

General Election fever hits Lancaster as parties battle for student vote

- Candidates to square up for campus debate
- Parties whip out big guns in contested seat
- Registry problem hampers delivery of ballots

Lizzie Houghton
Assistant Editor

WITH THE GENERAL Election less than a month the constituency of Lancaster and Fleetwood is set to be on receiving end of plenty of political courtship, with students being as sought after as any other voter group.

All the major parties will be focusing attention on Lancaster and Fleetwood, which is not yet likely to swing in favour of one particular party. With two Higher Education institutes within the constituency, students are likely to find themselves heavily targeted.

Lancaster's candidates:

Labour: Clive Grunshaw
Conservative: Eric Ollerenshaw
Lib Dems: Stuart Langhorn
UKIP: Fred McGlade
Green: Gina Dowding

The Lancaster University Students' Union has been keen to utilise the parties' interest in students, and have negotiated a Question Time style debate to be held on campus just days before the country goes to the polls.

The debate, which will take place on Monday May 3 at 7:30pm in Faraday Lecture Theatre, will include Lancaster

and Fleetwood's parliamentary candidates from the Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, United Kingdom Independence and Green parties. It will be chaired by LUSU President Michael Payne. Students have been invited to submit their own questions the candidates over the internet: the best questions covering a range of topics will be debated on the night. So far over 75 students have signed up to be in the audience.

Payne, who organised the debate, said: "I think it is important that the students know the issues, know the candidates and can make an informed decision when May 6, the General Election, comes."

He added: "Whilst the TV debates with the party leaders are welcome, to give a flavour of that the parties have got to offer, I think it's also important to know what your local representative has got to offer."

Student branches of the political parties on campus have welcomed the debate. Labour's Youth and Student Officer, Aidan Williams said he felt it would be a "great opportunity for students to meet the candidates who want to represent them".

Wes Cosgriff, Lancaster Conservative Future's Media Executive echoed these sentiments, saying: "The party debate on campus is an excellent way of getting more of us interested in poli-

tics, and showing what real politics is all about: people meeting and talking to the candidates, not their parties."

The debate will form part of LUSU's wider campaign to raise awareness and interest in the General Election. It

"It is important that the students know the issues, now the candidates and can make an informed decision when May 6 comes."
- Michael Payne,
LUSU President.

links in with campaigns LUSU and the National Union of Students have been running since November, in particular the Fairer Fees and Funding campaign. Since the end of last year the national and local unions have been urging Members of Parliament and Parliamentary candidates to pledge to vote against any rise in tuition fees in the next government. Clive Grunshaw, the Lancaster Labour candidate, and Stuart Langhorn for the Liberal Democrats have both signed LUSU's pledge. Gina Dowding of the Greens has signed the NUS's pledge online. Eric Ollerenshaw, the Conservative's candidate has not signed the pledge.

Lancaster's current Conservative MP, Ben Wallace, signed the pledge in November.

Continued on page 9.

Remember, remember Festival fireworks!



Special feature, P12-13

Faculty falls almost £1m short of budgeted income

Sam Newsham
News Editor

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS ACROSS the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) are taking their toll on students as travel funds are cut and modules cancelled.

The most recent figures show that the faculty is over £800,000 short of its budgeted income for 2009-10.

Failure to raise sufficient money has led to research students' funds for travelling to conferences being cut, to the disappointment of students across the faculty.

"I think it is terrible, I understand that the current general financial climate is bad for universities but there is very little funding available for research students as it is," one postgraduate student told SCAN.

The funding issues can be

put down to a variety of reasons, including Governmental budget cuts and bias towards science subjects. The national financial situation led to the faculty introducing a 'gap savings' policy two years ago, whereby leaving or retiring staff are not replaced for three years. This has led to significant module cuts in some departments as teaching staff leave and cannot be replaced, leaving students' choices extremely restricted.

The Politics department is one of the most badly affected, with 12 out of the usual 25 third-year modules not running in 2010-11.

"The Politics department's cull of the International Relations modules this year has been severe," said one current student. "No alternative modules have been put in place nor have any other modules in the department been opened up to students. This is coming from a

department that attracted me on the wide range of modules it offered."

Concerns have been raised by students about the lack of consultation they have received about the module changes. "The lack of consultation with students has been a main focal point," said Ben Smith, a second year Politics and History student.

"If I'm honest this does smack of a real sense of arrogance."

Full story pages 7-8.

Only by engaging with politicians will the dividing lines become apparent

There are a range of issues on the table that will affect you both during and after your time at Lancaster. Know the issues and know where you will stand five years from now

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Where will you be in five years? Perhaps more pertinently where will you be in six months?

For many Lancaster students it has probably been all too easy to dismiss politics as dull, irrelevant and somewhat distant. However, for many of you this election represents a real crossroads in your life. Dependent on who is elected, there will be major ramifications for you once you graduate from this institution.

Perhaps, in younger days it really didn't matter about national insurance, stamp duty on houses and petrol tax to name a few recent issues. Your parents were always there to shoulder any financial burden and their qualms with politicians over rising taxes and terrible services was something that was of little significance to your life. Once you leave Lancaster, however, you will suddenly care about the housing market, state benefits, economic growth, taxes, education policy and public transport. And if you don't care then you really should.

It is a commonly held belief that stu-

dents are apathetic but the turn-out in previous General Elections alludes to a national trend. In 1992, 77% voted in an election won by Tory leader John Major. This figure dipped in the Blair years to 71% in 1997, 59% in 2001 before rising marginally to 63% in the most recent election in 2005.

A common reason touted for this low turn-out is that all politicians are the same and anger and distrust at politicians will surely have only been exacerbated by last year's scandal with expenses. Whilst it is true that Blair positioned New Labour closer to the centre of the political spectrum and thus gained much appeal with swing voters, it is a misconception to believe that the parties are the same.

The real problem is that in these days of sound bites, mass media and an assortment of distractions our concentration spans have undoubtedly suffered. The politicians have become smarter, more duplicitous and at the same time voters have become more likely to switch off and not dissect the policies

and promises that are put before them at the table.

For instance, behind the spin, this election is still a battle between traditional Conservative and Labour values. Labour want to ride the economic storm and preserve frontline services, whilst the Conservatives promise tax cuts, and greater freedom for the people from the state. These issues have been fought between the parties in various guises for a century.

This election is extremely important. For on thing, a marginal constituency like Lancaster and Fleetwood could see a strong student vote determine the outcome. Following boundary changes to the seat, Labour have a notional majority based on rejigged polling data from 2005. However, the current seat of Lancaster and Wyre is held by the Conservative MP Ben Wallace. Wallace, however, is stepping down to fight for another seat and so there is no incumbent MP fighting for re-election in this constituency.

The major parties will attempt to ap-

peal to broad cross-sections of society in this election. Pensioners are a common target market to get on board. They always use their vote and so any controversial policies on pensions and the retirement age will not figure in an party manifestos.

Students are not great voters. It is no surprise that the major parties were all content to see the Browne review kicked into the long grass until later in the year. There will certainly be no firm guarantees or any guarantees that your interests as students will be considered at all.

This is why it is more crucial than ever that you use your vote. A strong turn-out on campus and a reasonable engagement with the candidates will help ensure that your views are taken seriously in the next Parliament. If enough MP's sense the displeasure of students and young people at their prospects both before, during and after university then decisive action may be seen in the coming years.



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in this scan

News

- 3 NUS Conference
- 4-5 Central Services & Redundancies
- 6-7 In Focus: FASS Investigation
- 8 Reform promised after election mishaps
- 12-13 In Focus: Campus Festival

Comment

- 15 Obama's Healthcare reform
- 16 Election commentary
- 17 The General Election has never been more accessible
- 17 Liberation comes last with LUSU

Student Life

- 20 Top 5
- 20-21 Procrastination

Features

- 22-23 Voting 101
- 22-23 Welcome aboard DELC Airways

Culture

- 26 Cal King: Living in a Cave
- 26 Gig Review
- 27 Review: Metamorphosis
- 27 Review: Lightspeed Champion
- 27 Review: Pokemon
- 28 Preview: LUTG Summer Term

Sports

- 30-31 Roses Preview
- 31 Rugby League season round-up
- 32-33 Inter-College Sport
- 34 Football: Double Winners
- 35 Julian Surface: Comment

Presidential procession for Porter at NUS Conference

- **65% majority for Porter in election battle**
- **Factional divides resurface in policy skirmishes**
- **LUSU President defeated in own bid for seat at NUS top table**

Liam Richardson
Editor-in-Chief

AARON PORTER, THE current National Union of Students (NUS) Vice President (Higher Education) was elected last Wednesday as the 54th President of NUS.

The election to succeed the incumbent two year President Wes Streeting was staged at the NUS National Conference in Newcastle, and saw Bell Ribeiro-Addy, the NUS Black Campaigns Officer and Chris Marks, the Vice President Education at Hull University take on the favourite for the role.

Porter was elected with an overwhelming 65% majority and claimed victory in the first round after easily reaching the 339 votes required of the 678 cast to comfortably secure the Presidency. He will become President of an organisation which can count current and former cabinet ministers including Jack Straw, John Denham and Charles Clarke. Following his landslide victory, Porter spoke on the importance of his position:

"I am delighted to be leading NUS into what will be a crucial year for fur-

ther and higher education, with a general election, fees review and cuts on the horizon. It is more vital now than ever that we come together to put our issues at the top of the agenda with a credible, representative student voice shaping the outcomes of these pivotal debates

This is a time to continue pressurising politicians not to increase the cap on fees and we will be publicly shaming those that refuse to sign our Vote for Students pledge, which has already been signed by more than 700 candidates. Students, families and the wider public overwhelmingly oppose higher fees and I will fight to ensure that politicians listen to them."

The man he is succeeding as leader of the NUS, Wes Streeting, commended Porter and signalled the importance of his victory:

"Aaron's election vindicates the long journey NUS has taken to reform our democratic structures and our higher education funding policy. We have fought the battle to become a credible voice and Aaron is the right person to deal with the challenges students face in the coming year. I have every confidence that he will utilise his skills and experience in leading from the front in what will be a crucial year for students in further and higher education. I wish him great success as National President."

There were a total of six full-time positions up for election at NUS Conference. Both Shane Chowen, Ben Whitaker and Susan Nash were re-elected for second terms as VP (Further Education), VP (Welfare) and VP (Society and Citizenship) respectively. Former Hull University Student Union President Ed Marsh won the right to be the next VP (Union Development), replacing Rich-

ard 'Bubble' Budden, who pulled out of the race for the presidency days before conference.

The other post was the VP (Higher Education) position, which was the most heavily contested of the whole elections. A total of six candidates lined up in a field containing Lancaster's own two-term LUSU President Michael Payne. His rivals included NEC (National Executive Committee) member Usman Ali, York Vice-President Charlie Leyland, Kit Friend, Chair of the Aldwych Group Emmanuel Akpan-Inwang and left-wing socialist Mark Bergfield.

After five rounds, Usman Ali was confirmed as the winner with Payne polling last against rivals who had networked around universities and sat on NUS committees for a number of years. Payne was humble in defeat:

"When I first started as LUSU President I said you've got to take the rough with the smooth and I still stand by that. I've never put my career before my constituents.

Whilst I may not have won a seat at the top table there's a job to be finished here and my principles remain firmly intact."

This year's conference again witnessed the now traditional policy and ideology divides between far left student groups and the moderate centrists led by Streeting.

A number of policies proposed by the far-left student groups, including a more active campaign against fee hikes and a set date for a national demonstration were voted down by the majority of conference. Streeting himself passionately argued that "diplomacy and discussion" were essential for positive results from the next government and belligerent protests would accomplish little.



NUS President: Aaron Porter begins his term at the end of June

Final year re-sits could be on horizon with classification review

Yasmin Spracklen

SINCE BEING ESTABLISHED in February 2007, a Degree Classification Working Party has been reviewing Lancaster University's existing degree classification regulations with mixed success. Their aim was to consider possible changes, hoping to improve classification procedures.

The Working Party, which consists of university staff and academics, has attempted to address recurring areas of concern within the system. This has included analysing existing regulations at other universities throughout the UK, as well as the study of a range of models and principles within the Higher Education (HE) sector in order to simplify Lancaster's classification system and also understand how change was effected and, most importantly, reviewed.

According to Dr Gavin Brown, Director of Undergraduate Studies and

Chairman of the Degree Classification Working Party, "most feedback from external examiners is highly complementary and there are rarely any concerns about the standards and quality of our degree awards. However, every year there are three recurring themes that, for a small but significant proportion of examiners, give cause for concern and where the university is encouraged to review its approach."

As reported by Brown, the Working Party initially considered whether change was necessary or whether minor alterations to the existing procedures and regulations would address the perceived issues. Brown said: "It was the consensus of the group that significant change is required, particularly to successfully address the complexity of our current regulations, the use of the full marking range and perceived generosity of existing condonation rules."

On March 2 this year, Brown presented a draft of proposals for initial consultation before the Academic Council, highlighting the three main

areas of contention. These areas are the perceived complexity of degree classification regulations; the limited use of the full marking range in some subject areas; and also a perceived lack of consistency and guidance in the operation of examination boards.

The draft proposal for undergraduate degree regulations, applicable to all programmes of study, incorporates new and particular proposals and also seeks to consolidate and simplify previously existing regulations which the Working Party thought should be retained. The new proposal includes eight main propositions such as a university-wide grading system intended to promote the use of the full marking range and directly link to the assessment of learning outcomes; use of aggregation scores to determine overall module performance and hence degree classification; a more limited use of condonation and the provision of final year re-sits.

Brown claims that "what the proposal has attempted to do is to pull together the relevant elements of the ex-

isting regulations, incorporate the new proposals as set out above, and present them as a single document encompassing all aspects of assessment regulations." However, when presented to the Academic Council, the proposal was met with mixed reviews.

Various comments, suggestions and criticisms were made surrounding the proposed changes, such as the possible alteration of the late submission penalty to 0%, re-sits for final year students and also marking boundaries. A vote was also held among the council, which highlighted areas of concern and resulted in the majority disagreeing with the current proposal. Danny Ovens, LUSU VP (Academic Affairs) stated that, "feedback was taken onboard and the report is going back to the working group before another draft being circulated. The Academic Council agreed to wait for the next draft before making a decision on whether to endorse the new proposals or not. If there is not a major consensus on the new proposals, Dr Brown

will not take it to the May Senate to be agreed in principle."

Brown was keen to stress that the proposal is not a finalised product and that only if it meets with institutional agreement and approval, will the regulations be incorporated back into the University's overarching academic regulations, the overall format of which is itself currently under review. During the Lent term, the proposal was reviewed university-wide within individual departments and faculties to provide as much feedback as possible. The Working Party now plans to assess the feedback on 15th April and subsequently refine the proposal.

If sufficient consensus of the newly redrafted proposal is obtained by the Academic Council later this term, the final version of the new Assessment Proposal can be submitted to the May Senate for implementation in October 2011. It is, however, possible that some aspects of the proposal, such as the operation of exam boards, could be implemented prior to this date.

In Focus: Redundancies

Staff safeguard scrapped as power to sack is made easier

- Ability to remove staff could be de-centralised from University House
- Charter's employment policy overturned for proposed legal minimum
- Staff already at risk of redundancy



Collette McColgan
News Editor

MANY MEMBERS OF staff are feeling concerned over new employment procedures being introduced at the University.

The reforms to the University's existing employment protocol, set out in Statute 20 of the University's Charter, began in 2007 but no final resolution has been decided yet. But in March of this year University Senate voted to scrap Statute 20, despite no decision on what would replace it being made.

Bowland College Principal, Joe Thornberry was "very disappointed" in Senate's decision, adding: "I think what was interesting was that the bulk of that opposition [to scrapping Statute 20] came from the colleges and from LUSU, with a handful of academic heads of departments supporting it. The majority of faculty, the Heads of Department, and so on, voted in favour of scrapping Statute 20. I'm just for staff with fixed term contracts." assuming that Heads of Departments want to have these powers to dismiss their colleagues."

The proposed changes will for the most part, include changing the previous more complicated procedures to

just six procedures relating to employment - discipline, grievances, capability, the use of fixed term contracts, re-deployment and redundancy - and will make redundancies and dismissals the responsibilities of more people, including heads of departments.

These changes are necessary because of a need for clarity and uniformity across employment procedures, according to Fiona Aiken, the University Secretary. "We want all staff to be covered by the same employment procedures, and we want those procedures to be compliant with employment legislation. At present we have different sets of procedures for different staff groups."

"The teaching experience and student choice may change and become more impoverished and restricted."
- Alan Whitaker, senior lecturer

She continued, "In the case of academic staff in particular, the procedures have been determined by the Statute, which is now 22 years out of date and has been overtaken by improvements in the law," referring to clashes in the old Statute which did not comply with disability discrimination legislation, the ACAS code for dealing with academic staff grievances, and the rights for staff with fixed term contracts.

However, the University had to run all of these changes by with the local branch of the University & Colleges Union (UCU). Lancaster UCU oppose the changes, because they feel they

make the dismissals of staff too easy, and that this may have a detrimental impact on staff morale.

Though the changes are to employment procedures, this does not mean that students will not be affected. Many students who have jobs with the University will be covered by these changes in terms of their employment. But some fear that the impact may not stop there.

Alan Whitaker, senior lecturer in the Centre for the Study of Technology and Organisation and a member of Lancaster UCU says: "There is an increasing likelihood that courses will be cut and/or modified as the University seeks to restructure its academic and other activities," speaking in reference to the changes taking place in FASS and LEC.

"The teaching experience and student choice may change and become more impoverished and restricted." He added that fewer teaching staff would mean larger groups and less contact time, and that some degree courses may be in danger of being scrapped.

He added that the effects were not just academic: "Look at how Student Support and Welfare Services are currently being squeezed, as they refocus and look at what they can do with the likelihood of fewer staff and resources."

The issue of the changes to Statute 20 was largely brought to the attention of students in November, when LUSU and UCU proposed a relationship of "mutual support" with regards to the Fairer Fees and Funding campaign, and opposition to the proposed changes to the employment procedures of the University.



House rules: The power to dismiss staff currently rest in University House

In last year's Summer term, and Standing Redundancy Committee was set up, something which was against the rules laid out in Statute 20. At this time, it was claimed that it was unclear as to whether any redundancies would be necessary, and this is why UCU felt that the committee should not have been set up.

It is also considered that with the cuts from HEFCE, many jobs may be cut across the University - it is likely that these changes have done little to ease the minds of many members of staff, who may be speculating that their jobs are in danger.

Aiken claims that the changes, as well as falling into line with legislation since the original Statute, will make the employment procedures simpler

for staff to understand and use: "What staff should see are new procedures which are clearer and simpler to use, which are the same, regardless of the staff group they are in, and which have an emphasis on speedy resolution of issues."

She stressed that the changes will not mean more job cuts, stating that "the University has always had the powers necessary to cut jobs if it needed to (in law and in Statute 20), and these changes are not being made with that in mind. The discussions with the trade unions about the new procedures have been going on since 2007 and predate the current recession and cuts in the funding of universities."

However, Whitaker was less defensive of the cuts that are going on now,

Interview with Dr. Anthony Marsella



DR. ANTHONY MARSELLA, Head of Marketing and External Linkages has said that he feels a lift on the tuition fees cap would be beneficial to the Higher Education sector as a whole, and would allow universities to achieve better student results.

Marsella was appointed in August of last year, after having previous experience in the private sector - working for companies such as IBM and Samsung Electronics.

His main aims for his role here at Lancaster include maximising student employment opportunities, maintaining Lancaster's reputation internationally, maintaining the successes of the international institutions in

partnerships with Lancaster, boosting the profile of the Lancaster brand on a national level, and making the website more accessible for people looking to come to the University.

He also wishes to maintain links with students when they graduate, saying "Everything happens for them while they're on campus, but happens when they go off temporarily on an exchange, or when they actually graduate. Do we keep track on them?"

Marsella also spoke about the cuts affecting the Higher Education sector at the moment. "I think the Lancaster situation is a balanced situation. We're not at the extreme like some universities, where we're going

to have to make some cuts... I would call it some trimming. We'll probably take a few losses, but we're in a strong financial position. The opportunities are there for us to come out ahead of the game.

Marsella believes that the tuition fee cap will be lifted in the near future, and spoke at length about this: "The cuts that people talk about are a growing pain... the lifting of a fee cap will be a more radical change to the industry, no doubt in my mind. It's going to change how students view university."

"I believe that it will create very important differential between universities, because universities of high-

er reputation, higher standing will be able to charge higher fees, attract better teachers, academics and hence it becomes a circle and produces better students. I think having a good reputation is going to be critical for universities to maintain," he said, explaining why he felt the lift to the cap would be beneficial to the Higher Education sector.

In order to facilitate the changes he wishes to make, Marsella is organising a restructure of his department.

"You can't make changes without having [redundancies and redeployment]. There's going to be opportunities, we are creating more jobs than we're taking away. But to create some

speaking off staff on “indefinite contracts” who are at risk of redundancy. Further to this, Rory Daly, the Secretary of Lancaster UCU, spoke of the current situation in the Department of Continuing Education:

“Although the majority of redundancies at the moment are staff on fixed term contracts – so they will have been aware this was a possible/likely outcome – we are now seeing staff on indefinite contracts receiving ‘at risk of redundancy letters’. Last term 17 staff in the Department of Continuing Education received these letters – 60% of the staff there are on indefinite contracts.”

He continued: “These new policies make further, similar events much more likely.”

Thornberry also spoke over the

“...The University becomes a less open place then it was before. It's an inhibition to free discussion, free speech and being bloody awkward, which I think is part of what students and academics should be doing” - Joe Thornberry, Bowland College Principle (pictured below).

change of the protections in place of academic staff in the proposed changes: “Academic and academic related staff do not have any additional protections against redundancies and dismissals; they've got the legal minimum, and that's it.”

He was also keen to stress how the lack of decision over what will replace Statute 20 may make some people more wary about speaking out against University management in the future: “It means that the University becomes a less open place than it was before. It's an inhibition to free discussion, free speech and being bloody awkward, which I think is part of what students and academics should be doing. There are so few places left in society where people can be that. It's not just this university – it's universities across the sector.”

Whitaker voiced his concerns over how the University was spending its money. Speaking of recent appointments, specifically that of Anthony Marsella, the



Director of Marketing & External Linkages, he remarked: “It's interesting though that we seemed to have managed to find the money to recruit more and more highly paid senior managers, often with little experience of the HE sector.”

He added: “Lancaster is not alone in such appointments, it's become a growing feature of the sector but [it is] often hard to identify the value they bring.”

In an e-newsletter sent out to members of Lancaster UCU on 23rd March, the fears of many over the changes were explained. “It is going to be easier from now on for the University management to make staff redundant,” this bulletin told its members, explaining the feeling among UCU members that jobs were more at risk than they were before these reforms, adding, “In the new drafts, the rules will make it easier for managers – including your own line manager – to dismiss staff members.”

In this newsletter, members of UCU were encouraged to question their managers about how they had voted when the changes had been brought to University Senate, and why they may have voted to scrap Statute 20, before the changes to it had been properly agreed upon, and when it may jeopardise the jobs of colleagues.

While the drafts were being discussed, UCU tried to amend some of the proposed changes in order to protect the rights of staff, which they felt were being taken away. It was successful in particular in making changes to the grievance procedures, but less so on the others; the other five procedures are described to “ultimately end in dismissal” by UCU, and are the ones that are felt to put staff jobs in most danger.

Daly described the proposed changes as “diminishing of job security and an ill conceived decentralisation of power – too many people will have the power to discipline and dismiss staff.”

It remains to be seen whether the proposed changes will replace Statute 20, but UCU still intend to oppose them. Daly added, “We will present the policies to our members for their opinion later this term. We are very grateful to members of LUSU who have voiced their concerns about these changes at various university meetings.”

new jobs we are looking at possibilities of redeployment of the existing positions.”

He continued: “We are creating more jobs than we are taking away, which in this time of recession is a clear indicator that we are investing in marketing ourselves. In total we are going to invest more than we are going to take out [...] we'd hope that anyone who is affected in the change, we'd be able to redeploy, but it's a bit early to say. Potentially there could be one or two [redundancies], but we would hope to redeploy those staff.”

Some people at the University have questioned the appointments of senior managers such as Marsella, given

their lack of experience of the sector. Marsella defended the University's decision: “If the world was stable, if the universities were stable and didn't need to do anything to change and could continue to be successful, then they wouldn't need industry managers like myself, but that's not the case... If the university doesn't have the right talent in senior management, it will no doubt lose out.

“Lancaster's done the right thing; it's professionalised its central services, it's making the hard choices in investments it needs to make in the future, it's diversified itself internationally, and those are the things that will keep Lancaster's reputation in the future.”

LUMS commended for work placements

Hannah Price

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY'S MANAGEMENT School has been highly commended at the national Placement and Internship Awards for its contributions to students wishing to spend a year in industry as part of their degree schemes.

The awards, held at Oxford Brookes University on January 21st 2010, were the first of their kind and were sponsored by a variety of prestigious employers including PricewaterhouseCoopers. Lancaster University Management School (LUMS) was commended for an award aimed at recognising the quality of staff assistance given to stu-

dents on a placement year.

Anne Welsby, Undergraduate Officer and Placement Manager at LUMS was nominated by students on one of the degree courses offered within the Management School and was given a special mention for her “tireless and invaluable contributions”.

David Simm, Director of the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) Honours degree scheme told the Management School website that “it's a fantastic achievement for LUMS to be highly commended for such a prestigious award [...] Such success continues to position LUMS as the university of choice for students seeking work experience as part of their studies”.

Annually, over 200 LUMS students from six different degree programmes go on placement between their second and third years of study. Second year student James Hanley, due to take his placement year out next year, told SCAN “the reasons why I wanted [a placement] were to make me more employable after university with all the experience it offers, but also to put into practice what I have learnt”.



Manageable success: LUMS continues to enhance reputation

LUMS was ranked 24th in the world for 2010 by the Financial Times, beaten in the UK only by London Business School, and the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

4th

UK ranking position for Management School according to Financial Times latest figures

Scores of students paying price over car parking chaos

Jonnie Critchley

CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING STUDENT parking on campus continued last month with approximately fifty £30 parking penalties issued along Hazelrigg Lane. The notices were issued en masse to vehicles parallel parked, just off South-West campus, taking around £1500 from motorists, the majority of whom were students.

The penalties were incorrectly issued, with fines being quickly overturned upon appeal to Lancaster Magistrates' Court. Andrew Green, a Grizedale second year living on campus, was one of the motorists penalised. He had a ticket issued by the police. His fine was overturned within five minutes, and he said he felt that this vindicated his view that penalties have been incorrectly issued “like confetti on the local highways”. Such strong feeling is common among students, with parking permits for Alexandra Park available only on strict conditions, leading to many applications being turned down.

The University emphasises that

their policy is intended “to ensure that those students who do need a car are eligible for a car parking permit”. Students with course-based activities or who work off campus who cannot reasonably reach their destination by public transport are the most likely to be awarded permits. However, even these are subject to stringent conditions relating to hours of work and depending on various pieces of evidence.

Green has himself had an application denied. For him and other Lancaster students who are active members of Lakes Gliding Club, based at Barrow-in-Furness, being without a car is not an option. With fewer than twenty Lancaster University members the club has not been recognised as a society by LUSU. Criterion 9b of the University's Parking Policy, which qualifies society members for Alexandra Park permits if their key activity cannot be performed on campus, therefore doesn't apply to the Gliding Club. As such, Green has been turned down for a permit for the last two years, leading him to park on Hazelrigg Lane.

Green said “I will not pay the current rate of £450 a year to park on

campus [using pay and display tickets] when permits are about £52. I feel Lancaster University is discriminating against minority sports here”.

Student parking permits, available through the Security Department, are awarded only for Alexandra Park on South West Campus, except for disabled students who may need them in a more convenient location. This in itself is cause for contention, being something of an irritation for residents of Lancaster's northern-most colleges, County and Bowland.

Conflicting messages regarding parking from various authorities have also led to confusion. The University's Parking Policy, available via the Security Department's website, states that students without permits should not park on highways surrounding campus. However, PC Gary Wynne, beat manager for Lancaster University, stated “I am not opposed to vehicles parking there [on Hazelrigg Lane] so long as they are not parked on the double yellows or causing an obstruction. Parking in that location will not impact on local residents.”

PC Wynne, outlining his attitude to parking on roads surrounding campus, listed areas where motorists are encouraged not to park. These are Chapel Lane, Bailrigg Lane, Green Lane and the A6 parallel to campus, and are highlighted for reasons of safety and courtesy to local residents. Vehicles parked in these areas are being issued with a polite request not to park there in future.

“This is in response to numerous complaints received from residents over the last few months”, PC Wynne said. PC Wynne is now, however, reluctantly issuing tickets to vehicles not complying with parking regulations. He stressed that this was not specific to University users, but to any vehicles.



Not fine with me: Fines were incorrectly issued along Hazelrigg Lane

In Focus: FASS Investigation

Students feel the pinch as Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) belt while funding issues escalating

- Faculty massively overestimates budget
- Modules cut through lack of staff
- Departments merge to save money



Sam Newsham
News Editor

"WE WERE ANGRY that we hadn't been told; frustrated that the money had been withdrawn; upset that such a small amount of money was being taken away; confused and distressed at the suddenness of the withdrawal..."

So said one English and Creative Writing student in response to the news that the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) has cut funds for research students to travel to conferences. They weren't alone. PhD students across the faculty expressed dismay after it was revealed that the money, for students not funded by research councils, would no longer be available.

"We were informed by the head of research in our department via email that the funding had been cut," said another student, who wished to remain anonymous. None of the students SCAN spoke to wanted their names to be used. "I think it is terrible, I understand that the current general financial climate is bad for universities but there is very little funding available for research students as it is."

The February 2010 figures show that FASS is over £800,000 short of its budgeted income for the year. Student travel funds are one of several cuts the faculty has introduced in order to save money; staff travel funds have also gone and the associate deans' funds

£823,188

Difference in project budget and actual income of FASS

have been frozen.

"You always have to make difficult decisions. But in some ways decision making becomes terribly easy when you have no money; we can't afford, at the moment, to send people to [conferences]," said Professor Tony McEnery, Dean of FASS.

McEnery stressed that the faculty will stand by all existing commitments to students and pointed out that the

cut is a temporary one; the fund will reopen in August.

"My academic experience has been that if you're going to give a paper in the summer you'll have had that accepted already and if you then chose to hang around to ask for funding much later that was an unwise choice," he said. "There might be some people who decided to put off applying for the grant and they made be disadvantaged, but that was a choice they made, not to apply in a timely fashion."

There are several factors contributing to the shortfall in income. First is government funding. This has been cut for universities across the country and a significant proportion of what's left is channelled towards science, technology, engineering and maths (Stem)

"I understand that the changes are necessary but I feel an earlier, more 'student friendly' approach to the distribution of information may have helped the situation they now find themselves in."
- Alex Cook, Politics Student

subjects, leaving arts and humanities without. This attitude, McEnery feels, will do graduates no good at all.

"I see no evidence that the Stem-only policy works," he said. "Will it do us much good? Probably not. A policy which says we must fetishise science above everything else is simple-minded and foolish and it completely under-estimates the cultural, social and financial benefits that you get from a well-educated and articulate workforce."

Second is Faculty forecasting. The budgeted income depends, amongst other things, on the number of students each year who will begin a degree within FASS. Whilst undergraduate numbers are limited by the Government and therefore easy to predict, postgraduates and international student numbers are more likely to fluctuate.

"Right up to October we won't know how many [postgraduates] will actually show up. You get into a system of forecasting, and sometimes your forecasts are right and sometimes your forecasts are wrong," said McEnery.

"There's a lot of forecasting that is a reasonably well-informed guess. To some extent we depend on overseas students for undergraduate income and they also can be fickle," added Mike Doupe, Associate Dean for Un-



No place like home: PPR will move into the old LICA building once the new one is complete (Photo: Rebekah Fuller)

dergraduate Studies.

The faculty is making an attempt to increase numbers of both. More money – around £170,000, an increase of £25,000 on last year – has been set aside as bursaries and grants for new postgraduates in the hope of easing

"The creation of PPR should bring stability to three relatively smaller departments facing their own particular challenges."
- Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad, Associate Dean (Research) FASS

potential students' worries about the cost of study.

"We're really making sure that when we can invest money in postgraduates we're investing in giving people the opportunity to do the study in the first place," said McEnery. "We won't do that to the expense of saying 'We'll convert the travel fund in total into bursaries and scholarships' but there is a rebalancing act to be done. Having the opportunity to do post-

graduate work in the first place is the key step that we need to get as many people to take as possible."

A further method of saving money is what's known as gap savings. Around two years ago the faculty, suspecting there may be difficult times ahead financially, introduced a policy whereby staff leaving or retiring are not replaced for three years.

"Currently the university has a standard policy to save money. The idea is that [it] creates budget savings," said Professor Robert Geyer, Head of the Politics department. "That delay then allows you to reduce your costs for a period of time."

Whilst McEnery insists that the policy is never applied in an 'unthinking way' and points out that without it Lancaster may have been forced to make staff redundant after the most recent Government cuts, there are several departments across FASS where retiring staff has led to a decrease in the number of modules available to undergraduates.

Problems ranging in severity have been reported in English, Film, Media and Cultural Studies, History and Music. In October, it was found that

module changes in the Music department were so great that in some cases the course students were taking bore little resemblance to the one they had signed up for, with some students transferring to courses at other universities. Despite efforts from Head of Department Alan Marsden and Director of Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (LICA) Rachel Cooper, in the words of one current student "Everyone seems even more unhappy now than at the start of the year... The whole department just seems to be rapidly deteriorating."

The biggest problems, however, are in Politics. In the 2010-11 academic year, 12 out of the usual 25 third-year modules will not be running, leaving students with a very restricted choice.

"I asked [the department] which modules I'd taken next year [and] was told quite a significant proportion had been scrapped," said Ben Smith, a second year Politics and History student. "I now cannot do some modules and have to do a dissertation, something which I've never wanted to do."

"The biggest problem for the department is losing people, that's what will affect students," said Professor

Social Sciences tighten across Faculty

Comparison of FASS departments

Subject	National ranking of department	Graduate employment rating*	National ranking for employment**
Art & Design	6	62	17
Social Work	8	92	18
Linguistics	11	55	12
Business Studies	13	72	27
Medicine-related	13	80	31
Accounting & Finance	15	76	20
Geography	15	64	34
Engineering	16	-	-
Sociology	16	52	39
Religious Studies	16	65	23
Physics	17	72	28
Spanish	18	76	3
Drama	19	46	50
Economics	19	70	37
Biological Sciences	22	66	39
French	22	76	7
Comms & Media Studies	24	43	77
German	25	70	15
Italian	25	55	21
Mathematics	26	74	39
History	28	52	53
Psychology	28	58	37
Computer Science	31	72	47
English	33	57	53
Law	34	77	43
Music	34	62	42
Philosophy	35	42	41
Politics	49	52	50

*Rating out of 100 not % of students who find graduate employment
**Based on 2006-2007 figures

source: thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

David Denver of the Politics department. “The number of people in the department will reduce and students will notice a lack of choice of courses.”

12/25

The number of third year modules cancelled by the Politics Department for 2010/11

Changes to module structure in departments such as History and Politics have been made over the past few years with the aim of providing students with more choice and flexibility. History in particular worked closely with departmental reps to ensure students were satisfied.

“[It] makes it possible for them to make informed choices about what they want to study,” said Dr Tim Hickman, Director of Undergraduate Studies for History. “Now, with a fee-paying regime, students are much more used to making choices.”

Many students now feel that not

only have their choices been taken away, they have not been consulted about changes before they happened.

“The lack of consultation with students has been a main focal point,” said Smith. “We heard nothing from [the faculty reps] either. If I’m honest this does smack of a real sense of arrogance.”

Geyer agrees that there are currently ‘lots of fluctuating modules’ due to staff retiring or going on research leave. The department wants to hire three new people over the summer, which will enable them to run some ‘interesting and exciting’ new courses for students to choose next October.

The hope is that the forthcoming merger of Politics with Philosophy and Religious Studies (PPR) into one large department will speed up the process of employing new staff. The three departments will be run as one from October 2010, with Geyer as the overall head. Unsurprisingly there have been challenges in trying to merge three departments, made more difficult, Geyer feels, by the fact that all three are still spread across the university. They will remain spread out until the completion of the new LICA building, hope-

fully in June 2010, when LICA staff will move into the new building and PPR staff will move into LICA’s old rooms in Bowland North.

“We’re hoping to get co-located in Bowland North as soon as possible. It’s challenging having to work with people when they’re in separate bits,” said Geyer. “We’re having meetings on a regular basis but it doesn’t match having someone in the hallway you can quickly walk to. My personal hope is that it’s as fast as possible.”

The merger was itself a contentious decision initially, with students feeling at the time that there was little or no consultation until it was passed by Senate. Although the current module disruption is unrelated there is a feeling amongst some that students’ opinions are not sought as often as they should be.

“The Politics department had their knuckles hit by Michael Payne [LUSU President] in the Michaelmas term after failing to consult and notify students about their merger with Religion and Philosophy, so they’ve clearly not learned their lesson here,” said Smith.

Staff in these three departments have concerns about the effects the merger will have on teaching and research. Very few of the academics SCAN contacted expected it to be a positive move.

“No real justification was provided as to why a merger is the way forward for the departments concerned,” said one staff member. “[It] limits student choice as some courses have been removed in the name of merger and streamlining. In research terms, existing staff can still study what they want if they are willing to operate as lone scholars; support from FASS is conditional on fitting into the new PPR mix.”

“I would have preferred if it hadn’t had to happen; I think it’s sad because I’m committed to the disciplines of politics and political science,” said Denver. “On the other hand I’m aware that there are difficulties, there are financial difficulties, there are difficulties of faculties trying to... deal with what is going to be a difficult period for universities.”

That said, Denver does not expect great changes for the department as a result of the merger. “I suspect changes will be quite small. I don’t think politics students will notice much change, certainly not in their courses.”

Senior management figures, however, hope that the new research structure will help in the all-important area of attracting new postgraduate students.

“We’re hoping to develop new things, with crossover programmes between the three units, particularly at the Masters level,” said Geyer. “The hope is that because you’ve got this new unit that’s distinctive we can then project ourselves as something that’s new, something unique, something exciting that will attract in the Masters and the postgraduate students.”

Case Studies

The Undergraduate: “Because of the requirements of my degree there are only certain modules I can take in the Politics department. Out of the 12 modules that I can potentially take, eight are not going to be running. Out of the four that are still on one is a full module and the other three are half modules all of which will be running in Michaelmas term.

I am extremely angry about this because my choices have been severely limited. The amount in fees that I pay to study at Lancaster makes this extreme lack of choice more disappointing. This is not something I expected to deal with when I started my degree and while I understand that there are always variations each year, the Politics department’s cull of the International Relations modules this year has been severe. No alternative modules have been put in place nor have any other modules in the department been opened up to students.

This is coming from a department that attracted me on the wide range of modules it offered. This move will be academically detrimental because class sizes will inevitably swell, reducing the resources available to students.

I am only one of many who feel extremely let down by a politics department. With the severe cut in student choice I cannot help feel that the department is failing in terms of student satisfaction.

I am, to say the least, unimpressed by the modules that are left running. One of the reasons I chose to study at Lancaster was the range of modules that were case-study based, for example focusing on particular conflicts or regions. Next year, modules dealing with Northern Ireland, the Balkans, the Middle East and America have all been removed. For me this is particularly frustrating as my main area of interest lies in the Middle East and, ever since I was a prospective student, I have been intending to study it. The modules that the department offered within this field were key to my decision to come to Lancaster. I would even go so far as to say this move to remove them in 2010/11 has potentially damaged my post-graduate options because I hoped to further study and work in this area.

I am only one of many who feel extremely let down by a politics department. With the severe cut in student choice I cannot help feel that the department is failing in terms of student satisfaction. I know that my degree – a degree originally chosen for choice and scope – will now be defined by this and, if I had the choice again, I would certainly reconsider my options and decision to attend Lancaster.”

The Postgraduates: “I found out that funding was cut when I received an email at the beginning of the month telling me that my application for funding was unsuccessful due to the cuts. I was not aware of the cuts prior to this, and had completed and submitted an application hoping to receive £250 for an overseas conference. I did not receive an email notifying me (and other students) that the funding was no longer available for this year until several days after getting my personal rejection email.

The sudden cuts to this fund are quite problematic because often, particularly with international conferences, you are required to register well in advance. Also, since the FASS application form requires you to have specific figures for your travel costs, you need to have specific figures for transportation and accommodation before applying. Indeed, I waited until after I had booked my flights and accommodation to apply, and as a result I have invested too much money in going now to back out, even though having £250 less funding than I expected is a significant blow. Luckily, I have become aware of another fund that might be able to provide me some travel funding, and so I hopefully will not have to cover all of this myself.

While I acknowledge that we are going through difficult times right now financially, sudden mid-year cuts are never ideal or easy since people base their spending on expectations of what kind of funding they will be able to receive. Hopefully there aren’t a lot of students who, like me, applied and paid for conferences with an understanding that they would have some support, only to be left without it.”

One of the most frustrating things about all this is the lack of transparency. We have not learnt of those developments through official channels, such as our student representatives, but through a flyer.

“...When the University is run like a business it becomes rational to maintain exorbitantly high salaries for our Vice-Chancellor whilst at the same time cutting funding in the arts and social sciences. Those at the very bottom of the ladder – students and casual/temporary staff – will be the most exposed and vulnerable to the consequences of these cuts. [...] One of the most frustrating things about all this is the lack of transparency. We have not learnt of those developments through official channels, such as our student representatives, but through a flyer distributed by Subtext2.

A few of us have also [Sociology students] started meeting regularly to discuss how the neoliberalization of the University is 1) affecting the nature of postgraduate study and 2) creating an internal hierarchy within the University which rests in part on cheap and flexible labour provided by postgraduate students, teaching assistants, research associates and temporary lecturers.”

Wind turbine project blown off course

Chris Housden
Deputy News Editor

THE UNIVERSITY'S PLAN to build two wind turbines to provide power to campus in a greener way has been delayed by a month for deliberation.

Lancaster City Council has chosen to "delay its determination on Lancaster University's Wind Turbine Planning Application", according to a statement released by the team behind the project on April 14. They said that the reason for the delay "is because they have not finished their appraisal of the scheme and require more time to give the application full and proper consideration."

The attention to detail that the City Council are affording the University's application is unsurprising given recent events with similar applications. A project put forward by Community Windpower for 20 turbines to be built almost alongside an already existing belt of turbines has been rejected by City Councillors in the face of massive negative reaction.

The issues many people had with the turbines were the generic arguments that have been held since turbines were first used. Alongside an apparent threat to wildlife, local residents argued that the noise generated by the turbines, the fact that they would disrupt an area of national beauty and their appearance dominating the landscape were all reasons given against approval.

These issues surround any such proposal, and it would seem that it is no different with the University's application. The site chosen for the proposed turbines sits on the east of the M6, which already provides a lot of noise on its own. It has been recognised that the addition of turbines would create more disruptive noise, and shadows cast by the masts or moving blades could prove disruptive as well. Many local residents attended the feedback sessions at University House in December to say as much.

With targets set by the UN indicating that by 2050 greenhouse gases should be cut by 80 per cent, and the GreenLancaster actively working towards a more environmentally friendly campus, Lancaster University is keen to stay at the forefront of combating climate change. With the introduction of the proposed two turbines, energy consumption for the university would be cut by a third.

The decision now rests with the City Council, who will either approve or deny the application on Monday 10th May at Lancaster Town Hall. The project, backed enthusiastically by the Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, would place Lancaster University as the first university in the country to install wind power.



The joy of six for new team

Major changes to electoral system expected following fiasco

Steve Feekins

THE RESULTS OF the re-vote for the Full Time Officer Positions of VP (Academic Affairs) and VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) were announced in the foyer of Furness College on Wednesday Week 19, and were some of the tightest in LUSU history, with one position being decided by a single vote.

With a turnout of 1625 across campus, Pete Macmillan was elected as VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) by 103 votes, but the real story of the night came in the Academic Affairs position, where voting went to a second round as the quota of 652.5 was not reached. After the reallocation, Paul Lynch held 652 votes and Robin Hughes emerged victorious with 653, a single vote deciding the election for the position.

"Although the circumstances are unique it shows that elections and votes can be held in short periods and publicity can be very focused and intensive." - Andy Johnston

The incoming VP (Academic Affairs) Robin Hughes was delighted

with the result, although he was clearly exhausted after the extended campaigning period.

"I'm genuinely really thrilled to have been in one of the tightest elections there's been here. I said in my hust that I would be proud to work for the union; I can now add that I also feel privileged. I will work diligently over the next year to show people that their trust was well placed, and to not let down any student, whether I received their vote or not.

As for the last two weeks of Elections, they were extremely draining. With no specific campaign manager, there are so many people I could thank, and I appreciate every one of them, but I'd like to give a shout out to Sarah Taylor, Mike Clarke and Tracey Conterio for some great support."

Pete Macmillan, the incoming VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) expressed his happiness at the result, but explained the emotional difficulty that the re-election caused for all candidates.

"I'm absolutely ecstatic to have won. It still hasn't really sunk in, I can't believe that I've managed to fight off some really good candidates in Chaz and Neil. I'm really looking forward to getting into the role and making the most of this fantastic opportunity.

"Obviously it would have been nice if I'd have won outright in the first vote but that wasn't to be so I

just had to sit tight and hope for the best. Luckily for me it worked out. However, words cannot express the stress that I experienced as a result of the re-vote, something I'm sure most of the other candidates would echo."

Andy Johnston, VP (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies) said of the elections: "Everyone presumed that turnout [in the re-election] would fall dramatically, by half if not more, but in fact the figure was very positive and only a couple of hundred fewer than the original turnout. Although the circumstances are unique it shows that elections and votes can be held in short periods and publicity can be very focused and intensive."

He added: "With regards to the mistakes made during the elections all I can do is apologise to the candidates and voters again, we are making big steps to ensure as best we can that they will not be replicated."

Samantha Johnson, the Chair of Elections, discussed several points raised by the election, and what could be done to change the system for the better.

"Reverting to paper ballots was not suggested. Obviously one option would be to pay someone other than VP (FEDS) and the DRO to staff and overview elections. Election sub-committee is considering that the proposals and seconder process may not remain and that Chairs should

keep it at their discretion. The nominations process may be lengthened."

Johnson also disclosed the possible use of social networking sites for campaigning.

"We think that Facebook adverts can be used if included in the budget. We also think that Facebook chat, walls and discussions in groups should be allowed. We will consider permitting mentioning policies and campaigning in messages."

Also discussed were several other key points, including that a limit for questions, answers and speeches in Hustings may be included, that the budget for the elections was deemed adequate and would remain the same, and that negative campaigning regarding policies, not personal issues, may be permitted. If any of the new, or previous, rules were deemed to be broken, no points deduction would occur, a verbal then written warning would instead be administered. It is thought election reforms will be submitted for Union Council approval later this term.

To summate the election and re-election debacle, and in reference to any possible future changes, Johnson offered a word of warning.

"There are never any sure guarantees that problems will not occur and obviously there are benefits and risks with all decisions. We can alleviate and mitigate the risks and provide frameworks to offer guidance for when things do change."

All hands on deck to ensure students are not left without postal votes

Continued from front page
vember. He is standing for the news constituency of Wyre and Preston North.

There had been concerns however that any post sent out by the parties or the Electoral Commission may not reach students on campus because address have not been recorded properly. The Electoral Commission is responsible for sending out polling cards and postal ballots, which students will need if they have registered to vote by post.

All students who live in university residences are automatically registered with the Electoral Commission by the University. But this year a change in the

resident in their constituency, which could leave over 20,000 pieces of post to sort through and deliver on campus.

Labour's local organisers flagged up the issue after they noticed that none of the post they were sending to Lancaster students mentioned which college they were in and all had the same postcode. They decided to hand deliver their free post to campus residents' pigeon holes rather than risk them not arriving.

A spokesperson for the Lancaster and Fleetwood Labour Party said: "We noticed this problem while planning how we would campaign on the University campus.

"Students face a choice in this election too, so we want to make sure students get see all of the election literature, from all of the candidates. We brought the problem to the attention of Royal Mail, the University and LUSU, and asked them to make sure all the polling cards and leaflets got to their intended recipients. The ball is now in the University's court. I hope they make the effort to ensure on-campus students can make an informed choice about their local candidates."

Ian Denny, Head of Student Registry has given assurances that college porters will be "prepared for the distribution and appreciate the urgency with the pending deadline for postal votes" and that while voting cards will be given priority when they arrive, the porters

are "doing their best" to get other correspondence sorted.

"Students face a choice in this election too, so we want to make sure students get see all of the election literature, from all of the candidates."

- Labour spokesperson

The parties will be particularly eager to get their message across to students which Lancaster and Fleetwood being a strongly contested seat. Labour and the Conservative have both sent big party names with Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, and Secretary of State for Health, Andy Burnham making appearances for Labour. Shadow Foreign Secretary William Hague has come up to represent the Conservatives and the local Conservative party has said a visit by David Cameron is also likely. Labour hope to have the author of their manifesto and Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Miliband visit Lancaster as well. The Liberal Democrat's Shadow Minister for the Countryside and Rural Affairs, Tim Farron has also been up. The Green Party have said they are currently focusing their energies on "getting [their] first MPs elected."

LUSU makes a sound impact with green award



LANCASTER'S STUDENT UNION reached Gold standard at the Sound Environmental Impact Awards over Easter. The Award recognises work in green innovation by student unions. LUSU President Michael Payne picked up the award along with Director of Opportunities Ben Matthews and his Deputy, Sarah Hinton.

May 6

D-Day for Britain's political parties

electoral process had meant that students' term addresses have been registered by street and building name, with no mention college. The Student Registry subsequently informed the City Council, and a college address line has now been added.

However, literature from the political parties will have been printed before this amendment. All the major parties are legally entitled to send a free post to every

Fri/Sat Week 1 - Roses Rally - Show your support for Team Lancaster as they prepare to give York a right royal whooping

Tuesday Week 2 - THE REIGN OF FASHION Lancaster's Ultimate Fashion Night Out

Week 2 - Heroes and Roses WIN WIN WIN!

Wish - A different taste of Sugar

Old's Cool - It's a retro haven

Play - The only way to end your weekend

the sugarhouse
www.thesugarhouse.co.uk

Top Gear presenter motors in to collect honorary degree

Emma Newman

TOP GEAR PRESENTER James May and well-known television broadcaster Dame Joan Bakewell are two of the six people being awarded honorary degrees at Lancaster this year. Honorary degrees are awarded to those considered 'distinguished in their field' and most recipients have connections with the university or the North West region.

Probably the most well-known among the student population is James May, a Lancaster alumnus and former Pendle student who, legend has it, once covered the entire hallway of his flat with Union Jack toilet roll. He is now an award-winning television presenter and motor-journalist.

Dame Joan Bakewell was born in Stockport and is a television presenter, former Chair of the British Film Institute and writer for The Independent. Once dubbed 'the thinking man's crumpet,' she was awarded the Stone-

wall award for 'Journalist of the Year' in 2009. Her nomination for the honorary degree is due to her work raising the profile of the age equality debate and related 'ageist' issues.

Preston-born Edwin Booth, another recipient, is the fifth generation head of local supermarket chain Booths' which employs over 3000 people in 26 regional branches. He has sat alongside the Dean of Lancaster's Management School and the Pro-Chancellor as Chair of



Honour: Dame Joan Bakewell Born in Lancashire, has been recognised for her esteemed

Change of gear: Lancaster's honorary degrees for 2010 feature more prominent names like James May (right)



career which includes being the first ever female Professor of Surgery at St Mary's Hospital of Imperial College London. Always keen to encourage women to enter the medical profession, she has in the past been invited to Lancaster's School of Health and Medicine to talk to current medical students.

The final two recipients of 2010 also hail from the sciences. Professor Kang Shaozhong is a member of the Chinese Government Committee involved in writing the country's five year agriculture plan. His research focuses upon effective water use and food security, and he currently has over 5000ha of experiments underway. Also the Director for Agri-

cultural Water Research in China and a Distinguished Professor of Agriculture, Professor Shaozhong is recognised as a leader in his field both in China and on an international level.

Finally, Professor Lonnie Thompson has gained global recognition for his work in drilling and analysing ice cores. His achievements include winning the National Medal for Science, the United States' highest scientific honour. As a paleoclimatologist and Distinguished Professor of Earth Sciences, he has also won the world prize for Environmental Achievement, published 165 papers and featured in a Rolling Stone article entitled 'The Ice Hunter'.

Former UK fo at Global Zer

Daniel Owens

SIR HUGH BEACH, the former Commander-in-Chief of UK Land Forces, visited Lancaster last month to address students at the launch of the Lancaster chapter of Global Zero.

Lancaster's chapter is one of 30 student groups worldwide who are advocating multilateral nuclear disarmament. The organisation, which is inspired by commitments from Presidents Obama & Medvedev, have recently outlined a 20 year plan for phased disarmament and have the support of over 200 political, civilian and military leaders; these include Dr Hans Blix, Mikhail Gorbachev, Queen Noor of Jordan, Lord Douglas Hurd and Rt. Hon Margaret Beckett MP.

The event, titled 'A World Without Nuclear Weapons: Mission Impossible?' was also addressed by Paul Ingram, Chief Executive of the British American Security Information Council. He told the audience, "There's still roughly 5,000 nuclear warheads on alert status, there are 20,000 still deployed and it's still the case that an accident could trigger a release. However, the way states think about these weapons, as integral to their security, means we are facing an uphill struggle."

Service 2A and X1 will operate a normal Sunday service to the University on May Day and Spring Bank Holiday Monday, however, we will be operating additional Service 3 journeys, as shown below

Service Number	3	3	B&S				3	3	3	3	3	3A	3	3	3A	3	3
Higher Heysham Combermere Road												1000			1100		
Morecambe Battery												1012			1112		
Torrisholme Square												1037			1137		
Lancaster Bus Station	0825	0830	0835	0840	0910	0940	0955	1010	1040	1048	1110	1140	1148	1203	1243		
Common Garden Street	0828	0833	0838	0843	0913	0943	0958	1013	1043		1113	1143		1206	1246		
Bowerham Hotel	-	-	0843	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-		
Hala Square	-	-	0846	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-		
University Underpass	0841	0846	0852	0856	0926	0956	1011	1026	1056		1126	1156		1219	1259		
South West Campus														1223	1303		
Service Number	3A		3	3	3	3A		3A	3	3	3	3A	3A	3A	3A	3A	
Higher Heysham Combermere Road	1200					00		1800				1900					
Morecambe Battery	1212					12		1812				1912	1930	2030	2130	2230	
Torrisholme Square	1237	then				37		1837				1937	1948	2048	2148	2248	
Lancaster Bus Station	1248	at	03	23	43	48		1848	1903	1923	1943	1948	1958	2058	2158	2258	
Common Garden Street		these	06	26	46		until		1906	1926	1946						
University Underpass		times	19	39	59				1919	1939	1959						
South West Campus			23	43	03				1923	1943	2003						
Service Number	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3A	3A	3	3	3A		3	3	3	3A
South West Campus												1223			43	03	23
University Underpass	0848	0903	0933	1003	1033	1103	1133				1203	1228			48	08	28
George Street	0900	0915	0945	1015	1045	1115	1145				1215	1240		then	00	20	40
Lancaster Bus Station	0903	0918	0948	1018	1048	1118	1148	1100	1200	1218	1243	1300	at	03	23	43	00
Torrisholme Square								1110	1210			1310	these				10
Morecambe Battery								1136	1236			1336	times				36
Higher Heysham Combermere Road								1148	1248			1348					48
Service Number		3A	3	3	3	3A	3	3	3	3A	3	3	3A	3A	3A		
South West Campus			1743	1803	1823			1843	1903	1923		1943	2003				
University Underpass			1748	1808	1828			1848	1908	1928		1948	2008				
George Street			1800	1820	1840			1900	1920	1940		2000	2020				
Lancaster Bus Station			1800	1803	1823	1843	1900	1903	1923	1943	2000	2003	2023	2100	2200	2300	
Torrisholme Square	until		1810				1909				2009			2109	2209	2309	
Morecambe Battery			1836				1929				2029			2129	2229	2329	
Higher Heysham Combermere Rd			1848														



Extra Service 3 journeys will operate between Lancaster University and Lancaster City Centre on May Day and Spring Bank Holiday Monday

Forces chief in attendance at Global Zero's Lancaster launch



The Commander: Sir Hugh Beach speaks at Global Zero talk

Sir Hugh Beach primarily spoke about planned reductions in NATO Tactical Nuclear Weapons based in Europe and concluded by saying, "It will save money, reduce the risk of weapons falling into wrong hands, lessen the salience of nuclear threats in war planning and help to 'reset' strategic relations with Russia. It is well worth attempting." After the speeches, both Ingram & Beech were privy to a heated question and answer session on the is-

ssues raised.

Lancaster Global Zero Society is currently recruiting for new members and hope to hold more events in the coming months. Andrew Gibson, campus-co-ordinator for Global Zero, told SCAN, "Through Global Zero I have been in contact with politicians from all sides of the political spectrum. There's more support for this idea than I originally thought. Nevertheless, a public campaign is needed to keep up pressure and make sure the government acts as it speaks. We need more students lobbying, debating and pushing, in whatever way they can, for global disarmament." The society's spokesperson Rob Brown commented that "Nuclear weapons are a threat that human beings shouldn't have to deal with. The next few years are crucial to our overall goal. The Nuclear Proliferation Treaty is being reviewed and Britain will be voting again on Trident before 2014. Now is the time to make noise about this issue."

In February, Global Zero student leaders from the UK met with negotiators, military leaders and politicians in Paris to discuss the 20 year plan and prepare the public campaign. A film by Lawrence Bender about nuclear issues, 'Countdown to Zero', was screened and is now touring the US. To learn more about the global campaign, check out the website- www.globalzero.org.

Grizedale girls out to restore college spirit with new magazine

Lucy Miller

THREE GRIZEDALE STUDENTS have shown initiative and launched a new magazine in an effort to heighten student participation within the college.

Grizedale second years Natalie Todd, Sian Vickers and Danielle Warren are hoping that their newsletter, entitled 'Gz on It', will have a positive reaction among students. The magazine, which will be brought out once a term, will include information on college sports, a social calendar and contributions from students. The girls are also planning on publishing detailed articles and features and are hoping they will find willing contributors in the college.

Unlike most of Lancaster's other colleges, Grizedale does not have an official magazine run by the JCR. Natalie, Sian and Danielle first discussed the idea for an independent magazine last summer, but no formal plans were ever made.

Over the summer holidays, however, they created a welcome guide for Grizedale freshers, which included information about the college, the university and Lancaster in general. The guide was very well received by

this year's freshers and college administrator Barbara Glass gave the plans for a regular magazine her approval.

Despite having support from the college administration, 'Gz on It' has met with a number of financial difficulties. Because it is independent of the JCR there is no money available from the college for printing or publicity.

The girls have however managed to create around twenty copies for each issue and are hoping that money will be available from the college in the near future. At the moment copies are available in the bar and

various other places in the college buildings.

The first issues of 'Gz on It' were monthly, and contained information on college sports, a puzzle page and a guide to the new bar. Now, however, the girls have decided to develop a more substantial magazine. This is why it will now be published once a term, so that students can submit more detailed articles for approval.

The girls' main aim in developing the magazine is to heighten student spirit in Grizedale. Because of the college's lack of a bar last year, it was felt that students were more apathetic than they had been in previous years towards college activities. The creators of 'Gz on It' are hoping that contributing to the magazine will encourage Grizedale students to become active within the college once more.

The magazine is also available online, through the college website. When the magazine's page was first created it received over two hundred and eighty hits instantly. Natalie, Sian and Danielle are now hoping that this enthusiasm will translate into the submissions they receive for the magazine.

Further information can be found on the magazine's Facebook group, also entitled 'gz on it'.

College Magazines

Bowland Lady - **Bowland**
The Griffin - **Cartmel**
Pendragon - **County**
Furst - **Furness**
The Windmill - **Fylde**
Gz on It - **Grizedale**
Roar - **Lonsdale**
The Witch - **Pendle**

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In Focus: Campus Festival

The Celebration of Campus: an all day extravaganza of fun, food and fireworks



Lauren Hirst

LAST TERM, LANCASTER University witnessed a celebration of societies from across campus when LUSU organised a festival showcase. The free event, entitled Campus Festival, allowed students to get a flavour of the different societies on campus and gave societies an outlet to showcase their hard work and achieve-

ments. There were over 40 societies involved in Campus Festival, just over half of all societies at Lancaster, and it was the first time so many had joined together to create one event. "It achieved its aim of bringing together a large number of societies to put on a spectacular show and provide a lot of interesting activities for students to get involved in. No event, other than Freshers' Fair, has brought together this number of societies and it was much more dynamic for them," said Alisdair Denholm, LUSU Activities Developer.

The centrepiece to the festival was the main stage which was positioned near the entrance, creating an electric atmosphere from the very start when a variety of musical and performing acts took to the stage. Throughout the day, the stage was filled with different societies and bands who kept the student crowd in high spirits with acts such as the Gospel



All the fun of the festival: Students turn out for Lancaster first Campus Festival (Photos: Ben Robins).

and Pentecostal Choir, the Music Wind Band and the newly formed Glee Club. The Campus Festival also attracted a collection of student bands with October Skies, the I hate Rachel Green Club and self-proclaimed 'best band in Lancaster' The Microtones creating an open air party for students. Andrew Syddall, from The Microtones, commented "I felt the crowd were awesome; they were very receptive and engaging, and it was a real pleasure to play a stage of that style, to a crowd of that size."

Martin Ennis, LUSU Advertising and Promotions Manager, added: "The stage was a really great touch; the festival cover really added to the quality of the

performances on stage and made them extra special."

Around the main stage were a number of marquees which provided areas for a whole host of societies and clubs to attract and interest students in an interactive manner. Lancaster Square was a mass of activity with students enjoying the opportunities to try something new and exciting. In one tent, People and Planet were decorating students' arms with authentic henna tattoos. Nearby, several trampolines were set up by the Trampoline Society for students to practise their moves and the occasional backflip if they dared. Old school fair games were in abundance with RAG setting

up hook-a-duck and the Hiking Society organising a raffle to raise money for Mountain Rescue. Students were also able to summon their inner rock god and emulate their musical heroes by taking part in Rock Band, organised by the Gaming Society.

The food court was based to the right of the stage where students could sample different delicacies from around the globe. Local favourites such as the Bamboo Garden and Crows were among the stalls there as well as some of Lancaster's own culture based societies offering different flavours for all taste buds. The Indian, German and Malaysian Society were in attendance, cooking up unique

Behind the scenes at Campus Fest

THE IDEA BEHIND Campus Festival was to engage as much student activity from across campus as possible and the initial spark came from Lancaster student Chris Osborn who was keen to make his idea a reality. "I came up with the idea at Societies New Officer Training session at the end of the Easter break last year in a planning exercise. I went to Alisdair Denholm soon after and asked what would be needed to run this sort of event," said Osborn.

At first, the event was planned on a small scale. However, once the funding had been received the size of the event seemed to grow relatively quickly. "Last year we weren't planning anything on this scale as we didn't have any funding but when we got the UPP funding in first term this year it all stepped up a gear and I have been emailing and speaking to societies and student activi-

ties almost every day since about halfway through that term" added Osborn.

A student committee was founded to ensure Campus Festival was a success, including Osborn, Andrew Syddall, Alex Leonard, Becky Gittins and Yang Hu, who put countless hours into the organization of the event. Ennis, Denholm and Andy Johnston, LUSU VP (FEDS) were also involved in the festival's creation.

When asked why he thought Campus Festival was such a popular event with students, Johnston said: "I think the event was a success because of the sheer amount of people that were involved in it. People really connected with the diversity of the groups and it showed when we could show a display from the Cheerleaders and Parkour Society and then follow them up with a couple of student bands."

When asked about any behind the scenes problems that disrupted the organization of the event, all remained

tight lipped apart from Johnston who did confess to a minor wrong call on the time front. "We started the event late. Myself, Andy, Chris and Alex all had the responsibility for stage management; we were up against it to make sure the running order got back on track. About three hours in, I thought we were doing well for time and decided to let October Skies, who the crowd loved, do another song. The rest of the lads nearly crucified me for that as we slipped back behind running time."

After the hours of planning and preparation, Ennis commented on what he felt was the highlight of the day. "I don't think there was one highlight but clearly thousands of people saw the fireworks; it might have been cold but people stuck it out until the end," he said. "There was a great atmosphere at the event from one in the afternoon until the final bang of the fireworks; it has put down a marker that the University community would love to see it again."

Festival feedback

When I saw the posters around campus advertising the festival, I was unsure about the idea. For one, I had no idea where Lancaster Square was located, despite my room being situated in County Main. However, the festival outreached all my expectations.

Stephanie Banks, County

Campus Fest kicked off with a bang as all Lancaster University students were looking forward to the end of term. Yet I'm sure that like myself, many others will have memories of the epic firework and laser show followed by a free bus to Sugar – perfect! A great event that got the Students' Union together to have a good time and that many will be looking forward to seeing again.

Luke Anderson, Furness President

Saturday March 11, I think it is safe to say, did not have the best weather imaginable yet I was greeted with a bustling hive of people chatting and listening to the music and a variety of stores and tents. The whole festival was then rounded off spectacularly with a fireworks display. I totally think Lancaster can never have too many fireworks, we have a lot to celebrate, and the success of this festival, on a day that did us no favours in terms of weather, is one of those things.

Matthew Pawelski, Furness

This event was a huge success. It allowed students to experience some of the most enjoyable parts of University life together, with a true festival atmosphere, great music and entertaining activities throughout the day.

Rebecca Pocklington, Fylde



and traditional dishes for students to experience and enjoy. The German Society's culinary delights proved a huge success, selling over 200 Bratwursts in just a couple of hours.

In true festival style, a grassy area was left free from tents and marquees so that students could find a space, open a beer and chill out whilst listening to the music coming from the main stage. Despite the unfavourable weather, over 2,000 students joined in with the festivities, some taking full advantage of the event and camping out all day in anticipation of the main event, which began at 10.30pm.

The firework display and laser show were the climax to the event with the Music Society playing backdrop music which had been specifically created for the event. All bars across campus were deserted as students watched the spectacular display to signify the end of the festival and the start of the night ahead. Free buses then shuttled students to the Sugarhouse where a night of dancing, drinking (and celebrating for all those who had helped organised the event) commenced.

Campus Festival also brought the diverse range of societies and the firework display to viewers on air and online as both LUTube and Bailrigg were in attendance capturing the day as it unfolded.

Even though many societies from across campus were involved in the festival, not one of the University sports teams was able to participate in the

event. When asked about whether she believed the sports teams should have been invited to take part, the President of the University Equestrian Team, Eleanor Lott, commented "I think it is a shame that the sports team were not involved, as the sporting teams are a large part of university and campus life, which would have enabled the Campus Festival to be truly representative [of Lancaster University]."

When asked if any improvements would be implemented if the Campus Festival made a return next year, Denholm said: "If we obtain future funding to be able to put on the festival again next year we would like to involve more of the societies. It is difficult for some groups such as Sub Aqua or Running as their activities do not lend themselves to an event held in a square on campus; however this just means we need to be more creative in finding an activity they can do."

This event, along with Winter Fest which was held in Michaelmas term and Roses which is scheduled for the Summer term, would not have been possible without funding from the University Partnership Programme, UPP, and the Alumni Friends' programme which contributed around £40,000 to the events. The University also helped in the success of the festival from staff setting their alarms for 5am to make sure the electricity systems were in full working order to changing the licensed areas on campus to allow the event to go ahead.



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scan:COMMENT



Alex Harris
Comment Editor

US healthcare reforms may be progressive but the devil is in the detail

Obama may have won the war in Congress but made concessions to big business and a hostile, right-wing media

The recent healthcare reform bill passed in the United States can be seen as marking two seemingly contradictory things: firstly, the biggest leap forward in U.S. domestic policy since the Johnson Administration and secondly, the most obvious indication of 'business as usual' politics since the Clinton Administration. The bill lays out coverage for 95% of Americans and, amongst other things, ends the practise of refusing treatment based on 'pre-existing conditions,' which has been the biggest slap in the face for Americans who have the misfortune to fall ill. The bill achieves a lot, but what is perhaps more striking is what it omits.

Flash back to 2009. No matter which candidate was to emerge victorious, healthcare would inevitably be the main domestic agenda. With Obama in office, the general feeling at the time was that a so-called 'public option,' in which the government provides a separate healthcare plan which competes with the private health insurance industries, would emerge. Bear in mind this is exactly the kind of thing the American public has wanted for decades. A 2009 amalga-



mation of polling data on healthcare reform showed that between 60-80% of the U.S. public support a public option for healthcare, and this is roughly the same throughout the past 30-40 years.

Understandably, the private industries were scared. The U.S. Government already provides coverage to members of its own congress, U.S. soldiers and elderly citizens through programs such as Medicare and its coverage is generally thought to be superior to care provided

by the private industry. The companies were effectively afraid of being run into a ground by a superior product, and America is nothing if not willing to provide support for its most ineffective, but 'too big to fail' businesses.

The media were also quick to misrepresent the debate. Katty Kay, a BBC Washington correspondent, claimed on her blog that the U.S. public would, by their very cultural make-up, reject a government-run healthcare system sim-

ilar to the NHS or the French healthcare models. 'There is something quintessentially un-American about nationalization because the American character is simply too entrepreneurial to tolerate it' she opined, conveniently ignoring that this is exactly what American public opinion has been previously in favour of.

And so a bill was passed which effectively gave in to the idea that private insurance could continue providing sub-par treatment to U.S. citizens, but 95% of them will now be signed up to it. With the idea that private coverage would become essentially ubiquitous, the insurance industries were apparently more than willing to make a few small, but significant concessions to the benefit of the people they are covering.

Yet when put into perspective, it seems a wonder that such a clearly defunct system was tolerated for so long. The more extreme U.S. media attempted to drum up paranoid right-wing opposition to any kind of healthcare reform by insisting that because the Nazis had nationalised healthcare, the U.S. nationalising healthcare would be one step away from replacing the stars and stripes with a Swastika making love to a Soviet ham-

mer and sickle.

It's true that the Nazis did have a national health care plan, but that's only the case because Germany's national healthcare plan dates back to 1883 and by 1933 healthcare was as much a part of German life as the roads and bridges. Yes, even Hitler had to initially rely on voter support. It becomes pretty obvious in nations that have similar systems to our NHS that healthcare is a right, not a privilege and it seems that the American public generally agrees with this assessment, partially because they're not as stupid as snobby Europeans like to pretend they are, but also because they are in the belly of the beast when it comes to private-run healthcare plans and have experience of how atrocious they are.

So whilst there are a great deal of positive things to say about Obama's healthcare bill, like any good novel the story is in the subtext. What is revealed on closer look is the outright contempt that the American political leadership generally exhibits to the opinions of its own population and that, when asked to choose between business or the will of the people; nine times out of ten they will opt, as usual, for business.



Michael Payne
LUSU President

Aren't we all supposed to be in this together?

The news of astronomical hikes in Vice-Chancellors' pay packets is never palatable when others are being told to tighten their belts, as is the case in the higher education sector as a whole.

It comes as a great insult to the hard working support staff, cash-strapped students and dedicated members of academic staff that Vice-Chancellors gladly wax lyrical about controlling staff costs at their institution whilst not practising what they preach. VCs have happily placed themselves in confrontational showdowns with trade unions over pay deals and signed off redundancies but are not willing to have a taste of their own medicine.

Whilst redundancies are being made right throughout the higher education sector and whilst budgets are being cut at many universities, often resulting in direct damage to the overall student experience, some Vice-Chancellors, senior academics and officers of institutions have been

happy to accept increases of up to nine percent in their salary.

It is also shameful that cuts to higher education are being used as an excuse to pull out and dust off naive and ill thought out plans for restructuring and subsequent redundancies in universities. Students and staff may be slightly more tolerant of discussions about cuts that "need to be made" in their respective universities if Vice-Chancellors and their senior teams showed some level of empathy and solidarity by voluntarily suggesting pay freezes for themselves.

Many at the top table will say this is playground politics and that freezing a Vice-Chancellors salary will not make savings that amount to enough for rescuing fast-sinking academic departments but this misses the point entirely. Perception and accepting your own share of the pain is often equally as important as the final outcomes of any difficult decisions.

The added irony of the debate that rolls along in the political background about fees is that in a world

where fees are increased and a market was truly introduced to higher education, where students had even greater power as outright consumers of higher education - in difficult choices about where resources should be prioritised they would almost certainly not be supporting the grossly astronomical increases in pension contributions and salaries for Vice-Chancellors.

Gross increases to car parking for staff and students at Lancaster and restructuring that may amount to unnecessary redundancies are just two of the local issues simmering under the surface and news in the THE that our own VC has received a healthy pay increase will not be met with a great reception.

Vice-Chancellors who squawk loudest about wanting a free market in higher education should be careful what they wish for because if the genie is let out of the bottle post Lord Browne's review - their oak panelled office refurbishments and top-heavy management structures that place

significant burden on the wage costs of universities will be first for the chop. And with nine out of ten voters polled suggesting they are vehemently against any increase in fees in the next parliament, it would be foolish of university leaders to join any consensus that suggests such a move, even if Lord Browne and his review panel do open the gates to a free market.

It is shameful that a pay significantly higher than that of the Prime Minister is now common-place amongst the hundred plus Vice-Chancellors across the UK, although they may sit in ivory towers and feel they are accountable to no-one after they have silenced their Academic Boards into submission and filled their University Boards of Governors with reverent supporters and allies, they must remember they are public servants - fulfilling a duty which is definitely in the public interest.

Just as MPs were not beyond redistribution neither should Vice-Chancellors be.

The pay rise hikes for university Vice-Chancellors belies the current worries which threaten the system



Matt Windsor
VP FEDS-elect

Elections were not a failure but improvements can and must be made

Interactivity and greater campaign freedom can ignite our democratic process and excite a disenfranchised electorate

LUSU's Full-Time Officer elections of last term were by no means as much of a failure as some have made them out to be; one particular slurred acceptance speech at the results being no exception. The vote count was up on the previous year by a marked amount, there were 15 initial candidates that entered, in some cases, the closest races we have seen in recent years and the first voting day provided Alex Square with one of the liveliest campaign days Lancaster has seen in a long time.

However, the E-Voting system that was supposed to deliver a radical change in election numbers fell sadly short of the expectations. One problem here was that the 'electronic' part did not go far enough. It was certainly a positive to make the elections more physically accessible by ditching all the paper and allowing anyone to vote at any time, anywhere. But a major opportunity was missed when there was little effort put into E-Promotion, E-Manifestos and E-Publicity; with that in mind though, it was probably wise to make sure the system worked first before trying to put icing on the cake. An example of such a missed opportunity was the way in



which the curious couldn't find out who was even running for the elections, unless they went to a sub section of the main LUSU website and scrolled down half the page. Even then, they would find only a name and position heading. Not exactly the most visually stimulating, appealing or interactive website and one far from accessible for the average student.

After looking at other union attempts to publicise their elections, Lancaster is sadly lacking in the kind of exposure that is needed to engage with

the more apathetic student. The University of Plymouth had their take on the old white and red 'RUN DMC' band logo, branding their elections in the same style, but as 'RUN UPSU'. Complimented by a complete change in web advertising, branding of special music events and merchandise that was actually wearable on a night out, this 'theme' far from trivialised the elections. For want of a better word, it made them a whole lot more 'cool'. Southampton University had an on-line system that had interactive election calendars, blog posts from candidates and interactive manifestos, videos, event publicity and hustings calendars. On our hustings day, there was not one word on the central union website about the candidates or their campaigns. Problem? I think so.

However, the onus cannot be entirely placed upon bubble.lusu.co.uk. There are many other aspects of the elections that desperately need re-evaluating before more people are disillusioned from what is actually happening within their Student Union and, indeed, campus politics as a whole. The strict rules about Facebook and campaigning in licensed premises need to be removed entirely, it should be far easier to campaign for

support from individual clubs and societies and, most importantly, we need to encourage negative campaigning.

As long as it's not argumentum ad hominem (arguments against the man), negative campaigning initiates division of opinion and discussion amongst the electorate. At the moment, every policy is taken at face value and presented as fact, unless it is challenged on the hustings night. Hustings too need to be assessed; I was given a 30 second time limit on answers to questions that deserved a lot more discussion. This surely is not the way to scrutinise our candidates and improvements must be made.

Whatever myself and the next Full-Time team decide to do next year, along with election sub-committee and other sections of the student population that is involved, E-Voting is here to stay. The system, although not without its flaws, works. However, we will certainly be reviewing the election bye-law and making the entire process more exciting, more visually appealing and more interactive for the average student. Other than this, perhaps the announcement of the General Election will ignite the political consciousness of students on campus and revitalise our democratic rights.

A 'fruitsalad of functions' that must be preserved

Lancaster becomes ever more populous but the new buildings that spring up must remain loyal to its history, writes **David Guy**

To fulfil a 'fruitsalad of functions', is how Gabriel Epstein, one of Lancaster's original architects, envisioned the then modern campus. Alex Square was to be the centre of student activity, with the steps acting as gathering spots or as a place of impromptu theatre. And, rather than for convenience, the central spine was designed so long conversation and the free flow of student ideas would be uninterrupted by as few steps as possible.

This detail in design, and consideration for the student experience, characterised the foundation designs of the university, but may not be of primary concern for the current planners.

A growth in the number of people studying at university has seen the original campus forced to increase in size. The university's 'Masterplan', for the future of the university, includes a proposed science park, further additions to the new outlying buildings and the new sports centre.

Obviously, further building is vital if a swelling population is to study here, but more consideration needs to go into complimenting the original buildings. Updates, such as the learning zone have been welcomed by the original architects and have effectively enhanced the look of Alex Square, but some of the university's outlying buildings seem better suited to a business park.

The Info Lab, which lies beside Pendle College, is an impressive looking building but it bares no similarity to the halls of residence it sits beside. Similarly, the townhouses of Grizedale and County may be architecturally in vogue; looking attractive to the prospective students of the next five years, but will they look quite so smart in ten?

The charge of 'soulless' is often levelled against the foundation buildings. They were designed as rational Modernist spaces to suit the needs of the time. But has, as the university suggests, the character of education altered to such an extent, that those buildings need to be replaced or modernised? They cite the idea that there is no 'satisfactory sense of arrival', to welcome new visitors to the campus. But when did that stop anyone applying to come and study here?

Interior modernisation is obviously needed to support IT, and to update old offices and student accommodation, but the exterior of buildings needs either to match that original 'masterplan' or be kept as intact as possible. The original skin, beneath the new make-up, may look like a bland remnant of now faded tastes and ideals, but we can not be sure how future generations will view that style of architecture. The modern additions and 'updates', such as being planned for Bowland Square, may be looked on with horror, as defiling that original beauty. Rather than considering the near future and it's opportunities for funding, the current planners need to consider Bailrigg's history, and preserve it as much as possible, for the students of the distant future.



Liam Kay
Comment Editor

E-voting is the correct system to use but surely it should be fool proof

In the cold light of day, everything seems that little more disappointing. People not quite as you initially thought, music that grows tiresome as the days roll by, reactions cooling as the temperature lowers; some things that seemed the genuine article reveal themselves as the frauds they really are.

It is with this that I arrive to the subject of e-voting, a policy that I myself voted for when the decision passed through Union Council and a method of voting that I was secure and happy with after its first usage in the Michaelmas Term elections. I felt that it would revolutionise our elections and increase student participation, allowing for a more legitimate democracy in the Students' Union. I felt that the system that was eventually drawn up and the restrictions placed upon it were both fair and valid.

However, from Lent Term's Full Time Executive Officer elections, it is clear that we have been premature in our praise for electronic voting and that there are serious flaws in the elections mechanism that we have established; problems we must contend with if we are to continue to use the system in the future. Firstly, we should be highly critical of any process that does not allow for the recollection of votes; it was the failure to retrieve the votes made by the 97 voters in Graduate College that ensured that a re-election was required. Was it

truly worth the stress to the candidates forced to re-run? I doubt that a system of retrieval in extreme circumstances (such as the one in the last election) is either too hard to introduce or sufficiently problematic for the vast majority of students on campus.

It is simply laughable that we were unable to regain the information from within the e-voting framework. It is also ridiculous that the system was undone by a human error. Whilst people do make mistakes, it is astonishing that there was no back-up plan or failsafe to ensure that information was retrievable and errors could be rectified without the election process descending in to farce. Surely it is a pre-requisite of any mechanism for delivering elections that we have methods to ensure that the recent situation should never have been allowed to happen? It is a seriously short-sighted approach to not factor in any possibility of human error whilst devising the e-voting system and it is this particular mistake that should be blamed for this failure of LUSU's democratic operation on campus.

How can we rectify these errors? What can be done to prevent a repeat of these recent, seemingly improbable events? Firstly, we must look to ensure that college votes can be separated, allowing for errors of this kind, if they are to be repeated, to lessen in their impact on candidates if a re-election is chosen.

Had the election only been re-run in graduate college, we may have had far less controversy and a quicker time in getting the re-run results in order to inaugurate the new full-time officers. This would also preserve the ability to know how the candidates did in different sections of campus; which colleges voted for whom. This has been lost in the recent election to the detriment of the elections on campus.

Secondly, we should install the ability to track votes made by individuals, only to be used if the system we have employed again fails to the degree that it did this time. It is vital that we prepare for the kind of situation we have faced this year; the transition from using a paper-based system has thrown up new instances which we must prepare for if e-voting is to continue as our electoral process. We have to be able to rectify human-errors and must begin to prepare for the possibility of these circumstances.

What happened in the full-time officer elections was unfortunate. Whilst pointing the blame at various individuals has been the reaction of some, it is both inaccurate and unjust to do so. The election saw a higher turnout and for this the election team must be congratulated. We cannot let their recent accomplishments be marred by allowing an imperfect system to continue without severe scrutiny and readjustment.

Why was a system put in place that did not have the capacity to handle human error?



Robbie Pickles

LUSU President-elect

The far left could yet return to power and take back NUS as its own

The Browne review signals the student movement at a crossroads. Can the Streeting and Porter approach pay off or will the lefties feel vindicated?



and the election of his spiritual successor, Aaron Porter, who was elected by a landslide last Wednesday at the NUS conference in Newcastle. Although both campaigns gained a moderate proportion of votes, neither Rob Owen or Bell Ribeiro-Addy were able to garner the support required.

2010, however, will potentially mark a dramatic step change for the future

of Higher Education, University funding and, ultimately, the NUS. With the Browne Review on HE reporting later this year, and an uncertain General Election looming, it is not clear in which direction the funding of University education will head. Neither the Labour or the Conservative parties have committed to a plan for the future, although a rise in fees is strongly rumoured. Most NUS members would view such a move as spelling disaster for students across the country. However, for the Streeting supporting members of the NUS, this would pose a major dilemma- their strategy of appeasement would, ultimately, be seen by those clamouring for free education as a failure, a compromise too far which allowed politicians to take advantage of their change of heart and wield the knife. In short, hard left students would be sure to see the current leadership as having entertained a gamble which had demonstrated it could not pay off. These developments could see a very different atmosphere at next year's NUS conference. If Aaron is not careful, and his successor is unable to convince students from across the country that the pursuit of moder-

ate compromise can be defended, the fight for free education could re-emerge from the background and a new faction, formed around the policy of free education, could take the leadership of our National Union. Following what would then be two major policy changes during a three year period, the Union would appear to politicians and the media as both weak and indecisive, incapable of presenting a sound argument on behalf of students and, therefore, redundant as an organisation worth taking seriously. However, should the government of tomorrow adopt parts of the current NUS strategy, especially their blueprint for a 'Graduate Tax' which would see education paid for retrospectively, not on entry, the more moderate approach could achieve a stunning further victory, one which will see it maintain a grapple hold on the leadership of the NUS for a number of years to come and which may sweep Aaron into a second year in office.

So this is it, NUS. Make or break, sink or swim. Whatever happens, it will be a fight for your life, one which, on behalf of students, you cannot afford to lose.

Liberation comes last with LUSU

EWD officers are not listened to, writes Aidan Williams

You may have noticed, in recent weeks, that many individuals have highlighted concerns about LUSU's commitment to its EWD activities. Certainly the current level of funding granted to the EWD remit is pathetic; only £4000 annually is guaranteed to the campaigns of the EWD officers. This is unacceptable.

As a consequence of such a low budget, different interest groups are forced to compete for funding from a union that should be responding to all their needs. This all comes at a time when LUSU sabbaticals are promoting that we do more than ever, increasing officer training and encouraging students to attend NUS's liberation events. The finances to allow this simply aren't there, meaning that there will always be certain voices that go unheard.

This however is but one part of the union's latent disregard for issues of equality. Union Council itself reveals a host of other examples documenting the disturbing attitude LUSU holds towards equality. The non-sabbatical review significantly altered the structure of student officers, abolishing positions for unrepresented minority groups. These changes were carried out without student or officer consultation, and never required student approval. The review failed to gain support from even one officer in LUSU's EWD portfolio, yet still it was forced through by a majority with no experience, understanding or interest in matters of equality and diversity.

EWD officers fight in LUSU against constant opposition: feminists are criticised for objecting to 'pimps and hoes' socials, whilst LGBTQ activists are told that those whose gender identity is non-conformative are in too much of a minority for us to progress the cause of. There is evidently justification for the union's sliding reputation among NUS's liberation campaigns.

Recently, this trend was taken to the extreme; student participation in decision-making about equality completely eradicated. Whilst it appeared that the referendum put to students during Lent Term was solely about ensuring the union constitution complies with legal expectations required for LUSU to gain charity status, an additional action was made on the mandate of this referendum, which abolished the 'groups' of LUSU specifically dedicated to minority student representation. These groups had protected status under the constitution due to their purpose in promoting minority representation; altering them thus required the direct consent, in a separate referendum, of the full union. Such minor technicalities remain unimportant however in a union where a small number of officers act in a top-down fashion, imposing their will.

Here we have the real explanation for the unenthusiastic relationship that students have with their union, for the attitude at the heart of the problems discussed above permeates throughout everything our union does. A union that does not listen to its own officers, yet alone its students, cannot be thought of as practicing good student democracy.



Mike Indian

Politicians will use the media like never before to influence your opinion

It is all over my Facebook news feed. Pie charts proportioned into party colours reflecting a person's favourite choices of policy options drawn from across the political spectrum. Irrespective of whether or not you find interactive online quizzes an annoyance this is one you should certainly be paying attention to. Not for the result (although you may end up surprising yourself about which party's proposals most appeal to you), but rather for the neat summaries of the key policies that will determine the governance of our country for the next four to five years, dependent on who is ultimately elected.

The fact is that, for the coming election, politics has never been more accessible. Elements like televised debates and narrowing opinion polls have elevated the role of the media in the run-up to polling day to an almost unprecedented level. In the year of what will undoubtedly be a "change election" our politicians will be making every possible effort to reach us. In fact, when I say "us" I mean students in particular.

It is not a coincidence that one of two issues raised at the Liberal Democrat conference last year was the party's policy on tuition fees. Graduate employment and the government's target of 50% of young people in higher education are hot topics. As a body,

students represent a highly sought after group for the parties, but where do our allegiances lie?

Obviously, the era of enduring connections to a particular party are over. One only has to compare the size of membership of each political party on campus to confirm this fact. Of course, there are those who do feel a deep bond to their party, but this is not a sentiment shared by most of the student body. Yet, the last few months has seen the arrival of the Green Party on campus, intent on mobilising support ahead of our trip to the ballot box. Will this be successful?

To answer this, I point to the failure of the campaign ran by LUSU last year, prior to the European Elections. The emphasis of this anti-BNP crusade fell on the ridiculously simplistic command of "Don't Vote Fascist." However, this simple statement provoked the response from some student voters of "why not?" Where was the information on how the system worked? Who were the other parties standing? What options did people have in exercising their democratic right?

These are the reasons that underline the importance of this Facebook quiz. It represents a real opportunity to assess what Labour, the Conservatives and the rest offer in the areas you care about. No one wants to read every manifesto cover to cover, but this com-

ing election needs to be decided on the ideas on how to guide Britain through the difficult times ahead.

At the end of the day, there is only so much mobilisation can achieve. Given the understandable political disaffection felt by many students, unsurprisingly, many will choose not to vote. A common charge levelled at those aiming to sit in Westminster is that they are "all the same." Aside from this, there is the issue of how much difference can one voter make, even in a marginal seat like Lancaster? Students must listen carefully to what is being said in the run-up to polling day to appreciate that there are differences between the parties. Only then, should you decide whether or not to use your vote.

Ultimately though, we must be wary of relying too much on the media in determining our electoral choices. Given their increased role for 2010, we must question whether this coverage will be used responsibly. It may descend into a game of political football, synonymous with all electioneering. In the past promises have been broken by governments, especially when it comes to students. The U-turn on tuition fees by Labour highlights why we are sceptical of the promises political parties make. However, you must consider what the consequences of not voting might be.

The student vote will be heavily courted by the major parties, but it is important to recognise the truth behind the propaganda

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.

Bus route success a result of petition by County Officers

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you regarding an article in your previous issue about the bus routes to north campus. I would like to point out that, without the work put in by County JCR Students' With Disabilities Officer Genevieve Agnew and her predecessor Emily Richards, as well as the other County JCR Officers, this would likely not have happened. They managed to get over 600 signatures on their petition and with the help of the VP EWD this has actually resulted in a situation where we are likely to have better access for disabled students in County and Bowland colleges as well as safer journeys back from nights out. Thank you to everyone involved.

Matt Saint
JCR President
County College

Bus route success a result of petition by County Officers

Dear Sir,

After reading all of the letters that have been sent to SCAN over several weeks, regarding foreign language posters on campus, I have one thing to say:

Is it not a privilege that we live in a country of free speech, where societies are more than welcome to create posters written in their own languages, and one anonymous writer can also express his/her objections to them?

Rather than slating opinions that are different to our own, we should respect them, because that is what epitomises a country of free speech. 'Agree to disagree'.

I think most of the views expressed in this drawn-out discussion have been valid, and am thankful that we live in a society that allows both to be conveyed.

Ali Sheen
Bowland College

Bus route success a result of petition by County Officers

Dear Sir,

Several questions have struck me recently in regard to the recent LUSU elections;

1) Does anyone really care about who is VP of what position? Reading the posters dotted around campus they all seemed to promise the same thing, they would work for me, for my benefit, to make my university life better. I'm sure they would all do as good a job as the rest. None of them mention that they are getting paid to stay in university. Having two uncontested

positions this year backs up the theory that nobody cares.

2) Secondly, are the candidates going to remove all the garbage they have spread around campus in the form of cardboard and posters? If I walked around town and left paper and cardboard everywhere I would probably get a fine. The posters they leave are trashy, rubbish, and unfortunately EVERYWHERE!

Alex Burke
Lonsdale College

Answers to housing issues

Dear Sir,

Following criticism in SCAN it should be noted that all LUSU Let houses are Accredited and/or Licensed with Lancaster City Council and comply all comply with those current regulations. LUSU housing undertake regular risk assessments with Lancaster City Council and we take our duty of care very seriously.

With regards to the complaints raised relating to the cleanliness of LUSU Let properties it is expected that the vacating tenants will leave the property as they found the property when they moved in. In the majority of instances the properties are left in a good condition with LUSU undertaking a regular clean to ensure the property is ready for the new tenants. However, in a minority of cases an additional clean is deemed necessary with the cost recharged to the vacating housemates.

September 2009 saw over 180 new LUSU Let tenancies begin. Of these new tenancies the housing office received 9 complaints with regards to the cleanliness of the properties from new tenants. While this was disappointing for LUSU Housing and our contract cleaners it must be recognised that these complaints relate to a very small number of houses compared to the number of households LUSU Housing had moving in.

Finally, LUSU Housing do take any possible lack of available student accommodation very seriously. As a result of which the housing office were in contact with the College & Residences Office at the beginning of January 2010 to clarify the number of applications they had received for campus accommodation.

Matthew Ward
LUSU Housing Manager

A right to Fascism

Dear Sir,

I felt compelled to respond to a letter published in the most recent issue of SCAN written by Mr. David McGovern entitled "Make a stand against Fascism" in order to expose its hypocrisy and the way in which the sentiment at the core of his argument undermines the democratic process itself.

I am an avid believer in democracy and support the view of Mr. McGovern that it is unfortunate that so few students and indeed citizens of Britain as a whole fail to take part in the election process. However, Mr. McGovern seems in favor of selective democracy, in which only certain views and parties have a right to be represented; despite a claim of pride in our "free society of tolerance, respect and equality" he feels that such tolerance and respect should not be extended to those aligned with the far right.

The ultimate aim of democracy should be that the opinions of all people within a country are validated and quantified in electing leaders who represent the views of those people, and therein lies the beauty of the system. If the people of Lancashire feel that the BNP best represent their views then they have a right to elect an official from that party. If Britain as a whole decided that it was of a Fascist mindset we have a right to elect a Fascist Prime-minister.

That is the basis of the democratic rights Mr. McGovern and LUSU claim to support and it is not up to either of them to alienate or discourage voters based on political allegiance. Isn't that a bit Fascist?

Graeme Hutton
JCR Magazine Editor
Bowland College

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

Page 34



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**'WHEN IS THE PLOUGH'S GARDEN FESTIVAL
IN MAY?'**

MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, COLLEGE AND A CONTACT
TELEPHONE NUMBER. THE COMPETITION CLOSING ON THURSDAY 18TH MAR 2010.

something
a bit
random

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TOP FIVE

HANG-OVER CURES

Whether you believe in them or not, **Eric Macleod** gives you some remedies it won't hurt to try



Water

The number one cure for any hangover is to re-hydrate with a recommended pint an hour of water.

Sleep

Give your body a break to do all the tidying up of your insides it needs to do! It's not like you're getting any dissertation done today anyway really is it?



Drink Orange Juice

Vitamin C in orange juice speeds up the metabolism of your liver, so the alcohol will get in and out much faster.



Fizzy Drinks

Pop like Irn Bru and Lucozade can give you a feel-good lift, but anything with caffeine in will de-hydrate you further so choose carefully!



Fry up

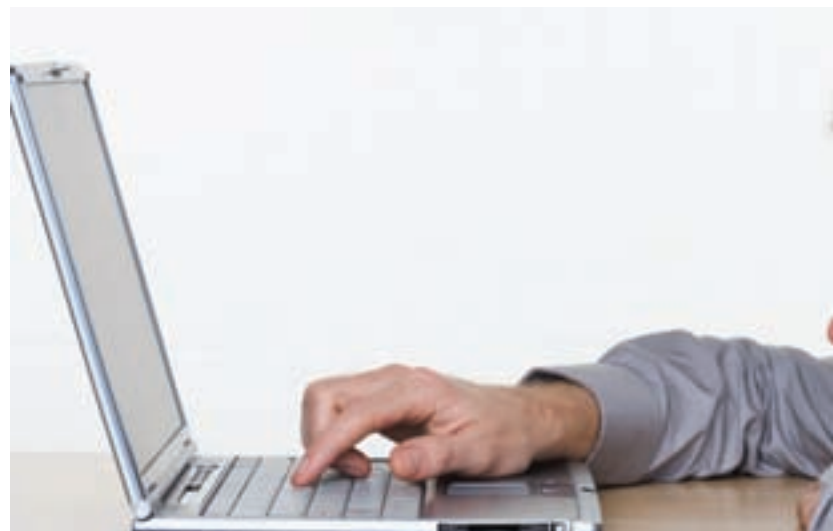
Fatty fry-ups are good for an energy boost and the amino acids in eggs are good at clearing out those nasty drink toxins! Might not be the last time you see that meal, though...

Procrastination: the

Jo Taylor explores a student's greatest weakness

PROCRASTINATION IS, HANDS down, our favourite form of self-sabotage. Many believe that procrastination is like masturbation; at first it feels good, but in the end you're only screwing yourself. Amongst students everywhere procrastination has become something of a buzzword. It is the hobby we all love to hate and feel somewhat guilty about. A recent survey estimated that 85 per cent of students admit to regular procrastination. But why is it that we are so ashamed to admit that we like doing other activities - just to put off doing work?

I must clarify from the onset; I am not endorsing extreme procrastination, but the vast majority of students dodge responsibilities in a variety of relatively harmless forms. During the upcoming exam period and dissertation deadlines, we will be sure to see a flurry of Facebook status updates such as "Lucy has just written 2000 words, only 8000 to go!" There will be an increase in the amount of Google and Youtube visits and a rise in the quantity of tea-drinking and Red Bull purchasing. There will be many



impromptu walks to Alex Square and to the duck-pond, and a new found talent for painting, chair-jousting, sonnet writing, frisby throwing or cake baking. Online quizzes and games will take over your life, and your room will without a doubt be the tidiest it has ever been; anything to avoid revising.

Any psychology student could tell you that Freud was one of the first academics to recognise this activity as a "thief of time". Medics believe that procrastination is usually caused by anxiety, and leaves you feeling

tired, guilty and overwhelmed. When I Googled the word "procrastination" I was flooded with a wave of tips for overcoming it, as if it was a sort of disease. Someone has even coined the phrase *Student Syndrome* to refer to the phenomenon of applying yourself at the last possible moment before a deadline.

Such negative associations however have prevented people from questioning whether there may be some benefits to a little procrastination now and again. Surely, there's something to be said for that euphoric

Campus icons

A glimpse into the life of Lancaster's famous faces

NAME: Louise Davies

PROFESSION: Licensed Trade Retail/
Sugarhouse Manager

STARSIGN: Capricorn



What is the best thing about being involved in the Sugarhouse?

Sounds clichéd but there isn't a singular best thing. I could wax lyrical for hours about how the licensed trade has manifested over the last ten years, how trends have changed, gone full circle and how challenging it is to keep up, let alone make an impression!

Over the last year, we've seen some really successful events. What else is going on this term?

There's been some brilliant events over the last year, with great support from JCRs and students alike. As well as the huge nights you've mentioned we've had a couple of WiFi battles, a crazy Halloween, Playful Saturdays and an eclectic mix of Old's Cool Fridays! This coming term we are looking forward to hosting the warm up Lancaster Roses event

as well as the Roses Weekend Big Friday! There's talk of a Shagga Sleepover, Glastonbury Fest, WiFi, Exam Stress buster and the end of term Drink The Bar Dry. I guess its watch this space!

Have you ever "drank a bar dry"?

Only a hotel mini bar. In Las Vegas. And it cost me a fortune.

What has been your funniest moment working at the Sugarhouse?

I was once serenaded outside the front doors by a young gentleman singing *Cupid, Draw Back Your Bow*. And then there was the one where I ended up with my trouser legs rolled up to my knees, armed with a crow bar attacking a manhole outside the venue. There was the one with the amorous couple and the soda gun. There was the one with the bucket of water. There was also the one where I offered a mint to a preoccupied young lady...

If you weren't in the job you are in now, what would you be doing?

Ah, interesting question and one I ask myself every Sunday afternoon. Stand up comedian or Human Resource Manager. One in the same, some might say.

Old's Cool or Play?

Is it fair of me to make a choice? Should I sit on the fence? Errr, no! Old's Coll all the way! I think it's my age...

What's your favourite song for a night out?

My musical spectrum is far reaching. Go figure. I'm currently enjoying Yeasayer, I thank the Venue Assistant for her musical expertise.

‘student syndrome’



feeling when you race against the clock to reach the deadline and manage to hand in your work in the nick of time. This experience leaves you feeling invincible, as though you could do anything. This adrenaline rush is, to some people, preferable to the quiet sense of achievement you get from finishing work with time to spare. We do not have *Student Syndrome*; we simply thrive off the thrill of the triumph.

I relish the opinion that students are lazy time-wasters, as the concept of “waste” is a matter open for debate.

You can end up doing some pretty interesting and useful things when you procrastinate. Just about any activity seems preferable to revising, so your attention can often be diverted towards things you wouldn’t normally consider doing.

A friend once told me that she “would rather cycle to Morecambe and back than revise the joys of economics.” So that is exactly what we did. Another friend even discovered the culture and history of Lancaster and took a trip to the Castle to avoid revising; something he would never normally have done. When I did my year abroad in Paris last year, my friends and I even took a tour of the city’s sewer system to avoid doing our dreaded year abroad projects. A lot of students believe that a caffeine dose up to their eyeballs would be the most effective way to concentrate, but this more often than not ends up in giggly and hyperactive water fights followed by sleepless nights all round.

I myself actually wrote this article to avoid doing my dissertation, and procrastinated many times during the writing process. I do not feel guilty telling you this, because I know you are probably only reading this article as a procrastination activity yourself. So, I say, go ahead and procrastinate. Don’t feel guilty about it. In fact, the only way to get a new perspective

on things is if you procrastinate; so use it as a positive tool. You control procrastination, do not let it control you. My favourite tip comes from an article entitled “How to procrastinate effectively and it reads, “as soon as you feel guilty, you are not procrastinating effectively. Accept that procrastination can be a good thing and accept that this is how you work well. You are not a bad person.” If you have run out of ideas on how to procrastinate this term why not attend a procrastination workshop, next held on April 28 and May 5?

What can you do to stop procrastination?

- Bite off only what you can chew: break your work up into manageable chunks. This helps ensure you’re climbing several hills and not one big mountain.
- Get on with it, easier said than done. However, putting things off will make you more anxious whereas there is no better feeling than getting job done.
- Reward yourself. Schedule activities to treat yourself once your work is completed instead of just doing it anyway.
- Do Lecture Break.

Recipes for disaster

Sally Murdoch puts our culinary skills to the test

With the summer sun (hopefully!) just around the corner, here is a recipe for some tasty BBQ surf and turf, *a la* Ainsley Harriott.

- Ingredients**
- 350g steak
 - 12 raw tiger prawns
 - 3 tbsp olive oil
 - 2 crushed garlic coves
 - 1 tsp paprika
 - 1/4 tsp Tabasco sauce
 - 1/2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
 - Salt and pepper
 - 4 skewers, soaked in cold water for 30 minutes.



- For the garlic and parsley butter:**
- 50g butter
 - 2 cloves of crushed garlic
 - 2 tbsp chopped parsley
 - grated zest of 1/2 lemon, and 1 tbsp of lemon juice

- Method**
- Cut the steak into cubes and peel the prawns.
 - Mix the oil, garlic, paprika, Tabasco and Worcestershire sauce along with the salt and pepper.
 - Dip the prawns into the marinade, then lift them out and set them aside on a plate.
 - Stir the steak cubes into the marinade and leave for 15 minutes.
 - Skewer four pieces of steak and three prawns alternately.
 - Cook until the prawns are done and the steak is how you like it.
 - Meanwhile, melt the butter and stir in the garlic, chopped parsley, lemon zest and lemon juice.
 - Once the skewers are done, serve with the garlic butter and bread.

Lecture break

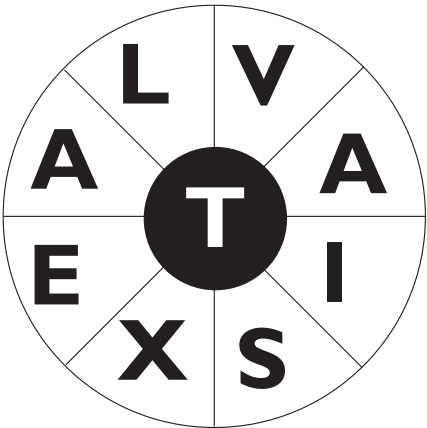
THE QUIZ - Summer’s here!

1. Where is officially the hottest place on earth?
2. The world cup this year will be held in South Africa, but where in South Africa will the final be held?
3. The song *Summer Nights* is from which hit musical starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton John in the lead roles?
4. How many hours of daylight do places on the Equator have?
5. In William Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, which animal’s head does Bottom have his own replaced with?

Answers below

The Wheel

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



How to do Su Doku.

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

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

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

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Voting 101

Mae Dibley presents everything you'll ever need to know about voting

YOU'LL ALL HAVE heard it by now. May 6 2010 will be the tightest election that the UK has seen in a long while and certainly the most exciting that we have been old enough to experience. For most of us this will be our first time voting in a General Election.

Whilst it is true that the political parties have made it hard for us to see the point in caring (what with all the screw-ups they have made, the infighting and the contradictions), but it is up to us to make the effort to find out what they stand for and where their policies will actually lead this country.

Previous generations have left this

country in something of a mess, and it will soon be the time for our generation to clean up the crap and deal with the situation. Many of us will only just be starting out in the real world this summer, yet we're going to have to deal with it. That is why it is crucially important that we pick the right party in this General Election: they will be running the country for the next five years will have a huge bearing on our future, so it is important that we choose wisely.

This cannot be a popularity contest. Yes Obama got in across the pond, and yes he has a captivating personality, but it was his policies just as much as

his persona that got him across the finishing line and defeat his rivals John McCain and Sarah Palin.

A quick Google search of the main parties and five minutes perusing their websites doesn't take a great deal of time, and since they are going to be running your country, I'd say it's worth it to make the time and make the choice. And yes you will unfortunately have to sift through the petty cross-party squabbling to find the real information but it is there.

If you really cannot stand the system at all and think that every politician is a waste of space then still go to the polling booth and spoil your paper

so that you're still using your voice to actively show your disillusion.

No you don't have to vote; but as students, new graduates, young workers, first time home buyers and new parents the actions and choices of the next government will affect you. So if you are not out there on May 6 scribbling on a piece of paper, then there better not be a single peep from you about government decisions for the next five years.

So if you want to vote but you have no clue, here's my idiots' guide:

X You can vote in the General Election if you are over 18 and a UK citizen. You may also vote if you are a Commonwealth or Irish citizen resident in the UK. Before you can vote you need to be registered, and the deadline for registration is April 20. All students on campus should be automatically registered to vote here in Lancaster, but if you're unsure follow these steps.

Check if you are registered to vote:

- Call Lancaster City Council on 01524 582905 or email elections@lancaster.gov.uk to check whether you are registered to vote at your university address (you should be automatically registered if you have lived on campus/Chancellor's Wharf since October).
- If you are registered you will receive a poll card through the post before the election telling you where to go on May 6 to vote.

How to register:

- If you are not registered in Lancaster, then unfortunately the deadline has already passed to register in person here. But your parents may have registered you at your home address.
- To check this, contact your local council (if

you're not sure who this is, you can enter your postcode on aboutmyvote.co.uk and it will tell you).

- If you are registered at home, then you still have time to apply to vote by proxy (where someone else can vote for you). This can be done up until April 27 (i.e. sent by first class on the April 26!). To apply, you will need to complete a form which can be printed from aboutmyvote.co.uk. Your elected voter will then receive a special proxy poll card in the post which they can take with them to a polling station and vote on your behalf.
- Alternatively, you may choose the register to vote by post. Anyone can apply for a postal vote. The deadline is April 20. Your postal vote can be sent to your Lancaster address. Again, visit aboutmyvote.co.uk to print off an application form.

Using your vote:

- If you are voting in person, head down to your polling station on May 6. For most residents on campus your polling station will be the Chaplaincy Centre but if you live in South West your station maybe Barker House Farm. If you are unsure check your polling card which will arrive in the post.
- When you arrive at the polling station give

the people their your full name and address. They will give you your ballot paper. The paper will tell you how many votes you have and who your local candidates are.

- If you are voting by post you will need to give your date of birth and signature, fill in your ballot paper, put it in the provided envelope and post it.

Deciding who to vote for:

- You've still got plenty of time to make up your mind if you've not already. Labour, the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats, the United Kingdom Independence Party, the Green Party and the British National Party are all fielding candidates in the Lancaster and Fleetwood constituency. Whichever party's candidate gets the most votes will become the Member of Parliament for this constituency.
- If you want to know about the overall views of each party you can visit their websites, they will have all have posted their manifestos online. If you want a more impartial look the BBC's *Election 2010* website is well worth a look for up-to-minute scrutiny of all the parties.
- If you want the chance to grill the local candidates then LUSU is hosting a Question Time style debate with them on May 3 at 7:30pm. Register to be in the audience and submit your question at <http://lusu.wufoo.com/forms/lancaster-parliamentary-question-time-debate/>

Welcome aboard DELC Airways: We hope you

Jane Wentworth

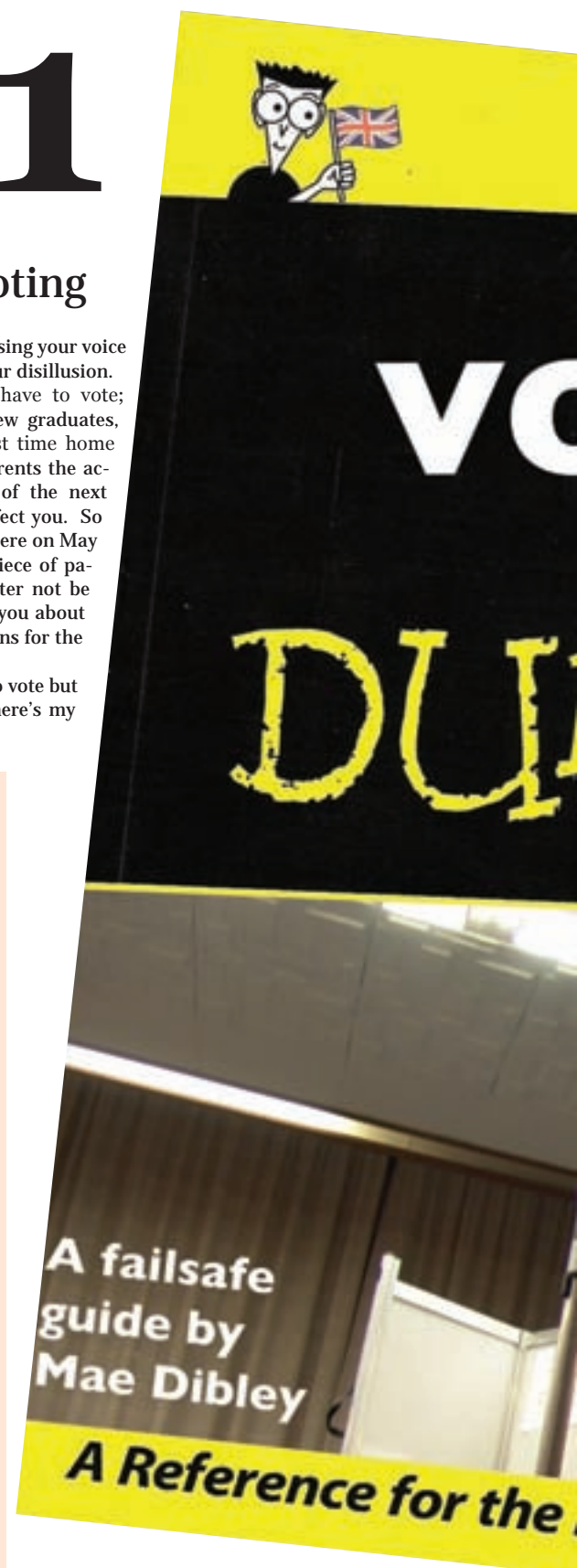
I RECENTLY READ a story about Ryanair, where the low-cost airline left a plane full of half-term holidaymakers stranded on the wrong Canary Island. The plane was diverted due to weather conditions, and forced to disembark on a neighbouring island over 100 kilometres from their intended destination. Stranded passengers were then forced to make their own way from Lanzarote to Fuerteventura, with no compensation offered by the budget Irish carrier.

Passengers were left feeling confused, upset, disappointed and broke, much like the students of the Department of European Languages here at Lancaster University. This story made me think of how similar the Language Department actually is to Ryanair – the endless cost-cutting, the lack of staff, the dissatisfied customers – the list goes on. Close to 10,000 complaints are made against Ryanair each month, and it would not surprise me if the statistics were similar for DELC.

Sitting in the *Ryanair Departure Lounge*, the only sound to be heard is that of the moans and groans of less



than amused passengers discussing their unacceptable experiences with the airline. One passenger complained of his need to print of his own boarding pass, and how he had to pay £10 for the privilege (just as many students are made to photocopy books at a £10 printing charge). A few passengers even told me that Ryanair had lost their tickets (coursework), and then blamed it on them. A lot of passengers had turned up for flights (exams) that 'Ryanair' did not even know had been scheduled. Another passenger told me she had seen Ryanair advertise flights to Disneyland Paris, but when she



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have your *ticket*

landed she discovered she was a mere 90 miles away from the Disneyland resort. This is not dissimilar to a student who believed she was set to do her dissertation with the French Department, and ended up with the Sociology Department. The two destinations are not even close. Many *passengers* took up their complaints with Ryanair's *staff*, but the response was monotonous: "this is not my problem, go and see my colleague." Sound familiar language students?

Some days you may be lucky and have a pleasant, stress-free flight with Ryanair, but more often than not you

will end up disappointed, frustrated and left feeling as though you have been misled, cheated and ripped-off. I don't mind the odd bad experience with Ryanair, as I understand that low cost equates with a low level of service, but when I am paying premium price (+£3000) I feel I should receive the same level of service as my Management School neighbours. You wouldn't expect to pay to use the toilets on a British Airways flight would you? The nonchalant response from the company's CEO Michael O'Leary would be sure to spark a strong sense of familiarity with language students: "C'est la vie!"

Two household, both alike in dignity, in North England where we lay our scene

Kristina Beanland on the history of the War of the Roses

THE POET T.S. Eliot once declared, "April was the cruellest month." Well, this April a mighty and possibly cruel force will descend on our wonderful campus citadel of Lancaster. A force so strong that they have successfully remained unbeaten in over four years. It's time to get ready for the monumental War of the Roses, and a new opportunity to finally show York what we are made of. In 2010, Roses will be entering into its 45th year, and this time Lancaster is on the warpath. After a harsh and staggering defeat last year, the home team is already on the march and ready to claim victory if the stirring Roses Rally is anything to go by.

However, for many Lancastrian students whose inclinations and predilections are not of the sporting variety, it is difficult to fully grasp what Roses is really all about. Unless you navigated the difficult journey to the wastelands of York a year ago then only students of a certain vintage will have had the dubious honour of the witnessing the spectacle and glamour of a Roses weekend on our own fair fields. This gladiatorial joust takes the form of a sporting competition in which a whole host of events are competed in between the two stalwart rivals who share a mutual enmity. All of the sporting teams that you could possibly think of, from swimming to ballroom dancing, table tennis to lacrosse, and traditional favourites like rugby and football compete. But what many will fail to realise or pick up upon (unless you're a history student) is why this almost Satanic rivalry between two prestigious institutions takes place anyway. However, our far-

flung neighbours may originate across the Pennines and seem fairly irrelevant and innocuous, yet the historic nature of our yearly battle stems back to a famous and tumultuous war 550 years that altered the course of Britain's history forever.

The War of the Roses was waged between the Houses of York and Lancaster; beginning in roughly 1455 and ending in 1485. York is symbolically associated with the white rose, whilst Lancaster has the red. This is why the red rose can be found on a whole



plethora of sporting merchandise worn by the many members of Lancaster's teams. The long and short of it is this: King Henry VI from the House of Lancaster was hardly a roaring success as the country's monarch. He came to the throne as an infant and was seen as mentally unstable by his bitter enemies. People were unhappy with his reign and with him as King at all, so Richard, the Duke of York challenged him, wanting to claim the crown for

himself. What makes this whole quite bloody episode in English history seem a little more prosaic and is that they were actually two warring branches of the same family. So far, so very Eastenders. Anyway, they fought dozens of battles, where a great many lives were lost with neither commander claiming any tactical, numerical or strategic advantage in the conflict. However, the final battle changed all this, fought on the battle arena that is Bosworth Field. Henry VI had been killed earlier in the conflict, so young Henry Tudor took over the reigns as Commander-in-Chief and leader of the military campaign to end the life and opposition of the upstart usurper Richard. Henry Tudor successfully raised an army upon assuming the throne of 5000 men and successfully managed to kill Richard and defeat his band of followers thus ending the whole war and uniting the two divided houses of York and Lancaster after over thirty years of intense conflict.

But, in my opinion, the most important part of the whole story is this: Lancaster Won. York were beaten all those years ago and so surely Lancaster has the might and capability to preserve and restore a legacy, which has been somewhat, besmirched by the last few years of hurt. Hopefully, this tale will do something to instil the passion and willpower into our sportspeople and give them the spirit to successfully uphold the valour and glory of our battle-hardened and now deceased ancestors. The Roses crown must be reclaimed at any cost.

York and Lancaster were finally united when King Henry VII made Elizabeth of York his bride. This ended the conflict and animosity and restored peace to the country. However, are we really going to let 500 years of harmony be undisturbed on the last day of April and first weekend in May? Perhaps, it's time for the students at Lancaster to stage our own Battle of Bosworth Field and match the historic feats of the past.



Satanic rivals: Richard III of York and Henry VIII from the House of Lancaster

FEATURES

Career Ladder: Those who can *teach*

THIS WEEK SCAN'S **Mae Dibley** spoke to recent Lancaster Alumna Elizabeth Beanland on working as a Primary School teacher. Teaching can take on many forms, from nursery schools to adult education and from the local high school to international academy in Europe. The options are endless and as soon as you are graduates, you are in the perfect position to pass on your knowledge. Training can be a year's extra study or can be completed on the job, and salaries start at £20,000 for a newly qualified teacher. For the full range of teaching and teacher training options in the UK, visit the official TDA website at www.tda.gov.uk.

Firstly Elizabeth, what degree did you do at Lancaster University?
I did a degree in History.

And what one aspect of your time at university (aside from your actual degree) would you say was most beneficial to your career?

My volunteering with LUVU. To do a PGCE you need at least one week's work experience in a school before you apply (some universities will want more). I volunteered

with LUVU as a classroom assistant for two years. This was enough experience to get me on a PGCE course.

What have been the significant challenges in your career so far?

The work load is huge! As a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) I really don't have a lot of time to myself. Still working at 11pm every night is not uncommon.

What is the best thing about your job?

The children – they are so funny and they will always love you no matter how often you shout at them. They also give you birthday and Christmas presents and Easter eggs!

And the worst?

Marking! It is very time consuming and does get boring but it needs to be done!

What are the possible career progressions for someone in your job?

There are lots of options for career progression for teachers- it really depends on what you are interested in. The most obvious one is working your way up the school management system and becoming a head teacher.

Another area that a lot of people go into is working with children with special needs; this can be anything from working with children with behavior difficulties to children with physical impairment.

Can you recommend any useful websites if we want to get into teaching?

The Graduate Teacher Training Registry website is where you actually apply for jobs. The Times Educational Supplement (TES) website is also really useful and it has loads of teaching resources on it.

And finally, what three key pieces of advice would you give to students who think they may want to go into teaching?

- Make sure you really want to be a teacher. Don't just do a PGCE because you don't know what else you want to do because you will hate it.
- Read the Times Educational Supplement. At the interview you will be asked to talk about a current issue in education. Reading the TES will help you. The TES is published every Friday, costs £1.50 and is available in the paper shop on campus.
- Find out about the Every Child Matters initiative.



The Legendary Carleton

wishes Lancaster's Athletes the best of luck!

ROSES PARTY 2010

SATURDAY 1ST MAY • Doors Open 9.30pm. Bar to 3am.

DRINKS PROMOTIONS ALL NIGHT

Bus ticket £5 and guarantees admission [with valid ID].

Buses from the Underpass from 9.30pm. Return Buses from 1.00am until everyone is back.

GRAD BALL 2010

FEATURING:

EXAMPLE

THE CUBAN BROTHERS

RIOT JAZZ

CHEW LIPS

FENECH SOLER

QEMIST SOUNDSYSTEM

BOO BOO KIDDY FONC

OCTOBER SKIES

FOOD STALLS

PHOTOGRAPHER

FIRE EATERS

MAGICIANS

CONTORTIONIST

STILT WALKERS

STRING QUARTET

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE LUSU INFO DESK

Living in a Cave

By Cal King



Like most self-respecting human males, I hadn't heard of Twilight until the first film came out, and ever since it did, there's been a deluge of vampire-y stories; True Blood, The Vampire Diaries, Mona the Vampire, etc.

Let me briefly outline the plot of the Twilight saga so far based upon a single viewing of each film and very little background knowledge. Bella Swan arrives in a town mostly inhabited by male models, and starts causing trouble with a local family; the Malfoys Cullens. It does seem slightly unbelievable that nobody else at the school has noticed the whole vampire issue, since the family are paler than Englishmen in Magaluf, sparkle in sunlight, and are super weird. Anyway, Bella gets into all sorts of scrapes with Edward "Cedric Diggory" Cullen, with whom she falls in love, and who turns out to be into the weird stuff - namely blood. Hilarity ensues, and randomly placed action sequences come as a welcome break from the love-struck teenage-angst heartbreak nonsense that goes on throughout both films.

The one rule of both films is this: why wear a shirt when you could not wear a shirt? Frankly, I haven't seen so much male nudity since I rented "Hot Stableboys 5" by accident (not as good as the previous four); but they've all got six packs and are secretly vampires and werewolves, so apparently it's fine.

If you haven't seen New Moon, look away now, because there's a chance that this might spoil it for you. But nothing spoils it as much as actually watching the film, so you should probably just read this instead of watching it. I'm doing you a favour. Really.

New Moon is the "sequel" to the original Twilight, despite feeling (to me) like it had nothing to do with the first, with Bella's moaning being the only constant. Wah, hot werewolf boy loves me, but I'm in love with the vampire from the previous film, wah. I felt a bit cheated; it was a bit like watching a Rush Hour film without Jackie Chan, where we instead just watch the annoying one running around being annoying for a whole film. And, as much as I fancy Kristin Stewart, she is definitely the annoying one. New Moon essentially consists of an hour of gratuitous top-half nudity, followed by a slightly more surreal half where we meet the Vampire leaders, who seem to live in the Vatican.

It was when Bella seemed to stumble onto the set of an olive oil advert; an Italian hill-top village full of robed religious types, that I realised quite how ridiculous the whole thing is.

And would someone PLEASE just do it? The tension is killing me. I almost didn't care who gets it on, just show me anything that isn't a buff American boy with a six-pack and abs steelier than Edward Cullen's stock facial expression. Though I would argue that's probably due to a combination of constipation and a century's worth of sexual frustration.

Midnight Mayor reads like magic printed on the back of an Oyster Card and not in a bad way

Daniel Savage

THE SEQUEL TO *A Madness of Angels*, *The Midnight Mayor* continues the story of Matthew Swift, recently violently deceased and resurrected urban sorcerer, and the Blue Electric Angels, the gods of the telephone wire who have taken up residence in his body. When we left them, they had just destroyed the organisation known as the Tower, a group of evil (and misguided, or simply coerced) sorcerers who were responsible for his death. *A Madness of Angels* also introduced Griffin's idea of 'urban magic': essentially, life is magic, and magic is life. In this modern age, magic is no longer drawn from the wind, or the moon, but from neon lights, the smell of kebabs. The best defence spell is to invoke the rules printed on the back of an Oyster Card, and the monsters are not faeries or demons, but monsters formed from discarded litter, or the vast quantities of grease

and fat poured down the drain by late-night takeaways.

As you may gather, the primary at-



traction of the series is the sheer imagination behind it. There are some wonderful ideas here, and if urban magic as practiced by our hero pri-

marily translates to making things go boom on an epic scale...well, there's nothing wrong with that, is there? Actually, that's less of an issue in this book. Admittedly, that's because the villain of the piece appears to be impervious to - well, everything - but having established the character of Swift, and the background to the story in the previous book, Griffin is now free to evolve the magical world even further.

It has to be said, Swift is not the most intricately drawn character. We don't really learn much about him, despite the first person narrative. Despite being the nominal lead character, (it is perhaps stretching it a touch to call him the hero), he is so entwined with the angels that live in his blood that it is difficult to work out where he ends and they begin...if there is such a point. As he/they say, "I am we, and we are me." There are lengthy segments filled with strange, intense passages that are clearly more to do with the angels than Swift, only for a sudden flash of humour, or hallucina-

tion of his dead friends and enemies to put him back in the hotseat. It's a little disconcerting - but then, I rather suspect that's the point. Whether it is or not, a suitably mysterious and disturbing atmosphere is created, so it perhaps doesn't matter.

The plot is engaging - concerning the imminent destruction of London - and takes in various brilliantly drawn locales; London feels more alive than some of the characters, at times, especially in a wonderfully spooky sequence about halfway through the story. It rattles along at a fair pace, and I found myself reading straight through from beginning to end, and the conclusion leaves Swift - and Griffin - in an intriguing situation for any sequels.

The Midnight Mayor may not convert you, if you are not a fantasy devotee, but let yourself get drawn in, and you'll be hooked.

The Midnight Mayor is out to buy is shops now with a new book, *The Neon Court* planned to be published in February 2011.

The Tardis Travels to Lancaster

Davey Garland

With the new series of *Doctor Who* on our screens, and Matt Smith continuing the role of the legendary time traveller (no matter what your views are on the actor), then it seems quite fortunate that a new stall based in the market has set up shop selling memorabilia, as well as a *Doctor Who* exhibition commencing in the Judges Lodge. The source of all this activity is Ex-Lancaster Student, Peter Jewell, who gave up his boring job as a botanist working for some large corporation and decided that he wanted to focus on one of his interests instead, namely *Doctor Who*. Jewell has had an interest in the series since a small child (to the extent that his parents, swear that his first words were 'Dalek'), and has been fascinated with the theme ever since. He decided that aside from just selling a variety of items ranging from collectable books, figures, magazines, it would also be a gathering place for many enthusiasts, (and there are a lot of them out there) to chat and exchange their stories etc.

Though only recently set up, and still waiting for much of the merchandise, his latter aim of providing a meeting point seems to be bearing fruit, with people milling about at the stall, just happy to have somewhere to chat about why they watch the series, be they 14 to 64. Of course with some of the more rarer items on show, such as a mint condition edition of a 1969 Dr Who (Patrick Troughton) annual for sale, not to mention a few other rarities, there is much to talk about. But Mr Jewell isn't just stopping there, he hopes also to attract various actors, artist and others associated with the development of the series and books to pop past for book signing etc. In



the next few weeks Chris Achilleos the, the illustrator of the *Doctor Who* 'Target' book collection will be passing to sign copies. These are just some of the projects that Jewell has in mind of bringing people down to the stall.

Aside from trying to make a few quid on the stall, he has also been involved in developing an exhibition for the Judges Lodge (below the Castle - Opposite the Duke of Lancaster pub). This exhibition basically spans the whole 47 years since the TV series began and covers all the various ways in which the show publicised itself. Obviously, many of the original book covers are there, but

also are the little novelties, including badges, figures, stickers and the list goes on. One of my favourites, which brought back my 1970's childhood was the chocolate Dalek Christmas decorations. The *Doctor Who* exhibitions at Longleat and Blackpool years ago, were also raised with postcards and badges, and brought back memories of school outings, where everyone flocked to the Tardis. If you were lucky you'd bump into Tom Baker or Elizabeth Sladen doing the autograph tour. Of course, as I went around the displays, I managed to find something that I have been searching for over 30 years, and that is

an original U.N.I.T badge, which a certain breakfast serial had issued in the early 1970's. Though this display only occupies one large room of the building, it is worth it, and there were many people up there that were just staring through the class screens and sighing. No doubt like me, their childhood coming flooding back.

So if you are a series fan, love reading the books, or just fancy the arse off any of the recent lead actors, then this is the place to have a wander, and you never know you might be persuaded to part with a bit of cash to relive your childhood. Now on that U.N.I.T badge.....

The Reviews

The DVD by Hannah Fearon



Bunny and the Bull

Directed by: Paul King

Starring: Edward Hogg, Simon Farnaby, Verónica Echegui, Julian Barratt, Noel Fielding.

Certificate: 15
Runtime: 101 minutes



FOR SOME TIME now, Stephen Turnbull has been a man of routine. But today, Stephen will attempt to do something he hasn't done for over a year. Today, Stephen will try to leave the house.

Visually stunning and beautifully stylistic, *Bunny and the Bull* is without a doubt the most unusual film that I have ever watched. The film was directed and written by Paul King, who is perhaps most well known for directing *The Mighty Boosh*. The film was screened at several independent cinemas in the UK in November last year and was also shown at the Dukes Theatre in Lancaster in January. After missing my chance to give it a watch, and being a big fan of Paul King's work, I couldn't wait to buy it when it was released last month.

For reasons unknown to the audience at the beginning of the film, Stephen Turnbull is quite the recluse. He has not left his house for over a year and is a slave to a rather unusual routing which includes completing a 200-page book of

bumper crosswords and watching eight episodes of *Ray Mears' Extreme Survival* every single day, before even having his lunch. Every day he eats the same lunch, but when he runs out of frozen dried vegetarian lasagne, he starts to panic. Stephen then begins to think about the events that lead up to his solitary life, which are presented to us through a bizarre and increasingly surreal series of flashbacks. Objects boxed up (and rather obsessively labelled) such as photographs and snow globes come to life and transports us back to the events that happened a year ago.

After Stephen is rejected by the woman he loves, he places a bet on a horse and wins. He and his friend Bunny embark on an extraordinary trip across Europe meeting a whole host of weird and wonderful characters; from a Polish dog farmer, yes, dog farmer (Julian Barratt) to an ex-matador (Noel Fielding). They meet a Spanish crab waitress, Eloisa (Verónica Echegui), who Stephen instantly falls for. After deciding to accompany her back home to Spain, Bunny decides that he wants to fight a bull. An aspiration that can only end in tears and a great deal of pain. If there were a point to the plot, this would be it. One hundred and one minutes of shoe-museums, crab-fighting, dog-milking and bull-fighting. I mentioned it was unusual.

Bunny and the Bull is an extremely surreal film. The majority of sets and locations are made from cardboard cut-outs, which have then been drawn on in a comic-book style. Many of the sets are also small models, as highlighted in the delightful 'Behind the Scenes' feature on the DVD. There is also a fair amount of animation used in the film, which helps to convey the imaginative and dreamlike qualities.

Edward Hogg (Stephen) and Simon Farnaby (Bunny) both play fantastic roles

in the films. As an avid *Boosh* fan, I was familiar with Farnaby who has appeared in several episodes of the television series. Whilst Farnaby provides much of the comedy, Hogg is quite the newcomer, but manages to portray the depressive and isolated aspects of Stephen's character superbly. His performance comes across as extremely awkward, which emphasises the psychological state of the character's mind. Fans of *The Mighty Boosh* are in for a real treat, as both Julian Barratt and Noel Fielding give excellent cameos. There are also more cameos from Rich Fulcher and Richard Ayoade, who are both *Boosh* regulars.

Whilst *Bunny and the Bull* is an extremely surreal and outright bizarre film, it does also focus on rather serious matters. The film is about a destructive friendship and a man who can literally not leave his house because of past trauma. Towards the end of the film, it does become much more realistic and the cardboard cut-out sets and animation disappears to unveil rather dark and emotional events.

The special features on the DVD are well worth checking out. Along with the usual deleted scenes, bloopers and audio commentary, there is an interview with Hogg and Farnaby, as well as a fantastic behind the scenes feature. This is great to watch if you're interested in the design and production of the film as many of the sets and models are described and there are interviews with most of the cast.

I thoroughly enjoyed *Bunny and the Bull*, but at times I did indeed find it rather peculiar. As a fan of *The Mighty Boosh*, it was even more unusual than I expected and much of it seemed irrelevant to the plot, purely there to unsettle or amaze. If you're a *Boosh* fan, you'll probably love it, but if not, you might just find it a little to absurd. Either way, it's definitely worth a watch.

The Film by Erin O'Reilly

Remember Me



If Robert Pattinson is anxious to establish himself as more than just a pale face, this could well be the film that does so. Both starring in and co-producing this romantic drama, Pattinson plays Tyler, a tortured soul, arguably similar to that of Edward Cullen, but in this case, capturing the perfect amount of broodiness in order to envelop the ideas of sorrow and loss that the films sets out to portray. In the wake of his older brother's recent suicide, the only seemingly positive relationship in Tyler's life is that with his younger sister Caroline, until Ally enters (played by Lost's Emilie de Ravin) and what begins as a dare, inevitably, and predictably, spirals into a fervent romance. With Ally comes a 'live life to the fullest', and she sets out to rid Tyler of his cynical nature. The two are joined together by a mutual understanding of grief and a restoration of love, with Tyler's roommate, Aidan (Tate Ellington) providing the necessary comic relief where the film is in danger of being stuck in a melancholic rut. The film is well directed and acted, with three dimensional characters whose situations and relationships are relatable without being borderline cliché; however the plot itself can be a little slow paced at times. Despite this fact, the issues confronted are emotive and Pattinson finally plays a realistic character that is actually worth his fans drooling over. The ending itself could either be considered inappropriately crass and completely irrelevant or stunningly poignant, but either way it's one, mind the pun, to remember.

The Game by Dominic Stroud

Pokémon HeartGold/SoulSilver



Pokémon HeartGold/SoulSilver are misleading to the untrained eye. Despite coming at the end of the DS' life, and after the *Diamond/Pearl/Platinum* set of games that brought the roster of catchable critters to an eye-watering 493, these two titles are actually remakes from the GameBoy Color era. They were released nine years ago, putting this reviewer at the tender age of twelve when first played. It's at this point where I might now explain to you how much things have changed, but, really, it hasn't. The key, core mechanics have never changed. You still have an uncontrollable urge to catch 'em all and you still traipse through the tired eight gyms, Elite Four formula. But that doesn't matter. These DS outings show how advanced *Pokémon* games were and still are, at first being a showcase for cute animals but at most being a deep, number-crunching RPG full of attack and defence stats. Nevertheless, the game's repeated nature does show, especially as there are two islands and sets of gyms here. Enter the latest refresher for the series: the Pokéwalker. Blending together a pedometer and minigames, the Pokéwalker allows you to literally take your team out for a 'stroll', giving them EXP in the process. It's a neat touch and one that creates an over the top bond between you and your *Pokémon*, especially when your Chikorita beeps at you (yes, thank you for finding me a potion, and, no, my lecturer doesn't want to battle). You soon forget that you're doing the same thing you did nine years ago. Another fact worth knowing is that you can now catch all but a handful of *Pokémon* by yourself without the use of other versions. Every trainer will have no problem catching first or fourth generation *Pokémon* on the same cartridge. From these refreshers, *HeartGold* and *SoulSilver* succeed in creating the ultimate, most personal playthrough yet, in one of the best dream worlds ever created.

The Album by Kate McKeown

Lightspeed Champion: Life is Sweet! Nice to Meet You



Lightspeed Champion, the stage name of British singer songwriter Devonté Hynes, also the former Test Icicles guitarist, has returned with his second album *Life is Sweet! Nice To Meet You*, following 2008's release, *Falling Off the Lavender Bridge*. The album comprises of an ambitious collection of twelve classical sounding pop songs, two instrumental intermissions and a piano arrangement titled *Goodnight Michalek*. Whilst having quite an Indie feel, the album draws on various aspects of classical music assembling guitar and electronic keyboard synth sounds, as well as beautifully composed classical piano melodies characterizing several tracks. Each track seems to be packed with ideas and



erratic rhythms, and this is definitely reflected throughout the album, which seems scattered with random outbursts of instrumentation at times. However, it works well. *Middle of the Dark* in particular, comprises of interesting tempo arrangements, whilst *Smooth Day (At the Library)* is a much smoother, yet tantalizing ballad. Hynes obviously has an overactive imagination and an ability to make an unexpected collection of instruments and vocals, actually work when combined together. Genius.

CULTURE

Detectives, frogs and white rabbits: SCAN looks at in store this term in LU Cinema

Hannah Fearon
Culture Editor

THIS TERM SEES some great films at LU Cinema that are well worth checking out if you missed them at the increasingly expensive Vue in Lancaster. Over the next ten weeks LU Cinema will be showing a variety of films and SCAN Culture are here to give you a brief guide to what's coming up, and the films to watch out for.

This week, LU Cinema are showing *Nowhere Boy* (Thursday/Friday), a chronicle about John Lennon's life and also post apocalyptic thriller based on the best-selling novel, *The Road* (Saturday/Sunday). On Monday of Week Two, the cinema is showing music documentary *It Might Get Loud*, followed later in the week by romantic comedy *It's Complicated* (Thursday/Friday) starring Meryl Streep and Alec Baldwin. These two managed to skip my past my movie radar when they were released, but whilst the rom-com interests are very little (perhaps one for the older generation), *It Might Get Loud* will be one to watch for lovers of the electric guitar. Week Two ends with Guy Ritchie's *Sherlock Holmes* (Saturday/Sunday) which stars Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law and managed to scoop a few awards this year, perhaps another one to watch out for.

Week Three sees French film, *A*



Prophet (Monday), Disney's *The Princess and the Frog* (Thursday/Friday) and *Up in the Air* (Saturday/Sunday) starring George Clooney. Another foreign language film is showing on the Monday of week four, with the Indian romantic drama, *My Name is Khan*. Teen comedy *Youth in Revolt* (Thursday/Friday) starring Michael Cera may be a popular choice, and *The Wolfman* (Saturday/Sunday) is definitely a film I'll be checking out. It's a remake of the 1966 film and perhaps the only horror on the schedule this term.

In Week Five, *A Single Man* (Monday) starring Colin Firth is showing, along with Oscar winner *Precious* (Thursday/Friday) and *The Book of*

Eli (Saturday/Sunday) starring Denzel Washington and Gary Oldman. *Precious* looks like it will be worth a watch, and it has won a phenomenal amount of awards, over seventy! It follows the life of a pregnant, overweight and illiterate teenager living in Harlem who enrolls in an alternative school, hoping to lead her life in a new direction. Historical drama *The Last Station* starts off Week Six on the Monday, followed by Hayao Miyazaki animated adventure, *Ponyo* (Thursday/Friday) and *The Lovely Bones* (Saturday Sunday). A film such as *Ponyo* is quite a rarity in the schedule, but I imagine LU Cinema will be showing the English language version rather than the original Japa-

nese one.

Week Seven consists of *Capitalism: A Love Story* (Monday), fantasy/thriller *Legion* (Thursday/Friday) and Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland* (Saturday/Sunday). After seeing *Alice in Wonderland* in 3D, I imagine that watching it in 2D will be rather dull. I'm not really a fan of 3D films, but it's what draws the audiences in. Whilst the film does contain some of Burton's darkness, it retains its Disney style, and the two don't always work together in the film. Either way, if you haven't seen it and aren't bothered about the 3D, it's worth a watch. Towards the end of term we're moving into films that are currently showing nationwide, so if you want to save your pennies and wait a while, here's a rundown. Week Eight sees *Micmacs* (Monday), *Green Zone* (Thursday/Friday) and Martin Scorsese's *Shutter Island* (Saturday/Sunday). I really enjoyed *Shutter Island*, but the psychological thriller does take quite a lot of concentration. Perhaps not one to watch if you're looking for a relaxing evening. The final week in the schedule, Week Nine, consists of *Crazy Heart* (Monday), *Invictus* (Thursday/Friday) and *Clash of the Titans* (Saturday Sunday).

All films are £2 with a Purplecard, or £3 with a Library Card. Screenings take place at 7:30pm in Bowland Lecture Theatre.

Humour and Life Lessons in Northern Ireland's Tea in a China Cup

Lucy Miller

DIRECTOR SABRINA MCNALLY is hoping that her production *Tea in a China Cup* will excite audiences when it is shown at the Dukes Theatre at the end of summer term.

Tea in a China Cup is a modern play, set during the Troubles in Northern Ireland. It was written by Christina Reid and the main events take place in Belfast, at the height of the political and religious conflict. It follows the lives of Beth and Teresa, two best friends from either side of the Catholic and Protestant divide, and is filled with references to Northern Irish tradition and humour. Beth and Teresa, despite the differing views of their families and the violence that surrounds them, remain close friends throughout.

Sabrina says that *Tea in a China Cup* considers 'universal issues of war, friendship and coping with death. The play is told through a middle class Protestant girl called Beth as she moves from childhood innocence, to adolescent questioning and discovery of sexual relationships, to a married woman.'

The play also makes extensive use of flashback, showing events from the 1917 Battle of the Somme and the

1930s, as well as flashing forward in time to the 1970s. It was second time lucky for Sabrina and her production team, who had first proposed to stage the play through LUTG in Lent term. However, it is now that it has finally been put into production.

The play requires seven male and eight female roles, so there are a number of chances for aspiring actors to get involved. Auditions will be held on the Saturday and Sunday of Week One, the 24th and 25th April.

Sabrina adds that the play hopes to combine 'friendship, faith and division through comedy and emotional intensity to grip the audience.'

Christina Reid
Profession: Playwright
Works:

Tea In A China Cup,
Did You Hear The One About The Irishman . . . ?
Joyriders
The Room, Orange Tree
A Year And A Day

With a song and a dance and a clockwork orange

Hannah Fearon
Culture Editor

THIS TERM, LUTG take on Anthony Burgess's *A Clockwork Orange* at the Nuffield Theatre on 3rd, 4th and 5th of June. The story is perhaps familiar to most through the film adaptation directed by Stanley Kubrick in 1971. However, David Butler, who will be directing the production would like to stress that it is not the film adaptation that interests him about the idea of the production. He will focus on Burgess's play adaptation which 'transforms the play into a mini-musical, with music and songs adapted from Beethoven's work along with Burgess's own compositions'.

A Clockwork Orange is the story of Alex and his vicious gang who revel in horrific violence, mugging and gang rape. After one of the gang's drug-fueled nights ends in murder, Alex is caught and locked up, given the choice to remain in prison for the rest of his life, or be brainwashed and set free.

David Butler's concept for the production is quite different from what those who are familiar with the story, particularly Kubrick's adaptation, would expect. He plans to present the play in a bar style setting, in the Korova Milk Bar. The actors will surround the audience with much of the action taking place around them with a great level on involvement and interaction. Butler believes that

the combination of 'often-whimsical nature of the music' and 'extreme violence' will provide a stark contrast, helping to make the characters actions that more "shocking and disturbing, as they indeed ought to be".

Auditions for A Clockwork Orange will be held on Saturday 24th



and Sunday 25th April, at the end of Week One. Anyone wanting to audition will need to attend either the Saturday or Sunday sessions from 12:00pm and recalls will be held on the following Monday or Tuesday. If you are not able to attend either of the sessions at the weekend, you can attend the recalls. For more information you can visit the website at www.theatregroup.co.uk.

Tickets will be available from the Nuffield Theatre closer to the date. This is a show not to be missed, and I for one will be booking my ticket nice and early in advance to be sure not to miss out.

Where at thou, Romeo?

LUTG WILL BE taking on the much loved, canonical text, 'Romeo and Juliet' this summer at the Dukes Youth Theatre (DT3) on 11th and 12th June. For those of you unaware of the story, perhaps you have managed to avoid studying the text or witnessing the immense amount of adaptations in literature and film, here's a quick run through. Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet are the 'star cross'd lovers' who transcend the ancient feuding between their two families. The feud forces them into secrecy, caused by violence, oppressive fathers and arranged marriages. Romeo and Juliet is a play about the passion of young love, resulting in the, spoiler alert, tragic death of the young couple.

Emily Buttery's concept for the production involves a 'slightly adventurous setting of a combination of the Ottoman Empire and ancient Persia, everything about the play will be in excess, the surroundings, the passion and the violence'. The set will include drapes, rugs, cushions, pipes and will have a plush, excessive feel which is intended to transport the audience into an 'exotic setting, where love, hate and violence co-exist in dangerously close proximity'.

Auditions for 'Romeo and Juliet' will be held on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th April from 12:00pm, meeting in Furness Foyer and recalls will be held on the following Monday or Tuesday at 6pm.

Back-to-back culture

UNIVERSITY THEATRE GROUP is staging an ambitious production at the end of this term, with two classic pieces being performed back to back in one evening.

Director Jamie Ward and his team will be staging Howard Barker's *Judith: A Parting From the Body* and Stephen Berkoff's *In the Penal Colony* at the Gregson Community Centre on the 15th and 16th of June.

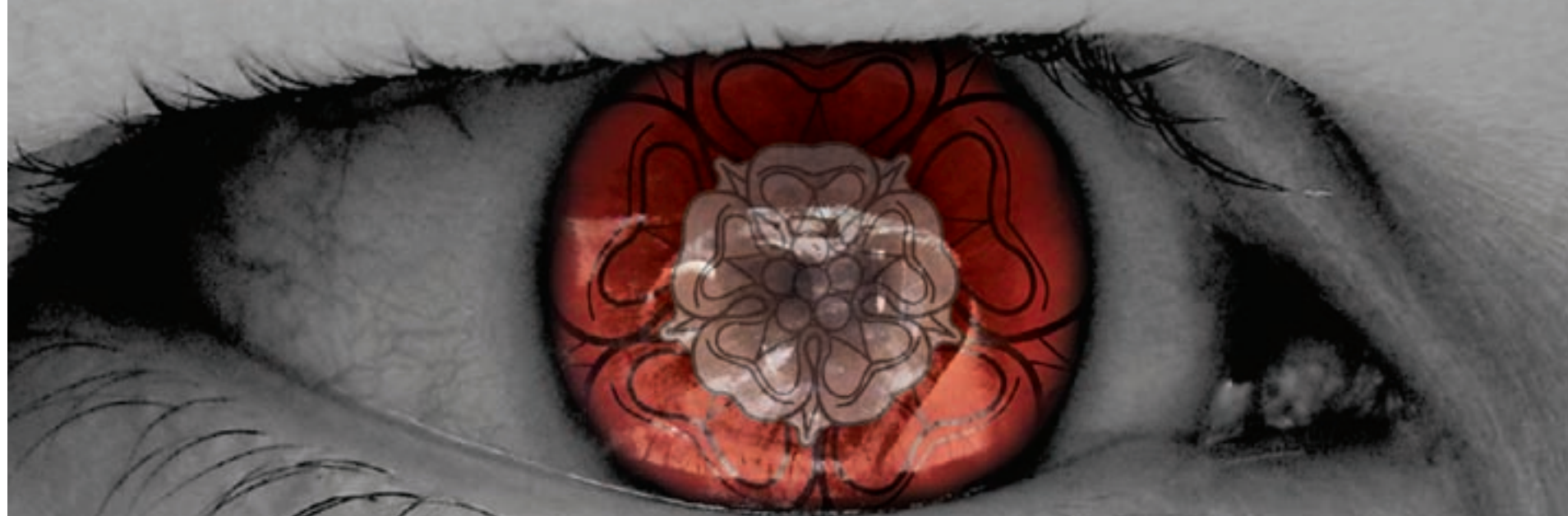
The plays are focused on the theme of 'necessity of death for the greater good' and will last for half an hour each. Berkoff's *In the Penal Colony* is concerned with capital punishment, and sees an officer giving a tour of the colony to an explorer. There then ensues a moralistic argument over the way the camp is run, brought about by the existence of a machine that engraves the text of the prisoner's crime into their back.

Judith: A Parting From the Body is a retelling of the biblical story of Hebrew widow Judith and General Holofernes. Judith, in order to save her people from slaughter, attempts to seduce the General and return to them with his head. Themes of sex, power and love are displayed humorously in *Judith*. The project is ambitious, and the production team want actors who are looking for a challenge. Only five are required –two males, two females, and one who can be either sex.

Auditions will take place on the Saturday and Sunday, the 24th and 25th April, and call backs will be held throughout Week Two. If you have any question visit their Facebook site.

ROSES

TWO THOUSAND AND TEN



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Canoeing

A wave of success for prize-winning paddlers

Amy Fowler
Competition Captain

THE LACK OF rain in February and March would normally have spelt disaster for kayakers, but the Canoe Club has still managed to keep on paddling, with some outstanding results in local and national competitions.

The run of success started with the BUCS Slalom in February. Lancaster journeyed down to Holme Pierrepont in Nottingham, a man made river and slalom course at the National Water Sports Centre. Lancaster finished twelfth overall out of 20 Universities, for a team made up of only six, this was an impressive display. Outstanding performances were given by Rob Beaumont who was ranked 31st in the K1 Men; Rosie Law ranked 14th in the K1 Women and Rob Beaumont, Ollie Margetts and Matt Fear who were placed eleventh in the Mixed Team.

Lancaster were back to Nottingham a month later to compete in the National Student Rodeo, the biggest freestyle kayak event in the world. This was an opportunity for all members of the club, regardless of ability to show off their paddling skills and tricks. A very exciting and exhausting weekend was had by everyone who attended and to follow the success of Lancaster winning events last year, Rosie Law finished



Rapid River: Rich Chrystal battles the waves for the Canoe Club (Photo: Steph Earle)

third overall in the Expert Women Category.

However, it is not only the river paddlers who have had success this term. The Men's and Ladies Canoe Polo team have been equally as strong, developing and evolving well this year, with many new players. Canoe Polo, played on flat water combines skill, stamina and speed with lots of team work. Twice last term, once in the snow, the men's and ladies teams travelled down to Liverpool Docks to compete against other Universities. The teams were

in top form, with some excellent play and most matches won with convincing margins. Some superb goals were scored by Jim Cooper, Matt Fear, Matt Carter, Matt Biggins, Kellie Holman and Heather Carter.

The club also hosted its first ever friendly Canoe Polo Tournament held at the Sports Centre pool, organised by Women's Polo Captain Kellie Holman, against local teams from Lancashire and Cumbria. Lancaster University entered two mixed teams, with respectable final positions of 2nd and 4th.

Latest battle in the War of the Roses



Boot camp: A specialist trainer has been putting Lancaster

Continued from back page

if the form book is to be believed, Lancaster would have had an outstanding chance of winning. Wynes feels for her team, who are therefore denied the chance to compete.

"The rowing hasn't been decided yet... they [York] have basically decided to compete in the BUCS regatta instead of Roses which I find extremely disappointing. Especially as our rowing club are really up for it. They are really disappointed and rightly so"

Emily Scott was invited to attend a meeting on 16 April to come to a decision on what will happen with rowing and the lost points. However, Scott declined the invitation before the meeting. Wynes has accused her rival of "avoiding having the meeting" but warned that "if it comes to having a meeting on the morning of the competition then so be it."

Wynes, however, is extremely happy at the level of investment in Roses 2010. It is estimated that over £60,000 will have been spent thanks to sponsorship from Ernst & Young, UPP and support from the university. In the Autumn, concerns were raised over the building site erected for the new sports centre and the loss of the pavilion and its changing facilities. The university has injected cash into the event to compensate for the loss of these crucial facilities.

The three day event will feature a broader range of activity than ever before. A Roses Hub, an enormous marquee, will be the centrepiece of the

event. The Hub will have a licensed bar, score centre and media area. The closing ceremony, directed by Olly Trumble, will also be staged there on the Sunday afternoon.

Evening events have also been reconsidered with a non-alcoholic emphasis on the Saturday night social. A comedy night has instead been organised with the act yet to be confirmed, but revellers can still opt to go to the Carleton later that night. Friday evening will feature entertainment down at The Sugar House.

There will also be more local community involvement with this Roses. A charity fun run and It's a Knockout competition will also be happening to engage the wider community with all money raised from the event going to charity.

Perhaps the most notable expenditure for Roses is a media truck for LUTube.TV. The group will be covering and streaming most of the weekend's activity, with highlights package shows appearing each evening over the three days.

The Roses Live website has now been launched and features a full timetable of all the events and activities happening over the weekend. As well as this, the site will feature regular blogs, updates, feeds and streams from LUTube.TV, Bailrigg FM and SCAN.

Lancaster will be desperate to avoid four successive defeats and hope that their investment and optimism has not been wasted.

FUN RUN & IT'S A KNOCKOUT! 2ND MAY 2010



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Doctor
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exhibition
in
Lancaster

Turn to
Page 26

ROSES

TWO THOUSAND AND TEN



r's athletes through their paces in preparation for Roses 2010

Roses Ones to Watch with Julian Surface

Women's 1st Squash: Saturday 1st May 13:00 Squash Courts

AFTER A FULL season of undefeated league matches, Lancaster Women's first squash team is the most successful at the University. Not only do the stand at the top of the league but they have won the Women's Northern Conference Cup. Although they are yet to play York, the team was defeated in the Quarter Final, of the same cup.

Men's 1st Football: Saturday 1st May 15:30 Football Pitch 1

FOOTBALL IS THE most successful sport that the University competes in and both first and second team lie at the top of Lancaster's league. In their own respective leagues, the first team remains undefeated and the seconds have only dropped points in a solitary game. The second team only lost twice in total this season, and both games were last year. They have a strong run of late and are sure to prove a tough opponent for York.

Men's 1st Hockey: Saturday 1st May 18:00 Astroturf Pitch 1

EVEN THOUGH THEY faced early defeats last year, the men's hockey

team has played more games than any other at Lancaster. They have accumulated an impressive 28 victories, out of 35 games played and average five goals per game. The team is well-experienced and are going to be difficult for York to break down.

Women's 1st Basketball: Sunday May 2nd 12:00 Main Sports Hall

DESPITE FALLING TO defeat on three separate occasions, the team have only slipped up to narrow defeats, two of which were by a single point. It is sure to be a competitive match with York's success the BUCS cup, and Lancaster's frustration against UCLAN. This will be a thrilling encounter and Lancaster will need to make the home advantage count.

Men's 1st Fencing: Saturday May 1st 11:00 Minor Sports Hall

A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL and vastly enlarging sport at Lancaster, Fencing is a new weapon that Lancaster has in its arsenal. The Men's first team has pulled off superb victories in their league, only faltering at the last step to an experienced Manchester squad. This well drilled and flamboyant team will provide plenty of entertainment.

Karate

Dunkerley and Feidt make all the right moves

Becky Clark
Karate Society President

THE KARATE SOCIETY had some notable achievements last term. Team Captain Gareth Dunkerley represented his club from back at home at the AMA international in February. He was part of a team which lost in the quarter final and again in the bronze medal fight.

Dunkerley also competed in the men's heavyweight category (+84kg), where the first fight was a scrappy affair but he managed to win 1-0. In the second fight he found form with a 6-1 win and in the semi final he faced an old rival who is now part of the EKF England squad. In a tight encounter Dunkerley ended up the victor 2-1 to take him into the final where he once again faced an experienced fighter on the EKF squad, but managed to secure the gold medal with a 3-1 victory.

He also attended the EKF Regional Championships in the men's heavyweight against other competitors from the north of England. Each fight was four minutes long in duration and in a tight semi final it finished 4-4 resulting in one minutes extra time where the scores were again tied at 2-2. It came



Successful society: The club can reflect on what has been a great year

down to a judge's decision in Dunkerley's favour. In the final, Dunkerley put in a great performance and managed to win by 8-0 against an opponent that had beaten him less than a year previously.

Another of our individual members, Bob Feidt, was selected to go to Morocco in February to attend the WKF Junior World Championships. Whilst he was unfortunate to miss out on a medal position, just to be selected is an achievement. The hard work paid off at BUCS, where Bob took bronze in the individual category, and Sarah Williams, who is

new to karate, took gold in her event.

Bob lost to the eventual winner of the category in a very cagey bout. Sarah stormed her way through the preliminary rounds and made it to the final. She initially drew 0-0 but then won 6-0 in extra time, after the referees finally noticed her kicks that were scoring.

Gareth and Bob were also part of the men's team that took bronze at BUCS, beating Manchester, Bath and Glasgow, whilst Becky Clark, Sarah and Alisia Evans were part of the women's team that took silver.

Rugby League Round-up

Promotion hopes ended after crushing defeat

Joe Carroll

LANCASTER'S RUGBY UNION 1sts signed off their BUCS season with a disappointing defeat to lowly placed University of Manchester 3rds, killing off any hopes of gaining promotion.

Prior to the game in week 20 Lancaster were placed prettily atop the Northern Conference 2A with a realistic chance of being promoted. Whilst this was never truly in their hands (Liverpool John Moores needed only to win their remaining games to clinch top spot), they were in confident mood ahead of their final games following an impressive win against Liverpool JMU.

If JMU were to slip up, Lancaster hoped to be right on their heels by accumulating maximum points from their last two games. Sadly though, the heights of Northern Conference 1A will have to wait another year as the men in red crashed to two defeats in their remaining league games.

In light of the opening five minutes with Manchester 3rds, you'd have been forgiven for thinking Lancaster would easily maintain the pressure on rivals JMU, as they stormed to a 5-0 lead via a Wilf Whittle try.

Manchester quickly found their feet and seized control of a game that should never really have been in their hands. Despite Lancaster's promising attacking play, they let themselves down with a number of defensive errors that ended up proving the difference between the sides.

By half time, the away team found themselves 18-5 to the good and Lancaster looked a side under immense pressure. While they desperately tried to find a foothold in the game a number



End of season defeat for team

of misplaced passes were thrown meaning that Manchester always looked dangerous on the counter.

The second half passed largely without incident and attractive play was distinctly hard to come by. The game turned into a scrappy affair by the end of the second half, in which Lancaster managed to rectify their first half performance but sadly could do nothing to alter the damage already done to the score line. Connor Liggitt added the away team's second try of the game to see Lancaster suffer their fifth loss of the season 10-18.

Despite the disappointment of defeat, Lancaster captain Dave Wrightson was defiant about his team's performance, choosing to focus on the positives on show. He said: "It was a good effort

from everyone. We just didn't turn up and a number of injuries and basic errors on the field cost us today."

"We've had a fantastic season pushing for promotion. It looks like we've possibly blown it here today. But it's been hard for us to find balance, especially with the huge fresher intake at the beginning of the season, players like Tom Williams and Greg Smith who have come in and done well".

With new faces coming in and old faces checking out, it was hit and miss whether Lancaster would prove to be league pace setters or be left behind as extra luggage in a league of promotion hopefuls.

With Roses just around the corner there is still much to play for in terms of Lancaster's achievements for this season, as the reds look to one of their most anticipated fixtures against the enemy from across the Pennines: York.

It is important that Lancaster take all that has been good about their season and ensure that these things become the focus in their preparation for this year's competition on home soil.

Wrightson complimented key players as well as the whole team for their work throughout the season. He said: "Anthony Coulson has been fantastic in his new role. The team has bonded really well despite all the imports and exports."

"I believe we can turn York over. We've certainly got the ability, and whilst it will be very competitive in both the 15's and 7's games there's no reason why we can't come away with victory if we play to our best."

Lancaster will be doing all they can to make sure they end the season with something worth shouting about, and victory against the old enemy will always be priceless.

Eat Sport, Sleep Sport, Read Wynes



As my regular readers will know I have mentioned Roses in many columns over the year and now it is nearly time for the big competition. It's been a hard slog getting to this point. I've absolutely loved planning the event on our home turf, but there have been many difficulties along the way that have made it a big challenge. Getting all the problems smoothed out with York hasn't been easy, but I'm sure all the hard work from all those involved will pay off and Roses will be much bigger and better than it has ever been. Roses is one of the biggest inter-varsity events in Europe with over 30 different sports being competed, over 100 different matches and over 1000 competitors all pushing for victory over their rivals. York have defeated Lancaster for the last three years so this year it is imperative that we get a win. We need to get behind the Red Rose and support our players to a big victory. I'm looking forward to cheering on all the teams and even playing a part in the competition myself.

By the time you are reading this, the Roses Boot Camp will have taken place and I hope it will have given all the players a boost and got them prepared for the big battle ahead. The idea of the boot camp is along the same lines as the Roses Rally, which is to get the different teams together to build up the Lancaster spirit and to get themselves active ready to return to training sessions at the start of term. The boot camp isn't going to create a magical improvement to our teams, but it is about having a shared mentality for the big event and if the determination of just a few players is strengthened, it could be the difference between winning and losing in a closely fought match.

I want to wish everybody good luck for the Roses weekend. Once the sports begins there is nothing more I can do except sit back and hope for the best. I have faith in every single competitor and I've seen the desire that teams have already shown to win and I hope to be there come Sunday afternoon announcing a proud victory for the Red Rose soldiers.

Finally to end my column, I'd like to give official notification that nominations are now open for the Angie Park Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Athletic Union. The criteria for the award are as follows: Outstanding contribution to the Athletic Union; Demonstration of commitment to the AU above and beyond their specified role, duty or position. Nominations are open to the entire University, staff or students. The closing date for nominations is the end of week 3 summer term. Please send in any nominations to lusu.sports@lancaster.ac.uk.

George Wyatt season review

Bowland back as bar sports champions, whilst rival colleges fail to match astonishing consistency

Nick O'Malley, Fran Heaphy, Matthew Power and Liam Richardson on a season of drama and intrigue in the George Wyatt competition

THE INTER-COLLEGE BAR sports season is over, with Bowland coming out on top overall, including three separate team wins. Bowland won the Men's darts, women's darts and women's pool leagues. The other winners were Cartmel who picked up the Domino's crown, Graduate who won the Men's A pool league, and Lonsdale who won the B's pool league.

For some bar sports, there was an air of anti-climax with Bowland's week off in the competition coming in the final week when they had already been confirmed as champions for certain leagues. This meant that many colleges just played for points, pride and improved league positions in their final week.

Men's Darts

In the Men's Darts league, Bowland were the most assured of the title, with Pendle and Cartmel realistically playing out for second and third place, with the winner of the match guaranteeing themselves, at worst, second place. Pendle needed to win 8-1 and Cartmel needed a 7-2 win to prize the title away from Bowland. This saw fans and players of all three teams at Pendle bar for the last Monday night darts of the year. Bowland ultimately triumphed, as Pendle won 6-3 against Cartmel to confirm the top three places in the men's darts league. Bowland's season was a remarkable return to form for a college

which has prided itself on its history and prestige when it comes to darts. However, after their previous title triumph in 2008, a number of players left and a fifth title in seven years was considered a pipe dream as a relatively inexperienced team took on more established outfits at the season's start. Captain Billy Tosh, however, successfully fashioned a team capable to ultimately clinch the league title. Whilst not performing to the same standard as previous Bowland teams or last year's unbeaten Furness side, Tosh's team showed remarkable resilience and fortitude throughout the season.

Women's Darts

The George Wyatt is currently without a champion for its women's darts league. In an unprecedented scenario, two colleges must meet for a third time and play each other again, as the league has been left tied on points. Bowland and Pendle are scheduled to play each other on Wednesday April 21 in Cartmel bar to determine which ladies take home the trophy. Bowland have a better score difference, but Pendle have won more matches over all, and it is impossible to call a winner. Both teams clearly have the ability to win the league, although Pendle's tenacity this year must be applauded.

The penultimate week could have decided the league, as Bowland faced Pend-

le, needing just the win. Pendle emerged 4-3 winners, and with Bowland's week off in week 10, all they had to do was beat Cartmel at home. Cartmel had a great game, winning 4-3 on the night, and set up the play-off tie.

The County and Cartmel teams also had a fantastic season, finishing third and fourth respectively, with just one point in it. They both won 11 matches, the same as the Bowland team, yet finished over ten points behind Pendle and Bowland. This shows how tight the league really was. All four of these teams had every chance of coming out on top this year. For County, this marks the end of their remarkable four year run at the pinnacle of the ladies's game. For the first time since 2005, a different college will have their name engraved onto the trophy.

Women's Pool

The women's pool season, played on Wednesday nights had its twists and turns, with Bowland asserting themselves from the start as the team to beat. Despite losing some important players, County, the defending champions, were also able to field a strong line-up, and were definitely ones to watch. Finishing in fourth place, this may have been a disappointing season for the County girls given the ability of the team.

Lonsdale were there or thereabouts all season, and Fylde were also never too far behind. The crunch match came in week 8, in a packed Lonsdale bar, Bowland the visitors, effectively playing to decide the league. Although Bowland won 7-2, the teams were much more evenly matched than the score line suggests. Lonsdale's consistent performance throughout the season is all the more impressive consid-



ering they finished bottom of the table last year, some credit must go to their captain, Kylie Rogers.

Bowland's party was spoiled in their last game, where they were beaten by a resilient Pendle side. However, they had done enough and the league was theirs. Fylde ended up a respectable third place, only one point behind Lonsdale, and were a tough team to take on all season.

Special mention to the Graduate team, who undoubtedly have a couple of the best players on campus. Always one to be watched, their 6th place in the league does not reflect the quality of their team.

Men's A Pool

Graduate cantered to the title in the top pool league, confirming their victory and first pool title in three years. Bowland were strongly favoured for the Thursday night league but a series of surprising second term defeats meant that Roses Captain John Bekalo was left perplexed as to how his team finished

Carter Shield Round-up

Grizedale's quest for back to back titles threatening to unravel as

Marc Handley
VP Sport-elect

THE SECOND BOUT of Carter Shield action began very well back in January with two well attended taster sessions, partly due to the popular sports on offer during the term, but also through the hard work put in by the sports representatives.

Nearly all of the colleges attended all of the events this term, (pop lacrosse, men's basketball, aeroball and kwik cricket) with only Pendle, County and Graduate not being able to field a team for one event or another. Competition days went very well, and credit must go to all competitors for their determination and willingness to try the diverse range of



The story so far: Action from last term's competition

sports on offer.

Finals day is never a quiet affair and this one proved no different with the final of the first event: pop lacrosse, between the two leading colleges Fylde and Grizedale. It went down to the wire, including extra time and a penalty shoot out. Fylde eventually emerged triumphant after a very hard fought victory to maintain their challenge for a first title since 2004 and a record breaking 21st overall.

Due to time restraints the decision was taken to play both aeroball and basketball at the same time, meaning there was more sport was on offer to watch for the numerous spectators. Basketball also went down to extra time with Pendle finally seeing off Grizedale in a very close final and



Oche, oche, oche: Bowland’s defeat to Pendle in their final match could not prevent them claiming their fifth darts title in seven years.

so far out of the running. For Graduate, the victory was sweet for former Roses Captain Ben Gill, who after five years of battling for a winners medal finally got his just reward for his excellent service to the league. Bob Floyd, generally considered the best player on campus continued to set the bar too high for his rivals to match and deservedly ended the season not only as a multiple league champion, but one of Lancaster’s all-time great pool players to boot.

A strong showing from Cartmel surprised many with the perennial wooden spoon college finishing in a very creditable league position.

Men’s B Pool

After several years of mid-table finishes, Lonsdale College finally produced a winning team and saw off the twin threat of tough rivals Bowland and

Pendle. Pendle, sat in third place, knew that they had to better Lonsdale’s results by two points or more to take the league. The atmosphere at both bars was extremely tense and Lonsdale took an early lead, winning the first three frames. News filtered through from Pendle’s bar that the score was 2-2, meaning the maximum number of points Pendle could pick up was nine. Lonsdale needed a 6-3 victory and the league title would reside in The Mane Place. Leading 5-3, Lonsdale’s captain John Davies stepped up and, producing one of the shots of the season to set up the black, he calmly won his frame to start the celebrations. Davies described the victory feeling as “incredible” and stated his team were “pleased to have won such a close league after being up there all year”. County, the reigning champions and last season’s runaway winner could only finish fifth in the table after a disappointing season.

Fylde return to sporting top spot

Fylde strengthened their grip on the trophy by overcoming Bowland in the aeroball.

As a result of the other events unavoidably running over, the Kwik

Carter Shield
Events this term

Rounders
Touch Rugby
Ultimate Frisbee
Tug of War

Cricket final had to be rescheduled for the following Wednesday afternoon. It was a shame seeing as the final event was arguably the most popular with both players and spectators. It appears to be a strong new

addition to the Carter Shield calendar. Lonsdale racked up their second win of the year against a strong Grizedale team, as they won a very close game by the smallest of margins. In fact, just two runs ultimately determined the outcome and result at the close of play.

I would just once again like to express my thanks to all the sports representatives and JCRs for pushing Carter Shield as they have done, it is vital we keep this competition going and this year so far has shown that people do still want to compete in the Carter Shield, and I look forward to seeing their efforts continue next term.

The competition is building to a brilliant finale with some great events still and a lot of points still to play for.

Inter-college League Tables

Football

League A

	P	W	L	D	GD	Pts
Fylde	6	5	0	1	22	16
Grizedale	5	4	1	0	6	12
Cartmel	5	2	1	2	3	8
Bowland	5	2	2	1	3	7
Lonsdale	5	2	3	0	-10	6
County	5	1	3	1	-8	4
Pendle	4	0	2	2	-4	2
Furness	5	0	4	1	-12	1

League B

	P	W	L	D	GD	Pts
Fylde	7	7	0	0	32	21
Bowland	8	5	3	0	2	15
Graduate	8	4	2	2	0	14
County	7	4	3	0	1	12
Grizedale	8	3	5	0	0	9
Cartmel	7	2	4	1	-1	7
Pendle	7	2	4	1	-6	7
Furness	6	2	4	0	-11	6
Lonsdale	8	2	6	0	-17	6

Netball

League A

	P	W	L	D	GD	Pts
Fylde	12	11	1	0	242	33
Bowland	14	11	3	0	105	33
County	13	10	3	0	168	30
Lonsdale	12	6	6	0	-44	18
Cartmel	11	5	6	0	-37	15
Grizedale	11	3	7	1	-83	10
Pendle	12	2	9	1	-101	7
Furness	13	0	13	0	-250	0

League B

	P	W	L	D	GD	Pts
Bowland	5	5	0	0	107	15
Fylde	5	4	1	0	45	12
County	4	2	2	0	14	6
Lonsdale	5	2	3	0	9	6
Grizedale	3	0	3	0	-73	0
SWPC	4	0	4	0	-102	0

Darts

Men’s

	P	W	L	D	GD	Pts
Bowland	16	13	3	0	44	120
Pendle	16	12	4	0	44	118
Cartmel	16	12	4	0	36	114
Furness	16	11	5	0	36	112
Lonsdale	16	8	8	0	12	94
Fylde	16	7	9	0	-18	77
County	16	5	11	0	-20	72
Graduate	16	3	13	0	-54	51
Grizedale	16	1	15	0	-80	34

Women’s

	P	W	L	D	GD	Pts
Bowland	16	11	5	0	32	94
Pendle	16	12	4	0	28	94
County	16	11	5	0	10	83
Cartmel	16	11	5	0	8	82
Fylde	16	7	9	0	-2	69
Lonsdale	16	7	9	0	-14	63
Furness	16	5	11	0	-12	60
Graduate	16	4	12	0	-14	57
Grizedale	16	4	12	0	-36	46

Men’s Pool

League A

	P	W	L	D	GD	Pts
Graduate	15	13	2	0	31	109
Furness	16	10	6	0	18	101
Cartmel	15	10	5	0	15	95
Bowland	16	9	7	0	4	92
County	16	9	7	0	-2	89
Lonsdale	15	6	9	0	-1	79
Pendle	15	5	10	0	-11	72
Grizedale	15	4	11	0	-19	66
Fylde	15	3	12	0	-35	56

League B

	P	W	L	D	GD	Pts
Lonsdale	16	12	4	0	40	116
Pendle	16	14	2	0	28	114
Bowland	16	12	4	0	26	109
Fylde	16	10	6	0	14	99
County	16	10	6	0	10	97
Furness	16	5	11	0	-12	76
Grizedale	16	4	12	0	-26	67
Cartmel	16	2	14	0	-38	57
Graduate	16	3	13	0	-42	57

Women’s Pool

	P	W	L	D	GD	Pts
Bowland	16	13	3	0	42	119
Lonsdale	16	12	4	0	30	111
Fylde	16	9	7	0	20	100
County	16	9	7	0	6	93
Pendle	16	8	8	0	-8	84
Graduate	16	6	10	0	-12	78
Furness	16	6	10	0	-14	77
Grizedale	16	6	10	0	-20	74
Cartmel	16	3	13	0	-44	56

Dominoes

	P	W	L	D	GD	Pts
Cartmel	16	11	5	0	12	52
Fylde	16	9	7	0	4	47
Furness	16	9	7	0	8	46
County	16	9	7	0	6	45
Bowland	16	9	7	0	4	44
Pendle	16	8	8	0	0	40
Lonsdale	16	7	9	0	-10	36
Grizedale	16	6	10	0	-8	32
Graduate	16	4	12	0	-16	24

Hockey boys toast triumphant season

Kim Megson

LANCASTER MEN'S HOCKEY 1sts team have had a season to remember. They completed the BUCS Northern Conference as champions without a defeat to their name, finishing three points ahead of high scoring Bangor. The team should be delighted to secure a quick return to the 3B league after they were relegated last year for fielding an ineligible player, and hope to press on next season and seal another promotion. They certainly won't be short on confidence.

In their other club league, the North West Hockey League Division 4, they also finished top, with a comfortable 10 point lead, sealing promotion and scoring almost double the goals of the second place team.

In the Lancashire Cup they had a 6-1 victory in the semi final against Mossley Hill, and at the time of writing captain Lyam Hollis and the team are preparing to face Morecambe in the final in Liverpool. It will be a difficult tie, but Lancaster are in extremely good form and have only lost three games in thirty five all season, the last defeat coming last October. Success in the final would signal a fantastic treble for the team, and would give them great momentum going into the Roses for which they have high hopes.

For the Men's 2nds a defeat against rivals UCLAN proved costly as they just missed out on the playoff positions for promotion, finishing in fourth. While their season has been inconsistent, with five wins and four defeats, they managed to record victories over both the teams that finished ahead of them and have shown promise that they can build and push for success next year.

Lancaster Women's 1sts were unlucky to finish fourth in their league after a bad run of form at the end of the year. They performed very well in the BUCS cup however, and followed an astonishing 23-0 win over Edge Hill in the first round with well deserved victories in the next two stages, before being knocked out by UCLAN 2-1 in the Quarter Finals.

Lancaster Women's 2nds finished third in their league, and their season as a whole was very finely balanced; they won four, lost four and drew one, managing to both score and concede twenty three goals.

Defenders Rachel Steele and Ashley Hothersall spoke to SCAN about the progress the team have made this year under the coaching of men's 1st team player Alex Halls. They said: "The club has performed to a high standard this season both on and off the pitch."

"The coach has made a great contribution to the women's hockey club and his excellent coaching over the past year will hopefully help the second team to secure a comfortable victory over York."

Overall, it has been a season of ups and downs for the club, but there is much to look forward to during Roses and next years season.

Comeback kings celebrate double success with cup victory

Lancaster	2
Sheffield H	1

Robert Payling
Sports Editor

LANCASTER MEN'S FOOTBALL 1sts celebrated their second title of the year after Lewis Rowland's team defeated Sheffield Hallam 2-1 in the BUCS Cup final to finish off a remarkable Double winning season.

The Champions may have felt a touch of Deja vu when they were awarded a penalty late on in the match after similar circumstances also aided their quarter-final victory over Chester. However, Lancaster were firmly focused on the present and substitute Mike Hogg topped off a fine second half performance to score the winning goal.

Team Captain Rowland reflected on what has been a great year for everyone involved in the men's football teams at Lancaster. "At the start of every season you set your sights on winning everything you can do, and fortunately enough for us we've managed to achieve that with both the 1st and 2nd team so we couldn't be happier," said Rowland, who added that the team's amazing achievement will live on in the memories of the players for years to come. "The fact we got the double was even better and something that a lot of the lads will remember for a long time."

Lancaster were unlucky to find themselves 1-0 down at half-time after a wickedly deflected shot by Hallam's Richie Bevan wrong footed Jack Harrison in goal and trickled into the net. Two clear chances had already come the host's way in the first half, when Adam Strachan rose well in the area but could only direct his header across the face of goal, while Chris Brown also had an effort well blocked by the



Escape to victory: Lancaster were dead and buried at 1-0 down but a late rally saw them equalise and go on to claim the cup in a dramatic final few minutes (Photo: Robert Payling)

left boot of Campbell in the Hallam goal.

Rowland chose not to dwell on the score line though, and inspired his players to a much greater display in the second period. "It wasn't so much the score that concerned me at half time but the performance, the boys knew I wasn't happy with it and they knew they were letting themselves down with how they'd performed."

He added: "It was more about making sure that we improved our effort and started to play the football we know we can do, and I think in the last 30 minutes that began to show, especially grabbing the two goals in the last 8 minutes or so."

Lancaster managed to level the scores midway into the second half after Hallam failed to clear the ball away from their area properly. An Intelli-

gent run by Pete Hickford allowed him to escape his marker and latch onto a through ball which brought him one on one with Campbell. His superb finish would prove to be the catalyst for Lancaster's fightback.

Further sloppy defending by Hallam allowed Phil Collinson, instrumental in many of Lancaster's offensive moves, to dart into the box before a push in the back sent him crashing to the ground. Both referee and linesman were unanimous in their decisions to give the spot kick and even though Campbell dived the right way he was unable to stop the powerful finish of Hogg.

Rowland, whose own participation in the latter stages of the competition was cut short by a broken leg, spoke of his frustration at being unable to get on the pitch and help his teammates. "It

was a bad injury that I suffered, and at times it's hard knowing you can't help, especially as we were playing so well at the time. Frustration can kick in sometimes, but the fact the lads have kept winning in the league and cup make it far easier to deal with."

"As the game went on – I guess it was the frustration that the bounces weren't going our way when we needed them to, but eventually they did, and I'm just happy they came when they did."

For Rowland and his team the cup success was a deserved reward for their efforts throughout the year. "When the final whistle went it was just the excitement of knowing a year's hard work has paid off and everything we wanted to do, we've done. We couldn't be happier about it – It was absolute justice for a year of hard work."

Football Round-up

Two league titles and one cup highlight season's story of success

Matt Todd

THIS SEASON HAS been a huge success for the university's football teams. There were two league titles and a BUCS cup victory shared between the men's sides and a respectable mid-table finish for the women.

Where better to start than the University Men's 1st team, who secured a historic double triumph; going unbeaten all season in the process and dropping a mere six points. The Northern Conference league was captured in fine style ahead of both Liverpool university sides. All this after the season had started with a stuttering 1-1 draw away in Cheshire. A solid backline was Lancaster's strength, a number of victories secured by the odd goal thanks to com-

mitted defending.

Captain Lewis Rowland was understandably delighted by his side's performance and the motivation of retaining the league should spur the team on next season.

Remarkably, the men's 2nd team also won their league to bring more silverware to Lancaster. The potent attacking talent contained in the squad was decisive, an average of three goals per game enough to secure the title. The magnitude of this victory made even more impressive considering the opening game ended in a 5-1 defeat to closest rivals MMU.

The second team would recover and win the remaining seven league games, driven by the inspirational captaincy of Creegan and the dynamic management of Jimmy Huck. Highlights included the crucial 2-1 victory over MMU in the re-

verse fixture and the 6-2 demolition of Liverpool Hope which saw the team hit top spot.

Top four finish: A mid-season slump proved fatal for the Women's league chances



Although their cup journey consisted of a solitary game; a hammering at the hands of Liverpool firsts, this should not detract from what has been a superb season.

The women's side produced some entertaining football, their 11 matches yielding 81 goals, but were hit by a dra-

matic mid-season slump which saw them finish fourth in the league. An opening day to forget against Edge Hill (0-7) was followed by a run of three victories and an astonishing seven all draw against tormentors Edge Hill.

However, with the team clawing themselves back into the title race a run of four defeats put the brakes on Lancaster's progress. The frustration was compounded by a cruel 4-3 defeat to Edge Hill in the first round of the cup. However, the season ended in typically dramatic fashion with a 5-4 victory over Liverpool.

With many new players joining the squad this season, there is certainly a platform to build on for next year.

All three sides will look to crown a sensational season for football at Lancaster by securing victories in their Roses fixtures.

Julian Surface



Brown should not interfere in club ownership

IT APPEARS THAT Prime Minister Gordon Brown is showing his shameless desperation by plying his trade in the country's most popular sport. It is the football fan demographic that he is perusing with all the subtlety of a walrus at a pigeon convention, and has been flatly refused.

However, there are certain boundaries to political appearances, which Brown should have recognized. In the same way that Alan Hansen should not run for public office to make his opinion in the studio more valid, Brown needs to keep away from an area that has no relation to his job. He is perfectly eligible to support a team or a sport, but to appear on shows as an expert, or to include it in his speeches, borders on shameful.

Brown attempted to appear on the Match of the Day 2 program. The only way to perceive this is that either he thinks of himself as a good football pundit: making his job choice foolish, or perhaps he was hoping to drop a few policies into the conversation, which means he chose the wrong show.



However, the third and more likely option is that maybe he wants to strongly interfere with the game on a national level. Hence, Brown came out with the opinion of returning power from owners to fans. He wants to play on every fan's desire to interfere with their own

club, because he believes they always know best.

It is this opinion that surely falls flat. Any sports fan will always recall the debates that they have with friends or colleagues about their favourite team. But for any one fan who has an intelligent view on the subject, there are twenty who come up with the most foolish ideas of who to buy, who to fire and what their club has done for the last eighty years.

Whether watching Fanzone or You're on Sky Sports, fans have shown their opinions as a massed self-contradictory projection of ideas. In the past, there have been calls to sack Arsene Wenger, because an Arsenal fan forgot that he turned their team into one of the most successful clubs since the birth of the Premiership. However, more to the point, many fans simply voice their judgment by thinking entirely in the short-term, and by considering pitch raids and rioting to be the only effective response. Experts are employed to deal with clubs as a livelihood. Day and night they consider the best ways to improve

squad and performances and yet fans see rumours and headlines so believe they have an accurate picture of the club as a whole.

Certainly this reporter believes that his teams should be left in the hands of experts in finance, fitness, technique, sports psychology and lifelong experience, rather than his own. Nevertheless, Gordon Brown disagrees, and it is the voter's decision on whether he implements these policies, which include: giving a quarter of the club to fans, and reducing the chance of foreign and domestic investment. Essentially, he will be alienating anyone from getting involved, and will give a heavy financial burden to the fans that have no idea how to manage their funds.

It was the protesting Liverpool fans and Portsmouth's financial issues that he drew into focus. Also, Newcastle United fans in the past have had their own calls to rid themselves of the so-called 'cockney mafia'. Certainly Newcastle fans have made their voices heard and stopped their stadium from being

renamed and now the team have been successfully promoted. Successful results have come from composed and organized opinions, rather than manipulating the system on a national level.

With sport becoming the source of such dramatic media frenzy in recent years, politics has entered the fray with open arms. These sports figures are the new heroes of our generation and with Tiger Woods' and John Terry's personal lives under scrutiny, the games are becoming infected with ugly and irrelevant sources of antagonism. Avoiding these diversions from the sport can only serve to improve what is loved by competitors and supporters.

Due to the proximity of the next election, Brown was turned down on sports programs. Still, football fans should live in fear that, were he to be elected, he might jump onto the show from time to time, showing his devotion to the real issues of Great Britain; not the economy, foreign policy, health, education or anything in the job description, but that of football ownership.

What gets you going?

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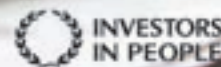
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A morning break for Meera and her process mapping skills are put to good use.

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