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Mae Dibley speaks to News of the World reporter Neville Thurlbeck

Career Ladder, Features, page 21

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STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 9, Lent Term, Wednesday 9th March, 2010

Student Union left reeling after election catastrophe

Vice-Chancellor breaks SCAN silence but remains open to possible tuition fee hike

Jen Day

LANCASTER'S VICE CHANCELLOR, Professor Paul Wellings, publicly spoke out supporting a rise in tuition fees back in June 2009. He believes that in order to drive up quality for students, sufficient funding needs to be brought in to cover research and training costs.

In a recent interview, Wellings told SCAN: "I've not said whether it is a good thing or a bad thing [that fees are raised]." He believes that if "you want an outstanding education system then ... the resources need to come from somewhere. The debate then is over who pays what component."

Wellings went on to say that "There are three elements. [What are] the fees and ... whether they should go up, what is the interest rate on money on the various subsidised loans, and what is the threshold at which families become eligible for those loans. The 94 Group [of which he is Chair] has certainly said 'Let's revisit those thresholds.'"

Clearly this is an issue that has sparked off contention between government ministers, academics and students, all of whom want their opinions recognised.

"I don't hear anyone rushing to say let's get rid of the state system," Wellings said. "I think what most people are saying is how do you modulate the individual payment against the payment from the taxpayer."

However, with rumours flying around that Government ministers plan to either raise tuition fees to £7,000 per annum or introduce a 'cap' on the number of additional student places available at universities,' as stated in The Telegraph in June 2009, student outcry was inevitable.

At the recent protest outside University Court Lancaster students stood in eerie silence to express their views on the future of Higher Education fees and funding.

When asked what he thought of this Wellings commented "Rather than chanting or whatever, I think it is quite a sensible thing to have a silent protest just to try and convey a message."



Two sabbs down: The four newly elected officers at a post-election press conference. Two vacant chairs emphasise the absence of the remaining unelected members of the team (Photo: Ben Robins)

- **Two positions unfilled following 'human error'**
- **Re-election called immediately by VP (FEDS)**
- **Candidates question actions of CRO**

Sam Newsham
News Editor

LUSU'S ELECTION SYSTEM has been called into question after 'human error' left two of the six Full Time Executive Officer positions unfilled.

Candidates for Vice-President (Academic Affairs) and Vice-President (Equality, Welfare & Diversity) were left in limbo until a re-election on Tuesday and Wednesday of Week Nine. Voter turnout is likely to be con-

siderably lower and there are fears that students will become disillusioned with LUSU.

Following the five-day delay some of the candidates criticised the way the elections were handled.

"It raises serious questions about what checks are in place when an organization the size of ours, with such significant issues at stake as six paid employees can be left down to the individual error of one person," said Dave Prescott, in the running for VP Academic Affairs.

Problems arose when it was discovered that some students in Graduate College had not received a Unique Voter Code (UVC) for the e-voting system. A second email was sent out, but instead of containing the same UVC as planned an error meant that UVCs were different, effectively giving some students the chance to vote twice.

All Graduate votes were subsequently cancelled and a third email sent. The voting period for postgraduates was ex-

tended to 6pm on Friday to give them the full 24 hours. However, 97 votes cast before 6pm on Thursday had to be discarded. When the count was made, the contests for Academic Affairs and Equality, Welfare & Diversity were too close to guarantee that the 97 discarded votes would not have affected the final outcome, and the decision was taken to hold the election again.

97 votes

The number of discarded votes from Grad College prompting the re-election

Andy Johnston, LUSU VP Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies (FEDS), defended the system, saying "it wasn't a problem with e-voting, it was human error. The system wasn't to blame at all – the e-voting worked

absolutely fine.

"There's no excuse for what happened but people do make mistakes," he added. "I can only apologise to [the candidates] because they have got their degrees to finish off. These two weeks have really taken it out of them."

Many of the candidates for Academic Affairs – Prescott, Robin Hughes and Paul Lynch – and Equality, Welfare & Diversity – Chaz Ginn and Pete Macmillan – felt that the extended period before their results announcement added to the difficulty of an already stressful campaign period.

"We thought our campaigning period would have been done at 2pm on Friday and it's actually carrying on for four more days. I don't think it's been helpful to any of our welfare," said Lynch.

"On Friday night I'd prepared myself for two feelings – winning or losing," said Macmillan. "I certainly didn't prepare myself for this."

Whilst all agreed that no **4 >**

Election debacle will forever remain a black mark against the name of LUSU

Moving on and retaining credibility after the dreadful scenes in Barker House Farm is an incredibly difficult task for the incoming team

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It was not so much a celebration as a wake. For five candidates, confusion, anger and incredulity. For the four victors, the bitter taste that success has been belittled and overshadowed by abject failure.

Barker House Farm may have rehabilitated itself as a comedy venue this year, but on elections night, it will be remembered for the comedy of errors that took place.

It would be easy to view this election merely as the result of human error or a victory for the opponents of e-voting.

However, this election should be remembered as being a failure for democracy. A failure of an organisation's core and underlying principles. Elections should be LUSU's number one priority. Elections are what provide legitimacy for the organisation's other activities. They are what give our President credibility in the face of the Vice-Chancellor and his senior advisers.

Of course events such as Roses, Campus Festival and Winter Fest are important. Of course the volunteering work pioneered by LUVU, Create and GreenLancaster is exemplary. However, democracy should be LUSU's number

one priority.

The marketing and communications team should not be dragged from pillar to post, their focus unsettled during this crucial period. If other parts of the organisation are put on hold, then so be it. Until our election processes are perfected and engagement with students is mastered it is irrelevant what else LUSU aims to achieve. Human error in this election is a result of an organisation placing too much of a burden on a member of staff working in an area that is woefully under supported and under-appreciated.

This has been compounded by the VP (FEDS) not receiving adequate support from his Chair of Elections and Election sub-committee. The latter can be excused. They are new to their roles and new to LUSU and haven't received the necessary support and leadership required to enable them to flourish and feel confident and engaged in the positions they serve.

The Chair of Elections, on the other hand, cannot be absolved from this situation at all. I would personally like to know why she was not present at the initial candidates meeting once nomina-

tions closed. I would personally like to know why she did not chair the hustings debate. I would personally like to know why she did not vet any of the material supplied from student media, such as SCAN, Bailrigg FM and LUTube.TV; instead leaving the task to members of her own committee who had not been briefed at all on the task they were supposed to be carrying out.

It is easy to claim that such a crucial position should not be filled by a student officer. However, this does a disservice to the fantastic work of previous post holders such as Kat Goulding who excelled in the role. The problem is that there are minimum standards expected of a Chief Returning Officer. Basic standards in terms of competency and dedication. This role contains a remit where certain things have to be done. We are dealing with a campus wide election not a weekly welfare campaign where no objectives have been realistically set and no expectations have been laid out in terms of jobs that have to be performed.

Election sub-committee is currently rudderless and ineffectual. A location for the results night was only decided a

fortnight before, and only after prompting from elements of student media, keen to plan their coverage. Candidates themselves were never a priority for the Chief Returning Officer. She was conspicuous in her absence on Friday night during the reading of the VP (FEDS) statement on the botched elections. Instead of standing by his side and shouldering the blame as well, she yet again shirked her responsibilities. Serious questions need to be asked of her ability or suitability to carry on in the role. If she was honourable and accepted her failings she would step aside immediately following this ramshackle set of elections. Otherwise, perhaps other powers will have to intervene and ensure her removal from office for the protection of our democratic structures.

Finally, although the VP (FEDS) will accept a large proportion of blame for these elections, it must be remembered his remit is extremely large and list of duties extensive. Unlike other officers, his dedication cannot be questioned. He does not stroll in at 10am and finish at 5pm, instead working late and at weekends, so he can serve the students that elected him.

CAMPUS FESTIVAL 2010

Saturday week 9 from 1 til 11pm
Lancaster Square County

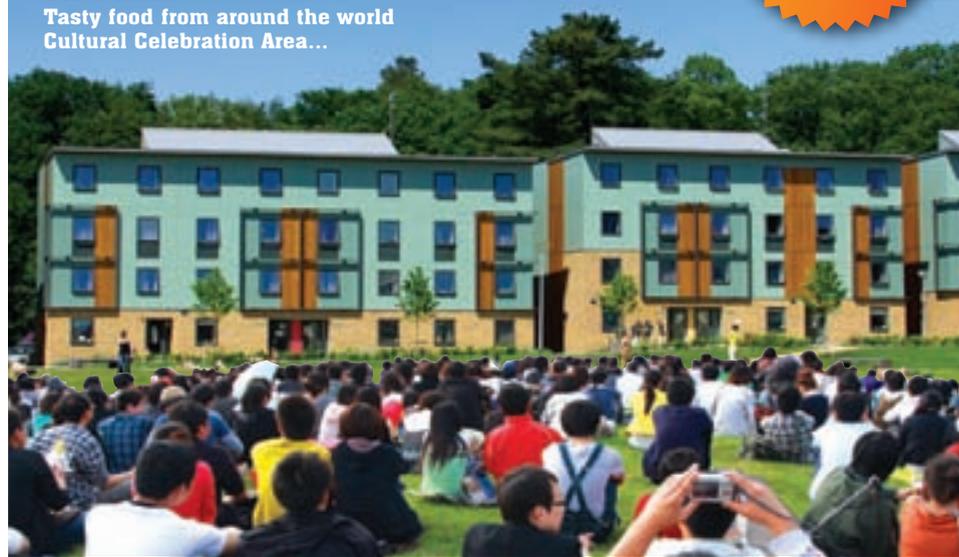
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Theatre
Music
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There's so much going on we couldn't fit it all on, so go online to find out more!

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Forget Glastonbury, Campus Festival is just around the corner...

- Fireworks finale scheduled
- Societies to perform at the event

Yasmin Spracklen

ON SATURDAY OF Week 9 this term, LUSU is hosting Lancaster University's first ever 'Campus Festival' in Lancaster Square (County College).

The festival will run between 1pm and 11pm on Saturday 13th March, and the entertainment and activities are entirely free for all students, staff and graduates, providing a festival atmosphere where students can relax and enjoy themselves at the end of term before focussing on their exams.

The festival will feature a main performance stage where live entertainment from a variety of societies and groups will take place, enabling students to showcase their talents and skills. The Theatre Group, Belly-Dancing Society and Wing Chun Society are just a few of the exciting acts to watch out for, amongst others such as the Tricking Society, Glee Club and the Cheerleading Society.

Katie Smith, president of the newly founded Glee Club, revealed that the club has a ten-minute slot on the main stage at the festival and are planning to sing several songs the club have been practising. Smith expressed excitement at the prospect, adding 'we hope that this will be a great opportunity for the club to bond, and also to gain interest from other people at the festival who might not have heard about Glee Club. We are really looking forward to it!'

The Cheerleading Society are also anticipating the festival, with their all-girl and co-ed squads performing condensed versions of the routines they will be taking to the BCA University Championships 2010 later on this year.



Main stage entertainment will also include dancing from the Break-Dance and Hip-Hop, African Caribbean and Dance societies, a selection of music from various music societies and choirs and will be followed by the very best of Lancaster musical talent and bands in the evening, with a real party atmosphere in the square. Bands headlining include 'Boo Boo Kiddy Fonc', 'the Microtones' and the 'I Hate Rachel Green Club', leading from soul and acoustic sounds in the afternoon to funk rock

and popular music in the evening.

The festival will climax with a spectacular finale of fireworks and a laser show accompanied by the live music of the Music Society Orchestra. Activities Developer Alisdair Denholm enthused, 'the whole event is going to be amazing but I personally can't wait for the fireworks and laser show at the end'. Free buses to sugarhouse will also be provided for students after the fireworks in order to continue the festivities.

Running alongside events on the

main stage, there will also be a range of interactive activities set up by assorted societies in tents and marquees around the square, where students are invited to join in. Activities such as a stunt demonstration and workshop, a fashion catwalk, a real ale and cider brewing demonstration, henna painting, a large screen rock band and trampolining will be available, although the activities will change throughout the day. A range of food from around the world will also be for sale thanks to the cultural societies.

Similarly to 'Winter Fest', the Campus Festival is being hosted by LUSU, in partnership with UPP (residential services), the Lancaster Alumni Friends Programme and University Facilities. A committee of LUSU staff and students are primarily responsible for organising the event, with a huge amount of student involvement regarding ideas and the creation of the festival, as well as the logistical running of the event. Andy Johnston, VP Feds, said, 'I think it's really important to have big student involvement in the running of these as events as it really shows talented and skilful students coming to the forefront of our Union. We hope it'll continue in the future and that we'll be able to provide a series of these events in the coming years'.

So far, the event is being predominantly promoted through a Facebook group - 'Campus Festival 2010' - where there are already over 1400 members of the group and a comprehensive timetable of events on the main stage has been published on the 'wall'. The JCR's are also promoting the event, and posters have begun to appear in and around the colleges. A strong turnout is expected on the day; according to Denholm 'momentum is building quickly and we are expecting it to be really busy'. Johnston added, 'I really want to see a proper festival atmosphere in the later hours with people enjoying the music and fireworks at the end of the night'.

Payne goes national

Lauren Hirst

AFTER ALMOST TWO years as LUSU President, Michael Payne is running for the Vice President Higher Education for the National Union of Students.

Currently, Payne has launched his campaign for VP Higher Education with a website and Facebook campaign site accompanied by videos as well as sending his full manifesto to all Presidents of students' unions across the UK. Payne will be running against five other people in the election, which will take place at the NUS Conference in April.

"The next stages of my campaign will utilise other social networking tools and hopefully bring a more innovative approach to the traditional campaign approach of reliance on a few speeches at NUS Annual Conference," said Payne.

Payne's manifesto places major emphasis on supporting unions locally in order to win nationally. Payne commented, "I would also continue to lead the way on campaigning for a fairer fees and funding system for students in Higher Education."

He added: "My manifesto focuses on the need to protect one of the few remaining world class sectors in the UK - that of Higher Education; significant cuts in HE compared to other sectors is not and should not be acceptable".

The NUS position of VP HE, currently held by Aaron Porter, will give Payne the outlet and facilities to make a difference for students across the country and get their voices heard. "The next few years are arguably the most crucial in generations for Higher Education, the increased respect for the National Union of Students and its improved capability to contribute effectively to the sector is a project I'd relish the opportunity to contribute to" said Payne.

Throughout his time as President, Payne stated that it had been an "honour and privilege" serving the student of Lancaster and that he found "the passion and energy of Lancaster students to be unparalleled."

Raising and Giving: £5k for three charities

Krissi Roberts

RAG WEEK 2010 was a huge success, raising almost £5500 for three different charities.

The event, which was held during Week Six, included a wide range of activities for Lancaster students to get involved with. All money raised will be donated to St. John's Hospice, Stepping Stones and MENCAP.

RAG bands were recognized by students as one of the best features of the week, bringing in almost £1000 of the total raised.

"It's a fantastic scheme because the price of the band is the price of entry into a single club for one night, but included in this price is entry to numerous clubs, queue-jumping privileges and a range of discounts and offers from various student favorites such as



Winning team: The RAG Exec celebrating the success of the week

Sultan's and Pizzetta," said Bowland's social secretary Siobhan Bailey.

The Pancake Man, who was stationed in Alexandra Square for the du-

ration of Tuesday, raised £231.76 and bucket collections in the Sugarhouse, Elements and the Carleton throughout the week totaled almost £1100.

Individual student contributions included David Titone, who spent the week in a wheelchair and raised £157 from sponsorships and Anna Fenton, who dressed as a chicken for a day and raised £128.

The RAG quiz replaced the college bars' usual Sunday night quiz and raised £452. Each team played against all the other colleges on campus with a prize of fifty pounds for the winning team.

"I believe that RAG week has been hugely successful this year. Although [the] week was extremely busy, it was very fun and everybody's hard work and effort paid off," said Leah Smith, President of the RAG Society. "I would like say a huge thank you to the RAG Exec and members of the RAG Society for all their help in making the week so great. I would also like to thank the presidents of each college for all of their help at the quiz."

As Andrew Pillow, a third year, pointed out: "I enjoyed RAG week in general, but the highlight for me was the Societies' Showcase. It shows the best thing about RAG week; good stuff going on at the university, whilst raising money for charity at the same time."

£5,500

Approximate total raised by the RAG team

At the time of going to print the society was still waiting for money from Scotforth Primary School, who held a wacky hairstyle non-uniform day in aid of RAG Week following a visit from members of the Exec and the university Badminton team, who held a fancy dress fun run around campus.

In Focus: Full Time Executive Officer Elections

Two weeks of campaigning ends

Student Union left reeling after election catastrophe

One individual was to blame for the situation, criticisms were leveled at Chair of Elections San Johnson by more than one candidate.

"I think we'd have more chance of regaining confidence in the elections process if we had a different person in charge of it," said Prescott. "There are serious questions about whether the current Chief Returning Officer is competent enough to deal with this situation."

"We wouldn't be in [this] position now if the elections had been run properly by the CRO," said Macmillan.

However, Hughes said that he thought criticising the Chair of Elections was 'inappropriate'.

"To criticise one elected officer because of something they wouldn't possibly have been able to catch is unfair," he said.

In response to whether such criticism was fair, Johnson said "I'm all for consultation and being accountable to the people who elected me. Whether this would have happened if the students had elected different people or not I really don't know."

Johnson did not feel that her own actions were in any way responsible for what happened.

"I think it depends on the person in the position, what they feel are their strengths and what they can check," she said. "There are things I could have done better [but] with regards to this particular problem I don't think I would have been able to avert it personally."

She added, however, that she would try and improve for the re-vote.

"We're going to be checking, double checking, triple checking doing as much as we can to avert those problems. I'll be trying to take more of a role in understanding the minute details that can



Shock announcement: VP (FEDS) Andy Johnston informs the crowd that two positions will not be filled on the results night (Photo: Ben Robins)

be so influential."

Candidates were not informed of the decision to re-open the election until the results event, held in Barker House Farm on Friday Week Eight, had already begun. Students, JCR officers and campaign teams had begun to gather and were left bewildered by the delays.

"There were a lot of rumours being spread around about what was going on," said James Davies, AV Tech on Cartmel JCR. "People were getting quite worried and tense. We could see that the Sabbs and candidates had been called in for a meeting [but] no-one knew what was going on. People kept asking us what was happening."

"I think we could have been involved

in whatever decision they made; if they chose not to they could have told us earlier," said Ginn. The four officers elected on the night – Robbie Pickles (President), Matt Windsor (VP FEDS), Lizzie Houghton (VP Media & Communications/SCAN Editor) and Marc Handley (VP Sports) – commented that they felt their own victories had been affected. Windsor, who will be responsible for running elections next year, said that he felt this year's elections had been 'a sham'.

"I don't like it at all really. If I was told votes for my position wouldn't be cast till next week, I would have serious considerations about dropping out. I don't think it's fair at all. I think it's a big mistake."

"I feel disheartened really, a bit angry," said Houghton. "It's very upsetting that those people will have to have their elections held back, and it is going to cast a shadow over the whole thing because how are people meant to feel they can trust LUSU elections when we're having to do what is essentially a third of them all over again?"

The concern now is that voter turnout in a second election will be significantly lower than the original, affecting the new officers' mandates.

"Arguably the two most important positions of the Students' Union will be less legitimate because we might only be elected by 300-400 people" Lynch commented. "Whoever wins, we don't have the same mandate."

"The demographic who are going to turn out has changed," Hughes said. "That's unfortunate. Potentially you could see a different group of people coming out to vote again."

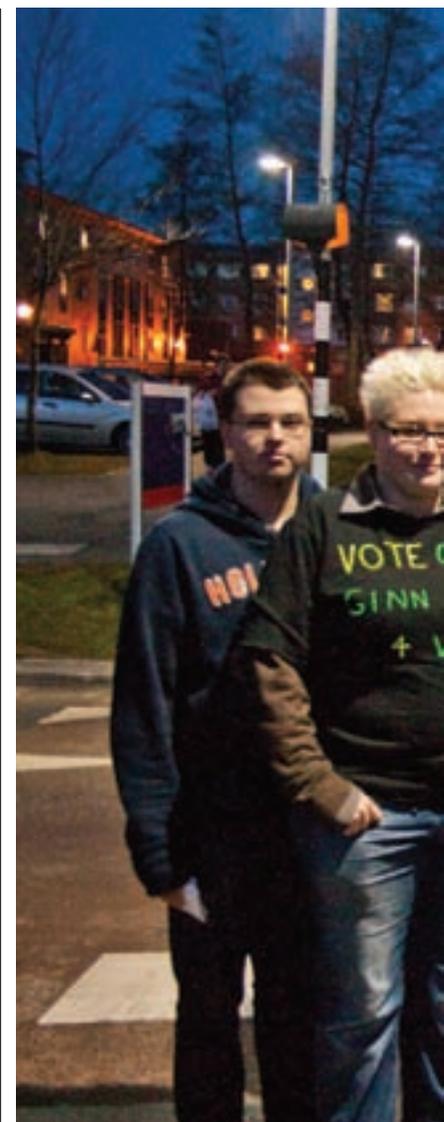
Despite the best efforts of Johnston and his team, candidates feel it 'goes without saying' that students' views of LUSU and its election system will fall.

"How are we meant to convince people we're going to be competent in other areas when we don't seem to be able to elect ourselves?" said Lynch.

"The entire election is tainted now, even for the people who got elected on Friday," said Ginn.

Both Johnston and Michael Payne, LUSU President, stood by the decision to re-run the election.

"I would make no apology for the decision that has been made," said Payne. "From an organizational and institutional perspective it is vital that elections maintain a level of integrity. Rather than seeking short term popularity we need to seek long term respect and legitimacy for our organization."



Hitting the campaign trail: [clockwise from above] The candidates conduct block runs around the colleges together; Pete Macmillan campaigns on election day and the FEDS candidates at hustings



LUSU's still-born new democracy

Analysis by former SCAN Editor Dan Hogan

THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON results night that two of the elections for next year's LUSU Vice-Presidents would be re-run truly put a dampener on the evening. While the night had all the usual high drama, the vital signs of life for a democratic institution – the excitement, the anticipation and the nail-biting tension – were only conspicuous by their absence.

But it wasn't the fiasco of the elections of the VPs for Academic Affairs and Equality, Welfare and Diversity which killed the election night spirit, not to mention the whole elections process. Instead, it was a lethal cocktail of foolish decisions, staggering negligence and creeping popular disenchantment that choked the life out of these elections. Re-running two elections put the final nail in the coffin.

But despite the ramifications of the botched elections, there shouldn't be a single scapegoat. If candidates, campaign teams, students or officers want to point fingers, they should be pointing them at the whole of Union Council, not just at one individual.

Right from the point where electronic voting finally left the drawing board, the likelihood of technical problems and the need for failsafes was foremost in Union officers' concerns. And yet in the end Council decided against recording who had cast their vote, even though the need for the equivalent paper record had never been questioned before. These records wouldn't have stopped a programming error, but they would have averted the crisis that followed from it.

But even if two of the races had not

needed to be re-run, these elections would still have been a damning indictment of LUSU's struggling democracy, only two years after a review of the Constitution, and a year after new Sabbatical positions set a fresh direction for the union.

Despite claims that electronic voting would boost turnout, the numbers who voted were much the same as in recent years. Promises from election organisers of polling stations, promotional events and more publicity were all broken, despite being passed as supposedly sacrosanct Union policy. And, perhaps most disturbingly, last year's single uncontested election – perhaps the first ever in the Union's history – was this year outdone with two foregone conclusions, including the LUSU President.

This has grave consequences, depriving the students' foremost representative to the university of a legitimate claim to speak on their behalf. This will haunt Robbie Pickles throughout his presidency, with Brownite echoes in the space where his mandate ought to be.

Voting from the seclusion of a bedroom was never going to bridge the widening chasm between students and their union, merely give them a different way to express their unenthusiastic preferences. Conversely, the illegitimacy of these elections will leave many feeling even further disconnected and disenfranchised – more signs of a union disengaging from its membership, not the other way around.

The way forward must begin with the immediate resignation of the chair

of LUSU's Elections Sub-Committee for her gross incompetence. But it can't end there. LUSU needs to take a second look at the pros and cons of e-voting, and a long hard look at itself. Dusty old rites of passage like Hustings need to be reconceived from scratch. Rules on what candidates can say about each other, which stifle productive and meaningful debate, and which too often result in impossible election promises lying unchallenged, need to be ripped up. But this is still only a start.

Robbie Pickles is already going to find himself a President without a mandate next year. If he and his fellow union officers don't address the critical flaws in LUSU's elections and resurrect their legitimacy, he'll soon find he's the leader of an organisation without any followers.

with one final night of madness



Campaign fatigue during elections may result in student apathy

Chris Housden
Deputy News Editor

THE TWO-WEEK CAMPAIGN period for the LUSU Full Time Executive Officer elections has been criticised for being too long, by some of the candidates, speaking at the election results on Friday Week Eight.

The issue, which was discussed in the winners' press conference after the results, was thought to not only force the candidates' degrees to take a back seat for two weeks, but to also take quite a toll on them with the amount of effort involved.

The line of thinking that such a long winded campaign period generates a certain amount of apathy among students was also discussed.

The past fortnight has seen the campus transformed in the course of the LUSU Full Time Executive Officer election campaigns. Candidates for the elections, running for the six positions at the head of LUSU, have spent the fortnight doing their utmost to garner support and raise awareness before the voting opened.

The campaign period started with nominations, which opened on Thursday Week Five and were open to all stu-

dents. The nomination period lasted a week, in which students could nominate themselves in the LUSU building for any of the six positions. They were then given 24 hours in which to fill out a candidate's pack, detailing their mandate and policies.

During the campaign period, two candidates who had previously nominated themselves dropped out of the running: Neil Smith for VP (EWD), and Erika Vann for VP (Sports).

All campaign proceedings were overseen by the specially created Elections Sub-Committee, formed to police the candidates' campaigns. The sub-committee met before the nominations period to outline the next few weeks and plan the events. In the interest of fairness, the sub-committee had to approve all posters, flyers and other methods that candidates wanted to utilise for their campaigns.

Making use of visual campaigning, posters and banners are a staple of candidates' efforts. Each candidate was limited to spending only £30 on all printing, poster creation and flyer production. Certain loopholes allowed signs made from cardboard to be counted as free, seeing a surge in placards made from that. Other materials were also argued to be exempt from

the budget, a fact that many candidates used to their benefit.

A large emphasis this year was placed on promoting the elections to more people than has previously been achieved in past years. There was a concerted effort by LUSU to combat the apathy and confusion that often surrounds the elections of six major people working within the students' union.

Both SCAN and Bailrigg FM ran interviews with the candidates, with one night dedicated to each position on Bailrigg FM throughout Weeks Seven and Eight.

The candidate hustings, held on the Monday of Week Eight, were a fragmented event. The mass participation of the student media, intended to spread the hustings across the campus and to students elsewhere off campus and even abroad via the internet, was responsible for the first delay of the night as an issue with LUTube.TV's equipment caused problems with the building's power supply.

Secondly there were three breaks in the evening due to the disjointed delivery of the free food for the evening. The event also ran on a lot longer than had been planned, ending in the small hours of the morning.

VP (FEDS) Andy Johnston chaired the proceedings. Previously this has been the Chief Returning Officer's role, in this case Sam Johnson, who appeared to have relinquished the role to Johnston while still overseeing the hustings from the same desk.

The press conference after the results had been announced, saw criticisms of the large difference in those who attended hustings and the amount of people who actually voted.

The newly elected officers were united in acknowledging that there is a discrepancy between those who vote and those who make an effort to engage with what the candidates are actually promising. Matt Windsor, the newly elected VP (FEDS), was the first to state that there is a lot of work to be done in engaging students and interesting them in what they are voting for. "I intend for next Freshers' Week to have a complete de-confusing view of the union straight away to make people aware, because at the moment nobody understands. I don't think many people care, I honestly think most people who vote are on the JCRs or vote for their friends and that's not the way it should be," he said.

A large part of the approach taken to get students involved and to allow

candidates to outline what they would do was a series of block runs, where the candidates visited college residences with members of the JCR executives.

The block runs are designed to let students - many of whom wouldn't know what the candidates were running for - ask their own questions and get involved in intimate conversation with the candidates in small groups, creating a personal element to the mass LUSU and campus-wide coverage.

Another initiative that was put in place to give students a chance to engage with the elections was the idea of series of mini-husts on Wednesday afternoon in Week Eight. The idea was to catch the student population passing through Alexandra Square, and to give the candidates two minutes each in which to outline their manifestos.

Alexandra Square became a focus point for the two days which voting spanned. An hour before voting opened on the Thursday of Week Eight, the square was taken over by the candidates and the current VP (FEDS) in the so called 'Noise In The Square' countdown the hour until voting opened. An hour before voting closed, a repeat of 'Noise In The Square' started, as a final campaigning push for the candidates to gather last minute support.

In Focus: Full Time Executive Officer Elections

Celebration, satisfaction and

Election turnout up 38% on last year

Collette McColgan
News Editor

DESPITE PROBLEMS WITH the results for VP (Equality, Welfare & Diversity) and VP (Academic Affairs), the results for the other elections – VP (Sports), VP (Media & Communications/SCAN Editor), VP (Finance, Events, Democracy & Societies), President, and the referendum – were announced as expected.

With the elections for VP (Sports) and President being contested by only one candidate, there were no great surprises when Marc Handley and Robbie Pickles were elected to these positions.

Lizzie Houghton won the position of VP (Media & Communications/SCAN Editor), and Matt Windsor took VP (FEDS).

The referendum - to make sure the students' union was fully compliant with Charity Commission requirements in preparation for the union's registration with the Commission in the summer term – was passed. 1,938 votes were cast, representing 14% of the possible electorate. Of this, 1,732 votes were for 'Yes' to the changes, with 206 people voting 'No.'

This year's turnout had a 38% improvement on last year, with 1,938 people coming out to vote, compared to last year's 1,402. A large amount of this can be attributed to the introduction of E-voting in the last academic year.

Lonsdale had the highest voter turnout of all the colleges, with 28% of stu-



Passed: Payne announces referendum victory (Photo:Amie Slater)

dents in that college voting in the election. Cartmel and Furness had similar figures, with 26% and 25% turnout, respectively.

Excepting Graduate College, Pendle had the lowest turnout, with just 14%. Bowland had 16% of students turn out to vote, Fylde had 15%. 21% of County students and 20% of students in Grizedale voted.

Graduate College had only a 3% turnout, but due to the problems with the Unique Voter Codes being issued to all members of the college, it is hard to tell whether this is an accurate representation of the possible electorate.

Due to E-voting, and in a change from previous years, it cannot be seen

how each college voted for each position, and which candidates won in each college. This is due to privacy restrictions which were imposed on the new system at June 2009's Union Council, which voted on the new system.

The results were announced in Barker House Farm, in a change from last year's location of the Sugarhouse. This location had proved problematic for the media teams, and it was hoped by Elections Sub-Committee that an on-campus location would improve attendance by students.

However, the turnout was low – the majority of people there were friends of candidates, JCR Executive officers or people reporting on the event. Matt Windsor was among those to questions to location, asking: "Why are we having a students' union election in a University building? Why aren't we having our union elections in our union nightclub to show a sense of solidarity as a group?"

Former Cartmel College JCR Executive President, and election winner, Robbie Pickles also spoke of his feelings about the location choice. "I wouldn't want to see [the results] here [Barker House Farm] again next year," stating the lack of popularity of the event as the main problem. He continued: "If it's not a success then there's no point continuing with it."

In a new aspect to the event, a press conference was held after all the results had been announced. The coverage was aired live on Bailrigg FM and was recorded for LUTube.TV.

Full Time Executive Officers 2010-2011



Robbie Pickles

Matt Windsor

Students pick Pickles for LUSU President Handley

Samantha Newsham

EX-CARTMEL JCR PRESIDENT Robbie Pickles was voted LUSU President in one of two uncontested elections, receiving 1455 votes to 306 RONs.

"I'm extremely ecstatic to have won," said Pickles in the press conference following the result announcement. "I'm probably about 70% happy [right now] and I'll be the other 30% happy when there's two other people sitting either side of me." Previously Pickles had expressed support for the five Equality, Welfare & Diversity and Academic Affairs candidates whose elections will have to be re-opened.

Despite being the only candidate in the running for the position, Pickles claimed there was still no certainty he would win.

"Personally I didn't see it as a foregone conclusion at all," he said. "I have seen positions re-opened and I think if people had thought I wasn't the right person for the job they should have re-opened that position."

"The thing with being uncontested is that you still have to make the case

to students that you're the right person for the job," he added. "You have to go out there, find out what people want and still earn people's respect because if you don't you don't deserve to be in [this] position. Even though it was uncontested I still fought that election as hard as I would have done if it had been contested."

"I've never seen a guy who's so committed to doing it. All of the campaign team has had to sacrifice quite a lot but it's all for a really good cause." - Mike Clarke, Campaign Manager

Current President Michael Payne expressed disappointment that the race had been one-sided, saying "I think a contest would have been healthy for the organisation, but the reality is there wasn't a contest. The students have decided; there was an option to vote RON [which] they clearly didn't [use]. The job to be done is making sure he's ready to take over what is a very difficult and challenging job.

"The popular vote was there behind him and I wish him very well," Payne added.

Although Pickles' 306 RON votes were considerably more than those cast against VP Sports-elect Marc Handley, the other uncontested candidate, who received 176, he didn't see this as a case of students lacking faith in him.

"I think if people were unhappy that there was only one candidate running it was exactly the right thing to do. I'm extremely pleased that people [voted RON] against the odds," he said. "People did exercise their democratic right, which is a good thing to see, so overall it's a good number to get."

When asked about his first priority on taking up office, Pickles mentioned the Fairer Fees and Funding campaign.

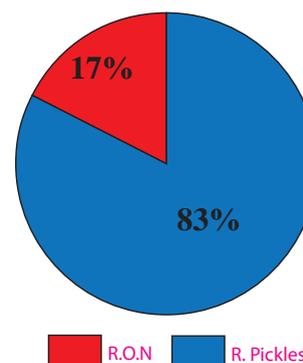
"There's going to be a general election shortly before 30 June and the Browne Review will be reporting shortly after. It's about making sure we're on top of those developments and ready to continue the campaign to make sure that students get a fair deal when it comes to their finances."

In terms of preparation for the role, he commented that "it's a learning curve, it's about making sure that

we read the material we need to know, make sure we gain the skills that we need, make sure that we're absolutely ready so that on 30 June we'll be ready to go ahead."

Mike Clarke, Pickles' campaign manager, described the result as 'absolutely brilliant'.

"He's worked so hard to actually do it. For him to get in is amazing so I'm really happy for him," Clarke said. "I've never seen a guy who's so committed to doing it. All of the campaign team has had to sacrifice quite a lot but it's all for a really good cause."



Julian Surface

MARC HANDLEY SUCCESSFULLY battled off Re-Open Nominations, to become to newly elected VP (Sports).

Receiving 1,492 votes of the 1,834 cast, Handley achieved well over the necessary quorate of 834. Re-Open Nominations received 176 votes.

Speaking after the results, Handley said: "My reaction at the minute is just drained, it's been a very very long two weeks. I'm very impressed with the overall turnout, and to have so many people voting for us is just a brilliant thing, and I'd just like to say thank you to everyone for that."

Handley was asked about running an uncontested election, after Erika Vann, the current Chair of Sports Exec, stepped down from running during Week Seven. "It is a really weird feeling to have someone drop out ... I do wish Erika had run, I'm quite sad that she didn't, because I think it would have been a really good competition."

He added: "It's a really weird feeling trying to compete against basically, yourself. You've literally just got to find that drive to keep on going, keep on

success as four officers elected

762 vote margin (FTW)indsor

Jen Day

WITH A MASSIVE majority Matt Windsor is the new Vice-President (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies), with 762 votes separating him and his closest competitor, Myles Harrison.

When asked why he thought that he came out on top, Windsor replied: "I don't think the other competitors put in as much effort as I did ... I think if they had put more effort in they would have been elected or there would have been a higher vote count."

The first thing Windsor wants to accomplish in his new role is the restructuring of JCR Executives.

He commented that he wanted a "complete review of JCR's, [and] all their constitutions from scratch ... I think a lot of JCR's have been neglected over the past couple of years [by] LUSU and they should be at the forefront."

Over the gruelling two-week campaign period Windsor has been able to reflect on his policies and has realised that his idea of themed elections has faced resistance.

"I think themed elections was the

most contentious issue. Originally I thought [that] we could do a theme across campus. I then realised that it would to an extent trivialise the elections. Yet on the one hand how many people do you expect to engage from them wanting to and how many through the superficial?"

In a rather slurred acceptance speech Windsor alluded to the contentious issue surrounding the corruption of e-voting in Graduate College by saying: "these elections are a sham."

After an exhausting two-week campaign he felt that it was unfair for the candidates running for VP (EWD) and VP (Academic Affairs) to have to continue.

He said: "If I was asked to run in a by-election, I would seriously consider dropping out because I view my degree as more important ... I don't think it is fair to make them campaign for another full week because it places so much stress on you."

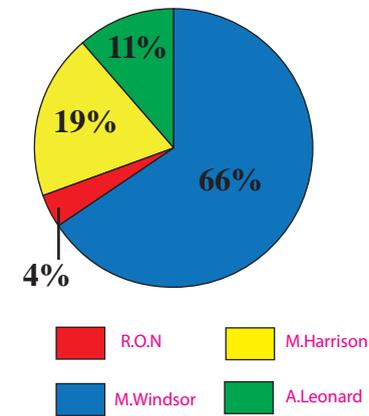
As part of the FEDS remit, organisation of next year's Full Time Executive Officer elections will be Windsor's responsibility. He intends to publicise the role more and smooth out problems that have occurred this year.

Through his experience as a candi-

date for VP (FEDS), Windsor has started to raise questions about the length of campaign period and the affect on those involved.

He said "I think people get bored. I think it would be a lot easier to organise the whole thing in one week rather than two."

Johnston said that he was "delighted for [Windsor]. I've worked with him for a good six or seven months and he really cares. He did his research for the campaign and he learned a lot of things that he didn't know before ... He's going to be excellent."



Lizzie Houghton

Marc Handley

Houghton heralds new era for media and communication

Gaining a victory with more than twice as many votes as her nearest competitor, Lizzie Houghton was elected VP (Media & Communications/SCAN Editor) for the year 2010-11.

For quoracy, the candidates needed to achieve 883 votes of the 1,766 cast in this election. Current SCAN Assistant Editor Houghton received 1,081 votes, with ex-Furness JCR Magazine Editor Michael Holt receiving 510, and former Safety Officer for Bailrigg FM, Andrew Pillow, receiving 131 votes. 44 votes were cast to Re-Open Nominations.

Speaking after the results, Houghton's campaign manager, Sarah Strachan, said: "I'm really excited and proud of Lizzie. She ran a great campaign and there is obviously a lot of support for her, I think she's going to make a fantastic member of next year's team."

Due to the problems with the voting system, and the results for VP (EWD) not being announced on the night, Houghton is currently the only female member of next year's Full Time Executive Officer team.

Speaking about this at the press conference held after the results, Houghton said: "At the moment I feel like a femme fatale, so that's quite nice... obviously we'll know by the end of next week whether I am the only female in the sabb team. If that's the case

then that is possibly something that does need to be looked at next year, as it's not very representative."

When asked if the campaigning period had meant some changes to her policies, she said: "None of my policies did really change, but that's because I've been talking to people for the past two terms finding out what they want, what they would like to see more of from their Comms officer, what they would like to see different in SCAN, and so my policies have evolved, just not only in the time of the campaigning period."

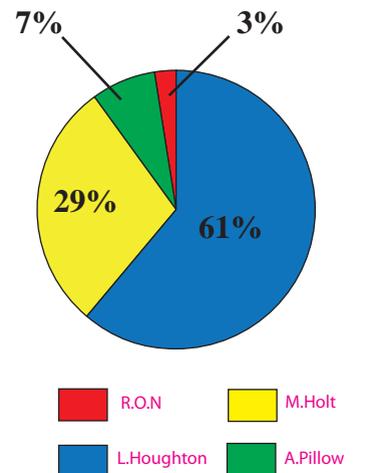
Houghton said of her win: "I feel very happy... It is actually a big honour to be elected by so many students and to have that much faith instilled in you." She later added, "I know I did a lot of legwork on this, at the end of the day it's not just talking to people, it's engaging them and letting them know they're opinion does matter."

One of her first focuses when taking office will be "getting the Communications Strategy stuck to so that all these grand gestures that we say about fairer fees and funding, about JCRs, actually students know what we're going on about and are engaging with that."

She also added that one of her first moves in the role would be decorating the SCAN office "because it's horrible and it needs a lick of paint."

The current holder of the position, Liam Richardson said of his successor: "I think that it is an absolutely fantastic result. Personally, I think that the best candidate won. I think that anybody who knows Lizzie at all will realise her absolute dedication to the cause for Lancaster University Students' Union."

He added, "The students' union is incredibly lucky to have someone like her next year and I think she'll take the organisation onwards and upwards in a brilliant manner. I'm very, very proud that someone so worthy has got the job."



wins big on the night

campaigning."

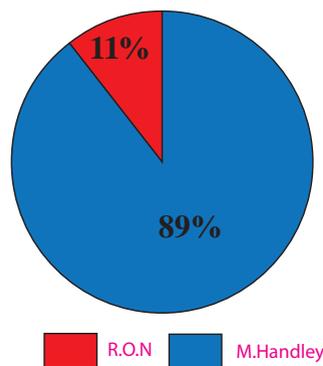
"My reaction at the minute is just drained, it's been a very very long two weeks. I'm very impressed with the overall turnout, and to have so many people voting for us is just a brilliant thing."

Handley was also asked about what some of his first actions would be when taking up office. "I think one of the first things I'm going to do - however trivial it may sound - is sorting out the AU cupboard, because it's disgusting. There's pads, goals, sticks, balls just left everywhere, and for anyone that tries to walk in there, it's horrific." He added that he would also be "sorting out Sue's [Wynes, current VP (Sports)] office, because it's really messy."

All of the winners were asked if any of their policies had changed during the campaigning period. Handley said: "Nothing's really changed, but with regards to adding things, I think we should try and lobby the University for Wednesday afternoons off, and that's certainly one thing I'll be working to-

wards pushing with the new VP (Academic Affairs) whoever that may be." He concluded, "Everyone seems to be relatively happy with the policies I've put forward so far."

Speaking of his goals for Roses - which will be in York during Handley's year - and other on-campus sporting events, Handley explained how he hoped to speak to York's AU President in the near future, "in order to get things started for Roses as early as possible [and] find out how they're feeling about this year's event, which can then move on to next year's event."



LURPS armed and dangerous

Hannah Price

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY'S ROLE Playing Society (LURPS) will be using cap guns as a part of their activities from the summer term.

Used as a substitute for real firearms, cap guns contain small amounts of explosives to recreate the sound and smoke of a real gun. The society will be using the guns to bring an added sense of reality as a part of their live action role playing.

The cap guns do not fire bullets but do create the noise of the firing of a bullet. LURPS would like to reassure students that they do not need to worry about any shots that they may hear.

The society has trained safety officers to check that all weapons are safe to use and warnings will be displayed in the areas in which they will be in use. Referees will also be put in place during the games, wearing high visibility jackets to reassure any students who may come across the game. College JCRs will be made aware that replica firearms will be in use.

Emphasis on the military aspects by some people who use cap guns can lead to opposition to their use in certain situations. However, within role playing scenarios, more emphasis is placed on the theatrical element of the game.

Although the role playing society has put extensive security precautions in place to ensure the safety of the student population, these are still replica firearms and accidents have been known to occur. Students are personally asked to behave in a mature way should they encounter the society undertaking their activities. Any students wanting more information should contact LURPS or their college JCR.

Bowland Main to receive multi-million refurb

- **Two years of delays look set to be resolved**
- **New social and admin space for college**

Lucy Miller

AFTER MONTHS OF financial wrangling and disappointments the proposed plans for the refurbishment of Bowland Main have finally been given the go ahead.

Work is expected to begin in July this year, after Graduation. The new social space should be opened in time for Freshers' Week 2011. It is expected to cost around £8.8 million and will replicate the buildings in County South.

B and C floors in Bowland Main will be completely cleared. Offices and student flats on these floors will be revamped, providing a modernised living space for students. Rooms will remain standard, with shared bathrooms, and are still expected to be the cheapest on campus. Rent costs will rise but only in line with the improved standards of accommodation available.

As Bowland Principal Joe Thornberry observes, Bowland is the only bar that has had no money spent on it in recent years. It has not been decorated since it first opened in 1967, which many feel make it extremely dated compared to the other college bars. The same is true of the accommodation, which still contains the original 1960s furniture and décor. When the university was founded Bowland College only had around 200 students, whereas there are now close to 1000.

There are plans to temporarily rejuvenate the bar over the Easter holidays,



Retro stylings: Bowland Main will be dragged into the 21st Century following the £8.8m refurb (Photo: Ben Robins)

with a minor facelift set to cost in the region of £20,000 for the repainting of the JCR and games room, as well as some replacement furniture.

Bowland JCR Executive President, Kath Embling, said of this rejuvenation: "I think the minor alterations will give the bar and JCR area a lift it deserves while we wait for the greater changes."

Although the project has been on the cards for more than two years, it has been beset by problems. When plans were first drawn up in 2007 they were meant to coincide with the development of the Learning Zone, and were designed to create a large social space, including a cafe, for Bowland students.

The new Bowland facilities were originally supposed to open in September 2009, at the same time as the Learning Zone. However, delays in the construction of the Learning Zone and the financial crisis that hit soon after-

wards meant that Bowland's refurbishment was pushed back even further, and eventually scrapped.

There were also concerns of non-completion in time for Freshers' Week if the project begins in the summer. As Thornberry pointed out, when Grizedale was left without a bar for the 2008/2009 academic year students became apathetic towards college activities.

Bowland's social space, including the bar and JCR, is expected to remain the same until the summer of 2011. The area will be painted over the holidays, the carpets will be replaced, and new furniture will be brought in, although it is not expected that there will be a great amount of structural work carried out. There are plans for a small coffee counter in the courtyard, possibly run by Costa Coffee or Starbucks, although this is still far from certain.

The response from the college

principal and students to the finalised plans has been overwhelmingly positive. Thornberry was quick to state that Bowland students deserve a new social space, after months of deliberations.

"We want to retain a traditional bar; students treat the college as their home and we want to retain this cosiness. At the moment the bar is small and run down, and it isn't what students want," he said. "There has been frustration from the students that it has taken so long, but also an acknowledgement that we need to get it right. Bowland students deserve to have some money spent on their college."

According to Bowland College Office there will be no students living in Bowland Main in the 2010/2011 academic year, whilst refurbishment is being carried out. The new rooms should be available to incoming students in September 2011.

Senate give green light to more departmental changes

- **School of Lifelong Learning to close as academic institution**
- **Department to become part of Central Services**

Liam Kay

THE STUDENTS' UNION has been left reeling from the latest departmental changes proposed by the University with the closure of the School of Lifelong Learning and Widening Participation (SLLWP) as an academic institution.

The department was established to support the local community and to widen participation in higher education for young people and adults of all ages. It played a key role in the PASSPORT to higher education scheme, providing a link between college and university life in the local area.

On 24 February, Senate accepted proposals to end the academic lifespan



Exit strategy: CETAD is now a part of the Faculty of Health and Medicine

of the school, closing one section of the department, the Centre for Training and Development (CETAD). The Department of Continuing Education (DCE) was moved to the Division of Marketing and External Linkages, a subsection of Central Services, effectively ensuring that the department would no longer play a role at the university as an academic institution but rather as a subsection of university

management.

This particular development is a direct contrast with the words of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings. Speaking at the opening of the SLLWP, he said: "The new School of Lifelong Learning and Widening Participation should be seen as a portal for ideas and activities which will enable the University to reach out into the community and offer more flexible

learning opportunities. The University has high expectations of where this venture will lead."

The move has been viewed by many as a betrayal of the original principles behind the establishment of the school and was opposed by the Students' Union in Senate.

"The laying down of the School for Lifelong Learning and Widening Participation and the Department of Continuing Education is lamentable. What's more, in spite of economic and political changes over recent years it seems an absolute about-face for the University," said LUSU President Michael Payne. "Whatever the future for widening participation work in the University – the message sent out by this move is not a praiseworthy one."

He continued to question the quality of consultation given to the students at Lancaster, adding: "There hasn't been a great deal of consultation but the Students' Union has nevertheless been very vocal, pro-active and supportive of the activities of DCE and SLLWP ever since the cut back of DCE activities over a year ago. That is something students can and should be proud of."

The Students' Union has stressed its continuing support for the depart-

ment and its staff throughout its existence.

The move has also prompted some questions over the university's handling of the SLLWP, especially with regards to the movement of CETAD to the School of Health and Medicine from August 2009 which rendered many sections of the SLLWP ineffective as an individual academic institute.

LUSU Vice-President (Academic Affairs) Danny Ovens said of the move "I think CETAD moving to the School of Health and Medicine sealed the deal. I think it is important to note that the 'decline' is just in the departments connected to the school disappearing, not the importance of its activity."

He continued "I think it is essential that this 'move' to MEL [Marketing and External Linkages] doesn't hinder the activities of the PASSPORT scheme as it does some brilliant work on widening participation and shouldn't be lost in some broom closet in University House."

The PASSPORT scheme will be continued by the university where it is hoped its move to central services will ensure it remains a large component of the University's interaction with the local community.



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Lancaster and Bolton locking horns for top spot in NUS campaign

Jonnie Critchley

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY IS setting the pace nationwide in its response to the National Union of Students' 'Votes for Students' campaign.

As of 2 March, just over 500 Lancaster students had visited the campaign website and pledged to use their vote in the general election to support parliamentary candidates who would vote against tuition fees increases. This figure puts Lancaster in second place nationally, only around thirteen pledges behind first place, held by Bolton University. It is hoped this will add a large degree of local rivalry and encourage even more students to make the pledge.

The website, launched earlier this year, is the biggest tool ever used by the NUS to increase student interest in a general election and reflects the importance of the student vote in this election, which is widely expected to take place on 6 May. Votes in constituencies with large student populations, such as Lancaster, are very likely to be decided by the student vote. It is expected tuition fees will be hugely prominent on the agenda of voting students.

The NUS campaign has so far been highly successful, with thousands of students signing up across the country, enabling pressure to be placed upon MPs and election candidates to vote against increases in fees.

In November last year, LUSU and 200 student protesters were successful in gaining the pledge of local Conservative MP Ben Wallace to vote against fee changes. Since then two more local candidates have followed suit, Clive Gunshaw, the Labour Party candidate for Lancaster and Fleetwood and Stuart Langhorn, candidate in the same constituency for the Liberal Democrats. The campaign has also been successful so far in attracting local and national press coverage, encouraging further students to pledge and increasing the pressure on the politicians.

The local candidates are just three of approximately 500 MPs and Party Political Candidates (PPCs) to have signed up to the pledge: "I pledge to vote against any increase in fees in the next parliament and to pressure the government to introduce a fairer alternative." Others include figures such as Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg MP and their Shadow Chancellor, Vince Cable MP. The former leader of the Liberal Democrats, Charles Kennedy MP, has also pledged his support, along with an ex-Treasury Minister, Andrew Smith MP and the leader of the Green Party, Caroline Lucas MEP/PPC.

The NUS campaign's success has also spread globally through the social networking site Twitter, making it to number two on the site's rankings for the most talked about Twitter conversation in the world at one point in February. This success was due to an effort on 18 February on the part of students, student leaders and parliamentary candidates to 'tweet' on the subject, taking advantage of the wide-reaching site to raise awareness of the campaign.

University's priorities questioned over

- **LUSU President slams lack of provision for faith groups**
- **Islamic groups believe current space concerns are an 'exaggeration'**
- **Facilities examining three options for new inter-faith space**

Luka Vujicic

WITH A NUMBER of delays and a lack of action, the University's priorities have been put under some scrutiny as a long term redevelopment plan for the Chaplaincy Centre still remains to be seen.

Both members of religious groups and LUSU officers have criticised its absence on the campus's architectural masterplan for building projects. The centre, the hub of multi-faith and religious activity on campus, is considered by all far too small to accommodate the growing cosmopolitan student population.

A Portakabin outside Fylde College is currently used as a place of worship for campus's Islamic community, whilst other faith groups have temporary buildings which are geographically separated from the larger Chaplaincy building.

"It's absolutely appalling that religious groups should have to be celebrating their own traditions in a Portakabin outside of campus," said LUSU

President Michael Payne. "We've seen a lot of buildings that were not on the campus masterplan that have been brought in because they have been a priority to capital investment."

LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) Torri Crapper expressed the same contempt towards the lack of redevelopment.

"It's completely unacceptable," she said. "We are an internationalised institution, the University want 50% more international students in the next five years with a variety of cultures and religious outlooks; however, we are putting a curb on people practising their faith while studying. It's ridiculous."

The masterplan has presented a potentially worrying image for the University as the plan for project designs, for some, has marked a solid reflection on the priorities for campus.

"For me, why is the Chaplaincy redevelopment not a priority over and above spending some £10 million on a building for the Lancaster Institution of Contemporary Arts?" said Payne.

The university want 50% more international students in the next five years with a variety of cultures and religious outlooks; however, we are putting a curb on people practising their faith while studying. It's ridiculous.
- Torri Crapper

A long term solution to establish permanent space for faith worship has also proved challenging because of the fundamental issue of space. This was the major cause of failure for options which hoped to move the Islamic prayer room to two possible alternative locations as they would have result in



Leap of faith: The Chaplaincy centre will be undergoing significant redevelopment

clashes with other departments.

A third option, which would involve expanding the Chaplaincy centre itself, was seen by the Anglican Chaplain Kevin Hugget as the most preferable solution as it would unite the faith groups closer together. However, this option also proved to be a victim of the dilemma of insufficient space.

"We've thought about being integrated to the Chaplaincy Centre itself, but considering the numbers we have, it just isn't feasible – it would cost too much disturbance," said Bandar Al-Hejin, a member of the Muslim community on campus.

Unlike LUSU, Al-Hejin, who is also

a member of the Islamic Society Committee, expressed sincere appreciation towards the University for having "been very forthcoming about trying to establish a space" despite it not being on the masterplan.

Furthermore, Al-Hejin stressed that most members of the Muslim community on campus are pleased with the current space, and any statements of how inconvenient the current location is would be an 'exaggeration'.

When asked whether he felt the Muslim community were being properly represented he said that "location is important; however, space is of more value and the brothers and sisters are

ISS to clamp down on downloading

Jack Smith

STUDENTS ON CAMPUS are being firmly reminded of the consequences of illegal downloading through ResNet by computer services provider ISS. The problem, which has increased significantly over the last two years, has led to concerns about 2008's removal of connection restrictions, which increased access to services such as Xbox Live.

Andrew Meikle, head of CIS within ISS, told SCAN that levels of "complaints from outside companies is now at around one a day. When you consider that is about 300 students a year put up in front of the Dean, that is a concern."

Meikle stated that the University is being "brought into disrepute" by complaints from outside organisations. Copyright abuse becomes a matter aired at a hearing with the University Dean, Dr Matt Storey, at which point ISS are not involved any longer. A fine is then usually imposed on the offending student.

Andrew Lucas, Information Officer



for ISS, emphasised the consequences as potentially more than a fine, saying "it is worth noting that some pro-

fessions require that no offences are recorded on a student's record during their time at Lancaster. Students going

into Law or Medicine should be aware that being caught abusing copyright could seriously affect their career in the future."

A 25 gigabyte per month usage cap on Network Address Translator (NAT) connections will now be introduced as, Meikle explained, only a "minority" of students ever reach that cap. Those that do are "probably" downloading copyrighted material, or have been compromised through a virus. These changes will not be made until October 2010 at the earliest.

Students coming close to the cap could receive an email from ISS informing them of this to ascertain why. Meikle told SCAN that if the student could not explain the vast usage "then we would have to have a conversation [with the student] about viruses."

NAT connections are used by a number of applications that essentially do not use a web browser, including Xbox Live and peer to peer applications. ISS are unsure whether BBC iPlayer's download manager connects via NAT, raising questions about downloading large, high definition video files. ISS have confirmed that there

faith space delays



nt work this summer (Photo: Ben Robins)

– extremely heavy doors to enter the building and no lift access to the first floor where activities take place, from art exhibitions to venues for parties,” he said.

Charman also pointed out the outdated design of the building: “Despite the woodwork of the windows and doors being partially rotten when I arrived six years ago, we are saddened by Facilities delaying the work time and again.”

When asked how he felt about the general relationship between religious communities on campus, Al-Hejin said that “the Catholic and Church of England Chaplains have been nothing less than supportive and enthusiastic in getting the Muslim community located next to them, showing excellent cooperation.”

Payne also echoed the positive relationship, saying “I am very proud of the fact that we have a very cohesive community at Lancaster University. Our faith groups work very close together on a whole range of issues and I think that’s something we should be absolutely proud of as a university.”

In the meantime, a short term resolution to expand the Muslim prayer rooms in the Portakabin is currently pending University approval. However, any long term redevelopment will take at least two years. Hugget expressed his respect for those religious groups for their “remarkable patience.”

Facilities are looking at a range of options for the location of the Islamic Society in the redevelopment, with one possible location being the ground floor of Ash House.

Over this summer there will be a basic refurbishment to the Chaplaincy Centre, which will include the replacement of external doors and windows, a repair to the roof, and the refitting of two kitchens.

quite pleased with the size. I do appreciate the good amount of space we have here.”

Nevertheless, Bandar admitted that the University needed to be “pushed occasionally to make clear of their needs.”

Methodist Chaplain Steve Charman expatiated not only on how the centre has shown “no corresponding expansion” to the effect of globalisation on University population but also towards representation for the disabled students.

“Personally my concerns are that despite the Disability Act, the building has very, very limited disability access

after complaints

will be no limits the streaming services of iPlayer or other websites such as YouTube.

Meikle pointed to the agreements all students see when they first connect to ResNet, with a separate, smaller agreement focussing purely on illegal downloading. It details UK copyright law and the potential consequences for students clearly, with the aim to make it simple to understand, particularly for international students.

Meikle added that ISS are not actively hunting for people downloading copyrighted material. Lucas reiterated this point, stating that “ISS do not [...] take action without a valid complaint being made.” ISS can, however, use logs of web cache usage, including connections to web addresses made by individual computers, to verify outside complaints. Meikle insisted that this is only ever used if a complaint about a student has been received. Dr Storey has stated that “we certainly don’t go looking around in anyone’s private correspondence. That’s nothing to do with us.”

In September 2008, restrictions on NAT across ResNet were relaxed, in

order to improve the student experience for services such as Xbox Live and PlayStation Network. It was considered that copyright abuse would increase as a result of these changes, but Lucas said “it was hoped at the time that copyright abuse would be self limiting due to the actions of the University Deanery.” Meikle assured SCAN that reverting to the previous internet usage restrictions would be a last resort, and that there were no suggestions that the University were pushing a reversal.

ISS currently have no policy regarding acting on student confessions of illegal downloading. Meikle suggested that, if he were in this situation, he would show the student the sheer amount of complaints ISS receive, rather than informing the Dean.

Student opinion on ISS’ policy is varied. A third year student was concerned that there might be “an invasion of privacy”, and added that “the 25 gigabyte limit sounds a bit low.” A student in Lonsdale said “I know someone who was affected by this, and she has stopped downloading now she’s paid her fine – it is probably for the best.”

Housing woes set to worsen

Paul Hannah

STUDENT HOUSING WOES look set to worsen even further in the coming years due to a combination of new government legislation, an increased international student body and the closure of the University of Cumbria’s Ambleside campus.

The feared housing shortage this year failed to materialise to the extent that was expected with only 150 students needing bed space instead of the estimated 500.

But with in-town landlords selling up due to increased space on campus in recent years, students are fearing an accommodation time bomb.

LUSU Housing Manager Matthew Ward agreed that there were ‘potentially’ a lot of issues for the future.

“There’s a longer term situation with regards to the university’s own growth and the effect that may well have on the city in terms of the university providing off campus accommodation in the future, especially given the current market,” he said. “There aren’t a huge number of landlords coming to the buy to let market. [We need to] work with the City Council to encourage Lancaster’s private rent sector to develop.”

New legislation will give councils the power to decline licences to landlords, making them unable to let to stu-



dents, in an attempt to forcibly spread student accommodation around areas in need of income.

Torri Crapper, LUSU VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) said: “The landlords in these areas have in many situations expensive adaptations to make to fit with new legislation which makes them reconsider the benefits of a student house.”

The university is also trying to further increase the number of international students it receives each year. With these students being guaranteed on campus housing ahead of British and EU students, there is concern that

this will put yet more strain on students desperately trying to find a bed for the year.

“When the university first started attracting international students in smaller numbers it allowed them the confidence to study here knowing they were guaranteed accommodation,” Crapper added.

“I asked the Head of Colleges and Residences to look at reclassification of students and am currently waiting for a firm answer.”

Nicola Haslam, of Lonsdale, who was declined on-campus housing, said: “Non-international students should be made aware from the beginning of the year how limited on campus accommodation is. The university put us under a false sense of security. We students are now under pressure to find a quality house in town in a short time period which could have been easily avoided.”

The University of Cumbria’s Ambleside campus, founded only in 2007, has fallen foul of the recession and been forced to close. The majority of its 650 students have been moved to the Lancaster campus, putting added pressure on the housing infrastructure.

A spokesman for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) told the Westmorland Gazette: “The University has found it difficult to recruit students in sufficient numbers and its growth has been slower than forecast.”

Morecambe kids gets creative

Khairil Zhafri

CHILDREN FROM THREE Morecambe primary schools visited the University to celebrate the success of the Creative Arts Project conducted in their respective schools by Lancaster University Volunteering Unit (LUVU).

The 95 pupils from Morecambe Bay, Trumacar and West End primary schools presented three musical performances to LUVU volunteers and staff. The shows were made possible with help from LUVU volunteers, the University of Lancaster Music Society (ULMS) and More Music, a community musical group based in Morecambe. The performances were presented in the Great Hall on Tuesday morning of Week 17.

A Year Three teacher from Morecambe Bay Primary, Brendan Cronin, commented: “What a pleasure it was to see the children having so much creative freedom and deciding how their performance would take shape for themselves.”

The Morecambe Bay Primary children presented a samba performance, with complete costume, assisted by ULMS. The pupils from Trumacar Primary delivered their rendition of the children’s classic Peter and the Wolf while West End Primary performed Morecambe Town, their own original composition about the resort. The final number was composed by the pupils together with Geoff Dixon from More Music.

LUVU schools and events coordinator, Joe Bourne, told SCAN: “The show was fantastic, it is always great to see

children gain experience of performing on a big stage but the performances had an element of professionalism that we have not achieved before.

“Not only was it enjoyable for the children performing but it was also a great show for anyone watching. It was funny, moving and very loud,” he added.

Since January, LUVU volunteers have been visiting these primary schools as part of the Creative Arts Project. The volunteers spent an afternoon at each school where they introduced basic musical elements and helped the schoolchildren explore music in a fun and creative way. The project emphasised the fact that regardless of ability or access to instruments everybody can make and enjoy music.

The Creative Arts Project, started by LUVU in 2002, is aimed at encouraging children to use their imagination and be inventive. The project also incorporates creative arts as a medium to discuss issues pertinent to children such as bullying and the environment. In this project, LUVU volunteers conduct various educational activities at local primary schools. This year the project saw the participation of 10 schools and about 340 pupils.

On the reasons for targeting primary schoolchildren, Bourne said “Children must be given chances to be creative for many reasons. It can often be a way to break down barriers to other subjects. For example if a child struggles with maths or finds it difficult to explain a complicated concept then using art and music can often make it more accessible.



Celebrating success: Children from primary schools worked with LUVU

North campus bus route given go ahead following Facebook campaign

Shane Manning

BUS ROUTES ACROSS campus are to be changed to incorporate County and Bowland following a Facebook-based petition.

Students of County and Bowland colleges claim that they are treated unfairly and left stranded by the current bus route system, feeling that the bus routes need to be changed to incorporate their houses.

Since the new townhouses at County College were built the buses have stopped going to County and only go as far as the underpass, leaving students who live in County and Bowland residences left to walk the rest of their journey home. The bus routes from Lancaster town centre, which stop off near most other colleges, currently leave out County, one of the biggest colleges on campus, and Bowland, one of the oldest.

The issue, which has been led by LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), Torri Crapper, went through the Transport Working Group unanimously and a meeting with the University is said to be scheduled soon to resolve the issue completely. Due to the provisions of the motion proposed, any change would also provide for



those university staff who work at the north end of campus and is said to fit with the travel plans of the university to get more people using public transport due to a lack of parking.

When asked what she thought about the issue, Crapper said: "I'm very excited about being able to work with the university and the bus provider to

reinstate this route around campus. Student officers both current and past have put a lot of hard work into starting the petition and I'm proud to be able to work with them on this, and have the conversations with the university about the logistics on their behalf. I just hope that students make use of this provision when we get it started so that it is worthwhile continuing in the future for the bus provider."

Although Crapper has expressly pointed out that the petition in question does not concern the free Sugarhouse buses provided to students at the weekend, and has said that this a discussion for the future which does not currently have a petition to it, there has been some discussion about the Sugarhouse buses by students.

Sam Potts, the creator of the increasingly popular Facebook group dedicated to the cause, said specifically on the free Sugarhouse bus that: "We do appreciate the free bus to campus but for our safety it's important that Sugarhouse are aware of the vast amount of students who are dropped off away from their houses and left to make their way home." She continued by saying that "a bus to County and to Bowland would provide students with a safer journey home and it's important that Sugarhouse realise their responsibility in this matter."

Vice-Chancellor breaks SCAN possible tuition fee hike

<12-13 He thought that the masks 'were great', going on to say "clearly trying to convey the message around fees and funding is immensely important and finding different ways of doing it is part of being a student."

After being asked for his opinions on LUSU's 'Fairer Fees and Funding Campaign', Wellings said "It's a hugely complex area. [We need to decide] what is a sensible way of funding students who want to go to University and how does the state release resource to Universities to give them the facility to train people.

"Those two things are rubbing up against each other at the moment because there is a conflation around what student support costs in terms of the loans or grants and the amount of resource available within the University to teach somebody in a laboratory based subject or a seminar based subject where the cost structures are very different."

For students who will have to pay £3,290 next year in tuition fees for a mere eight hours of lectures or seminars a week, it is no wonder the Government is facing a strong student resistance.

In answer to this Welling discussed the marketisation of universities and degree schemes.

"[It] was always the intention that



The real Wellings: The VC was felt the protest masks 'were great'

there should be a market that universities competed in. I think the interesting question [is] will every degree then be charged the same amount of money? [If] you go to Oxford or Poppleton you're making a decision and you pay a differential fee depending on the university. The alternative is to set a fee structure around the course that you choose to study, so you could make an argument that the values of degrees in veterinary sciences, medicine and law

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“Both of those things, what institution you go to and what subject you read at university, I suspect, will come into play over the next ten years. I think we are going to go into a much more marketised phase as institutions.”

Would we then, Wellings was asked, get an elitist system where only the wealthy are able to access the top universities and most desirable degrees?

As a way of combating this he said “[it is] part of the debate that Lord Browne is having which is how do you design the incentives in the system so that students from disadvantaged backgrounds aren’t discouraged from going to the university that they want to go to.”

He believes that if tuition fees are raised then universities would “have to put in place bursary systems to make sure that students from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to go to those institutions.”

When looking at the current income contingent loans, Wellings commented that students from disadvantaged backgrounds were benefiting from the current system.

“After the first year of the income contingent loans the data there showed pretty conclusively that [for] the poorest students, [there was] a positive effect by paying afterwards

rather than upfront because for the poorest families finding £1000 a year for three years was a major disincentive.”

Along with a fee rise, rumours have circulated that British students are going to lose out to international students in the Higher Education system.

Wellings dispelled this idea, saying “I don’t think it will be more competitive because there are international students, I think it will be competitive because the government may choose to regulate the number of places for British students. If we choose to have international students they are additional.”

Wellings’ enthusiasm to internationalise Lancaster is evident. He is involved in organising summer schools to China and India, has been intricately involved in creating partnerships with Kuala Lumpur, India and Pakistan, all in the hope of giving Lancaster students a step up in the job market and putting Lancaster on the global map.

“[It is] essential for British students to experience someone else’s culture, society, language. I think that in the next five to ten years, students leaving Lancaster ... will be in a position to say ‘I did my degree and I also did ancillary things, some of which [were] completely internationalised.’”

Sell-out showcase success for Lancaster Dance Society

Charlotte Urban

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY’S DANCE Society hosted a charity dance showcase on 26 and 27 February to demonstrate their work over the past year. Alongside the Breakdance Society, the dancers demonstrated their abilities in jazz, street, contemporary dance and more over the two nights.

Due to the success of a one-night-only event held last year, the show this year was extended by an extra night and was equally as successful, selling out both nights. Students were waiting in the doorways to see if they could acquire places on the waiting list in case of last minute tickets becoming available. This was despite more seats being put out on the night in order to accommodate as many people as possible, due to the show’s popularity.

All the money raised contributed to good causes. Proceeds from the programme sales were donated to relief funds for the disaster in Haiti and ticket sales went towards helping the society break even after funding a poster campaign around campus and a small photo shoot to raise awareness of the issues.

The cost of tickets for the event was £7, and the event took place in the



In Lights: The spectacular show raised money for charity (Photo: Ben Robins)

Nuffield Theatre.

Hannah Hushwaite, Publicity Officer for LUDanS Exec said: “Our main aim was not to make money for the society, as it is already an incredibly popular society, but to just showcase what we can do. We’ve been working on it all term and rehearsed practically every day.”

The society’s exec choreographed all dances for the show, incorporating many different types of dance from ballet and contemporary to street and

musical. To add to the range, LUDanS collaborated with the Hip Hop Society who performed some dances of their own. The two societies joined forces to perform a Michael Jackson-themed finale, incorporating a medley of many of his biggest hits. As well as the dances, the society employed the help of second year Music Technology student David Butler to co-ordinate the lights to create what the society hoped was an overall spectacular experience for everyone who attended.

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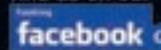
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0905	0925	10	0949	0949	36
0925	then at	until	1009	1009	until
then at	45	2210	then at	then at	2236
45	05		29	29	
05	25		49	49	
25	until		09	09	
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scan:COMMENT



Liam Kay

Comment Editor

One thing can improve our elections: Negative campaigning

LUSU would successfully engage more of the electorate if debate and criticism between candidates was allowed

Campus was littered with promises, posters and candidates pacing around campus in the search for support and for votes whilst the rest of us looked on with a mixture of intrigue and confusion. It was of course the return of elections, this time the full-time executive officer elections. And one can only wonder if the election itself could have been livened up, made into a truly gripping duel between candidates as they vied for a place as the head of the union next year. The one thing that could improve elections? Negative campaigning.

For those of you uninitiated into union rules on campaigning, candidates are restricted from pointing out the weaknesses of their opposition or criticising their opponents' track-record on the issues that may well shape the election or even the actual role they are running for. Facebook cannot be used to actively campaign, meaning candidates are unable to adapt to the changes that are transforming the very society we live in and use the internet to support themselves. Is this really how an election should be fought?

Our campus elections are fought in



such as sterile atmosphere that seems to dissuade us from debate and criticism. What candidate seriously expects to avoid any probing questions into their past experience, manifesto or weaknesses in their campaigns or policies? If there are any, they are most probably unfit for the role they wish people to vote them into. It is simply a detriment to our election process that we cannot

allow for valid criticism to be made of the candidates involved. We are not asking for war and slander, just the simple ability to be able to differentiate the competent from those who would be unable to fulfill the role they covet.

We should allow for an overhaul of our election rules. Firstly, allow for the use of Facebook to campaign with. Current rules do not even allow for contest-

ants' Facebook groups to actively support the candidate in group messages. Their friends are not allowed to support them on Facebook; there can be no use of statuses to promote the candidature of specific individuals. Why not allow for Facebook to be utilised to its full potential? Allow candidates to campaign heavily on Facebook and allow for the same on twitter as well. It is to the detriment of our election process that the internet is practically excluded from playing a role in the build-up to the vote.

Secondly, replace hustings with a genuine platform for debate where people can ask questions of the candidates and opponents can explore weaknesses in the policies and eligibility of the different participants in the election race. Hustings are too impersonal; there is very little chance to interrogate candidates and very little ability for candidates to portray themselves as the best choice for the position. It would be far more informative, and far more interesting, if candidates were to engage in restrained debate rather than simply preach their ideas to the audience from a lectern.

Finally, the creation of an election

magazine to be distributed around campus would greatly increase the coverage each participant received. They could write an article each explaining why they think they were the best choice for their position and why they are better than the other candidates running against them. This would enable greater coverage and a better understanding of what each election candidate truly wanted to achieve and sort the pretenders from the "real deal"; the candidate who has a fresh and original approach to the role they wish to undertake.

These changes are easy to undertake and would be regulated to ensure that slander does not overtake the election process. It would also enable LUSU to engage with its electorate, allowing its candidates to not simply be a distant intrusion on the daily walk across campus to lectures but a vital and engaging part of campus life. Negative campaigning would do much to prepare full-time executive officers for the role they are about to enter; there has to be a recognition that this is a step up from JCR or part-time officer work. Dismiss it at your peril; negative campaigning is necessary for our elections.



Michael Payne

LUSU President

On behalf of LUSU I sincerely apologise for the problems with this year's elections

There are no excuses for human error. With regard to the problem that marred the recent set of Full Time Officer Elections no excuses have or will be made by LUSU. Instead all Officers involved in the election process took the honourable and right decision to ensure a fair and legitimate election; they focussed on the solution rather than speculating, pontificating and regurgitating titbits of information about the problem.

LUSU prides itself on honesty with its membership and there was never any chance this error was going to be simply swept under the carpet and ignored as though a mistake was never made. On behalf of LUSU I profusely apologise to our membership for the inconvenience and annoyance caused due to both the error and the decision to re-run the vote for the positions of Vice-Presidents Academic Affairs and Equality, Welfare & Diversity, respectively. My apologies are also extended to the candidates affected, who have conducted themselves with dignity and maturity throughout this difficulty. However no apology will be made for the decision to focus on

rectifying this problem with immediate effect and in turn inducing a storm of short-term criticism of LUSU in order to maintain and protect its long-term stability and legitimacy.

It is all too easy for any student, journalist, Officer or other to make cheap pot-shots about the state of the elections we have just ran but it is far more difficult and far more productive and honourable to focus efforts on tackling a problem head on when it occurs, in spite of the emotive backlash the organisation may face.

Call me over-optimistic, call me delusional and call me pathetic for using this opportunity to address the issue properly but before you accuse LUSU of being too protective of its own at the expense of its members, before you argue that your union is not accountable and before you claim that LUSU has an authoritarian stronghold over all connected with it, take a look at the front page of this newspaper.

I can attest that every decision taken in order to rectify this problem was made in the interest of the long-term legitimacy of this organisation and with utmost consideration given to the right

of our members to cast a valid and valued vote in the elections for their union.

Having been a vehement opponent to e-voting, you may have expected me to declare an interest at the beginning of this comment piece; but that declaration would be unnecessary. This set of elections has vindicated rather than proven wrong the proponents of e-voting and their relentless campaign to our Union Council to approve it. Despite many stubbornly ideological predictions of Union Councillors it was not the system or technology that let us down on this occasion, it was human error.

As correctly predicted by a select few Union Councillors e-voting or indeed any type of new voting system will never eradicate the fallibility of humans.

Those of us who did argue against the implementation of e-voting should not be sitting smiling from a moral high ground, exclaiming "told you so" or "we were right", but rather hanging your heads in shame. It was the dogmatic ideologists that foolishly barred our own elections experts from tracking voter codes (a tool, which is available to

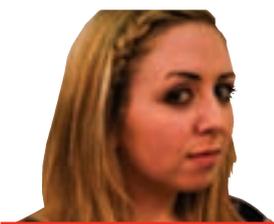
us and would have allowed us to easily resolve the human error made in these elections).

The success of our organisation in moving its democracy into the twenty first century, along with the tremendous efforts of candidates in getting out and speaking to our members, in order to obtain their votes should not be trashed by sensationalists and gossipers. These elections have seen many successes for LUSU; we should celebrate them and learn from our mistakes.

We should be proud to be part of an organisation that is unafraid of airing its mistakes rather than living a lie that it never makes any. We should also be proud to be part of an organisation that does not claim to be perfect but does push the boundaries and take calculated risks in order to ensure improvement.

We should also know that no matter how much some will want to re-live this episode like a well rehearsed television serial drama, we must move on, having learned from our mistakes and continue to fight as a united organisation for the future of our members and future members.

It is all too easy for the sensationalists to take cheap shots, but LUSU will move on and learn from these mistakes



Collette McColgan

Future generations could fall foul of the illiteracy hour

The Labour government's obsession with setting targets has meant that many children are leaving primary school bereft of essential skills

We are the illiterate generation. In the early 90s, nine LEAs realised through tests taken by seven year-olds that standards in literacy had slipped since the mid 80s. To combat this, the Labour government introduced the National Literacy Strategy in September 1998. You will probably remember this if you were in primary school then: it came in the form of the Literacy Hour. 15 minutes of reading or writing; 15 minutes of direct teaching of skills to the whole class; 20 minutes of individual study, while the teacher works with small groups; 10 minutes with the whole class for consolidation of the hour. All with the aim to make sure that by 2002, 80% of 11 year-olds could read up to level 4 standard. The figure achieved was in fact closer to 75%, but this was still a vast improvement.

For me, the Literacy Hour was a chance to mess about with my friends – gossiping took the place of actual learning, whilst teachers worked their way around the people in the class who were seen to be struggling. As a member of the top set in my Year Four class, I saw myself as a lucky one, but found myself to be severely lacking in any sort



of grammatical knowledge by the time I got to the age of 12.

The problem with the Literacy Hour was that it implied that children only needed to be literate for one hour a day. Every hour should have been a literacy hour, and the government overlooked this by employing this strategy to enforce the standards they felt children should be at.

The Literacy Hour paid no regard to the different paces of learning children have – some flourished, but others were left behind. Placing such a strict time

limit on education left us with clear ideas of what we had learnt, but very little idea as to how that should be applied to the rest of our education.

The main problem with the Literacy Hour was deemed to be its focus on phonics, over 'real book' methods of learning. But within a matter of years, it had been scrapped by most schools. A 15 minute session on phonics, and then back to focusing on other subjects on a daily basis seemed to create a happy medium that meant children would take literacy outside of a designated time for it.

The Cambridge Primary Review, released in 2009, is the harshest critic of what the Labour government set out to do. It was felt the National Literacy Strategy had been too prescriptive in the rules it had laid down – children were restricted in learning literacy skills outside of phonics, too much was pinned on tests, there wasn't enough focus on arts and humanities subjects.

The National Curriculum when I was in primary school was full of strange little grading systems, and endless tests and workbooks. I remember being told when I was nine years old that I had a reading age of a 13 year-old. I don't

even know what that means now, and I certainly didn't then. Even my parents were pretty clueless, but felt certain it was something to be proud of.

The government's micro-management of schools has deprived children of freedom in their learning – the biggest problems seem to have occurred in the encouraging of independent reading, and speaking and listening activities.

But have we really suffered? I personally don't feel illiterate, or impoverished in my education. Yes, me and all my A-level classmates had to be re-taught the basics of English grammar at the beginning of our English Language course. And yes, from the age of 14 all I seemed to do was take exams and write endless essays. But at a time when so many people are applying to university and being successful, surely this means that all those methods did work.

At least in terms of the government meeting targets, the intervention paid off. But is being taught to pass exams any substitute for a 'real' education? Adding to the already over-prescriptive curriculum left children learning only how to pass exams; it seems we tick all the boxes of academia, but we may do little to inspire future generations.

Little is actually known about the LUSU elections

I will not be using my vote as not enough information is out there about the candidates writes **Katy Bristow**

With the LUSU elections fast approaching, I couldn't help but wonder if it was just me that didn't even realise that they were taking place until seeing the posters up around campus?

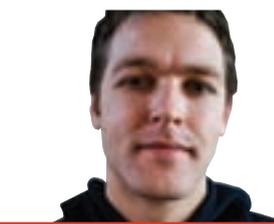
When I decided to write this article about the elections, I didn't really know much about them, but thought it would be easy to research. Surely information on issues regarding our student union would be readily available? However, this was not the case. I struggled to find anything easily on the LUSU website, or anywhere else, that even vaguely explained the elections.

It seems that there is a growing opinion that students are uninterested and indifferent towards the politics of the Student's Union. I would disagree with this, it cannot be blamed on student apathy if we are not properly informed of what LUSU actually does or know who and what we would be voting for. I have no doubts that LUSU does a great deal for students at the university but I previously knew very little about how decisions they made affected us, the student body. If we are not getting all the information we need to involve us in the elections then how can we be expected to suddenly take the time to blindly vote for a candidate whose objectives we don't even know?

The fact that voting is now all online and fast means that we can all vote from the comfort of our rooms, so why aren't more people interested? The statistics of the amount of people that voted last year compared to this year for the JCR elections appears to have risen slightly, yet still not many of us are voting. I believe that the ease of voting isn't the issue and that if LUSU did more to advertise what they do and what improvements they plan to make then we all would feel much more inclined to vote for issues that we would then know are affecting us.

Another fast growing issue encompassing student voting is the feeling that the elections are turning into a popularity competition. It's true that we all vote for our friends if they are running for elections, regardless if we know what their goals are. And so if we don't personally know anyone running then there just seems no point. This leads to the question of whether our candidates are only being voted in and winning the elections because they have more support, not from people they have persuaded with the success of their campaigning, but due the amount of friends they have.

More information about the elections is unquestionably necessary and accessibility to this information needs to be increased. I, like many other students, am not apathetic towards voting and am only not doing so because there isn't enough information for us to truly feel involved in what we would be voting for. If LUSU attempts to engage with students more successfully then I believe that more of us will vote, and for the right reasons.



David Guy

How important is personality in electing our political leaders?

Earlier this month, in a moving speech to his party, Gerry Adams spoke of the treatment his wife has been receiving for cancer. It was the latest in a line of recent personal confessions by politicians and came just weeks after he was forced to publicly talk about the abusive relationship his brother had had with other family members.

At the same time, the media storm over the affair of Iris Robinson left her husband, The First Minister of Northern Ireland, in a position where he was forced to publicly face up to the painful events of his personal life. On top of this, the British public were greeted with the astonishing view of Gordon Brown's sensitive side, as he talked to Piers Morgan about the death of his daughter in 2002. From the audience, his wife Sarah was shown, looking on in support, with a hand brought to her face to cover her grief. Similarly, last year, in his key note speech to the party, David Cameron gave yet another tear-jerking speech about the NHS, in which he recounted the harrowing tale of a parent having to take their dying son to casualty.

In Brown's interview, we saw the usually reserved Prime Minister laughing, joking and bantering with the former editor of the Daily Mirror. Many columnists took the view that the interview was a cheap construction, designed to raise Brown's appeal among

the voters. Some commentators suggest that we should ignore the personality, character and private life of our leaders. They say that political decisions should be preformed by those best able to do the job, and not those with the best smile or the most tears.

But maybe a display of personality and sensitivity reveals some of the human side, which is vital when making decisions that affect real people. Thatcher's nickname 'the Iron Lady' may not have only been appropriate because of her steadfast political character, but may also be applicable to her feelings regarding the mining community.

Though, perhaps, emotions can distort views and lead to unsound and irrational decisions. Can the feeling and emotions of the electorate distort a reasonable decision at the ballot box? It is often said by students that the college and university elections are determined by popularity. The common cry of "it's a popularity contest" rarely seems to be contested, and many students will openly admit that they always vote for their friends or people that they know.

To resolve this, we could have anonymous campaigns, where by the applicants' ideas, experience and proposals are put forward in faceless literature. But applicant 1,2 or 3 is hardly the stuff of glamorous politics. It is a personality that we like to see. We need to know we are electing strong and reliable leaders

and perhaps the more charismatic they are, the better they will be at leading and holding their own team, party or organisation together.

As voters in the democratic process, it is vital that we get as rounded a picture as possible about the people we chose to put into office. If this means painful or excruciating performances on a chat show sofa, then so be it. Of course, the future LUSU President should not weep over the loss of a kitten, on Bailrigg FM, but when we invite a person to a national position of governmental power, then we like to get that most rounded picture possible of the individual.

In a recent defence of Gordon Brown's character, the Business secretary, Lord Mandelson, asked if the electorate would "like some sort of shrinking violet at the helm of the government when we are going through such stormy waters?" His idea may seem a little insensitive, given the recent allegations of bullying, but in the right political climate, those characteristics might just prove vital to steer the country in the right direction. So too can a more sensitive character make difficult decisions, aware of the human price to be paid. Personal character and personal experiences, then, can help us decide who we want in charge. However, it should not be the final say: actions speak louder than words and say more than choked up crying sessions ever can.

Displays of emotion are all well and good but action speaks louder than words



Social networking silencing debate

Our basic right to debate issues like terrorism is harmed by the over zealous, writes **Sara Moore**

The War on Terror is a much invoked concept when justifying the tightening of security and the infringement of human rights in the form of such measures as ID cards, but how far will we go in allowing our fear to infringe on freedoms? It seems that in the age of online social networking, our right to communicate with each other about political matters may be under fire.

On the evening of February 10, a group was set up for nine politics students, including myself, to communicate the details of a presentation on the Tamil Tigers. This group was initiated due to the ease and efficiency of communication that Facebook has to offer. The Tamil Tigers are cited by the CDI, and are on the official Foreign Terrorist Organisation list maintained by the US and therefore any known involvement with this group can be associated as advocating terrorism. The study group was quickly shut down by Facebook and official warnings sent to all members – yet all we were doing was studying.

Firstly, although the Tamil Tigers are labelled as a terrorist organisation by 32 countries, its status as a terrorist organisation is called into consideration by even a small amount of research. The primary targeting for their attacks weren't civilians, and their motivation was not the spread of terror. Although the methods of suicide bombings and political assassinations are unjustifiable, it doesn't do well to our debate and our sense of intellectual honesty if we lump in a now defunct militia like the Tamil Tigers with active threats like Al-Qaeda and treat all discussion with McCarthy-style silencing.

In relation to this serious international problem that the West has imposed mostly through American hegemony, the repercussions of this War on Terror and the impact of simplistic labelling is in danger of seriously undermining the intellectual credibility of our democratic community. Bush and Blair both proposed a black-and-white 'us or them' world view in the aftermath of 9/11 and this has had serious repercussions for our public debate on foreign policy.

Most of us are members of social networking sites and we spend a lot of time communicating via the web. With this in mind, it becomes important to think about our online freedom of speech, expression and conscience and the right to assembly and personal privacy. The fact that we use sites such as Facebook to communicate with each other should give us the ability to demand other rights in these forums.

Where else other than university, can students have the room to investigate vigorously the motivations and historical processes that are integral to tensions presently in front of us? The question is most definitely within the context of how we perceive and respond to what we are told is dangerous. If we are no longer allowed to even discuss terrorism in a public forum, we have no chance of understanding it and much less chance of winning any sort of war on it.

University bosses should recognise how talented our students really are



Matthew Power

Lonsdale JCR President

The upcoming campus festival is a perfect opportunity to celebrate the student experience – something the university should be shouting home about

I think our campus is pretty fantastic. I remember the day I first visited Lancaster University; it was a beautiful, sunny Wednesday and as I got the bus from the train station I can still recall my feelings of anxiety mixed with excitement. Walking up the steps into Alex Square, I was met with a societies fair in the middle of the large space – rugby players were locked in a scrum, a dance society were halfway through an incredible routine and the sound of Bailrigg FM was blasted out across the square.

Today, two years on from that campus visit, our campus is as vibrant and electric as ever. Buildings are rising out of the ground from the North of campus to South West and our university's varied and mixed set of students from all walks of life makes it a brilliant place to live and study. It is for this reason, that I was shocked at the university's decision to strip away all signs of student life through the purging of posters which had previously been placed on pillars along the spine. The purge came ahead of an open day for prospective students on the Wednesday.

Many societies were affected by the removal of posters, particularly the dance society who had all their promotional posters for their show, in the Nuffield Theatre, removed. The dance society is a perfect example of the sort of society our university should be im-

mensely proud of and want to show off to prospective new students – incorporating many different forms of dance and actively seeking to publicise their skills through public demonstrations and dance shows, the society is hugely popular with students. Rather than stripping away any signs of this society, the university should look to societies like this to showcase their talents to people looking around the university.

Our campus is brimming full of talent, that's a fact. RAG Week's Societies Showcase, Pendle's Live Music on a Thursday, Cartmel's The Next Big Thing, Lonsdale's Live Acoustic Sets and Cuba's use of student DJs are just a few examples of Lancaster University students being given the opportunity to shine and show people their talent. I think it's about time the university sits up and take notice of how fantastic and diverse their students are. Somewhere between the development of facilities and the development of research, the people running our university seemed to forget what makes our university so brilliant; and that's the students.

On Saturday Week 9, the newly named Lancaster Square will play host to the Campus Festival, an exhibition of over 70 high energy societies demonstrating their talent and skills, followed by the best musical talent from our student population in the form of student bands and DJ's. I hope that the univer-

sity's management will be well represented at the event and that they take a long hard look at their students and the societies that they participate in. It is events like this that makes people want to come to this university. It is the collegiate system that makes people want to come to this university. It's the action-packed and innovative social calendars provided by JCR Executives that makes people want to come to this university. It is the student experience that makes people want to come to this university.

The cost of a university education is inevitably going to rise dramatically over the course of the next few years. With this rise, students are going to shop the market and choose their university with much greater care. If our university forgets about the student experience, we are in grave danger of people simply turning their back on our institution. Senior management need to step away from the building sites of the upcoming developments, leave their offices in University House and take a moment to look at the colleges, societies and at the students. They should begin to appreciate the hard work of the JCR and society executives and they should begin to realise how incredibly talented our student population is.

I think our campus is pretty fantastic. I know that our students are brilliant; the question is whether our university's management knows this as well.

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.

Exam timetable chaos

Dear Sir,

With regard to the recent situation with exam timetables, I am writing in to complain about Student Registry. The date that the timetable would be available online was initially set for the end of the February, pushed back to 4th March and what do I find when I logged on midday 4th March, yes that they had pushed it back again.

However, when emailing in to complain about this, I get an email back with my exam timetable on.

Surely Student Registry realise that students, especially 3rd years such as myself, need this timetable in order to prepare. They informed me in my lovely email that departments had the timetable.

Another case of communication meltdown by the University - remind me again what my £3,000 a year pays for?

Helen Thompson
Cartmel College

Crossword not hard enough

Dear Sir,

With the recent introduction of Sudoku and Anagram puzzles into SCAN, is it asking too much for the "Quick Crossword" to receive a similar facelift? Alternatively, can a second crossword be introduced? It seems rather patronising that a university newspaper should include a single, incredibly simple crossword that can be completed in less time than it takes to drink a County Coffee!

V. Ellis
Cartmel College

Response: Foreign language posters

Dear Sir,

It is disappointing to see that the 'foreign language posters' issue is still being documented in SCAN. The reality is that the confused, contradictory and ill-informed logic being employed is no longer worthy of attention for any readers out there. An anonymous contributor, whose main argument consists primarily of right wing rhetoric and sound bites, does not deserve a platform to attack the diversity of our student body.

This entire 'debate' has only served to give prominence to intolerance and paranoid xenophobia. It has attempted to position blame for intolerance on the presence of minority students; it is unacceptable. Let us end this matter now, and defend the multicultural nature of our university.

Aidan Williams
Cartmel College
Equality Campaigns Officer

Dear Sir,

Regarding the issue of Foreign Language posters, I am in agreement with atleast one of the replies, when I believe that they are certainly alienating. This though does not mean that I find foreign languages on posters offensive; nor that I believe they cause racial tensions within the university.

In essence I can emphasise where they are coming from and I do think the issue needs to be addressed.

To settle the problem I think a rule should be made for all posters that as long as you have a foreign language, a translation must be available. You can write them in French, Arabic or Mandarin but there must be an equivalent.

In regards to Ffion McKeown whose Welsh letter was both refreshing and beautiful, she set the example of showing what needs to be done.

Curtis Roskell
Cartmel College

Dear Sir,

I notice that all of the people raising objections to seeing languages other than English on campus published their letters anonymously.

Although there are circumstances where anonymity in letter-writing is desirable, I can't understand why this is afforded people who appear to be using their time at Lancaster University as a way of preparing for a career writing editorials for the Daily Mail. The great majority of people studying and working here have firsthand experience of the benefits of mixing with people from different backgrounds

It is generally agreed that one of the problems hindering the UK this century arises from our lamentable ignorance of other cultures and languages. Reading "Anonymous" you can see how we've got into this state.

Cliff Laine
Graduate College

Make a stand against Fascism

Dear Sir,

Last year's local elections despite the campaign vote no to fascism by Lusu, exposed the ignorance and naivety of many students. Fascism won the day and now represent this area in the European parliament. This makes me sick to my stomach and very angry. There are many reasons why people don't vote, but I can't think of one that is good enough. I will focus on two that were often given to me by people who had not voted.

The first is that people say there is no real choice, so what's the difference? This shows ignorance of politics; there are significant differences between the three main parties for example, differences on issues like the NHS and Europe that educated students will have opinions on. It also says that one does not care who gets in because they are all fine as far as one is concerned. Are we all happy and content that Fascism represents us in the European Parliament?

The second reason is apathy; there is no interest in politics or how this country is run. That means there is no interest in the morality, representation, role and deeds of this country in the world. We live in a free society of tolerance, respect and equality which is not something you find everywhere in the world. We have the right to hold our leaders to account for their mistakes as well as praise them, and we must defend that right.

I sincerely hope that students will make a stand against fascism at the general election. There is no braver or more honourable thing to do than defend your country, your friends and your family. This can be done in the ballot box as well as on the battlefield. Make a stand against Fascism.

David McGovern
Graduate College

LUSU is failing and does not represent student views

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to the editorial in the SCAN of 24th Feb (week7); since it was so obviously designed to provoke, I hope you won't mind me offering up my observations.

I was confused by the title: "Elections herald a new dawn for Student Union: Change is imminent [...] ultimate success is so attainable". Confused because the front-page story I'd just read reported an uncontested LUSU Presidency - a sure sign not only that LUSU is failing, but that we do not care whether it fails or not.

Perhaps you have noticed the same thing, for your polemic criticises apa-

thetic students - who you imagine cowering in dank pubs (Bowland?) and little rooms (a reference to the awful and overpriced housing offered by LUSU Housing? In that case make it dank and little).

Drawing opposite conclusions to you, I would attribute this to the complete irrelevance of the LUSU bureaucracy to the students it pretends to represent - indeed, the complete irrelevance of LUSU to anything except its President's CV. Of course, in this connection we see for whom SCAN really speaks - LUSU and not students - which explains why no-one reads it.

A final point relates us back again to your title once more. I would also

stress that change is imminent: vast and dangerous cuts; enormous tuition fees; increased intrusion of bureaucracy and of the State into universities; and strategies designed to render us powerless and eliminate our opposition before this is even articulated. LUSU is of the latter, which is why it is of no use to us.

My only advice can be to retreat, as you say, to those bars and rooms with your friends, and to get talking and to get organised. And then organise with friends of friends, and so on. Only in this way will we find the truly radical solutions that we need.

Clara Wilson
Graduate College

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40 days and 40 nights...without alcohol

Kristina Beanland

AS MY LENT challenge this year, I've decided to ditch my usual "I'll give up chocolate" promise, mainly because I always cave into temptation when I see the big displays of Cadbury's Creme Eggs (I swear they crop up earlier every year). Alcohol is not my vice by a long shot, I can happily go on a night out without getting rat-arsed, gazebo'ed or any similar term for it, and despite the typical student stereotype, there are people who will agree with me. Forty days and forty nights were spent in the desert by Jesus, fasting and resisting temptation from Satan himself. So being honest, six weeks dry probably isn't going to kill me.

The response I received when I told people I was giving up alcohol wasn't exactly what I was expecting. I've heard everything from "You'll never do it" to "I'd never do that, good on you" to people just laughing at me (either because they think I'm not serious, being stupid or can't survive the time without alcohol.) Even my eighteen year old brother told me that nights out without alcohol weren't as fun. Great. That was something I did not need to hear. I had my last night out with alcohol on the Monday before Pancake Day, and have managed to



survive one of my best friend's birthdays in the Sugarhouse sober (it's not too bad, you just notice the smell of feet more). But nothing like this was ever easy.

I need to remember that even if

drinking on a night out is fun (and believe me; I've had my fair share of good nights out with friends and alcohol before) this just makes it more of a challenge to give it up. There are plenty of reasons to ditch alcohol for

lent; the added bonus of the health benefits for one. Without trying to sound "preachy", alcohol is related to disturbed sleep patterns alongside more serious diseases like mouth cancer, heart attacks and strokes. By no

means would I suggest that six weeks off booze will prevent me from attracting all these things, but I am certainly getting a better night sleep at the moment. My bank balance isn't taking as big a hit either, as I am no longer taking out ten pounds more than I need; for more alcohol that I definitely don't need.

It's been near enough four weeks now and it's definitely a trial. I guess going out sober is interesting; you realise how much of an idiot you must look drunk. I've seen some sights, states and shockers recently; and it kind of makes me think, why did I want to do that to myself? Yes, I acknowledge it is fun when you are on a good night out, but when it spirals into arguments, fights and parts where you have to be told what you did, is it really worth the "oh my god, I didn't!?" moment? I'm not saying that I'm sacrificing drink forever. However, despite this experience making me feel better in myself, I still think that cold cider outside Lonsdale Bar in the summer is going to be too much for me to resist. This whole experience is making me realise that moderation is definitely the key. As my friend, Lonsdale President, Matt Power says, "Easy Tiger, Pause for a Soft Drink." Still, for now I'll struggle on. See you in the bar when this is all over, make mine a double.

Forgotten Easter The labours of the library

Claire Hazel

LIKE MANY OTHER traditional religious Holidays, Easter is celebrated globally, with each country adapting the Holiday and adding its own take on events. However, traditions are sometimes lost amongst the culture of one country and replaced by new ones, whilst others thrive; this is why the world's celebration of Easter is so diverse. Though some of us in Great Britain view it as a cultural norm to buy Easter eggs as early as January 1st in preparation for the Easter bunny, for some countries the concept of Easter eggs and Rabbits can be as far from 'traditional' as one can get.

No two celebrations are the same throughout Europe. The French celebrate Paques, which focuses on the idea of mourning for Christ. The church bells do not ring from Good Friday till Easter Sunday, when the children begin their hunt through the garden for Easter eggs hidden by their elders. Just across the border, the Germans refer to Easter as Ostern, thought to be named after the Anglo Saxon Goddess of Spring Eostre; the most distinctive feature of a German Easter are the bonfires lit on Easter Sunday to celebrate the end of winter. In Italy, the celebration of Easter is known as La Pasqua and consists of a large feast, where a roasted Lamb is served.

In Africa, Easter is the main celebration of Christian communities, an Easter Vigil begins in the afternoon and continues until dark. After church, traditional dances are performed as

people eat, drink and continue their celebration. Easter in Africa does not just serve a spiritual purpose, but also a social one as families come together and Christians and Non-Christians meet to share food, usually consisting of rice with some form of meat.

Brazil could be said to have the most flamboyant Easter celebrations of all countries. It begins with the Holy week rituals, when the blessing of the Palm branch takes place along with a procession walk, carrying the statue of the Virgin Mary. Brazil is most famously remembered for its Rio Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, which takes place before lent, a colourful parade where crowds gather to watch the dancers and the festivities, but Easter celebrations continue throughout the holiday. Other towns celebrate throughout the carnival but their traditions are better known for their folk dancing. On Easter day Gala carnivals are held throughout the country to commemorate the resurrection of Christ.

Lost amongst a field of commercialisation, Easter is quickly becoming yet another Holiday where its roots are forgotten. Chocolate eggs and the Easter bunny plague us for weeks in the lead up to Easter, but it is important to see that in the midst of the festivities the true importance of Easter is still remembered among many countries' traditional celebrations. The resurrection of Christ is celebrated globally throughout the Christian World as well as the coming of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and it can be seen that no matter what the cultural difference is in our Festivities, people still join together to celebrate.

Erica Macleod

AS A SECOND year, once you've passed the half way point of term, there is only so much procrastination you can wallow in before you must venture into the library to make a dent in the essay work-load. Difficult this may be, plagued as you are with distractions and worries which peck away at your mind like a heavy lead parrot; but this is not the only trouble which greets you beyond the swinging wooden gates of hell. The Secret Code of Library Etiquette. This unspoken policy of in-library behaviour is known by everyone, but you.

At first it's simple. As long as you don't ascend the staircase too tightly on the corners you can make it to the B Floor without smacking face-first into your lecturer/your ex/a load of books. Delve beyond the yellow section, however, and a deadening ominous still washes over you. Desks galore block your path, and head at each table snap up with annoyance to acknowledge you with irritated snarls. Each step you take clunks and rattles with mysterious noises you never previously realised you made. The water in the bottle in your bag swishes and splashes like the torrents of Niagra. The distance from now until you are out of their piercing eye-line seems to stretch on like your final paces to the gallows. Flashbacks from high school blind you; the school cafeteria with every seat taken, you loser, you freak. Out-cast by your peers, you resolve to remove that jangly keyring from your

bag and never wear heels in there ever again.

You move on. But you've been shuffling too fast. Biology? Physics? You flush as book references slip out of your sweaty hands, paper lost



amongst paper. Bending or kneeling would only result in more noise, more stares. "Amateur!" their silent faces cry, "you've never been here before!" they laugh, their stony stares silently mock.

Where are you? All the shelves look the same. A window! But no, it's a trap. It only looks out over the building opposite: more library. You scurry on, you turn right, you look left, you turn right again. Have you been here before? Following the soft sound of whispered academic chatter

is a no no, the thick books muffle all noise. Panic has truly set in. All sense of time is lost, you start stock-checking your on-person inventory: a bag of crisps, some poppets and a pack of spearmint wrigleys. How long will

that last? Three? Four days? Oh to die here in this musty learning environment, at least the parents would be proud. Surely even death by Carleton is better than this...

Light! Sound! Tables! The stairwell! Bounding downwards you are free! Half jogging you make a speedy exit, the library screaming its goodbye through the high-pitched constant wail of the security scanners and into the smoke-filled air of Alex Square.

I think next term I'll just use online journals...

Career Ladder: Neville Thurlbeck

Mae Dibly

THIS WEEK IN career ladder, SCAN speaks to Neville Thurlbeck, Chief Editor of the News of the World, about the realities and practicalities of newspaper journalism, an industry he has been working in for 16 years.

Neville, what degree did you study at Lancaster?

I studied English Literature and Theatre Studies.

What are the day-to-day realities of working on a newspaper? Every day is different, but as a staff writer you would typically be given 3 or so stories to work on, and then spend your time doing research and drawing on your network of contacts to create informative and interesting news stories. It can often be quite a solitary job, but the variety makes up for that. You have to be very persistent in garnering information and be willing to go undercover to infiltrate certain groups of people.

Can that get really dangerous?

Not at all; the worst I've ever encountered is a threat over the telephone!

How do you deal with the ethics of your job, especially when dealing with people's personal lives?

We have a rule which is that a story has to be in the public interest. We spend a lot of time debating that question, and

stressful job but I consider it a positive stress because you have the power to do something about it and change things.



like in many professions where ethics is a big issue, the key is finding a balance.

What would you say are the main pros and cons to a career in journalism?

Like I said it can be quite solitary and you may need to travel a lot to get your stories, so social and home life can be difficult. There is no denying that it is a

stressful job but I consider it a positive stress because you have the power to do something about it and change things. It can be disheartening when often only one in five of your investigations actually make it into the paper. But the flip side is the three or so moments when you make at least a small footnote in history. You'll never be a billionaire but you will have great fun and will never do the same thing twice.

What are the average salaries for a

newspaper journalist?

After training, you could start on a local newspaper on around 15k as a junior reporter, and earn up to 30k as a news editor. On the national papers, starting salaries are around 35k and work their way up to 110k for an editor.

What kind of person would be good at journalism?

Let me first dispel the myth that to be a journalist you need a first from Oxbridge. The typical profile of the average journalist is actually grammar or state school educated, with a degree from a redbrick university. We're not looking for firsts either; a degree is a yardstick of intelligence, which of course is important, but other traits are equally important. You need to have a middle-of-the-road character- not too shy but not too over confident either- because you need to be someone that people want to talk to, someone people trust. You should be inquisitive and have a strong interest in the world around you. An open-mind and even being a little obsessive are good traits to have too.

Okay, so if at this point we think that journalism sounds like a good idea, what three key pieces of advice would you give for kick starting your career?

1. Get published. Build up your clippings by speaking to editors of local papers. Become a freelance journalist

right now (there is no law on who can call themselves a journalist!) and write articles then submit them to every newspaper you think would print that type of story. Most writing is relevant, so online papers (as long as they have a reasonable decent reputation) and free papers all count.

2. Be prepared in interviews. If you have applied for a writing job, make sure you have a decent collection of cuttings and have a really good grasp of current affairs. You need to have read the papers that morning and have opinions on current issues.

3. Get in early. Many of the local and national newspapers have excellent trainee schemes but most people tend to apply in June, when university is all finished. Get your applications in now and you'll appear ahead of the game. Don't be put off by being knocked back and make sure to apply for as many traineeships as you can, as they are rare and therefore competitive.

Finally, with the onset of online media, what do you feel will be the future of the newspaper journalism industry?

I think there will be survivors and there will be failures in the next five to ten years. When news is free, the difference in quality gradually becomes very obvious. People will always want to read the news, and I believe they will be willing to pay a small amount to access news of a certain quality online.

HOW PREPARED ARE YOU?

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DON'T GET STRESSED OVER THE E-WORD!

A D V I C E . L U S U . C O . U K

TOP FIVE

FANCY DRESS COSTUMES

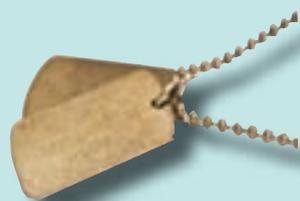
Every student in the country must have donned a fancy dress costume, it's practically an essential!



◀ **Geek**
It's all about geek chic. 3D glasses have made being nerdy officially cool again!



▶ **Toga**
Easy to do, but breezy in long queues at the legendary Carleton.



◀ **Army**
Camouflage and war-paint, perfect for sports teams or groups with attitude



▶ **Where's Wally?**
Blast from the past, 'Where's Wally?' has become the most popular retro outfit. He's over there!



◀ **Neon rave**
I've got love for you if you were born in the '80s! Never get lost in a club again!



Captain Bonny's world of food

TURNING RUSTY VESSELS INTO POLISHED ONES!

SHIVER ME TIMBERS and call me a three legged ferret dangling on a clothes line in a high south westerly – Catering have finally seen the light in regard catering for students! I had to bite my lip when I began writing this, as I haven't been the greatest fan of catering over the years. But with hand on heart, their new 'Weatherspoons' weekday menu certainly took me fancy.

It seems that this has been in the pipeline for a year, and was inspired by the laterally thinking mind of one of its more enlightened and catering experienced members. Having a wider variety of options served in the Cartmel bar section of the college, rather than huge expanse of the refectory seems total common sense and proving a winner with patrons. The new line began at the beginning of March, and the smaller space made it friendly and comfortable and one is able to have a pint with their grub as well!!

What caught my eye were the Share Dishes, which between 3 and 6 quid is not a bad price. With a few vege options as well (the staple Vege Lasagne – but come on folks a bit more imagination please, what about a vege Mousaka, and a vegan dish?), with sides orders including salads and garlic bread etc, variety seems to be the operative word for catering. Of course, though this new menu is appealing and affordable, it is not without its faults. For one, why serve Breakfast until 11am. If you go into town you can get a breakie until 11.30 in most

places. Other more practical establishments have an all day breakfast. With many students having exams and odd working hours, then having an all day breakfast sounds logical and possibly a way to make a lot of money. I mean, some students start their morning at 11am. With their light breakfast starting at a quid and a full one at 4 pounds, then



take-ups through out the day, be it morning or afternoon, wanting a big feed or a tiny morsel after a heavy night out!! (though sadly Lancaster university catering has still not seen the light in regarding selling hot crumpets of a morning!!!)

Naturally the argument is why not provide this at other catering outlets, as Cartmel is out on a limb a wee bit, and people living in North Campus, or

staff might find it a constant drag to get down there. To this question I was told that possibly the new development at County will do this in the future. But hang on a moment; what about taking some of this menu and making it available at say the venue or the management building cafe or even at the new 'jewel in the crown' – Grizedale. Surely such measures could be accommodated relatively shortly. There is also justification to keep this menu going at these other establishments during the summer itself, as there are a great many postgraduates (who are always forgotten and sidestepped by the university, taking their money and then give them a cheap deal) who at the height of their dissertation or thesis writing would benefit from this. With many staff also working here during that period, this community could likewise be catered for properly.

It seems that this initiative does need improvement, but it is a good start. For far too long the menu has been restricted, with it not always being student friendly and quite frankly one used to question the appearance and quality of what was being served. But from recent encounters with their menu, I would say that is beginning to seriously change. Creativity, affordable prices and a common sense approach may just save Caterings' neck. Possibly, me's thinks Mr Peaks should pick that particular persons brain far more often, as they seem to have their finger on the pulse, and know how to make a profit, don't you?

Campus icons

A glimpse into the life of Lancaster's famous faces

NAME: Andy Shaw

PROFESSION: Lonsdale Bar Landlord

STARSIGN: Capricorn

What is the best part about being Lonsdale's resident Landlord?

I think it would be meeting new people and the lovely new students

Who is your favourite member of staff?

It has to be Matty Gilford because he's ginger and that means I have to be nice to him. Only joking, he's a good lad really!

Lonsdale Bar hosted an incredibly successful New Years Eve party. What else have you got planned

for the rest of the year?

On the Friday of week nine, we've got a foam party with some pretty incredible DJ's including Groove Rider from Radio One and the Whip (Shameless name drop!) Tickets will be available from Lonsdale Bar and for more information, see our Facebook group.

Have you ever had to throw someone out in a Peggy Mitchell "Get out of my Pub!" style?

Only twice in six years behind this bar so I can't complain

Aside from your own,



which do you think is one of the best bars on campus and why?

Grizedale, it has a great new design and some pretty good cocktails (You can thank me for that later, Julian!)

If you weren't running a bar, what would you be doing instead?

I'd probably be working as a chef in some hot, sweaty kitchen!

Seen but not “Overheard”?

Lauren Ronsdale look at Lancaster’s very own Facebook phenomenon

EVER WONDERED WHERE those little gems of conversation end up? Those amazing moments where you hear another person say something that you know you shouldn't giggle at but you still do? “Overheard at Lancaster” solves that problem. Established on Facebook by Mike Parker, a student on his year abroad at UNL in Nebraska, “Overheard...” allows people to post amusing fragments of conversation that they've heard in and around the University and beyond. Parker states he is “not sure why it is popular. I guess people are nosey and love hearing snippets of other people's conversations, and it's an added bonus if what is said is really dumb!” It appears to be increasingly popular with students as a forum to share some of the more interesting pieces of conversation heard on a day to day basis.

Not everything about the conversations can be published though, there are rules! One, all posts are meant to be anonymous therefore no one is named and shamed for something ridiculous, though on occasions, some people just can't help themselves. Two, you can't be part of the conversation yourself so no additions from your own chats. Three, it has to have happened within Lancaster and finally, no boring conversations. Before anyone thinks this is like “Fight Club”, “Overheard...” is for all students as an outlet to share the funny

things heard on the bus, in the library and anywhere on campus. Similar to a group established by a student from Cartmel College, sites like “Overheard at Lancaster” are beginning to dominate Facebook for different universities around the country, there is even one

Girl: 'My adult teeth grew in front of my back baby teeth'

Guy: 'Woah, you're like a shark!'

By Tom Cummings on 18th January

There are new gems of conversation appearing everyday and I would truly



for our very own LUSU shop/Central. Some of the best from Lancaster include: My English Language lecturer: “Sorry I haven't marked your tests yet, I got the new expansion pack for World of Warcraft and hurt my elbow trying to level-up”.

By Hannah Leach on 4th January

recommend anyone to get involved and have a laugh at some of the things people come out with. It even has its own photo section for stupid things people have written or seen around the university. It is hard to resist some of the classics on the group, everything from sex to pizza to looking like a lemon is on there. Lancaster does indeed say the funniest things.

Recipes for disaster

Poppy Goodbrand puts our culinary skills to the test

Easter Carrot Cake

An easy and delicious carrot cake recipe that is ideal for all occasions and can make a nice Easter treat (decorate with mini eggs for a chocolate hit!)

Serves: 12 (makes 1 round cake)
Prep time: 15 mins plus decorating



Ingredients

For the cake:

- 250ml sun-olive oil (a mixture of sunflower and olive oil)
- 225g light muscovado sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 225g self-raising flour
- 250 coarsely grated carrots

- Plus a selection of mini Easter eggs or other decorations

For the topping:

- 25g unrefined golden icing sugar
- 250g mascarpone

For the decoration:

- Mini eggs
- Or why not get creative and come up with your own decorating ideas

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (gas mark 4). Grease and line a 20cm (8”) round tin with baking parchment.
2. Whisk the oil and sugar together, then whisk in the eggs one at a time.
3. Gently fold in the flour followed by the carrots. Mix gently till combined, and then scoop into the prepared tin.
4. Bake for 40 mins until golden brown and a cocktail stick inserted into the centre comes out clean. Cool in the tin for 10 mins, then turn out and cool on a wire rack.
5. Mix together the mascarpone and golden icing sugar. Spread over the top and sides of the cake with a palette knife. Decorate with the mini eggs and/or other decorations.

Lecture break

THE EASTER THEMED QUIZ

1. What day is Easter traditionally celebrated on?
2. Where does the name Easter come from?
3. Traditionally, how long is Lent?
4. What is traditionally given up on Good Friday by Christians?
5. Why do we give eggs at Easter time?

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Reasons to choose a LUSU Postgraduate house or flat for 2010/11...

LUSU Housing reserve a number of high quality shared houses for individual PGs that would like to live with other PGs in the city.

Average individual PG rents in our shared house are £71.50 per week on a 50 weeks lease.

We don't charge a deposit or a retainer – but do ask for a months' rent in advance to secure the tenancy.

All our shared household rents include LUSU's comprehensive utilities package to include wireless broadband, a telephone package and contents insurance.

Every LUSU House also comes with 24/7 boiler, plumbing, drainage and electrical cover.

LUSU also offer a good selection of 1 & 2 bed flats/houses suitable for couples and smaller families.

These properties are exclusive of utilities with the exception of water which is included.

Weekly rents for our 1 & 2 bed properties vary between £100 - £125 per week on a 50 week lease.

No deposit or retainer is payable on these properties but a months' rent in advance is required to secure any tenancy.

Demand for our PG houses is always high with availability being on a first come first served basis – so be quick to register your interest.



Thinking about living off campus?

Think of us...



Visit our office off Alex Square near LUSU or housing.lusu.co.uk for more info



Way better than anything Ant or Dec have to offer, Saturdays in Shagga are THE night to come out and Play. Front Room: Cawky brings you the very finest RnB, Urban and Hip Hop, from the biggest names to new found talent! Main Room: Melo and D.O.D share the wealth and mash up the best music out there, giving you and your ears unique sets each and every week. Entry: £3 B4 12. Doors: 10.30.

THE SUGARHOUSE
www.thesugarhouse.co.uk

THE SUGARHOUSE
www.thesugarhouse.co.uk

Transforming the ordinary

Catherine Holdsworth discovers a grotesque change for this term's Theatre Group

THIS TERM, THE Lancaster University Theatre group has decided to go against the grain and put on the play, *Metamorphosis* adapted by Steven Berkoff from Franz Kafka's novel. One morning, the character of Gregor Samsa wakes up to find himself transformed into a bug. Living with his parents and his sister, Gregor is the only breadwinner of the family and is unashamedly exploited by his parents for his dedicated work ethic. Even after the metamorphosis has taken place, Gregor is more concerned with how he will pay the bills. Shunned by his family for his drastic change, the family take on lodgers in order to make up for the lack in financial support.

One can interpret many different messages from the play through the metaphorical representation of Gregor. However, the play's directors, Oliver Trumble and Rachel Clutterbuck have decided to focus on the physical effects of Gregor's transformation. Stepping away from the traditional route of simply acting this play, they have decided to incorporate aspects of dance, physical movement and puppetry in an attempt to convey the true extent of how grotesque the metamorphosis is on not only Gregor but his whole family. There are three puppeteers who manipulate the actor playing Gregor as well as a puppet itself of a bug, creating a multi-layered sense of entrapment and imprisonment. This

effect is developed through the use of dramatic music and lighting, adding to the dehumanising transition.

Aside from the three puppeteers,



Metamorphosis begins on 9th March

there are eight speaking roles consisting of Gregor's family and the lodgers. Nevertheless, they too are accentuated caricatures of a family tied up in greed to notice the pain felt by their own son. On viewing the opening scene, this is no ordinary play, it is an artistic representation of the animalistic consequence of self-centred individuals. I asked Rachel Clutterbuck if she could describe

the play in three words, she came up with, 'extraordinary, grotesque and shocking'. This play is ultimately a tragic snapshot of the failure of a family to love and communicate as they should. There is a harsh juxtaposition of comedy and darker themes. The directors are keen to emphasise the humour and light relief, provided for the most part by the lodgers, in an attempt to accentuate the darker moments so much more.

However, putting the dark scenes aside, the cast and production team have all had great fun putting this play together. The warm-up games, which on the surface just looked like an excuse for a good laugh, were actually an exercise in physical movement and special awareness. Having only ever acted before, Rachel and Oliver thought directing would make a welcome change to their time in the theatre group. They need not worry, though, their inexperience does not show. The rehearsals show a deep love and understanding of a play which tries so hard to be unlovable performance.

The play will be performed on the 9th and 10th March at the Gregson Centre in Lancaster. Evening performances start at 7:30 and the Wednesday matinee will be performed at 2:30. Tickets are £5 and can be purchased on the door or by contacting the production team at metamorphosistickets@googlemail.com

Busy blowing

Max Stannard outlines ULMS hectic schedule and there upcoming performances

THE WEEKEND OF Week 9 will be a busy weekend for the University of Lancaster Music Society (ULMS). There will be performances on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday featuring almost all of their ensembles.

On Friday 12th March ULMS will host Cambridge University Brass Band who will perform a joint concert with the ULMS Brass Band, in the Great Hall at 7:30pm. The concert will start at 7:30pm in the Great Hall, with ticket prices slashed to only £1 for students. The finale will be a per-



formance by a massed band of all the players from two ensembles.

The Saturday, as I'm sure you will know, is Campus Festival. There will be four of the six main ensembles representing the Music Society with performances throughout the afternoon. They will kick off at 1pm with the ULMS Wind Band playing music from Musicals and films, followed by the ULMS Choir and Swing Group.

The climax will be the Symphony Orchestra who will play during a firework display at 7pm.

The following night, Sunday 14th March, is the Symphony Orchestra's concert as part of the ULMS 30th Anniversary Concert Series. This will take place in the Great Hall and start at 7:30pm. Tickets will be £3 for Students and £5 for Adults and are available on the door. Under the direction of Conductors Simon Gower and Alexander Phillips, the repertoire will include Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, known as his Pastoral Symphony, French Horn Concerto No. 1 by Richard Strauss, played by Lucy Herd, and Polovetsian Dances by Alexander Borodin.

The weekend will be very busy for the Music Society as we have almost all of our ensembles playing at some point, which will require a lot of work, by both our committee and members. Hopefully the enjoyment of the audiences and extra publicity will make it all worthwhile.

This weekend will see the final performances of ULMS ensembles before the annual 'Proms' concert Saturday 19th June (week 9, summer term) that features all of the societies ensembles in one night, and is the highlight of the ULMS Concert Series. For more information about ULMS visit their website www.ulms.org.uk, the 'ULMS' Facebook group or email ulms@lancaster.ac.uk.

Why playing games in the film industry ends badly

Culture Editor Hannah Fearon explores the adaptation of video games to films

FILM ADAPTATIONS OF video games are renowned for being a bit of a failure. Okay, a huge failure. They tend to disappoint existing audiences or alienate new ones, and this is where the problem seems to lie. Films such as *Tomb Raider* or *Resident Evil* have perhaps appealed to new audiences rather than satisfying existing fans of the games. Whilst 2008 film *Max Payne*, was perhaps more successful in portraying a game-like style, the film was slated by critics and fans for being so different from the game and it didn't really appeal to new audiences either.

In fact, there are very few successes in the world of films based on games. The *Final Fantasy* films have arguably been the most popular amongst gamers, but have never really broke into the mainstream and have more of a cult following.

With a new *Tekken* film set for release this year, along with *Resident Evil: Afterlife* and an animated film based on hugely successful Nintendo DS game, *Professor Layton*. But are these films really going to appeal to a mainstream audience? *Tekken* is a martial arts film, already only hitting a small area in the market. *Resident Evil* is another sequel to a series that became tired and tedious long ago. Then there's *Professor Layton* and his ever so curious village, is that really what audiences want to see on the big



screen?

Then along comes action/adventure *Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time*. Set for release on 21st May this year, *Prince of Persia* stands a good chance of breaking this pattern of commercial failure. The film is based on the 2003 game of the same name. Starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton and Ben

Kingsley. The film is produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, a man with a rather spectacular list of films he has worked on, including *Top Gun*, *Armageddon*, *Black Hawk Down*, *Pearl Harbour* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

The film follows the character of Dastan (Gyllenhaal), a street urchin in sixth century Persia that is adopted by

the King as his heir after showing great valour in battle. A villainous nobleman (Kingsley) has acquired the Sands of Time, a gift from the Gods that has the power to control time, and Dastan must rescue it with the help of Princess Tamina (Arterton).

With a successful producer and a pretty decent cast, *Prince of Persia: The*

Sands of Time could be the next step in breaking game based films into the mainstream. However, many gamers are often disappointed with film adaptations and *Prince of Persia* may be no different. After all, if you've played the game is there any enjoyment in watching the film, in which your active role in the narrative is replaced by that of a mere spectator. Whilst the film may let down the games existing fan base, it may well bring forth a new one. *Prince of Persia* will be a film that won't simply just appeal to those who have played the game, but an audience that aren't gamers, who enjoy a good action/adventure film. Like with novel adaptations, this is a dilemma that faces directors and producers when adapting a game for the big screen. Film makers must face the dichotomy of whether to satisfy existing fans, or find new ones. Adaptations from novels or games never seem to be capable of doing both, either disappointing fans or being targeted at people who have read the novel or played the game. Think about something such as the *Twilight Saga* or *The Lovely Bones*, films that completely split the audience in two. However, with perhaps not having as big of a following as many popular novels or games such as *Resident Evil* or *Tekken*, perhaps *Prince of Persia* could be the film to change this. Watch this space.

Living in a Cave

By Cal King



Anyone who knows me will say that I am probably a bit of a worrier. I suppose I'm a bit of a Woody Allen type, and I'm one of those people who'll lie awake at night worrying that they might be neurotic. I have identity crises when someone spells my name wrong, and won't even mention how I get when my monthly phone bill arrives addressed to "Mrs Calum King". Hopefully the picture I'm painting is vivid enough for you to have a grasp of what I'm like as a semi-functional human being. So, when I began to watch the long-running tv show *Peep Show* recently, I felt like I'd found a soul mate, a nerdy kindred spirit, by the name of Mark Corrigan.

Mark is a sad man, stuck in an incredibly boring job; his love life (when he manages to have one) is awful, aided by his neuroticism, awkward behaviour and overwhelming sexual dysfunction; and on top of all that, he looks like a younger version of Harold from *Neighbours*. Mark doesn't really have a lot going for him, and that's where most of the comedy comes from in *Peep Show*; well, him and his hedonistic and virile flatmate, Jez.

It's hard not to relate, at least a bit, with Mark and Jez, as you watch them fail miserably at everything from employment to relationships, from working in a Mexican restaurant to canal boating. Despite the extreme scenarios they get themselves into, a lot of the awkwardness that might feel quite familiar: discovering gatecrashers at your party, ("there is an exclusion zone around you, a cordon sanitaire") or being bothered by the neighbourhood kids, ("F**k of cleanshirt!")

Essentially, each episode begins and ends in a similar way. The silliness increases and tension builds until the end, when usually something awful and incredibly unfortunate happens. I had to pause the DVD almost every episode, just out of embarrassment, and because I really didn't want to see what would happen next. It's even more embarrassing than the picture of me at the top of this column.

It comes as a bit of a relief then, that the next episode usually doesn't even refer to the outcome of the previous one; the slate is wiped clean and we're spared the inevitable melt-downs, break-ups and court-cases that would probably have resulted. I love it. It's crude and slightly offensive at times, but it's also charming and hilarious. The characters are mad, but also have real personalities, particularly the main cast, and though the situations they find themselves in are horrifying.

You also can't ignore the fairly strong homoerotic vibe between the two main characters. It's hinted at throughout the course of the seasons, and you get the impression that if all their attempts with women continue to fall through, they might just accept their fate and grow old together, like *And* and *Dec*.

Gaiman's tale brought to life

Hannah O'Flanagan experiences the hard work LUTG firsthand in the production *Neverwhere*

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY THEATRE Group's production of Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*, an original adaptation, was an enigma to many. Director Peter Slaney had written the script himself, and just as many people entered the Nuffield Theatre not knowing what to expect, as there were people who were avid fans of both the original BBC production, and the subsequent novelisation. The effort the entirety of the cast and crew had put into this production was evident from the moment one walked into the auditorium and saw the set that had been constructed from hand by all involved.

What started with a tense opening as the Lady Door ran panting across the stage, closely followed by assassins Mr's Croup and Vandemar, sometimes struggled to keep up with the intensity and excitement the first scene provided. Whilst the direction throughout the play was excellent, and there were charming pieces of detail within each scene. Elaborate effects produced by lighting and sound were, on the whole, extremely effective; the eerie and menacing Knights-bridge sequence and Richard Mayhew's ordeal were two of the most successful examples. However, it sometimes fell slightly short of the mark; and whilst the darkness of the stage did provide a dingy atmosphere (especially when in London Below) some of the action took place a little too far outside of the light and the audience missed the finer details of it. This was similarly awkward when it came to the split level staging, as at



Alex Wimbush in his portrayal of the character Richard Mayhew (Photo: Fred Thomas)

times the audience would be distracted by set up going on in different parts of the stage, but this is a risk many directors and productions have to face. There were a few technical errors throughout, but the cast and crew sailed through these with a professional attitude that was to all of their credit.

The cast as a whole were very good; for many, this was their first Theatre Group production, or indeed, their first substantial role. Yet again, it seemed that some of the larger characters could have done with an extra week or so of

polishing in rehearsals to fully make them confident in their performance; but on the time scale they were unfortunately given, each of the main parts did exceptionally well. Alex Skitt's Marquis de Carabas in particular was a well rounded and likeable character, portraying his 'likeable rogue' and 'man about town' traits well. Many of the smaller characters were just as finely tuned as the major roles, and produced some of the most memorable moments of the production; notable examples include Jess Burge's Abbot, Katherine Meyrick's

Old Bailey, Steffen Zschaler's Earl and Paul Hughes' Mr Stockton. There was also an ingenious piece of casting and directing for the beast sequence.

All in all, *Neverwhere* was an enthusiastic and ambitious production, although it sometimes seemed a little disjointed and suffered from unfortunately limited rehearsal time. However, whilst it possibly reached a little too far with the time it was given, it managed to pull off a successful, entertaining and imaginative piece of theatre.

The dying breed of certain genres

Lauren Randall takes a look at the dwindling popularity of film genres

RECENTLY I'VE NOTICED that certain genres of films haven't been appearing as frequently as they once did. Whilst there's an influx of comic-book superheroes, biopics and Meryl Streep comedies, more of the old-style films of Hollywood are being pushed to one side. It could even be suggested that some genres are dying out and being replaced by bigger, more original styles of filmmaking such as extravagant sci-fi, gory horror and quirky-family flicks.

Let's start with the Western, a genre that illuminated the silver screen in the mid-twentieth century. The real boom came following John Ford's *Stagecoach*. Not only did the film become one of the most acclaimed westerns, it also featured a man who would become an icon of the genre, one John Wayne. Ford and Wayne forged a bountiful partnership, working on more than twenty films together. Westerns evolved into the spaghetti westerns in the sixties and seventies, making stars of people like Clint Eastwood and Sergio Leone.

Nevertheless, since then the population has waned. The nineties briefly flirted with a revival thanks in part to Eastwood and his Oscar-winning *Unforgiven*, Sam Raimi's *The Quick and the Dead* and Richard Donner's *Maverick*. The noughties were less successful. *Open Range*, *Appaloosa* and *The Proposition*, all commended films, were largely ignored by audiences. Tragically, it seems that the once firing genre is los-



ing the gunfight.

Speaking of guns, the good-old gangster film seems to be disappearing too. Reborn time and time again, the mob film has been a staple of cinema. It's shown audiences the grit and glamour and characters that we equally love and loathe such as the inimitable Michael Corleone. Sadly, recent gangster films have been lacking. Notably an audience. *The Departed*, an Oscar winner in 2007, was popular but is regarded as one of Scorsese's weakest whilst American

Gangster and *Public Enemies*, though critically acclaimed, left some cinemagoers cold or, even worse, indifferent.

There's more as well. Sweeping epics—think *Lawrence of Arabia* or *Gone With The Wind* are nowhere near as prominent as previously. Once brimming with tender romance, characterisation and, well, epic journeys, the epic is now an SFX man's Eden. The last traditional epic was Antony Minghella's *The English Patient* back in 1996. The film swept the Oscars, as did *Titanic* and

Gladiator, which heavily borrowed from the genre. However, disappointments such as *Australia* have resulted in bad press and a disinterest in the melodramatic features.

However, there is a ray of hope for the 'dying' genres. If someone had said ten years ago that a pirate-adventure film would have been a success they'd have been banned from Hollywood, especially after the box-office disaster *Cutthroat Island* in the nineties. Yet *Pirates of the Caribbean* revitalised a genre that had been dead and buried for decades. Starring silver-screen legends like Maureen O'Hara and Errol Flynn, the films had been considered box-office dynamite before fading away. Now they're back with a vengeance. Let's not forget that genres evolve with time. Film noir reignited interest in the nineties with neo-noir, heightening the characteristics of the original genre.

There might be hope for the western and mob-film after all. Whilst genres may go a long time without success it seems that they don't just disappear. They're not allowed to. Cinema, TV and DVDS preserve the classics, ready to inspire new filmmakers. The fact that people are still trying to make these films, whether they're successful or not, shows that there's still love for these genres. Maybe we just have to be patient and wait a couple of decades. Heck, if *Pirates of the Caribbean* can overcome *Cutthroat Island* anything's possible.

The Reviews

The Film by Rebecca Pocklington



The Lovely Bones
Directed by: Peter Jackson
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Saoirse Ronan, Stanley Tucci, Rachel Weisz
Release Date: 19th February 2009
Certificate: 12A
Runtime: 135 minutes



THE LOVELY BONES is an extremely powerful film, adapted from the novel of the same name by Alice Sebold and directed by Peter Jackson (Lord of The Rings trilogy). The film grips the audience from the start, taking place in 1973 as a fourteen-year-old girl named Susie Salmon (Saoirse Ronan) is murdered by her neighbour. The story follows her as a happy child, with a solid family, who is just starting to develop an interest in boys. She is growing up as any teenager would, grasping the attention of her odd neighbour George Harvey (Stanley Tucci). We watch as he starts to make plans for her eventual murder, by slowly digging an underground room beneath a neighbouring cornfield, and luring her in to it on her way home from school. What follows is a remarkable adaption of Heaven and

Earth side by side, as Susie follows her murderer through his bizarre lifestyle and desperately tries to give her family clues as to who it is, from the 'in-between'.

The film plays on several emotions throughout as Susie's family slowly get dragged down by her death. Her parents grow apart as each copes differently, her father determined to find the killer at any costs. The storyline is one that many people may relate to and with the amount of abductions occurring in real life; this film is a lesson to all. George Harvey appears as a friendly neighbour who likes to keep to himself and on the surface, wouldn't hurt a fly, but as we slowly learn more about his complex character, he appears steadily more creepy and disturbed.

As Susie's father (Mark Wahlberg) becomes more obsessed with the hunt for his daughter's killer, it brings him closer and closer to danger, as the film constantly shifts between his confused emotions and the plans of the killer George Harvey. Harvey starts to have a compulsive need to kill again, immediately putting the Salmon family in danger, as his obsession starts to centre on Susie's younger sister Lindsey Salmon (Rose McIver). What may appear to be a typical horror movie couldn't be further from it in parts, showing a psychological battle of emotions in all the characters that grips the audience and helps them relate to each one individually.

The film very effectively brings two different worlds together, in a way that often surprises the audience. You may have a typical view

of heaven representations in film as often being very unrealistic, however Jackson manages to capture a sort of reality in his film that seems natural when watching. Susie's surroundings change constantly in her own world, mirroring her emotions and memories of her past life, which links her with her old life at all times. She seems reluctant to 'move on' like she is supposed to, feeling a desperate need to help her family find out the truth. As she does this, she starts to find out more about her murderer and each new discovery is more shocking than the last.

The Lovely Bones is without a doubt a clever and astonishing adaption of a young girl's feelings and memories as she struggles to cope with her own death. The film constantly keeps you on your toes, not knowing what the killer's next move will be, and this is what makes it so exciting. At times the plot may become confusing, trying to piece together exactly what has happened to Susie, however it soon becomes clear due to any following events. The disturbing portrayal of George Harvey is certainly one of the most effective features of the film, leaving you constantly questioning his motives, which never really become clear. He plans everything with obvious precision and so when he is caught off guard, it surprises the viewer to see a different more urgent side to his character, which keeps the film complex and moving. I would certainly advise the film to anyone due to its genuine grip on the audience's emotions from the very start, and in my opinion it rarely disappoints.

The Single by Grace Fitz

Arctic Monkeys



A far cry from the catchy Indie Pop of the first two albums, 'My Propeller' will be the third single released from Humbug and is a perfect example of the new direction being taken by Alex Turner and his monkeys. Although some of the defining elements are still there, the clever riffs and intelligent lyrics, this could be a completely different band. However, this doesn't mean it's not a good record; in fact it's a brilliant record. The band have simply grown up and decided to play with something different. Avoiding getting stuck in a musical rut making a distinct change in your music is a brave step. I'm sure they have alienated some of the original followers but with the new blood they get with brilliant singles such as this one it's well worth it. The song itself employs a heavy riff and simple but intelligent lyrics, which unlike most of Turners songs can remain open for interpretation. Changes in rhythm drive the track forward and avoid it becoming too monotonous. This poetic song is to me proof that this band has a lot of life and talent left in them yet.



The Play by James Anderson

William Shakespeare' The Merchant of Venice



Doubtless many students navigate in Lancaster using the castle as a landmark, but how many of you have been inside? Are you aware this historic building plays host to prisoners, a crown court, guided tours and the theatre? A preview, performed on Tuesday 23rd February, proved that the castle's old stone walls form an effective shelter against the cold, and the brilliance with which this tale was enacted. The play is a promenade, where the change of scene is accomplished by the producer guiding the audience from one location to another within the castle. A product of the unusual stage is that the audience is more intimately connected to the actors, which appears to result in continual performances from the cast, whilst they remain in view. It is lamentable that only Shylock earns the disdain of the audience, because the quality with which the actor plays his part is truly convincing, almost to the point where you might be prepared to think ill of the man and not the character. The Merchant of Venice is a Shakespearean comedy with subtle humour aplenty, combined with some more blatant jokes, which are only enhanced by the actors. A particular source of additional humour in this rendition is provided by the character of Launcelot, whose scenes are a brilliant interlude to the main plot. If any real fault may be found in this theatrical version of The Merchant of Venice I believe it would be the price of £21-£23 per ticket which is comparatively expensive. However, such 'extortion' may be explained by the exclusivity of the performance, which, thanks to the castle itself, allows only 60 guests to form the audience. When this is considered in light of the brilliant performances, the settings, the music, and the overall experience the price suddenly seems a little less significant.

The TV Show by Steph Earle

Lost



So, Lost is back, and for what promises to be the last series. It would be reasonable to assume we'd be getting some answers to the hundreds of questions the previous five series raised then. Well, not in the first few episodes it would seem. Instead, in true Lost style, there just seem to be more unexplained and confusing twists to a plot that would already look like a pile of spaghetti if represented in picture form. However, I'm not sure this is a wholly bad thing. Sure, it would be nice to get a few things straight, all the questions surrounding Walt for example, or the numbers. The new questions have been introduced with a familiar flair; cliffhanger endings, a shaky, fast-moving camera all accompanied by screeching strings increasing the suspense. Indeed the music is one of the most effective elements of the show, the tension immediately soaring



the moment the piano and violin combination kicks in. It seems to me that Lost is doing what Lost does best – keeping us guessing without us getting bored waiting. Some things have been resolved, or at least partially so, we know that detonating the hydrogen bomb at the end of Season 5 did prevent Oceanic 815 crash for example. I for one will be watching every week, because whatever happens, it certainly won't be anything you saw coming.

In Focus: The American Football Team

Julian Surface
Sports Editor

A SPORT THAT requires physical strength speed tactics and flawless teamwork, American Football has become one of the most successful and prosperous sports at Lancaster University. Even though it has often been considered by students as, simply for Americans, it has flourished amongst all students and now boasts a diverse and determined squad.

Many opponents had considered the early success of the Lancaster Bombers to be largely due to the American players who have now left the team. Amongst the three players lost was Matt Saint-Jean, a determined quarterback and leader who took Lancaster to victory against Lincoln, Liverpool and Derby. It was considered by other teams in the league to be the source of Lancaster's ability, and they came to Lancaster with that mentality. However, the Bombers have proven repeatedly this year that they are not a one man team and they have the depth, ability and flexibility to deal with anything thrown at them. Craig Jantzen has stepped into the role well and, with superbly accurate short passes and running. The team has an impressive record of six wins and one loss, and has the potential to bring back silverware, this year.

The game against Manchester was a



Big time: The Bombers have improved this season (Photo: Helen Worthington)

superb example of their ability, as they scored a touchdown in each quarter. Dave Barnett got his name on the score sheet with a sweeping run down the left, assisted by great blocking to clear his path. The second was a superb run from Jantzen, and Barnett managed a second run to push the Bombers into a strong lead. The ten yard line push has been the most lethal weapon in Lancaster's arsenal and a throw to Martin Fitzpatrick completed the victory. Two of these were converted and it racked up an impressive 28-0 victory. Defensively, Lancaster has the second best record in

the division. Tim Barton, defensive captain and middle line-backer, has put in an impressive 12 to 15 tackles per game. In addition, Tom More, the defensive and offensive line-man, has been phenomenal at breaking through the line and hitting opponents hard. However, many consider it to be the team unity and superb training regimes that have been the key factor for success.

Last year, the Bombers had a frustrating season, recording only one win and seven losses. The squad of twenty has been forced to use players in both offensive and defensive lines, requiring

unbelievable stamina. Outnumbered at almost every game, the Lancaster team has forced its way up the table with the aid of a highly supportive cheerleading squad. Players are forced to fight through harsh weather conditions and brave the ice and snow, with intense fitness drills.

Coaching has been most impressive this season, as Lancaster have been lead by the charismatic Currie Todd, as well as Mike Rudd and David Carter. Many students, who have never picked up an American football in their life, have been turned into the successful student athletes they now are. Drills include fitness, quarterback practice, and wide receiving amongst many. The play book of tactics is discussed and the game works on both a strong mental level as well as physical. The sport requires each player to outwit and outperform the one in front, and trust in the team around you.

Certainly the team president (Luke Farrow) and secretary (Matt Neve) have done a great deal to improve the team. They have been publicizing themselves with great performances and are confident in beating York in. When asked about the competition, Neve was very confident, stating, 'we won last year, we've already beaten York 14-0, which didn't do us justice, but we may be playing on the pitches rather than the Astro-turf. We are not used to that ground.' He called for the supporters to come and watch the game, since, 'small teams

are dangerous. When the cheerleaders come, they give something to the team.'

Many have been put off by the price tag of 100 pounds for membership, but are unaware what that buys. Lancaster is one of the cheapest Universities around the country for this sport, eclipsing others by around 50 pounds, partially due to financial support from LUSU. The fee buys a complete set of equipment, all the coaching regimes, the games and the social wonders of the sport. The team has organized paintballing and a player auction in order to get more funding for the sport. Matt Neve, the future president, has encouraged support and more interest in the sport and would like to see people coming down for 'something new and a great challenge.' It has been somewhat frustrating for certain players who have been injured and Luke Farrow has suffered a devastating knee injury that will rule him out of Roses.

Even though results have improved, participation has remained the same, and now that the team has become successful, more will surely come. The team has not been in BUCS this year but next year it is likely to change.

The American Football team has come exceedingly far this season and more support will only serve to improve the performances. A full offensive and defensive squad would be superb and backup for injured players and could help bring the sport into the spotlight in future years.

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This week has been the election period for the Full Time Executive Officer roles and it really doesn't feel like it's been a year since I was in that position. All the manifesto and campaign promises that are flying about from various candidates has made me think back to the promises and ideas that I came up with when I was running for office. My main focus was making sure I was committed to improving the sporting experience at Lancaster and I like to think that the things I've done so far this year have achieved that. One of my aims was to increase the participation and success of the Carter Shield competition and I really think the Carter Shield has worked well this year. This is very much because of such hard working IC Sports Coordinators Marc and Lauren, and all the college sports reps who have been committed in pushing the events and encouraging students to get involved. One of the things I didn't fully achieve this year was to get Grad college more involved in Carter Shield, but they have taken part in one event this year, which is a step in the right direction. On the AU side, I have stuck to my promise of standing up for the teams and fighting for better sporting provision and although undoubtedly in this position it's inevitable that I have made some enemies, but I like to think I've represented the teams fairly and that they feel I am a leader for them.

This brings me onto what some regard as the be all and end all of the VP (Sport) year in office—Roses. It has been a massive part of my year and a lot is resting on the success of the event. I like to think that if the event itself is successful, runs well and everyone enjoys themselves then I will be praised for doing so. But everyone knows that the result is key and a Lancaster win will crown my year in office a success. Everything myself and my team of keen exec members have been working towards this year is for a Lancaster victory and I, more than anyone, would be absolutely gutted to be defeated by York yet again. I have confidence in the teams and I have belief in our students and the support that we are building will push us to the top for sure. I know the event is going to be fantastic. I'm so incredibly excited about it and I want everyone to have a great time. I want to say a massive thank you to UPP, Ernst & Young and the Friends Programme for giving us the funds to be able to put on a spectacular competition and I hope that our teams can do us proud and bring the Carter James trophy back home to where it belongs.

Lancaster dash Liverpool's hopes

Matthew Todd

THE MEN'S 2ND team secured a crushing 6-2 victory against Liverpool Hope to move to the top of Northern Conference. Despite the heavy pitch, both teams put on a decent performance; although it was Lancaster who profited thanks to some clinical finishing.

An early pattern was emerging in this match, with Liverpool unable to deal with the aerial bombardment of Lancaster long throw-ins. As early as the fourth minute, Andrew Castle took advantage of uncertainty in the Liverpool area to go close.

However, it was not all one-way traffic and Liverpool may consider themselves unfortunate not to have opened the scoring. A superb block from Bill thwarted a Liverpool effort and sharp reflexes from Hannay in goal saw a header pushed onto the post.

With the cut-up playing surface making flowing football difficult it was apt that the deadlock was broken thanks to a long throw. The Liverpool keeper decided to come for the ball and got nowhere near it, allowing Creegan to tap in at the far post.

The second goal came courtesy of a bizarre piece of defending. Another Lancaster throw sailed towards the goal line, evading every player until a Liverpool defender scooped the ball clear with his hand. The hosts were



Goal rush: Lancaster top of the league after crushing 6-2 victory

not in a forgiving mood and Captain Creegan slammed home the penalty to put Lancaster 2-0 up with 25 minutes played.

Liverpool heads were down and their defence was being overrun. First Andrew Castle smashed home from a header cushioned in to his path, and another long throw in was poked home after a goalmouth scramble to make it

4-0 at half time.

The hairdryer treatment dished out to Liverpool at the break appeared to work as the early stages of the second half were much more competitive. A flurry of goals started in the 52nd minute when half time substitute Johnson tapped in to reduce the deficit after some heroic Lancaster defending.

Col Bridge restored the four goal buffer by tucking home from a yard out. Hannay then gifted Liverpool a second goal when he misjudged a long ball and Johnson doubled his tally by tapping into an empty net.

This second strike woke Lancaster up and they battled out a scrappy period against a Liverpool side who now fancied their chances. There were a few cynical fouls creeping into the game and the referee did well to maintain control over both sets of players.

As Liverpool poured forward, Creegan found more space in the centre of the Lancaster midfield and was able to break on several occasions.

The final chance for Liverpool came on 81 minutes when some neat football released their pacey striker with a clear run on goal. However, it was Hannay who would redeem himself by superbly turning the Liverpool shot over the bar, to the relief of manager Jimmy Huck.

This was to be Liverpool's last foray into Lancaster territory, as the home side dominated the last 5 minutes. A sixth was added after a quick corner from Col Bridge was headed in at the near post. Lancaster knew that victory was theirs and closed out the last few minutes professionally, passing the Liverpool side into submission.

The excellent result means the second team have now gone seven matches without defeat and have a great chance of winning the league, with just a point required in a repeat of this game on 17th March.

Lancaster crush Cheshire in third quarter to win final home game 74-64

Joe Hardacre

LANCASTER MEN'S BASKETBALL ists overcame a disappointing first half to finish their final home game of the season in style. A dominant second half from the hosts brought them closer to the second spot in the division and caused Cheshire their 9th loss of the campaign.

The home side jumped to an early lead and stifled Cheshire with intelligent defensive play, expertly anticipating passes and forcing a number of turnovers in the first few minutes. Cheshire sank their first basket with just over 6 minutes played to level the score despite Lancaster's fantastic early defensive play.

Cheshire crowded the paint area and refused to allow Lancaster easy drives to the basket, while the home side's shooters struggled to take advantage of the extra space granted to them.

Both teams shot wastefully over the first two quarters with Lancaster's cold-shooting threatening to spoil a fantastic offensive rebounding performance from James Dunne, who had 14 offensive rebounds in the first half alone.

Despite Lancaster's dominance in the early stages the team was unable to hold onto their lead for so long as Cheshire began to get into an offensive rhythm. They outscored Lancaster 28-



Slam dunk: Lancaster rallied for a narrow win (Photo: Ben Robins)

17 over the remainder of the first half and held a 3 point lead heading into halftime.

Lancaster started the third quarter as they did the first with smothering defensive play which allowed them to swiftly regain the lead. Starting point guard BK Sibanda swamped Cheshire's ball-carriers, coming up with a multitude of steals and finishing neatly at the rim with a series of fast break lay-ups, pushing Lancaster's lead to 12 points in

the first 5 minutes of the half.

While the defensive intensity let-up slightly as the quarter progressed, continued hard-work and intelligent ball movement more than made up for its absence for the home side. Dunne continued his efforts on the offensive glass while both Aaron Kuiper and Charalambos Hadjitheodosiou carried the load offensively, finishing with 12 and 19 points respectively. Hadjitheodosiou went on to sink a series of 3 pointers to

keep Lancaster's lead in double figures.

Lancaster's lead was never threatened for the remainder of the game and although the fourth quarter was even, it was ultimately meaningless due to Lancaster's dominance in the third. They maintained a double digit lead for the majority of the fourth, eventually cruising to a 74-64 victory.

The game carried with it a plethora of positives for the Lancaster team; the fantastic effort on the offensive boards was key to the victory and highlighted the level of effort shown by the entire team, although this effort was perhaps undermined by a somewhat poor shooting night for the team, especially in the first half.

Lancaster can look to a number of spectacular individual performances from players such as Sibanda, who starred on the stat sheet with 10 points, 9 steals, 6 assists and 7 rebounds, or Hadjitheodosiou who finished with 6 steals and 5 rebounds to go along with the 19 points he earlier scored.

Despite posting impressive numbers, they pale in comparison to what was a transcendent performance from Dunne who finished with 15 points, 3 steals and an astonishing 20 rebounds, with 18 of them coming at the offensive end.

While it's obvious Lancaster can't expect such performances every game, they can be very confident ahead of next week's vital away fixture against unbeaten UCLAN.

Lancaster crowned title champions

Kim Megson

LANCASTER CLINCHED THE title with a convincing 6-0 demolition of Keele on a day which summed up the success they have enjoyed this season.

The team came into the fixture on an undefeated run of twenty three games, an amazing achievement at any level. They had secured promotion a few games previously, but second place Bangor (only a few points behind and with a superior goal difference) were still in contention for the top honours unless Lancaster could beat a Keele side who were toiling near the bottom of the league.

The away side started brightly for the opening exchanges of the match, taking the game to Lancaster. They had an effort cleared off the line after eight minutes, and were unlucky not to score from a penalty corner soon after.

It did not take Lancaster long to get into gear though, and it was them who opened the scoring on ten minutes when Konni Klein worked well to create some space and fire in. From then on it never looked like Keele would overcome this Lancaster side riding high on confidence, and hungry for goals. The game was twenty four minutes in when Jack Palmer made it two with another unstoppable shot, this time into the



The winning habit: Lancaster in action earlier in the season (Photo: Joe Kinnear)

corner of the goal.

It would have been three a few minutes later when the Keele keeper produced a fantastic save, the first of many, to deny Alex Halls. However there was nothing he could do when shortly after his team conceded a penalty corner. His save from the resultant set piece was parried to the left, allowing Lancaster to put a cross in for Klein

to score again.

Following the goal one of the Keele players, who had already been given a warning green card for a bad tackle earlier on, ill advisedly started arguing with the match official. He was shown a yellow card for his trouble, meaning he was sin binned for the opening period of the second half.

Lancaster wasted no time in making

the most of this numerical advantage as they started the half very strongly. They should have made it four one minute after the break, but they failed to find an end product after the ball had been passed expertly into the box. They made up for this just one minute later when captain Lyam Hollis crossed into the centre of the penalty area. The defender should have dealt with it bet-

ter, and his failure to clear gifted an opportunity to Alex Halls, who did not think twice before slamming the ball past the keeper.

With the result all but secure now, Lancaster began playing some lovely hockey, completely dominating the midfield and restricting Keele from forming any sort of challenge. Soon four became five as Hollis, the team's top scorer this year, dived in to deflect the ball into the net.

With the match, promotion and now the title all secured, Lancaster briefly became complacent, and the defence switched off to allow the Keele forward to run through on goal. He should have scored, but hit his shot tamely at the keeper, who blocked to ensure he kept a clean sheet (something that the team have not managed in a few games). The opportunity was their last sniff at goal.

Lancaster wrapped up the victory on sixty minutes when Hollis got his second, and his team's sixth, with a fine drag flick that went over the keeper into the roof of the net. They were content to see out the match then with long stretches of possession, creating a few more half chances that were hit narrowly wide.

Hollis spoke to SCAN on the teams success. He said: "We are ecstatic with our achievements this season. We hope to keep on winning next year and see what happens."

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Boat club row through the snow

Aaron Simms

THE WEEKEND OF Week 16 was an important time for the Lancaster University Boat Club. BUCS Head of the River was the first race for this year's novices and displayed, in front of the rest of the country's universities, what Lancaster's new recruits are capable of. It was also important for the senior squad because as this race was cancelled last year due to bad weather, it was also their first attempt at this annual time trial.

The competition began on Saturday with the Beginner events over 2 divisions. The first division was for the Men's Beginner 8s in which LUBC placed a respectable 21st of 42, beating York novice crew in the process. The next up were the Women's beginner 4 who secured 14th place out of a possible 28.

The second division of the day saw the 2 men's beginner coxed 4s square up as they rowed down the 2.5km course. The 'A' crew placed an impressive 17th of 40 while the 'B' crew, having had minimal time together as a crew placed 36th. These races, and the experience gained, will prove vital in the coming months as they look to earn seats in senior boats.

As Sunday dawned, a harsh frost snap had covered the course resulting in the competition being blanketed in snow, ice and sub zero temperatures, just in time for the seniors to race. The Sunday races were over a 5km course. Up first, the LUBC Women's Senior 8, racing in the intermediate category, placed an encouraging 9th of 19. Al-

though just outside of the qualification zone for the regatta, it shows they are defiantly capable of repeating their performance of the last two years and making the final in a very competitive field.

Following shortly after were the Men's Championship coxed 4s, where Lancaster managed to place 22nd of 36 boats, a good performance considering they were saving themselves for the 8s race in the afternoon. The middle division saw Lancaster enter a never before raced and highly competitive class with a Lightweight coxless 4, which managed to deliver a pleasing result of 9th of 13 with a time that will secure them as a crew the club will look to enter to future races.

The final races of the weekend were the men's intermediate 8s and the women's champ 4. LUBC again earned some pleasing results with the 2 men's boats coming 11th and 29th of 36, the top crew beating their opposite numbers at York by a considerable margin. The girls, meanwhile, had only had a single outing prior to racing and so were unsure of how they would fare against some experienced opposition. Despite this, they had a spectacular row and, after overtaking one of the boats set off ahead of them, crossed the line to take 6th place, instantly qualifying them for the regatta next term.

For a first weekend of racing for half of the club, it was a great success. The novices got a taste for racing while the seniors were able to readjust back into racing mode ahead of some challenging weeks preparing for the North of England Head in Chester and both Women's and Men's Head of the River on the Thames at the end of term.



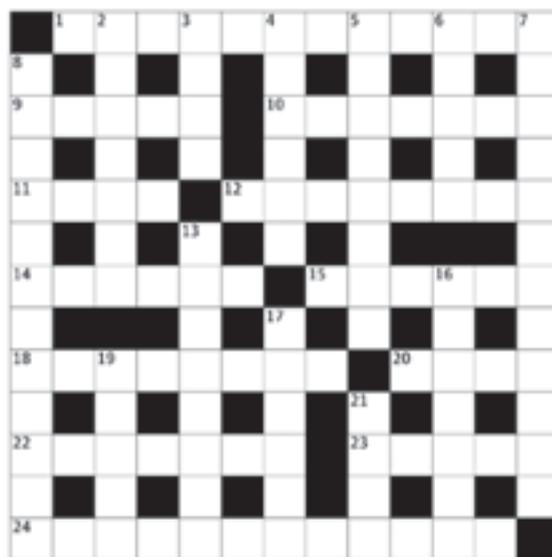
Row your boat: The women's Champ 4 powering through to take 6th place and prequalification for the regatta next term

No hope for Liverpool as Lancaster hit six



Full report on page 30

Quick crossword no 12,118



Across

- 1 Word found in the title of many orchestras (literally, devoted to music) (12)
- 9 Kitchen garment (5)
- 10 Tearfully sentimental (7)
- 11,12 Maximum stretch? (4,8)
- 14 Film that was a cinema revolution in its day (6)
- 15 Sight (6)
- 18,20 Medieval contraceptive device (5,4)
- 22 Cocaine (anag) (7)
- 23 More aloof (5)
- 24 Machine for dealing with the post (6,6)

Down

- 2 Damaging (7)
- 3,13 Extending far (4-8)
- 4 Fighting forces (6)
- 5,21 Two-wheeler designed for rough terrain (8,4)
- 6 Synthetic fibre (5)
- 7 Severely critical (12)
- 8 Where "Swan Lake" is studied? (6,6)
- 13 See 3
- 16 List separately (7)

- 17 Plaster for outside walls (6)
- 19 Spy (5)
- 21 See 5

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