

# Yes you pump-can?

Carolynne looks at that spookiest of squashes in time for Halloween

# There's only rooms at the Inn

- Rush to get students housed means moving them into unfinished lets
- 20 international students put up at hotel

### Jen Day

THE TRUE EXTENT of housing crisis at Lancaster is becoming increasingly clear, with students being put up in hotels while space is found for them.

During Freshers' Week over 20 international students arrived and found that they had nowhere to live. Study Group, an international organisation which works with the University, had exceeded their intake quota for this academic year leaving students in the lurch. Study Group had told their students that there would be accommodation available for when they arrived at Lancaster without having liaised with the University. With the current shortage of student accommodation in Lancaster when the international students arrived there was nowhere for them to stay. They were booked into rooms at the Holiday Inn.

LUSU Living, the Students' Union's housing wing, has been asked to find accommodation for these students. LUSU Living had already been called upon by the University over the summer to find homes for clearing and insurance choice students who could not be put on campus.

# 3920

number of first year under and postgraduates this year

Dr. Hilary Simmons, the University's Head of the College and Residences Office, has released a statement saying: "The University has housed 3920 undergraduate and postgraduate first years; this figure included all first years with a guarantee of accommodation and 630 students who were not guaranteed. During clearing all students were informed that acceptance of a place did not guarantee University accommodation. However, the University will do all that it reasonably can to assist them to find their own accommodation."

Since Freshers' Week began LUSU Living has been able to accommodate almost all of the students without accommodation, with only 14 stu-

dents left at the Holiday Inn waiting to be housed by the end of Week One.

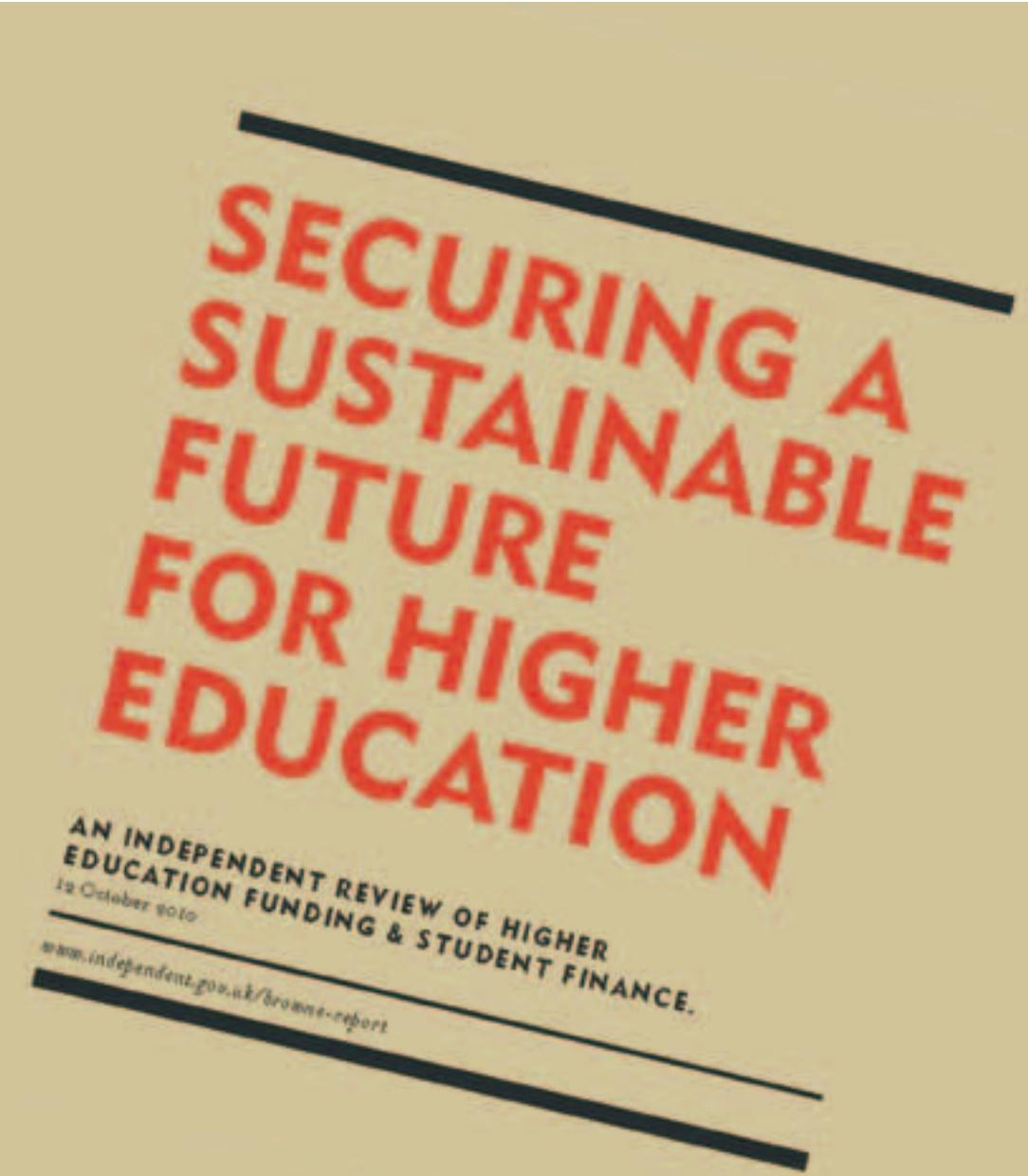
"We are monitoring the situation daily", said Matthew Ward, Manager of LUSU Living. "The property owner has got a lot of people on site working as hard as they can to get it ready and I think that although we have had teething problems with it, once it is there it is going to be great. It is in a great location so I think it will be really popular and a great addition to the student market for years to come."

Taking on so many new properties has meant that not all the properties have been up to LUSU's standard but efforts are being made to correct any issues the tenants might have, even if this means doing more superficial work once the students have moved in. Time scales have been tight and "sometimes they have run over, but it has been unavoidable", said Ward.

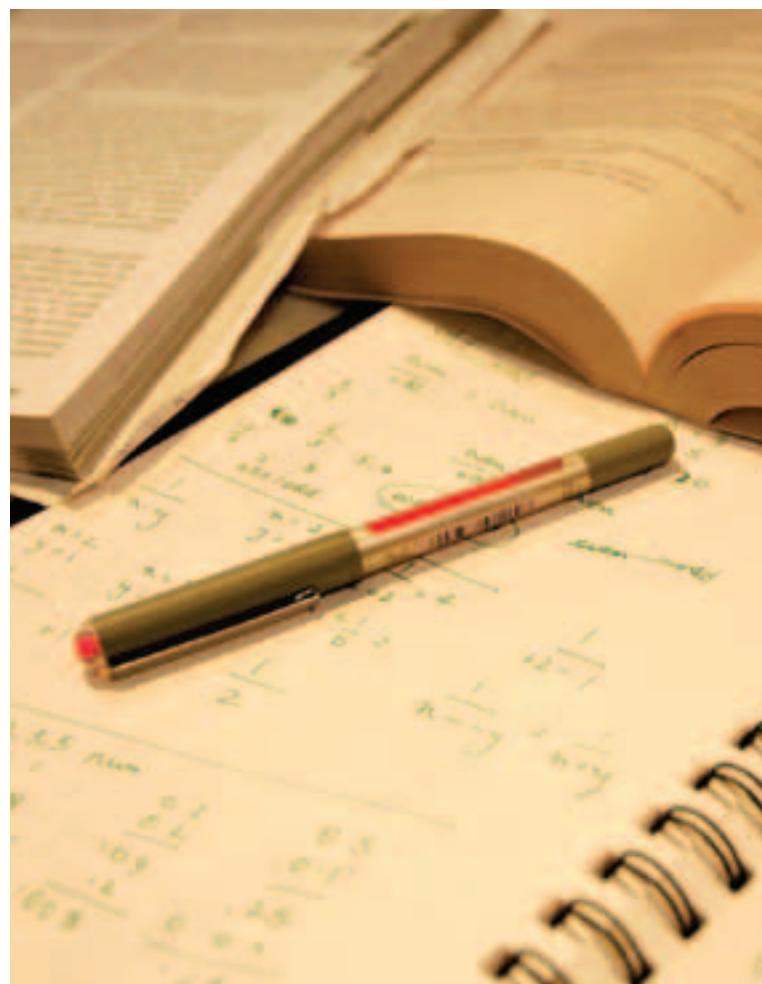
LUSU officers have been to visit off-campus first years both in their houses and at the old bus depot where a lot of the new postgraduates are now living. "LUSU has made the effort to go out to [the first years] rather than waiting for them to come to us and I think that has helped and awful lot", said Pete Macmillan, LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity).

LUSU President, Robbie Pickles said: "I think really there are lessons that need to be learnt and we need to be thinking about next year and make sure that this does not happen again because we could find ourselves in a terrible situation."

JCR's were not told the final figure of how many off-campus students they would have until the day before they arrived. For many of the colleges this figure was over 50 freshers. But, in spite of the issues surrounding accommodation LUSU and JCR officers along with Freshers Reps have worked hard to include off-campus freshers. Many of the colleges have sent messages over Facebook to keep off-campus freshers up to date. For those who don't have internet access JCR members have met up with their freshers and informed them of the various activities they could take part in.



# First year pass rate set to increase



**Ali Shaw**  
Assistant Editor

PLANS TO IMPROVE degree classification could result in a possible increase in the pass rate for first years in the major course, going up from 45% to 50%.

As the Degree Classification Working Party awaits a final sign-off by University Senate, - the most senior governing body of the University - further plans to improve degree classification continue to arise. The Working Party was formed in February 2007 to reassess the current pass rates for degrees at the University, and to consider possible changes to improve the classification process.

The new undergraduate degree regulations proposal includes eight main propositions from a university-wide grading system. This is intended to promote the use of the full marking range and directly link to the assessment of learning outcomes to the provision of final year re-sits. Although the increase in the pass rate is not part of the proposal, it is a key topic that has come out of the Working Group's research and will be put to Faculties and Academic Council before drafting a proposal to Senate.

When asked about the idea, Robin Hughes, Lancaster University Students' Union Vice President (Academic), told SCAN: "I genuinely think it will be interesting as it would raise a academic debate into what the pass rate is about,

and see how it helps students learn better and give them motivation to aim higher," but then went on to express his worries of it causing a big distinction between expectations of minor and major students. "My concerns outweigh the positive aspects, this suggestion comes from the best intentions but it's implications, not intentions, that we need to look at."

First year student Sophie Acher is in favour of the proposed increase in the pass rate. "Many students see the first year of university as a time to enjoy yourself and party, opposed to concentrating on your degree. Putting the first year pass rate up will not only sort out the boys from the men, but will encourage students to work hard every year," she said.

But Simon Dunlop, a County first year disagrees. He said: "The first year has purposefully low pass rates because it takes a long time to adjust to a new environment. I think raising the first year pass rate will only put unnecessary pressure on students and cause stress and upset amongst students."

The idea is still new and will undergo a lot of discussion before anything concrete will happen, Hughes was keen to emphasise that he "anticipates a lot of healthy debate from both students and staff" and that "it's important to remember first year isn't just an academic experience but also a university experience."

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Carolynne

SCAN's Culture Editor puts the Sex and the City girls through the pace, in "the biggest cinematic dick move" of recent years. Judge for yourself at LU Cinema on Thursday and Friday of Week Three.

[www.scan.lusu.co.uk/carolynne](http://www.scan.lusu.co.uk/carolynne)

### Comment

**Jen Day:** With so many people now achieving undergraduate degrees, Jen asks what is the point in spending all that money on something which is fast becoming common currency?

[www.scan.lusu.co.uk/comment](http://www.scan.lusu.co.uk/comment)

### Sport

**Sport Distort:** Reporting from Anfield on the woes of Liverpool fans Matthew answer the questions: "What do they want? They're not quite sure. When do they want it? Sometime in the near future, maybe?"

[www.scan.lusu.co.uk/sports](http://www.scan.lusu.co.uk/sports)

### What SCAN says

**Editorial:** With the Browne review having been released last week, and tuition fees almost set to rise as a consequence, universities have to wake up to the fact that students will become consumers, and consumers will expect a far higher level of service for £6,000+ a year.

[www.scan.lusu.co.uk/editorial](http://www.scan.lusu.co.uk/editorial)

THE COURSE REP

STARRING

YOU & YOUR COURSE

Becoming a Course Rep is a brilliant way to have your voice heard in your department, gain new skills and add to your CV

contact your department for more info

[star.lusu.co.uk](http://star.lusu.co.uk)

## WANT TO WRITE?

If you want to write for SCAN the best way to get involved is to go along to a section meeting. All of the section meetings are listed above so you can see where and when to go. If you can't make a meeting email the section editor and ask to be added to their mailing list. Membership of SCAN is £3, but you can join Bailrigg FM and LUTube.tv at no extra cost

[www.scan.lusu.co.uk](http://www.scan.lusu.co.uk)

# Bar wars return as University dictates alternate opening nights

- Cuts cause weekend closure of college bars

**Collette McColgan**  
Assistant Editor

FURTHER CUTS AT the University have resulted in the forced closure of seven of the nine college bars on one weekend night each week. The change comes after the college bars were told they had to make an "efficiency saving" of £50,000 in the next academic year.

County, Bowland, Furness, Fylde, Grizedale, Pendle and Lonsdale college bars are involved in the cuts, which will result in each of them being closed on either Saturdays or Sundays for the foreseeable future. Only Cartmel and Graduate bars are able to retain their current opening hours: Graduate because it was the only bar to meet its profit target for the last year, Cartmel purportedly because of the college's catered accommodation and its reliance on Barker House Farm.

The colleges were told that due to cuts that needed to be made the hours worked by licensees and assistant licensees would have to be reduced. The decision to close seven of the bars for weekend day, different ones being shut on different night, was made by the Facilities division at the University over the summer vacation, and the Students' Union and colleges were told about the changes that were to come without any real consultation.

The reason for the closures is assumed to be due to the college bars collectively falling short of the budgeted yearly income by £173,369. Though the bars were profitable by over £1.68 million, they did not reach the necessary targets, and the closures are reportedly



The 2008-09 campaign centred about college autonomy with the rallying point being the college bars

a consequence of this. Mark Swindlehurst, Director of Facilities said: "Patterns of use of the bars is changing, along with the need to make the nine college bars sustainable for the long-term at a difficult economic time. To meet this challenge the Bars Monitoring Group, which has a membership including Colleges, LUSU and Facilities, were informed of a range of operating changes and these included the limited closure of some bars for one night at the weekend."

The closures have caused uproar in the student community. President of Furness JCR, Luke Anderson said: "It goes against the logic of the bars being college space by shutting them on one

of the only two free days for students. The University see the bars as a business and not a major part of the college community."

LUSU President, Robbie Pickles is also against the changes: "I believe the college bars can be run in a way which would allow them to achieve greater profitability that would not cut staff hours. This is not a progressive step. The college bars should be a primary recruiter of student staff and it is disappointing to see a reduction in jobs available." Many student staff are feeling the consequences of the changes to opening hours. Martha Sprackland is a third year student in Furness College, who also works in the bar. Furness and Fylde

bars were grouped together to make the decision over which night they would stay open.

Sprackland said of the new opening policy: "I think it's ridiculous. Saturday is a big night for any bar, so we're all losing money. It's the same for Fylde [which is closing] on the Sunday; neither bar is happy about it."

"To save money we've had people in working from other bars during the day to save money on paying us. Now LUSU is involved, we're hoping the changes might be short-lived, but we can't guarantee that any alternative will be better than this," she added.

The idea that the weekend closure will affect college spirit is common

among many college Presidents. Matt Saint, County JCR President, spoke of his bar's pairing with Bowland bar. "Sunday is obviously our quiz night, and County's is really popular. It's the one staple night and from what I can see it's the night the bar makes the most money, so I don't understand the logic behind it. Some people have suggested having a joint quiz with Bowland but I think they're missing the point of what the college system is," Saint said.

Mark Lord, Cartmel JCR President is among a small number of people who will not be affected by the change, with his college bar not being subject to the

**"It goes against the logic of the bars being college space by shutting them on one of the only two free days for students. The University see the bars as a business and not a major part of the college community."**

new closing hours. He does, however, appreciate the repercussions for other colleges.

"I do appreciate that it's not just about Cartmel. All bars on campus, as far as I'm concerned, have equal weight. I would be lying if I said I didn't let out a cheer when I heard that Cartmel wouldn't be closing, but at the same time it is very important that all the bars stay open, as they are a student facility, they're not just a business," he said.

Anderson added: "Through talking to those who were consulted it seems all communication [from the University] was vague, last-minute and one-sided. The student populace should positively get behind any action that goes against the decision to shut the bars at the weekend."

before the takeover, and they were surprised that the plans had been changed from those the University had initially told them.

Due to the takeover of the bars, the University was able to hire the spaces out for private functions, though it was insisted that this would not happen without the permission of the college Principals. On the first day of Summer Term, a wedding was held in Pendle bar. The porters, and later, the police were called to the event, which was during the official quiet period in Summer Term, in preparation for end of year exams because of an altercation.

In the 2009-10 academic year, prices at the bars continued to increase, but the campaigns and protests fell by the wayside to indifference. It remains to be seen whether the new closure proposals will reignite the campaign spirit of previous years in an effort to reclaim the bars for the colleges.

## Bar Wars: Episode One A brief history

THE BATTLE BETWEEN University and students for the college bars began in 2008. Union Council - the governing body of the Students' Union - passed policy in order to campaign for the college bars to be run independently by their corresponding college, when it became clear this privilege was under threat.

By August 2008, however, three of the college bars - Cartmel, County and Grizedale - were taken over by Commercial Services, the department responsible for the University's non-academic, profitable facilities. The remaining colleges were left with the promise that the other six bars would follow.

The Director of Commercial Services, David Peeks, was already in charge of Barker House Farm, The

Venue and Fylde Coffee Shop, and students felt that college individuality was under threat by the takeover. At the time, LUSU President (2008-2010) Michael Payne said: "The independence of the nine colleges has yet again been undermined [...] The college bars are more than just places to drink... bringing them under the control of Commercial Services will deprive them of any character and sense of community."

By the beginning of term in September 2008, Pendle had also been taken over by Commercial Services and Grizedale had been closed for refurbishment. At the time it was reported in SCAN that the bars had been taken over and that the licensees were to be centrally managed by the University in order to diversify the bars, and to include food and drink provisions.

Lancaster University Labour Club had been campaigning to save the college bars in the previous academic

year, by organising 'drink-ins' and getting over 800 students to sign a petition over the takeover.

In the lead article its third issue, SCAN claimed Peeks had made losses within his department before the takeover of the bars, and that Commercial Services was "haemorrhaging money."

A month later, after SCAN was threatened with legal action by Peeks' solicitor, an apology and clarification was printed, explaining that though Commercial Services under Peeks had not hit its targets, it had still made a profit and he was not, in fact, a "loss-maker" as had been claimed.

By January 2009, at the New JCR/Campus Officer Training Conference, a boycott of University Catering venues was suggested. Bowland Café, the Environment Centre Café, The Venue, Fylde Coffee Shop, The Hub Café and Barker House Farm were successfully boycotted,

along with all vending machines, and students were encouraged to eat at independent food outlets on campus by the new officers.

By late January, the campaign had reached its peak. A group of approximately 50 students took part in a protest organized by the Labour Club, which passed by all University Catering outlets and culminated in Alexandra Square outside University House. Extra security had been put on the doors to University House in case protesters tried to enter the building.

In February of the same year, Paul Wellings, the Vice Chancellor of the University, created a working group to discuss the future of the colleges, whilst touching on the subject of the bars, though it was agreed that would be largely left up to the Bars Advisory Group.

Over the Easter vacation of that year, the remaining college bars were taken over by Commercial Services. No JCR officers were consulted

## NEWS

# New LICA building receives mixed response



Students say the new building is "impressive" but "disappointing". Photo:Ali Shaw

## Emma Hughes

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY HAS unveiled its new environmentally friendly building, made to house Lancaster's Institute for the Contemporary Arts (LICA), to a mixed reception.

The £10m development is the first Higher Education building in the country to be classed as 'outstanding' by the British Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM). The building is constructed from environmentally friendly timber and includes an energy efficient rain harvesting tank, amongst other measures.

The site will contain the Art, Music, Design and Theatre Studies departments which were previously spread around various areas of the University. In addition, the building will support elements of the professional arts activity of Live at LICA – a union of the Peter Scott Gallery, the Nuffield

Theatre and the International Concert Series – as well as the research group ImaginationLancaster.

Director of Live at LICA, Matt Fenton, says: "My first impression is that the building is stunning and has lots of potential. We're very excited about the new performance spaces."

The 5,000 square metre building is situated at the north end of the campus next to County College and comprises of open plan office areas, interlinked social spaces and private rooms that students can book to use. The event space is also complete with a sound-absorbing ceiling.

However, some students in the Music department argue that though the building is attractive it is not practical. They complain that the appearance has been prioritised over the function as the spaces are small and offer poor sound quality.

"The new building is visually impressive and the main foyer is cer-

tainly a pleasant space, but the content is somewhat disappointing, even if it is aesthetically superior to what preceded it," argued one third year music student who wished to remain anonymous.

"Whilst the spaces are well designed visually, there appears to be a lack of design for purpose – especially when acoustics are taken into account. The place is let down by its fit and finish as well as an overriding sense of pointlessness when compared to more urgent departmental needs concerning staffing and post-graduate funding."

It has also been rumoured that the development had some problems in its final stages of completion, including toilets that flushed using dirty roof-water and a pond that drained itself.

Director of Facilities, Mark Swindlehurst said: "There are always minor issues with major construction projects when in the final stages of

completion. We will look into the comments that have been made to SCAN and collectively determine if anything needs to be done about them. The design of the spaces were subject to a comprehensive briefing and approval by colleagues in LICA and feedback from all staff to date has been one of overwhelming support and praise for the building."

He went on to say: "The toilets use an environmentally friendly system that involved harvesting rain water which is why it may appear discoloured. This was explained in the building user guide but we take your comments on board and will add signs to explain the process and avoid any future confusion."

"The pond uses a sustainable urban drainage system which releases surface water at consistent rates and this was being tested over the past couple of weeks which is why it may have been empty at some points."

into question.

The relocation of the facility was initiated by Director of Student Based Services, Tom Finnigan who has suggested that the move will mean all the facilities co-ordinated by Student Based Services will now be under one roof, and therefore more accessible to students. Pete Macmillan, LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) said that the move is "a

## Charlotte Urban

News Editor

### There are issues as it isn't always an immediately available private area."

good idea in theory, but perhaps not in practice".

The Counselling Service offers a valuable service to students who wish to talk to someone impartial about concerns of a personal and emotional nature. The Counsellors work in 50 minute slots, which focus on the individual and aim to "create appropriate

coping mechanisms". A letter sent into SCAN expressed dismay at the relocation of the Counselling Service saying: "What was once a private service where many counsellors were available and working each day, is now a hectic mess of a service". The letter then went on to say that "at least a minimum level of confidentiality and dignity should be allowed".

Student Based Services is now often referred to as The Base, a name coined in order to make it easily recognisable by students as the building comprising of many of the necessary facilities for students, such as CEEC (Centre for Enterprise, Employability and Careers) and advice for international students.

Julia Thomson, an employee at Student Based Services said: "It is useful to have a one stop shop [...] however there are issues as it isn't always an immediately available private area". Whilst realising the negatives of the relocation of the Counselling Service Thomson said: "Overall it'll be a really effective service".

## Change to elections rules leaves no room for pairs to run together

**Chris Housden**  
News Editor

A PROMINENT NUMBER of the Students' Union bylaws were revised at the first Union Council meeting of the academic year,. Among the proposed changes, some applied to the election process for LUSU officers. In particular, the way in which JCR executive officers are elected to a role where two officers have the same duties as occurs in some colleges with the role of Social Secretary was proposed to be changed. Previously, to run for such positions students had to be part of a pair, campaigning together against other pairs. However, this was changed in the election bylaw revision that was passed as it was deemed wrong to rule out students running on their own for a single position.

Though there had been rumours that this change would be a contentiously debated topic, it was passed almost unanimously. Several JCR executive officers had mentioned that they would be speaking against it and would be available to be quoted; however, none of them offered any argument to the proposals.

Speaking afterwards Olly Trumble, Vice President of Fylde JCR, said that "from our experience it adds a definite edge" when students ran as a pair. He claimed that last year saw Fylde's first joint election campaign which was "infinitely more successful than people running as individuals" because they have to be motivated "campaigning together from the beginning".

While he acknowledged that it doesn't necessarily mean other colleges have also experienced this, Trumble said "it would be interesting to see" how the change affects the elections at the end of the term.

Trumble also commented that with so many changes being made at once "it's impossible to look at them [the proposals] in infinite detail with the time constraints", arguing that any issue would be easy to miss in the mass of changes being made.

LUSU President Robbie Pickles, who had been working on the revisions over the summer break, noted that the previous constitution had bylaws which were "extremely out of date, cross referencing non-existent rules and officers". He was careful to stress that though every single bylaw had some form of modification, they were "largely cosmetic changes" in a bid to bring the constitution up to date with current officer titles, remits and rules.

In a change to previous Union Council meetings, desk mounted name signs and a brief summary sheet detailing some FAQs based around the running of the meetings were introduced. These were introduced with two purposes in mind, according to Pickles, to clarify proceedings for observers and, in preparation for a series of new officers after elections at the end of Michaelmas term, to familiarise them with each other and with the meetings.

## New Counselling base of operations a worry for students

- Concerns over privacy in glass fronted building

**Paul Hannah**

UNIVERSITIES MAY BE able to charge unlimited fees from their students in years to come according to a new proposal laid out by Lord Browne in his long awaited review of Higher Education funding.

Lord Browne, the former chief executive of BP, said universities that charged the highest fees would have to demonstrate they are widening access to students from poorer homes.

Lord Browne's review calls for the £3,290 cap on fees, which students borrow in loans, to be scrapped. Instead it proposes a free market in fees – setting out models of charges up to £12,000 a year for a degree course. "There are a variety of things they can do in that area, including offering scholarships for living expenses," Browne told The Guardian.

Graduates will start repaying the cost of their degrees when they start earning £21,000 a year, up from £15,000 under the current system, the review recommends.

Institutions charging more than £6,000 will have to pay a rising percentage of each additional £1,000 as a levy to government. So a university that charges £7,000 will receive 94% of this fee, while one that charges £10,000 will receive 81%. At £6,000, the university receives the full fee.

The far-reaching recommendations set out a system in which much of the cost of a degree would be transferred from the taxpayer to the student.

The review also calls for the merger of a super quango (quasi non-governmental organisation) for higher education. The Higher Education Funding Council for England, which distributes funding on behalf of the government, would be combined with the sector's watchdog for fair access, its quality regulator and its complaints watchdog.

This more competitive market would also mean that for the first time universities could go out of business, says the report.

Universities must compete over students, fee levels and against new providers, the review panel recommends: "If they fail [...] they might ultimately close or be taken over."

Lord Browne said that he did not expect students to be deterred by debt. "There is a lot of evidence that students don't just look at debt, but at the prize

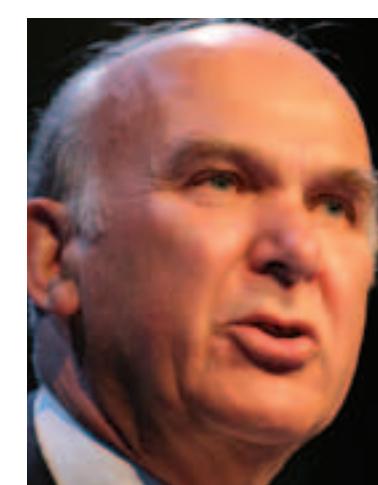
**If adopted, Lord Browne's review would hand universities a blank cheque and force the next generation to pick up the tab for devastating cuts to higher education."**

at the end as well, which is significant earning potential. If you look at the 40% of students who study part-time, we don't offer them anything, but they still come and study part-time."

The report comes ahead of next week's Comprehensive Spending Review, in which cuts of £4.2bn to higher education budget are expected. Student response to the proposals put forward by the review has been highly critical. Aaron Porter, NUS President, said: "If adopted, Lord Browne's review would hand universities a blank cheque and force the next generation to pick up the tab for devastating cuts to higher



Students' eyes will be on Nick Clegg and Vince Cable, who both promised to vote against a rise in tuition fees before the General Election. Photo: Liberal Democrats/Flickr



# Lord Browne's Higher Education review puts students up against unlimited fees and higher interest rates

education. The only thing students and their families would stand to gain from higher fees would be higher debts".

He went on to argue that "there is no clear assurance that a hike in fees would improve student choice or quality and the evidence since fees tripled four years ago shows that neither student satisfaction nor quality has improved."

LUSU President Robbie Pickles released a statement commenting: "Lord Browne's review has certainly provided food for thought for many organisations, but it is important to remember that it is not a government proposal yet." He argued that "attempts to spin this as a 'progressive step' will fall flat. Students are not stupid, and neither are their parents. They will struggle under increased debt and our communities will struggle if less people can afford the education needed to fulfil a valuable role in society. Where will the teachers, doctors and nurses of the future come from?"

Paul Wellings, the Vice Chancellor of Lancaster University and Chair of the 1994 Group of leading research-intensive universities has been a central figure in the recent row over tuition fees. He commented on the release of the Browne review, calling it "the first progressive step in a long process to address the important issue of university funding". Wellings holds the view that "everyone's priority has to be to reassure students of all backgrounds

that they will be able to attend a university with the resources necessary to offer academic excellence and the very best experience. Wellings asserted that "most importantly, the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review later this month must not be allowed to detract from the gains offered to universities by the Browne Review."

The official statement on the events from the government Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) press office took a positive view of the proposals. In it,

# £3,750

**the proposed, flat-rate amount for maintenance loans. Currently they are means tested**

Secretary of State for Business Vince Cable, argued: "They [Lord Browne and the review team] have taken evidence from a wide range of people including students, the higher education sector and business. We will judge their recommendations against the impact on student debt, ensuring a properly funded university sector, improving the quality of teaching, increasing social mobility and attracting a higher proportion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds."

At the time of the election, all sitting Liberal Democrat MPs, including Nick Clegg and Cable, signed up to a pledge to vote against any increase in fees.

The coalition agreement allows the Lib Dems to abstain.

However Cable gave official governmental approval to the proposals, telling the BBC the proposals were "probably on the right lines" and that he would look to implement the price hikes in 2012, meaning that current Year 12s would be the first to face the blow.

In the same BIS statement Minister for Universities David Willetts was quoted as saying "the current system of funding for higher education is no longer fit for purpose. Any new funding settlement must promote world class competitiveness in teaching and research, with better quality for students."

Lancaster students appear to hold opposing views. Jon Wilby, of Lonsdale College, said "I am sickened by the shameless way in which students are now unprotected from the money grabbing administrative side of universities. We are now essentially held to ransom by universities and the best and brightest kids from poorer backgrounds will be put off coming to the detriment of society in general."

However, Liam Shepherd of Bowland College disagreed. "I wouldn't mind paying more money for a better quality degree. I don't think it's fair that top flight universities are limited, despite offering so much more for your money. The idea that students can now dictate how much a uni should charge will hopefully result in a more competitive education system."

## THE BROWNE REVIEW IN A NUTSHELL

- No limit on tuition fees. At the moment they're capped at £3,290 per year. They could increase to £12,000.
- A 10% increase in the number of places universities can offer.
- Graduate loan interest rates would rise to the government's cost of borrowing (2.2%) on top of inflation.
- Graduates would begin to repay the cost of their fees when their earnings reach £21,000 instead of £15,000.
- The government would set an minimum entry requirement each year, effectively moving UCAS point standards to reflect demand for places and that year's available budget. Students with results beneath that requirement wouldn't be able to apply for financial support.
- Unpaid debt will take longer to be written off. At present it takes 25 years, proposed to be upped to 30 years.
- Part-time students would be allowed to pay fees when they graduate instead of up front as they do now.
- Universities wouldn't have a limit on the amount of students they could admit.
- The teaching grant given to universities would be cut by 80%, meaning with the proposed £6000 charged to each student teaching income would drop slightly. It would rise slightly if each student was charged £7,000.

Investigations: The impact of losing central provisions

# Shift of academic support to Faculties will hit postgrads hard

- Support courses set to cease after Christmas
- Central support reduced despite working group's call to retain

**Samantha Newsham**  
Investigations Editor

THE UNIVERSITY'S MOVE to shift academic support to Faculties continues with postgraduate training courses. Despite recommendations from those involved with research training, University Senior Management chose to devolve the responsibility to Faculties in July, six weeks after taking the decision to close the Student Learning Development Centre (SLDC).

Courses provided centrally by the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) will not continue after the end of Michaelmas term. Although a large part of research training, generally more subject-specific, has always been carried out by Faculties, for several years this has been supple-

## "Are we a university or are we three or four separate universities?"

mented by generic workshops and training days organised by Dr Louise Innes, the Research Training Manager.

Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor Geraint Johnes, said: "Because of its very generic nature, central provision has been very important. [...] It's also allowed researchers from different disciplinary areas to come into contact with each other."

From January 2011 all research training will be in the hands of the Faculties. Each Faculty has identified a named person to take responsibility for research training co-ordination, who will work alongside the Faculty Student Learning Advisor, a position devolved from the SLDC.

In 2002, a national review by Sir Gareth Roberts found that skills possessed by graduate students were not always skills required by employers. As a result, funding was provided to all UK universities to offer training to help students develop these skills, out of which grew Lancaster's centrally-provided courses. The funding is due to cease in 2011.

A working group was set up at the start of 2010 to consider the options in the light of funding coming to an end. It included Dr Innes, the four current Faculty Research Training Co-ordinators and a postgraduate representative, Mike Jenkins. In June, its report concluded that although there were areas where cuts could be made, some central provision should continue.

On July 19 Professor Bob McKinlay, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, gave a presentation to the University Management Advisory Group (UMAG), the University's senior management team, concerning the future of research training. Following this, UMAG decided to move all provision to the Faculties.

None of the working group members SCAN spoke to have been given any justification for a decision that was contrary to their recommendations. Prof McKinlay said: "Situating student learning support within the Faculties builds on the model of context-relevant support and will strengthen collaborative working between academic staff and the Student Learning Advisors. [It] focuses resources on the delivery of student learning support and offers savings in central services costs of administration and coordination."

The end of the Roberts money has coincided with a drive at Lancaster to embed academic support further into the Faculties. There is a feeling amongst some that postgraduates are more likely to engage with training that is directly applicable to their own research.

"Support in the centre potentially becomes detached from the day to day needs of the student," said Dr Paul Rodaway, Director of CELT. "It's very difficult to meet the variety of needs of students within a central service. Research training that's delivered within a context would appear to have most impact. By moving things down to the Faculty you put the decision making closer to where people have the knowledge about what kind of needs there are."

Dr Fiona Benson, Associate Dean for Teaching for the School of Health and Medicine (SHM), agreed, saying that to some extent "the evidence was in the numbers." In 2009-10 just 13% of training attended by SHM students was centrally provided.

The concern, however, is that with fewer opportunities for students to mix across disciplines each Faculty will become more separate.

"Are we a university or are we three [or] four separate universities?" said one staff member. "Students may not do the mixing they would before and I think that's a great loss."

One loss will be Thesis in Progress (TIP), a series of workshops designed to allow students to discuss non-subject specific PhD. There were three levels, relating to the different stages of the PhD. In 2009-2010, 324 students took a TIP workshop.

"It's a chance for students to meet each other and talk about the issues that



aren't subject-specific. One of the things about the PhD is it's such an individual process that there's always isolation involved," said Dr Innes.

TIP level one will run in Michaelmas Term 2010. Levels two and three have been discontinued, and it is expected that Faculties will assess the programmes and incorporate elements of them into their own provision.

"My aim would be to try and pick up as much as we can at the faculty level to minimise what is lost but that is obviously dependent on funding," said another member of staff. "However, with the loss of central provision comes a loss of expertise, knowledge and years

**324**  
students took the Thesis in Progress course in 2009-10

of experience which will be harder for the Faculties to replace."

Without a central organiser – Dr Innes' contract will not be continued past January – and with Faculties potentially running very similar courses the Faculty co-ordinators will liaise with each other to avoid duplication of content. "For this year I don't expect to see much change, which gives us effectively a planning year. We also have skills within the School that give us the potential for offering things that aren't currently part of the menu [and are] available for other Faculties to attend," said Dr Benson. "We really want to be sure that the top priority is looking after and ensuring success for vulnerable students."

"For many research students there shouldn't be a major impact, particularly if we're successful in ensuring that elements currently provided in the centre are available within the Faculty," added Dr Rodaway.

Photo: Jenn Tomomitsu

This photo was taken at the Exploring Pasts/Researching Futures workshop held July 12-13, organised by Louise Innes and Graduate College. 72 PhD students attended, 38 presented papers. The aim was to allow students to informally reflect on the research process, discuss difficulties and victories they experienced and learn about potential career options after graduation. It is not known if such an event will be able to take place again.

## The true costs

ASK ANY MEMBER of staff who's been involved in centrally provided research training what the effects of losing it are likely to be and the answers are always the same. Fewer opportunities to mix across Faculties. Course duplication. Decrease in completion rates. Decrease in student satisfaction.

Potentially one of the most concerning is completion rates. All full-time PhD students are expected to submit their thesis within four years regardless of how their study is funded. Research Councils, however, which fund many UK PhD students, have a threshold for the percentage of funded students who, having started a PhD, must have completed four years later. If universities do not meet this percentage, they can lose the opportunity to apply for future funding.

A few years ago, Lancaster met the Economic and Social Research Council's threshold by a dangerously slim margin. To help improve completion rates, CELT and Dr Innes created a Supported Writing course targeted specifically at finishing PhD students, a week-long workshop which allowed small groups of students to work on writing up their theses with members of CELT staff on hand at all

times for support.

"A lot of people have left here, they've written papers, they've written bits of chapters, they've managed to hand something in to the supervisor," explained Dr Innes. "It's sad that that may not continue. For the students who've come on it it's been life changing. You have to look at every student as someone who's worth investing your time in and not just a tick."

As yet it is unclear whether this course will continue in Faculties. With only three dedicated members of staff, the Faculty Student Learning Advisors, providing academic support, compared to the seven previously in the SLDC, staff worry that pressures of time will leave some students unsupported.

"I can't see how everybody can do everything, and something's going to give. I'm not certain that vulnerable and needy and at-risk students are going to be the ones who are prioritised. My immediate concern is that there will be students on campus in distress," said a former member of SLDC staff. "The positive side is that those who are still here are very dedicated and very motivated and will do whatever they can to make this journey a good one for students."

## Analysis

# The University needs to open its ears

**Samantha Newsham**  
Investigations Editor

The University has to start listening to the staff who know best



**I**t's being sold as a strategy, a way forward, an improvement. But it shows no one has listened to or considered seriously enough what it is that we do now. We're not going to be able to work better with faculties just by being physically located there. In many ways it compromises our ability."

This was the reaction of one former member of the Student Learning Development Centre staff to University senior management's decision to close the SLDC and move the responsibility for all academic student support to the faculties.

What this means is that from now on, there will be no central, open-to-all provision of support for students with learning difficulties, international students, students who just need a helping hand. You will have access to different kinds support depending on whether you are an arts, science or management student. Faculty staff will need to work hard to ensure that students in one discipline do not receive better support than students in another.

Over the summer, whilst decisions have been made and new plans have been drawn up, I have been investigating the issue of training courses for

PhD students. Like other support, this is now solely the responsibility of the faculties.

Every single person involved with central provision of support that I have spoken to has been worried about the effects of removing it. Some of the Faculty staff are worried. Groups of PhD students, led by the LUSU PGR representative Mike Jenkins, have called for more centrally-run courses. A working group including many of the people who deliver this support, set up to find ways of saving money, recommended some

**Every single person involved with central provision of support that I have spoken to has been worried about the effects of removing it. Some of the Faculty staff are worried. A working group set up to find ways of saving money, recommended some central provision remain.**

central provision remain.

The University did not listen to any of these people. On 19 July, a meeting of University senior management took the decision to close the training courses down.

They may have had their reasons for doing this. They may have been good ones. We don't know, because they won't tell anyone. Senior management involved in the decision refused to meet with SCAN to explain. They refused to answer our questions asking for justification, directing us instead to earlier statements regarding the decision to close the SLDC, which was taken at a previous meeting on June 1, saying that these statements addressed the issue "explicitly".

Many assume that it is simply an issue of saving money. In the current climate, this is not unreasonable. However, if budget cuts are to involve job losses and possibly thousands of students losing or receiving significantly different access to potentially life-changing support, we need to be given reasons.

Currently, the University's financial position is secure; a message to staff from the Vice-Chancellor reassures them that the draft accounts for the financial year 2009-10 show a surplus of 4.6%.

To assume that the University can retain this level of financial security over the next few years without severely tightening its belt is naïve; universities are facing significant cuts in Government funding and money needs to be saved somewhere. But some of the proposed cuts seem short sighted at best.

The University's reaction has concerned some members of staff. There is a feeling senior management do not appreciate the importance of support for students.

"What we don't have at this institution is a teaching and learning champion. It's not seen as important, which is why what happened to the SLDC happened," another staff member told me. "Other institutions are adding more. It feels like we don't have that kind of support at senior level."

For the last few years Lancaster has been building up links with overseas institutions and encouraging international students to study here or participate in exchange programmes. Indeed, the international agenda is one of the seven areas for development identified in the University Strategic Plan 2009-2015. Much of the SLDC's work was with international students, helping them integrate into life and study in Britain. Taking it away from them takes away a vital support structure.

As one person I questioned said to me: there's no point buying an expensive car and having no money for any petrol.

What's the worst thing about it all? I asked.

"The sense of not being understood. People are making decisions based on criteria that are alien to the work I do. They don't know what they're doing, they don't know the significance of what it is that they're losing. Or if they do know, they seem not to care."



*A satirical view of just what lies on the other side of the looking glass*

**The slippery slope to private security firms on campus**

**T**he Mirror hears that the University is now seeking to hire a bunch of bouncers, sorry, we mean a security firm to undertake the clamping on campus. This tender has been taken up we understand by a local firm, who were recently applauded in the TV series Dragons Den. Again it is rumoured that those running Security are quite taken with this team who controls 90% of the bouncing, sorry, security in Lancaster town centre. Does this mean that the powers that be wish to see both portering and security eventually taken over by these kinds of firms? Will we eventually see the likes of security firms wandering our campus, black bomber jackets and polished heads to boot? What has been a worrying development is that we hear those patrolling on the clamping have had the word 'security' clearly printed across their jackets, when in fact they are not the security professionals that work in the reception office.

Of course with an audit recently gone in on the future operation of security and portering, there is a fear

**Such a move to privatise the security sector on campus would send a very negative and worrying message to prospective students**

(one that has been there for some years now) that these kinds of firms might soon become an everyday reality. Other universities have gone down a similar path with the University of Wales taking on Carlisle Security in 2008 supporting existing staff.

One or two of these security firms have been set up by ex-students and may seem attractive to those institutions that wish to save money and deregulate their normal services, with minor duties being the first notch in a slippery slope to full private control. Of course this brings into context not just the issue of safety, but of approachability. Who would you rather approach over a problem or in a time of need? An experienced, friendly and vetted by the university porter/security officer, or a temporary, interchangeable, privately vetted bouncer?

Such a move to privatise the security sector on campus would send a very negative and worrying message to prospective students (and their parents), especially as Lancaster is desperately trying to reach the lofty heights of Oxbridgedom in the league tables; such antics would possibly back fire. Oxford and Cambridge have porters, I believe, not gorillas, I mean bouncers, oh bugger: private security.

## Interested in volunteering? Come to an intro talk in week 3 to find out more:

**SAFE: Mon. 6:15 - Bowland North SR 6  
PLACEMENTS: Tue. 6:15 - MNGT Sch LT 3  
SCHOOLS: Wed. 6:15 - Faraday LT  
VOLTAGE: Thur. 6:15 - Cavendish LT  
GREEN LANCASTER: Thur. 6:15 - Frankland LT**

**Or setting up a business?  
ENTERPRISE are having talks in weeks 1, 2 & 3:**

**Every Mon. 1:00 - Bowland North SR25**

**Every Mon. 6:15 - Bowland North SR15**

**To find out more about involve check out the below website or pop into one of our offices!**

# involve

[involve.lusu.co.uk](http://involve.lusu.co.uk)

LUSU

# central

LUSU

## purple® offers week 2



buy mince, sauce and spaghetti for only £4.50

ALL OFFERS OPEN TO PURPLECARD HOLDERS ONLY • T&Cs apply

[shop.lusu.co.uk](http://shop.lusu.co.uk)

# shop

LUSU

## purple® offers week 2



20% off all packs of paper

ALL OFFERS OPEN TO PURPLECARD HOLDERS ONLY • T&Cs apply

[shop.lusu.co.uk](http://shop.lusu.co.uk)

# I ❤ VODKA

## Your Official Student Night

2 X COCKTAILS	£6*
DBL VODKA RED BULL	£2.50
VK'S	£2
SIX SHOT STICK	£5
JÄGERBOMBS	£2

EVERY  
TUESDAY

FREE  
PIZZA

LAUNCH PARTY  
TUESDAY 12TH OCTOBER  
VODKA MISCHIEF

# REVOLUTION

Henry Street, Loughborough LE1 1SH • 01509 643801 | [loughboroughrevolution.co.uk](http://loughboroughrevolution.co.uk)

# Third years to be given at second chance at exams

**Emma Ashley**

THIRD YEAR STUDENTS look set to able to resit their final exams if they fail, allowing them the chance to gain a degree at the pass mark. Sitting exams again will mean students will receive their degree a year later than if they had passed the first time.

"The issue was first raised last term with new Undergrad Registration coming through which will mean a lot of changes including the way papers are marked, Academic Council also decided it was interested in resits" said, Robin Hughes, Lancaster University Students' Union Vice President (Academic).

Some students were concerned that resits meant you could retake to boost up your grade therefore revising disproportionately for one module and ignoring others on the basis of planning a resit. However this was just speculation; "You can't resit to get a higher grade," Hughes clarified.

Speaking to third year students their opinion on the change is generally positive. "If you've done well in coursework and modules but messed up in the exam then it is justified; but if you haven't turned up for lectures



Photo: Beggu Dreamstime

and have bad attendance you shouldn't be allowed to re-sit" argued Sarah Bordon, a third year English Language student.

Talking to students about the issue, this same points was raised frequently; that re-sits in principle were a good opportunity for those who have panicked in exams but over-all had a very good academic year. "How is it any different to resitting first or second years?" Bordon asked.

As for when the resits would be held Hughes said, "We're looking to have them happen about the same time as second year resits."

An interesting point that was raised was the matter of cost. "Assuming you have to pay for it it's not entirely fair on those who rely on government grants whereas others may easily be able to afford it," said Tom Graham, a third year student. On the pros of having resits Graham added: "If you had a death in the family that distracted you from your revision and exam then it would be a good chance to have another go as they don't always exclude you from exams."

It is still unclear as to whether there will be a cost for resits or not. It is however under discussion.

This proposal is just one of many being discussed as part of the new University Registry, which will mean many changes over the coming year. The proposal will be brought to Senate, the University's chief academic governing body, later on this term. "I can't see it not being passed," Hughes said.

If third year resits do become possible they will be implemented for both first years and students undertaking part two studies in 2011 alike.

# Lectures bring fees to the foreground



The Chancellor's Spending Review is set to have a massive impact on universities

Photo: The Prime Minister's Office

**Luka Vujicic**

AN AUTONOMOUS GROUP of post-graduate students and teaching assistants will be running a series of lectures during the Michaelmas and Lent terms aimed to provide a greater debate on the issue of government cuts to higher education.

The subject of the lectures is 'The University in Crisis?', and will call upon the verdicts from top academics on the financial issues that face Lancaster University. The recent government cuts on education will be on the lectures' main agenda, a policy which has resulted in the recent closures of certain university departments around the UK. Chris Witter, the creator of The University in Crisis? Facebook page, mentions closures such as the Middlesex University Philosophy Department as the demonstration of a "business-like" mentality over intellectual judgement and integrity... discontinued for undisclosed 'financial' reasons."

Unlike the student protests of November last year led by LUSU President Michael Payne - which opposed the proposal of a great increase of tuition fees - the movement isn't organised by any official student body.

Witter has outlined that "the reason we're running the lectures is to provoke greater debate on campus about the problems faced by Higher Education at the moment, and to begin to work towards answering the question: what is to be done?"

More specific issues which the lectures will address include those of students paying more for less; increasing pressure on staff for teaching, research and administrative duties; and greater

responsibilities faced by postgraduate teaching assistants who, as Witter wrote in his SCAN comment article, remain "grossly unpaid" 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 increasingly 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," continued Witter.

He further outlines the group's goal through the upcoming lectures as a way "to make links between the problems of Lancaster students and staff and the problems encountered by other students and academics nationally and internationally. Messages of solidarity, links, advice, communication, collaboration, invites and debate are more than welcome."

Bob Jessop, Maurine McNeil and Laurence Hemming are among the confirmed speakers. The lectures will continue with group discussions, an opportunity for students to express their views on the current fiscal/educational struggle which they find themselves at the forefront of.

With additional meetings being held, along with further SCAN comment pieces, 'The University in Crisis?' is a movement that offers participation in a number of mediums, as well as focusing on a dilemma which will permeate students' lives even after their university graduation.

Anyone who is interested in keeping updated on 'The University in Crisis?' can do so on the movement's Facebook group page.

## Dragons in LUMS

LUSU INVOLVE HAVE organised for reputable company FGH Security to give a talk for the Entrepreneurs Society. The talk will take place in the Management School on Tuesday, week 3 at 6pm. The security company who deal with electronic, manned and car park security were winners on popular BBC2 television programme, Dragons' Den.

Renowned 'Dragon' and businessman Peter Jones, known for his interests within the telecommunications, television, media and property sectors,

described the company as "the best pitch he had ever heard in the 'Den'". The Director of FGH Security, Peter Harrison who studied Management Science at Lancaster, will be conducting a presentation about his life, business and Dragons' Den experience. He will also be answering questions posed by students.

LUSU Involve have asked that students book online in order to gain a place at the talk, by visiting

<http://involve.lusu.co.uk/enterprise/>

**green**  
LANCASTER

# SPECIAL OFFER new bikes

**RRP: £219.99**

# only £150

## accessories pack £20

includes a helmet, lock, lights & pump



# early morning *night*rider



## Your ticket home at the weekend

Thanks to Stagecoach, you can enjoy a good night out in Lancaster without having to worry about getting home.

Our early morning service operates until 3.20am every Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning.

### Bus times from Lancaster Bus Station

Fri early morning	Sat early morning	Sun early morning	Fri early morning	Sat early morning	Sun early morning
0130	0130	0130	0108	0108	0108
0200	0200	0200	0152	0152	0152
0230	0230	0230	0222	0222	0222
0300	0300	0300	0252	0252	0252
			0320*	0320*	0320*

All times apply during term times only

\* Direct via Greaves Road

# rail connection



## *uni*link

### Your connection from the University, direct to Lancaster Rail Station

The X1 bus service runs between the Railway Station and the University every 20 minutes Monday - Saturday daytimes and hourly on Sundays.



### Bus times from Lancaster Rail Station

M-F	Sat	Sun	M-F	Sat	Sun
0815	0840	1310	0909	0909	1338
0840	0905	then	0929	0929	then
0905	0925	hourly	0949	0949	hourly
0925	then at	until	1009	1009	until
then at	45	2210	then at	then at	2238
45	05		29	29	
05	25		49	49	
25	until		09	09	
until	1425		until	until	
1425	1445		1509	1509	
1445	1510		1529	1534	
1505	1540		1609	1604	
1545	1610		1649	1634	
1625	1640		1709	1704	
1640	1710		1739	1734	
1710	1740		1809	1804	
1740					

All times apply during term times only

## Services to/from town

We run regular buses from the University - Services 2, 2A, X2, 3, 4 and X1.

Services 3 & 4 operate between the South West Campus and the Underpass, then onto town.

Services 2, 2A & 4, operate past the University of Cumbria.

Service X1 operates between the Underpass and Lancaster Rail Station.

## Where will U take your *Uni*rider?

The Lancaster Unirider is a bus ticket, which is only available for students and staff attending Lancaster University and St Martins College and offers unlimited bus travel on all our services in the Lancaster & Morecambe area.

### Doesn't cost U the earth!

You can buy your Unirider from either the Lancaster University Student Union Office, the Stagecoach Travel Shop on Lancaster Bus Station or purchase in advance online at [www.buymyunirider.com](http://www.buymyunirider.com)

To travel using your Unirider, you'll need to have a current University Library ID Card, as Unirider is only valid and accepted on board, when you show your Student ID.



## On dasher

ON NOVEMBER 25 Santa's Dash will be taking place in Lancaster city centre. The race takes place in order to raise money for the local charity CancerCare, a charity that offers free care to over 1500 people in the local area. CancerCare is dedicated to pro-

viding free of charge, supportive care people in Lancaster each year who are facing cancer, whether as patients, carers or family members.

The dash will set off at 6pm, and has been assigned specifically to this date, to coincide with the lighting of the tree in Market Square. The short, flat route from Salt Ayre Sports

Centre, along the traffic-free riverside path into the city is suitable for all ages and abilities and is fully accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs so anyone who cares to don a Santa suit.

To register for the Santa Dash and Reindeer run, log on to [www.thesantadash.org.uk](http://www.thesantadash.org.uk).

## Award winning human rights campaign to hold this years' Peace Lecture

THE MANAGEMENT SCHOOL will be hosting a number of public lectures by international academics in the second week of term. On Monday Professor Alison Mountz held a lecture on 'Ontologies of exclusion: Islands as detention archipelago'.

In addition, on Thursday Week Two, award winning human rights campaigner Professor Linda Briskman from Curtin University, Australia will be conducting a lecture in Franklin lecture theatre in the Faraday building.

The lecture will be taking place between 6-7:30pm. Prof. Briskman will be delivering this year's 2010 Richardson Institute Annual Peace Lecture, having gained a distinguished career researching asylum seekers, refugees and aboriginal rights.

The lecture is set up annually by the Richardson Institute, part of the Politics, Philosophy and Religious Studies department at Lancaster, and aims to highlight the important theme in peace and conflict studies. The lecture is free and all are welcome.

## Students' Union aims to develop international links with series of events

THE STUDENTS' UNION is planning a series of events aimed at developing links with international students on campus. It is hoping to promote more communication between home and international students and the Students' Union.

The first upcoming event is an evening called Hollywood to Bollywood, a movie themed evening with film soundtracks and that opportunity to dress as film characters. The evening is being held on Friday, November 12 at Fylde

The second event is Language Exchange, a project aimed at encouraging sharing customs and language

with international students while learning about their international roots. It is being organised so that students from both home and away can gain communications skills.

LUSU is looking for students to volunteer to help organise and run the events. The program is being promoted as an opportunity for students to gain skills in planning and organisation as well as gaining first hand proficiency and experience event creation, marketing and promotion. Any students who are interested in volunteering for these events are encouraged to contact Olive Suvia email at [r.su@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:r.su@lancaster.ac.uk)

**DEEP DOWN DISCO**  
GET DOWN AND BOOGIE

**LOVE TRAIN**  
EVERY MONDAY  
3 VENUE STUDENT PUB CRAWL

**Hustle**

**Doll Rooms**

**FREE ENTRY WITH TICKET £1 WITHOUT**

**OFFICIAL Student Night**

**FREE ENTRY WITH TICKET OR £1 WITHOUT**

**DOLL ROOMS**

**LOVE TRAIN. DEEP DOWN DISCO**

**3 Bottles for £5**

**iRock**

**Live Bands - Early Doors**  
**Best Indie Night in town**

**Hustle**

**DON'T MISS... £1 Cocktails**

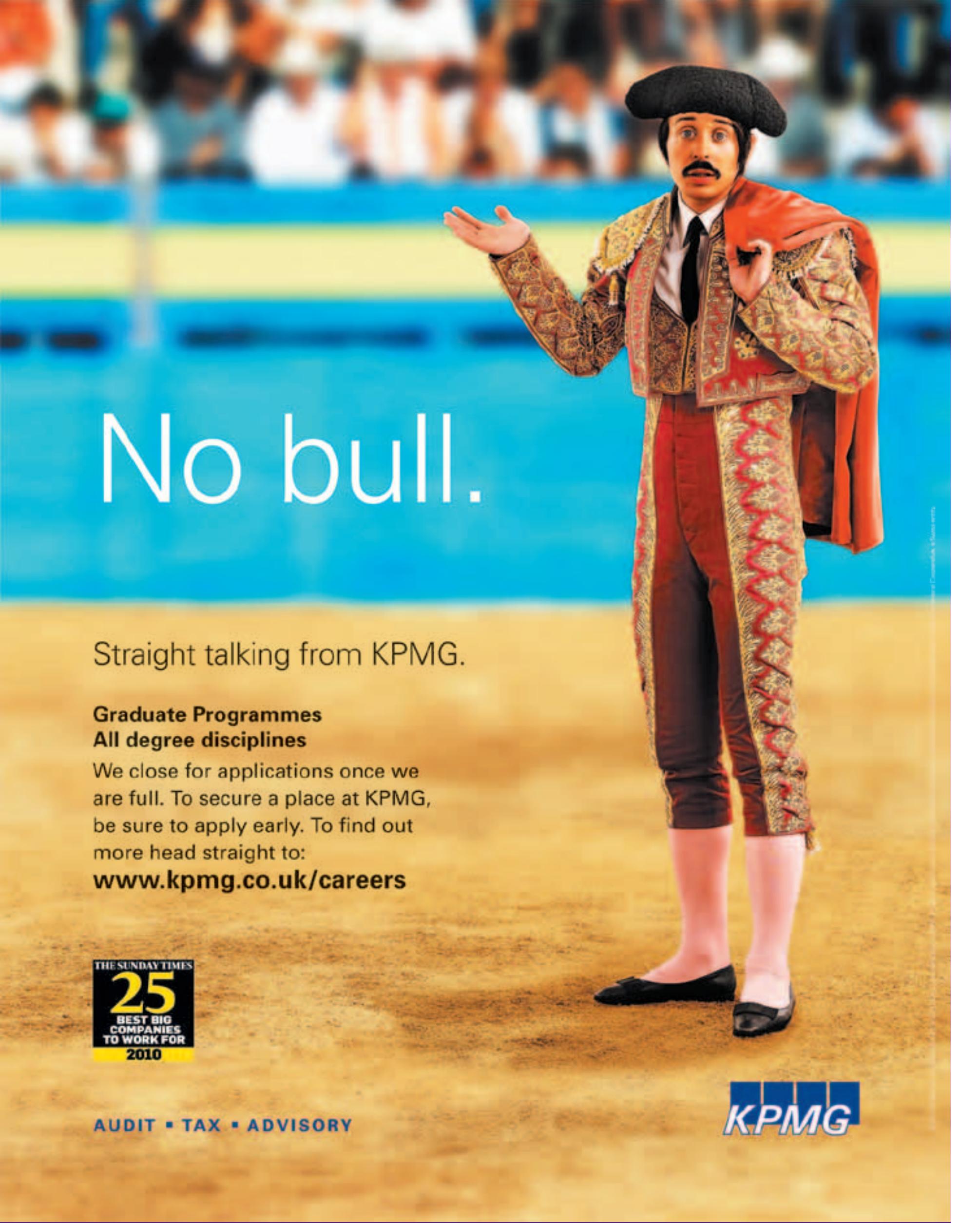
**OFFICIAL Student Night**

**FREE ENTRY WITH TICKET OR £1 WITHOUT**

**Lounge Cocktails**

**LOVE TRAIN. DEEP DOWN DISCO**

**3 Bottles for £5**



# No bull.

Straight talking from KPMG.

**Graduate Programmes**

**All degree disciplines**

We close for applications once we are full. To secure a place at KPMG, be sure to apply early. To find out more head straight to:

**[www.kpmg.co.uk/careers](http://www.kpmg.co.uk/careers)**



AUDIT ■ TAX ■ ADVISORY

**KPMG**

# scan:COMMENT

## Browne's review is unwelcome but by no means a surprise

Although there are a smattering of good points in the Higher Education review, the bad far outweighs the good

**Robbie Pickles**  
LUSU President



There's an old adage that no news is good news, and when it comes to the future of Higher Education this sadly seems to be consistently the case. The Browne Review emerged through a murky swamp of rumour and suspicion last week to show the world that, once again, the future of universities will rely on ever higher student contributions for what this time looks to be a reduced, not increased, level of service.

I can hardly say I'm surprised. Lord Browne, appointed to conduct an independent review, has clearly caved to two dominating factors. The mood of the current government to cut thick and fast in order to accelerate deficit reduction is evident in every page of the Review, despite it being commissioned under the previous administration. If the recommendations proposed are implemented, government funding will be slashed by as much as 80%, with support for the arts and humanities dropped altogether. Only so-called priority subjects, such as science and engineering, will continue to receive a tax-funded grant and even they will see a hefty cut. Secondly, Browne has relied heavily on the opinions and reports of Vice Chancellors over the heads of other interest groups and third parties. The graduate tax, proposed by the National Union of Students and backed by new Labour leader Ed Miliband, is ruled out completely based on invented statistics and student views are dismissed out of hand.

The result: fees to rise to an average of £7,000 or more a year and a real rate interest of roughly 2.5% to be introduced on loans- and yes, that's our loans too. Don't think that starting university before the Review will be enough to help you escape this latest attempt to raid students' bank accounts to plug the gap left by government withdrawal from the sector. Last time fees rose in 2006, many current students sat back smugly on their laurels, content that they at least had escaped the latest bout of fees; I suspect this mentality will be different now that all students fail to escape this latest rise.

But the hardest pill to swallow will be this: despite fees increasing



Lord Browne's review will affect both new students and current students

by 200%, we and future students can expect to get nothing extra for our money. Rather than being able to expect improved quality of teaching and better standards of facilities, as happened after the last tuition fees rise, the return for our extra three grand will be exactly zilch. With cuts to the higher education budget coming in at £4.2bn, our extra money will be required simply to maintain the standard which is available at present. And whatever reports such as the National Student Survey may tell us, clearly students are not fully satisfied at present. Many of you will already be asking yourselves whether you are even receiving value for money at present; with fees jumping up, I wonder how many of you would feel you were receiving a £7,000 treatment?

Whilst Browne is content to cast his shadow over the 'sexy' issue of undergraduate funding, postgraduate students, and Masters students in particu-

lar, have received short shrift. Browne cleverly ducks the issue of research funding altogether by suggesting it is outside the scope of his Review when clearly it is not. The Review's title, Securing a Sustainable Future for Higher Education, hardly suggests that it should explore undergraduates exclusively. When cuts come to government research grants in the near future, the impact this will have on PhD courses remains unclear but I can only imagine it will be disastrous.

Masters students, however, are given a modicum of attention, although the results are far from satisfactory. Upfront costs of up to £10,000 with no support available are backed by Lord Browne to continue indefinitely. Evidence that poorer students are put off by this, and that rich students are at an advantage, are brushed off by Browne who, with shocking conceit, concludes that figures suggesting there is a much higher take up rate by

privately educated students is simply because the private school mentality drives them on to achieve more!

It is possible I am being a little unfair to Browne. The Review is not all doom and gloom. With such a wide scope it was almost inevitable that it had to confer some benefits. The decision to treat part time learners the same as their full time counterparts, with tuition fee payback deferred until work begins unlike the upfront fees currently requested is welcome. As is the decision to raise the pay back cap from £15,000 to £21,000, allowing those on low starting salaries a brief tax holiday. However, even this move cannot escape criticism. Increased

**'Rather than being able to expect improved quality of teaching and better standards of facilities, as happened after the last tuition fees rise, the return for our extra three grand will be exactly zilch.'**

interest rates mean that whilst graduates can wait longer before they start paying, their debt will be rising throughout the whole period, extending the length of time they are required to pay back. This progressive move, therefore, quickly turns sour when placed in the wider context.

The most impact this review could have, however, comes in universities' treatment of the student experience. Competing for uncapped student numbers and ever hoping to raise their asking price, institutional ability to appeal to the masses will need to increase. However, with cuts to key student services already coming and no extra funding plugging the gap, Vice Chancellors will struggle to set their priorities and, in reality, the student satisfaction ratings are likely to remain stationary or plummet as students will expect more bang for their buck.

For now, this all remains as speculation. The Coalition government has a long road ahead and, with Liberal Democrats pledged to opposing any rise in tuition fees, the road is likely to be a rocky one. I, along with many students, will be avidly watching and hopefully shaping developments over the next few weeks as the drama unfolds and I urge you all to do the same.

I don't have a problem with David Cameron's policies but with his shiny red face.

**Lucy Searles**

**I**t may sound shallow, but everything that is wrong with the Conservative Party is represented in David Cameron's face. Putting aside and ignoring for now the policies, the broken promises and the manifestos, I find myself disliking the Conservative Party more than the power hungry Liberals and the increasingly right wing Labour Party purely for the reason that their leader, David Cameron, physically disgusts me.

I haven't been able to fully put my finger on the reason either, for my utter revulsion I experience when his face is forced upon me several times a day by the wonderful British media. One possibility could be that during the election campaign that airbrushed, shiny face was plastered everywhere, all over the television, all over the town: not one of us could get away from that smug and frankly quite scary portrait no matter where we went.

And now he is Prime Minister it's even worse, and his face is looking increasingly smugger day by day. It's barely human now, particularly when he's trying to fake sincerity as he meets single mums and the unemployed masses living on council estates across the country and pretends to care about their problems.

In interviews and in speeches he comes off as being slimy as well, like if he weren't in the public eye he would be cheating on his wife and hanging out in seedy clubs and bars.

To some people of course the youthfulness of David Cameron was a huge pull in electing him as Prime Minister. Someone new, someone hip but for me that slight schoolboy chubbiness to the cheeks just reminds you that he was a posh public school boy born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

The main issue isn't even that he is posh and that he oozes money from every pore of his body. There are plenty of other people that do that and I don't have a problem with them. Nick Clegg after all is just as posh and almost as airbrushed, yet I don't feel the same intense disgust for him as I feel when I see Cameron simpering over his wife on the television. It's simply that he tries to hard to pretend that he is actually a normal person just like the rest of us, that he's cool and that he likes all the same things as we do. He's down with kids. He's hugging hoodies all over the country. It's enough to want to make you throw up all over his Marks and Spencer suit. But of course, you should never judge a book by its cover. Unless the cover of that book reads: "I'm a massive twat".

## COMMENT

# Footballers are at the heart of many people's passions so why do they insist on disgracing the beautiful game?

**Will McDonagh**



The likes of Rooney and Terry have to understand the responsibility that comes with being adored.

**A**n idol, a role model, a hero to many. Footballers have undoubtedly shocked many of us recently following various publications of their private lives which the media have been only too happy to exploit. In recent years scandal has somewhat overtaken the symbol of Premier League footballers, recent casualties of course being John Terry, Peter Crouch and of course Wayne Rooney. For the first of these three, when his affair with his own teammates ex-girlfriend was broadcast, just under a week later Fabio Capello decided to demote Terry from his role as Captain of the England team. But is this right? Should one's personal life, albeit morally questionable, affect his professional career? Well when you're being paid such ridiculous sums of money, and are being heralded gods by many, I think one cannot be looked at without the other.

The role of the footballer within society has transformed over the past decades. Long gone are the days where the sport was played as a passion, a calling. The player was proud and honoured to play the beautiful game, a sport adored so much by so many. These days the game itself is merely a small fragment of the football career. Celebrities in their own right, players are now propelled into the public domain. Money is, in my opinion, ludicrously proportioned to footballers in today's society, being itself more appealing than playing the game itself. No longer are people wishing to play the game they love for the sport itself, they are now looking for the fame and fortune that goes hand-in-hand with the career.

My greatest hate about this though



Children idolise footballers, but is it earned? (Photo: Ray Flickrmember)

is that everywhere across the country there are children and fans that look to these players with admiration. They are idols, resting on the bedroom walls of school boys all across the country, coming to life via a game of Fifa among friends, argued about in the playground and in pubs, their honour defended by children who quite frankly are too young and innocent to understand the difference between what a

player does on the pitch to what the does behind closed doors. Would they really be so proud then, if it was their own father who was acting in such selfish and deceitful ways?

If your local plumber was embroiled within some of the scandalous affairs that are rife between some of the high profile football players, if he paid someone else thousands of pounds for sex ignoring his pregnant

## Are there too many undergrads?

**Jen Day**

Undergrad degrees are fast becoming common currency, not the prestigious documents they once were

**B**ack in 1997 when the Labour party came to power their message was clear; Education, education, education. With this in mind the government set the target that 50% of people under 30 should be in some form of higher education by 2007. But after the recent scramble for university places which has left thousands of applicants without a university place isn't it time we began thinking about the value of going to university rather than just seeing it as the next step in life?

This year saw applications for university places increase yet again to a record breaking 660,000. Many though have been left in the dark having to rely on the stomach churning clearing process to gain a place in higher education. After dealing with the initial disappointment of not getting into their chosen university, students are forced to make split second decisions. Unable to think straight, individuals know that if they don't make a decision quickly then they, rather than embarking student life, may have to spend another year at home.

In this frame of mind many clearing students are finding themselves at less desirable universities and without accommodation because they are so desperate to leave home. Students

are sacrificing the quality and location of an academic institution for the impulsive desire of being swept up in the whirlwind of drinking, partying and the freedom that comes with university life.

Is this really what university is about? Young people should go to university to better themselves or because they want to continue their education, not to spend three years getting smashed.

There needs to be more options. University should not be the only option thrust upon students who have worked hard to gain A Levels or diplomas. While more vocational options are being explored by the government and future employers not enough of this initiative is being translated back to students.

For so many people university is not the right place. Not everyone fits into the same neat little box. Individuals are individual and need to be treated thus.

Even so young people are under pressure from their family or school to move onto university, or they simply don't know what their next step should be. They are directed into the umbrella of higher education as a beacon that will lead them into a successful career.

From my experiences in sixth form if you were planning on going to uni-



versity then great. Teachers would look over your personal statements, trips would be arranged to various different universities and finance evenings were put on for your parents.

However, for those who were choosing other routes the school was useless. I saw friends who were planning to do art foundation courses struggle to compile their portfolio and prepare for interviews without any support. Options of entrepreneurship, learning on the jobs and going travelling were never discussed.

It is not always recognised that

wife, to be honest, you wouldn't really care as long as he got the job done. This cannot be the case for this career though.

As I've debated, John Terry, as Captain of the England Team, was at the heart of Britain's flagship football team. Upon the decision to demote Terry the Sports Minister Gerry Sutcliffe discussed the wider implications of the Captain's role, saying "On the field John Terry is a fantastic player and a good England captain. But to be the captain of England you have got to have wider responsibilities for the country". This is the strength of my argument.

But how Bridges could be expected to continue to be lead by Terry following the growing allegations is questionable. Even though I find it extreme to remove Terry's captaincy and do not wholly agree with it, I understand completely that something had to be done. Although seemingly extreme, an England Captain can never get off as lightly as our local plumber.

Pride and Honour are qualities most of us would be overwhelmed to receive on a day-to-day basis, yet most of us never grasp how it feels to be looked on as such. Yet the Wayne Rooney's and John Terry's of this world are ordained with these gifts for simply playing a game that they love, yet ignoring the fact that they are at the heart of many people's passions all across the country. Maybe if they came to appreciate fully the honour they have undeservedly been granted across the country they would be more grateful for their positions, and maybe the countless schoolyard debates up and down the country will not be meaningless.

for some learning alongside full time work is a quicker and more financially viable option. University is a long term investment, but in the tough economic climate having one foot on the ladder by working your way up through a company can be just as beneficial.

With the surge in applications and an increasing number of undergraduates degrees are becoming undervalued. They are seen as common currency rather than the prestigious documents they once were.

Ex-polytechnics who offer courses in Knitwear or Wine Studies seem to be giving out degrees where in the past such studies would be considered under a more vocational branch. Should we not return to the system where degrees are awarded for academic achievements only and regain their value, rather than been seen as something that everyone can achieve?

Degrees are meant to make you stand out and be noticed, not become part of the collective. The idea of 50% of under 30s going to into higher education seems absurd.

Is there a point in having a qualification that is achievable by so many that it no longer stands out? A degree should work for you in the same way that you work for your degree. It should not leave thousands of graduates unemployed.

## The Crisis in Higher Education

# In the face of unparalleled cuts education for its own sake is no longer a justification, it's an excuse

**Chris Witter**

In the second of his series on the crisis in Higher Education, Chris Witter questions the logic of austerity

**I**n this deeply conservative moment, it appears the nation has divided itself into two camps around the issue of austerity: those who demand deep and decisive cuts, and those who demand moderation and protection for the poor. Both camps employ a discourse of fairness, responsibility, and restraint. But, as we have seen with the ConDem cuts to welfare, fairness means different things in different hands. Some would suggest that it is fair to reduce welfare so that "it's always worth going to work". Very few suggest the glaringly obvious: that it would be more fair to raise wages. At present, certain options have been deliberately excluded: to suggest our artificially low wages should be raised is to question neoliberal economic orthodoxy, and to go against the grain of austerity's logic. What is overwhelming at the moment, what makes it so oppressive, is that the logic of austerity is parroted by every mouth.

A generalisation, you might think. Turn on the television or the radio – read a newspaper. Read the emails circulated around your department, with joking (and not-so-joking) references to the need to cutback on spending in this age of austerity. The role of the BBC (and other media) in producing and reproducing ideology becomes clear when we note the way that the need for austerity is presumed, has become an unquestioned fact. To quote the slogans of David Cameron: all that is left to us is to choose where to make those cuts. Labour says here; the Tories say there; the Liberal Democrats sit in the middle and lie through their teeth. Essentially, there is no difference between them.

What becomes clear is that, if the only choice we have is where cuts



What price are we willing to put on an education?

will be made, universities will not escape cuts unscathed. In fact, they will not escape without being brutally mauled (who doesn't tremble at news of former BP chief executive, Lord Browne's report?). If we accept the logic of austerity we doom ourselves.

Around the country many are finding themselves made redundant, or unable to pay their rent, or their mortgages. Pensions, benefits, working loads and hours are everywhere being manipulated to favour business under the cover of austerity. In this con-

text no amount of whining (for this is how it is seen) about the problems of higher education will register – particularly if our rationale is that education is valuable in itself, or that education must remain open to all. For we must face the fact that, under the current system, education is not open to all. There is no doubt that higher education has remained a privilege. Moreover, there is a contradiction many refuse to acknowledge: we (especially in the arts and social sciences) continue to defend the worth of education

it itself, and yet we have accepted into our midst an increased instrumentality and increased bureaucracy. Indeed, the romantic notion of education being

**'What becomes clear is that, if the only choice we have is where cuts will be made, universities will not escape without being brutally mauled'**

worthwhile in itself has become worse than a shallow lie: it has become an apology for the status quo in the face of a system where nothing may be conceived any more which does not cheerfully include instructions as to who its beneficiaries are.

We should not be satisfied, then, with either camp. When our union leaders call for more moderate cuts and a graduate tax their calls ring false, for, on the one hand, it is clear that we cannot accept the logic of austerity and expect that the beleaguered lower and middle classes will fund our privilege. On the other, because its is utterly defeatist to accept the inequities of our current system

Fortunately, another course becomes clear: reject austerity and the status quo. If we step outside the box of neoliberal orthodoxy, we immediately see that the two are not mutually exclusive but in fact complimentary. For the project of building a more equitable and egalitarian society could very well also prove to be a solution to the problem of the debt crisis and of capitalism itself. It is with this understanding that we must reach beyond the university, beyond the partial cause, and establish solidarity between all those who struggle against the brutally irrational ideology of austerity.

# How the Conservatives are killing our culture

**Emily Robertson**  
Comment Editor

Cuts to humanities will damage British heritage, not just students

**O**utraged is probably the only word that could be used to describe my current state of mind. The only word to describe my current state of mind as I discover that not only does the government wish to bump up our tuition fees to a colossal £10,000 a year but that they are also simultaneously cutting funding to the faculty I care most dearly about, humanities.

I am an English Literature student who also studied History and Philosophy in my first year, so my whole academic life has been fully submerged in the humanities department. Are the government now saying that everything that I learnt, all the work I put in was pointless; the lectures and tutors I was taught by and respected are of no worth to our country as a whole? How demoralising and frankly offensive to not only me but also a large majority of students in the UK.

Cuts need to be made somewhere

and the government find it all too easy to pick on the arts. Arts and humanities aren't crucial to day-to-day survival in the same way that a roof over our heads and food on the table is. The government's argument is that those who study maths or science based subjects are more employable in the current climate and give more back to the country and its economy.

However I say that the humanities, besides being a vital element of our culture, also gives students of the subject the key skills which they can then apply to scientific or business industries. Although your vast knowledge of Shakespeare's sonnets will never be applicable to anything more than looking clever at a dinner party or for winning the pub quiz, the way in which you were taught to analyse, break down and research the poem and poet can be taken and applied to any industry or subject matter. In a recent debate Lord Mandelson almost mirrored

my words saying that he "would be very disappointed if people saw it in that way. There is public value in every subject and academic discipline provided by universities. They are there to provide us with both civilization and competitiveness. So I ask why, when many people are opposed to the cuts, are humanities being targeted and not the sciences? I thought the cuts were supposed to be fair, but as far as I can see creating 10% more places in the science and math departments and then proposing £600m worth of cuts to be made before 2013 in humanities, it is completely the opposite. The future is not looking bright for our culture."

Cuts have already begun in some universities, such as the 35% cut to funding for the University of Arts in London and outside of university cuts have devastated the world of British cinema with many predicting that the independent British film industry will be dead or nearly nonexistent within a few short years.

I am not alone in thinking this, I'm sure students across the country are outraged. Many have already protested against the cuts and closures within their departments. Fighting on the same team are numerous arts institutions and academics nationwide, a number of them wrote a letter opposing the cuts that was subsequently published in the Observer. They stress the importance of humanities as a key aspect of British life, our intellectual history and the impression of Britain given to the rest of the world. "Even in narrow economic terms it must be wrong to neglect the importance of the creative economy and the importance of a rich and vibrant museums, galleries and cultural sector for tourism." These are the words of those in the know, the experts in their field, so why is the government ignoring their suggestion that major cuts to humanities funding could seriously damaging the county, our culture and our history?

## Where's the customer service?

**THE FACT THAT Lord Browne's review was going to recommend a rise in tuition fees has been one of the worst kept secrets in politics. The ill-fated graduate tax was a nice idea, but it was doomed from the start. The BBC ran it as a student tax, completely missing the point and losing the public. The Government was quite simply never going to buy into it.**

And so we arrived at the point last Tuesday when, instead of a tax funded system which would have brought higher education back into the public realm, we face a free market. Without waving the red flag too much, if things continue as they are now it cannot be a good thing.

The first rule of a market economy is competition: if you provide a better service than your competitor at a better price then you are almost guaranteed to succeed. If you provide a lesser service for a higher cost then you are in trouble. Across the country, if Browne's recommendations are taken up, we will see universities like Oxbridge charging high prices but for a degree which is worth its weight in gold. Universities like Cumbria will either fail outright, or start to fill the Pri-mark/Ryan Air role: affordable but not where you would choose to shop if you had the choice.

Where then does this leave universities like Lancaster? Slightly above the high street rate, but no Armani by any means. Our university is going to have to think long and hard about where it wants to position itself on the fees scale, and what service it is going to provide for however much money students will be coughing up every year. We may be a top ten university, but that recognition hasn't translated to the mainstream yet. And a top ten spot is very reliant upon student satisfaction, something which will be harder to come by if students feel they are paying more and getting less. In terms of teaching this may be relatively out of the University's hands: cuts to the higher education budget by the government will affect Lancaster. But there are other simple things which, if student are to become just well read customers, they should be able to expect.

A consistent level of service is one. If two students are paying the same amount, but one has ten more teaching hours a week than the other, than the student getting less for the money is allowed to feel aggrieved. Customer support is another: for the amounts proposed students will expect more than just lectures and seminars. They will expect extra academic and pastoral support, and at times that suit them, not the service provider. A higher level of customer respect will also be necessary. If a Virgin trains customer misses their train, having paid for their ticket, that is their choice. If a Lancaster University customer misses their seminar, having paid their fee for it, that is also their choice, and they won't take kindly to their service provider disciplining them for it.

Customers are very different to students and universities need to learn that, fast.

\*Terms & Conditions apply

F R I D A Y  
**Fury**  
WK2

Collect a WRISTBAND from each college bar and get £1 OFF entry to the sugarhouse with each one!\*

THIS EVENT IS IN SUPPORT OF LUSU

**the sugarhouse**  
www.thesugarhouse.co.uk

LUSU

## Letters to the Editor

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



### Noisy freshers

Sorry to start the new term on a whine, but I have a suggestion to make to the Freshers' Reps. This week is designed to welcome new students, to let them have fun and learn where everything is- fine. But I don't see why there is a double standard at work here. In the same day that many freshers will read their welcome booklet instructing them to keep quiet after 11pm, they are led through campus AFTER this time, through residential zones, shouting, singing, whistling and so on. Fair play - it's all honest fun - but how can we expect people to conform to the study rules when they've been shown in their first hours exactly how to break them?

Sincerely,  
*Grumpy: the seventh grinch.*

### Counselling chaos

I was reading the article on the Student Learning Development Centre cuts/shake up, and have recently noticed the removal of the

counselling service from Furness to University House. What was once a private service where many counsellors were available and working each day is now a hectic mess of a service shoe-horned into the glass box of the Hub. I'm not necessarily saying mental illness should be swept under the rug, but at least a minimum level of confidentiality and dignity should be allowed.

If you do want counselling this year, expect to sign-in in a crowded and disorganised hubbub of staff and students, sit in an exposed waiting room and then get frog-marched around University House, past the queues for the cashiers before finally you get afforded some privacy. We might aswell issue these poor students with t-shirts proclaiming "mentally ill person, coming through".

Mr. Chris P.

### Reps were superb

On behalf on the 520 Lonsdale wreschers who joined our University

a fortnight ago, and the thousands of other freshers who are now settling into Lancaster University, may I thank every single Kitchen/Fresher Rep who did such a superb job over a long and difficult week. In the last edition of SCAN, it was suggested that Kitchen Reps are CV hunters and irresponsible. I couldn't disagree more, and neither could the SCR of Lonsdale, who commented on what a superb group of Kitchen Reps they were this year. Reps are essential to Freshers' Week and they will be for a very long time to come.

Matthew Power  
Lonsdale Co-President

### Corrections

- The name Sylvia Eddie should have read Sylvia Brennan. ('Nurse Unit closure', October 2, page 6).
- SCAN's policy is to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please contact the Editor with the date, page or weblink.*

want to be on this advert?

old's cool  
it's a retro-haven

just tell us why it should be you!

(big points for bi-lingual/educational/proper cute entries & for pure comedy genius)

email: [k.parsons@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:k.parsons@lancaster.ac.uk)

**the sugarhouse**  
www.thesugarhouse.co.uk

LUSU

# purple<sup>®</sup>

## WEDNESDAY

**Purple Wednesday is back,  
bigger and better than ever!**

With firebreathers, stilt walkers and dance acts alongside a range of fantastic, exclusive discounts – **Lancaster will be awash with a sea of Purple!**

- Buy one get one free offers
- Amazing competition prizes (yes, another 42" TV is available to be won!)
- Exclusive discounts
- FREE buses into town from 10am – 2pm
- FREE buses back from town between 1pm and 5pm

**Want to be on Match of the Day?** Be in Market Square (outside HMV and the museum) at 2pm, kazoos will be provided.... Get Involved!

Are you Purple yet? Don't worry, if you haven't got your Purple card yet it's not too late! **Simply go to [lusu.co.uk/purple](http://lusu.co.uk/purple) to get yours!**

# SPORTS

**We must never be scared of success, and we will achieve a lot**

**Marc Handley**  
LUSU Vice President (Sports)

From that very first day of my year in office, one of the main things to look forward to and work towards was Intro Week, and thankfully now I can say that Intro Week 2010 was a resounding success. It was without doubt one of the toughest but rewarding weeks of work I have ever done, no one likes having to pull 17 hour shifts at the best of times but this week it was definitely worth it. One of the great things about Intro Week is the Freshers' Fair where all clubs and societies can talk to some of their prospective new members and try to have them sign up to their activity whatever it may be. This year though, due to the extremely high levels of intake at the University,

**"All the clubs I spoke to on the day informed me that their number of sign ups had gone through the roof. This is testament to the fact that the sport at Lancaster"**

all the clubs I spoke to on the day informed me that their number of sign ups had gone through the roof. This is testament to the fact that the sport at Lancaster is beginning to excel itself and push through the long established and somewhat self imposed limits that we have placed on it. The only issue with this massive level of interest however is making sure that enough people get enough playing or training time for their cash, and that is something that myself and the clubs execs will be working on. It is all well and good for the University to open its doors to many more people than usual, but it will no doubt have something to say if the facilities which our clubs use are being pushed to their very limit due to so many people taking part in activities.

This successful intake however has filtered down to the college level too with many teams indicating that they have not just a high number of players, but good quality ones too. I cannot wait to see just how the college leagues turn out this year, but they seem to be anyone's to win, and that's exactly how it should be.

We must never be scared of success, and this year I think we will achieve a heck of a lot - not just on a team basis, but as a collective. Sport is definitely heading in the right direction, let's just make sure it goes precisely where we want it to.



## Team Spotlight

# Lacrosse Club



### **Erin Royle**

THE UNIVERSITY OF Lancaster Lacrosse Club is a diverse and extremely fun club to be a part of. It consists of three teams – Women's, Mixed and Men's, all with varying rules so there is definitely something for everyone. If you've never heard of lacrosse - it's a game played on a large rectangular pitch - the object of the game is to score goals with a rubber ball which is passed using a stick with a triangular pocket or basket at the end.

The basics are as follows: a lacrosse team has 10 players: three attack men (or women), three midfielders, three defence men (or women), and one goalkeeper. It looks a lot like hockey, but also has a lot in common with basketball. The offensive side of the

game involves a lot of fast breaks and picks, or interceptions, and the defensive side of the game can be compared to football with zonal or person on person marking. Although this all sounds daunting, everyone at the club is massively patient and will help teach you the basics, which are surprisingly easy to learn.

If you are wary of the idea of contact sports you can play mixed, but if you start feeling a little more adventurous you can move on the Women's or Men's which involve more complex rules about what you can and can't do on the pitch.

Training takes place on the astro-turf pitches and will help you master and polish your game skills. For beginners, training will help you with techniques needed to be good enough to manage in a game – these range

from basic passing and catching to movement when you haven't got the ball and reading play to get ahead of your opponent.

The team is generally split evenly between people who played before university and people who hadn't. Those who have played before are always willing to offer tips and advice so you're constantly improving your game and after a few training sessions you will start to enjoy yourself and will have made new friends. To make all this even better, the club has been kitted out with brand new equipment this year, so there is a strong feeling of potential around the club this year. The Lacrosse club performed above expectations last year and is definitely beginning to establish itself.

The club has three teams, but the socials that take place usually involve

the whole club so you will get to know everybody involved. This inevitably leads to a great team bond and you'll end up supporting each other week in week out.

Training this term will take place between 4–6pm on Tuesdays and Mixed Training will take place between 3.30–5pm on Thursdays. The team will meet outside the sports centre around 10 minutes before training starts so everybody can wander down together.

The Lacrosse club are more than happy to answer any questions you might have on Facebook, or head down to a training session and speak to a member of the exec.

**IF YOU WANT TO BE SCAN'S TEAM IN THE SPOTLIGHT CONTACT THE SPORTS EDITORS AT SCAN.SPORTS@LUSU.CO.UK**

**Sport Distort: Matthew Linnett gives his alternative view on sports**

# Befuddled Scousers unleash distressed cry

Liverpool fans today gathered outside Anfield to exhibit their disgust over the current circumstances at the Merseyside club. Donning their famous red shirts, the Scouse faithful sung loudly to the assembled press and club officials: "What do we want? We're not quite sure. When do we want it? Sometime in the near future, maybe?"

Sport Distort reporters were on the scene to get first hand reports from the disgruntled fans. "This is a protest with a very specific aim, like," said one fan sporting an orange shell suit. "We're fed up of how the people at the top of this club have sent us plummeting from one of the best teams in Europe to lowly Europa League contenders," before

another went on to say: "I thought we were protesting Roy Hodgson's appointment as manager? This club is too big for the likes of Roy." A third protestor added: "I think the Pope's views on contraception are wholly wrong and we need to stand up and oppose this evil tyrant."

Liverpool players have faced a strict gagging order from the club. However, Sport Distort was able to get a brief comment from club captain Steven Gerrard as he left Melwood, the team's training ground. He said: "At the end of the day what the fans say is at the end of the day so at the end of the day the day will have ended... like." While Steven's words may serve as inspiration for many of the Liverpool faithful, it

is thought that club chiefs may be disgruntled by Gerrard's strong comments on the controversial issues currently surrounding the club.

Liverpool has a proud history of having a very passionate core of unintelligible people who all have similar views on the same things. However, one person who deviated from the norm is former Everton supporter Jamie Carragher. We couldn't pick out everything he actually said, but the defender did have this to say. "I've always hated this club like, the gaffers promote a hatred for my beloved Toffees [Everton, not confectionary] and I'm a changed man at the end of the day like. When I got here I listened to Bach and revelled in post-gothic literature,

but now I steal hubcaps off my mum's car and drive a Vauxhall Astra, I'm really a classy footballer, but I just can't bring myself to play well in this shirt. I hope they go into administration." A spokesman from the club said that they expected this kind of dry ironic wit from Carragher who has a reputation for being "the joker in the dressing room and always reliable to make light of a bad situation."

A verdict on the state of the club's finances, Hodgson's appointment and the Pope's views on contraception is expected to be reached by this time next week or the Liverpool supporters club plan another high turnout, low impact, unenthusiastic protest at Anfield. Alright, calm down, calm down.

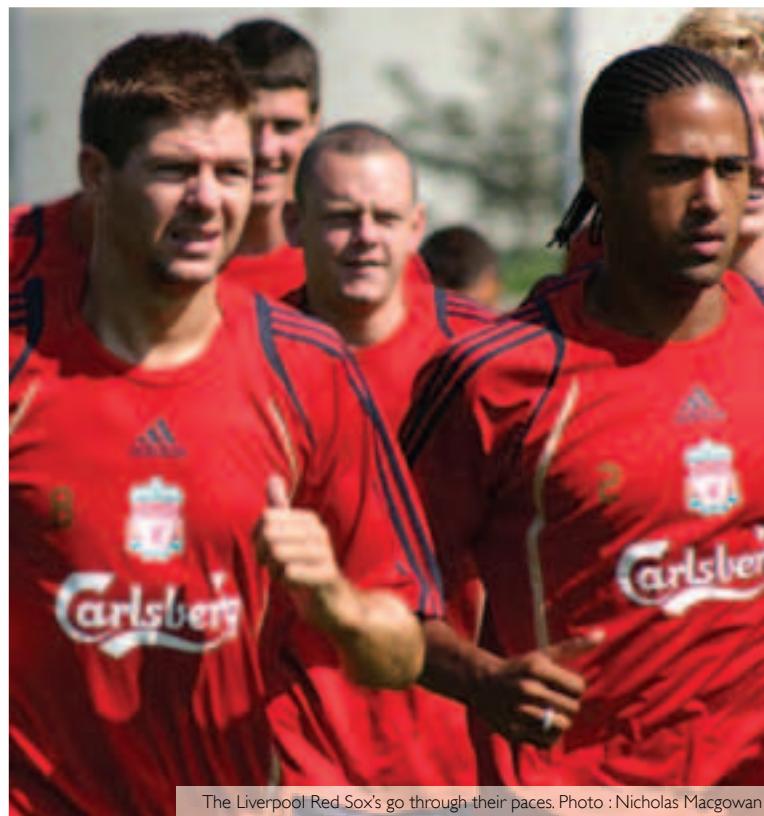
# Football should be played on the pitch, not in the High Court

**I**t is becoming increasingly difficult to make sense out of the complex mess of a situation that the once unstoppable force of Liverpool Football Club currently finds itself in. At the time of writing, the club has two groups of international investors battling to buy it while the current owners are taking the chairman to court for encouraging the sale, with a view to sacking him. On top of all of this, the club owes the Royal Bank of Scotland £240 million. Understandably, they are not hugely pleased by this, and they too are taking the current co-owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett, to the High Court. If they can't pay the bank back, or if the bids to buy the club fail, Liverpool will fall into administration and receive the customary nine point deduction that ensues. If you believe the League will make an exception, just go and have a chat with a Portsmouth fan.

There are so many different things going wrong at the club at the minute that it would take a whole copy of SCAN to talk about them.

All this might go some way to explain their very poor start to the season – their worst for 57 years. A team with such world class quality as Steven Gerrard, Fernando Torres, and Joe Cole should be picking up more than one point at home to Sunderland, and certainly taking something from Blackpool at Anfield. They have won in the league once this season – narrowly against West Bromwich Albion back in August. That is simply not good enough.

But it is hard to believe that the instability is completely to blame. Some pundits and commentators have derided their play; the BBC's Phil McNulty said recently: "Liverpool's style of play has been unadventurous, borderline dull, and at times clueless". For a team with the quality everyone knows it has, and a manager as internationally respected as Roy Hodgson, that is a damning indictment.



The Liverpool Red Sox's go through their paces. Photo : Nicholas Macgowan

**'If they can't pay the bank back, or if the bids to buy the club fail, Liverpool will fall into administration and receive the customary nine point deduction that ensues. If you believe the League will make an exception, just go and have a chat with a Portsmouth fan.'**

For all the chants of Kenny Dalglish's name from the Kop, sacking Hodgson is not the answer. The last Liverpool manager to take charge of less than 150 games was Ronnie Moran in 1991 – and he only filled the role as a caretaker. Quick fire reactionary sackings are not the Liverpool way. Hodgson is fortunate for the international break, and must use the time to ensure they get a result against Everton in the next fixture. At least that would get the Kop back on-side for now.

As for Hicks and Gillett, they currently stand to lose around £144 million if the sale to New England Sports Ventures, owners of the Boston Red Sox, goes through. I'm sure the Kop will find it hard to sympathize, but

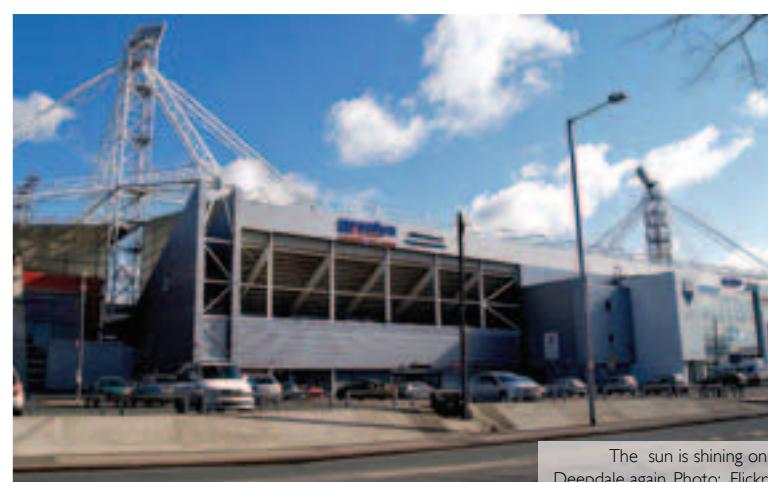
## Regional Football

### Local clubs on a roll as international break intervenes

#### Matthew Todd

FOR THE THREE major clubs in the region, the international break may well provide an unwelcome distraction from improving league form. Wigan, Preston and Blackpool were all looking to have turned a corner after tricky fixtures, only for the majority of their players to be whisked off to far-flung destinations to compete on the international stage.

Wigan look to have suffered the most, with several of their stars forced to travel huge distances during the so-called break. Maynor Figueroa will be the most frequent flier, with his Honduran side travelling to Wellington to face New Zealand, before returning to Washington and a game against Guatemala. However, Emerson Boyce can count himself lucky - trips to Montserrat and St Vincent & the Grenadines with the Barbados national side surely beat training in Wigan for the week. Meanwhile, manager Roberto Martinez will be reflecting on an invaluable 2-0 victory over Wolves, a tie that will be remembered for all the wrong reasons after Karl Henry's late lunge earned him a red card. This success, coupled with a battling draw against Birmingham and progression in the Carling Cup, gives Wigan the basis to push on and climb the table in coming



The sun is shining on Deepdale again. Photo: Flickr

weeks.

Another Lancashire side that hit form just before the international programme was Preston. Despite occupying 20th place in the Championship, North End have taken seven points from a possible nine with an astonishing 6-4 win at Elland Road providing the highlight. This victory was all the more remarkable as Darren Ferguson's side were trailing 4-1 during the first half while Leeds ran riot. The hero for Preston was Jon Parkin, who bagged a superb hat-trick.

Blackpool also provided a headline grabbing victory in their latest league

game: a 2-1 victory against Liverpool, at Anfield. A penalty from captain Charlie Adam and a Luke Varney strike earned the Tangerines a famous victory despite desperate Liverpool pressure in the second half. Manager Ian Holloway was uncharacteristically subdued following the final whistle, no doubt acutely aware that Blackpool's fate will be decided against other potential relegation rivals, not the 'big four'. Holloway's muted reaction was in contrast to his antics a week previous after the home defeat by Blackburn, when an expletive laden rant aimed at referee Mike Dean earned him a one game

this should be a lesson to both of them and a lesson to the legions of investors who think they can make a quick buck from the Premier League.

Liverpool will not get relegated, but will have a far from successful season where a top half finish will be an achievement. Bearing in mind when Hicks and Gillett arrived Liverpool were sitting in third place and on their way to a second consecutive Champions League final, the whole football industry should take a long, hard look at what has happened and commit it to memory. Investors should not be able to buy a club, regardless of nationality, based entirely on debt.

Football clubs are somehow able to paradoxically turn over hundreds of millions of pounds while being on the brink of insolvency at the same time. This is a disgraceful situation. Our clubs should do battle on the football pitch in front of us supporters, not in the High Court in front of Mr Justice Floyd. It is sad to see the majority of the media being forced to report on the fiscal side of the club rather than what is happening out on the field.

All that said, I would still take William Hill's 100/1 for Liverpool to change their name to the Liverpool Red Sox. You heard it here first.

**Jack Smith**  
Sports Editor



touchline ban. If Blackpool are to avoid the drop this season, they will need the inspirational presence of Holloway pitch-side and not confined to the Bloomfield Road stands.

The region's lower league sides are also in sparkling form as their fixtures continue to come thick and fast. Fleetwood Town continue their upward rise in the Blue Square Premier Division thanks to a ten game unbeaten run. Three consecutive draws have slowed their progress slightly, but if they can continue to pick up points at a steady rate, the play-offs look to be a distinct possibility. Away from the league programme, the Cod Army also have an FA Cup fourth qualifying round tie to look forward to against either Buxton or old rivals AFC Telford. Victory here would see the side enter the draw for the first round proper and set up a potential clash with Football League opposition.

Lancaster City are also progressing well in cup competitions, with a 7-1 hammering of Woodley Sports seeing them advance in the FA Trophy, the elite competition for non-league football clubs in England. They followed up this impressive result with a comfortable 4-1 triumph over Ossett Albion on Saturday and now sit eighth in the Evo-stick First Division North table.

## Students in a reasonably priced car



The students being interviewed by Sky Sports News. Photo by James Watson

### Three Lancaster students aim to cover 791 miles, visiting all 20 Premier League grounds in 24 hours for charity

#### Nick O'Malley Sports Editor

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS James Watson, Tom Montgomery, and Jamie Davidson will travel 791 miles in 24 hours in order to visit all 20 Premier League grounds starting off at Wembley stadium and finishing up at Ewood Park, the home of Blackburn Rovers. Not only will this set a new record, but the trio are also hoping to raise approximately £7000 for charity, with all proceeds being equally divided between Mencap and the Blackburn Rovers Community Trust, who are set to launch disability multi-sports sessions on Sunday mornings.

The nationwide tour is being supported by James' parents, John and Sallie Watson, the co-owners of Prestige Nursing East Lancashire, who are celebrating their first year in business at the Blackburn Rovers Enterprise Centre. The adventure starts at 00:01am on October 27 at Wembley Stadium and it is hoped will be completed around 20 hours later. The trio



© Kol Tregaske

will make a pit stop at each stadium consisting of quickly jumping out of the car and getting a photograph in front of a clock and something memorable from each stadium in order to prove that they were present at such a time.

The whole challenge will be completed in Top Gear's The Stig costumes and in a reasonably priced car provided and sponsored by Prestige Nursing East Lancashire. The whole idea blossomed as the trio are football fanatics and suggested doing it

#### THE ROUTE

- Wembley
- Craven Cottage (Fulham)
- Stamford Bridge (Chelsea)
- Upton Park (West Ham)
- The Emirates (Arsenal)
- White Hart Lane (Tottenham Hotspur)
- St Andrews (Birmingham City)
- Villa Park (Aston Villa)
- Molineux (Wolverhampton Wanderers)
- The Hawthorns (West Bromwich Albion)
- The Britannia (Stoke City)
- Goodison Park (Everton)
- Anfield (Liverpool)
- Old Trafford (Manchester United)
- City of Manchester Stadium (Manchester City)
- The Reebok (Bolton Wanderers)
- DW Stadium (Wigan)
- Bloomfield Road (Blackpool)
- Stadium of Light (Sunderland)
- St James' Park (Newcastle)
- Ewood Park (Blackburn Rovers)

one night for a joke after a few drinks. Watson said: "When it was originally suggested we thought it would never even come close to happening." But unlike many drunken plans, this one is going to come to fruition and in fan-

tastic style. He added: "When we have done it, it will be a fantastic achievement not just for us, but for the charities we are supporting." He also took the time to thank his parents, Prestige Nursing and Blackburn Rovers for the support they have received so far.

Lancaster University Students' Union Vice President (Sports), Marc Handley, told SCAN: "It's fantastic that James and the lads are doing this marathon drive and for such a good cause too. Whilst living in Lonsdale for three years I was witness to James's driving 'skills' so I have strong faith in them completing the adventure in less than 24 hours." Handley also went on to urge everyone to give something towards this really worthwhile event as every little bit will help the trio achieve their target.

Although the three man team has already received a lot of backing from Prestige Nursing, Blackburn Rovers and even Sky Sports News, any contributions will be very welcome. The lads can be sponsored at: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PrestigeNursingEastLancashire1>

#### Carter Shield Fixtures Sponsored by IBM

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

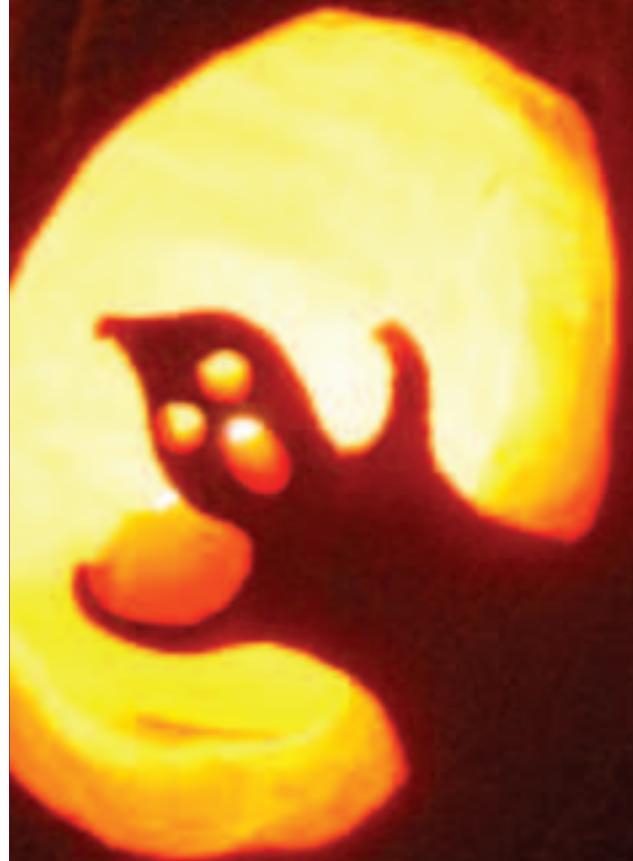
Day	Sport
Mon	Men's Darts & Dominos
Tue	Women's Darts
Wed	Women's Pool
Thurs	Men's Pool A & B

League tables found at [sports.lusu.co.uk](http://sports.lusu.co.uk)

# Carolynne

Week Two, Michaelmas Term

A patch  
above  
the rest



## emails from australia

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

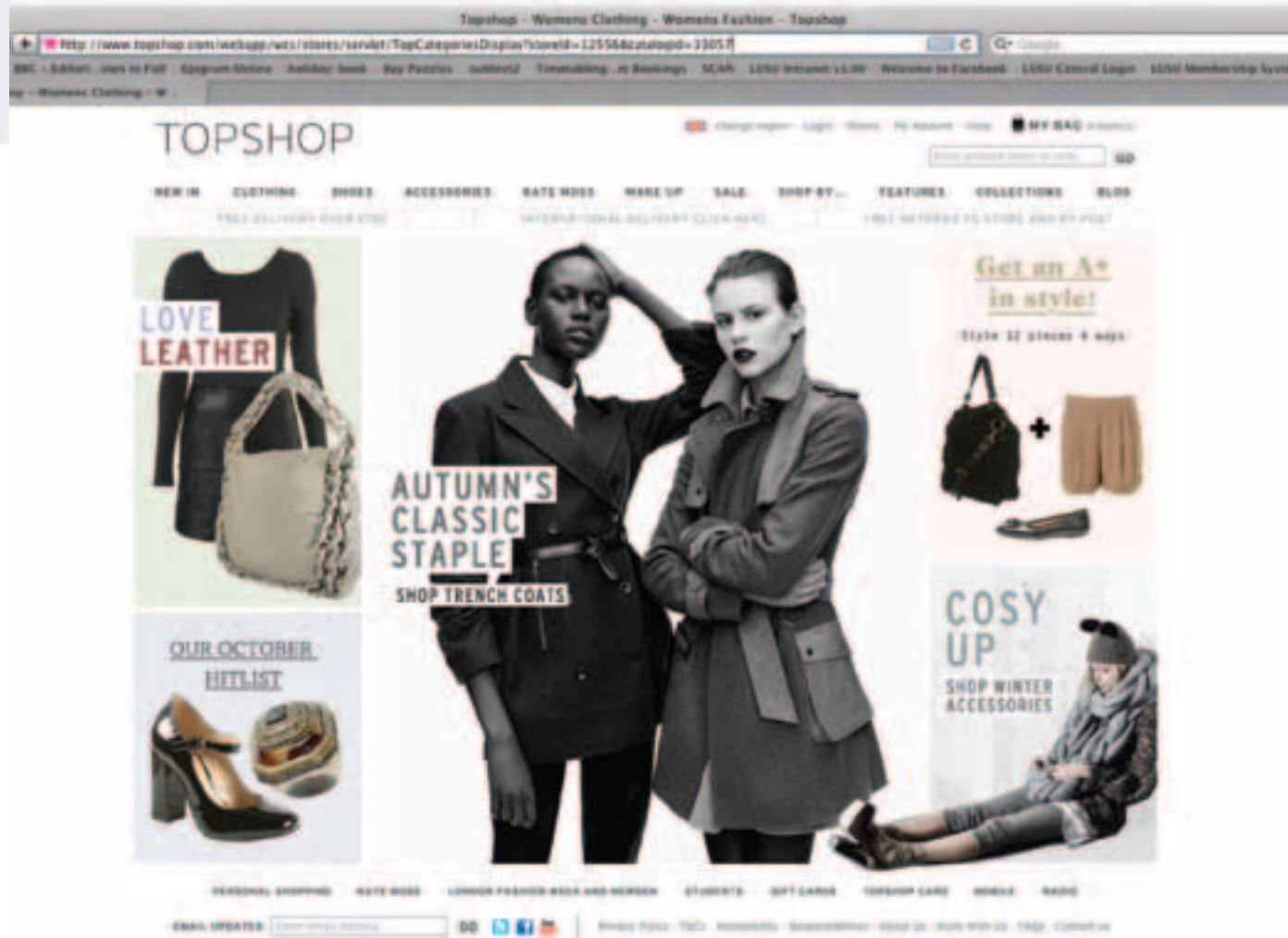
SYDNEY. CANBERRA. MELBOURNE. Each city has a distinctly different persona that forms the foundation of Australia's identity. Like upstanding pillars of a building structure, the demolition of one would have detrimental effects on the other two. Having now visited each of them, I now appreciate the validity of these three cities and their contribution to Australia's delicate social, economic and political environments.

Sydney is the economic driver of Australia. With cloud-skimming skyscrapers and the daily surge of commuters as a sea of business suits, the city feels far from a stereotypical grey metropolis. There is much more hidden under the commercial glaze of tourist attractions such as Sydney Opera House and Bondi Beach. This glossy exterior has also been able to mask the underlying inequalities that presently tear at Sydney's social fabric. With a prosperous inner city and a rotting outer periphery, there is an apparent economic divide between central dwellers and western suburbanites. Although Prime Minister Julia Gillard has promised commuters new city rail lines to resolve this, it is sceptical whether such an economically driven city can find a balance for its citizens.

Whilst the economy of Australia is chiefly in Sydney, its political heart lies in Canberra. With Parliament House at the centre of the city, the rest of its infrastructure is situated around it, forming the Parliamentary Triangle. This striking assembly reflects the political importance of Canberra whilst challenging the mundane city grid structure that is more commonly seen in Australia. This makes the city feel relatively vacant even though it is the capital city. When exploring the area during my first few weeks in Australia, I felt like I had stepped into a Pleasantville-esque, 'trophy' community rather than an inhabited place. Nevertheless, its political presence is a vast aspect of Canberra that continues to intrigue me after my visit.

The coastal highway stretching from Sydney to Melbourne is a picturesque route that hugs the eastern coastline. Unlike the featureless journey I take along the M6 to Lancaster every term, the coastal highway boasts lavish beaches and shorelines that are visually indulgent. Melbourne itself is rich in culture and diversity. Graffiti covers the network of narrow alleyways that connect the main high streets, which attract art novices and art lovers alike. The infamous British graffiti artist Banksy is thought to have gathered inspiration from them for his work.

The main high streets greatly contrast these alleys. Like London's Oxford Street, they are laden with major department stores, fashion chains and cosy cafes. Unlike Oxford Street though, Melbourne holds a laissez-faire atmosphere that reflects the timely Australian mantra of 'taking it easy'. These three cities reflect the multiplicity of Australia, building up a textured population and social infrastructure. Although this view could be seen as an oversimplification of such a complex country, I have found that visiting these three cities have helped unravel its convoluted concepts that initially washed over me as a haze of bewilderment. In finding an appreciation for Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne, and their individual qualities, I also find a much wider understanding of Australia.



## 1-click buys

**Kristina Beanland** confesses how the internet spells death for the student overdraft

**A**s a group, we students are notoriously poor, it's just the way it goes. We get loans that, for the most part, barely cover our accommodation, have to pay for books that tend to be left unopened for the whole year, and on top of all that spend the rest of our very small fortunes on feeding our alcohol addictions. You're considered extremely lucky if by the end of the year you haven't managed to spend a rather large chunk of that all important overdraft.

So, considering how most of us are virtually living on the breadline, you would assume that we would scrimp and save at every opportunity, keeping at least a bit of money hidden away to pay off that ever increasing debt that we leave university with. Well, as we all know, this couldn't be more wrong.

Let's be honest, if you have a spare tenner burning a hole in your pocket, is it going to be saved or is it going to be used on a cheap night out in Sugar? I think we all know the answer to that one. In my case, I have my own personal weakness that can easily cause my bank balance to drop right down: internet shopping. The problem is, it's just so easy. You're a bit bored in your room, most likely hungover, so you go online.

You have a look at the Topshop or Urban Outfitters clothes that would never grace the stores of Lancaster, and look at what you're missing out on. After just a few minutes you've already seen a beautiful pair of shoes, a dress that you know will hug you in all the right places, and a jumper that will make you feel all cosy and snugly on a wet and windy Lancaster day.

So after (let's face it) not a lot of time deliberating, you buy something... and here comes the trap that is bound to lure you in; you don't actually have to hand over any money. Of course, that gorgeous bag is going to cost you something, but you just type a few numbers into a few boxes and you've bought something – you didn't have to make the trip

to the cash machine and hold your breath as you click 'display balance', and realise as the much lower figure than you anticipated pops up on the screen that you just can't afford it. No, instead you can happily sit there in the comfort of your own pyjamas and spend away your money without even realising it.

When you think about it, it is just so easy for us to spend money. Part of it has got to be that because the money you're spending is from a loan, it just doesn't feel real; it's the equivalent of monopoly money. And for many of us, getting a big fat lump sum of money at the beginning of the term means that we suddenly have more cash to our names than we have ever had before. So should we reel the spending in, maybe not go on as many nights out or go off on as many trips with societies or your college?

In my not-at-all-expert opinion, yes, we probably spend far to much money than we should do in the space of 10 weeks. But then again, you're only a student once. As long as you don't manage to spend a whole grand in Week One, then you might as well have some fun with it.

**'When you think about it, it is just so easy for us to spend money. Part of it has got to be that because the money you're spending is from a loan, it just doesn't feel real; it's the equivalent of monopoly money'**

# The Gourdfather



**Claire Hazel**

IT IS THOUGHT that 1.5 bn pumpkins (the gourd-like squash) are cultivated every year in the US alone. 99% of these pumpkins are used as Jack O'Lanterns on Halloween. With more than 1.02bn hungry people in the world it seems like a waste that these valued crops are not used as a food source. Pumpkin carving is an age old tradition and it doesn't seem to be leaving us any time soon; this is why numerous recipes and uses have been created for the Halloween leftovers.

Halloween is the third most lucrative festival in the UK (after Christmas and Easter) with an estimated £100m spent on this holiday every year.

The use of Lanterns originated from the Irish legend of Stingy Jack. Jack tricked the Devil into agreeing that he should never have to go to Hell. Upon Jack's death he was denied entry to heaven and the devil kept true to his word, refusing his entry to hell. Jack was presented with a hollowed out turnip to light the way and to serve as a warning to others as he wandered the earth for eternity. Fearing the ghost of the Jack O'Lantern, the

Irish began to carve scary faces out of turnips and potatoes to ward off Jack's spirit. Fleeing the potato famine in the 1840s, the Irish

**Out of the seven continents it is only Antarctica which cannot grow pumpkins**

immigrants took the Halloween tradition with them to the US. It was the Americans who began to use pumpkins as this was the most readily available crop. Although the use of pumpkins did catch on it was not until the 1990s that the demand for pumpkins in the UK soared.

If your aim is to use your pumpkin for more than just a decoration there are numerous different things you can do with it. The first and possibly the most obvious is as a food source. Whether it is pie, soup, juice or even ice cream, the pumpkin is rich

in vitamins A and C, along with protein and potassium. The seeds from the pumpkin are also highly nutritious, high in fibre and great for strengthening the immune system. Just dry roast them and sprinkle on a little salt and they're pretty tasty! It is also thought that pumpkins are good for the skin and more surprisingly a mashed pumpkin is thought to help pets with digestive problems.

With the growing demand for Halloween pumpkins, it is a wonder where the many millions of crops are grown, to cater for the US and UK's need. Out of the seven continents it is only Antarctica which cannot grow pumpkins due to its cold weather, with some of the biggest international growers being the United States and China; the highest producer of Pumpkins in Europe is in Spalding, Lincolnshire. This year's harvest reached three million, whilst the majority will take to the English market in time for Halloween, some will be sent off to Spain and Holland.

So as you carve your pumpkin this Halloween, perhaps try something different with its innards and save it from the bin. You can try a new snack or even pamper your skin, but if you fancy something more traditional, why not carve a turnip instead.

## Money, money, money: isn't it funny?

**Gareth Horn**

**S**o student fees are set to rise? Gulp. More debt, more strain, more worry. Who'd be a student, eh? Well, according to the government, the answer is just as many people as before. An increase in tuition fees will not affect the demand for university places. Phew! That's okay then. For a moment there I thought a possible 200% hike in fees might just put some people off higher education, but alas no; a study by the University of Leicester suggests that even an increase to £10,000 would do little to deter nine out of ten prospective students. So tuition fees look set to treble and competition for actual university places is going to remain as stiff as ever: terrific.

But I'm sure the government are correct in their judgement. I mean, why should tuition fees be subsidised by money out of their own coffers? That's money that

For a moment there I thought a possible 200% hike in fees might just put some people off higher education

could be far better spent on, oh I don't know, an Olympic Games or a state visit by some pious fella in a pointed hat. Money well spent, I'm sure you will agree. In fact, come to think about it, those damned pesky prescription things are quite heavily subsidised too; time to tighten the purse strings. After all, what's £20 for something that's going to make you feel better? Bargain. It's not like demand is going to fall; people are always going to become sick. I'm sure 90% of sick people wouldn't be put off seeking medical help if prescription prices trebled – besides, the tight-fisted 10% are likely to be a bunch of wasters anyway. No doubt the sort of people who haven't even been to university.

Now, what else could we save a few quid on? That fuel stuff seems to be quite a popular commodity. I'll tell you what, bump up the price of that too. Chances are if it ends up being a harsh winter a good 90% of cold people will manage not to die, and let's be honest, the other 10% most likely won't have a home or a car to feed with fuel anyway...with a decidedly average education and pathetically ill health they'd struggle to get up of a morning, let alone make it all the way to a car dealer or estate agent.

You see; once you take a step back and put it all into perspective it makes perfect sense, doesn't it?



# The student stereotype: from brains to binge?

**Amy Packman**

IT'S NOT NEWS to our ears when we hear about the negative stereotype of students in the media, but are we really bad as they portray?

The pinnacle of this negative stereotype came about two years ago when the story of a student who drank himself to death seized our attention in the media. In February 2008, Gavin Britton, an 18-year-old Business undergraduate at Exeter University died after consuming so much alcohol that his body shut down. On a golf-initiation social, Gavin Britton was encouraged to consume vast amounts of alcohol, including four vodkas, three pints, a glass of wine, countless shots of sambuca and the list goes on. The pressure for Gavin to keep up with his friends' drinking was perhaps an experience which many students might experience on a night out with their friends. In October 2008, another shocking story came to the media's attention when a 19-year-old at Warwick University,

Jason Venezia, died after downing half a litre of vodka for a £40 bet. He was "unable to stand or talk and was put to bed". Although his friends checked on him frequently, the next morning he was found dead due to acute alcohol poisoning revealing that he was over six times the legal drink drive limit.

The heavy drinking culture associated with student life isn't hard to miss. However, perhaps it is our independence and desire to break away from studying that can sometimes result in what is commonly known as the negative student stereotype, namely drinking and partying.

But are we really as bad as the media portrays? The focus of student life in the news focuses heavily on their alcoholic habits and touches only lightly on the success and commitment to studying. We shouldn't dismiss the fact that the majority of students go on to graduate and achieve degrees, no matter how hard they partied during their university life. Part of the reason for universities, such as Lancaster, moving into the top 10 of university league tables, is the improvement of degree results. Surely this



improvement should give students some credit rather than focusing on what they do out of uni hours? Drinking is part of the student lifestyle but it isn't the only part but just a small part of what students choose to spend their free time when not working towards their degree.

There is still to this day a strong case that university students still don't know all the dangers of drinking and the harm it can incur

but the same could be said about individuals who decided against further education and get a job. It's about responsibility and individuals knowing their limits of how much they can handle. We cannot disregard what the media is saying when traumatic stories such as Gavin Britton and Jason Venezia are revealed. But it is important that students become aware of how much they are drinking before they endure a heavy night out.

## Win a three night city break for two in London

THERE'S A LOT we associate with London when we hear it; the London Eye; the cramped and bustling underground; the Houses of Parliament; and most importantly of course; Oxford Street. There are hundreds of ways to spend a free day in London, you can discover them easily from the internet and tourist information centres, which will be a lot easier on your student pockets.

London is host to the UK's only permanent ice bar. At -5°, the entire bar is made of ice imported from Sweden. Guests get to wear designer capes and enjoy ice sculpture and art while sipping a drink or two. And if you get there before 7pm on a Sunday to Friday Cocktails are only £5, which is slightly more expensive than Mint or the Litten Tree, but for anyone who's ever visited London it's an absolute bargain!

On your bar tour of London, you must stop off at the bar Vertigo 42 atop Tower 42 - the highest bar in London. At 600ft above lowly civilians, you get a panoramic view of the city.

Since we're already into the dizzy heights of the capital, let's continue with Kensington Roof Gardens; the largest roof garden in Europe. The beautiful and idyllic green haven in the centre of London are under the Richard Branson brand, and although you would be lucky to spot the tycoon

himself you won't be short of nature and a few flamingos.

London river cruises are a great way to see London in a different way, with the luxury of a tour guide (and a seat in a moving vehicle) without the traffic and fumes the Big Smoke offers its visitors. On it you will get to see more of London's architecture, and sights such as the MI5 building, all hooked up with CCTV covering every nearby vantage point vigilantly.

It is always worth taking a trip to Temple, home to the Royal Courts of Justice. Just opposite from there, off Fleet Street, you'll find the rabbit warren of barristers' chambers. Amid the occasional QC docked out in cloaks and wigs, you can explore old buildings and pretty gardens. You can even visit the spot where Sweeney Todd was reported to have conducted his 'business'.

While you're feeling historic and a little spooky in the home of the British press, take a trip to Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese. Hidden down a side alley, this underground pub is one of London's oldest, built in 1667.

You won't get any signal, but you will get a lovely strawberry beer in a vintage style bottle for a reasonable price, and the free chill of casting a thought to the visitors who have also passed through London just like yourself for many centuries.

By Louise Day



Europe's leading hostel provider is offering one lucky winner and a friend the chance to win a fantastic three night stay in their central London hostel. Situated in Russell Square, visitors will be just a short walk away from some of the City's best entertainment and attractions.

Guests will also be treated to a free breakfast and dinner on all three nights, and can enjoy a complimentary walking tour of the city to make sure they see the very best of what the city has to offer.

For your chance to win email the answer to this question, along with your names, Purple card number and phone number to [competitions@lusumarketing.com](mailto:competitions@lusumarketing.com). Closing date is October 21.

- In what year did the Great Fire of London occur and where did it begin?

Prize is nontransferable and must be redeemed within one year, excluding bank holiday weekends and UK public holidays. Winners must give Generator Hostels a minimum of one month's notice in order to redeem their prize

\*This is a paid for advert

# Learning to cope

**When Catherine Alexander** arrived at Lancaster she had all the usual Freshers' Week fears to deal with, but she also had other people's perceptions to worry about. She describes how she coped and what new freshers can do

**W**hen I arrived on campus for the start of Freshers' Week, I was a bundle of excitement and nerves. I was upset to be leaving home, especially my family, but excited to meet new people and that finally after over a year of planning, phone calls and stress, my university life was about to begin. "So what?" I hear you say? "Every fresher feels like that!"

True, but I'd probably say I have more reason to feel nervous than most. I was born with Congenital Muscular Dystrophy, a severe muscle-wasting disease which means I have to use a powered wheelchair and rely on others to help me with the most everyday tasks. Deciding to move away from home was a difficult decision to say the least, as it meant leaving the security and comfort of my home as well as carers who knew my needs inside out. I was therefore catapulted into an environment that was completely strange to me with no one but myself to instruct a group of strangers how to take care of me – scared doesn't even cover how I was feeling.

However, I knew it would be the right decision and that the university experience could help me in the long run. I wanted to meet new people and gain more independence, which

I knew would be difficult if not impossible at home. I'd fallen in love with the course and the campus when I came to visit, and had a gut feeling that Lancaster could feel like home to me, unlike many other universities I'd visited.

After I had arrived on campus, I was introduced to my new carers. To my surprise, my carers were the same age as me. However, I've now come to appreciate that this was a good thing as to outsiders it didn't look as if I had a carer with me which I believe made be more approachable to other freshers.

My carers had been informed fully about my disability, unfortunately my flatmates were



unprepared. Usually when I meet people for the first time, they are not really sure how to react to me as I am very visibly disabled. However, all I wanted was to be treated like any other fresher but I have been brought up to understand that people will always react differently to me; firstly because of my wheelchair and secondly the way in which I sit which can often take people a while to get used too. Thankfully, once they got to know me, they treated me like one of the group making me feel at home.

Looking back, Freshers' Week is a blur of getting to know people, forgetting their names and generally getting used to living away from home, which of course was then followed by the dreaded freshers' flu and actually getting round to doing some work.

To any disabled freshers, I would say that living away from home is a worthwhile experience and a great way to gain some levels of independence. Lancaster University is full of amazing and diverse people who are open-minded enough to see the person behind the disability. Also, to everyone else out there who may come across a student with a disability, please don't feel afraid of approaching and striking up a conversation as like all other students out there, we're just here to take part in the university experience and hopefully make lots of friends along the way.

## HUGE STUDENT SAVINGS

# ANY PIZZA\*, ANY SIZE

# €9.99

## COLLECTION OR DELIVERY

\*From the menu or 'Create Your Own' up to 6 toppings. Please mention offer when ordering. Not valid with any other offers. Valid at Domino's Lancaster only. Not available online at www.dominos.co.uk. Limited delivery area with safety in mind. Offer subject to availability and can be withdrawn without notice, please see our privacy policy at www.dominos.co.uk



20 Church Street, Lancaster, LA1 1NP  
To order call (01524)  
**848999**  
Opening hours: 11am - 1am, 7 days a week  
[dominos.co.uk](http://dominos.co.uk)

To receive offers from the Domino's Family+ direct to your mobile, text the word 'PIZZA' & your postcode to 60606.  
Text is charged at standard network rate.

**OPEN until  
3am**

# purple<sup>®</sup> offers week 2

ALL OFFERS OPEN TO PURPLECARD HOLDERS ONLY • T&Cs apply

offer  
of the week

## UNBOX GET A FANTASTIC 15% OFF

the big comp

## WIN A 3 NIGHT STAY IN LONDON FOR 2 WITH GENERATOR HOSTELS

TO ENTER SIMPLY EMAIL COMPETITIONS@LUSUMARKETING.COM  
AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

'IN WHAT YEAR DID THE GREAT FIRE OF  
LONDON OCCUR AND WHERE DID IT BEGIN?'

MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, COLLEGE AND A CONTACT  
TELEPHONE NUMBER. THE COMPETITION CLOSES ON THURSDAY 21ST OCT 2010.

something

a bit

random

JUICAFE  
GET 10% DISCOUNT  
ON ALL  
SMOOTHIES, MILK  
SHAKES AND SOFT  
DRINKS!

BOMBAY  
BALTI  
15% OFF COLLECTION  
ORDERS AND MEALS  
10% OFF DELIVERY  
ORDERS

BAR  
ELEVEN  
GET ANY 2 HOUSE  
COCKTAILS FOR JUST  
£5 AT ANY TIME!

# Jobsworths!

Graduate jobs are getting harder and harder to come by. **Louise Day** explores what you can do to make sure your CV stands out from the crowd, even if its just for Pizza Hut



Graduates can't afford to be too optimistic about their future (Photo: Alexander Wilson)

**S**tatistics have emerged after last year's graduation that employment of students is at an all time low. In July, Lancaster graduates received their exam results in the wake of new statistics that for every graduate job vacancy you will find yourself up against 68 other graduates. Following these statistics is the news that major employers are tightening recruitment to only the best, that is to say, if you have a 2:2 or below, you'd be best to apply elsewhere.

Let's put this into perspective. Two years ago you could count amongst your competition only 37 other graduates for your ideal job. So what does this mean? You should go to a respected university, you need a 2:1, but above all you need work experience, real-life experience, travel experience, farming experience, first-aid training and a knack for untwisting lids off jam jars.

I didn't need to know the statistics, it hit home for me as my mother thoughtfully inquired as to the plans of my recently graduated friends. Unfortunately only two were going on to a guaranteed job in their chosen fields; and one of them was going to work in a family business. The other managed a 2:1 at our fabulous Management School, and speaks around five languages, was the president of a society and a leader of another entrepreneur project. It's understandable to be filled with a little worry as you discuss with a rather disappointed friend their inability to even secure a job in retail... but how will next year's statistics go? Will we still be feeling the pinch from a few years of frozen recruitment or must the situation surely be better?

After such a serious recession, it's natural that graduates be hit hard, and for a sustained period of time. What is concerning

is the general lack of even unskilled jobs to tide over graduates until their job market picks up. Having applied for bar work this summer I can imagine their position. It is a little embarrassing to hand over a CV dutifully amended so that your QC barrister reference details are omitted, and work in Pizza Hut gets more page space than your degree results break down.

So for those on 2:1s who are already being turned down, the only advice to give is to take up extra curricular activities and apply for work experience. It's the only thing to set you apart from the rest. Even a part time job in term time will look great to employers, it shows time management and a work ethic. But getting involved in societies is even better, if you can get an exec position you are well on your way to the perfect CV. Work experience is usually unpaid, but it's better to do it now while you have your loan to rely

on. However the National Union of Students is currently battling against the unforeseen dangers of overly-keen students desperate for work experience being taken advantage of- those that complete longer unpaid internships which transpire to be unpaid indefinitely.

Applying to a firm which has details of you on file is extremely useful; it's a foot in the door for those of us not quite privileged to have a designer leather-clad foot in the door thanks to our connections, family or private schooling. It's arguably the toughest time graduates have ever had, but it's not all bad news! It means hard work to compete against the rest in a market that is reportedly going to take longer than expected to recover, but imagine the self-satisfaction when you successfully do so. It will be what we can complain about to our grandkids, at the very least.

## STUCK ON THE LADDER: LANCASTER GRADUATES ON THEIR CAREER HUNTING WOES

### Stephanie Hole: Lancaster Graduate 2010

I was really pleased to graduate with a 2:1 in Biomedical Science. I started looking for work early on in my third year and got increasingly concerned at the lack of graduate jobs on the table. I sort of forgot about it and dealt with exams, but now they're over I am back home and struggling to secure a job. I prefer lab work, but all of my researches have been unsuccessful.

I am willing to travel further afield and invest in a car, but until I get even a menial job I cannot justify such indulgences. I'm even having trouble finding a retail job, and I am considering a masters. Hopefully more education and specialisation will make me more competitive in my field, but there is much uncertainty at the moment.

### Ben Showell: Lancaster Graduate 2010

I'm not really that hopeful about getting a full time job in the sector that I want; the environment sector. At least not in the near future anyway. I've been pretty disheartened really; someone on my course (who got a 2:1) has applied for over 45 jobs and has got nothing from any of them. As I only got a 2:2 I feel as though I've got even less chance, but that doesn't mean I'm going to stop trying

any time soon!

I have a job for two months over the summer working a lab, where I've worked before. They might extend my stay there, but this depends on many factors, including their workload. I can't imagine what it's like for someone who has had no work experience previously, I'm pretty lucky in that respect. I will try to get job seeker's allowance until I find something more permanent.

## On at LU Cinema



Copyright © New Line Cinema. Photo by Craig Blankenhorn

# Un-divine decadence

**Sex and the City had its moment, but can Carrie and co really expect our sympathy now?**

**Alex Harris**

**SEX AND THE CITY 2**

15, 146 min  
Thurs/Friday Week 3

**“W**ho would dare hate you?” Carrie says to Miranda, shocked at the oh-so-mean and nasty way her boss treats her, having the gall to text her whilst she’s at a ‘Gay Wedding’ (the film insists you realise that it’s a Gay Wedding). To answer Carrie’s question, quite a lot of people have the audacity to hate Miranda if you go by the reviews of this film. And before you ask, yes, I hate her too. As a matter of fact, I’ve struggled hard to find a character in this film that wasn’t either completely unmemorable or totally vile and horrid.

The main one, Carrie, is apparently some kind of author and she writes books about something to do with dating or whatever and that gets her recognised at that Gay

Wedding she was at (did I mention that it’s a Gay Wedding?). The others are Miranda, who is a walking contradiction in that she is apparently smart enough to be a lawyer in the Big Apple, yet stupid enough to be genuinely shocked that a partner in a New York City law firm has an acerbic personality. Samantha is an insufferable slut who really should learn to grow up (I struggle to believe men find her attractive). And Charlotte has kids and never seems to stop feeling sorry for herself.

So Carrie’s pissed off that her husband, Mr. Big (no, really) likes to watch TV. She also provides the narrative voice-over for the film, most of which is basically her boasting about how much money she has like a rich, spoiled brat that insists on name-dropping its pony every other sentence. “After Big and I sold the extravagant rooftop penthouse we thought we were meant to live in, we decided that maybe we’d need to come a little more down to earth. So we did – twelve floors to be exact!” Hilarious. Who hasn’t been in that situation?

Miranda eventually decides to quit her job, presumably because the firm she’s at doesn’t roll out a diamond-encrusted red carpet made by Louis Vuitton every time she walks into the room. Charlotte has the common problem we all face of having her priceless vintage skirt made dirty. Carrie’s husband is unbearable for her because, on top of being enough of a provider to keep her in a situation where she can write trite, shitty books (although she never seems to do any work), he also cooks her dinner and buys her a TV. What woman would put up with that?

The first hour of the film basically consists of spoiled rich women moaning constantly. Then Samantha gets hit on by some rich, Middle Eastern film producer (I still don’t believe anyone finds her attractive) and she decides that her friends are oh-so-hard-done-by and need to get away. Her friends agree: “We need to go somewhere RICH” and so they jet off to Abu Dhabi for a cornucopia of sun, sand and cultural imperialism.

The rest of the film is roughly 90 minutes of these so-called characters being snotty

**This amount of copious wealth being showered on such unsympathetic characters in such a tumultuous economic climate has got to be one of the biggest cinematic dick moves in recent years.**

about Arabs whilst being waited on hand and foot and wearing stupid clothes. This amount of copious wealth being showered on such unsympathetic characters in such a tumultuous economic climate has got to be one of the biggest cinematic dick moves in recent years. To add insult to insult, the film’s producers are seemingly not content with only pissing off Westerners as their understanding of Islamic culture is wilfully ignorant, essentially limited to the names of the clothes the women wear. This is why the terrorists hate us.

There is also an attempt to give the film some feminist credentials, but like everything else this falls flat on its face, reaching its nadir in a genuinely painful scene where the four main characters sing karaoke to ‘I Am A Woman’, as if annoying foreigners by singing a shit song really badly is what Girl Power is all about.

The main problem with the film’s ‘feminist message’ is that it’s so transparently written by men who have no understanding of the subject they lamely attempt to tackle. Its grasp of women’s liberation is basically limited to repeating the phrase ‘strong women’ like it’s going out of fashion every few scenes.

Aside from the insensitivity, most of Sex and the City 2 consists of ambassadors of inane bullshit sitting in expensive places whilst cracking dick jokes. So if you like looking at shiny things and have no sense of humour then this film is probably for you. For everyone else, on the other hand, it’s probably best avoided.



All dolled up: Copyright © Disney/Pixar

## More than just child's play

**Lauren Randall**

### TOY STORY 3

U, 103 min  
Sat/Sunday Week 2

The seventies had Star Wars, the eighties had Indiana Jones and us nineties had Toy Story. There was so much anticipation around the final installation in this trilogy that there was no surprise that it went on to become the highest grossing animated film of all time. However, it's fair to say that most part threes fall flat on their faces, failing to sparkle next to their predecessors. By no means, does this follow suit. In fact, this could even be the rare treat of a final third that is the greatest segment of the whole story.

Plot-wise, it's familiar territory: fear of abandonment, imprisonment, you got a friend in me. Andy's off to college and the toys, sadly yet inevitably, are shoved in a trunk, desperately trying to get him to notice them let alone play with them again. But Andy hasn't given up on them either, choosing Woody to take to college as a mascot and sending the rest up to the attic rather than throwing them out. Naturally, there's a mix-up and the toys end up at Sunnyside playschool, the equivalent of a toy retirement home, where they're taken under the squishy arm of Lotso-Huggin-Bear. However everything soon takes a turn for the sinister and the gang must plot their escape...

Yes, the plot may tread similar ground to the first two but it's done so well who can blame them? Plus, Pixar are never ones to rest on their laurels. The film is fresh, arguably funnier and more thrilling than its predecessors. The entire opening sequence is a wonderful way of starting the film, referencing everything from westerns to 50s sci-fi, whilst the attempted break out from Sunnyside is as hysterical as it is exciting.

Then, of course, there's Buzz channelling his inner Zorro, a simultaneously disturbing and funny clapping-monkey (Close Encounters homage, perchance?) and Ken's constant protests that he is by no means a girl's toy.

What works especially well is the perfect voice-casting. Whilst the majority of animated films flounder with an A-list cast, Pixar prefer to go for actual talent. Hanks, Allen and Cusack maintain their high level but the new additions are equally impressive. Ken is aided by the sardonic tones of Michael Keaton whilst the bitter Lotso benefits from the gravelly experience of Ned Beatty. That's not to mention the wonderful use of Timothy Dalton as the fabulous lederhosen-wearing, thespian hedgehog, Mr Pricklepants.

It's not just the laughs and the action that makes Toy Story 3 a genuine five star film. As shown in Up and Wall.E, Pixar are adept at having you doubling up with laughter one minute and bawling into a tissue the next. This is no more evident than in Toy Story 3. The film, though essentially a comedy, is also an exploration in letting go. Watching Andy boxing his stuff away for college, listening to his mum choke up when saying goodbye and seeing the remainders of a childhood shoved into a bin bag chokes you. I was six years old when Toy Story was released and on the cusp of twenty-dom when the third came out back in July. For the first time I was confronting the fact that I was actually becoming an adult and everything within the film is a reminder, particularly for our generation who grew up with them all, that you can't be a kid forever. It's little things like a wheezing old pooch waddling to Woody's whistle rather than the enthusiastic puppy of the first two. Life goes on, things change and everything must come to an end. There'll be a few tears and, by few, I obviously mean a gazillion. You'll cry at the thought of never seeing the gang again and you'll cry because it's the end of an era, not just for the toys but for you as well. Letting go? It's not child's play.

# Going up against the wall

**Alex Harris** looks into Lancaster's own production company

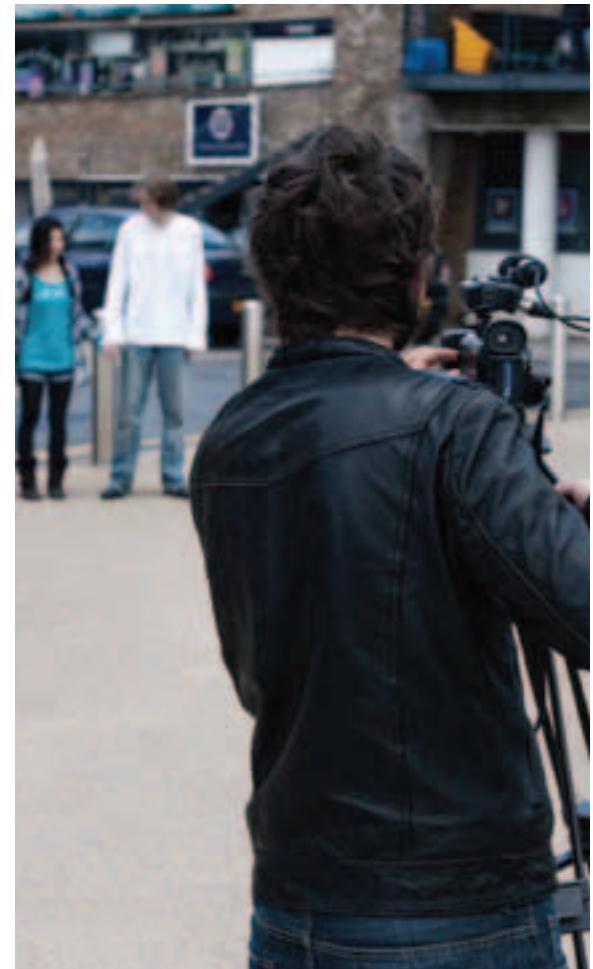
IT'S NOT WHAT you know, it's who you know. It's a trite adage, sure, but that doesn't stop it being true. The over abundance of creative types means that many people submit perfectly decent scripts to production companies, only to have them rejected because of executive incompetence or a desire for industry professionals to help their friends or family members get a big break, rather than the people who probably deserve it more. For many creative people, the rejection seems almost inevitable and it's a depressing thought to consider how many talented people have never been discovered simply for lack of being given a chance.

Enter Josh Asquith and his newly-formed company Against The Wall Productions, a Lancaster-based production company started with the aim of providing students with an opportunity to get their creative ambitions produced and directed. It aims to assist budding script-writers. "Currently, around 2% of all scripts submitted actually make it to the screen, the rest are dismissed, abandoned or not even sent" says Josh. "We will almost always say yes, and if not, we will bring the writer in and discuss their piece with them, including how it can be improved or made better for screen."

The company is in relative infancy, having only been started in February this year, but they have already attracted attention with last year's controversy regarding their production of Five Knights, which describes itself as "a twisted tale of blood and mercenaries". The production called for several actors to use realistic looking replica firearms and though the police had been informed, some of the staff in the shops on campus had not. The sight of several people wandering around campus brandishing weapons scared them stiff and led to a halting of the production and a security scare.

It would be a mistake, though, to assume that Against The Wall is some kind of rogue, anarchic film company intent on causing mischief and trouble. What it is in reality is an ambitious and promising new company which represents a leap forward for Lancaster culture. One of the most often-heard criticisms of Lancaster University and indeed Lancaster in general is that there is little to offer people who are passionate about the arts. Sure, there's music societies, cinemas and all the usual amenities, but in terms of home-grown entertainment, it is often said, Lancaster is lacking. Companies like Against The Wall are attempting to tackle that problem.

The team itself is made up of a group of Lancaster students. There's Josh Asquith, a theatre studies student and all-round film buff. Using his experience as both a director and an



Camera at the ready. Photo courtesy of Against The Wall Productions

actor, his role as Chief Executive is to select the scripts that will be filmed and generally oversee all productions. Katie Evans, on the other hand, is production manager and deals with all the organisation of Against The Wall's projects.

**They have already attracted attention with last year's controversy regarding their production of Five Knights, which describes itself as "a twisted tale of blood and mercenaries"**

Mike Rivera, finally, does all the stunts and special effects.

It's still early days for Against The Wall and the quality of their projects remains to be seen, but what can definitely be said about it is that it is an exciting new company that is certainly one to keep an eye on in future. What's more, its philanthropic nature means that anybody at Lancaster University who wants to take their scripts to be assessed by group of friendly, welcoming and objective people should check them out.

If you're interested, their website is [www.wix.com/atwproductions](http://www.wix.com/atwproductions). My personal assessment, this really is one to watch.

# In my first year I wish I had...

Three SCAN journalists confess to their first year fails so you won't repeat them

## Been more of a student

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'm about to confess this so publicly, but I've been at Lancaster for six years now. All those fresh-faced freshers starting university this week will have just begun their first year at high school when I was a Fresher myself.

Conventional wisdom dictates that being so ancient I have the benefit of much experience. I'm not so sure about that myself, but I'll impart what knowledge I can and share with you the things I wish I'd done in first year.

Number one, lived on campus. Perhaps that should be 'lived on campus for longer.' You see, I tried living on campus. I moved in on the Sunday, all ready and prepared for the university experience. Three days later, after the rest of my flat decided to spend the night having a 'sleepover' in the corridor, I went home. Not as exciting, but I could at least get a good night's sleep. Since then, I've never lived on campus again. It has the advantage of being much cheaper – and of providing considerable amusement to an ex-boyfriend, who liked to introduce me to his friends with 'So tell them how long you lived on campus, Sam,' which never failed to produce screams of laughter – but there's part of me that wishes I'd had a bit more staying power. No matter how hard you try, you can't fully embrace the student lifestyle by living at home with your parents.

Number two, drunk more. It goes without saying that if I had consumed more alcohol as a Fresher, I would have slept through the sleepover – or wanted to go and join in. I spent Freshers' Week entirely sober. Whilst there can be something amusing in being the only sober one in a room full of drunk people, experience has taught me that anything is funny after a couple of drinks.

Samantha Newsham - Investigations Editor

## Not postponed having fun

IT WAS NEVER really my intention to put the good times off until later years, it just sort of happened. It started because of a whim and a fancy I had when I was filling in my UCAS form, back in the good old days. I realised that to apply for Linguistics at Lancaster, you had to have ABB A-level grades. Listed below that was Linguistics/North America. Same degree, same grade requirements, but you got to do your second year at a university in North America. "Well, why the hell not?" I thought to myself. So that's what I applied for. Soon into my time here, I realised I didn't really want to go away for my second year.

It was the terrifying thought of not liking it over there, and missing all my friends from here, and my family even more than I did when I was just an hour away from home.

In the end, I decided to man up, and go on my year abroad, but so terrified was I of missing Lancaster that I decided not to get involved in anything extra-curricular. I had a small group of close friends, and nothing to do but get drunk and do my coursework. Soon the novelties of being drunk all the time started to wear off. Plus, I was getting a bit chubby and crying all the time.

And then, in a way, I was saved from making a decision I didn't really want to make, and I was given a second chance. Due to health reasons I was told I couldn't go to Canada, and so I would be doing all three years of my degree at Lancaster.

It helped me realise that I had, at least on paper, 'wasted' a year at Lancaster University, but I still had two years left. So, basically, the moral message beneath all this whining is: Don't waste your first year, but if you do, it's not too late to have a wonderful time.

Collette McColgan - Assistant Editor

## Slept less

DON'T GET ME wrong, my first year of university was pretty awesome. However I have to admit that I spent a large majority of the daylight hours of my first year tucked up in bed, fast asleep.

I think I must have been a typical Fresher. Fortunate enough to live in Furness, I was pretty much in the centre of campus; I was able to get up 15 minutes before a lecture started then just about manage to get through the 50 minutes of learning and then go back to bed. I'd pull myself back out of bed to eat, and then, more often than not, go out. I suppose you could say I was more of a night owl than an early bird. After going out I was basically too tired to bother getting up again.

I have to admit that I have nothing but good memories of this sleep filled life that I led, but it did have its disadvantages. For one, I was permanently ill. Maybe it was the lack of sunshine and vitamin D in my body, or the severe lack of exercise. The walk to the doctors became a weekly occurrence for me, and I was getting the most random illnesses I'd ever had. My sleeping habits seemed to have given me the most severe case of freshers' flu anyone's ever had.

As well as the plague that I was apparently living with, sleeping so much meant that I did miss out on rather a lot. I did the typical thing of joining a million societies in Fresher's Week, but not one become a regular habit when I realised it meant getting out of bed. I suppose the lesson to learn here is that you shouldn't let going out every night become the sole purpose of your existence in your first year. Believe it or not, there's more exciting things at university than those that can be found in a bottle, or (no innuendo intended) in your bed.

Kristina Beanland - Deputy Features Editor

**WEDNESDAYS**

**The Carleton**  
*Student only night*

**£1 Selected Drinks**  
*All night*

**FANCY DRESS THEMES EACH WEEK**

**FOOTKING**  
*student promotions*

**BUSES & TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FROM CUBA BAR**

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

**Advanced Bus Tickets available from the LUSU Shop from Mondays £1 or from the Underpass & Cuba on the night £1.50**

**Buses depart from:  
Underpass & Cuba from (9.45pm)**

[www.FOOTKING.co.uk](http://www.FOOTKING.co.uk)  
find us on our  
 'we love the carleton'

Marine Read West, Morecambe. Tel: 01524 414224



When you overhear the stylish citizens of Lancaster talking about 'utility' this winter, it'll have nothing to do with rising gas prices. Rather, it is the hottest trend for this season that witnesses fashion taking a backseat to function.

It is a natural progression from the military styling that has been in vogue for years. It favours less the pomp and decoration of historical uniform, focusing instead on modern military wear. Think urban sportswear, a grimy palette of colours and pieces that wouldn't be out of place on a rock-climbing holiday in South Wales.

Despite appearances, fashion is always at the forefront of this trend, so you can't just throw anything on and expect it to work. Clothes are best kept block-coloured and unfussy, letting the accessories build the outfit's character. However, pockets and zips are great details for this trend as you'll always need somewhere to keep your compass and Swiss army knife.

Autumn-Winter 2010 is all about variety in texture and there are two in particular fabrics making a huge impact on utility style. Ribbed fabric is an easy texture to layer as it is light, but visually distinct. Ribbed socks and long-johns are fantastic outfit-builders which you shouldn't be afraid to wear out. Underwear as outerwear is in too.

The other material making a comeback is the return of chunky knit from last year, but in a specific form. Cable knit may be reminiscent



## Utility thrills

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

of country singers and the Dorset Coast, but when worn ironically, it brings out the element of geek-chic in utility dressing.

Army green is the stand out colour for this trend because of its connotations to 20th century military uniform and, for non-landlubbers, navy blue is also a strong choice. However, as the styling of this trend's military inspired clothing is subtle; avoid breaking out the camouflage from a few years ago. We're not ready for that comeback just yet.

Shoes have a lot of potential as statement pieces as the simplest shoe is not always the most functional. Military boots are too formal for this style, being replaced by work-wear or hiking boots instead. Textured soles may seem like an insignificant detail but will cement the look together far better than thinner, smoother bases.

Some girls can't live without their heels, but I doubt anybody has ever described them as functional before. The solutions are the clog heel; thick, functional and much sturdier than a stiletto.

- **Layer up:** Texture is key to making an interesting ensemble, so let others see what you've got on underneath your outwear.
- **Don't distress:** Denim works best in utility when it looks like it's not trying too hard. Clean, blue jeans are the way forward.
- **Un-accessorise:** You might be tempted to try jazz up your utility look with a few accessories, but remember functionality. Scarves, belts and hats have a purpose, but do those Pat Butcher-esque earrings?



# Playing it safe

## Emma Nelson & Amy Bednell

IF YOU MISSED the safety talk during Freshers' Week, which you probably did considering the 9am start, this article will point you in the right direction in making your experience at university as safe possible.

When it comes to getting digits during Freshers', PC Gary Wynne is a very important contact to have in your phone as he is the on-campus Police Officer for the University. Rather than calling 999, the number that is highly recommended to keep on you is 01524 791239. Contacting PC Wynne personally will ensure that your enquiries and problems are dealt with as fast as possible, due to his experienced knowledge of the University campus compared to the standard emergency services.

His presentation at the Safety talk during Freshers' Week was very useful but if you missed it, the biggest recommendation he provided students with was to get yourself a citizen card. A citizen card acts as a replacement for taking expensive ID out with you, such as your driving license or passport. It proves that you are a student at the University as well as your date of birth. Applying for one is easy and can be done online, just visit [www.citizen-card.com](http://www.citizen-card.com).

As well as your driving license or passport, it is recommended to avoid taking cash cards when going out. By taking cash, you do not

run the risk of losing personal information that can be used against you.

Another piece of personal information that can be used against you, if misplaced, is the plastic key ring that is attached on your campus accommodation keys. It is recommended to remove this and leave it in a safe place inside your accommodation because otherwise your house, flat and room number will be exposed to anyone who finds it. At the end of the day, you should know where you live.

One vital tip for a night out, especially for women, is the traditional safety in numbers. So always remember never to make your way back home alone and always let your friends know where you are if you do get separated.

With the music turned up and the alcohol flowing it can sometimes be difficult to keep you're guard up, but just remember never to leave your drink lying around. This could make you a prime target for drink spiking. Also keep your handbag with you at all times and try to avoid handbags without zips or clutches as these allow thieves easy access to all of your important items.

On route back to your flat make sure that you and your friends stay in well lit areas, particularly along main roads, as staying seen means staying safe. If you're getting a taxi also check that it is licensed by checking for the identity badge displaying the driver's photograph and license number on the dashboard of the taxi. To save yourself money, free buses are provided back to the University from Sugarhouse and Elements after 1am.



Nowadays, the must have gadget for women is the personal safety alarm. These are available from Marks & Spencers for £19.50 and can be easily attached to key rings and handbags so that it remains close to hand. Or if student life is hitting your bank balance hard there are cheaper alternatives available at [www.c-p-p.co.uk](http://www.c-p-p.co.uk).

You can call Lancaster Nightline, a voluntary listening and information service on 01524 594444 (external phone), or 94444 (internal campus phone). Or you can email [nightline@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:nightline@lancaster.ac.uk) for an e-listening service if you have any further queries on student safety.

**A citizen card acts as a replacement for taking expensive ID out with you, such as your driving license or passport. It proves that you are a student at the University as well as your date of birth.**

Lancaster may be a small city, but that doesn't always mean it's safe. Photo by Luke Addison



## MYSTIC MACLEOD



### LIBRA SEPT 23 - OCT 22

A nasty break-up from a long-distance lover will leave you broken. Try joining lots of new societies, to repeat your forlorn woes and grieving troubles to several groups of fresh listening ears, guaranteeing you maximum sympathy and rebound hanky-panky. t.

### SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

A run-in with an acquaintance from home threatens to burst your university bubble. After discovering the kind of Carleton-dwelling, work-avoiding student monster you've become they are sure to add your mum on Facebook and grass you up. Run for the hills!

### SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

Hidden under the pseudonym of an innocent, unassuming society name, it will become apparent from your first couple of meetings and socials that you have inadvertently joined a covert Devil-worshipping cult. Call the CU and get an old-fashioned exorcism under-way.

### CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 20

An almighty cock-up of epic proportions in the National Office of Doing Things Badly (aka Student Finance England) results in a surprise payment to your account of over ten grand. Spend that dosh rapido, let the 'rents pick up the pieces...

### AQUARIUS JAN 21 - FEB 17

Good girl gone bad, you will awaken confused this week in an unfamiliar bedroom. Foolish not to obtain a Pocket Lancaster map from LUSU, you will have to make your disorientated escape down the spine with only your underwear for company.

### PISCES FEB 18 - MAR 20

The sight of a stranger in town binning perfectly good food leads you on a path of temptation most foul. Do not eat from the bin, or you'll find yourself on the hit-list

of Lancaster's leading tramps. They'll hunt yo ass!

### ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

You will trip over in an exaggerated comical fashion in a very public place in full view of all your friends ever, your catalogue of ex-boyfriends, your lecturers and your secret crush! Oh my gosh, so humiliating! Cringe!

### TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 21

Lancaster's crowning centrepiece of campus, Alex Square Building Site, will become your headdress one Carleton-based evening. Slipping on an innocent Sugarhouse leaflet on your way home, your head will become trapped in the ever-present scaffolding. Good luck getting out.

### GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 20

Within your first few weeks, you will strike up an unlikely friendship with one of the many on-campus pigeons. He will clean up after you, fly over your head when it rains and peck out the eyes of your rivals.

### CANCER JUNE 21 - JULY 22

A good choice at the time, an attractive new housemate will become a dangerous allure. As they saunter round the house in their undies, be cautious of housey unrequited love and its distractions. Get a cold shower and a grip!

### LEO JULY 23 - AUG 22

A cooking disaster, part way through the construction of the worst curry ever, will produce an unfamiliar substance, later to be proven to be a new element! Clear some room on the Periodic Table and your mantle-piece! Bulky Nobel Prize...

### VIRGO AU3 23 - SEPT 22

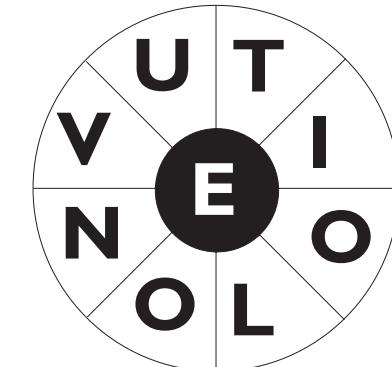
One of your new lecturers this year is actually an evil cyborg sent to 'teach then destroy'. To discover which professor is the culprit, challenge each to a dance off. If their skills blow you away, rip off their pants and pull out their circuits!

## THE QUIZ

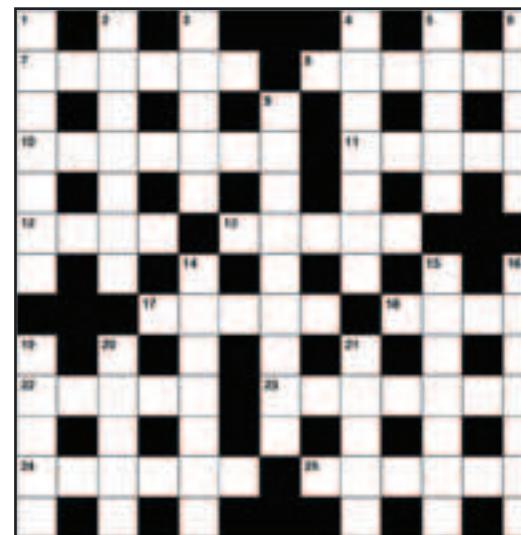
- What is the reverse of a cosmic black hole called?
- Which amnesic and very well trained fictional character didn't know his real name was David Webb?
- Until the mid 1970s Smarties were called Smarties chocolate what?
- Capybaras are the largest living example of what in the world?
- What 'plays' an Aeolian harp?
- 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

- 7 - Cream puff (8)
- 8 - Migratory grasshopper (6)
- 10 - Film about a magical board game (7)
- 11 - Senior member (5)
- 12 - Intellect (4)
- 13 - Tips (5)
- 17 - Agreeable sound (5)
- 18 - Couple (4)
- 22 - Ticked over (5)
- 23 - Compares (7)
- 24 - Capital of Canada (6)
- 25 - Cooking spices (6)

### Down

- 1 - Capital of China (7)
- 2 - Make loud demands (7)
- 3 - Big cats (5)
- 4 - The best policy (7)
- 5 - Exceed (5)
- 6 - Gaze fixedly (5)
- 9 - Refined (9)
- 14 - Decrease usage of something (3,4)
- 15 - Loss (7)
- 16 - Removal (7)
- 19 - Richard \_\_\_\_\_: former US President (5)
- 20 - Apathy (5)
- 21 - Wildfowl (5)

## The Su Doku

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

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

Answers: 1) A white hole (2) Jason Bourne (3) Smarties chocolate bears (4) Rodents (5) The wind

**THE LIVE GIG**  
EVERY FRIDAY FROM 9PM  
AN ECLECTIC MIX OF LIVE MUSIC FROM LOCAL AND UNI ARTISTS

**THE PLOUGH - WWW.PLOUGH-GALGATE.CO.UK**  
WE'RE JUST 5 MINUTES AWAY - TO BOOK A TABLE CALL 01524 751337

**SELECTED SHOTS & SPIRITS**  
EVERY MON. TUES, THURS, FRI FROM 9PM  
£1.50