic. A University is an institution where people from every culture should feel comfortable to live and study regardless of their country of origin. Freedom of speech is a rule which applies no matter which language you speak.

Ffion McKeown
Cartmel College

Whisperings about a new secret society on campus

Dear Sir

Recently campus has been abounded with whispers of a new controversial and clandestine society formed within the past year at Lancaster University.

As far as I (and a large of friends and acquaintances) have heard, this society is directly linked to the British National Party, and subsequent fascist activities.

At first we assumed there was no grounding to this story until, a casual acquaintance from inside this society informs us that the society has met on several occasions within increasingly larger venues, including: Unlocked seminar rooms, Group work rooms, Late night ISS labs, culminating with a substantial turnout within an unlocked evening-time Frankland Lecture theater.

Further speculation within campus small-talk suggests that a high ranking BNP member is preparing to visit the society to deliver a speech to members.

With the recent anxiety over students voting for the BNP (as many as 1 in 50, voting last year.. in essence it was felt that we should bring this to the attention of any SCAN / Lusu members, as it greatly concerned ourselves.

Ruxton 2010
Lancaster University.

Anger over LUSU Housing fines

Dear Sir,

I would just like to take the time to salute the magnificent LUSU, and all the excellent services they provide for us, such as the multitude of useless officers for every problem or self definition of a person under the sun, who to the average student don't seem to do much?

One service in particular gets a special thanks; LUSU Housing. On one of their many house visits (seemingly

they don't seem to trust anyone not be running a brothel/drugs factory in their spare time) the LUSU housing inspector decided that as my room has some mould on the wall I and another flat mate will be charged around £40 for the removal of it. I would just like to say to LUSU, should you really be penalising students burdened with debt for something beyond their control?

This is on top of being charged a fine for unpaid rent every term after receiving NO notification that a transaction

didn't go through from LUSU.

LUSU claim to be an ‘ethical company’ in all their promotional material, yet they constantly seem to be looking for new ways to scam students into even more debt, as well as annoying us all constantly with leaflets on the spine, and coercing us during local elections (possibly leading to increased BNP vote on campus).

Rory O'Brien,
Pendle College

University Court the beginning of a long education

Dear Sir,

This weekend I attended University Court along with the rest of the part-time officers and Sabbs. It was great to see the number of people gathered in support of the protest before we went in, highlighting the spirit and determination that still surrounds the funding campaign despite first launching many months ago now.

Court itself went well, with the Higher Education Funding motion

passed surprisingly smoothly; it was nice to feel support from across Lancaster in the room with us. I now think it's important that every student make the effort to educate themselves about issues and candidates in the run up to the elections to ensure the outstanding effort that we keep seeing does not go to waste and we do get a positive result at the end of the process.

Sarah Strachan
PTO Communications Officer

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FEATURES

Having a happy Valentine's Day?

Kristina Beanland examines whether romance is really dead

I HATE TO say it, but I am a sucker for romance. When Harry Met Sally, The Notebook, Sleepless in Seattle, the list goes on, they can all make me cry like a baby. There is just something ridiculously romantic, when at the last moment, right when you think it will never happen, the hero and heroine finally get together and live happily ever after.

I think my love for the fairytale romance may have begun when I first watched a video of Disney's Cinderella; how can you not love it when after all the hard work and the horrible family, Prince Charming rescues poor little Cinders from the daily grind and she becomes a princess. My six year-old mind was captivated, and in some ways that six year-old me still lives on whenever I watch romantic films or hear a love story. I recently read somewhere about a woman who was on an airplane flying out of New York and fell in love at first sight with a man sitting two rows in front. She noticed that he had no baggage with him and would therefore be returning to the big apple that same day, so she rushed back to the airport and waited for the man in departures. Just when she was about to give up hope and made to leave, there he was – he'd been waiting for her in the departure lounge all day. This is the kind of story that makes my heart melt, and this is therefore exactly the reason why no one, however loved up they are, will ever have a good Valentine's Day.

Ok, so I guess you're probably a little confused at this stage – she loves romance but hates Valentine's? Well I don't hate Valentine's, but I question whether the day can ever be a successful one, it all just seems to be too forced and too staged. We designate a single day in possibly the gloomiest month of the year, where we expect to be spoilt rotten, showered with gifts, praise, and I love yous. But really, if you are in a loving, happy relationship, surely you don't need to be told when to treat your beloved like they are the best thing since sliced bread, you should treat them like that anyway. And if you're single, thanks to those Disney films we watched from day one, we are expecting our handsome prince to come and rescue us from a life of solitude and spinsterhood. All because it's Valentine's Day.

My point is that February the 14th ultimately makes you feel miserable. If your single your miserable because you don't have a Valentine; if your taken your miserable because a) you're reminded how romantic your relationship used to be before you got settled in your ways or b) you get so stressed trying to make it amazing. Oh, and we can't forget the poor couples that have only just got together, where they don't know if it's even acceptable to celebrate Valentine's Day at all. Maybe now people may see the irony in the fact that Cupid carries a weapon.

All this means then is that if

you insist on doing a Valentine's Day you need to make it worth it. In other words it need to be unbelievably, breath takingly, out of this world, AMAZING. And when I say you, I mean you boys. As girls, we do not expect to have to make an effort on Valentine's Day, that is your

job. So just in case you're a bit stuck for ideas, here is what we girls tend to have in mind. The oldest surviving love poem was written on a clay tablet in 3500 BC, if you could get your hands on it that would be marvellous. If you're really stuck for ideas, in memory of his beloved wife, Emperor Shah Jahan built the beautiful Taj Mahal – possibly the most romantic gesture of all. So, basically guys, if you're going to do Valentine's, you really have to go for it. We want the Taj Mahal, not a box of chocolates.

Mae Dibley on the joys of spending Valentine's alone

UNFORTUNATELY AT THIS time of year, we are forced to acknowledge February 14 (all those cut out hearts that have replaced the Christmas lights in shop windows don't really give you much choice now do they...). Whether you are single or loved up, doesn't it all seem just a

ten relationship- the one you have with yourself. By now you have probably failed spectacularly once more at keeping any kind of New Year's resolution, and have been reminded again that fad diets and giving stuff up just does not work. You want to be that better person but you always seem to lose track. And what is probably the number one thing that distracts you? Relationships. Love, sex and insecurities can rule this time in our lives, which is crazy considering it is also the time when we make some of our biggest decisions for the future.

Here's the thing. Amidst the heartache of your latest breakup, or even the bliss of being in the best relationship you've ever had, the one factor that will remain the constant for the rest of your life- is you. Boys (and girls; forgive me, I am a heterosexual female and so am writing from my perspective!) will move in and out of your life, and maybe a really lucky one will get to stay for a very long time, but they will not fix the things that aren't right about you. You have to do that for yourself.

Think about those times you have sat heartbroken and wondering how he could have got bored, how he could have chosen someone else, why he 'just needed space'; now think back to a few days earlier when you were stressing about how lazy and unhealthy you are feeling at the moment, how unfocused you are, how little

motivation you have. These are extremes I know, but why on earth are you expecting someone else to love you when you don't love you?? Now, everyone has good and bad days, and of course the decent people out there will always stick by you through the bad times, but if you are stressing about your life then focus on sorting out that life. Don't waste time and energy trying to impress someone else with a you that you don't even want to be. Get happy on your own and you'll be surprised how much easier it is to find someone who wants to be a part of that happy world.

I am a serial monogamist and I am not ashamed, but the two big break ups in my life so far were perhaps some of my fondest memories (after the initial fuck-my-life-is-over phase, of course). I got to reassess and look at myself as just me, not me including him, and they were probably the times I changed the most and got my life back on track in the direction I wanted to be going. I try and keep doing that now, even though I'm happily loved up. If you keep making sure that your life, just on its own, is how you want it to be, you will find that if and when prince charming comes along, he will just be the rather spectacular cherry on an already impressive cake.

So on Sunday, if you are going to wish anyone a Happy Valentine's Day, wish yourself one, because you are pretty damn ace.

Welcome to the year of the Tiger

Clare Hazel

THE TRADITIONS BEGAN, or so the legend states, with the fear of the wild beast Nien who was said to rampage throughout the village every new year's eve, devouring live stock and villagers in his path. The villagers learnt that Nien was scared of the colour red, fire and loud noises, this gave birth to the Chinese tradition of hanging red lanterns on doors, setting off fire crackers in the streets and the lighting of torches on New Year's Eve. Chinese New Year or spring festival as it is sometimes called by western cultures, is celebrated by millions worldwide. So as 2010 brings with it the year of the tiger as well as the year 4708 in the Chinese calendar, it is interesting to remember the customs and legends associated with the most important traditional holiday in the Chinese calendar.

As the Chinese calendar is a lunar one, it is divided into months consist-



ing of 29 or 30 days, by the addition of extra months at fixed intervals the calendar is also synchronised with the solar year. The year runs on a 60 year cycle. Within that 60 year period the years are divided into twelve groups, each group is a zodiac animal. It is believed that a person is born in a certain zodiac year as they have certain characteristics of that animal. Although there are a variety of legends concerning the origins of the twelve zodiac animals, there seems to be a general consensus that the animals were challenged to a competition, thought to be a swimming race across the river. The animals order in the twelve year zodiac cycle is said to correspond with their position in the race. The rat came first as it used its quick wit to gain a lift across the river from the ox, jumping to the shore seconds before the ox emerged from the river. The pig was believed to have come last as he is said to be the laziest of the animals, so stopped for a rest.

Chinese New Year is a 15 day holiday, with the main festivities tak-

ing place on the eve of the New Year. Throughout the 15 days various other traditions are carried out, the 5th day is "Jie Cai Ceng" when businesses traditionally set off fire crackers to welcome in the Gods of Wealth and prosperity. The 15th day is "Yuan Xiao Jie", the festival of the lanterns, to mark the end of the Chinese new year celebrations, different types of lanterns are lit throughout the streets, the lanterns come in all shapes in sizes, some are decorated as the animal of the year or as rabbits in celebration of the myth of "Chang E", a female goddess who was said to have jumped to the moon taking a rabbit as her companion, the legend states that those with a pure heart can see "Chang E" and her Rabbit on the moon to this day.

With a world so rich in cultural diversity it may be hard for some to realise that New Year is not the same day, or the same celebration throughout the world. Perhaps we can all learn from the traditions in China to view New Years in a different way and to celebrate all that we hold dear.

Skiing is believing

Stephen Ashby

THE CHILL FACTORE (pronounced in a similar way to 'factory' - I did have to check) is Manchester's £31million ski village that is just a few hundred metres from the massive Trafford Centre shopping mall. As we stepped off the bus at the Trafford Centre Bus station we could just see the top of the building poking up above the buildings to our right, but as we got closer the incredibly impressive building came into full view. Propped on a thick pillar, the slope points outwards and upwards, and as we got closer the sheer size of the construction became obvious. It's huge.

The subdued entrance is between a large Costa Coffee and an even larger Wetherspoons, but as you step in, it really is like entering an Alpine village. The designers tried as much as possible to make the building itself authentic, with the slate columns and wood finish really managing to get us into the feel of being in a small village in the Alps.

As we approached the desk, the staff seemed really pleased to see us, and after directing us into the kit room to the left we were given instructions on how to get our skis and boots.

When we were changed and kitted up we hobbled out onto the snow. What I cannot put into words is how strange, but brilliant, it feels to have real snow under your feet. This is another reason why the Chill Factore is so successful - they have designed the experience to be as realistic as possible, and the snow is so perfect that you can really feel like you're on the piste.

The temperature on the slope is maintained at around -1.5 degrees, but we skied without hats and were never cold. The walls are covered in huge views of mountains to make you feel as close as possible to Mont Blanc, and what is really impressive about the slope is that there are no pillars down the center to hold up the roof. It really has been designed beautifully.

We made our way up the button lift, of which there are two, and both being relatively experienced skiers, instantly pushed off down the slope. I cannot



stress enough how good the snow is at Chill Factore, and having been to both a dry ski slope here in England, as well as on real snow in the Alps, I can say that this skiing experience was much closer to the French mountains. There was plenty of powder, only a few slightly icy places, and the snow itself was perfect. The temperature on the slope is dropped to around -10 degrees each night and the water droplets that are sprayed into the air turn to snowflakes as they fall.

The atmosphere on the slope was

excellent. There was music playing as you skied, with a wide selection of tastes catered for - everything from indie, to pop, to electro-rock. There were no announcements or adverts to interrupt this atmosphere and it was nice to have something in the background.

There were several jumps down one side of the 180m long slope, which were blocked off while we skied. There are Freestyle Nights each week where you can come and practice or learn how to jump, grind and generally trick, which costs around £20 for students.

Still, while they were closed there was still plenty of space to ski normally and they weren't in the way at any point. There is also a 60m toboggan run and a nursery slope for those who want to take it a little easier or begin to learn.

There are a number of deals that the Chill Factore can do for students, something that the Lancaster University Ski Club take full advantage of. With a valid NUS card (i.e. the Purple-card) students can get the same prices as Juniors; a 1.5 hour lift pass is just £15 off peak (before 6pm weekdays), and £20 at peak times (weekdays after 6pm, weekends and school holidays). Skis and boots are included within this price, and if you wish to hire waterproof trousers and a ski jacket, which is advised, you can do so for an extra £5. Short beginner lessons start at £20, but prices can be lower if you book sessions for a group, with long sessions aimed directly at students being just £20 per head if you get together with friends.

Even after an hour and a half we were still eager to continue, but sadly it was getting late. We solemnly made our way back to the bottom of the slope and kicked off our skis and boots before handing them back in and getting changed.

We arrived back in Lancaster with huge smiles still on our faces; the Chill Factore really is an excellent way to spend a few hours of a day. We will certainly be going again, and with some excellent student deals and a wonderful atmosphere, I hope this brief report has convinced you to try it out as well. See you on the slopes!



**SEG Presents:
Thursday 11th February**

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in Cartmel**

**Sally Anne Hayward,
Tom Rosenthal
& Sean Percival**

**Barker House Farm
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Bar Snacks Available**



TOP FIVE

FILMS TO SEE IN 2010

Last year there was *Slumdog Millionaire*, *The Hangover*, and *Inglourious Basterds* – so what films will we be rushing to the cinemas to see this year?



◀ **Alice in Wonderland**
With Johnny Depp as the Mad Hatter, Stephen Fry as the Cheshire, this film's outstanding cast and infamous director make it unmissable.

Shrek Forever After

▶ The final ever installment of the lovable green ogre and his eccentric band of fairytale creatures.



◀ **Twilight Saga: Eclipse**
Teenage girls will go crazy once again for Robert Pattinson a.k.a Edward Cullen in all his pale, vampire glory.

Sex and the City 2

▶ Amazing outfits, designer handbags and... the shoes! The sequel of the highly successful *Sex and the City* movie is released this May.



◀ **Toy Story 3**
After 11 years away, they're back! Woody, Buzz, Rex and Slinky are all returning for the third *Toy Story* film later this year.



Captain Bonny's world of food

The Captain hangs out with a few Merchants

THIS WEEK I decided to go back to old haunts again, and one of the pubs that was a great student hangout in the mid 90's, but slowly went off the student radar up to recent. That me dears, is the Merchants, which resides down from the rail station, and is one of the Pie and Pint pubs in the town (the other two are its sisters, the Penny Bank and the White Cross).

One of the first things that hits you when getting into the place is its dark and mysterious décor. It's an old cellar and have that cavernous look to the seating areas. One can choose a cellar depending on its lighting from the candle lit to the bright, each having its own appeal and atmosphere. Though it had a lovely range of ale on, and I must say Cornish Tribute just put on, I had come to savour the food, as I had heard good things about its local and homemade grub.

Looking through the menu, there seemed a fair selection, with many old traditional favourites such as steak and ale pie, plus a few new additions, based on British or European cooking. There was also a special board that

I was told changes regularly. But if you just want a nice nibble to share with friends, then they do a cheese board with various pickles and breads. I decided that I would opt for the goats' cheese and leek lasagne with salad and my colleague chose the Merchants own burger with chips and salad. As to the burger, even before it sat on the table, one could smell the herbs, and for an 8oz, looked a monster in the homemade bread. Being homemade,

there was plenty of fine mince and good perfectly from my colleague's opinion, one of the best she thought. The chips had their skins on and were pretty succulent. Her portion was just fine, not too much. For me, I was less impressed, with my lasagne

looking more like suet pudding and I must admit bloody bland! It didn't look happy at all. It was like eating concrete! However the salad was gorgeous.

Onto the deserts, then on offer

were berry cheesecake and the tiramisu. At £4 each, they sounded a bit steep but we presumed they would fill our plates. Sadly no. Both were titchy-little things, and though each had a scoop of vanilla ice cream accompanying it, they were lost on the plates, which were both warm by the way. My berry cheesecake was bland again, and no tarty berries there, and though obviously homemade, those fancy flavours were not there. As to the tiramisu, then this time, my friend was not impressed, as aside from it being small the consistency was off target and didn't have the smoothness that is usually there. As you can imagine we were not amused.

What comes from this experience is that it was hit and miss. Hopefully as they get more custom they will begin to improve some of these problems. But there is creativity there and one is welcomed when arriving in the pub, so they are making all the right noises. With their focus upon families and couples, then it is the kind of pub that students with their parents etc would want to try out and as said. The décor is pretty impressive. But if you do go down there, and one is not satisfied, then I think they wouldn't be too hurt if you told them. Places, like the Borough and others who provide local and homemade menus should be supported, but they also do have to be competitive and not sell it purely on that basis.



Photo: Tony Worrall

Campus icons

A glimpse into the life of Lancaster's famous faces

NAME: Ed Currie

PROFESSION: NatWest Bank customer services officer

STARSIGN: Us Sagittarians don't believe in astrology

How long have you been working at NatWest Lancaster?

I've worked at NatWest for 25 years this July 23 of them here at the university.

Any tips for students wishing to get into the finance and banking industry?

Don't. Seriously though, visit career fairs and research each bank's graduate entry programmes. Investigate the different types of banking and understand the significant differences between working in a branch and investment banking.

If you could go back to university what degree would you do? Why?

I didn't go to university, I joined the bank after A-Levels. If I went now, would like to study something that got me into town planning or maybe architecture - I'm turning into a grumpy old man about speed bumps and ugly buildings.

Do you live in Lancaster?

I was born to Scottish parents in Morecambe where I went to school and lived for 24 years, and I've lived in Lancaster since.

What would you recommend as a student



attraction?

Possibly drinking cocktails while admiring the sunset over Morecambe Bay.

What is your favourite thing about the university?
Greggs' caramel doughnuts.

It's almost one month into the New Year. Have you kept your New Year's resolutions?

I resolved to stop mocking Liverpool F.C. but it's proving very difficult.

We want fun, fun, fun

Chris Gandhi

explores what students really want out of their time at uni

WHEN I THINK of my time as a student, and how I want to spend my student life, there is only one thing on my mind. This is something I personally spend most of my life, and hopefully what other students who come to university spend most of their time thinking about, something worth all the time and money we are investing into this project. That something is fun.

Some think a degree is the main reason people come to university, but for me, and from listening to my elder's talk of their university lives, it's always about what fun they had, what happened to all the good times, never about all their experiences of lectures or tutorials. As such I shall spend time reflecting on the fun and interesting experiences I have had at university so far, be it the time I ended up playing strip poker when all I really wanted were some potato smilies, or when a simple dish (the toastie) turned into one of my epic missions to find the perfect one (unfortunately this remains unresolved).

Enjoyment is an aspect that can be found out of anything. You just need

to mix it up a bit. For example if you have never tried corridor cricket I advise you to. Don't have a cricket bat? Well nor do my flat, we experimented with a giant inflatable mallet and guitar, a tennis racket, a frying pan and a baking tray before we decided the baking tray was the easiest to swing without causing too much damage. (And I do hope they don't notice that black mark when they check our flats at the end of the year.)

Being a student also allows us to regress to our childhood in aspects. No longer are we frowned upon for dressing up as superheroes, animals or princesses. And who would have thought there were so many hiding places at Alex square?

Student life is synonymous with alcohol, and though in excess alcohol is bad, amongst friends in moderation it can bring good times. From the expressions of the face of the macho guy who just did the chilli shot to when your mate wakes up in the morning to find he now has a permanent marker moustache and beard, those are the tales you regal to your children with in later years. Although my mothers best tale is the fact her first year bathroom never actually had a roof).

Being a student also allows us to regress to our childhood in aspects.



No longer are we frowned upon for dressing up as superheroes, animals or princesses - and no I haven't dressed up as a princess yet. Those novelty toys we thought too uncool for sixth form are suddenly the greatest thing. Space hoppers and foam guns, plastic swords and whoopee cushions: suddenly our eyes are opened up to the wonders of these things again. I shed many a tear when Hawkins Bazaar shut in town, oh the possibilities.

Childhood games also suddenly

become fun; who would have thought there were so many hiding places at Alex square? Although those pesky motion sensor lights do foil your plans to play murder in the dark, a blindfold is readily available from a scarf or other item of clothing. Playing the game is another matter, how exactly are you expecting to find someone who is hiding on top of the cupboard? Especially when someone else is throwing a mattress over you to get away!

Now to my final point about fun,

and this is the most important one; you really can't have fun without good friends, for without friends, who exactly are you meant to play 'I have never' or 'truth or dare' with? These are games one can't play alone. The best bit is when you reveal a surprising secret, and there's that one person who proclaiming the standard: "Oh my god, what?" I find I get the best reactions when people discover I've been detained by the police, but that's another tale...

Weighing up the consequences

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

IT WAS GOING ever so well. New Year, new Liam. But then, it all began to fall apart. Much like an alcoholic craving one more beer, I succumbed to my old temptation: Chinese food from Wong's Kitchen. That was the start of me falling off the wagon. Work commitments meant I struggled to find time to get to the gym. Overwork was resulting in me losing my motivation to be as active and fit as possible. I was letting everyone down and I was trapped in a vicious circle with no sign of escape.

Writing this column is like therapy. Or perhaps like entering the confessional box and admitting to all your sins. I'm not going to give up, I just need another shove in the right direction.

I have cancelled on my personal trainer twice due to meetings I had to attend. I feel guilty each time I have done so because it is not just me with a reputation to uphold with the readers of SCAN but Laura too. I'm starting to forget what the gym actually looks like. Does it have rows of tables and a buffet cart at the front, or is that somewhere else?

So why is it that it is so easy to make excuses or get caught up in other activities? Why is the gym always tomorrow? Why is the diet always after that one

last creme egg? It is hard at university. People on the outside may mock students and their tax-free lives, but there is a lot of growing up to be done in three years at Lancaster (or in my case five). You want to pack your days and actually live through your experience as much as possible. The downside is that these experiences aren't always what is best for your body. Alcohol and fast food are the stock preserve of the student and busy timetable and hectic social engagements do little to alter this lifestyle trend.

But that is exactly what I have to do. It is no good waiting for tomorrow as it may never come. My pledge from today is to get back on the wagon, stick to my fitness routine and revert to eating healthily.

To the readers of SCAN. If you see me in Sultan, Pizzetta or Wong's Kitchen have me forcibly removed. If I happen to be queueing at Diggles or Greggs kick me firmly enough to make your point. And if I attempt to ring for a takeaway in your presence confiscate my phone or inform the restaurant I am a visiting health inspector.

Only by putting as many measures as possible in place to succeed will I actually reap the benefits of what I am trying to do. My advice to others with the same problem is to carry on fighting and not give up.



Recipes for disaster

Poppy Goodbrand puts our culinary skills to the test

Whether you know it as Shrove Tuesday or Pancake day why not indulge in a giant stack of fruity pancakes?

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup oats
- 1/2 cup plain flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp bicarbonate soda
- 1/2 cup low-fat fruit yoghurt
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup reduced-fat milk
- 3 fruits of choice, e.g. 1 banana, 6 strawberries and 1 kiwi fruit
- 1 tbsp honey

Method

- Mix oats with flour, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda in a large bowl.
- Make a well in the centre and pour in the yoghurt, honey, egg and milk. Mix well until combined.
- Brush a non-stick pan with oil and heat. Place 2 tablespoons of the mixture on the pan then top each pancake with the slices of fruit of your choice.
- Cook the first side for about 1 minute or until you see bubbles appearing in the batter.
- Carefully turn the pancakes over and cook the other side for 30 seconds. Make sure the fruit does not burn.



Lecture break

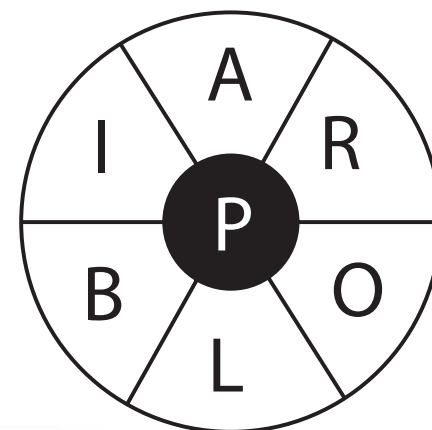
THE QUIZ - Valentines Day

1. Approximately what percentage of Valentine's cards are bought by women?
2. In which TV sitcom is one of the characters said to have proposed to another on Valentine's Day by putting the message "Lee love Dawn, marriage?" in their local paper?
3. Saint Valentine was the Bishop of where?
4. Where is the oldest surviving, hand-made Valentines Card displayed?
5. Which King made Valentines Day a holiday in England?

Answers below

The Wheel

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



How to do Su Doku.

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

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

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

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Answers: 1) 85% 2) The Office 3) Terni 4) The British Museum 5) Henry VIII



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something
a bit
random

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Living in a Cave

By Cal King



Over the next few issues I'm going to introduce you to some examples of culture that I probably should have stumbled across sooner; things everyone else seemed to know about except me. I'll be looking at things like *The Sopranos*, *The Godfather*, *The Wire*, *Dr Dre*, and, if we've got time, girls.

First off, I don't really live in a cave, that's just a metaphor, which I'm hoping you got. I actually live in a nice room in Old Grizedale, where you only really notice the drilling if you're lazy enough to want to sleep in after 8am. With all that daytime on my hands, you'd think I'd have been able to catch up on *The Wire* a little sooner than I did, but hey, I'm an incredibly busy philosophy student. I've been hearing about *The Wire* for a while, but I stubbornly kept myself to the old classics, like *Diagnosis Murder* and *Time Team*. On arriving into Third Year however, I discovered that I had so much free time that I could finally dip into the television series, films and music I'd spent so long forgetting to watch.

After watching the first few episodes of *The Wire*, I came to the conclusion that there's no shame in turning on the subtitles. Even with the subtitles, I struggled sometimes to understand quite what was going on, but the plot is so engrossing that it carries you along, even if you're not sure what's going on. Most of the language is deliciously fruity, and the swearing is always horrifyingly inventive, and strong enough to offend even the most liberal of mothers; like mine who had a bit of a shock when she sat down to watch what she thought was her *Miss Marple* DVD.

The Wire shows both sides of Baltimore's war on drugs, and on paper, isn't far away from any other police drama out there. You see the life of drug barons, of the kids that work for them; but then you see things from the side of the police squad created to take them down. Each season focuses on a different institution of the city; the police department, a city newspaper, a public school, and City Hall, where the Baltimore politicians squelch around their offices, almost dripping with sleaze. What I found that *The Wire* does so well, is show how the rich professionals in the city are just as, and sometimes more, ruthless than the drug-slugging kids that stand out on the corner; the only difference is that one side claims to have a higher moral standing.

Since *The Wire* ended, now is the perfect opportunity to do what I did; buy all of the boxsets, lock your bedroom door, put the subtitles on, and sink into the corrupt world of the Baltimore drug economy. Give it a chance, and you'll find yourself in love with villains, like Stringer Bell. It took me about three weeks to watch the whole lot, and when I finally emerged, pale and malnourished, I still managed to gangster lean down the flat corridor and call my flatmates mother*****s.

The Lord of Dreams

Simon Bulmer
Culture Editor

THIS MONTH LANCASTER University Theatre Group will present the first European stage adaptation of Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*. The name may not seem familiar, but Gaiman is the literary genius behind many creations you will most definitely be acquainted with.

From graphic horror novels to dark fantasy epics, Gaiman's most acclaimed works vary greatly from each other. One of the earliest was cult comic book series *Sandman*, a dark fantasy featuring Morpheus, the Lord of Dreams. The series notably found a place in the New York Times Bestseller list – a list that has only ever contained two other comic books, one of those being the legendary *Watchmen*.

A more recent example of Gaiman's literary prowess can be found in his 2008 release *The Graveyard Book*. The story documents the life of Nobody Owens, a boy who following the murder of his family is raised and educated in the ways of the supernatural by werewolves and vampires.

Although these stories may seem to illustrate that Gaiman's work appeals solely to a particular crowd, one need only look at its adaptations to see that he is a vast spectrum of imagination.

Stardust and *Coraline* are both adaptations of Gaiman's work which have

both had major success at the box office. One is a tale of a half-faerie chasing after a fallen star for his sweetheart; the other is comparable to a gothic take on *Alice in Wonderland*. The variation in his work shows that Gaiman cannot possibly be regarded as unoriginal; both of these adaptations are outstanding and unique fantasy creations that are reflected in the critical acclaim of their celluloid counterparts.

Neverwhere is no exception. Another fantasy, this one is set in contemporary urban London, or rather two parallel worlds referred to as London Above and London Below. *Neverwhere* is an enthralling story which features some of Gaiman's most fascinating characters, a personal favourite being Old Bailey, a man who lives amongst the rooftops with the pigeons. The vast array of supernatural characters truly redefine the modern fantasy genre.

Designed originally as a television series and screened in 1996, it was adapted to a novel form shortly afterwards. It was not the locations or the backdrops that made the original series so encapsulating but rather the characters themselves that made for a most captivating performance. With this in mind it is surprising that a stage version of *Neverwhere* has never before taken place in Europe.

However, one reason for this may be that there is no accepted script. The LUTG production will be an original adaptation of the story and one which



promises to be just as intriguing as the 1996 television series and an opportunity to witness what promises to be a spectacular production.

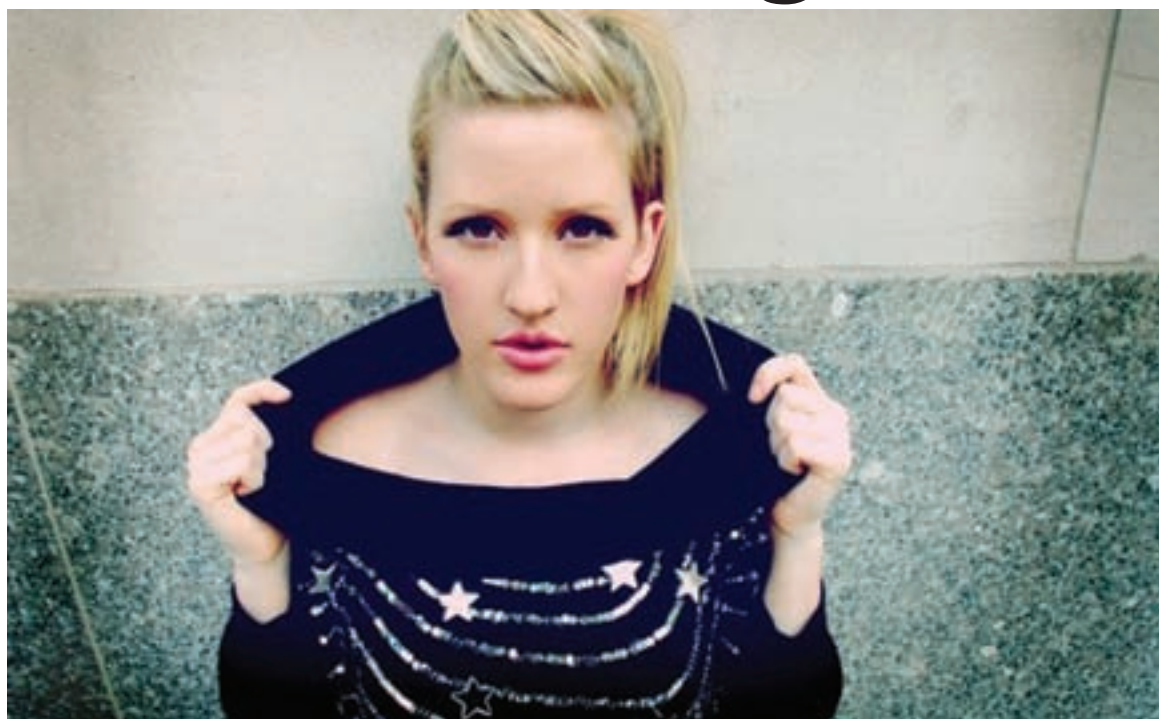
The show will run on Friday and Saturday of Week Six in the Nuffield Theatre. Tickets at £7 or £6 concession (Box office: 01524 594 151).

Who is Ellie Goulding?

Gina Kershaw

THE YEAR 2009 saw numerous female artists storm the commercial charts; artists such as Little Boots, La Roux and Florence and the Machine where some of the main players who came, saw and conquered in their quest for pop domination. However in the wake of 2010, it seems a new name is being heard on the musical grapevine - Ellie Goulding. The English singer-song writer and guitarist was born and raised in Hereford and attended Kent University for two years before moving to London after reaching an agreement with her university tutors to embark on a gap year; and it would seem this gap year has proven to be a clever move for Goulding. For a while now, the artist has been championed by various music industry insiders 'in the know' such as Jo Whiley and Huw Stephens, whilst supporting fellow starlet Little Boots and appearing on *Later with Jools Holland*.

Her debut single '*Under the Sheets*' was premiered on Radio One in September and has since received quite a lot of airplay on various radio shows, proving Gouldings' Indie, folk and Electro sound is being well received on a broader scale. Having just topped the BBC Sound of 2010 poll, which was won by Florence



and the Machine last year, the buzz surrounding the twenty three year old continues to grow and evolve from strength to strength. The songstress beat out theatrical pop singer Marina and the Diamonds at number 2 and Delphic at number 3. Goulding, whose singing potential was spotted at a talent contest in her hometown,

was also received The Brit Award' Critics' choice. The hype surrounding the artist, who has been writing songs since she was just fourteen, only seems to be increasing; with the release of her debut album '*Lights*' in March that will be followed by a nationwide tour, which in some areas of the country (including Lancaster)

is already sold out, it appears she is destined to follow in the footsteps of previous BBC Sound of... winners Florence and the Machine.

The songstress may not be your cup of tea or your definition of 'the sound of 2010' but you can guarantee that before the year is out, you will know who Ellie Goulding is.

The Reviews

The Game by Hannah Fearon



Bayonetta
Price: £42.99
Platform: Xbox
 360 & PS3
Producer: Sega
Certificate: 15



RELEASED LAST MONTH, *Bayonetta* is perhaps the most bizarre game I have ever played and it's rather difficult to imagine what on earth the designers were thinking. It has been labelled as part of the extreme action genre and it does indeed live up to this unusual category. The central character, *Bayonetta*, is a siletto wearing, lollipop-sucking Umbran Witch that has lost her memory since being brought back from the dead. Twenty years on she is searching to uncover the secrets of past whilst at war with the Lumen Sages. The witches basically represent hell, or 'Inferno' with the Sages being represented by a bunch of rather ugly beasts that seem to come from heaven, or 'Paradiso'. The plot totally lost me within about thirty seconds.

So after being baffled by the insane plot, gamers are confronted with the spectacularly strange style of the game. Butterfly wings when she jumps, giants kisses for targeting enemies and a hideous version of 'Fly Me To The Moon' every time she engages in combat give the impression that *Bayonetta* is perhaps being targeted at the female

gamer. Wrong. This style is then interrupted by the constant sexualisation of *Bayonetta's* moves, from firing her guns from between her legs to straddling torture devices; feminists must be outraged. When defeating more difficult opponents, the character strips down to perform 'climax' moves, which are often accompanied with some flirtatious taunt or a little suggestive moaning.

That said, the combat system is ingenious making the game very accessible, giving the impression that anyone is a fantastic gamer. There are endless combos from the very beginning of the game and plenty of weapons to play around with. However, completing *Bayonetta* on 'Easy', the middle setting, took less than seven hours and playing the game on the 'Very Easy' or 'Easy' setting also means that the game automatically adds combos for you during combat which is quite annoying. Anyone can simply bash the same button over and over again to create a multitude of awesome moves. Playing on the 'Normal' setting eliminates this but doesn't really seem to make for a more difficult game. Settings such as 'Hard' and 'Climax' become available once all of the original settings have been completed but I feel that many more advanced gamers would be disappointed about the lack of higher settings at the beginning.

Bayonetta seems to pride itself on its cinematic elements, simple yet effective combat system and stunning graphics. Whilst the design of the game is striking and rather beautiful, I found

the great deal of cinematics constantly disrupted the game and were often dull or rather unimportant to the main plot. The overuse of movie style clips seemed to merely complicate the story further and I found myself often skipping them at later points in the game. For a game that has been so highly anticipated for about four years, the poor voice acting and an awful script also disappoints.

Bayonetta has divided gamers worldwide and I'm certainly torn over whether I love it or hate it. Whilst most of the elements of the game did annoy me, I found that when playing it I didn't become bored, especially once I started to skip the endless cinematics. I found the combat system to be extremely accessible whilst also allowing for some more interesting moves, but on finding out that my combat was supposedly 'assisted' by the automatic setting I was a little disheartened. If it were not for over sexualisation of *Bayonetta*, it would be perfect for a much younger audience. It is a game that wants to be everything, but accomplishes very little. It tries to aim for empowering a female audience whilst satisfying the desires of teenage boys at the same time. The plot is extraordinarily insane but does indeed emphasise the overall over the top style of the game. Whilst *Bayonetta* is without a doubt one of the most interesting games I have ever come across, there was far too much that disappointed me. The severe lack of game play is fine if you're a trophy whore, but for a steep £42.99 I certainly wasn't impressed.

The Film by Catherine Holdsworth

Up In the Air



In his new film, *Up in the Air*, directed by Jason Reitman (*Juno*), George Clooney plays a man whose job it is to travel the country and fire those working for large companies, their bosses too scared to face the back lash if they do it themselves. The supporting cast, Vera Farmiga (*The Departed*) and Anna Kendrick (*Twilight*) both provide strong performances as a fellow businesswoman and a young trainee respectively. In a time of economic crisis and the lack of job security in large corporations, this film has the right amount of humour and heart to lift the spirits of the thousands who have lost their jobs in the last year. The storyline, at times, hits too close to home and leaves the audience wishing for a Hollywood happy ending. It is written to show that, in such dire times as these, there is hope and it is possible to change your life, no matter how late you leave it, shown particularly through Kendrick's character, Natalie.

In the past few years, Clooney has played more serious, thought provoking roles in films such as *Michael Clayton*, *Good Night, and Good Luck* and *Syriana*. Clooney's flawless performance in this film of a deeply flawed man has clearly marked his new status in Hollywood of being a more grown up actor, able to take on any role and allowing him to compete with the giants such as Robert Redford and Morgan Freeman. This film may not be the happiest or funniest, but its message is one of hope, something everybody needs to hear once in a while.

The Album by Lauren Heeley

Esmee Denters Outta Here



The debut album of Justin Timberlake's protégée was eagerly anticipated after her first single, *Outta Here* climbed

into the top ten UK charts reaching number seven in August 2009. The album, with the same name, was released in January 2010 and contains fourteen tracks dealing with issues ranging from heartbreak to girl power. Denters is originally from the Netherlands and was scouted by Justin Timberlake on none other than Youtube, where she posted numerous videos of her singing covers of Beyonce and Pink. Tracks such as *Follow My Lead* and *Love Dealer* inspires the feminist hiding inside, whereas the issue of good old heartbreak is tackled with songs such as *Sad Symphony* and *Victim*. The RnB feel is predominant throughout and JT's style is filtered through; the great man himself even appearing on a couple of tracks. The album is easy going and listenable, but Esmee's individual style isn't overtly expressed, and her individuality as a singer is perhaps not as obvious as artists such as Lady Gaga or her idol Beyonce. Overall, the album is pleasant to listen to with a couple of catchy songs, but lacks the originality to place it up there with the best.



The TV Show by Dominic Claeys-Jackson

Newswipe with Charlie Brooker



Back from presenting comedy panel show *You Have Been Watching* towards the rear end of 2009, critic Charlie Brooker returns to more

familiar territory in the second series of *Newswipe*, the programme that mixes sardonic humour with an expert insight into the secrets and inner-workings of the news industry. So far in the second series, Brooker has directed his mock-ire at the media coverage of Islam4UK, the Big Freeze, and the attempted Christmas Day bombing amongst other items. This is over the first two episodes which have focussed on the news media's fetish for underpinning any topic with a narrative of fear and examining how filler reports are padded out.

Returning in this series is comedian Tim Key, who delivers a deadpan, topical poem on a weekly basis, whilst new to this series is 'American comic and alienated drunk' Doug Stanhope who responds satirically to the chosen topic from a U.S perspective. However, all humour is underpinned by serious analysis, provided by not only Brooker himself but other experts in the field, who make an interesting and insightful input which adds further integrity to the programme. It is this combination which makes the show such a success – it is funny, sarcastic and generally mocks the way in which news items are presented, but underneath all of this lies an extremely well-informed and thorough scrutiny of what really goes on in the news media. It comes highly recommended whether you follow current affairs closely or not – as long as you can appreciate satirical, mocking humour and have a remote interest in how the media manipulate the news then it is well worth a watch. What's more, you may just learn a thing or two.

Lancaster loves a good clubbing

Cal King

LANCASTER LOVES RETURNED to The Sugarhouse in Week 3, and brought the musical talents of Chase & Status, TC ("Where's My Money?") and local legend, DJ Simba. There was plenty of hype surrounding the night, and everyone was looking forward to an evening of heavy beats, deafening bass and obscure dubstep songs, and we were not disappointed. The sell-out event brought locals and students to the club who packed in, and brought a real atmosphere to the night, with free drinks offers throughout sealing the night's success.

With Chase & Status headlining the bill, good quality dubstep was guaranteed. Status, who was representing the band, was on top form, playing a mix of current anthems as well as the band's own material from their most recent album, *More Than Alot*. As we all found out on the night, Chase & Status are definitely one of the groups to keep an eye on in 2010, with their most recent song, *End Credits*, a collaboration with rapper Plan B, reaching number 9 in the charts last year.

The Chase & Status DJ set went on until 2am, after which I managed to catch up with Status (Will Kennard) for a quick chat about how he



Photo: provided by Dan O'Donnell

thought the night had gone. Like his audience he'd had a fun night, and was buzzing as he told me how much he loves doing student gigs, and as we chatted, he and MC Rage (actually quite a calm and pleasant man) had a chance to open a drink and relax. Will told me that 2010 was going to be a busy year for Chase & Status, with their new album out in the summer, and even though I wasn't able to coax a name from him, he assured me that they had a number of ideas for a

title. I pressed him about future collaborations, since rappers Kano and Plan B featured on the last album, and through a secretive grin he told me there would be some good cameos to look forward to. So what could he tell me? The band's most successful collaboration to date would have to be with London musician Ben Drew, otherwise known as Plan B, who features on their tracks *Pieces* and perhaps more famously, *End Credits*. I asked about the band's relationship

with the upcoming rapper, and Will explained how Chase & Status had remixed Plan B's single *No Good* (it's actually very good) and the relationship had started from there. Several collaborations have resulted, including the song *Pieces* for which a video was made on a shoestring budget of £1000. I asked Will what sort of music he was listening to at the moment, and he mentioned the Miike Snow album, *Animal* as being his current favourite, but he'd also been listen-

ing to classic Led Zeppelin, which he cites as being useful for samples.

Thanks to the big name DJs, the night went off with a bang, but the Sugarhouse staff deserve a mention as well, with security staff on good form all night, and the venue cementing itself as one of Lancaster's most important venues. All in all, the night was great fun, and another success for the Lancaster Loves initiative, bringing locals and students together for a night of loud music and exuberant dancing.

Getting lost in *Lost* What they're watching overseas

Emma Ashley

FOR FANS OF *Lost* the wait to the finale season has been long, but on 5th February on Sky One that wait finally came to an end. Due to its large cast and special effects *Lost*, filmed in Oahu, Hawaii has become one of the most expensive television series ever made. With its constant conflict and moral decisions that have to be made along with the majestic scenery and well-developed characters, it's no wonder the show attracted 16 million viewers per episode on ABC during its first year in America and massive figures in the UK as well.

Last season we saw many events unfold such as certain members after leaving the island to go home, returning back after Locke returns to unite them and bring them back together. As Jacob tells him he must die to do this; we are lead to believe it was suicide until later on when we witness Ben strangling him after he talks Locke out of suicide. Locke's death and the appearance of Jacob to the ex-members of the island brings them together to return, but for what reason they are unsure. Something else that greatly excited me was John Locke becoming the leader of the others and asking Richard Alpert to lead him to Jacob, as we find out, to kill him, or at least get Ben to kill him; Locke is defiantly a 'love him or hate him' character.

Jacob is an entity that interests fans greatly; he is supposed to be several hundred years old and lives un-

derneath the remains of a statue. One of the main theories about Jacob and his bringing people back to the island is to prove that not all of man-kind is bad, to bring them to an island away from normal civilisation to start again without money, war, corrupt governments and perhaps to recreate a 'garden of Eden' like scenario. Certainly with Bernard and Rose we see how happy they've become on the island and don't mind what happens as long as they're together. In this sense is it possible to see Jacob as a type of god or in fact the God himself or is it more scientific than that? I've found as the seasons go on *Lost* defiantly pushes the boundaries in many ways which, in turn force the audience perhaps to examine their own lives.

Science, religion and conspiracy theories aside, from the looks of promotions for the new season we can expect plenty more action, drama, romance, effects and breath-taking scenes which transport the viewer so they are no longer an audience but almost become part of the word of *Lost* itself and become totally captivated.

There is no doubt about the fact that *Lost* fans are excited and hoping that in the final season all questions will be answered, we will finally learn why the island is able to travel through time, what the significance of Jacob is, why they need to be on the island and over-all to learn the final destiny of the island and characters we have come to so avidly follow and adore.

Series 6 of *Lost* will be aired from Friday 5th February at 9pm on Sky One.

Aydan Savaskan

THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE is a ghost story very much in the classic mould. Although it plays around a little with special effects and the possibility for shock and horror it concentrates on the human; as you might expect from a writing partnership of Guillermo del Toro and Pedro Almodovar.

The action takes place in a boy's orphanage during the end of the civil war. A ghost is disturbing the inhabitants, one of the orphans has disappeared and gold, which is supposed to be hidden in the orphanage, is missing.

While not with the same enthusiasm as some of del Toro's other films, such as *Hell Boy* and *Pan's Labyrinth*, this film was well received. It's one of a number of films released in the early noughties that managed successfully to balance their supernatural elements with an emphasis on story and character. The story, obviously written with the civil war in mind, reflects the writer's feelings on that subject, and it would be a mistake to watch the film purely as ghost story or adventure. The characters and events all represent aspects of a turbulent time in Spain's history, which perhaps still haunts the country today. However while a prior knowledge of Spanish history can add depth, the excitement, suspense and mystery is enough to make the film entertain on its own.

Good Bye Lenin was one of the best films of the last decade. It tells the story of the fall of the Berlin Wall from the



point of view of Alex, a teenage boy whose mother has fallen into a coma just before the wall comes down.

When she comes out of her coma the doctors explain to Alex that any great shock would be extremely dangerous for his mother; the shock of the triumph of capitalism, for example. Fearing for his mother's health, Alex decides he must attempt at all costs to hide the unification of Germany from her.

Using this unique and particularly personal perspective Wolfgang Becker asks questions that had to some extent been pushed aside in the excitement of the events of late 1990. How did the East German people really feel about their old life, the only

one many of them had ever known? How did it feel to experience such a sudden and irreversible change? Was there anything about their old life they might miss?

Good bye Lenin is a film of paradoxes. It is at times tragic, but at others very funny, and while it celebrates the change that the fall of the wall brought, it is at the same time a nostalgic look back to life before. It is beautifully shot on location in Berlin, and Becker's attention to detail and tender direction make it a truly moving and memorable film.

The Devil's Backbone is showing at LU Cinema on Tuesday Week 4 at 6.15pm, *Good Bye Lenin* is showing Tuesday Week 6 at 6.15pm. Entry is £2



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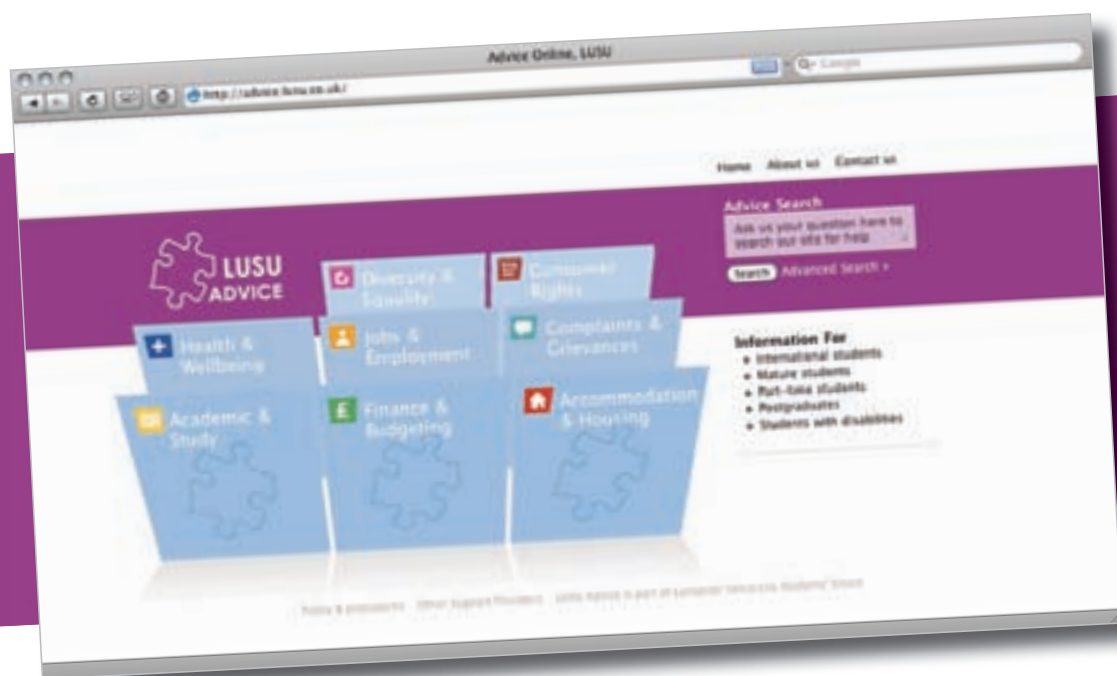


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Squash team avenge cup exit with comprehensive win

Nick O'Malley

LANCASTER'S SQUASH TEAM bounced back from last week's 3-2 loss in the cup to UCLAN with a comprehensive 5-0 victory over Edge Hill.

The hosts easily outclassed their opponents with a dominant display that saw every member of the team winning 3-0 despite two of their strongest players being rested. Lancaster had been completely faultless in their home matches this year winning every game 5-0.

Nick Dodd, Lancaster's number five seed started the afternoon in style with a crushing 11-0, 11-0, and 11-1 win. The only point he dropped all afternoon was the penultimate point of the match, where his opponent played an impressive boast, a shot that seemed to have eluded him for the rest of the match. His opponent was clearly relieved to have avoided the embarrassment of a complete whitewash, while Dodd will have been left craving a workout having won without even breaking a sweat.

Lancaster's continued this impressive performance throughout the afternoon to enhance their match difference in the league and give them a greater hope of gaining a top three spot in the league that Captain Ben Holden believes still is a strong possibility.

Lancaster's number four Ross also marked the afternoon with a convincing 3-0 win, however it was much closer than the previous match with the second set going to a tie-break.

That was as close as Edge Hill got in the match though. Ross found time to experiment with some outrageous shots through his own legs, which endangered his opponent more often than it won him the point. Ross ran out the winner with an 11-1, 12-10, 11-1 win.

Alex Mealing was hugely impressive in the battle of the number 3 seeds, coming out on top in an 11-1, 11-2, 11-3



Squashing the opposition: Lancaster thrashed Edge Hill to avenge their cup exit the previous week

scoreline. His opponent never really looked like getting into the game and epitomised his and Edge Hill's afternoon by serving the ball out to lose the Match.

James Hill won his match 11-3, 11-0, 11-4 to take the scoreline to 4-0 overall. He looked unflustered throughout and even when his opponent started to string a few points together, was unaffected and responded in style, demonstrating his far superior ability to his opponent.

Ben Holden, in spite of admittedly not playing the best squash of his life, also ran out a 3-0 winner, winning 11-3, 11-7, and 11-4. The match between the two number ones was easily the best match of the day. The second set hung in the balance at 7-7 before

Holden capitalised on his superior shot play and his opponent's poorer fitness by winning four points in a row to claim the set.

Holden demonstrated why he is the best squash player at the university, finding time to showboat by playing shots through his legs and behind his back to great effect and to the delight of the spectators that were watching.

Holden spoke to SCAN and praised the team's overall performance. He said: "I am very pleased with the team's performance today, especially the two players that have stepped into the team."

Lancaster's 5-0 win will have boosted their match difference in the league and the team's chances of third place will rest on their Match against MMU

in two weeks time.

Although only the top team in each division gets promoted Lancaster will be fairly happy with a high finish in the league putting them in good stead for next year, in which they are hoping to introduce a Second team as well as having a strong push for the league with the Men's first team. The team is also hoping to enter into the North West Counties squash league next year.

Finally and most importantly is the battle of the Roses against York, where Lancaster hopes to have two very strong teams out during what should be a hotly contested and very close encounter. However, with Lancaster's current home form, they will have massive hopes of helping the university regain the Roses title this year.

Lancaster inspired and ready to win following Roses Rally

Julian Surface
Sports Editor

plete 'winning and positive attitude'. Whilst the sports teams are not professionals, there should always be that desire, whether you win or not, to do something to the best of your ability. Complacency solved by taking 'time out' and working on something else whilst maintaining the training regime.

When asked about what we might learn from the American way of training and of Michael Phelps, Parry said, 'the one thing I learned from Americans is that they are always ready. Setting goals and achieving them for that great feeling of success.' Parry has considered the key to his own success to be, 'persevering, despite missing out on the domestic competitions and the commonwealth games, I won a medal in Athens 2004.' Parry even went further to say how it was 'a competition that he could really get behind' also to show up his Yorkshire father-in-law. He said how he 'loves the banter' that goes on between the two and 'wishes us luck and hopes for real pride'.

In closing, when asked if he would return he 'feels he may need some new material, but does agree that the university should bring people down.' It would be a superb new tradition to initiate at Lancaster in the build up to an extravagant event. It is always such a precious moment to be present at the start of a new tradition and Lancaster can only benefit from maintaining it. Just like the rally, Lancaster can be shaky, but we will impress you all when we get into it.

Women's Basketball: Lancaster beaten at the death

Joe Hardacre

GOING INTO TUESDAY evening's cup match you'd be forgiven for thinking Lancaster's Women's Basketball team had UCLAN's 1st figured out. The previous two games between the sides this year have both resulted in Lancaster victories, including a last minute winner in the opening game of the season.

Unfortunately for the hosts, their recent successes were irrelevant, as UCLAN were able to hold on in the last second of overtime for a dramatic 43 - 42 victory. The relatively low final score, especially considering the extra period of play, is an accurate representation of what was ultimately a tight, defensive affair.

Both teams struggled early on and

failed to get into a consistent rhythm offensively, though as was the case in their first game of the year, this was mostly the result of excellent effort and work on the defensive side of the ball. This was punctuated by arguably the play of the game by Lancaster's Nicola Williams. An offensive turnover during a stretch of careless play led to a breakaway chance for the away side; not wanting to allow an easy bucket however, Williams chased the opponent down for a perfectly executed block from behind.

Following the low scoring first quarter, both teams were keen to take the initiative in the second period. Lancaster, unfortunately, still struggled to execute properly on offence. The period began with a series of turnovers and hurried shots which UCLAN eventually began to take advantage of, led by their player of the game Amy Whitehead, outscoring

Lancaster 20-8 during the period and placing the home side into an 11 point deficit at the beginning of the second half.

The second half brought a comeback from the resurgent home side led by point guard Elena Falzon. Although she had struggled with her shooting touch during the match, she was able to provide for her teammates and tallied five assists in the quarter alone, particularly impressive when the entire Lancaster team was held without an assist in the whole first half.

The improved ball movement and continued effort on the defensive end allowed Lancaster to outscore their opponents 14-2, erasing the early deficit. While earlier periods had been particularly lopsided, the fourth quarter and resulting overtime periods were well-balanced and emphasised how both teams

had settled into a thrilling contest.

Lancaster fell behind early in the period but, unlike in the second quarter, they refused to let UCLAN increase the lead or gain the momentum thanks to a series of key plays from a number of players.

Daphne Sakellariou, as was the case in the first encounter, played an extremely impressive game on both sides of the ball, tallying an astounding four blocks, a multitude of steals and was involved in key offensive plays late in the fourth quarter, none more so than the final possession.

In the final 30 seconds of the fourth, with Lancaster trailing by three points, the defence was able to come up with key steals on successive possessions, resulting in a chance to win the game down a single point with only 10 seconds remaining. Sakellariou's last sec-

ond shot missed to the left of the rim, but the referees saw enough contact to call a foul and she calmly sank one of her two free throws to tie the game and send it to overtime.

The final period was just as exhilarating, and despite injuries to Lancaster's undoubted players of the game Sakellariou and Nadvia Davis, they still had a chance to win in the final seconds. Unfortunately for the hosts, UCLAN defended with the same intensity they had shown all night, forcing a tough shot that was just missed to their delight and Lancaster's horror.

The loss soured what was a fantastic performance from Davis who put up a double-double of 18 points and 13 rebounds, eight of which came on the offensive end; all of this after joining the team less than 24 hours before the game.

Eat Sport, Sleep Sport, Read Wynes



I had the pleasure of putting on the very first Roses Rally this week. With the Rally being a brand new event at Lancaster and beginning from a collection of ideas that were floated around in first term, I can now well and truly say that it was a success. The idea of the event was to be a motivational rally for all sports teams, clubs and supporters who want to push for a Lancaster win come May. The aim was to unite the individual sports teams, to get everyone excited about Roses this year and create the shared mindset of determination and commitment to winning. It was the opportunity for everyone to get hyped up about Roses 2010, and get fed a hearty meal at the end of it!

The event began with a performance from Lancaster Cheerleaders and I have to say it was sensational. They really started the event off with a bang and after seeing some of the amazing stunts they pulled off with perfection, the room was already buzzing with excitement. Sir Christian Bonington made a great speech urging us all to push ourselves hard to achieve our dreams, some great words from a very inspirational man and our very own Chancellor. Then came Steve Parry, Olympic Bronze Medal winning swimmer, who well and truly stole the show, keeping the audience hanging on his every last word and really building up the excitement in the room. I myself was in stitches at a man who clearly had a way with words and looking round the room seeing the teams enjoying themselves I swelled with pride at the dedication and inspiration of those behind the Lancaster Red Rose. It was such an honour to have such a great sports person speak at our event and I have to say he was a true gentleman who didn't tire of the excitement in the room despite having to pose for endless photographs with all those that were inspired by him.

The event achieved its aim and I know that so many people enjoyed it and had a great evening. I've had people asking me if there'll be more Roses Rally's next year and I hope so. This event wasn't just about people having some fun and a hot meal, it was about impressing the change of attitude in sport upon the University and showing that Lancaster not only can and will win Roses this year, but showing that this event means something to each and every one of us. I'm so excited about the lead up to Roses; I know the teams are working themselves so hard to achieve a win this year. So to put it into football terms, if BUCS is the Premier league, Roses definitely isn't the Carling Cup of a season, it's the Champions League and we will stop at nothing to be crowned champions!

Lancaster swimming supreme over regional rivals

Kim Megson

LANCASTER'S SWIMMING TEAM reigned supreme as the Lancashire Cup returned for the first time in two years. The event, which is contested between the Universities of Cumbria and Central Lancashire, as well as Lancaster, took place for several hours in a crowded sports centre.

Lancaster made a storming start and maintained a comfortable lead throughout, finishing with an impressive haul of 196 points. UCLan finished second with a tally of 128, while the newly established Cumbria team finished with 90.

The event came about when Lancaster swimming club, led by President Dan Boyd, decided to bring back the tournament. They organised the event with the other universities, with all three helping to put finding together, including the purchase of a new trophy.

Each team had swimmers compete in races, with fifty and one hundred metres competed in every stroke (including butterfly, freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and individual medley). There were also four team relay events (of which Lancaster won all) involving four swimmers for each team.

Lancaster provided some very impressive performances and times, demonstrating their experience. They have participated in national galas before and are members of the Amateur Swimming Association, while their success at last years Roses in York was not really acknowledged amidst the record defeat of the University as a whole.

In contrast, this event was the first that this Cumbria team have competed in. At the beginning of the day captain Becky Barker commented, 'we'll see how it goes. We have some people taking part



Water success: The Swimming Club won multiple races in the Lancashire Cup (Photo: Rui Hu)

in up to five events, so it will be difficult.' Although they did not upset the odds, the team showed potential, and will hopefully progress with future competitions.

The UCLan are also relatively new, and midway through the day captain Emily Birch declared herself pleasantly surprised at some of the team's performances. She said that they had all had fun participating in the event, thanked the organisers and hoped that the Cup would return next year.

Victorious Lancaster Captain Emma Gage said 'everyone has worked hard and pulled out all the stops for this event.' Gage and vice captain Alistair Grubb gave their thanks to the sports centre, Athletics Union and the LUSU

VP (Sports) Sue Wynes, who was in attendance.

As for the future, Boyd has high hopes for the swimming in the Roses later this year. 'Last time around we won eleven out of twelve events, and came very close, so hopefully this time we'll get the clean sweep.'

In the longer term, 2011 will see the opening of the new £20 million sports centre, which will be centred around the swimming facilities. The complex will contain an Olympic size pool with eight lanes, each of which will have touchpad sensors that will be able to record times and display them on a large scoreboard. As well as this the pool will boast a floating floor that will vary the depth of the water. All of this is reason for optimism,

and events like the Lancashire Cup will hopefully become a regular event in the University's sports calendar. Boyd said 'the swimming team always want events to participate in, and the University will want things to be happening in the new facilities.' Let's hope that this exciting new development will lead to a bright future for Lancaster's swimming club.

The winners for Lancaster were: Emma Gage, Susann Kern, Heather Clarke, Sterling Austin, Jinny Gunston. The people in the four successful relay events were: Dan Korcz, Sterling Austin, Simon Rigby, Alasdair Grubb, Andy Barratclough, Emma Gage, Susann Kern, Jinny Gunston, Becky Turner, Claire Hockaday, Heather Clarke and Ali Corkill.

The row to hell for Boat Club

Aaron Sims

EARLY HOURS, WIND, rain and sub zero temperatures are the norm for Lancaster University Boat Club. This didn't make the sponsored 48 hour row in Alexandra Square in Week 13 any easier. 43 members of the club completed half hour slots to keep one rowing machine running from 6pm on Tuesday to 6pm on Thursday.

The club fought through the elements to keep going even into the early hours of the morning when people were returning from the Carleton. Some chose to row in fancy dress, some in proper racing kit and some, more sensibly, in multiple layers of clothes. Overall, the club collectively burned over 40,000 calories and rowed just over 666km (hence the row to hell.)

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After the row: The club celebrate together after their amazing achievements

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other equipment desperately needed to keep the Club a competitive force in the British Universities' Rowing scene come Roses and regatta season. The Club has, for example, recently bought a set of new oars for that will hopefully be used to bring some fantastic results in the upcoming BUCS Head of the River Race, taking place over the weekend of week 6. LUBC would like to thank everyone who kindly donated money to the club throughout the event.

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Robert Payling



The captaincy crisis could yet help Capello

THE FURORE THAT John Terry has stirred up within the England National Team has captured the attention of everyone. It also provided Fabio Capello with the unenviable task of whether to strip the Chelsea star of the England captaincy, a subject that divided patriotic supporters and team-mates alike.

On the pitch Terry is the exemplary role model; an old fashioned do or die motivational figure, revered by colleagues and feared by opponents. Off the pitch though, he fits the mould of the new age footballing anti-hero; involved in a number of scandals in the last decade, from mocking American tourists following the 9/11 attacks, to nonchalantly parking in disabled spaces with the knowledge that he could easily pay the fine.

A string of affairs have followed including his alleged dalliance with Vanessa Perroncel, the ex-partner of Wayne Bridge, and brought his already controversial private life under intense scrutiny.

The 29-year-old is certainly not shy



of controversy but one thing people seem to have forgotten is that neither is the man who decided whether he was to wear the armband again. Heavily tied up in the 2006 Calciopoli scandal while coach of Juventus; Fabio Capello is no stranger to suspicious behaviour.

Capello's side was stripped of the 2005 and 2006 Scudettos, and relegated to Serie B for the first time in history following investigations into Luciano Moggi's manipulation of refereeing authorities to favour Juventus. Although Moggi was General Director at the time and took much of the blame, Capello sensed the backlash and quickly left to take over at Real Madrid.

When he left the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium after leading Madrid to their first La Liga title in three seasons, little did he know that he would be thrown in to the cauldron of controversy once again. However, it is also very naive to think that the England national side are the only ones in crisis right now.

The Africa Cup of Nations revealed

the strengths and more poignantly, the weaknesses, of the continent's teams who qualified for this year's World Cup. Egypt, who didn't qualify for South Africa, won the tournament for the third consecutive time while favourites Ivory Coast slumped out in the Quarter-Finals against Algeria. Cameroon, also hotly tipped to go far in the tournament failed to fulfil their potential and reach the final. Instead, Ghana provided opposition for the Egyptians and had a respectable tournament considering the absence of key players to injury.

It's clear that the African teams who have qualified for the World Cup will have to make a vast improvement to avoid disappointment on the greatest stage. South American football also has its own share of concerns in the lead up to this summer's tournament. For one, the circus-like ring leader Diego Maradona is still in charge of the Argentinean national side much to the delight of opposition teams and fans.

The Paraguayan national team have suffered the biggest blow to their

World Cup hopes in the Americas though. Last month their striker Salvador Cabañas was shot in the head in a nightclub bathroom in Mexico City. The Club América star was the top goalscorer for Paraguay in their qualification campaign for the World Cup and was tipped to make a great impression at this summer's tournament.

Luckily, Cabañas survived the attack but he remains critical in hospital and his World Dream has escaped him. It will now be up to the Paraguayan national coach Gerardo Martino to restore hope to their campaign by inspiring his players in June.

Capello and Martino will hope they can bring their squads together much in the same way that Marcello Lippi did prior to the 2006 World Cup in Germany following the domestic game's scandal. And if Italy's success is anything to go by then Lippi showed that chaos can work as the catalyst for cup glory. Capello's greatest triumph yet may be bringing together a squad and embracing the chaos within.

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Lancaster inspired and ready to win following Roses Rally

- **Olympian Steve Parry delivers talk to the clubs**
- **Sir Chris Bonington offers his support to the cause**
- **VP Sport urges AU to make up for previous defeats**

Julian Surface
Sports Editor

THERE WAS RED shining everywhere on Tuesday 2nd of February as the first ever Roses Rally took place on South-west Campus in Barker House Farm. It truly represented a positive direction for Lancaster's sports as a massive amount of effort and work was put into the event, even though there were some shaky moments.

The show opened with a determined performance from the cheer-leading team in a somewhat confined space. Despite their shaky opening pose the team got together and pulled off some exceedingly impressive acrobatics as one girl, supported a good six feet above the ground by the team, would be leapt over by another. It was followed by a very in well chanted song that did give the evening an exciting sense of anticipation.

A slide show of previous Roses tournaments was accompanied by uplifting music that certainly gave a sense of nostalgia for those great days when we lifted the Carter James Trophy. Lancaster has unfortunately been the victim of four successive defeats in the competition and our worst enemy appears to be our own lack of confidence. Two years ago there were fittingly two points between Lancaster and York and so simply said, every competition does count.

The Chancellor, Sir Christian Bonington, made an appearance and gave a trophy to the climbing club who were denied it in the previous year. He gave a speech reminding

each team of their own ability. Sue Wynes gave a speech about how narrowly we have been defeated in the past and the recent success amongst certain teams, namely the swimming and the football men's firsts.

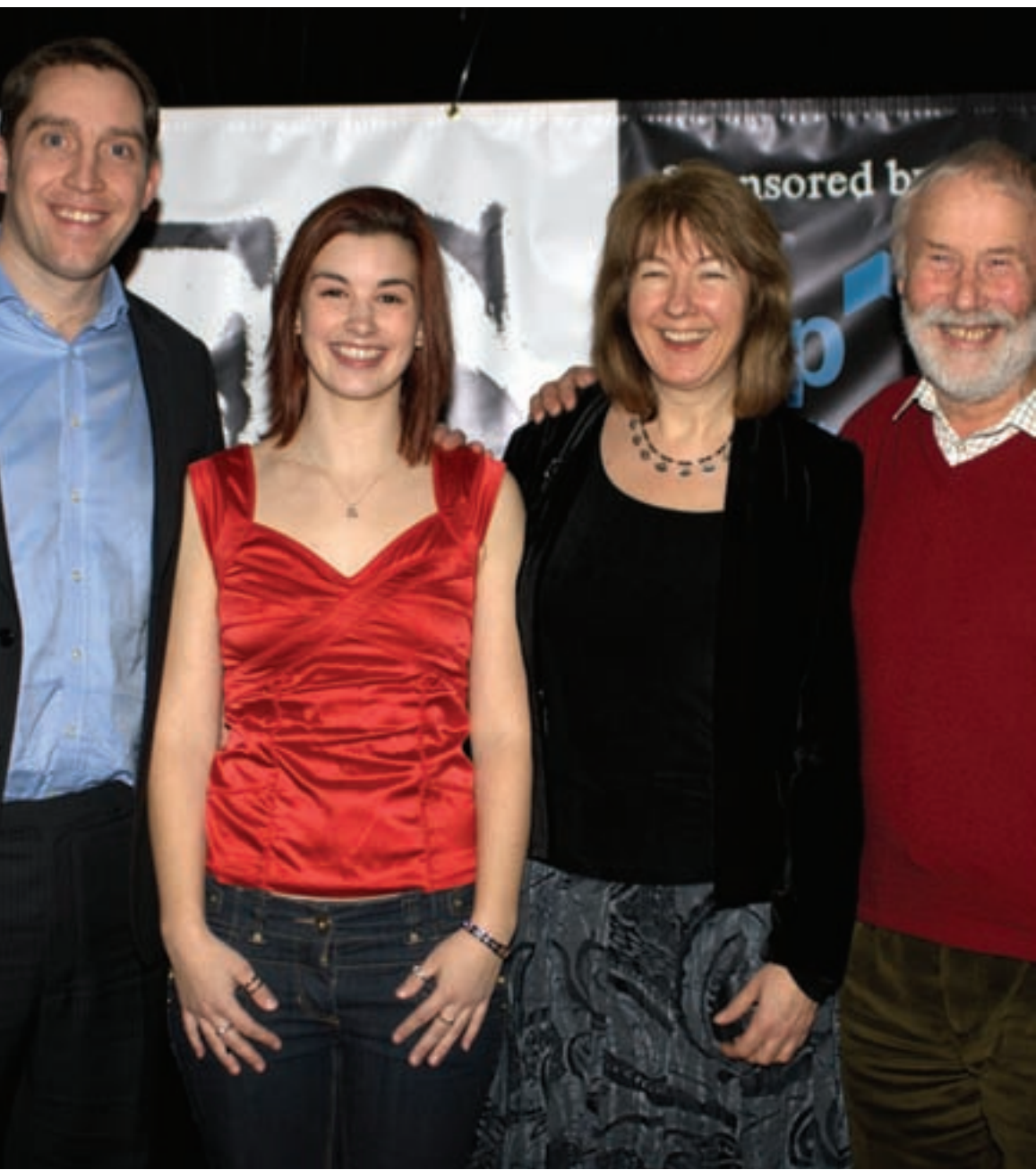
Next was the main event and bronze medalist Steve Parry took the stage and related some memorable and amusing stories of how the Queen started to gyrate her hips and arms in front of him when he mentioned he swam butterfly style. It was neatly surrounding the great sporting moment that he had. He showed the clip of interviews and the race that made him famous, alongside the gladiator soundtrack. It was nothing short of glorious, despite the video freezing from time to time. There certainly was a strong desire emanating from the sport teams to charge straight out of the hall and onto the pitches. Concluding with the phrase; 'Enjoy the Journey' and there can be no doubt that Lancaster will.

Steve Parry was gracious enough to answer a few questions that would aid Lancaster for the battle ahead. Whilst discussing his falling into the Thames and swimming the Mersey, Parry gave some superb insights into a successful sports person.

The most essential factor is and always will be when 'it matters' and Parry spoke of 'The War of the Roses' and thought of nothing more satisfying than 'taking down York'. The Carter James Trophy is something to be looking towards but it is as much about that classic grudge than anything else.

When asked about low confidence and getting yourself and your team out of a consistently downward spiral. Parry said that the most effective way to respond is to completely 'change the body language' and be prepared to 'look your competitor in the eye and smile'. He spoke of his disdain for what he called 'energy sappers' and that they drain much of the enjoyment and the excitement out of sport.

Team unity was certainly an issue to be discussed and it appears to be something that is in the mind of the athlete. He must have a com



Rallying the red rose: (From l-r): Olympian Steve Parry, VP Sport Sue Wynes, Pro-Vice Chancellor Amanda Chetwynde and the Chancellor Sir Christian Bonington (Photo:Abby Williams)

Quick crossword no 12,116

Across

- Luck – opportunity (6)
- Expressionless (5)
- Fastener used on clothes etc (6)
- One who serves at table (6)
- Having an acidic taste (4)
- Arouse curiosity (8)
- Intersection with yellow painted cross-hatching (3,8)
- Having minimal partitions between areas (4-4)
- Large sailing vessel (4)
- Sedating drug (6)
- Member of the Society of Friends (6)
- Fussy, old-fashioned person (5)
- Various tunes combined in one piece (6)

Down

- Unit of electrical charge (7)
- Deadly disease of sheep or cattle that can affect humans (7)
- Occurring again and again (9)
- Strong fire (5)
- Design style of the 1920s and 1930s (3,4)
- Martial art (6)
- Method for performing skilfully (9)
- Aperture (7)
- Put into position, ready for use (7)
- Ingenuousness (7)
- Fall asleep (3,3)
- Short and to the point (5)

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Solution no 12,115

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