

The Captain returns

James May speaks to SCAN's new pull-out, Carolynne about his life as a Lancaster student



Welcome to Lancaster:

Please do not get sick, stressed or strapped for cash during your stay

Lizzie Houghton
Editor

STUDENTS RETURN TO Lancaster University this week after a summer of cuts, confusion and changes. Over the three month summer vacation a number of decision have been taken, the true effects of which will only be known now that undergraduate students have arrived.

The Students' Union, which has a new intake of full-time student representation officers every summer, has been working since the first week of the summer holiday trying to ensure the impact on students is kept to a minimal, with varying levels of success.

"Students go home over the summer, but the Students' Union continues to work hard to make sure their voices are heard by the University," said Robbie Pickles, President of Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU). "Unfortunately though the University

"We understand that this is a difficult time and that cuts have to come from somewhere. But it seems like that somewhere is always the place that hits students hardest"

often makes its most unpopular decisions when students aren't here to add their voices to our concerns. This has been the busiest summer LUSU has had in over a decade, and in a lot of cases the University made their decisions without allowing us time to counter them."

Students returning to Lancaster will notice changes in the student support provisions available campus, notably the disappearance of the central based Student Learning Development Centre (SLDC), which has been dismantled and its staff redeployed to a Faculty level. It is also likely that before the end of Michaelmas Term the Nurse Unit will also have gone, though its closure is yet to be confirmed.

The decision on both of these closures was made by the University before the end of the last academic

year, but LUSU and the University & College Union (UCU), which represents staff, only became aware of them after term had ended.

LUSU's Vice President for Academic Affairs, Robin Hughes explains: "Quite a lot of people might read 'the SLDC's been closed' and not be bothered. Unfortunately the people who do know what it is and notice that it's gone will be thinking 'oh my god, this is a massively important service: why is this being allowed to shut?'"

"For the people who do use it and do engage with the SLDC it is literally saving students' necks and whilst there will be a diminished provision available through Faculties it will certainly not be able to function to the capacity that the SLDC previously did."

The University, along with the whole of the Higher Education sector has been readying itself for the Comprehensive Spending Review later this month. It is expected that as a result of the review the government's Higher Education budget could be slashed by as much as 40%. Reports in last week's Sunday Times suggested that the teaching budget could be cut by 64%.

While student services at the University are being cut, students are feeling the pinch as the cost of living continues to rise. At the end of last year SCAN ran a story about the increase in library printing charges: 0.5p has been added to the price of black and white printing this year compared to last, but colour printing has increased by almost 50%, from 14p to 21p. In a survey conducted by SCAN over the summer, 72% of students said printing on campus was too expensive.

Student parking permits for campus have also increased this year compared to last, going up from £52 to £115.

This increase in costs has not been helped by another year of delays in student loans and grants. Following the trend set last year, the Student Loans Company has again failed to ensure that some students have their finances through in time for the start of term.

Lancaster student Ste Smith was one of those students. He said: "I sent all of the documents I needed to send back in April, got an assessment, signed



University House, where all the big decisions are made

it and sent it back like you're supposed to and thought everything was fine. I then got a letter saying that we hadn't sent anything. I was on the phone for an hour, they then miraculously had all

59.8%
increase in the price of student parking permits over the summer

the documents they needed and said they were going to reassess everything. I'm still waiting."

Along with the Comprehensive Spending Review, the Browne Review into Higher Education funding is also due to be published this month. The latest rumours suggest that the review will recommend increasing the amount universities can charge for tuition fees from the current level of £3,290 a year for most undergraduates to £10,000 a year.

The National Union of Students (NUS) is planning a demonstration against budget cuts in education next month. They will be joined by the national UCU. If the Browne review does recommend an increase in fees, then the NUS will be counting on the support of Members of Parliament who pledged earlier in the year to vote against an increase in fees. Lancaster's Conservative MP, Eric Ollerenshaw has not signed that pledge.

LUSU is looking to take a number of students down to London for the national demo, but they are also focusing on a Lancaster specific campaign against cuts and increasing in charges at the University.

"We understand that this is a difficult time and that cuts have to come from somewhere. But it seems like that somewhere is always the place that hits students hardest, putting them at a disadvantage as they are pressured to pay more and more" said Pickles. "If Lancaster University is truly committed to retaining its top ten status, it must remain competitive in an increasingly turbulent market by putting students first."

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What SCAN says

Editorial: This summer has seen a lot of change at the University. With the Comprehensive Spending Review looming pre-emptive cuts have already started at Lancaster. But the University does itself no favours by the cloak and dagger tactics it employs to get the job done.

www.scan.lusu.co.uk/editorial

NEWS

All roads lead to London as NUS plan cuts demonstration



Lancaster rallied against a rise in fees last year (Photo: Ben Robins)

Emma Hughes

THE NATIONAL UNION of Students (NUS) is organising a demonstration in London on Wednesday November 10, in protest at government plans to cut funding to higher education institutions.

The 'Fund our Future: Stop Education Cuts' event comes in the wake of Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, announcing a £398m decrease in funding to higher education. This is on top of the five per cent cuts already imposed and could force universities to limit the number of staff, the resources for students and the amount of places open to applicants.

"The funding cuts proposed by the government are just plain wrong," said Robbie Pickles, LUSU President. "Higher Education is a leading British industry which supports growth in our economy and benefits hundreds of thousands of young people in the United Kingdom. For Lancaster to absorb a cut to their grant, they would be forced to increase the burden placed on students, which is already far too high for many to afford."

Pickles supports the NUS campaign, run in partnership with the University and College Union (UCU), and encourages others to do the same.

"I will certainly be attending and hope that hundreds of Lancaster students will join me to show the gov-

ernment that they are at risk of plunging millions into deep and damaging debt," said Pickles.

The demonstration is just one of a number of activities organised by the NUS aiming to influence various government policies towards higher education. Other areas of concern include the plans to privatise universities and increase tuition fees.

"Access to college and university should be based on ability, not ability to pay," said Aaron Porter, NUS President. "Privatisation of universities and colleges could lead to price competition amongst these institutions which would make it impossible to afford for many applicants."

Porter also points out the benefits of obtaining a degree, namely "£100,000 more in earnings over a lifetime". Students are worried that reduced investment in higher education could result in access to university becoming a privilege available only to the wealthy.

James Cumiskey, a first year Geography student, said "the privatisation of education, forced by the government cuts to funding, would make it unaffordable to many young people and put them off continuing with their education. By doing this, the government are taking a backward step for the country."

Cumiskey added that this would only serve to "make the rich richer and the poor poorer".

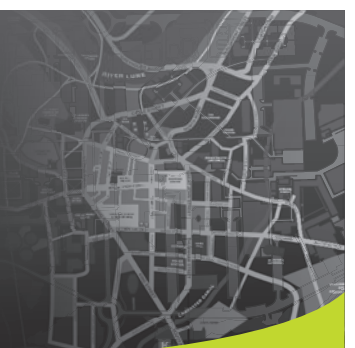
pocket

L A N C A S T E R

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Student service cut as staff and unions are left in the dark

- SLDC shrinks to a Faculty based provision
- Staff are cut as questions remain unanswered
- Fears that students will be left to fend for themselves

Lizzie Houghton
Editor

THE STUDENT LEARNING Development Centre was shut down this summer and its services devolved to a Faculty level amidst complaints from staff and student unions of zero consultation.

The SLDC, which provided academic support and counselling for students, no longer exists as a central service available to all students. Three members of its staff have been redeployed into the Faculties as a result of the change, four others have been redundant and a final one will not have their contract renewed when it ends in December.

The SLDC did run a number of services, ranging from workshops to individual tutorials. Some of its most popular courses were Thesis in Progress for postgraduates and Effective Learning for international students. According to a report by the Research Training Programmes Working Group, 324 students undertook the Thesis In Progress course last year. It also ran Dyslexia Drop-in sessions for students who wanted extra support. Although individual tutorials will continue under the new devolved system along with some workshops, the courses and support groups above will not. The impact on students and staff have concerned both Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU) and the Lancaster branch of the University and Colleges' Union (UCU), but this concern has been exacerbated by what they perceive as a chronic lack of consultation by the University about the change.

"We weren't consulted on this, something which we have made clear our displeasure," said Robin Hughes, LUSU's Vice President Academic Affairs. "Obviously our specific purpose here is to help and assist students and to make sure they get the best deal during their time at university. We feel this change certainly isn't going to make that happen."

On June 1 a decision was taken by the University to close the SLDC and devolve its services. This decision was taken by the University Management Advisory Group (UMAG), which is chaired by the Vice Chancellor and is made up of the University's Senior Management team. Neither LUSU nor UCU have a representative on this group. At the meeting a review about

the future operation of the SLDC was presented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Bob McKinlay.

Later that month the Director of Human Recourses, Chris Thursh requested a meeting with the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) staff, the department the SLDC came under. When CELT staff requested that they had union representation at the meeting was delayed by a week. On July 1 an email was circulated around CELT staff outlining the "future operation of the SLDC".

The email explained how the four Effective Learning Tutors who had worked in the SLDC would be replaced by three Student Learning Advisors (SLA) who would work within the faculties: The Management School and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences will each have a dedicated SLA. The School of Health and Medicine and the Faculty of Science and Technology will share their SLA. It had already been agreed before the report that one position of SLA would move to the Management School.

The change meant that one Tutor would be made redundant along with two part-time administration assistants and the SLDC Coordinator, Dr. Moria Peel. Dr. Louise Innes, the Research Training Manager will not have her contract renewed.

As part of Prof. McKinlay's review Thursh spoke to the Director of CELT, Dr. Paul Rodaway, about the service offered by the SLDC. Dr. Rodaway explained: "I first formally found out after the UMAG decision. There will

435

Students had individual tutorials with SLDC staff in 2008/09

have been discussion for quite some time to the various options in relation to providing student learning support and the DVC went through an extended process of talking to all sorts of parties: [Faculty] Deans and Heads of Service and so on."

These discussions did not include SLDC staff, UCU or the Students' Union. Rory Daly, a UCU representative who has been working with SLDC staff said: "Lancaster UCU believes that one of the strengths of Lancaster's offer to students is the high quality of academic and pastoral support offered by colleagues in SLDC. It is not appropriate that the decision to close SLDC and reduce this support should have been made with minimal consultation with the staff, the campus unions and LUSU. When consultation did take place it was very clear that the key decisions had already been made and would not be changed."

In an email to SCAN Thursh explained that "student interests were always at the forefront of discussions with the Faculties about the transition. Subsequent to the UMAG decision a meeting was held with LUSU to explain the changes".



The SLDC department in Furness has been deconstructed following the change in the service.

He added: "Collective and individual consultation meetings with all the trade unions and SLDC staff commenced on 1st July and have continued throughout July and August." When an attempt was made to arrange a proper interview with Thursh SCAN was told "it isn't possible for you to meet Chris about SLDC."

Both LUSU and UCU have been refused access to Prof McKinlay's

report on the grounds that it is confidential, and it has been restricted from the minutes of the UMAG meeting. LUSU put in a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2005 for the document, which was denied twice by the University on the grounds that disclosure of the document would "inhibit the free and frank provision of advice and the free and frank exchange of

views for the purposes of deliberation". The University has argued that the paper is exempt under Section 36 of the Act: "Information whose provision would prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs." LUSU has applied to the Information Commissioner's Office to appeal against the University's decision.

Hughes, who has been working on the implications of the SLDC closure all summer added: "We're still not able even at this point we are not able to give our full opinions on the matter because we never saw the initial report which suggested that this should be the case. We don't know what the business case for this is so it's very difficult to participate as meaningfully in the debate as we'd like to because we're having that information withheld from us."

There is a common concern that without admin support staff the SLAs will spend too much time distracted by other work and will not be able to devote as much time to students in need. The SLAs will be expected to maintain the website, currently done by admin staff. The admin staff also collect data, manage files and advertise SLDC sessions, work with three tutors do not have the skills to replicate and could take time away from working with students. "We've been looking at how we can empower them to manage that workload by themselves so the development of dedicated email accounts for each of the advisors is part of that, as is maintaining the website," said Dr Rodaway.

READ MORE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE SLDC CLOSURE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF SCAN

Comment: The current crisis in universities

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Counting the hidden costs of university

- Added expenses take new students by surprise
- Students paying more for experience and employability
- SCAN survey highlights biggest hidden costs

Jenni Day
Jonnie Critchley

AS COMPETITION FOR graduate jobs intensifies, the need to stand out and prove your unique qualities has never been greater. As students push to be top of the pack, however, they are beginning to feel the strain of mounting hidden costs.

The Association of Graduate Recruiters' biannual survey has predicted a 6.9% drop in graduate vacancies for the class of 2010, with '78% of employers now insisting on a minimum 2.1 degree.' The pressure is growing for students not only to achieve a 'good' degree but also to build up a wide collection of skills illustrating their diversity and their ability to stand out from the crowd.

At Lancaster, the introduction of the Lancaster Award has given students the chance to showcase their abilities to future employers and prove they have the skills necessary to fulfil the job requirements.

According to the award website: "At Lancaster we value the academic achievements of our students, but also recognise the importance of those activities you engage with outside your programme of study. The stu-

72%
of respondents think printing costs are too expensive

dent experience is enhanced by including extra-curricular activities and with more graduates than ever before and increasing competition for jobs upon leaving university, these are vital to your future prospects."

Nonetheless, the activities required

to complete the award hold hidden costs. The required Insight courses, for example, include payments of up to £20 and take two full days to complete. Whilst in the long term these costs are minimal, they can be an unexpected strain at the time.

Clubs and societies have a key role to play in students' lives, allowing individuals to indulge their passions or try something new. They also play a vital role in creating well rounded graduates, giving students skills and experience to transfer to the job market. Yet clubs and societies contain their own hidden costs, as described on the right.

"Students' spare time is being increasingly squeezed. They need to work to fund their way through university but they are also increasingly having to raise the quality of their 'University Experience' through extra-curricular work which is both expensive and vastly time consuming. If these

"Books are the biggest one-off cost, but those £2.15 returns to town easily accumulate to quite a big share of expenditure after rent, food and party."

activities are to be considered part of the value of attending university, they need to be fully accounted for and not considered luxury extras," said Robbie Pickles, LUSU President.

These are not costs that prospective students always consider when working out finances. A lack of financial foresight about extracurricular activities can cause difficulty for those who want to fully embrace the university experience.

"Gain[ing] the added extras that single you out in the job market can at times ask for significant financial resources. Some students simply cannot afford to do this," said Pete Macmillan, LUSU VP (Equality, Welfare and Diversity).

Many students are forced into getting part time jobs since their maintenance loan is not enough to pay for accommodation, let alone food, books and extra equipment. With Cartmel and Lonsdale topping a hundred pounds a week rent, the maintenance loan falls around £300 short. For many, bridging this gap comes at the expense of their degrees.

"I believe the most significant course cost is the cost of living which

rapidly escalates above and beyond the amount covered by a maintenance loan. Thousands of Lancaster students are forced into their overdraft or into extreme financial difficulty by spiralling prices and the difficulty of finding part time work," said Pickles.

Financial restraints are heightened for final year students whose maintenance loans are reduced by up to £367. For an English Literature student this cut in financial support is the equivalent of all their final year course texts twice over.

It is not surprising then that students have to resort to part time jobs or accessing their overdraft facility. Most banks allow students an overdraft of £1000 in their first year with

the option to extend to £1250, £1500

"It's a course requirement to print essays and dissertations out – we pay for all other course requirements through our fees so why can't this be included also?"

and £1750 in their second, third and fourth years respectively. However, if a student goes over this limit banks will impose fines which can put individuals in a worse situation than they began with.

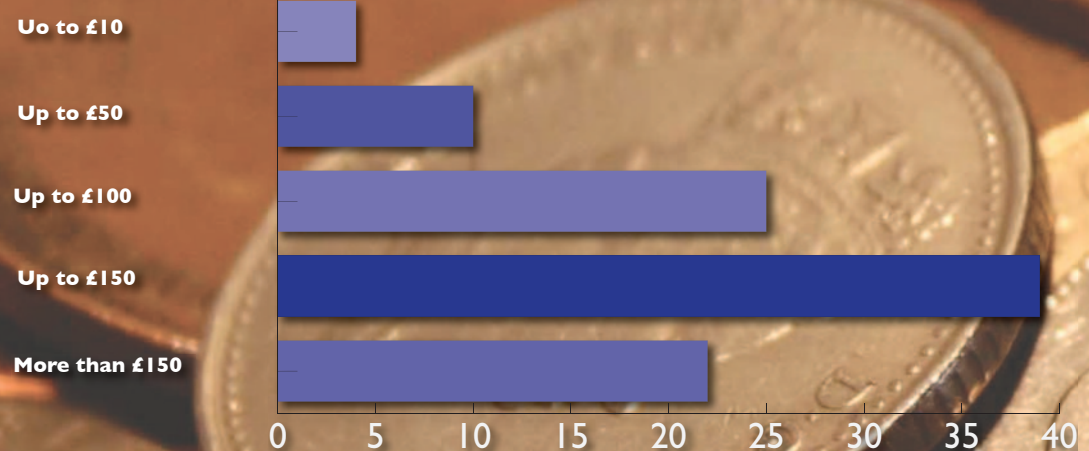
Students' opinions on the hidden costs

Over the summer SCAN carried out a survey through its Facebook Page, asking students what they thought were the true hidden costs of university. 152 students responded in the month the survey was ongoing, both undergraduates and postgraduates coming from many different disciplines.

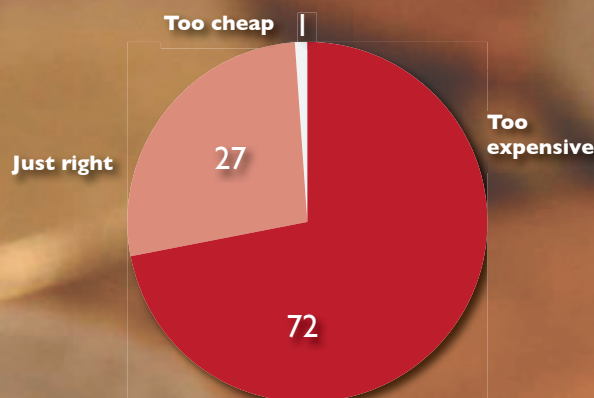
Roughly how much do you spend on books per year?



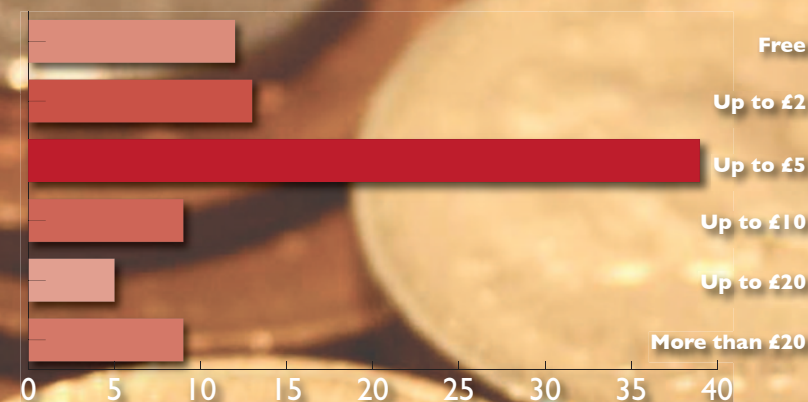
How much does the most expensive book for your course cost?



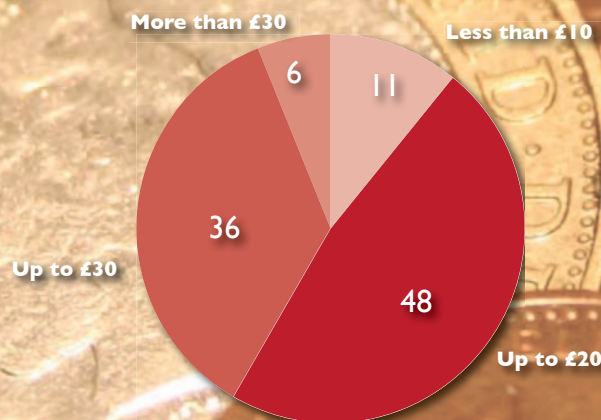
In your opinion, are printing costs...



How much did it cost to sign up to your society/club?



How much would you spend on a standard night out?



*all figures are given as a per cent of responses

Whilst financial support is available to those travelling abroad via the Erasmus scheme, grants are not awarded until January, by which time students will have been in their chosen country for at least four months. During this period students must be able to support themselves, adding to the overall costs of an experience that is being promoted by the Government and universities alike.

Some feel there is a lack of education about the true financial ramifications of going to university. Pickles said: "Few students are made aware of the financial implications, instead being pushed into higher education with little idea of the scale of debt they will find themselves in or the difficulty

they will have repaying that debt after they graduate."

38%

of respondents spent over £20 a term with their club or society

Macmillan believes that more information should be given to future students: "To an extent the Students' Union has a responsibility to engage with the students and get them engaged with the opportunities that are on offer at the university and the benefits that taking part in these activities can fulfil," he said.

What do you spend money on?

Course books

ALTHOUGH DIFFICULT TO consider hidden, the cost of books is arguably the most prevalent beyond tuition and accommodation.

Many students do not initially realise how much they have to spend on reading. Many students also feel that a lack of access to library books forces students to buy books themselves.

27% of respondents spent more than £150 per year on books. One Biomedical Science student said: "I have spent upwards of £600 throughout the three years, despite being told I would not need any extra. The selection of biology books in the library is totally inadequate so we were left with no choice but to buy."

Other students complained that the library does not have enough copies of

core books, although staff stress that every possible effort is made to make enough resources available. On top of this, required texts are often authored by Lancaster academics.

"Many of the recommended texts are compiled [or] written by lecturers who would rather you paid for a printed text as opposed to charging a third of the price for a photocopied compilation," complained a Finance and Economics student.

Most departments do try to encourage students to avoid unnecessary spending. Law Librarian Lorna Pimperton told SCAN that the department "may caution students against spending money when they can obtain resources through the library or online."

39% of students surveyed reported that the most expensive book for their course costs up to £50. In some cases cheaper copies can be found second-hand, but this offers no guarantee of quality.

Students also commented on buying books they rarely use. Part One Economics requires a £45 textbook only used for half of the course. "It was very frustrating to be told by lecturers that they didn't like that book, and by others that it was the best book ever," said Economics student James Birtles.

Course costs do not end at reading lists. For more practical subjects students have to purchase safety which can amount to around £60.

Membership fees

MANY STUDENTS USED the SCAN survey to voice anger at college and LUSU membership fees.

All new students must pay the £30 college membership fee, which mostly covers administrative costs. Many do not find out about college membership fees until being charged for them. Students are also encouraged to purchase the Purple card for £12 a year (or £30 for three years), enabling them to join LUSU societies. Follow-

ing this there is a sign up fee for societies which can range from as little as £2 up to £45 for more practical clubs, covering hiring out practical space, transport and entrance into competitions. Many clubs also require gym membership of £26 and payment for kit. There is also socialising to consider, which whilst being optional is an integral part of society membership.

Although the Purple card is not compulsory, without it students cannot

join societies or benefit from offers. It is also the primary piece of student identification at Lancaster. "The Purple card is basically a stealth tax," said postgraduate Tony Chung. "If we don't have one, we basically are not a member of the Union."

Lancaster has one of the most active students' unions in the UK but although many students value this, they are not happy having to pay large amounts of money to benefit fully.

Food and essentials

WHEN BUYING FOOD and other essential items, Lancaster has a range of options. The on-campus Spar offers convenience but limited choice and relatively high prices, although it did top SCAN's survey as the place where students are most likely to buy food on campus. Sainsbury's in Lancaster means campus residents have to add

the cost of a bus ticket or taxi to their shopping bill. Consequently many use online shopping and delivery services. However, these services include charges of up to £6 for delivery, with ASDA requiring a minimum spend of £25.

For grocery shopping there is no perfect option, which can easily make

this a bigger-than-necessary hidden cost.

35% of respondents say that they often buy food on campus, while a further 44% do so more occasionally. Compared to grocery shopping this represents a less significant hidden cost, because eating on campus is not such a necessity.

Printing

PRINTING CHARGES ARE increasingly a point of contention, especially since prices increased at the beginning of August.

A single side of black-and-white printing has risen in price from 5p to 5.5p, whilst a single side of colour has risen by 50%, from 14p to 21p. Even before these changes, 72% of respondents to the SCAN survey thought printing charges were too expensive.

First and second year students spend on average £20 a year on printing and third year students spend £26.50, according to Information Systems Services (ISS) figures. One History student reports that "for all of my courses most of the required readings

are online. I know I have spent well over £200 so far on printing."

Recent increases have put printing charges into the spotlight, but it is the simple fact of paying for essential printing which angers students, many of whom feel that printing coursework should be subsidised more, or covered by tuition fees.

Bus travel

AS A CAMPUS university, Lancaster gives many of its students the advantage of having everything they need within easy walking distance. This significantly reduces the need for bus travel compared to city-centre universities, where more students face a daily commute on buses.

Stagecoach's 'Unirider' ticket is seen as the best option for those off-campus, and this year costs £205 for three terms. Stagecoach claim it allows daily travel for just ninety-four pence. As one student notes: "it is worth it, but [it is] a lot of money in one go."

Nevertheless, those paying daily for

travel face fast-accumulating costs; last year a one-way from campus into Lancaster cost £1.45, and a return £2.15. New charges from August 29 mean a single now costs £1.50 and a return £2.20. For a student making on average just two return trips a week, this represents a cost of £44 a term.

Parking

PARKING ON CAMPUS has long been a controversial issue. Of 152 students surveyed, only 11% have a car on campus, but to this small but significant minority parking charges are

hugely frustrating.

The difficulty of obtaining a student parking permit has been widely publicised, with candidates having to meet stringent stipulations to do so.

Problems will be exacerbated in the new academic year following a huge rise in the cost of permits; this has more than doubled from £52 to £115.

NEWS

Rise in thefts on campus calls for stricter security

Charlotte Urban
News Editor

THERE HAS BEEN an increase in thefts and burglaries on campus according to PC Gary Wynne, the officer responsible for the policing of Lancaster University. The spike was particularly evident in May of the last academic year.

A spate of bike thefts were recorded, as well as the theft of laundry from the on-campus laundrettes, both crimes which had never been documented before. In addition, there was also a rise in the number of burglaries on campus, where property was appropriated from student accommodation which was not properly secured. PC Wynne has informed the University that a 17 year old male from Galgate has been arrested and charged with a burglary in a dwelling at Graduate College and is awaiting conviction, however he stresses that this individual was not a university student, but an everyday citizen who came on campus and reached through a ground-floor window to steal the goods.

Whilst PC Wynne says that Lancaster University as an institution has very low crime rates, with an average of five crimes being reported each month, this sudden rise in thefts and burglaries should urge students to take the appropriate security measures when protecting their property.

Endsleigh, the number one student insurance provider and the only insurance provider recommended by the National Union of Students (NUS), issued a new survey on August 3, 2010 which stated that students bring approximately £4,000 worth of belongings to university with them. Endsleigh stated that the most expensive item owned by a university student is a musical instrument, averaging at £778, followed by the most common item, the laptop, at approximately £574 of which 94% of students bring to university.

The survey also indicates that students are carrying over a third of their possessions with them at any one time, equating to around £1,300. Other popular items of value are iPods, digital cameras, hair straighteners and games consoles.

Aaron Porter, NUS President, said: "Taking precautions against theft and damage can provide you with valuable peace of mind and ensure that you are not left out of pocket at a time when money can be particularly tight."

Vicki O'Connell, Endsleigh spokesperson, said: "Students are more tech savvy than ever before. As lifestyles become more mobile the 'must have' items become more portable", and therefore easier to lose or steal.

As a result of the increase in thefts, PC Wynne said: "Police patrols were increased on campus to deter this crime trend. From a peak in June this minor crime wave now appears to be dissipating".

In the future, to avoid theft of property PC Wynne says: "I and other officers will be taking any property found insecure in public places and delivering it to Lancaster Police station's 'found property' for safe keeping".

Nurse Unit closure on the cards as University looks to cut cost



- Union fights losing battle to save service
- Uni says money will be reinvested in support

Charlotte Urban
News Editor

THE NURSE UNIT on campus faces possible closure this year due to the cuts the University is undertaking in NHS provision. Whilst the Unit's proposed closure is not yet confirmed, it appears from the consultation periods underway that the closure is being prepared for and that the services will end in the near future.

Pete Macmillan, Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU) Vice President Equality, Welfare and Diversity said: "LUSU are 100% opposed to any closure of the facility. It seems quite an irresponsible move to cut such a key service at such a key time". LUSU presented a report to Tom Finnigan, the University's Director of Student Based Services on September 7, the outcome of which is yet to be confirmed.

However Finnigan suggests that the closure of the Nurse Unit will ultimately result in reinvestment in other areas surrounding student health. He said: "We will be discussing with LUSU the opportunity to improve areas where we do need more resources, such as supporting mental health, rather than spending money on services that duplicate ones that are already well sup-

ported by the NHS".

The UMAG (University Management Advisory Group), a group which acts as a conduit to Lancaster and often takes a view on recommendations and policies such as the potential closure of the Nurse Unit, is set to become involved. According to Victoria Tyrrell, Head of the University's Press Office, "the final decision will go to [University] Council in November, following recommendations from the UMAG in October".

In a report compiled by LUSU highlighting the views and opinions of the Students' Union, LUSU stated "it is important to note that LUSU embraces change... but will not accept cost-cutting as the sole excuse for the removal of support services". LUSU also expressed concerns that there is "no clear vision for reinvestment or future options and choices" as "financial savings appear to be taking precedent over student wellbeing, a lack of investment in student support, lack of proposal for reinvestment and lack of future direction and options".

Sylvia Eddie, former Head of Student Support Services is the founder of the Nurse Unit. When asked about why she initiated the formation of the Nurse Unit, she said: "Basically I

was looking to improve the support we offered to all students. I believed students would benefit by having nurses based centrally who would be available to be seen in the Unit". With regard to the Unit's closure she added: "I'm disappointed to hear that proposals to close the Unit are being discussed especially as I hear that the Nurse Unit continues to offer a valuable and valued service". However,

83%
Of students rated the Nurse Unit as good or excellent

Eddie also expressed her view that "all institutions are forced to review their budget spending on an ongoing basis. If the University is proposing to withdraw this service in order to use the savings achieved to enhance welfare support in an alternative and improved fashion then it is right and proper that such proposals should be considered by all".

As well as expressing their own views on the potential closure of the Nurse Unit, Pete Macmillan and a number of members of LUSU compiled a survey via Squeak, the Union's weekly newsletter. The aim of the questionnaire was to determine student opinion about the Nurse Unit. The student opinion gathered was included in

the report presented to the University, offering the opinions of 710 students, which is "one of the biggest non-incentivised surveys LUSU has conducted in recent years".

The outcome of the questionnaire was that 58% of people asked had used the Nurses Unit before. Students were asked to rate the level of service provided by the Nurse Unit, and 83% of students rated it as excellent or good. When asked for feedback about the Nurse Unit, the most popular response was that it is "helpful", whilst other popular responses stated that the nurses were "friendly/approachable", that "24-hour service is invaluable" and "good advice is given".

It has been suggested that the closure of the Nurse Unit would have a significant impact upon other services in Lancaster. The GP Practice for example would be faced with an increased workload. The role of porters has been brought into question, as they have only basic first aid training, so there would be no medical facility readily available to students. LUSU maintains that this increased responsibility should not be placed on porters, particularly those accountable for the larger colleges. The burden on local services would be under greater pressure as well, particularly pharmacies and A&E services, which may unsettle many residents who often use these facilities.

Parking prices more than double for students

Collette McColgan
Assistant Editor

ON-CAMPUS PARKING CHARGES have more than doubled for students for the next academic year, from £52 to £115.

Students must still meet certain eligibility criteria in order to apply for a parking permit for campus, as well as paying a fee, which is now more than double the cost of previous years. The changes have also removed the service of one-day scratchcards for students, who may only require their car on campus for a short period of time.

However, despite some suggestions that student parking be opened up from the current restrictions – students may currently only park in Alexandra Park – the parking zones have not been changed.

“The University has a transport policy that aims to satisfy the needs of our staff, students and visitors while encouraging more sustainable transport options. This is set against a situation where we are not allowed by City planners to greatly increase the number of spaces we have available. This is a very difficult balancing act,” said Professor Trevor McMillan, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, and Chair of the Transport Working Group at the University.

He added: “This year’s arrangements are a result of a refresh of the policy that has considered demand, spatial arrangement of spaces, improvements in bus services and improvements in provision for cyclists. The cost structure is then based on this analysis and the calculation that it costs in excess of £100 per year to provide each space.”

President of the Students’ Union, Robbie Pickles is in opposition to the changes. “This increase represents a direct punishment for those students who have a proven need for transport. It is a tax on those who cannot afford to live away from home; a levy on those forced by heavy course costs into part-time work,” he said.

He added: “Without a comprehensive public transport review this initiative is punitive to motorists whilst offering no ability or incentive for students to find alternative methods of transport.”

Though there will be some changes to public transport links on campus – after campaigns of the last academic year, there will be a trial service around North campus of the X1 and some night buses – it seems that there has not been enough concession to students who have no choice but to drive onto campus in order to compensate for the hike in parking fees.



This is coupled with the delay in the opening of the North campus bus stop and the closure of the underpass for the Alexandra Square Rejuvenation project both causing problems to public transport links to campus.

Though the efforts to improve transport to campus have not gone unnoticed, it appears to students that the University’s main priority is the staff. The University provides discounted or free UniRider bus passes to staff members who use public transport, with them also being eligible for car sharing discounts on their on-campus parking permits.

McMillan commented that the working group is keen to work with LUSU to improve the situation for students.

“There is still the provision of a substantial number of student permit parking spaces on Alexandra Park and students will be able to pay daily and park in visitors spaces. However, as with staff, we are committed to try to encourage students to use other forms of transport and we have agreed with LUSU officers that we will work with them during the course of this year to develop our ability to do that.”

Pickles, who sits on the Transport Working Group, is currently working to improve the parking policy for students in future years. “This now forms just one of many ‘hidden course costs’ which are contributing to the spiralling price of Higher Education and which LUSU is committed to oppose.”

Lancs students enjoy summer trip to Beijing

Erin O'Reilly

15 STUDENTS REPRESENTED Lancaster University at a three week school program in Beijing this summer.

Organised by Terry Bray and the Vice Chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings, the trip took place from June 26 until July 18. It was the third visit to Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) for Lancaster University.

The students stayed in BFSU accommodation and attended three hour lessons Monday to Friday, studying Chinese language and literature in the mornings and filling their afternoons with activities such as calligraphy and tai-chi. Along with the academics, students took day trips to famous landmarks including the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, and the Temple of Heaven.

The aim of the scheme is to emphasise the importance of China within the modern world and to strengthen the collaboration between Lancaster and Beijing.

The group described their experience overall as “brilliant” and would “absolutely” recommend the trip to “anyone with an interest in China, culture, or representing your university”. “It was a pleasure for all of us to represent Lancaster University.”

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Alternatively call in at the surgery, on the perimeter road, South West Drive, and ask to register there, if you haven't already done so.

You can choose to register at a different Practice in the city centre if you prefer, but not both.

Please do not delay. Do not wait until you are ill. If you are not already registered, a local GP may not be able to see you quickly.

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Location:

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Tuition fees “will rise to £10,000” according to Browne review leak

Yasmin Spracklen
Lizzie Houghton

STUDENTS COULD BE facing a rise in tuition fees of up to £10,000 a year as a result of a radical review of the current system. The Browne Review into Higher Education funding is due to be published on October 11 and is expected to introduce serious changes to areas such as tuition fees, loans, grants and bursaries.

According to reports the chairman of the review, Lord Browne, is keen to remove the current £3,290 cap on tuition fees completely, enabling universities to charge students as much as they please. It is estimated that leading universities could charge their students between up to £10,000 whilst tuition fees for science graduates could rise to £14,000.

It had previously been suspected that the panel would only advise a higher cap of £5,000-£7,000. But a report in the Sunday Times in September suggested that the higher figure of £10,000 was in fact the likely choice. There had been vague speculation that a graduate tax who be introduced.

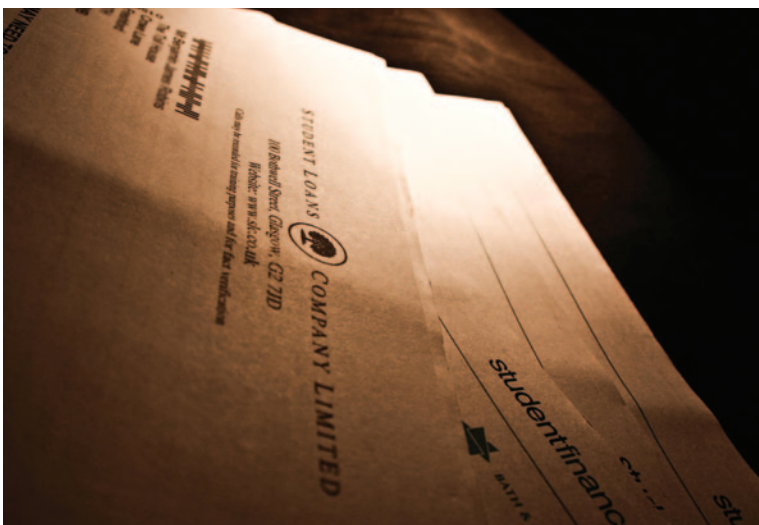
Championed by the National Union of Students, a graduate tax would see students not paying any fees up front, but instead contributing to the costs of their education through a tax once they become employed. Higher earning graduates would repay more than those who went into lower paid jobs such as nursing or teaching.

A draft of the report was produced on the September 6, showed that the panel was unconvinced by the possibility of a graduate tax. Instead, it appears that the review is inclined towards the increase of tuition fees as well as increasing the interest paid on student loans.

The increase in fees is expected to be introduced as early as 2012.



Lord Browne has been looking into the future of Higher Education funding for just under a year



Severe increases to tuition fees could have a detrimental effect on applications, as the expensive fees on courses such as medicine and dentistry will act as a barrier to entry. The British Medical Association has warned that increasing tuition fees could land medical students with debts in excess of £90,000.

Universities who are part of the Russell Group and the 1994 Group – such as Lancaster – will likely charge £7,000. A smaller number including Oxford and Cambridge are expected to charge £10,000 if that figure become viable. Other universities are expected to try and compete by offering cheaper degrees.

The Comprehensive Spending Review is expected to reduce the overall state funding for universities by

around 37%. According to the Sunday Times report of September 26, the government is set to cut 64% of the current £4.6bn teaching budget. State spending on research is also expected to be hit hard, with £1bn set to be removed.

The problem of university funding is causing a rift between the Liberal Democrats, who promised to abolish fees in their Election Manifesto earlier this year. Many Lib Dem MPs promised to vote against a rise in tuition fees before the election, a promise less prominent Lib Dems appear likely to uphold.

Aron Porter, President of the NUS, said: “Students start university this week and we will be reminding them that the Liberal Democrats made a clear commitment to vote for us.”

Lancaster tipped for University of the Year



Collette McColgan
Assistant Editor

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY HAS been shortlisted for University of the Year in the Times Higher Education Awards 2010. Lancaster, which has seen its stock rise this year entering the top 10 universities in most league tables, will go up against Birkbeck College, University of London, Edge Hill University, Newcastle University and the University of York for the top prize.

Ann Mroz, Editor of the Times Higher Education (THE) magazine said: “The awards represent a unique and high profile opportunity to celebrate the excellence and amazing achievements of UK higher education institutions, and reaffirm our commitment to the two core pursuits of higher education: teaching and research.”

Lancaster University has already won in the category of Outstanding Finance Team in the THE Leadership and Management Awards 2010. The winner will be announced at a ceremony held in Grosvenor House Hotel in London on November 25.

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Loans Company leaves students out of pocket, again

Shane Manning

THE STUDENT LOANS Company has left many students in confusion and facing a lack of funding for the second year running despite changes intended to prevent familiar problems.

Last year thousands of students in England were left without grants or loans after administration problems meant that the Student Loans Company (SLC) could not cope with a record one million applications. Students were left helpless and universities forced to pay out hundreds of thousands of pounds in emergency funds to students left without their agreed funding. The SLC blamed problems with the telephones and a faulty scanner system, but later reports revealed management had underestimated the scale of the task ahead of them.

Universities minister David Willetts said that new leadership was necessary for the company at the beginning of the summer. Shortly after the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (DBIS) announced that the chief executive of the Student Loans Company, Ralph Seymour-Jackson and chairman John Goodfellow were quitting. Following the appointment of Professor Sir Deian Hopkin, former Vice Chancellor of London South Bank University, as interim chairman, the SLC assured students that their service would be vastly improved this year. But although the system has allegedly received less com-



Sir Deian Hopkin assured students that the SLC service would be vastly improved this year.

plaints than in previous years and the number of already processed applications has increased on last year from 46% to 60%, there are still problems.

Students and their parents have been asked repeatedly to send birth certificates and sensitive documents, many of which have been mislaid. There have also been thousands of complaints about the SLC help lines which have left students trying for hours to get through before then being offered no help.

As Lonsdale Co-President Matthew Power explains: "I recently received my breakdown for the next academic

5%

of students are still waiting for their loans

year and the amount of my grant has changed, despite no change in my personal circumstances. My attempts to find out what had changed were in vain - I spent a great deal of time in a queue

on the phone and when I finally spoke to someone, they seemed to know very little about my case or indeed, the way grants work in general".

Giving evidence to the Public Affairs Committee in late July, Simon Fraser, the Permanent Secretary at the DBIS, said that improvements at the company between December and February were not fast enough, but he said he was "confident that there will be a better service this year".

Lauren Dalton-Jarvis, a student at Lancaster, described the service offered this year as "appalling." Ste Smith, another Lancaster student agreed, saying: "They [the SLC] didn't have a clue". Smith went on to describe the problems that he has faced this year.

"I sent all of the documents I needed to send back in April, got an assessment, signed it and sent it back like you're supposed to and thought everything was fine. I then got a letter saying that we hadn't sent anything. I was on the phone for an hour, they then miraculously had all the documents they needed and said they were going to reassess everything, I'm still waiting," he stated.

SLC bosses have insisted that any delays this year are in line with previous years, but the BBC reports that a Freedom of Information request revealed that some 50,000 students were still waiting for their loans. This is equivalent to 5% of the one million students who have applied for loans this year.

Too many students and too few rooms as campus accommodation fills up



- Housing shortage in town adds to problem
- Rush to house clearing students

Jen Day

THE UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION office has asked the housing wing of the Students' Union to find off campus accommodation for over 200 new students in preparation for the coming academic year. Postgraduates, clearing students and those students who did not select Lancaster as their first choice university have all been hit.

With campus accommodation full, Lancaster University Students' Union raised concerns about the lack of off campus accommodation back in February. Despite this LUSU staff and officers have had to work tirelessly to meet the demand of the new intake. This has meant that LUSU Living, the Union's housing company, has had to take on new leases, collaborate with landlords and fully furnish brand new properties, all within the few short weeks between A-Level results being released and the start of the new term.

"LUSU Living had to take on a phenomenal workload to support the University", said LUSU President Robbie Pickles.

With such a shortage of bed space finding suitable housing has been a "monumental task" said Matthew Ward, Manager of LUSU Living. He went on to say: "One house was so run down that we have had to spend £22,000 fixing it up and that is just because there is so little accommodation around that we have had to take anything."

As of September 23, LUSU Living had managed to secure 60 undergraduate bed spaces and 40 postgraduate bed spaces, with a possibility of another 36 that they had acquired that day. By adding to their stock LUSU Living will be able to provide a better service in the future, however with only four members of staff, "in the short term it is a nightmare" said Ward.

LUSU Vice President Equality Welfare & Diversity, Pete McMillan said: "LUSU officers, LUSU Living and members of staff within the University are doing their utmost to resolve any issues that have presented themselves with regards to the first year housing situation."

Lancaster offered 250 places through clearing which has been seen as a significant cause for the accom-

modation shortage. Without knowing in advance how many students were coming the University has been unable to prepare for the new intake. This also applies to new postgraduates, whose numbers are only confirmed when they enrol during Freshers' Week.

Questions have been raised as to why Lancaster had so many clearing spaces and why prospective students did not apply to Lancaster earlier. Antony Marcela, Director of External Linkages, whose job includes marketing and accommodation, resigned on August 17 after the University received the A-Level results on August 16.

"A top ten University should not have any of its courses on clearing. University Management will no doubt be rightly embarrassed by this position", said Pickles.

Nonetheless, Undergraduate Admissions Officer, Heather Willis said: "We have had a very similar number of applications overall this year [in comparison with last year]." However, Lancaster has not had the "significant uplift in applications" that corresponds to the national trend.

External factors have also had a major impact on this housing crisis. There has been an increase in students in Lancaster, both from Lancaster University and the University of Cumbria, and therefore more demand for properties. But, the number of properties in Lancaster has decreased over recent years due to licensing laws and lack of money for landlords to invest in student properties since the recession.

"Compared to three years ago there is about six to seven hundred less bed spaces in the city in comparison to now", said Ward.

Coupled with the closure of the University of Cumbria's Ambleside halls which housed 250 students, who have now had to find accommodation in the city, there are "more students, less houses".

Some Freshers are still unaware of where they are living only a week before they are due to arrive.

Just a week before Freshers' Week, Bowland first year Laura Butlin said: "I still do not know what accommodation I have. The University has not been very helpful or quick. Although, when I went to visit Lancaster, the lady in the housing office was very helpful and nice."

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FRESHERS' WEEK

WEDNESDAY

ACTIVITIES SHOWCASE 12PM - 5PM, GREAT HALL

Here at Lancaster we have over 100 student societies and 30 Athletic Union Clubs ranging from Dance to Free Running and Rugby Union to Korfball. From 12-5pm in the Great Hall a selection of these societies will be putting on skill-based demonstrations to show you what they are all about. There will also be numerous groups running fascinating activity areas where you can have a go, such as table tennis, rowing ergs and even inflatable sumo wrestling suits! Make sure you get down for the afternoon to really get a flavour of the variety that your Students' Union has to offer.

LANCASTER SHOW 7.30PM, GREAT HALL

From 7:30pm we are putting on a spectacular international-themed evening of music and dance performed by our very own students, societies and bands. There will be a variety of British and cultural performances alongside a magician, face painter, henna and nail art for you to enjoy.

THURSDAY

FRESHERS' FAIR: PART ONE 12PM - 5PM, GREAT HALL COMPLEX

Having had a taste of the variety that Lancaster has to offer, this is your first opportunity to be able to sign up for the large number of sports clubs and societies on offer. From 12-5pm in the Great Hall all the groups will be present to talk to you and answer all your questions before giving you a chance to sign up.

FRIDAY

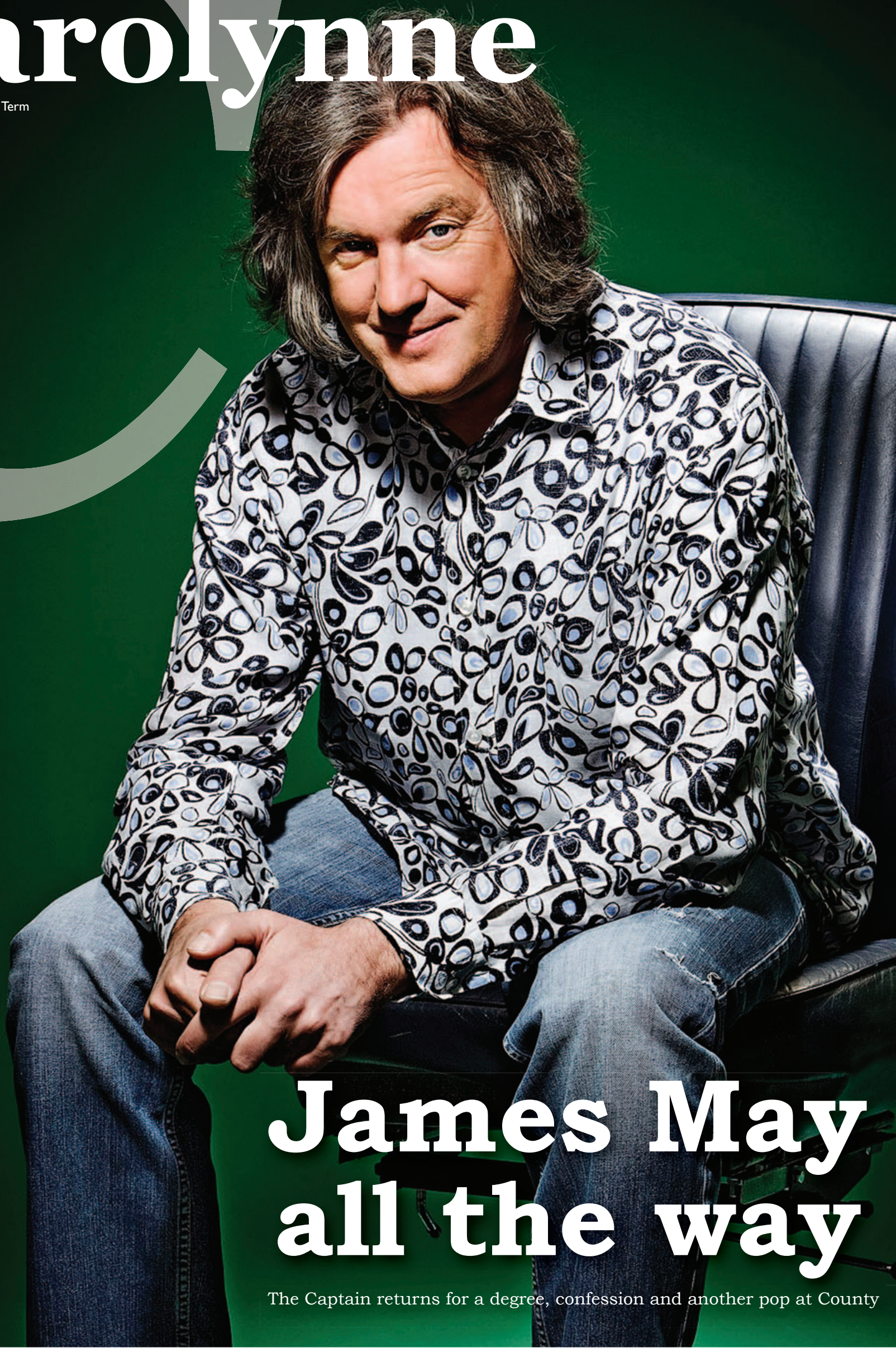
FRESHERS' FAIR: PART TWO 12PM - 5PM, GREAT HALL COMPLEX

This is your chance to get to know your students union as well as discovering all that the commercial businesses have to offer. From 12-5pm LUSU will be putting on several interactive areas in the Nuffield Theatre, such as Wii gaming and media studios, which will give you a chance to win some amazing prizes as well as showing you everything your Students' union can do for you. The Great Hall will host the traditional freshers fair, a showcase of both national and local businesses, so make sure you check out both rooms to take full advantage of the competitions and freebies on offer!



Carolynne

Intro Week, Michaelmas Term



James May all the way

The Captain returns for a degree, confession and another pop at County

Who is Carolynne?

Lizzie Houghton

IT'S SAFE TO say you'll have noticed something new about SCAN this year: she's sitting pretty in front of you now. This is Carolynne, SCAN's stylish, more lighthearted sister.

When I was on the campaign trail earlier this year trying to get elected as SCAN Editor, a common criticism of SCAN was that it was too serious, that there wasn't enough of the fun stuff. What fun stuff there was often wasn't related to life at Lancaster enough. Carolynne has stepped in to fill that hole.

This is a pullout dedicated to life as a student at Lancaster University. We want to tell you about great places to visit and events to attend, where to go for a good time or a bargain



A sneak peek of Carolynne I used during elections for SCAN Editor

present, how to stay warm but stylish on a budget and to look at the issues that interest you. We've got Hugh, our resident fashion columnist to keep you on trend; Penny How, our international correspondent to give you taste of life as a Lancastrian abroad; there's Bex and Gareth who'll be offering their own unique perspectives on life at Lancaster (pointing out their own life fails so you can avoid them); and finally our resident quack, Mystic Macleod, giving you a glimpse into your future, two weeks worth of it at least.

But to really make Carolynne a definitive part of student life at Lancaster we need you guys: your ideas and your thoughts and your stories. Get in touch with our Carolynne Editors if you're interested in getting involved (you'll find their contact details on page two of SCAN).

But why Carolynne? I'll grant you it may seem like a strange choice of name.

Carolynne has been a magazine before. The original was created four days after the University opened by a Bowland student called William Smethurst who rather fancied another student called Carolynne. He named his magazine after her in a bid to attract her attention. Their engagement was announced in the magazine in 1968, so it's safe to say the namesake worked.

Back then Carolynne ran independently of SCAN. Where SCAN was a newspaper, reporting on the comings and goings of the University, Carolynne was more of a cultural magazine. It seemed fitting that when I was thinking about introducing a lifestyle and culture pullout to SCAN, it should be called Carolynne.

The original Carolynne was well loved around campus, I hope you'll enjoy this Carolynne just as much.

The best week of

The Dos and Don'ts for a successful Freshers' Week, imparted from the brain of **Kristina Beanland**

FRESHERS' WEEK IS probably one of the scariest and most exciting weeks you will ever experience. You get dropped off in basically the middle of nowhere, in a place you have only been to a handful of times. You know literally no one - not one single person in at least a 100 mile radius. But in that week, you will hopefully meet some of your best friends, have some of the most fun filled nights of your life, and form a bond with Lancaster University that will last the rest of your life.

But, because that first week can be rather overwhelming, we friendly people at SCAN have decided to give you lucky readers the ultimate do's and don'ts of Freshers' Week to help you along the way.

- **Do talk to everyone:** In Freshers' Week, one of the best things to do is talk to anyone and everyone. It will feel weird, unnatural and most likely a bit creepy at first, but you never know, you could be saying hello to your new best friend.
- **Do join as many societies as possible:** Even if you only go to the first welcoming meeting, decide that no, you would rather not spend your Wednesdays running around a sports pitch in the inevitable rain, and end up back at your flat, pre-drinking for the Carleton.
- **Do be prepared to repeat yourself:** Over and over and over again. You will be asked which A-levels you did, what college you're in, where you're from and what you're studying at least a million times per day. Yes it's boring, but it's a conversation starter, so at least sound interested.
- **Don't judge:** At university, you will meet people that you would never have met before. People from different backgrounds, countries, and all walks of life all become a part of your new life, so make the most of it. Don't let stereotypes or preconceived ideas get the better of you, you'll only end up ruining your time at uni.
- **Don't get Fresher's Flu:** It is horrible. Although not as yet a medical term, symptoms include a permanent hangover, the worse cold you've ever had, pain in places you didn't realise could be painful, and an overwhelming desire to stay in bed. Avoid at all costs.
- **Don't do anything embarrassing:** That you'll end up regretting for the next three years. Remember the people that in front of whom you do the embarrassing deed (confessing your undying love for someone you met an hour ago, setting yourself on fire... you get the picture) will most likely be either your flat mates or people from your college i.e. people that you cannot hide from.
- **Don't worry:** I know, easier said than done, but it is so easy to become so concerned about whether you've met the right people, whether you've joined enough societies, or whether you've gone on enough nights out, that you can end up becoming miserable. The best thing to do is just go with the flow, don't get too anxious about having a good time, just have fun!
- **Don't go home:** This is probably the best piece of advice I can give you. Even if you're home sick and desperately craving your Mum's homemade shepherd's pie, going home is just not worth it. You need to stick the week out, and really give uni a chance before you decide that you'd rather not be there. At the very least, you'll be missing out on all the freshers shenanigans that will be going on if you're not there.



emails from @australia

Carolynne's International Correspondent, **Penny How**, gives us a taste of life as a Lancaster student down under

NATIONALISM IS A concept that used to completely elude me. Generally, nationalism is defined as the sense of pride that an individual feels towards their home country. The country holds traits that reflect the character of the individual. Prior to moving to Australia, I never had such a strong personal connection to the United Kingdom and my British nationality. And I felt that nationalism had detrimental effects on others as it affirmed their

own identity whilst belittling others. It firmly asserts that 'we are right, and you are wrong'. Never did I think that just a mere three months later I would have an entirely different outlook on my nationality as a result of living in a different country.

Having been submerged in Australian life for nearly three months, already a considerable amount of significant political activity has occurred. As I arrived in Sydney International

Airport, I was bombarded with news of the change in the political leadership of Australia. Julia Gillard became the first female Prime Minister following the Australian Labour Party's controversial choice to vote out the former PM Kevin Rudd. Whilst I settled into my first academic week at the University of Wollongong, Julia Gillard announced a general election in order to validate her position - she actually had the confidence to do so, unlike Gordon Brown. As in the UK, the election resulted in a hung parliament. The main two parties, the Australian Labor Party (centre-left) and the Liberal/National Coalition Party (centre-right), wrestled for the support of the six crossbench MPs that could form a minority government. As I entered my seventh week of the university term, Julia Gillard finally won the support of four of these MPs, allowing her to remain in power.

This political environment is a refreshing escape from UK politics. Even the lighthearted articles are appealing, such as the coverage of Tony Abbott's (opposition leader of the Coalition) surfing pursuits as he was seen with

of your life?

Fresher's Week isn't the be all and end all of university life - there's three more years to experience too, as **Louise Day** explains.

THERE IS A certain warmth in the air, a sort of frazzle filling those on campus with excitement. The hatchbacks roar onto campus filled with beddings, pans, eager students and melancholy proud parents; it is time once again for Lancaster to welcome its next batch of freshers. Be they wild or studious, they're all in for the same experience in the coming seven days. But what they will gain from this experience varies wildly.

Having met students who rave about their Freshers' Week as the best time of their lives, I have met my fair share of students who didn't massively enjoy it, and I can't help but feel they're in an enviable position. Presumably if Freshers' Week was the best week of your life, well studentdom was all downhill from there. Personally I had an urge around Day Three to just stay in and watch movies, but filled with an obligation to 'have a good time' you resist, and go out, spend too much on Apple Sourz that you don't really want to drink, and spend a lot of time with people you will never speak to again.

My second year Fresher's experience was another thing entirely. Armed with a strong friend base and a flat of friends who I knew that I loved and could share a taxi back with I was all the more ready to have a good time. I had no obligations to get up early to register for this, attend that and take part in the all-important Library Orientation Course. Afterwards the course, I used the advice... never. My library competence came with experience and panic, around a week before the exams.

Trust me, if you'd rather sleep, don't force yourself to go to the "non-compulsory but recommended" courses. You will have enough on in the coming weeks without feeling obliged to take part in everything and tire yourself out in the first week, worst of all exposing your sleep-deprived malnourished self all the more to the dangers of Freshers' Flu!

My advice is not to bolt and lock your room until the storm of Freshers' is over, embrace it for what it is, but don't feel that you're less of a student for not having the time of your life. Ultimately, you're there to break the ice, not make lasting friendships. They come afterwards, when the hangovers and alcohol have given way to study stress and... well, yet more alcohol and hangovers.

Keep your eyes peeled for SCAN's very own dedication to wistful and nostalgic Lancaster alumni, who will fill our lovely pages and your lovely brains with musings on what they would have done if they had their time at Lancaster again. It's something to think about, especially for us final years who embark on a year of bittersweet lasts; last Freshers', last Christmas ball, last end of exams... Let's make the most of it, and make this year the best ever, whatever year you're in!

A university challenge...

Bex Hamilton

STARTING UNIVERSITY BRINGS many things. Mostly, these things are cutlery or crockery shaped and donated by various family members. Your Nan will suddenly feel it is only her duty to provide you with an assortment of tins (ham, standard) and enough soap to keep you in stock, as if Lancaster must become the victim of a nuclear war. But just as starting university can supply you with all the wooden spoons in the world, it also provides you with important life skills. Gone is the luxury of dependence. Instead, welcome yourself to a world where washing never dries (County Laundrette, I'm looking at you) and meals are provided by that classy food establishment: Greggs.

Of course, whilst you are flying the proverbial nest, your parents are dealing with life without their favourite son/daughter. Well, that and probably booking their next holiday to Tenerife, but perhaps that is just me. Whilst your mum might need the hanky on arrivals day and fuss about making sure you get the best draw in the freezer, they, like you, will soon adapt. Come Christmas, your parents will be the ones dancing on the ceiling Lionel Richie style in unadulterated freedom and by the time you return, your childhood room will have been converted into a swanky cocktail bar.

I learnt a good few valuable life lessons as a fresher. Don't live on vodka and fish finger sandwiches, attempt to read at least one set text and most importantly, don't go out for a fire alarm without knickers because you will soon remember just how windy Lancaster really is. Snogging three members of the JCR on your first social will taint you with a brush that can only be described as "dirty" and being carried out of the Sugarhouse is not a rite of passage to be proud of. Above all this, though, is the idea that eventually (usually about term two of second year. Be patient) you will be able to look after yourself. With the multitude of morning-afters, discarded neon tutus and debit receipts for the Carleton (because a cocktail of vodka, sugar and caffeine is a good way to spend your overdraft) will come experience.

Thing is, you're not just here for a degree. Yes, that precious piece of paper is your golden ticket into the employment kingdom and decreases the chance of you having to spend your working life stacking the shelves at Lidl, but university itself represents much more. Lancaster is the place I met some of my best friends, where I learnt to like mushrooms, where I was sick all over the LUSU President. I have cried and laughed and loved and lived and in the two years I have been here, I have done that clichéd thing of having the time of my life. Not a bad deal for someone who only came here to find a husband.



Leader of the Australian opposition, Tony Abbot, being decidedly un-English in his choice of swimwear

a board on the large waves that dominated the New South Wales coast last weekend. My departure from the UK could not have come at a more opportune time. Personally, I am very relieved to have left the UK following the election of David Cameron and the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Coalition. The election campaign trail made me feel more displaced than previously. I was awkwardly sandwiched between the strong views of Labour and the Tories, which felt like being amid a standoff between two overbearing parents.

However, that drowning feeling is set aside when in a different country. Unlike my previous thoughts, the British nationality, (a 'pommie' in Australian jargon), is a vibrant identity to others. This has been most apparent when meeting Australian and American students at the University of Wollongong. Immediately the English accent is a novelty that fascinates them. Many a time have I been asked to say 'tea', or had requests to talk in a cockney accent. Following this, they tend to comment on the various mannerisms associated with the UK – our obsession with tea, our

quaint chivalry, our inability to refrain from apologising etc. In the UK this would obviously become tedious and annoying, yet through the numerous pairs of fresh eyes, it is revived as an attractive distinctiveness, which is a great icebreaker that sets you apart.

This new perspective resuscitates the faceless nationality that once isolated me from the UK. Rather than fixating on the negative connotations, I have discovered that it is important to look at the bigger picture. Being British is not rigidly the 'right' way, yet it is also not 'wrong' or shameful. Nationalism has the ability to affirm an identity without implying a sense of arrogance. Although the political climate of the UK does not adequately express my personal opinion, being British does not mean it has to. Neither does it entail that others will presume so. As within the ideals of Atticus Finch: "You never really understand a person until you consider things from their point of view – until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it." A sense of nationalism need not tarnish your understanding of an individual, nor does it impede your own individuality.

Lancaster's bunch of rising stars

Alex Harris

"Yeah, I'm writing a screenplay at the moment." It's a typical line you hear from people in bars that want to appear interesting, almost as common as "I've always wanted to write a novel" and ignored with equally casual dismissal. Rightly so, even, as most of the people you meet with supposed ambitious projects will get not much further than writing something like "will be similar to The West Wing" on the back of a napkin and keeping it in a box somewhere, never to be tampered with.

Not so for Will McDonagh, whose student-themed drama series *UNiversal* has aired its first episode on LUTube's website (lutube.tv). The series follows the misadventures of a group of freshers during their first year at Lancaster and all the things that come with that: romance, promiscuity, shyness, bickering, etc. Though only the first episode has been aired so far, it shows great promise, with tremendous popularity with students already.

But to initially pitch the idea, the production team had to go through some of that familiar dismissal that befalls most people that insist they're working on something good.

"I think the feeling was it might not work out" says Will. An overlook of the circumstances at the time might have led one to conclude that feeling to be right. After all, there was only a single person working on the drama and even when the ball got rolling a bit more the writing staff was still relatively small and no actors had yet been recruited to work on the project.

But they got by with a little help from their friends and through Facebook and word of mouth the project quickly gained steam. "I made a Facebook group basically because I was bored to see if anyone was interested and within a week two hundred people had joined!" It was at that point that they began to audition the actors and ended up with the current cast.

The characters in *UNiversal* are all fairly recognisable university archetypes and you're likely to meet several people over the course of university life that these characters could easily have been based on. There's the inevitable nervous shut-ins, the bossy drama queen, the girl still reluctantly tied into a relationship. All these people you're likely to meet, as well as the idiotic self-proclaimed ladies man Julian Cook, played to smarmy perfection by Luke Weeks.

What makes *UNiversal* different from something like *Skins* ("I'd never really watched that show so I didn't draw from it", Will says)



Will and the *UNiversal* cast
(Photo: Ben Robins)

is the sense of being in a 'bubble' which will be very familiar to Lancaster students. Will explains: "Ultimately Lancaster is different because it is a community away from the 'real-world', a small town in itself. So that made telling stories much easier because you can use the campus as it's own setting. The theme of the drama is itself about starting afresh, or trying to, and this atmosphere is a great amplifier of that."

It remains to be seen how successful

UNiversal will turn out to be as a whole as the show has yet to broadcast its second episode, however the first episode can be viewed both on the LUTube website and also on universaldrama.co.uk, where further information on the show can be found. If the success of the first episode is anything to go by, though, *UNiversal* looks set to be massive success among Lancaster University's students and the next instalment is eagerly anticipated by us all.

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“I’ve been immortalised in a college chant”

Former Lancaster student James May recently returned to receive an honorary degree. Carolynne Editor, **Hannah Fearon**, joined him for a stroll around campus



THE LEGENDARY CAPTAIN Slow was anything but in getting back into the swing of things here at Lancaster.

“I went out on the campus last night, exploring a few bits that I remember,” he said when I asked him what he had been up to since his arrival the previous evening. “I didn’t really get here in time to go to Lancaster, and I have to go home this evening because I’ve got to go into work tomorrow. What I’d like to do is bring my girlfriend Sarah up here, she’s never been to Northern England and I want to bring her to Lancaster.”

A former music student at Lancaster University, James May is perhaps best known for his role in BBC’s *Top Gear* alongside Jeremy Clarkson and Richard Hammond. He has written several books and presented a number of his own TV shows including *James May’s Toy Stories*.

James reminisced about his favourite drinking establishments whilst he was at university. “The Plough was there when I was there, it was really the ‘old farts’ pub full of elderly chaps complaining about things. I gather it may have switched round a little now. I remember the Brown Cow, the Blue Anchor and the Pendle Witch down by the river. Oh, and the Sugarhouse obviously. We used to love the Sugarhouse, because, well it was cheap mainly. Cheap, and safe. In the way that you knew where you were, that your mates would be there.”

Asides from the memorable nights out at Sugar, I asked whether James had any memorable moments from his experiences at Lancaster.

“If you mean great moments of academic achievement, no. There weren’t very many of those. Oh, I broke a window with a football here, in the Biology building and never owned up to it. I think I can probably admit to that now.”

As we continued to walk around campus, James began to point out areas he remembered from his time here. “This road here, used to be, in the olden days, a little country lane. We used to ride our bicycles down to Galgate. We did a lot of riding bicycles, we were poor, but happy.”

As a fellow Pendle student (more evidence that Pendle are awesome) I asked James about rivalry between colleges. “I was in the old Pendle. There used to be some friendly animosity between Pendle and County. They thought they were a bit posh up there, or a bit more clever or established. We nicked their Christmas tree once.”

James didn’t remember there being any college chants whilst he was a student, and I couldn’t resist reciting Pendle’s “Pendle all the way, Pendle all the way, James May, James May, Pendle all the way”. He was rather impressed, “That’s very



James May chats to Hannah Fearon about his student days (Photo: Khairil Zhafri)

nice! I’ve been immortalised in a college chant”.

James remarked upon the “brilliance” of Lancaster’s college system and how it was one of the things that attracted him to the University. “I think that the thing that’s good about it, is that if you go to any other University and study music, then you’re just going to end up with a load of musicians, which is to be avoided really. With the college system here, you just end up with people studying in all different

“I broke a window with a football here, in the Biology building and never owned up to it. I think I can probably admit to that now.”

areas. It’s a good way of mixing people up”.

I asked if he felt that his experiences at Lancaster helped to develop his career in any way. He thought about it for a moment, before replying: “I didn’t end up doing what I aimed to do. I ended up doing this by accident, but now that I’m in it I think that the things I learnt here were very important. Even if you’re a bit of a ropey student like I was, going to a university, especially a non-stuffy modern one like this, is a great experience”.

On *Top Gear*, I asked if Jezza was the Simon Cowell of the team. James responded with good humour: “Do you mean obnoxious, and horrible to look at? Yes, I suppose he is”. I also asked about his first car whilst he was a student. “I had a yellow Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6L which my dad gave me. It wasn’t actually very old, but it had done a massive mileage.

That was the car I brought here, but lots of people didn’t have cars back then. It was useful to have a car but I didn’t use it that much other than going to and from home. It was quite nice occasionally to all pile in the car and go for a picnic or something. We used to go to Morecambe and go to the pier and the funfair, but I gather students don’t go there much any more which is a shame”.

When I brought up his other shows, James spoke about his enjoyment of filming *James May’s Toy Stories*. “It was very difficult to do but very fun. My favourite toy is probably Lego. Lego or Meccano. Anything constructive”.

James continued to reminisce about his memories from Lancaster, including falling asleep in most of his lectures, spending pretty much all of his time drinking and one of his pastimes of trying to run across the top of the spine without touching the ground, a sport still enjoyed by students today.

As our walk around campus came to an end, and James was putting on his graduation gown to accept his degree, I asked what was next in his career. “I’m working on a series about useful skills which is going to be on at some time around Christmas. Then there’s more *Top Gear* and our road trip in the Autumn. I’ve got a DVD with Richard Hammond and I’ve just finished writing a book which will be out in September. The book is called *How to Land an Airbus A330: and Other Vital Skills for the Modern Man*. It’s about useful things that you might need to know one day, such as how to deliver twins or escape from Buckingham Palace”.

After being handed a copy of SCAN, James was impressed with how the newspaper has developed over the year. During his time in Lancaster he wrote a few articles which he believed sparked his interest in journalism. As a keen journalist, this was nice to hear and gave a great end to a fantastic chat with a rather inspiring man. James May all the way!

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A night out with a difference

Lauren Maughan and Sarah Taft discover that a night in Lancaster isn't just about the pubs & clubs

Whether you've been at Lancaster for three years or this is your first venture into university life and you are stepping out into the unknown, you can never have enough options at your disposal when making your plans for a great night out. So once Freshers' Week is nothing but a memory and your liver is in need of a complete detox, why not try something different to the usual night of endless alcohol consumption. What have you got to lose and I'm sure your liver will thank you for it.

Mon

Time to hit Verdes; a cheap and cheerful Italian situated in the centre of Lancaster. A deal ideal for students is any pizza or pasta for £4.25, all day everyday with your Purple card.

If you fancy more of a challenge and want a great way to make new friends then why not sample a dance class with a difference at Ludus Dance, which is situated in the heart of Lancaster. Ludus Dance hosts an array of classes for anyone age 18+ wishing to have fun whilst learning a new skill with classes suitable for all abilities. Classes range from street dance to boogie nights and from bollywood to swing. Or why not learn to dance like the stars from Strictly Come Dancing when Ludus premieres its first Strictly Social in October. With a cocktail of rumba, salsa, quickstep and many more, you are guaranteed to be twizzling and gliding your way around the dance floor. A full autumn timetable is available at www.ludusdance.org/autumn and student discounts is also available

1725 is a favourite with Lancaster students so why not pop down to this Spanish themed restaurant for a taste of different delicacies from across Spain. The relaxed atmosphere makes it a perfect setting for a catch-up with friends. Between the hours of 12pm and 6pm, 1725 offers a brilliant early bird menu where you can buy three tapas for £9.99.

Tue

Wed

The pudding plod! A new type of bar crawl sans the bar and the inhumane hangover which ruins the morning after. Why not get a group of friends together and venture your way

around Lancaster finest eateries. It's simple, instead of visiting bars you take a trip to different places where you can gorge on puddings and desserts. So for all you sweet toothed out there here are a few of our favourites that can satisfy your sweetest cravings. Jeans and tight trousers are not appropriate attire for this event.

The pancake man is your first port of call, situated in the town centre on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Divine combinations such as Milky bar and strawberries, Galaxy Ripple or simply sugar and lemon all are worth a



try! The next pudding pit stop is the Yummy Cupcake Company. There is an array of flavours ranging from mars millionaire to raspberry and white chocolate. Next on the pudding crawl is Pizza Margarita, indulge yourself in tasty desserts which include dime bar crunch pie and toffee lumpy bumpy - a few of our personal favourites. The renowned Godfather dessert at Bella Italia is a favourite for most and a stop that should not be missed on the pudding plod! With options for one to enjoy alone or for two to share this pudding is most definitely a chocolate lover's dream. Your final destination will have your taste buds watering when you sample the white or dark Belgian chocolate fondue at Quite Simply French. The liquid chocolate is served with a platter of fresh fruit and sweet brioche and at only £4.95 per person (a minimum of two people sharing at £9.90), you will still have change from a fiver. What a delicious way to end the evening!

Thurs

The Plough, a favourite with students and parents alike. Just a short walk away in the village of Galgate there is an extensive and tasty menu and colourful beer garden

which is perfect for those summer evenings. There is 10% discount for students on Thursdays with your Purple card. A treat for Freshers' Week is a free starter with a main course when you fill in a form online. All the more reason to take a trip!

Why not imitate the girls from *Sex and the City* in a cocktail master class at Nice Restaurant and Bar. Learn how to mix and shake your favourite cocktails as the staff teach you the science of cocktailology. Educational and fabulous! The master class is £20 per person.

Fri

Sat

The Dukes Theatre and independent cinema offers alternative films and plays for all you theatre lovers out there. Films range from the Oscar nominated *An Education* to plays such as George Orwell's

1984. A fun night out for all you culture vultures. Student tickets are also available.

On the last Sunday of every month, comedy takes centre stage at The Borough. On the last Sunday of every month, The Borough restaurant hosts a comedy night which will undoubtedly have you in stitches. Add a selection of delicious meals to the mix and you have a perfect end to the perfect week.

Sun

From Mozart to Metallica: Lancaster

There's a thriving cultural scene at Lancaster University if you know where to find it. Culture Editor **Alex Harris** gives you a taste of some of what campus has to offer



Live at LICA

North campus' hub of art, dance and avant-garde

SITUATED AT THE north end of campus *Live at LICA* (Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts) is the combined organisation for the three venues within the Great Hall complex: The Nuffield Theatre, Lancaster International Concert Series and the Peter Scott Gallery. The Nuffield Theatre deals in contemporary dance, theatre and live art. The Lancaster International Concert Series, meanwhile, is the main provider of classical music (incorporating jazz, chamber music, etc.) in North Lancashire and Cumbria. Finally, the Peter Scott Gallery presents a rich and varied programme of temporary exhibitions and houses the University's Art Collection.

For first term back *Live at LICA* really has an exceptional array of talent on display for art lovers of any sort. The Autumn season kicks off with a UK Premier from avant-garde theatre pioneers Forced Entertainment, who will be performing their extraordinary new show *The Thrill of it All* on October 12 and 13, at 8pm in Nuffield Theatre. There will also be an exhibition launched in the Peter Scott Gallery on October 12 at 6pm showcasing captivating film-based works from Ellie Rees and Hetain Patel. Furthermore, UK Poet Laureate, Carol Anne Duffy will be doing a reading to kick off the Lancaster Literature Festival at 7:30pm on October 15 in the Great Hall.

Live at LICA look set to have some really stellar events on throughout the year and event listings can be viewed at <http://www.liveatlica.org/>, where tickets can also be booked. LICA has also teamed up with the Dukes Theatre in town to offer students under 26 free dance and theatre tickets and a Dukes and Nuffield discount card. To sign up call the *Live at LICA* box office on 01524 594151 or the Dukes Theatre on 01524 598500.

Music Society

Symphonies, choirs and swing make for tremendous concerts

THE UNIVERSITY OF Lancaster Music Society (ULMS for short) is one of the largest and most successful societies on campus, with over 200 members. It is the society responsible for the running of Lancaster University's six main musical ensembles: swing group, big band, symphony orchestra, choir, wind band and brass band. Incorporating all of these groups, it puts on a large amount of concerts each year with tremendous success, with tunes incorporating a diverse selection for traditional music lovers.

If you'd rather perform the music than watch it be performed, then ULMS six ensembles are always looking for more musicians, but you'll need to be a member first. Luckily, membership is only £1 a year and with that comes at least one ULMS letter per term detailing the societies' activities as well as the opportunity to perform in or conduct ensembles and take advantage of reduced concert prices throughout the year. ULMS is open to all students and not just those studying music.

ULMS concerts are very popular and in high demand, with Choir recently giving a charity concert at Lancaster Priory and Big Band putting on performances at Grizedale JCR, Roses Weekend and Bowland Extrav. Furthermore, all ensembles and small groups come together in Summer term for the Last Night of the Proms concert, a highlight of the ULMS year and certainly not something to be missed. Students interested should head down the ULMS stand at Fresher's Fair or head along to one of the rehearsals throughout the year.

LUTube.tv

Get yourself on screen or just sit back and tune in

IF YOU HAVE an active passion for all things televisual and would like to get involved in something like that yourself, then LUTube.tv is the place to be. Founded only two years ago, LUTube.tv has quickly grown into an essential part of the student media alliance and has recently begun broadcasting *UNiversal* – Lancaster's very own student themed serial drama as well as *Sh** Got Real*, a light-hearted current affairs show, both of which have been tremendously popular with students.

LUTube.tv also provides important and ambitious live outside broadcasts including coverage of the LUSU Full Time Officer elections and the annual inter-university sporting contest Roses. In 2010 LUTube.tv was able to offer four live locations and a live studio from which to provide the much-watched coverage. Last year the LUTube.tv sports coverage was something of an essential campus event and looks set to be the same this year.

If you fancy doing a production of your own, then LUTube.tv offers its members access to specialist production and broadcasting equipment, including a three-camera TV studio as well as professional editing software and 42 inch LCD screens for playback. If that sounds intimidating or you're not technically minded, then don't worry! Training for all the equipment is included with the £3 membership fee.

It's still in its infancy, which means that ideas for projects are always flooding in and are always welcome. If the success of the past two years is anything to go by, then next year looks set to provide Lancaster with some excellent news and entertainment. People interested in signing up can do so at Fresher's Fair or attend one of the regular meetings throughout the year.

RocSoc

An alternative for those who don't quite fancy Gaga and her meat

SHORT FOR ROCK Society – Lancaster's RocSoc caters to those people who like their music loud, heavy and fast (or slow if groove metal is your thing). If you're bored of the average club night with its endless repeats of Lady GaGa tracks and flash-in-the-pan indie pop and want something with a bit more grit, then RocSoc's got your back. "We run weekly socials on Monday nights (9-12pm) upstairs at the Yorkshire House pub, in Lancaster town centre, where our DJs play a good selection of classic rock, heavy metal, industrial, punk, goth, etc. plus a huge amount of requests," says Roc Soc President Emma Newbrook.

As well as this, RocSoc organises out of town events each term such as Liverpool's Krazy House and Sheffield's Corporation rock nights as well as numerous trips to PR1 in Preston. They're also no strangers to live music, with several events being put on in the past comprised of live rock and heavy metal from local up and comers.

Membership is only £5 and with that comes discounted entry to all RocSoc events, as well as a free shot at Hustle during Monday's RocSoc socials. In other words – the membership fee pays for itself (if you have enough shots, that is). If you're passionate about rock and heavy metal music of any sort then you should seriously consider joining. The Monday nights out are a great way to combine meeting new people with head-banging to decent music that other places might not be willing to play. If you're only chance at hair-flailing on a night out is the rare occasions that mainstream clubs decide to play Enter Sandman and you're aching for more then you should drop by RocSoc during Fresher's Fair or attend one of their many socials throughout the year.

Lancaster's a campus full of culture



LU Cinema

From summer blockbusters to indie, you'll find it here

CURRENTLY CELEBRATING ITS 45th year, the LU Cinema is perhaps the most widely attended and easily accessible staple of the Lancaster University cultural life, which is what you would expect as one of the best-equipped student cinemas in the country, using equipment one would expect to find in any public cinema. Advertisements for films can be seen dotted all around campus, with timetables for the term's showings placed in several key areas.

This term LU Cinema is proud to boast performances of the top two must-sees of the summer: *Inception* and *Toy Story 3* as well as the love-it-or-hate-it *Twilight: Eclipse* and the hypercharged *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World*. This might lead one to think that LU Cinema is merely a cheaper way to see blockbuster films after they've had their run and at a heavily discounted price, but you would of course be wrong. "We show a mix of modern blockbusters" says LU Cinema President Mark Harper "but we have also shown classic, foreign and smaller indie films and this term is no exception to that."

But perhaps the biggest event of the term for film fans is the Halloween All-Nighter, the 12-hour horror film endurance run going from 9pm to 9am on Saturday, October 30 to Sunday, October 31. Films this year include the critically acclaimed sci-fi horror *Splice* as well as the modern classic *Saw*. Tickets go on sale from week one and will be £6 with a Purple card and £8 without. Alternatively you can pay on the door at £8 with a Purple card and £10 without.

LU Cinema is located in Bowland Lecture Theatre with showtime at 7:30pm and doors opening 15 minutes prior to showtime.

Bailrigg FM

Broadcasting live from campus into an eardrum near you

BAILRIGGFM IS THE student radio station of Lancaster University and is one of the oldest and longest-running student radio stations in the country. Run by students and for students, BailriggFM provides news and entertainment across the University campus 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The station features a very active news team if you're an aspiring journalist, with all sorts of shows dealing with current events both on campus and in the national and international press dealing with straight-up reporting or opinion based light-hearted discussions shows. Furthermore, the station's annual Roses coverage and the Full time Officer elections coverage draws significant interest from students all across the campus and is one of the main events the station puts on.

But it wouldn't be a radio station without a good helping of music shows and BailriggFM certainly has its fair share of those. Students are free to decide to play any music they wish to (within reason), so if you've been aching to impose your obscure music taste on the student population (that Korean jazz-fusion won't play itself, after all) then there are plenty of opportunities to create your own show. Previous success stories include nights dedicated to The Beatles and 1960s psychedelia as well as many popular indie shows.

Presenting isn't for everyone and some people just want to get involved behind the scenes. As BailriggFM is operated and managed entirely by students every member is given the chance to help out in running the station. Membership is part of the joint student media membership and is only £3 per person and is open to any and all students. Students interested in getting involved can head down to the station HQ in Furness and sign up, or drop by during Fresher's Fair.

Theatre Group

All the world's a stage, particularly in Lancaster

THEATRE GROUP GIVES its members an exciting and engaging experience of the theatre ranging from all aspects of the profession including acting, directing, producing, stage-managing and other behind the scenes and technical roles. They also put on a wide variety of shows each year, with previous performances including a stage adaptation of *A Clockwork Orange* and Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*.

The society also takes its work further afield, having performed plays at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival including *Much Ado About Nothing* in 2009. Theatre Group was also closely associated with The Offshoots theatre company production of *Dr Faustus* in Edinburgh this year, which received glowing reviews, being hailed as "sublime" by The Stage newspaper. They are an ambitious society and are hoping to enter this year's adaptation of *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* into the National Student Drama Festival. Other plays to get involved with this term are *Daughters of Heaven* and an adaptation of the Discworld novel *Guards! Guards!*

There will be auditions for Theatre Group held on the October 9 and 10, meeting at 12pm in Furness College Foyer. There will furthermore be a technic meeting on the October 14, for anyone who wants to get involved behind the scenes. More info can be found on the Theatre Group website at theatregroup.co.uk or by coming along at Fresher's Fair and having a chat.

Pendle Live

Campus bands make Thursday nights at Pendle a must

IF LIVE MUSIC is your thing then Pendle Bar is the absolute place to be on Thursday nights. With a healthy mixture of both student and professional bands, Pendle Live has swiftly evolved from a low-key forum for student bands to perform their sets into a regular staple of the Lancaster student's weekly social calendar. "We've had some really great campus bands" says Pendle President Andy Barnett "which vary from quirky cover bands like The Hydes, to original music such as Lancaster veterans Boo Boo Kiddy Fonc." On top of this, Pendle plays host to some great acts on the national scene, such as Dan Cropper, Morain, The Rileys and many more.

But Pendle Live isn't just a great place to come and see live music, it's also a great place for up and coming campus bands to perform their stuff and get promoted. Aside from the event's myspace (<http://www.myspace.com/pendlelive>), where students can hear previous acts, there is also Pendle Live: The Album, which features tracks from artists that have played at previous Pendle Live events, giving budding musicians a great forum to get their stuff heard and students a compilation of original music for cheap.

Everyone loves music and everyone especially loves seeing it played live. Pendle Live provides top-notch quality entertainment in the form of some of the North West's finest musical talent in a humble, welcoming environment right on your doorstep. Though a relatively new addition to the Lancaster cultural landscape, it has nonetheless provided some of the best entertainment Lancaster University has ever seen. It's on every Thursday in Pendle Bar and what's more – it's free! By now you should have realised that you have no excuse not to check it out, so get yourself down there and remember to bring your lighters, just in case a ballad breaks out.

There's life beyond **baked beans**

Jade Lam ensures there's more to your culinary skills than a can opener without breaking the bank

The student stereotype insists that once you fly from the nest you are condemned to a diet of baked beans (with toast if you're lucky) for the duration of your university life. However, this could not be further from the truth as with some careful budgeting, it is possible to eat delicious and healthy meals to give your brain the boost it needs to keep your eyes open during those dreaded 9am lectures.

Firstly, know your budget and most importantly stick to it. Value brands are great when attempting to keep the cost of your shopping trolley to a minimum. Another ingenious way to avoid the baked bean diet is to organise group shopping trips with your housemates as not only does it cut costs but it also cuts the cooking load too. Also, supermarkets and market stalls reduce items massively nearer to closing time. Lancaster's biggest supermarket, Sainsburys, closes at 10pm Monday to Saturday. So why not take a trip down the supermarket aisles around 9pm to check out the array of discounted food and grab yourself a bargain. Finally, keep an eye on websites such as myvouchercode.co.uk and moneysavingexpert.com for vouchers offering discounts on food and other tasty treats for you to enjoy.

Despite money constraints limiting how high you pile your supermarket trolley, you can still create delicious meals with a helping hand from five store cupboard essentials.

- **Salt and pepper:** Simple but effective and



can be added to any meal to instill a taste explosion.

- **Chopped tomatoes:** This relatively inexpensive ingredient can be added to cooked mince along with some salt, pepper, crushed garlic and basil to make a tasty bolognese sauce or add to a pan with some red and green peppers and an onion to make a salsa sauce that goes great with chicken, hot or cold.
- **Stock cubes:** As well as making the art of creating gravy an easy task, this ingredient's versatility makes them a store cupboard must have. Boil your vegetables in some vegetable stock before adding a tin of chopped tomatoes and seasoning to make a tasty soup or add a beef stock cube to mince to make a rich and delicious sauce that goes great with cottage pie.
- **Oil:** This cooking ingredient is as essential as dry frying will only set off the smoke alarm, much to the annoyance of all your housemates.
- **Pasta, rice or potatoes:** These three carbohydrates make a great accompaniment to all meat and vegetable recipes and are a must for keeping you fuller for longer inducing better concentration levels.

So there you have it, with a few tricks you can stay clear of the baked bean diet and, let's face it, your housemates will appreciate your flatulence levels being kept under control too.



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IF YOU'RE NEW to the sunny shores of Lancaster, it might come as a surprise to learn it's the coldest place on earth. Yes, the beams of glorious sunlight in the prospectus are mere digital enhancements fabricated by the University. The glacial winds that bluster down the spine will claim hundreds of naive, coatless freshers this winter, so Lancaster's first fashion forecast is embracing the trend stepping straight out of the Arctic Circle and onto the high street.

There's nothing new about the fur coat, but this season fur has outgrown the 1960's vintage jacket, becoming contextualised by winter in Europe. The trend is now being styled with a Scandinavian influence, the neutral colours of the faux deer and wolf pelts replacing loud safari skins as our fur of choice.

If taking inspiration from countries that gave you Ulrika Johnson and questionable meatballs doesn't do it for you, look over to Russia for your fur epiphany. Brown bear jackets and fur Cossacks scream femme fatale from the wrong side of the iron curtain and will work for those with dark features. Furry footwear is going to be a staple of your



Faking it never looked so good

SCAN's **Hugh Metcalf** puts this season's hottest new trend in the spotlight in time for winter.

autumn/winter wardrobe, moving beyond the realm of yeti slippers into wearable pieces Sheepskin has become a key texture for the lining of heeled turnover boots. The trend is reminiscent of aviator jackets for your feet, whilst retaining the femininity and glamour

that has eluded the Ugg boot.

Faux fur is also making the transition from loungewear to sexy heels. A key feature to look out for when picking your on-trend boot is cut-out detail in the front or on the toe. Not only does this break up the bulk of the shoe, it gives

Fashion

you the opportunity to team them up with autumn's craze for chunky, textured socks.

It may seem like a feminine trend, but many of the high street stores' winter lines are insisting that the men's fur coat is no longer just the fashion domain of 50 Cent and Noel Fielding. Like the lovechild of an overcoat and a chinchilla, the fur jacket pour homme will undoubtedly be as derisive amongst the population as the male crop top.

For a gentler foray into the world of fur, the fur-trapper and geek specs combination is an ever popular hipster look for guys and girls alike. Military-inspired fur-lined parkas or vintage Topgun jackets are another way to embrace fur in your outerwear this season.

Don't go overboard: limit yourself to one or two fur pieces per outfit to avoid looking as though you're on a caveman social. Think less Neanderthal and more ski-chalet chic.

- **Snow Queen:** Bring out your inner ice maiden and team up your fur with another red-hot trend by pairing it with white tights and wintry jewellery.
- **Au naturel:** Whilst the vintage fur coat called for vibrant red lips, this style loves make-up au naturel and winter pale.
- **Military Boots:** The concept of this trend is mastery of the winter elements so the rough and ready style of your boots and the similar colour palette will make them a perfect match.
- **Christmas Jumpers:** Patterned wool jumpers accentuate the Scandinavian influence of the trend.

River Island's autumn/winter line has some killer fur pieces for girls and is tackling the men's fur coat in a masculine way. For more pocket friendly prices, jump on the Preston train and pick up some Primarni pieces.

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LIBRA SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Beware the raven of the night, young naïve Libra, for it can crawl through small spaces like a mouse, but swoop and claw viciously at your sleeping face like a wolf. The raven will take your natural beauty, and irremediably befoul it.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

A lunar eclipse is predicted today, Scorpio! The sight of the crusty moon entirely obliterated by your lack of vision in both eyes! This temporary blindness will last a terrifying 48 hours of darkness and Postman Pat-based hallucinations, commencing momentarily...

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

A new acquaintance will play Judas and betray you in Fresher's Week. Slyly take any fruit or vegetables from his cupboards in the kitchen and consume the evidence. This traitor will get nowhere without his vital vitamins.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 20

Mars struts across the skies, suggesting extra confidence for you, Capricorn! For the quieter, pensive Capricorns this will provide the flair needed to make new friends for life. If not, you will come across as a bit of a knob.

AQUARIUS JAN 21 - FEB 17

A supermarket romance is on the cards, Aquarius! Blossoming half an hour at a time during your weekly shop, she's your basket-full of love. You'll want to put your points on her nectar card, and your coin in her trolley...

PISCES FEB 18 - MAR 20

Collision between Venus and Neptune causing an insurance deets exchange can only mean that one of your new housemates is a vampire! Upload a pic of yourself with your new chums and tag the vampire's empty

space for public humiliation. Cringe!

ARIES MAR 21- APR 19

Will your student loan arrive on time? Is Pluto a planet? Some things are just too outlandish to be predicted. My Magic Eighth Ball says "don't count on it". Best to live in worry and solace until they admit they've lost your forms.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 21

Your new part-time night shift job at the local cemetery working for your biology professor will lead you into grave trouble with the authorities. However, it's predicted that cries of "but I wanted to see Grandpa again!" will lessen your sentence.

GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 20

An exciting eccentric new fancy dress costume will cause you unwanted, irritable chafing. Caught in a conflict between the non-stop fun of the outfit and the agonizing skin agitation, only your Equal Opps Officer can save you with free lube!

CANCER JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Unfortunately for you Cancer, an oppressive cloud of homesickness will shroud your first few days of term. Haunted by your mother's worried pallid face, take shelter and comfort in the Sugarhouse, where the Gods of The Rave will protect you.

LEO JULY 23 - AUG 22

A refreshingly fruity hard-boiled sweet from Fresher's Fair will catch you off-guard! Surprisingly delicious, you will be heavily distracted by its tropical flavours, and when jostled by crowds, the sweet will lodge itself in your air passage. Beware the sweets.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEPT 22

You will discover an ambiguous carpet stain in your new room. Do not report it, or people will know that you are the chosen one. Feed the stain milk and dead insects; build a small shrine. In time it will impart its wisdom.

THE QUIZ - True or False

- 1. What is the common name for ascorbic acid?
- 2. Comeplete this quote from Voltaire: "If God did not exist..."
- 3. What are the first five books of the Bible collectively known as?
- 4. Which two elements make up water?
- 5. Which two letters are worth ten point in Scrabble?

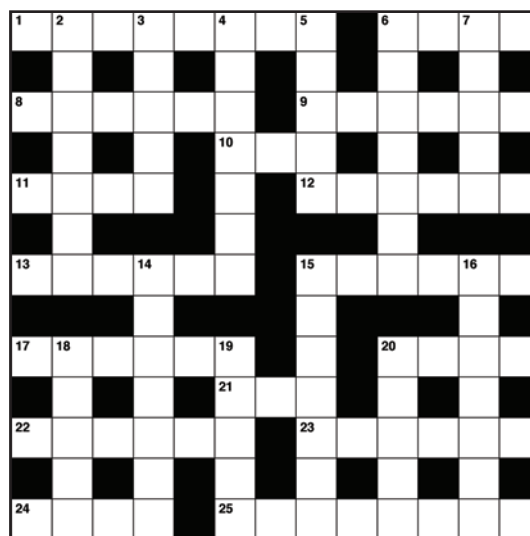
Answers below

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.



The Crossword



Across

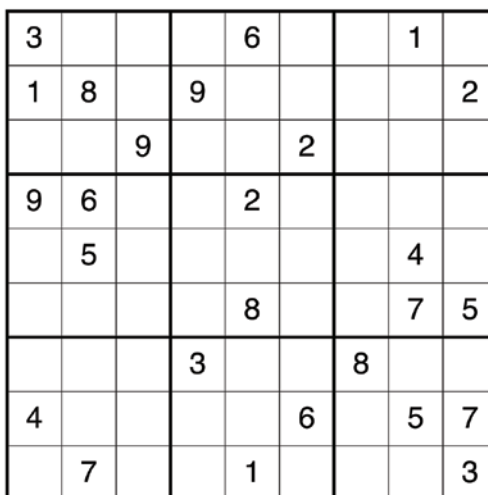
- 1 - Publication containing musical scores (8)
- 6 - Reverse (4)
- 8 - Graduates (6)
- 9 - Miscellaneous information (6)
- 10 - Acquire (3)
- 11 - Gull-like bird (4)
- 12 - ___ Strahovski: actress in Chuck (6)
- 13 - Captures (6)
- 15 - ___ Schwarzenegger: Terminator actor (6)
- 17 - Empty locations (6)
- 20 - Accent (4)
- 21 - Deep cavity (3)
- 22 - Mouthpiece of the gods (6)
- 23 - Thwarted (6)
- 24 - Arthur ___ : former US tennis player (4)
- 25 - Latest time for completion (8)

Down

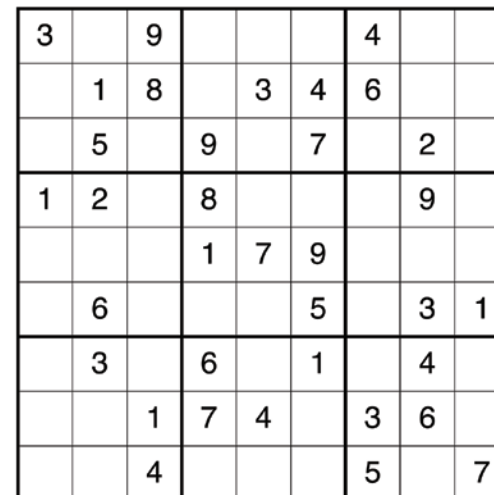
- 2 - Waterproof fabric (7)
- 3 - Greek letter (5)
- 4 - Beginnings (7)
- 5 - Pool of money (5)
- 6 - Imaginary creature (7)
- 7 - Condescend (5)
- 14 - Reuse (7)
- 15 - European country (7)
- 16 - Portable lamp (7)
- 18 - French capital (5)
- 19 - Travel quickly (5)
- 20 - Fabric with parallel rit

The Su Doku

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



www.sudoku-puzzles.net



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Answers: 1) Vitamin C 2) "...it would be necessary to invent him." 3) Pentateuch 4) Hydrogen and Oxygen 5) Q and Z

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Students speak out as new Cable Street management's service falls short

Chris Housden
News Editor

STUDENTS RENTING ACCOMMODATION in Cable Street have rallied together against the new company tasked with managing the residences, Tigerlime Ltd.

An online petition and protest group on Facebook were founded just a few days after it was announced that the residences were no longer being managed by Lancaster Property Network (LPN). Both online campaigns call for the reinstatement of the previous managing company rather than the newly appointed Tigerlime Ltd, citing grievances with the poor service being provided and drawing comparisons to the service they are used to.

The management change was announced on August 7, taking both previous and future tenants by surprise and stating that all payments to LPN must cease immediately. But despite being in management for over a month now it appears Tigerlime Ltd are providing very little of the service expected of a residence management service.

Students who have already returned to Cable Street have flooded the Facebook campaign group with posts detailing the state of the accommodation they

arrived to. These problems include damage and unrepaired breakages in rooms, unhygienic and visibly dirty bathroom facilities and visibly dirty rooms. Though it has been reported that Tigerlime punctually send cleaners to amend these problems if they are highlighted, it is still only if a tenant notifies them that they seem to work on it.

The situation has even cause parents of students to get involved. Richard Osgerby, who refers to himself as a "disgruntled parent" in his post on the Facebook group, reasoned "I do not expect to pay the sum of £1476 per term for poor quality accommodation and missing facilities."

LUSU President Robbie Pickles had this to say by way of reassurance: "Clearly many students will find this news distressing and will be concerned for the future of their accommodation. Both Lancaster University and the Students' Union are committed to securing a positive result and we will be certain to keep students informed on all developments."

Chief among the issues being experienced is the apparent termination of an internet connection being provided to the accommodation. The University has revoked the internet service



The Lancaster Property Network no longer runs Cable Street, much to tenants' distress

temporarily while it is decided between LPN, Tigerlime Ltd and Price Waterhouse Coopers who is responsible to set up, pay for and maintain the connection. This has angered and worried students given the modern dependence of a degree upon internet use.

As one of many who alerted others to the internet situation on the Facebook group, Matthew Clarke claimed that the response of the companies involved hasn't always been a 100% professional. He said: "Also a PriceWaterhouse Coopers advisor told me not to worry, internet is 'local to you in the form of a pub computer'. Great, dissertations in pubs sounds like a plan."

Although officially the tenancy agreements are being honoured exactly as always, many would say that the appeal of Cable Street was the human side of the service provided, which is now lacking.

Rob Sterynowicz, a past tenant of

Cable Street, posted a link to the website dedicated to Cable Street by Tigerlime. He wrote: "In the FAQ section they [Tigerlime Ltd] state that the same facilities will be available to 2010/2011 tenants that were available under LPN in previous years. This however is not the case, for example there is no internet, no welcome party, no free drinks in the office and no football teams."

The company which owns the accommodation, Cable Street Investments, officially filed for administration on February 9 this year, unbeknownst to and kept from both current and prospective tenants at the time. According to Company House records it appears that the company has been in financial difficulty for some time, with auditors resigning in both 2008 and 2009.

PriceWaterhouse Coopers is now running as administrator and overseeing the properties. It was they who appointed Tigerlime Ltd.

Pendle Bar refurb delayed

Vanessa Longden

REFURBISHMENT WORK ON Pendle Bar has been delayed, averting major disruption to this year's Freshers' Week. The construction work was originally scheduled to begin during the summer holiday but the refurbishment has now been delayed to begin at an undisclosed point during Michaelmas Term.

Communications Officer for Facilities, Louisa Duff said the refurbishment was pushed back not because of financial problems but due to "a change in the scope of works so the design for the layout was changed as agreed with the College."

The bar is set to become a diverse communal area suitable for several types of event. The whole of the ground floor is to be redesigned to provide a stage, DJ booth and a dance floor. The bar will remain in its current position but will be fully refurbished, while both toilets are also to be completely overhauled.

Students are emphasising the fact that Freshers will still be able to experience and the bar during their first week at Lancaster University but many acknowledge the need for redevelopment. Second year Pendle student Vicki Stanley said that in her opinion, "the bar is in need of renovation work as it has little seating and a lack of social events".

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Intro Week is for the Freshers, not CV hunters

University is all about learning how to stand on your own two feet. So why do we insist on holding Freshers' hands?

David Guy



Each year, hundreds of crammed cars make their fledgling journey up the winding road to Bailrigg. Inside every one is a new student; anxious, excited and wondering just how they will fit into this big place. After parking up and collecting a shiny new key, they meet the people they will live with for the next 30 weeks. Until that moment, they were alone in their uncertainty and excitement — then, suddenly, they are greeted with a smile and a hand offered out from amongst piles of unpacked belongings.

Anyone who can recollect those feelings will sense how much they have now changed. Most students have never lived away from home or done their own food shopping until they are abandoned in the unfamiliar world of university. It is a time of uncertainty and anxiety but also one of openness and excitement, which will soon be lost.

Now enter the Kitchen Reps. They are second or third years whose sense of student naïveté has long since vanished into a haze of booze fuelled nights, last-minute essay writing and hours spent in the queue for Greggs. Their motivation may be honest and their enthusiasm genuine, but they have a very different mindset to the freshers they are charged with looking after.

Consequently, what should be one long party of Freshers' Week is diluted by experienced students, who can't share in that particular kind of revelry. The two sober minders for every eight, ruins the buzz that should come with getting absorbed into that special type of one-off chaos.

Freshers' Week should lay the foundations for three years worth of independent living, but university's best time to meet new people, overcome challenges and grow in confidence is lost to a week of mollycoddling and artificial fun. It's detrimental to the Freshers' experience and needs to be scaled back. Just like opting for single sex or quiet area flats, having Kitchen Reps should be optional. Plenty of independent minded students would go for this, if it

was made clear that they won't be constantly accompanied by sober minders (plus tag along friends) during what should be one of the best weeks of their lives.

It's a patronising leash and holds freshers back from new experiences and meeting new friends during a rare time of openness and curiosity. With less obvious people to go to for help, Freshers would be forced to pluck up courage and go meet people from neighbouring flats. Though those in 'ghetto' accommodation tend to eventually mix, en-suite flats can go through the entire year without knowing their neighbours. Some Kitchen Reps do try and introduce flats, but the effect can be forced and uncomfortable. Living with a vague sense of what's going on might mean feeling a little anxious, but the reward of a week's worth of meeting every challenge head on, and taking responsibility for it, would be well worth a few nerves.

Of course, Block Reps and the JCRs could be contacted for something more serious, but a written itinerary is a simple and effective enough guide to follow. And by having fewer reps, only the best will get the job and those with less sincere intentions can be weeded out.

Each summer, the university puts on the PASSPORT course. It's run by Rory Daly and the Department for Continuing Education, and takes place over July and August for prospective new undergraduates. I did it in 2008 and lived in Pendle Ghetto with around 50 others. Apart from phoning the PASSPORT mobile (which hung permanently around Rory's neck), there was no one, but each other, to

'Freshers' Week is diluted by experienced students who can't share in that particular kind of revelry'

go to for help. Yet, we organised shopping trips and nights out in Lancaster and always found our way around. Being left to our own devices, we quickly made friends and felt a more rewarding sense of achievement, by the end, than if we had been child-minded by a team of future peers.

Arriving for Intro Week, I was disappointed to find that we would be escorted on nights out by other stu-



Are Freshers' Reps needed, or should we let people find their own feet?

dents. One evening, we were chastised for walking from Fylde to Lonsdale bar without telling a Rep. A Rep from another flat told us that we shouldn't go off alone, as we'd not know where to direct an ambulance in the event of an emergency. It was patronising and the restrictions were frustrating when we were excited to explore what was going on across the vibrant campus.

Of course, there are those whose Fresher experience is enriched by Kitchen Reps. Matthew Haslam's article, in the last issue of SCAN, shows how Intro Week can be made all the brighter by Reps who you click with. But often, relationships between Reps and Freshers are indifferent or poor and almost always incompatible.

Most Reps do have good intentions. Even the CV hunters, once they grasp the reality of the role, want to help the Freshers in their care. Our own Kitchen Reps were enthusias-

tic and said they were honoured to be in charge of our experience. They were always a good source of guidance, but being unlike us, our groups never merged and the attempted manufacture of fun fell flat. We never had the thrill of being lost in the chaos, because we were always escorted by people, who against their own student instincts, were trying to be responsible.

Loutish antics from Kitchen Reps aren't the problem. We don't need to patronise Freshers, or give them a false impression of student life, by surrounding them with soberness and responsibility; we need to let go of their hands so they can discover Lancaster, ugliness included, all by themselves. Only then will we be able to call it a Freshers' Week for Freshers.

DISAGREE WITH DAVID? JOIN THE DEBATE ABOUT THIS COMMENT PIECE ONLINE AT SCAN.LUSU.CO.UK/COMMENT

To V or not to V?

Is the festival experience worth the price tag?

Dan Yeo

Sitting around with a few of my closest friends I get a sense of déjà vu, drinking before something of a night out. Except I'm not in our townhouse preparing to hit Sugar; I'm at Leeds Festival outside my tent downing cans of cheap cider, having paid almost two hundred pounds for the privilege.

Considering that the student population make up a large percentage of the thousands camping at Glastonbury, V Festival, Reading, Leeds and others, why do so many of us choose to cough up the obscene amount needed to attend? There are many reasons given to justify spending the equivalent of ten or twelve average nights out in just one weekend and that's before taking into consideration the additional cost of food, drinks and merchandise.

One is the possibility of seeing completely unique and exceptional performances. At Leeds and Reading, the opportunity to see The Libertines back together after such a sensational breakup — not to mention their superb catalogue of hits — was probably enough by itself to justify the price tag to most punters, myself included. It felt surreal singing along to the nostalgic anthems that defined much of my youth and it's certainly something I'll never forget. That kind of get-together doesn't happen very often and, while certain acts inevitably leave casual watchers wondering what all the fuss is about, true fans get treated to something most of them would give almost anything to witness.

Most will plump for the mystical festival experience as their main justification. This term probably conjures images of filthy toilets, freezing tents, fields-cum-swamps, constant rain and a couple of bands playing off-key and a little drunk outside in the cold summer air. To seasoned veterans though, all of the above are not only enticing but also essential. That hallowed experience that they bang on about combines best friends, brilliant music and copious amounts of alcohol with the aforementioned hardships to create something wonderfully removed from everyday life, existing outside of reality just for one weekend.

The claims by many that it is the best weekend of the year are, then, entirely reasonable. This is not the sort of event that draws curious spectators or those with anything approaching a casual interest; it's an epic experience that transcends money — or a lack of it — and draws thousands of students out of their penny-pinching stereotype, with very good reason.

Was Clegg a one hit wonder?

The televised Leaders' Debates gave the Liberal Democrat leader his 15 minutes of fame. Now he has sold it all to for a supporting role in David Cameron's political drama.



Will McDonagh

The X Factor - some would call it a money making machine, transforming your everyday waiter, shop assistant, pen pusher into the next superstar. Or in many cases simply giving your Average Joe a five minutes in the limelight for several weeks of each year, before the next batch of hopefuls embark on the same adventure. Yet with more people seemingly interested in who wins this primetime show each week than who is leader of the country, it is clear something is not right.

So what do you get when politics meets primetime television? Well, Nick Clegg. And now the dust has settled, Number Ten has been emptied and refilled with the Cameron family, and the X Factor has once again resumed its dominance as Saturday night entertainment, one question has to be asked. Where is Nick Clegg now?

For someone who took the spotlight more than any other Liberal Democrat leader in this year's election, and who the country looked to when a coalition needed to be created, it is confusing as to why he appears to have stepped into the wings as David Cameron takes centre stage for his audience, the British people. Where's the adoring crowd that looked to Nick Clegg all those months ago? Was it all just one big show?

April 15, 2010 saw the first ever live election leader debates between



Has the shine worn off the Lib Dems' golden boy? (Photo: The Prime Minister's Office)

the three leaders of Britain's biggest political parties, the largest platform open to a general election ever. The first of these attracted 10 million prospective voters, and many were surprised that while David Cameron and Gordon Brown debated between themselves over the night, each hoping to out-perform the other, the dark horse of the competition, one Nick Clegg, leader of the Liberal Democrats, stood to the side and

presented himself as a fine and respectable candidate, not wanting to become embroiled in the petty arguing of his opponents. Previously seen to be, by many, as the less likely of the three to successfully assume office this 90 minute broadcast seemed to catapult this somewhat unknown politician into the public eye like never before. This new medium of debate showed prospective voters something they would not have

been able to read in their morning newspaper, and many saw Clegg as no longer the underdog of the campaign. Instant polling after the first debate showed Nick Clegg as the winner, with the Times giving this Lib Dem leader an astonishing 61% of the vote. From this many saw 2010 as the most exciting and unpredictable election the country had seen in years.

Yet despite Clegg's growing popularity, and even though he

obtained a higher percentage of votes (albeit marginally) than before, the Liberal Democrats lost five seats. One can only wonder what went wrong for this promising candidate who seemed to be an ideal leader for many, particularly students, and who gave his party their first real power surge in an election in years. Yet now it appears David Cameron has somehow taken sole leadership of this coalition, and Clegg is all too happy to go along with principles he previously debated against.

The vows made by Clegg, during the election, appear to have vanished into the background of a stronger candidate. Support for the Lib Dems has recently fallen to a mere 12%, a large drop from their confident backing after their appearance on primetime television. Reality seems to have hit home for politics. Strong words recently from Ed Miliband have branded Nick Clegg "a betrayal of the Liberal tradition".

Going on to claim that many Lib Dems are unhappy with Clegg's willingness to concede with Cameron. It seems that this once popular candidate, with strong words and promises to take his party to the furthest frontier in politics that they have been in years, has stepped out of the limelight and allowed his former opponent to take centre stage.

Bringing politics into this theatre of television created an interesting, innovative candidate, but it appears Clegg has allowed himself and his party to concede to a Conservative movement, to sell out their principles just so they, or more accurately he, could be part of this disappointing performance.

9/11 mourners aren't racist, they're grieving



Emily Robertson
Comment Editor

The ninth anniversary of the September 11 attack on the World Trade centre in New York has just passed but unlike any other anniversary of the event it has passed in a haze of controversy and debate. This media frenzy can mainly be pinpointed to the plans to build a mosque two blocks away from Ground Zero that has caused outrage throughout America. Two out of every three New Yorkers are opposed to the build. In all the furor, genuine opposition for sentimental reasons is being confused with anti-Islamist sentiment, which no one can deny is rife throughout America today. Although some have tainted the

opposition to the building of the mosque through extreme, racist and anti-Islamic views expressed towards it, the families of the 3000 people who died in the terrorist attack have a justifiable and understandable reason to be opposed to such plans. I believe everyone of us would feel the way they do to the plans to build a mosque next to the site if our loved ones had been murdered in the name of the religion that the building not only represents but also celebrates.

It may be the wrong decision to postpone or cancel plans to build the Ground Zero mosque as it would cause outrage throughout the Islamic world, being public and blatant rejection of Islam in the west. The proximity of an Islamic centre to Ground Zero would also show the acceptance of Muslims in America as the World Trade Centre attacks are not typical of Islam at all. So why should the approximately 8 million perfectly peaceful American Muslims suffer because of the faults

of a few others who except for their shared faith have little or nothing else in common? But to a mourning family this is little consolation, a grieving person will find someone to blame for

'While the British media are labelling the mourning families racists and bigots, the developer of the mosque is prepared to talk to blatant anti-Islamists and those frankly verging on the mentally ill'

their loss and this blame all to easily lands on the Muslim community.

Obviously the blame is misplaced but it helps us understand their anguish at the community they blame for their family members death thriving

in the same area as their murder, they are not racist they are simply grieving.

My grievance is that while the British media are labelling the mourning families who will forever be affected by the actions of Al-Qaeda as racists and bigots, the developer of the mosque and Islamic cultural centre, Feisal Abdul Rauf, is prepared to talk to blatant anti-Islamists and those frankly verging on the mentally ill, such as Terry Jones - the man who has put all of our lives in danger by tempting and angering those who are not afraid to attempt another attack on the same scale of the attack on September 11 and a man who is completely disrespectful of other religions and cultures going against all ideals America holds dear.

To stop his insane stunt of Quran burning Terry Jones has bargained with Feisal Abdul Rauf to move or to drop plans completely to build the community centre in order to stop his racist and vicious plot. In doing this Terry is as bad as the 9/11 terrorists

as Barack Obama highlights himself: "This is a way of endangering our troops, our sons and daughters ... you don't play games with that."

So why is anyone even negotiating with someone who is prepared to put so many innocent lives in danger whilst no one would listen to those who have lost and been hurt.

Doesn't the fact that Terry Jones and those involved in the threat of burning the Quran gained global media attention and a chance to discuss their views with some of the most influential people in the country, only give opportunity for other like minded people to pull the same or worse stunts than this in order to gain attention for their cause. And all the while we are giving these people time in the media and considering to halt plans to build the mosque, halting plans in the name of religious hatred and not to those who deserve some consideration and a view in such matters, the families of all those who died.

The Crisis in Higher Education

‘Business-like’ mentalities are triumphing over intellectual judgment in Britain’s universities

Chris Witter



In his first in a series on the crisis in Higher Education, Chris Witter sets the scene for a sector in turmoil

Recent events in Europe and the UK have forced us to face the fact that Higher Education is currently in crisis: intellectually, financially and politically. Research and teaching have become disconnected; employment has become increasingly insecure and exploitative, with a rise in ‘casual’ contracts; knowledge production has become thoroughly dependent on the possibility of pursuing revenue, and intellectual concerns have largely become a management matter. Meanwhile, students are paying more and getting less. Modules, courses, whole departments are being closed down. Retiring staff are no longer being replaced. The University has lost all cohesion and the intellectual community is fast-dissolving. More worryingly, as of yet there has been little organised resistance; what resistance there has been has appeared isolated, fragmented, and easily put-down.

A striking, but by no means isolated, example of these trends is the recent closure of the internationally renowned Middlesex University Philosophy Department, discontinued for undisclosed “financial” reasons. Given the everywhere-acknowledged fact of this department’s excellence, this decision clearly demonstrates to us the precedence in the academy of a business-like mentality over intellectual judgment and integrity. Worse, this intellectual crisis in turn disclosed to us a deeper political crisis, when staff and students at Middlesex were suspended following peaceful protest actions. More worryingly, these attempts by the University to forcefully end protest were backed up by a High Court injunction against the protesters, just as had occurred last March in response to anti-cuts protests at Sussex University. In this con-



Are university managers the new bankers? (Photo: David Levitz)

nection we might also note the High Court interference with RMT rail workers’ and TUC British Airways strike actions, and identify a disturbing trend.

At Lancaster University we are beginning to feel the effects of this crisis, particularly in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. In the last academic year we experienced cuts to research and travel funds, the incongruous merger of the philosophy, religious studies, and politics departments, the last minute scrapping of

core Music Studies modules, and a “change of administration” for the Institute of Advanced Studies – to list just a few examples. While new buildings rise-up around us, and perfectly serviceable slabs are set to be replaced with granite, staff face increasing pressure in relation to research, teaching and administrative duties. Other ‘casual’ staff, including research associates and postgraduate teaching assistants, find themselves taking on increasing responsibilities while remaining grossly underpaid (or even

“invited” to volunteer for unpaid teaching) and unlikely to find full-time lectureships. Meanwhile, students find themselves attacked from above as the weakest link in the chain: while the little education they receive becomes steadily more meagre and worthless, their Vice Chancellor is everyday courting the Government and media with speeches suggesting that tuition fees of more than £7,000 a year are acceptable. These same students are meant to feel grateful that they have been allowed to study at all, as Government cuts have, for the second year running, left hundreds of thousands of applicants without university places.

It is at this moment, when those who have placed themselves in charge are providing us every day with spectacular new examples of both their irrationality and their incompetence, that we are forced also to recognise that we have thoroughly abdicated our agency to the university and Government bureaucracies. Whilst the crisis gathers pace, the unions (NUS, UCU, etc.) appear fast asleep. Or worse, they are seen to be actively collaborating with the managers, the bureaucrats and the Government – are seen constantly betraying their own members. At both the local and the national scale – in our places of work, study, and leisure – all decisions and changes occur with little or no consultation. A state-of-exception prevails; we are told that we face “difficult times”; we are told to consult the news and to blame one set of politicians or another – or economic laws, or human nature. But, we don’t need to consult the news because we are already, everywhere, confronted in our daily working lives with the fact of this crisis, with our complete alienation from all decision making processes, and with the threat of there being worse to come.

A huge leap forward

Shafaq Khan

International Kitchen Reps are the most important step to internationalisation that Lancaster University has taken

October sees the start of another academic year at Lancaster University, and like every year we have hordes of excited Freshers joining us. Out of every 400 new students coming to each of college, at least 100 to 150 are International students coming from all over the world.

The first week of university is no doubt a wild and exciting experience, but for some students it can be a daunting week as well. Students will join us from countries far and wide, coming from varying cultural, religious and domestic backgrounds. It’s understandable that they can find things in the first week new, exhausting and – in a word – overwhelming. It can be intimidating to be surrounded by so many people you don’t know and who may speak a different language or look different.

From my own Freshers’ Week experience, I would have liked someone to have explained to me that the alcohol culture dies down a little after Fresher’s Week, and being a Muslim student who doesn’t drink, I wouldn’t

be ignored or looked at like I was a loon. Or it would have been helpful if our kitchen reps had mentioned that there were other alternative events going on around campus that were non-alcoholic in nature and a little less wild. It would have helped me to have made a better and more settled start to my year.

With this in mind, LUSU’s International Students’ Committee came up with the suggestion that along with Freshers’ Kitchen Reps colleges should also have a small group of trained International Student Reps. The general idea is that these International Reps wouldn’t be in charge of separate kitchens or blocks, but be there for all the international students that arrive at the college. Those selected to be International Reps received training from the the Students’ Union’s Vice President Equality, Welfare and Diversity in June, teaching them about the information and guidance international students are likely to need. This ranged from registering at University House, the paper work required to open a bank account, health and med-

ical certificates and who to contact in case of an emergency.

Aside from all the official sounding business, the general idea behind having International Reps was for them to be able to communicate and extend a helping hand to students who have just travelled thousands of miles to come to a university in a strange country. These students may be facing cultural shock, language barriers, home sickness etc. They might

‘International Fresher Reps are the most important addition to Freshers’ Week. They are not mollycoddling Freshers but offering a vital lifeline for those who are most vulnerable’

not be able to communicate clearly with their new flat mates or understand local terms, and as a result end

up doing things they aren’t comfortable with. International Reps are there so that they can talk to these students, or find them someone they can talk to, help them out with whatever difficulties they are having, match them up with similar minded people in other kitchens so they don’t feel alienated and look after them if they are feeling ignored or confused.

Aside from that, they can also give them more information about the cultural and other societies they can join, about JCR and LUSU positions they can stand for, about LUVU and GreenLancaster and the opportunities they provide and other activities that can enhance their time and stay at university.

International Fresher Reps are the most important addition to Freshers’ Week. They are not mollycoddling Freshers but offering a vital lifeline for those who are most vulnerable and overwhelmed by their first experience of university so that they can truly enjoy a fully informed, amazing and completely rounded student experience.

What have they got to hide?

THERE IS THE old idiom that knowledge is power. It makes sense for a university to abide by these sentiments being seats of knowledge, but at Lancaster that power gained seems to be having a corrupting influence.

Over the summer a series of decisions have been made by University Senior Management which will have a massive impact on the lives of students and staff at Lancaster. The majority of these decisions have been made in the secretive University Management Advisory Group, a meeting of Vice Chancellor and his top whigs: a meeting where a lot of major decisions are taken, but also a meeting which neither the Students' Union or the University and Colleges' Union has any representation on.

The prime example this year of the cloak and dagger nature of UMAG was the decision to close the Student Learning Development Centre. The review presented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor and any discussion following it is curiously missing from the UMAG minutes of June 1. LUSU, UCU and members of staff all requested a copy of this review: none of them had it granted. The Editor of this paper, acting on behalf of SCAN and the Students' Union put in a Freedom of Information request for the review, which was promptly turned down by the University.

"In the opinion of the Vice Chancellor (Lancaster University's 'qualified person'), provision of the paper would, or would be likely to, inhibit 1) the free and frank provision of advice and 2) the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation." Why this importance is greater than the public's right to know is not clear. Rather, it seems that withholding this material merely serves the interest of the University Senior Management who are the only ones who can benefit from the lack of scrutiny and debate that making the review public would initiate.

The fate of this request now lies in the hands of the Information Commissioner's Office, with the University having turned it down twice.

It has also been remarkably hard for SCAN's journalists to sit down and talk to Senior Management about this issue, being told that it simply "isn't possible".

SCAN has come on a lot over the last two years: it has become a proper newspaper, with proper journalists who try to abide to the rule of giving both sides a chance to give their side of the story. We are not the mouthpiece of LUSU, but if the Students' Union gets more of an airing it's probably because they are willing to talk to us.

Those in the upper reaches of the University often complain that they are painted in a bad light in this paper. They need to wake up to the realisation that SCAN is not a joke rag anymore, and that if they act like they have something to hide, then we are going to presume they do.

Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to scan@lancaster.ac.uk with you name and college (even if you want your letter printed anonymously). SCAN reserves the right to edit your letters for publication.



Bus price hike

Has anybody else noticed that the bus fare has risen again this term? It is ridiculous that students already pay a pretty extortionate rate for an essential service without tacking on more cost.

I know a 25p rise for a return in three years doesn't sound like much, but it does start to add up. The bus passes are hardly value for money either.

This is all in addition to the fact that for the last three years I have been living in Lancaster the frequency of buses has diminished considerably, dropping from one every five minutes during the day in 2008 to the odd timing of one at 20 past and then three at quarter two.

Does the University not understand that many students do not own cars nor can afford to purchase everything from Central/Spar. Come on stagecoach sort it out! It's also about time the University helped us undergrads (who fund this institution) instead of working out new ways to rip us off!

P.S. Welcome new Freshers!

Rory O'Brien

Pendle College

Open day let down

Recently, a friend of mine came to an Open Day at the University. I accompanied her, went to all the talks, and it was all very interesting. But, I must be honest and say that my main reason for attending was the promise of free tea or coffee at Bowland, County, Grizedale, and Fylde bars, Café 21 and The Venue. As we had multiples of the vouchers, I thought I'd take her to most of the above establishments as a useful tour for her prospective university life. With most of the talks being in the Great Hall area, Bowland and County bars were my first choice. They were both closed. The queue for The Venue stretched outside the doors, Grizedale and Fylde were also full. I suggested Café 21, only to get there and be told it was open only for Computing that day. Quite honestly, I was disgusted.

Don't you think it's a little bit early for the University to be backing down on its promises before people have even applied here? At least the would-be students will have no illusions of what kind of freebies they'll be getting during their time here!

Harriet Murdoch,
Furness College.

£13.50 parking?

I am appalled at the University's recent move to double the price of a student car parking permit to £115. When I started my undergraduate degree in 2003 I paid £13.50 for my first permit – an increase of almost 800% in seven years. I appreciate the University wants to be seen to be encouraging the use of public transport but instead of taxing those who can least afford it perhaps they should consider making a deal with the bus companies and improving facilities for cyclists to really make a difference to their carbon footprint.

Jane Bennet
Graduate College

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Regional Football

This may prove to be a memorable season for Lancashire's clubs

Matthew Todd

WHILE MANY FANS and pundits alike wrote them off before a ball had even been kicked, Ian Holloway's Blackpool have made an impressive start to their first top flight campaign since 1971. For regular followers of the Tangerines, the style with which they swept aside Wigan on the opening day of the season will have come as no surprise. Their commitment to attack will no doubt continue to thrill neutrals, but Blackpool must ensure they do not leave their defence exposed, a situation that Arsenal have already ruthlessly exploited.

At the other end of the field, finding a regular goal-scorer may prove to be a problem as Holloway must rely on the inconsistent Marlon Harewood and untested pair of Luke Varney and Gary Taylor-Fletcher. However, if the hugely influential Charlie Adam can reproduce the form he showed in Blackpool's play-off winning campaign, Bloomfield Road may host top-level football for seasons to come.

Preston fans will no doubt be casting envious glances towards their Lancashire rivals. While Blackpool can look forward to glamour ties with some of Europe's finest clubs; Deepdale may well see another season of struggle. Their patchy home form continued with an opening day reverse against unfancied Doncaster. A recent fixture provided an exhibition of North End's fragile confidence - a 3-1 lead was meekly surrendered as Burnley snatched a remarkable 4-3 victory.



Blackpool have had a flying start to their Premier League career after promotion last year

Darren Ferguson will be encouraged by his side's ability to find the net, with new signing Paul Hayes providing support for regular front man Jon Parkin. The major concern for Preston will be finding a centre half partner for Sean St.Ledger after the loss of talismanic cult-hero Youl Mawéné.

Another Lancashire side looking to rebuild after the loss of established players are Morecambe. The Shrimps released Michael Twiss and Wayne Curtis after a combined 20 years of service and have struggled to bring in players of similar quality, resulting in them propping up the Football League with a month of the season played. A potential Johnstone's Paint Trophy run

was also scuppered by a disappointing defeat away to Macclesfield.

Sammy McIlory is experienced at this level and will be confident of ensuring Morecambe climb out of trouble in their first season at the Globe Arena after 89 years at Christie Park. Many supporters feel a second consecutive play-off campaign is achievable, especially following the acquisition of pacey winger Chris Shuker from Tranmere to supply the veteran Paul Mullin.

Lancaster City will also be aiming to improve on a successful 2009/10 performance. However, as is typical with many non-league sides, a host of players have moved on and the squad barely resembles that from

last season. The biggest loss was that of Jordan Connerton to League 2 side Crewe; finding a replacement to the prolific front-man will represent a major challenge for the Dolly Blues this season. The other main issue remains - dwindling crowds. If this season sees averages of around 200 it could test the club's finances to breaking point.

Successful contract negotiations with Andrew Teague were the high point of Lancaster's pre-season. The centre half will be a valuable asset, providing football-league experience and inspirational leadership. Despite much upheaval, Lancaster recorded a 2-0 victory over AFC Fylde on the opening day.

A final mention must go to two local clubs with contrasting starts. Wigan have started catastrophically, conceding ten goals in their first two games. With a raft of new faces brought in at the DW stadium, Roberto Martinez's side must gel quickly.

In contrast, Fleetwood Town have taken well to Blue-Square Premier League football. They currently lie in a play-off position and thanks to financial backing from a wealthy owner, have a squad capable of remaining at the right end of the table.

With a number of Lancashire clubs looking to establish themselves in unfamiliar leagues, this season may prove to be one of consolidation. Nonetheless, there will be some memorable moments this term, and with so much football on your doorstep why not make the effort to go and watch your local football club live.

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Here is to a great year of sport

Marc Handley
LUSU Vice President Sports

At the Athletic Union Awards in June, the University's Director of Sport, Kim Montgomery, expressed her thoughts that we were at the dawn of a new era of sport here at Lancaster. After spending the summer working here at LUSU, I can categorically state that this is the case. With the success of last year still ringing in my ears the task has been given to me to progress all areas of sport here even further, and believe me when I say it's possible. Within the first few days of being in office I sought to rectify an ongoing situation between the Students' Union and the University with regards to the new Sports Centre project which we felt was severely lacking in student consultation. Thankfully, this is being rectified due to some strong collaboration from both the Union and University. Hopefully the students will be able to have some input with regards to the new centre, meaning that we don't just have a fantastic new facility that is the best in the area, but one which people actually want to use as well.

The aim for this year is simple - to reach the heights we all know we are capable of. British Universities & Colleges Sports (BUCS) League performances are one of the most vital ways we can show not just our own university critics but other institutions as well just how important we see sport here at Lancaster. Our college leagues were extremely strong last year, and this year we see the introduction of a full programme of BUCS League netball after the introductory period last year and I hope to see the incredible upward trend of the rest of our college leagues too. With nearly all of our college sport dominating their relevant competition in Roses, I want this trend to rub off on the entire of the sporting population.

It might seem silly of me to mention Roses so early on in the year, but it's important that I do. Over the next few months I hope to demonstrate to you just how possible it is to win at York this year. Only eight away victories have happened in whole of Roses history, but there is no greater chance to make it nine than at York in 2011. After the success and dominance of Roses 2010, we need to not just show not just York, but each other just how possible it is - we have to create such a positive mindset that it is irrelevant what the history books say. So I will simply say this: Here is to a great year of sport ahead, and to the chance to redress the balance of Roses in the home of our greatest rivals.



A beginner's guide to college sport



Erin Royle

AS A STUDENT of Lancaster University there is a world of sports at your feet. The collegiate system gives students opportunities that are few and far between at other institutions. As you are probably aware, our university houses nine colleges — each distinct in style and personality, but all have histories to be proud of. If you want to be part of this history, taking part in college sports is one of the best ways to start.

Each college elects a Junior Common Room Executive, commonly referred to as a JCR. On this JCR sits two college Sports Reps — arguably the most fun and enjoyable position on the JCR. Keep an eye out for them hanging around your college in Freshers' Week or at the Freshers' Fair — they will be armed with answers to any question you might have regarding sports you would like to get involved in. In addition to the JCR Sports Reps, there is also the LUSU Vice President Sports, Marc Handley. You'll often see him around campus and he knows

everything there is to know about college sport because of the hours he puts in organising it all for you to enjoy.

There are two main ways you can enjoy college sports: The Carter Shield and George Wyatt.

Carter Shield

The Carter Shield is the main inter-college sports competition, with a large number of sports on offer. You might know most of these sports, but it might be the ones you have never heard of that you find most fun.

There are non-competitive taster sessions early in the term to see if you like the sports on offer, then there are four competition days — one for each sport. From these competition days, four colleges go through to Finals Day which is towards the end of term. The further a college gets, the more points it earns. Then, after the three terms, the points are added up and the college with the most points wins the Carter Shield.

A typical Carter Shield Sunday could go as follows: a team might meet as a college around midday before

walking down to the sports centre via an optional trip to Spar. They say an army marches on its stomach and so does a college on a Sunday. Once you've hit Spar for all important supplies such as the infamous Spar Baguette and a drink of your choice, it's onwards to the Sports Hall.

The sports reps deal with a draw to see which colleges play which and you will be able to meet people in your college or from elsewhere. You'll see people you randomly spoke to in Freshers' Week, people you recognise from your course or from college bars you've frequented. That is the social aspect to the Carter Shield — you'll get to meet so many people from across campus that soon, you'll be wandering down the Spine seeing people you know all over the place. University will become more and more of a community and you'll be feeling like you've lived here for years by Christmas.

George Wyatt

The second major inter-college competition is the George Wyatt. This is dedicated to the bar sports of pool,

darts and dominoes. There are single sex teams for darts and pool, but the dominoes is mixed.

Don't write off bar sports like darts; the atmosphere on game night when you're representing your college, with your team-mates cheering you on and giving banter to your opponents, is infectious.

There will be trials in Freshers' Week for college teams. Whether you are a beginner or a professional, go along because you'll be made welcome and will meet a great bunch of like minded people.

Personally, college sport is something very close to my heart because week in week out it entertains me. It will make you laugh, it might make you cry and it will undoubtedly introduce you to some of the lifelong friends that are often talked about in the same sentences as university life. So keep an eye out for posters and emails that will let you know when events are on and don't hesitate to approach your Sports Reps or JCR to find out. I look forward to seeing you at the Carter Shield and George Wyatt nights.

Sir Chris: “no excuse” not to win Roses

Jack Smith
Sports Editor

SIR CHRISTIAN BONINGTON, famed mountaineer and Chancellor of the University, said there was “no excuse” not to retain the Carter James trophy this year while recently visiting Lancaster to inspect building work for the new Sports Centre.

Bonington, who has been on 19 expeditions to the Himalayas including four to Mount Everest, told SCAN that the Sports Centre “looks brilliant in every kind of way. Of course, I am particularly interested in the climbing wall and it looks as if it's going to be great.”

He talked of the importance of Universities such as Lancaster having

facilities like the new Centre, which will replace the old site that has been open since 1967. “I think sport in all its different aspects is an incredibly important kind of release extension to the hard grinding work of actually getting a degree.”

“I think it is good for the university to be good at sport and feel good about sport. I think it is very important as well to win Roses consistently — once we have this we have no excuse for not winning.”

Bonington reserved particular praise for the state of the art climbing wall and stressed the importance of input from the Lancaster University Climbing Club throughout the building work. He told SCAN: “it's absolutely vital that the Climbing Club is involved

and that real climbers are involved. I think the ideal situation is where initially the actual [professionals] will design the wall but even at that stage it is very important the Climbing Club is involved as well.”

He added: “a good climbing wall is one where you change the routes regularly and it is very important that the University Climbing Club is involved in that.”

LUSU Vice President Sports Marc Handley welcomed Bonington's comments. He said: “It is extremely important that the students, who are some of the main users of the new facility, are consulted and asked to put forward any recommendations with regards to the new Sports Centre. I know the Climbing Club and Sir Chris had some

input when the first designs of the wall were given to them to look at, so much input in fact that Sir Chris actually said that the plans weren't good enough for the wall and so new plans were drawn up - and are the ones that are being implemented.”

“What we do need to bear in mind too though is that fact that it is not only students who are to use this new facility when it is built, so consultation will need to be widened to not just students, but staff of the university as well, including members of the public too.”

The new Sports Centre is costs £20m and is expected to open in 2011. Features include a swimming pool with a moveable floor, a 10 metre high climbing wall and a 90 station gym.

Preview: Who will walk away with the George Wyatt Cup?

Nick O'Malley
Sports Editor

THE START OF the new academic year marks a new season in the George Wyatt cup in which each college battles it out to see who is the unrivalled king of the bar sports. The George Wyatt cup consists of six events; Men's As and Bs Pool and Darts, Women's Pool and Darts and Mixed Dominoes.

Bowland are the current holders of the cup after a convincing victory last year that included three separate team wins; Men's Darts, Women's Darts and Women's Pool. The other three events were won by Graduate in the Men's As Pool, Lonsdale in the Bs Pool and Cartmel in the Dominoes. However, there will be plenty of colleges challenging for both individual honours as well as the overall George Wyatt cup this time out.

MEN'S DARTS

Bowland won the Men's Darts last year in what was a hotly contested league with five teams pushing for top position. After finishing second and third respectively I expect Pendle and Cartmel to drop a little from last year's positions suffering from the loss of key players. Lonsdale will be pushing hard for top spot again having lost only two of ten players from last year and if they improve on their consistency they will be right up there this year.

Should Graduate acquire a few players with Roses and University experience as they go onto do their Masters or PhD's they could mount a serious challenge for the title. However I think in spite of this Bowland will hold onto their crown

as the best Darts team on campus.
Men's Darts: Bowland

MEN'S A POOL

Graduate look as strong as ever and will be looking to hold on to their title, while you can never bet against Bowland. However Lonsdale are hoping to finally step up to the plate under the tutelage of last year's winning Roses captain Lee Osborne, with seven of their nine players from last year's team remaining and one or two of last year's successful B team ready to step up to the As. For those reasons I tip Lonsdale to prise the Men's As Pool trophy away from Graduate.

Men's As Pool: Lonsdale

MEN'S B POOL

A much harder league to predict than the other two leagues before, as you can have no real idea of who will be playing for these teams. Last year Lonsdale's strength in depth came to the fore with a very narrow league win over Pendle. However with last year's Captain John Davies stepping up to the A's and losing two or three key players it will be a difficult task to maintain the title. I expect both Bowland and Lonsdale to be at the top end of this league again being pushed all the way by Pendle.

Men's B Pool: Bowland

WOMEN'S DARTS

Last year this was a fantastically close league with Bowland and Pendle tied on points come the end of the season with the league winners being decided in a playoff which Bowland won 6-1.

These two teams will be right up there yet again with Cartmel pushing hard

for third place or perhaps even better if they can turn around a few of their 4-3 losses to 4-3 wins this year. Pendle will continue their fine form from the latter half of last season and go on to take the title this year.

Women's Darts: Pendle

WOMEN'S POOL

Bowland absolutely dominated the league last year right from the start and will be tough to beat again this year. Lonsdale fought bravely in their push for the top; however their hopes were dashed as Bowland recorded a magnificent 7-2 win away at Lonsdale to all but secure the league. Lonsdale will push even harder for the league this year, but I expect Bowland to triumph. I believe Cartmel will have a much improved season this time round, with a bold bid for a top three finish.

Women's Pool: Bowland

DOMINOES

Finally, by far the hardest league to predict; although there are elements of skill involved there is a huge amount of luck, and as such it is almost impossible to predict a winner. Cartmel got off to a fine start last year and just about held on to clinch the title and will be there or thereabouts again. I expect Furness, County and Bowland to be pushing for top position in what is normally a very fiercely contested league. County will build on last season's position and go on to take the hotly anticipated title.

Dominoes: County

Overall George Wyatt Top Three
Prediction: 1st Place: Bowland - 2nd Place: Lonsdale - 3rd Place: Pendle.



Get involved in sport this weekend - even if you just sit down

Sport is one of those very Marmite aspects of life - some love it, playing it regularly and watching it whenever they can, while others just don't see the appeal. Perhaps some people just think they can't do sport.

Over the summer, I was asked to play a few games of volleyball in a small tournament and agreed straight away. I'd had quite a sedate summer at that point, unless there is physical benefit to be gained from sitting in the pub. You could count the constant lifting of a pint glass as weightlifting in theory, but that's for a future column.

I had never actually played volleyball before, but after a few training sessions we built up a slight bit of collective ability and at least one tactic. All was going well, until a few days before we were due to play we realised we had entered a sitting volleyball competition - and some of the opposition were national players

preparing to play in a worldwide tournament.

So, obviously, this posed two problems. There was the fact that we weren't very good and they were exceptional, and then there was the issue that we didn't know what sitting volleyball actually was.

After some research, it turned out to be quite literally what it sounds like. All players sit on the court, with rules stipulating that 'at least one cheek must be on the floor at all times'. The whole point of the game is that it is essentially a Paralympic sport.

I will admit that we did consider giving it a miss after these revelations, but we went along in the end because it was something different. There was also the obvious confusing point that none of us were physically disabled. Having taken the opportunity to have a chat with the team coach before the tournament started, he pointed out that this

wasn't a problem, and is exactly why they were holding the tournament. Sitting volleyball is the only sport that can be played by disabled and able people alike. They can play in the same team, or against each other, with no problems.

In fact, while I was sitting down and playing, it was hard to tell who was actually disabled and who wasn't. It was a very eye opening experience to say the least.

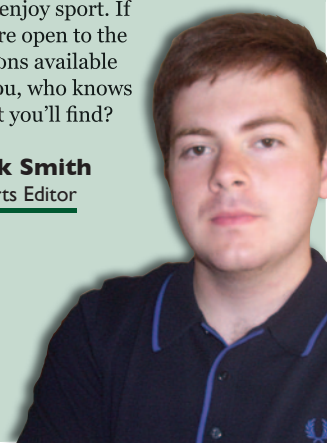
The tournament was being held not just to promote sport, not even just to promote Paralympic sport, but to encourage people to be more open to the opportunities provided by sport and to drop any prejudices they might have.

So maybe we did lose the final match 25-3. Maybe my backside was very sore for the next few days. That's not the point. An opportunity was open, we took it, had a great day and met some truly inspirational people. It reminded me just how

many social barriers sport can break down and just what it can do to people.

This Freshers' Week, make sure you are open to sport, and the opportunities available to you here. You don't need to have played sport before. Perhaps the main thing that I took from the sitting volleyball is that anyone and everyone can play and enjoy sport. If you're open to the options available to you, who knows what you'll find?

Jack Smith
Sports Editor



Are Fylde set for another year of sporting glory?

With another packed year of college sport up ahead, *Nick O'Malley* gives his verdict on who will walk away with the Carter Shield

MICHAELMAS TERM MARKS the start of one of the most eagerly anticipated and unpredictable inter-college sports competitions: the Carter Shield. In 2009, the underdogs triumphed as Grizedale prised the Shield away from the two Carter Shield powerhouses Fylde and Bowland.

However, the 2010 Carter Shield saw the pecking order restored with Fylde, known as the sporting college, coming out on top ahead of Grizedale, with Bowland and Lonsdale in third and fourth respectively. After last year's success, Fylde's 2009-10 sports rep Ste Rutter said: "I am extremely pleased and excited to have won back the Carter Shield after four years of trying, and we hope to build on this success next year."

LUSU Vice President for Sports, Marc Handley told SCAN: "The Carter Shield is one of the many great ways you can get involved in sport at Lancaster, with a wide array of sports to participate in. It is also a fantastic opportunity to represent your college in some of the lesser known sports whilst still having a great time and engaging in some college banter."

The first event of the year is the ever-popular dodgeball. Since the release of the well-known film, this sport and grown and grown, but here at Lancaster, we show them how it's really done. "Remember the five D's, dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge; and get down to the sports centre to give the other colleges a message of intent for the upcoming year". In the last two years Grizedale and Bowland have won this event and it could be between these two teams again.

The second sport of the year will be volleyball, a sport that anyone can

play at a reasonable level without too much practice and is a great opportunity to start gaining some points in the overall year long competition. Numerous colleges have won this event over the years showing that there is no set agenda for the sport. However Lonsdale have had a strangle hold on this sport recently, winning back to back years.

'I have a sneaky feeling that if anyone was to break into the Carter Shield's very own 'big four' it could be Pendle'

Pop lacrosse, usually in the second term, has been moved into the first term to make way for a new sport, unihoc, replacing korfbal in the second term. Fylde have dominated pop lacrosse in recent years, beating Lonsdale in the final in back to back years. However with vast amounts of the Fylde team graduating last year it is unclear whether their domination of this sport will continue.

The fourth and final event of first term is the first single sex event of the year, women's football. With men's basketball taking place in the second term, this gives the ladies a chance demonstrate their footballing skills and to prove which college is best in the female footballing world.

The last event day of first term is finals day, you will see all four sports play their relevant semis and finals and it will give a great indication of who the strongest teams are.

Although there are a few colleges



Fylde gave Graduate a run for their money last year (Photo: Ben Robins)

that are favourites for this year's competition, as has often happened in the Carter Shield, passion can triumph over ability. This will ensure another closely contested competition with a few surprises to be expected along the way. Although it is one of the most unpredictable of inter-college competitions, I will do my best to predict what will happen in this year's Carter Shield.

I strongly believe that the top three will be Bowland, Lonsdale and Fylde with Grizedale dropping down to fourth after losing a few of their Carter Shield mainstays. Bowland put up a sound effort year on year in the Carter Shield, and you can expect the same again from them again this year.

Bowland Lonsdale Fylde

The top three to win the Shield

Lonsdale have improved in each of the last two years and have the majority of their key players from last year remaining and will be pushing strongly for the title. Lonsdale sports representative, Lee Osborne said: "I think Fylde are favourites again, however each event is crucial and I think we will be

right up there this year."

Finally, I expect Fylde will complete the top three, with their vast resources to draw upon, whereby some of their teams, for example korfbal and lacrosse in previous years have been filled with university players, leaving other colleges battling it out for second place in some events.

My prediction is that these three colleges will all be battling it out going into the final finals day next summer with not many points separating the three by the end of the final event, tug of war. If I had to go for a trifecta I would go for Fylde to win, Lonsdale second with Bowland in a close third; with Fylde following up on their fantastic year they had last year in which they won five of the 12 events.

However, any team could spring a surprise as was the case two years ago when the underdogs Grizedale won the title. I have a sneaky feeling that if anyone was to break into the Carter Shield's very own 'big four' it could be Pendle, who were the fan's favourite's last year with their fancy dress and extreme enthusiasm.

If you are interested in participating in this year's Carter Shield, either get in touch with your college sports representative or head down to the first taster session which is due to start at 12:30pm on Sunday, October 20 in the main hall of the Sports Centre.

Carter Shield Fixtures

Week	Sport
2	Taster session
3	Taster session
4	-
5	Dodgeball
6	Volleyball
7	Lacrosse
8	Women's Football
9	Finals Day

All fixtures take place Sunday, 12.45pm in the Sports Centre Main Hall

George Wyatt Fixtures

Day	Sport
Mon	Men's Darts & Dominos
Tue	Women's Darts
Wed	Women's Pool
Thurs	Men's Pool A & B

League tables are available at sports.lusu.co.uk