

# What Kate did next

Miss Nash on being a feminist icon in the 21st Century

## Lancaster leads fight for fairer funding

- Lancaster students most engaged in North West

### Tzeitl Holding

LANCASTER STUDENTS ARE leading the way in the North West in protesting against government cuts to higher education and an increase in fees.

Over 200 students at Lancaster have signed up to attend the national demonstration against the cuts in London on November 10. Universities in Liverpool and Manchester are trailing behind, with only the University of Manchester having broken 100 students signed up at the time of writing.

The influx of students has taken those organising the campaign to get students down to London by surprise. Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU) began a campaign to raise awareness of the demonstration and the cuts that have been the catalyst for it last week. The National Union of Students and the University and College Union (UCU) jointly organised the protest.

LUSU had originally planned to take 200 students down to London. Sign up for seats on the coaches began at 12pm on Monday of Week Three. Lancaster students on campus received a yellow letter through their door urging them to reserve a place on the coach headed to London on Wednesday Week 5. By 3pm the next day all 200 seats had been allocated, and a decision was taken to put on an extra 50-seater coach. LUSU paid for four of the coaches, with the Lancaster branch of the UCU donating money for another coach.

The University has granted an amnesty to excuse anyone attending the demonstration from lectures and seminars, though their attendance will have to be confirmed by the Students' Union.

LUSU has been working over the summer with the other students' unions within the regional: those at the University of Cumbria and Central Lancashire. Between them the Lancashire and Cumbria region is expected to take 500 students. The National Union of Students is expecting at least 5000 students to turn up on the day.



The demonstration is partly in response to the Browne Review. Published last month, the review recommends lifting the cap on tuition fees altogether so universities could charge whatever they like. Although the recommendations of the review aren't expected to be brought about until the 2012, there is concern within many student unions for the next generation of students that could be affected by suggestions for policy change.

"The Browne Review has proposed a scenario in which students are looking to pay over twice what they currently do for a degree: but in which no improvements to the experience are made," said Robin Hughes, LUSU Vice President (Academic).

LUSU President Robbie Pickles called the Browne Review "a major blow to students wishing to attend university" but says he remains optimistic concerning the demonstration in London. "It will hopefully put pressure on the Liberal Democrats to remember their election pledge to oppose a rise in fees and vote against coalition legislation rather than simply abstain".

The review also recommends an increase in the amount of interest students pay on their loans, an increase

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number of hours it took for the 200 seats to London to sell out

which would affect current students as well as those beginning in the future. Also due to affect current students are the cuts to higher education announced in the government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

Cartmel student Emma Feather said: "Students leave university in enough debt [...] to make that burden greater will only discourage people from further education."

Writing for the Channel 4 News blog NUS president Aaron Porter called this time "bleak" for graduate employment, and questioned what the financial changes will mean for the next generation of students hoping to attend university. "Their parents may have just lost their child benefit for some of these very children, but this is a generation that will now be asked to start adult life already owing as much

Students protested against fees in London in 2005. Photo courtesy of the National Union of Students

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# Politics cuts more modules as students left out of loop

- Disgruntled students speak out against changes
- Staff changes caused further confusion

**Chris Housden**  
News Editor

THIRD YEAR POLITICS students have reported mass disappointment with their department following module cuts, staff changes and a severe lack of communication.

Several students raised the concerns and felt it appropriate to speak out against the department following the general discontent last year with mass module cuts as part of a department merger. As this academic year began there has been an increased feeling that the department is taking less and less care of its students.

A group of students raised their concerns in person, and claim that they represent far more angry and dis-

twice."

The thinking behind such disruption is lost on her. Given that the dissertations are due in March/ April time, the tutor changeovers are occurring almost a third and two thirds of the way through the module. "I don't see why they can't change it now so that I have the same person all year."

The staff member whose vacancy is causing such concern is Professor Victoria Mason, who is highly involved in three modules, Middle Eastern, African and Human Rights. She is course convenor for two of them, and, as in Momani's, case is also a tutor for dissertations.

The students are very keen that their worries are not interpreted as blame aimed at Professor Mason, but rather at the department. Momani wishes the department were doing more; "It's not a personal thing, it's just she's so busy and my dissertation, it's like no one cares about it."

The Middle Eastern module now facing having no tutor. It is the only Middle Eastern politics module left, the other having been cancelled.

Momani and another student who wished to remain anonymous said that the Middle Eastern modules were among the reasons why many politics students chose Lancaster University, and that cutting one is a big change to the courses many students thought they would be able to study. Leaving a sole module for it, without a definite staff member to teach it, is worrying those who have chosen to study that area. Momani put it simply; "A politics department without a Middle Eastern politics module doesn't make any sense."

It is not just the disruption within the department that worries the students, but a large void in communication between the student and the staff. This lack of information is, the students fear, one of the roots of the department's problems.

With nothing definite coming from the department, the students have been left to attempt to find information out for themselves. "Pretty much, they sent us all an email that was really, really vague, they said we're going to get someone else to teach and we'll get another dissertation tutor- but what I can't understand is why haven't they just changed it at the beginning of the year?" Momani said.

**"My dissertation tutor's been changed twice. I don't see why they can't change it now so that I have the same person all year."**

appointed students on their course.

Sam Momani, a third year, was particularly vocal. She feels that the problems have been growing for a while. The solution to last year's module cuts was, she feels, inadequate. "Someone started a petition and everyone signed it, and everyone was pretty upset about it, but it didn't end up being sent off."

There was discontentment with the course reps in charge of the petition and their attempts at getting the student voice across, Momani feels. "We got a bit mad, as well [...] that was kind of like the first blow, everything that happened last year."

The saga of problems did not end there. There has already been upheaval of several key modules taught to third years with staff changes so early in the year. "At the end of last year they told me that I'd have Sue Webber for my dissertation tutor. And then they sent me an email and, basically, after I'd met up with her a couple of times they said 'actually she isn't going to be here next year'," Momani said.

"I've just found out this year that this dissertation tutor [her second] is actually leaving after Christmas, so my dissertation tutor's been changed



Photo by Ben Robins

## Not so resilient

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT of the 2009/10 academic year brought about the merger of three departments in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FASS) - Politics, Philosophy and Religious Studies.

The changes came amid controversy and after no proven consultation with students, despite those behind the merger claiming emails had been sent out to all students affected in June 2009. At the time, SCAN was unable to find a student who had received such an email.

LUSU was also critical of this lack of consultation with the students, as well as the Students' Union itself, about the changes.

**"There's no guarantee that there will be a Middle Eastern politics module next term, and with all these people signed up for it"**

Another student who wished to remain anonymous added, by way of an answer, "I don't feel like they actually have someone [to replace Professor Mason]".

Robert Nixon, another third year who is studying modules Professor

At the time Professor Emma Rose, Associate Dean for Postgraduate Studies in FAAS and chairperson of the working group that brought about the changes claimed that this was because there had been no negative responses to the email sent out in June of that year.

LUSU President, Michael Payne, and Vice President (Academic Affairs) Danny Ovens of that year had limited access to the changes before they were voted on at the University Senate, despite the Students' Union making a proposal to withhold the vote until student consultation had been properly executed.

Mason teaches, said he feels let down, as though "there's no guarantee that there will be a Middle Eastern politics module next term, and with all these people signed up for it".

Their concerns aren't entirely unfounded, either. In an emailed response regarding these concerns, Head of Department for Politics, Philosophy and Religion Professor Robert Geyer confirmed that Professor Mason's replacement had not yet been appointed. Geyer said: "Victoria Mason's modules for the Lent term (including the Middle Eastern module) will not be cancelled, but

taught by a short term replacement. We are currently in the process of finalising the short term replacement and should know shortly."

Nixon's view on the department's handling of the changes reflects this. "It's been done badly, to be honest. We found out that Vicky Mason is leaving through student rumours. I only found out officially when I went to a lecture and the lecturer had changed."

here she was going, and it wasn't to us. It was like 'we'll just send them a very vague email' and just tell the staff and postgrads."

In Professor Geyer's response he said: "I am happy to discuss this in detail with the student(s) (if he/she/they would like to meet me)." He also went on to make public that "yes, Victoria Mason has informed us that she will be taking a prestigious position at Australia National University starting January 1, 2011", though he gave no indication of when the department had been made aware.

The solutions being sought are ongoing. "After Christmas, in consultation with the students, we will select another appropriate supervisor to continue to support the students until they complete their dissertations", Professor Geyer offered.

Momani was concise in outlining her grievances. "What upsets me is that they can do this and they kind of have this impression students can't really do anything about it."



# Peace Lecture calls for students to 'bring about change'



Prof Linda Briskman delivers this year's Peace Lecture. Photo courtesy of Lancaster University

## Heather Mann

ON THURSDAY WEEK Two, the Richardson Institute of Peace Studies Annual Lecture was delivered by professor Linda Briskman, a human rights activist from Curtin University, Australia.

Professor Briskman's lecture, entitled, *Banishment at the Border: Retreating from Human Rights*, was a startling insight into the rights, conditions and suffering of asylum seekers. Her lecture argued that as state borders become increasingly sacrosanct, governmental immigration policy has become increasingly racialised. Asylum seekers are often indefinitely interned in immigration detention centres and forbidden rights of citizenship and access to healthcare. Briskman believes they are demonised as freeloading sources of disease and societal breakdown and that they are discussed with a criminalising discourse that bypasses the reality of

their flight from danger.

Attendees included students, professors and visitors and there was a mixture of people coming from far afield to listen to the lecture. History & International Relations student, Victoria Crosbie, said: "The lecture really interested me. It's a subject I've never really thought about in great detail before, but I think it really needs to be discussed more to challenge people's prejudices".

The lecture was organised by the Richardson Institute of Peace Studies. It was established in 1959 as the first Peace Studies Institute in the United Kingdom and the annual peace lectures began in 2005. Past guest speakers include Sophia McNeal, Martin Bale and Tony Benn.

During an interview with Briskman after the lecture, she commented on what the focus of her research was, saying: "It focuses on two areas: the human rights of asylum seekers in Australia and across the world, as the

situation has become so horrific". Her inspiration for researching this subject was she said "rage". She went on to say that it was "visiting detention centres and hearing asylum seekers' stories and the brutality and unfairness with which these people were treated that really propelled me into action".

Briskman also discussed how Australia was the main focus of her research. In explaining why she focused on Australia, she said: "The numbers of asylum seekers are relatively small, but the hysteria is enormous. The response in Australia has been very harsh. It is mandatory to be detained if they arrive without authorisation, without any documentation, whereas that doesn't happen in the UK. People go in and out of detention here for several reasons". Another shocking revelation Briskman mentioned, was that there are more than 700 children in detention in Australia.

When asked if there was a way for

students to get involved in improving the conditions of asylum seek-

**"Students and young people are the future's only hope, and it is them who are going to be the ones to bring about change"**

ers, Briskman suggested that students should "try and familiarise themselves with what's happening in the UK. The next thing is to consider visiting detention centres, or join the very many advocacy groups that are working towards having the rights of asylum seekers achieved."

Briskman also divulged some opinion into why the media and politicians are so reluctant to discuss the conditions of asylum seekers whilst in detention, saying: "There is not really bipartisan support for good policy

on asylum seekers [...] and some of the press have scaremongering headlines. Largely, political parties go for the policy that will get them voted back in". Briskman also proposed that we can change governmental policy by "talking to local MPs, telling them about some cases of destitute asylum seekers in the community, or someone that has been detained unfairly. That's a really good way of influencing policy, rather than abstract figures".

Briskman added: "Students and young people are the future's only hope, and it is them who are going to be the ones to bring about change. I really encourage students to inform themselves on what is happening in Australia, and what is happening in the UK. You do not need to focus on asylum seekers, and it doesn't have to be time consuming. But it is important to be an advocate of social change".

Professor Briskman's lecture can be viewed on the Richardson Institute for Peace Studies' website.

# University picks up insolvent thinktank in sales

## Paul Hannah

THE LEADING EMPLOYMENT thinktank the Work Foundation has been bought by Lancaster University after declaring insolvency.

The thinktank, which describes itself as "the leading independent authority on work and its future", announced two weeks ago that it had been purchased by Lancaster University. The move came after a winding up

petition, citing a £26.9m pension deficit, was filed at the high court.

Lancaster University have stressed that it did not inherit the pension deficit that blighted the think tank, however it insists that the actual amount spent on the takeover is "not in the public domain" and so will remain undisclosed, as will exactly where the funds were taken from.

According to its website, the Work Foundation "aims to improve the qual-

ity of working life and the effectiveness of organisations by equipping leaders, policymakers and opinion-formers with evidence, advice, new thinking and networks."

The alliance is being touted by both sides as beneficial. Professor Sue Cox, the Dean of Lancaster University Management School, said the development cemented a long-standing relationship. She added: "There are obvious synergies – for example in the areas of

HR, innovation, labour economics and organisational health and wellbeing – and we are very excited about combining our respective strengths."

Stephen Bevan, the Work Foundation's managing director, added "our existing programmes of research on the world of work are strong and influential," he said. "But being able to work in partnership with eminent experts in a number of disciplines and having access to new networks both in the UK

and overseas will further strengthen our impact."

The Work Foundation is a 92 year old not-for-profit organisation whose "independence, expertise and networks give us a strong platform for engagement, [aiming to] improve the quality of working life and the effectiveness of organisations by equipping leaders, policymakers and opinion-formers with evidence, advice, new thinking and networks."



# University claims no one will be 'disadvantaged' by LUVLE disruption

- 'Memory leaks' causing crashes
- Dean promises no penalty for late work

## Jonnie Critchley

THE START OF the new academic year has seen students and staff frustrated by recurring disruptions to the Lancaster University Virtual Learning Environment (LUVLE).

The Learning Technology Group (LTG), part of the University's Corporate Information Services (CIS), have been working to minimise disruption and identify the root cause over the last two weeks, and a potential solution has now been implemented with positive results.

Problems with LUVLE began on October 6, with 75 server crashes occurring on the system in the period up to October 20. These crashes were causing the system to be unavailable for periods usually between five and 20 minutes long, meaning students were unable to access important information during the first week of their courses. Overloading of the system, understandable at this point in the year, has been linked to these issues, although this has not been the ultimate cause.

The introduction of new servers, intended to spread the workload across LUVLE, has since reduced the amount of disruption. '[T]he number of crashes which have occurred each day has been lower since the new server [has been] up and running', reported Head of CIS Andrew Meikle, who is overseeing the issue.

Whilst working to stem the flow of crashes, technicians from LTG and Information Systems Services (ISS) have been investigating the underlying cause of the problem, which has proved problematic. Crashes have been caused by "memory leaks", which occur

when server memory is not released for re-use. "Ultimately, when the server runs out of memory altogether, it crashes," said Meikle.

Using a new monitoring mechanism the LTG have been able to monitor memory usage and foresee crashes, which can then be staved off by restarting components of the LUVLE servers.

This short-term measure still had an impact upon LUVLE availability, said Meikle, but this impact "can be measured in a matter of a few seconds, as opposed to a period of recovering from a crash which can be anything from five to twenty minutes."

"The memory leak in LUVLE causes a crash; we are looking for the root cause of the memory leak, and believe that we have [found this]" Meikle asserted. However, it is not in the LTG's power to stop these memory leaks causing crashes. Only IBM, the business solutions company who provide the software which LUVLE is built upon, have this ability.

LTG have been working closely with IBM, who provided a "hotfix" on October 22. According to the LTG blog, IBM believe that this "will reduce the impact of the memory leak and thus stop the service outages". The "hotfix" is now being tested and gradually implemented.

Concern has grown over the effects of LUVLE outages upon students, particularly in departments which rely more heavily on regular interaction via LUVLE, such as the Department of English and Creative Writing. No members of staff from the department were available for comment, but one second-year English and Creative Writing student, who chose not to be named,

dragons of the BBC's Dragons' Den. Organised by LUSU Involve's Enterprise unit in cooperation with Lancaster Entrepreneurs Society and filmed by LUTubetv.

Whilst studying Management Science here at Lancaster University, Harrison started out as a door supervisor at Lancaster nightclubs Revolution and The Sugarhouse. During this time, he met his current partner, Wesley Downham, on the doors and together they quickly spotted an opportunity to provide a better service than what was on offer and approached university colleges to provide security for end of year extravaganzas. This was their first

## Dragon slayer shares ticks with students

### Guy Hunter

ON TUESDAY WEEK Three, managing director of FGH Security, Peter Harrison, delivered a keynote speech to students about setting up a business and the challenges he faced, especially how he managed to slay the infamous



ISS have been working to fix the LUVLE crashes. Photo by Elliot Westacott

## 75 server crashes that affected LUVLE up to October 20

expressed the importance of LUVLE to her course.

"[Creative Writing] students depend on it highly, due to the fact that it's the only way we can share our work and have our classmates read and critique it before a workshop. It also serves as an archive you can run back to when you're putting together your portfolio, or need to re-read your classmates' work in order to write critiques for them" she said.

For these reasons, the University has now acknowledged that many students have been inconvenienced by this issue. Gavin Brown, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and Acting Chair of the Information Technology Policy Committee, has noted that "no student would be disadvantaged by late submission of assessed work in Week One"

As the issue has developed over the past two weeks, the LTG have been

keen to communicate progress with LUVLE users. "We are providing regular updates to all users via Message of the Day and a linked web page, and writing to Heads of Department and Departmental Administrators regularly to keep them updated", stressed John Gallagher, Director of ISS.

Updates have taken the form of a blog available from the ResNet homepage, which carries the following apology: "The Learning Technology Group apologises unreservedly for this inconvenience and has been working hard to resolve the underlying causes and mitigate the effects on LUVLE users."

The LTG have also been keen to stress that "we are [investigating] in such a way as to minimise the on-going impact of the server instability", said Meikle. One way of doing this has been artificially generating load on test servers, which has allowed solutions to be tested without further affecting the actual LUVLE servers. At the time of writing, LUVLE has been restored to availability between 99.3 and 99.9% of the time.

FGH Security now provide both manned and electronic security and are proud of their in-house training program as recognised SIA approved contractors, the highest level of recognition within the Security Industry Authority.

Harrison showed emotion upon returning to the University. "It was great to come back to the Management School and give a talk," he said. "The central message of my talk was that at the time, I didn't think my degree was useful, but now that my business is growing I'm finding I'm using the knowledge and skills gained whilst studying here."

## Investigations analysis

## O'Malley's Mirror

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

## Accommodation: The quest for independence

With the recent debate on provision of accommodation for first years, (i.e. there doesn't seem to be enough of it), a few factors seem to be rearing their ugly heads in light of this issue. Namely why aren't second years encouraged to go off campus and why are international students guaranteed three years of continuous accommodation on campus?

Some years ago it was normal policy that unless you had disabilities or special needs you had to find yourself somewhere in town for your second year. Obviously in third year

## 'If first years are being denied a place when they are most vulnerable, then we have a problem'

many students back on campus due to the pressures of finals etc. Now it seems accommodation for all three years is being pushed to students as the norm. We only have to see the experiment in extinguishing any form of independence through the meal and accommodation scheme.

In fact the fear that starts to emerge is that students becoming home birds, revolving around their kitchen (and lets be honest, with the price of beer on campus, most are buying from the supermarket and drinking indoors) not experiencing town beyond a night at the Sugarhouse. Being able to live in and commute from town should be seen as something of an obstacle to overcome, even a challenge, but some students seem to shirk away from such things.

With many first years having to spend their first days at Lancaster this year commuting another question begs answering: why should overseas undergraduate students be secured accommodation for the duration of their stay at Lancaster? Surely there should be an equal playing field for all students, no matter what their origin? In fact, many of them would benefit greatly from living in town for their second year, and certainly expand their cultural experience of British life, and assist in widening their English acquisition. The University should also be aware that this favouritism only builds up resentment, when there is no need if an equal policy was enacted. At the end of the day, any fool can see that it's about money, and that to secure it, and the University have to make certain promises, even if this is at the detriment to the student. But if first years are being denied a place when they are most vulnerable, then we do have a problem, and possibly one the University should address before October arrives again.



## Lancaster students honoured with renewable energy awards

THREE STUDENTS FROM Lancaster University were presented with awards from the Institution of Mechanical Engineering for renewable energy and hydro power projects.

The three Engineering students – Oliver Feather, Kingsley Adinnu and Sam Lomas – were presented with the awards by the Chairman of IMechE's Fluid Machinery Group, Robert Brown. Feather won the IMechE Best Project Award for his project on the Solway Firth tidal barrage turbine performance optimization. Adinnu won the Best Project Certificate for his project on the Automation of the Gilkes Pump and Turbine Lab Test Facility and Lomas won The Frederic Barnes Waldron Best Student Award

for his project on Siphonic Hydro-power. Two of the students, Feather and Lomas, are currently employed in the field. Adinnu is completing his fourth year of his degree at Lancaster this year.

The project was supervised by Dr. George Aggidis, the director of Lancaster University Renewable Energy Group. He hopes that this will be a good beginning to the careers of these students. "This shows the standard of expertise at LUREG which is one of the best in the UK. We are world leading in this cutting edge research and the students benefit from this. It's unusual for three to get awards from the same area and this will be a highlight of their career," Aggidis said.

## Students look to set up official Barnardo's Society on campus

THE BARNARDO'S SOCIETY is a hoping to gain recognition as an official society this year as it aims to help children suffering in deprived conditions.

The society will give students the opportunity to raise the awareness of Barnardo's and generate some money for this worthwhile cause. Kimberley Warrillow the president of the society hopes to organise a number of fund-

raising events.

Barnardo's run over 415 projects across the country, helping children who are vulnerable, have been abused, forgotten or neglected and believes in children regardless of gender, race, disability or behaviour.

The next meeting takes place on Monday November 1st at 6pm in Fylde common room for anyone who wishes to participate.

## Fees campaign breaks norm with more students, less JCR

**Charlotte Urban**  
News Editor

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE National Demonstration against cuts in higher education has broken the usual model for campaign at Lancaster, with a disproportion number of none JCR Executive members taking part.

In the past it has been a stable, and criticism, of Students' Union campaign that the majority of those involved were JCR officers. But of the 250 students signed up for a coach place to London for the demonstration on November 10, less than 25% are JCR Officers. When LUSU campaign last year against any rise in tuition fees of the 200 students who protested outside Lancaster Town Hall the majority were on JCR Execs.

Andy Barnett, president of Pendle college said: "We've done all we can promoting it, mentioning it at quizzes and on Facebook, all the stuff that people listen to and read".

However, Kath Embling, Bowland College President implied promoting the campaign wasn't a necessary action, saying: "We haven't had to publicise it as much as it's obviously something people feel strongly about". Embling said that Bowland has been in talks with Robbie Pickles, LUSU President to organise a possi-



JCR Officers led the way in last year's campaign. Photo by Ben Robins

ble bake sale as a fundraiser to help contribute towards the cost of the coaches.

As with last year, all the JCRs delivered letters from the Students' Union to flats on campus. "We've done a letter campaign" said Luke Anderson, president of Furness College. "Every flat got a letter".

Matt Saint, County's JCR President said: "By the time we could have started campaigning on it, [the Students' Union had] already sold out [of coach tickets down to London]. We did send out emails and the JCR helped put up all the posters. Also,

there's a rally in Week Four, so we plan on publicising that".

Finally, Matt Power, co-president of Lonsdale College appeared to make a conscious effort to promote the campaign, saying "we put the NUS Demo on our social calendar and have delivered campaign letters to every kitchen in Lonsdale". Power added: "In my role as Joint President, we specifically asked our JCR Executive to try and attend the event as I think it is a crucial campaign that we should throw our full support behind. As a result, half the Lonsdale executive will be attending the event."

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# Lancaster students lead funding fight



**CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE**  
as £40,000," Porter wrote.

In the time leading up to the London demonstration, LUSU is co-ordinating a number of on campus events. In order to raise awareness of the campaign an informative talk will be held in the Cavendish Lecture Theatre on November 3 at 7pm.

A bonfire rally has also been planned for Guy Fawkes Night. "It is a night to have fun, as well as a chance to come together as students and make our voices heard; to let both the University and the government know that we will simply not pay more for less," said Chair of Social and Events Group, Bex Hamilton. "I urge anyone who

feels strongly to come along. We have fought them before and we will fight them again for fairer funding."

The reaction to the review has been mixed. Minister of State for Universities and Science David Willets said the current higher education funding system is "no longer fit for purpose". But David Latchman of the University of London suggested that the review was "a significant breakthrough" in helping to bridge the inequalities between part time and full time students.

The likelihood of such a change is in doubt however, after Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg wrote a letter to his party on October 13 2010 stat-

ing that he "broadly enforced" the recommendations of the Browne Review. Clegg went on to say that he was "painfully aware" of the Liberal Democrat pledge to vote against a rise in tuition fees, yet he "signed [the] pledge at a time when we could not have anticipated the full scale of the financial situation the country faces now". These statements appear to decrease any chance of Liberal Democrats abstaining during the decisive vote.

Despite concerns raised over the funding, the spokesperson for the Browne review says there are "no fundamental obstacles" to prevent the Government from carrying out its recommendations.

# Nurse unit closure finalised



The campus GP will pick up the work done by the Nurse Unit. Photo by Elliot Westacott

**Charlotte Urban**  
News Editor

AFTER MONTHS OF talks and propositions, UMAG (University Management Advisory Group) has finally decided to close Lancaster's on campus Nurse Unit. The decision needs to be finalised through the Redundancy Committee and rubber stamped by Univeristy Council, but the service has in effect been terminated.

Over the summer, Lancaster University Students' Union compiled an extensive report aiming to prevent the eventual closure of the facility. However, despite LUSU's attempts, the decision has been made to terminate the service in order to cut costs.

Pete Macmillan, LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) was one of the leading contributors to this report. He said "the soon to be confirmed loss of the Nurse Unit is truly the end of an era. After nearly a decade of stellar service it is a real shame to lose such a valuable asset to what has become, for many, an essential and much appreciated aspect of their Lancaster experience". He also deemed the closure of the facility as "reckless" and suggested that "academic excellence can only be achieved if the support services are in place".

Tom Finnigan, Director of Student Based Services and the initiator of the facility's closure, said: "The closure of the Nurse Unit was I believe the correct decision to take. It will allow reinvestment of resources into supporting mental health. The number of students attending the Counselling Service and the mental health adviser support this increasing trend in mental health issues impacting on student wellbeing and on their ability to cope with and/or to remain with their course".

Macmillan commented on this, saying: "Although the reinvestment in mental health advisers is to be welcomed, the question needs to be asked of the University, what's next on your list for cuts?"

Finnigan also claims that the dissolution of the Nurse Unit will result in easier access to GPs in the Lancaster area as the contract between GPs and the NHS has changed, as well as a 24 hour on-call service being in place.

Finnigan has proposed that these changes have made GPs less reluctant to see students and that with these changes, the loss of the Nurse Unit will be less significant. In addition, NHS Direct, Finnigan said "is a 24 hour a day service, available 365 days a year which offers advice and support, and the Nurse Unit is currently duplicating that service".

Fylde student Sarah-Jayne Littlewood disagrees with the support of this service is able to offer. She said: "I was suffering with a severe kidney infection last year. I contacted NHS Direct and they said there was nothing they could do to help over the phone, and that I would have to go to Lancaster's hospital. I will certainly miss the hands on support the Nurse Unit offers. Advice over the phone isn't as personal or affective as the on campus facility."

This also raises questions concerning on campus support for students, should an epidemic arise. In March 2009, there was an outbreak of mumps on campus. Within one week, eight students had been diagnosed with mumps, meaning students across campus had to be immunised with the MMR vaccine. It was the service offered by the Nurse Unit in quickly providing medication to students who had not had two doses of the MMR vaccine that prevented more students from contracting from the virus.

Robbie Pickles, LUSU President proposed that increased fees should indicate increased facilities. He said: "Rising rent costs and a potential rise in fees in the future will see students expecting campus to offer more services, not less. The closure of the Nurse Unit flies in the face of popular opinion and represents a sad loss to the campus environment".

The Nurse Unit provided a confidential service to all students, visitors and staff on campus, since January 2001. The date for closure has not yet been determined, but in a final statement Macmillan suggested that "when the decision goes to University Council in November, Council members need to spare a moment to think of the number of lives that have either been changed or saved by the fine work of the Nurse Unit".

BW Negative

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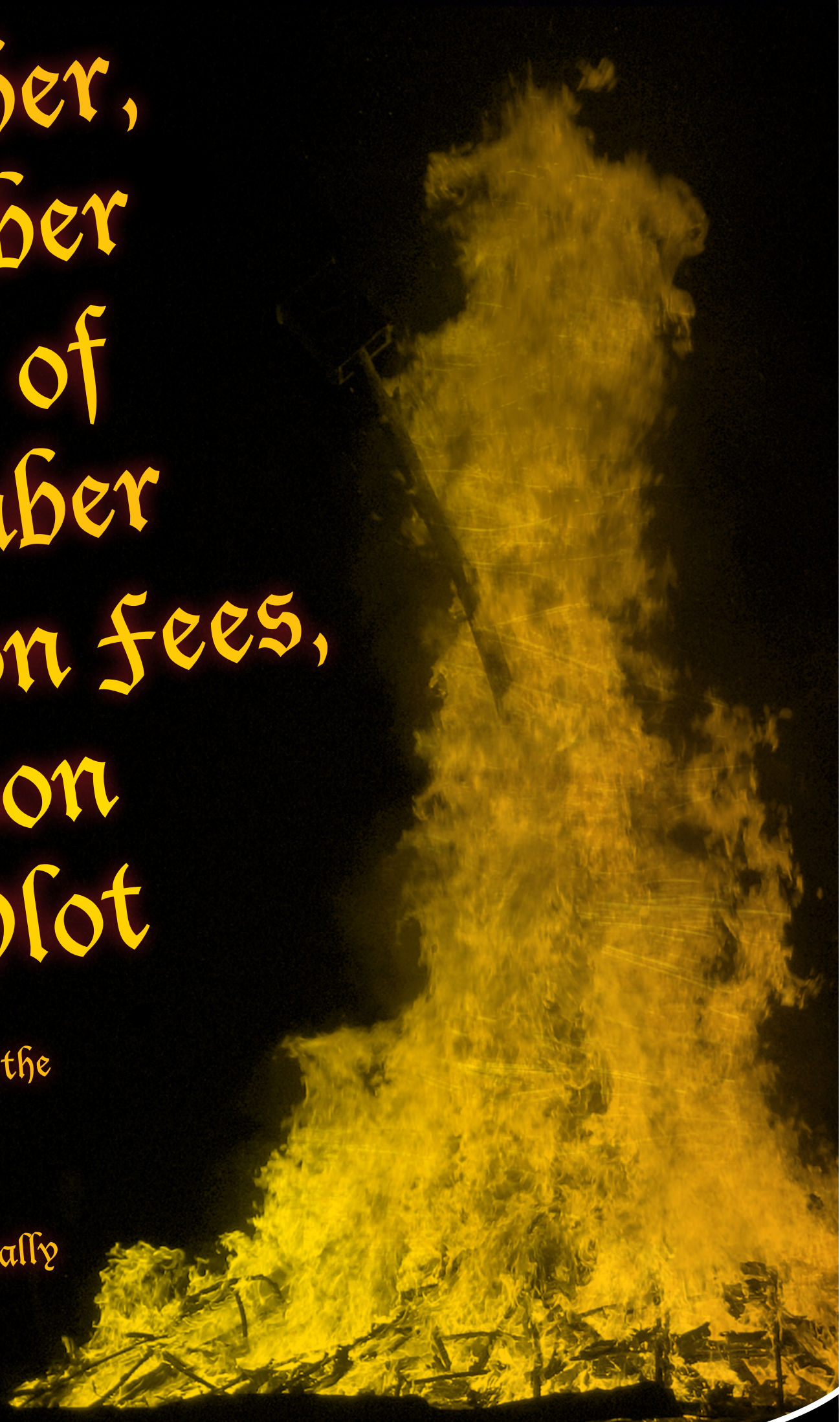
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5 November 7pm

The tennis courts

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LUSU 



# Government's Comprehensive Spending Review heralds more cuts for universities

• Science and maths to be protected as arts set to suffer • Fears cuts will only work if Browne Review is implemented

**Jen Day**

GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR higher education is set to be cut by 40% according to the recent Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). Indications suggest that the arts, humanities and social sciences will be hit the hardest while STEM subjects will be protected.

The CSR has emphasised the importance of investing in science and technology to ensure that the UK remains a world leader in science and research.

STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) subjects will be protected as part of this initiative to encourage growth in the sector. Furthermore, reforms in the Higher Education Innovation Fund are designed to incentivise universities to increase their commercial links with research and business in these areas.

Nonetheless, with arts and humanities falling into the lowest band of the HECFE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) there are concerns that funding from these departments will be removed and re-invested into STEM subjects.

Lancaster's Vice Chancellor, Paul Wellings said: "The CSR is expected to remove funding for all non-medical and non-laboratory based subjects [...] There can only be two outcomes - either the nature of teaching these subjects [arts and humanities] will change and the student experience decline or alternative sources of funding will be found to replace the funding previously allocated by the state."

**"The government is waging war against the humanities and social sciences – the very disciplines that teach us how to speak truth to power. The government is silencing critique – and it will be up to universities to refuse to be silenced."**

LUSU President Robbie Pickles responded to the cuts saying: "We are cutting back public spending too soon which will stunt growth in the economy and in my opinion will cause the stratification of society to widen, so that the poorer people stay poor and the richer people will get richer."

Teaching grants for the arts, humanities and social sciences are planned to be scrapped, while the extra costs for teaching laboratory based subjects will be maintained.

Robert Appelbaum, Head of Department for English and Creative Writing said: "The government is waging war against the humanities and social sciences – the very disciplines that teach us how to speak truth to power. The government is silencing



Students protest against the cuts outside Nick Clegg's constituency office in Sheffield. Photo courtesy of the National Union of Students

critique – and it will be up to universities to refuse to be silenced."

Proposals that teaching grants will be "going in a different way – going via the student" has meant that there will be a "shift from public spending towards greater contributions from those that benefit most", the graduates. Students will carry more responsibility for the funding of their higher education, so that the taxpayer is not left to pay for them.

In line with the Lord Browne review, the Government plans to increase tuition fees by the 2012-2013 academic year. However, there has been some contention surrounding the levels of increase between the Conservatives, who wish to closely follow the Browne review by removing the cap on tuition fees, and the Liberal Democrats who want the cap to remain but are backing an increase in fees to around £7000.

Business Secretary Vince Cable and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg both signed the pledge against the rising in tuition fees before the general election. The recent developments have caused some critics to argue that they have gone back on their word. Clegg argued that he "regretted ditching his pre-election commitment to scrapping tuition fees, but it had to be done due to the financial situation the country was in".

One of the key focuses of the Browne Review was to ensure that UK universities are able to maintain their status in the global market. In the foreword of the review, Browne says "our competitive edge is being challenged by advances made elsewhere. Other countries are increasing investment in their HEIs [Higher Education Institutions] and educating more people to higher standards."

Whilst there is talk of tuition fees are being increased, there is a feeling from academics and those involved in higher education that the cuts in government funding planned in the CSR will counteract the increase in fees, leaving universities in a position where they are struggling to survive in a competitive market.

Wendy Piatt, Director General of the Russell Group said: "It should not be forgotten that our competitor countries are injecting enormous investment into their universities to kick-start growth. Even with this late reprieve [for the research budget], it will remain extremely challenging for leading UK universities to maintain their world-class status and to keep pace with our competitors."

If the cuts are implemented before tuition fees rise universities will be left without compensation to cover their losses. This could lead to universities going out of business.

Funding concerns have sparked rumour that some universities are considering going private. Under this system universities would be able to

charge higher tuition fees than the current £3,290 and would not have to follow government guidelines on widening access to poorer students.

In spite of the cuts to higher education the CSR outlined plans "to ensure a fair deal for students, including those from low income backgrounds, and low income graduates, the Government will establish a new £150m National Scholarship fund to support students from disadvantaged background".

This support is designed to encourage individuals from all backgrounds to be able to access higher education, not just the privileged. In contrast to the cuts being made in higher education, education is being protected and invested in.

"Higher education for some reason is being hit even though education isn't. Higher education should be ring fenced and invested in. Other countries in similar financial difficulties like us, such as France and the USA, are investing more into higher education to get themselves out of recession," argued Pickles.

inspired  
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# elections

TWO THOUSAND AND TEN

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## Students lead local protest against cuts

**Khairil Zhafri**

AROUND 400 RESIDENTS of Lancaster and Morecambe gathered in front of Lancaster City Council offices on the evening of Wednesday Week Two in protest against government spending cuts. Protesters comprising of students, teachers, public sector workers and social activists joined together in reaction to the Comprehensive Spending Review announced by Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne in Westminster earlier that day.

"They go for the weakest and most vulnerable in the society. The Tories [...] attack us the way they have because it is a class choice to do this," Lancaster student Will Taylor said to the enthusiastic crowd. "We have to respond to this class attack with our own class choice. Students and workers are one group of people with similar views and aspirations, and together we can beat these cuts."

In response to the opposition against public spending cuts, Eric Ollerenshaw, MP for Lancaster and Fleetwood, said: "I fully recognise [the budget cuts] will cause hardship for some but those in genuine need will be protected and measures are being put in place to help the private sector grow and to provide more private sector jobs. "Doing nothing is not an option. Delaying action will only make the pain last longer and weaken the country over a longer period. That



is why I support the spending plans and hope they can be implemented as fairly, sensitively but effectively as possible over the coming months."

The street demonstration lasted for about an hour with the crowd chanting anti-cuts slogans. "They say cut back, we say fight back" and "no ifs, no buts, no public spending cuts" were among the refrains the crowd got behind. Motorists passing by the demonstration blared their horns in support of the protesters.

The protesters then marched around Dalton Square and headed towards the Collegian Club on Gage Street where a public meeting was held. At the meeting, the protesters discussed their next course of action for a wider civil society campaign.

The protesters expressed their concerns about the government cuts, especially the impact on education, child benefits and the local council's budget.

Second year Accounting and

Finance student Steven Edgar said: "Cutting child benefits [...] is completely regressive. Even people in the middle income [group] are going to be cut out of the benefits. So, it's a very important for anyone with children today."

"I think education should be, basically, free for everybody", said Ana Tominc, studying for a PhD Linguistics. "It's a right for every citizen to get education. Governments should pay [for education]."

## Uni tries again with downsized turbine project

**Harriet Murdoch**

THE UNIVERSITY HAS altered its plans for two wind turbines to be built on the Hazelrigg site, after planning permission was rejected in May. The University has instead chosen to reapply for one 100m high turbine to be built on the site.

In May of this year, planning permission for two wind turbines on the site was rejected by Lancaster City Council, when they were deemed to be unsuitable for the location due to the site's proximity to nearby residential areas.

The plans could come under threat though, if a new Bill is passed through the House of Lords, which would dictate the distance between turbines and residential areas based on the size of the wind turbine.

However, the erection of this turbine would mean that the University would be able to produce 20% of its electricity on site.

Jonathan Mills, Lancaster University Environment & Sustainability Manager told the Lancaster Guardian: "The university is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and is looking to move this project forward in a positive way.

"The wind turbine would make a significant contribution towards Lancaster University cutting its carbon emissions."

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0200	0200	0200
0230	0230	0230
0300	0300	0300

Bus times from <b>University Underpass</b>		
Fri early morning	Sat early morning	Sun early morning
0108	0108	0108
0152	0152	0152
0222	0222	0222
0252	0252	0252
0320*	0320*	0320*

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X1

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0815	0840	1310
0840	0905	then
0905	0925	hourly
0925	then at	until
then at	45	2210
45	05	
05	25	
25	until	
until	1425	
1425	1445	
1445	1510	
1505	1540	
1545	1610	
1625	1640	
1640	1710	
1710	1740	
1740		

Bus times from <b>University Underpass</b>		
M-F	Sat	Sun
0909	0909	1338
0929	0929	then
0949	0949	hourly
1009	1009	until
then at	then at	2238
29	29	
49	49	
09	09	
until	until	
1509	1509	
1529	1534	
1609	1604	
1649	1634	
1709	1704	
1739	1734	
1809	1804	

All times apply during term times only

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# scan:COMMENT

## If we don't even have the support of our local MP what chance do we have?

Lancaster's Conservative MP needs to stop towing the party line and listen to his constituents on university funding

**Emily Robertson**  
Comment Editor



On the Friday of Week One, just a few days after the release of the Browne Review, the University of Cumbria held a panel debate to try and bring to the fore some of the key issues arising from the review and how they will effect Higher Education not only nationally but in our area. Most of the panel were very obviously and openly on the side of the students with participants such as Stuart Langhorn, the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate for our constituency in the General Election, and Veronica Killen, part of the University and College Union. One participant however, perhaps due to being a Conservative MP and their current party stance on Higher Education, seemed to be not only against the students' and universities' fight for fairer fees and funding but to not actually care at all.

Obviously many students including myself would disagree with Eric Ollerenshaw's views: he supports the raise in tuition fees and a cut in funding as universities become more inde-

**"I would much rather have an MP who is totally honest about not supporting us than an MP who did not intend to support us but makes false promises along the way"**

pendent from the government. Who would willingly agree to pay £7000 or more a year for an education that will be no better than the one we currently receive at a fraction of the price. But I will not take issue with this - I think we have all heard enough about this topic for this month, it is more Ollerenshaw's reluctance to listen to those whom he is supposed to be representing that disturbed me.

Throughout the debate he tutted, rolled his eyes and interjected, even though the chairman of the debate said this would not be tolerated. In a room full of those who will be closely affected by the cuts to Higher Education, those who will be paying the price for his party's decision, this



seemed highly disrespectful.

As a former teacher I would assume that Ollerenshaw had students and the education system at the top of his priorities, but from what was said in the debate and the statement to SCAN, I can only conclude that we are far from it. He used a quotation taken from David Cameron's Prime Ministers' Questions on October 20 to explain his hopes what the changes in Higher Education will achieve: "[W]e want well-funded uni-

versities; we want universities that are able to exercise some independence; [...] we want people from low-income backgrounds to be able to go to the best universities in the country; and we want a proper element of progressivity. That is what Lord Browne proposes, and we are going to amend that to make it even more progressive." Ollerenshaw seems by using this not to be representing us but just following his party without first consulting the people he is supposed to

be representing. His loyalties obviously lie in Westminster, a very long way from Lancaster. Is it not the job of an MP to represent the views and opinions of those within their constituency? Yes, you might say that the majority voted for him and his views so no further consultation with the people is needed; you could say that the people have already spoken. However in such a difficult, changing and crucial time such as now it is simply



Lancaster's former MP, Ben Wallace (far left), signed the pledge to vote against a rise in fees. Current MP Eric Ollerenshaw (left) has not.

wrong that he doesn't seem to be listening to the students and academics in the two universities he is supposed to represent.

His argument is that cuts are to be made all across society and it is only fair if cuts are made to Higher Education as well as the rest of society. Obviously pensioners and parents shouldn't have to bear the brunt of the cuts while us students are unscathed. However it seems that Higher Education is always an easier target than the rest of society, who cares about those lazy, tax-dodging students? Not Eric Ollerenshaw anyway.

Ollerenshaw would not sign the NUS pledge to vote against a raise in tuition fees, saying at both the LUSU question time last academic year and at the debate at Cumbria that he could not sign the pledge without seeing the results of the Browne review first. In this instance I respect Ollerenshaw for his honesty, he said: "Despite pressure, I did not sign up to the student fees pledge before the election, because I felt reform was needed. Many other candidates found it easier just to say what students wanted to hear". I respect that he did not simply sign the pledge to appease students, of which there are many in his constituency. In the light of recent events in the weeks following the Browne review which saw a large proportion of Liberal Democrat MP going back on their promise to support students, I would much rather have an MP who is totally honest about not supporting us (although not ideal) than an MP who did not intend to support us but makes false promises along the way perhaps to try and win the student vote in the election.

With no graduate jobs, should we be studying or singing?

**Rachael Green**

It is only the third week of term, but already the novelty of being a third year has completely worn off. After a week of hard(ish) work, stressing about deadlines already, and worrying about the increasingly short amount of time we have left in the weird and wonderful place that is the city of Lancaster, my house mates and I forget all our troubles and settle down in front of the television on a Saturday night, looking forward to the few hours of respite ahead of us, where the most intellectually challenging topic of conversation will be the squareness of Simon Cowell's hair.

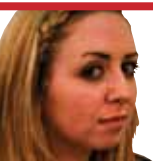
But the luminous lights and mesmerising melodies of the X Factor don't really seem to ease my mind like I want them to. As I gaze at the screen, a seemingly countless array of preened and polished contestants, some as young as 16-years-old, parade around on stage, acting as if they are life long friends with Cheryl Cole and putting their greedy little arms around the lovely Dermot. Among them, there are people who, before even attempting to find success the hard way, have opted for the easier, X-shaped, fast-track ticket to fame and fortune. And they are now being praised nationwide for their laziness. Their greedy faces are printed all over the tabloids, and their, often shakey, performances are now available to download on iTunes. With everyone talking about the lack of graduate jobs available to us these days, I'm starting to wish my mother had enrolled me in signing lessons as a child. While I am pointlessly spending my days with my head in a book and frantically trying to stop the growing pile of work from burying me alive, these baby-faced contestants seem to have gained their celebrity status even before they have fledged the X factor nest. In my opinion, this doesn't seem fair. So I propose we all just forget about 9am lectures, dissertation proposals, and job applications, we can all just sing a verse of Don't Stop Believing and Simon Cowell will appear as if from nowhere with a big plate of money and a Christmas Number One.

The notion of celebrity indicates special status within society; they are a kind of class of their own, separate from the rest of society. A celebrity is someone whose autograph you'd be willing to do unspeakable things for, someone whose nail clippings you would frame and hang up on the wall. And the fact is, these X Factor wannabes, who are held up as icons, are really no better than the rest of us, aside from maybe their exceptionally strong vocal chords (and not even that in some cases).



## COMMENT

# Why should the University have to lose money catering for students' whims and fancies?



**Collette McColgan**  
Assistant Editor

The decision to change the opening hours of the college bars has been a controversial one, but blame lies solely with the students who don't make use of these facilities

Here at Lancaster we are fortunate to have the college system and nine on campus bars at our disposal. But whenever senior University figures, such as the much-reviled David Peeks, make a decision that goes against what students want in terms of the bars, there is always one thing to blame: the profit, or lack thereof. And that lack of profit comes back round to only one possible set of culprits: the students who don't use their bars.

How many of you drink in your college bar? How many of you drink in there more than once a week? How many of you used them on the day they're now closed?

The bars are a student facility and college space which shouldn't have been taken away from us, but surely none of us can fail to realise that they are also a business. For every demand and complaint we make about these changes, the University will always have the same answer, and the same reasons to make the cuts in the Commercial Services division.

So many think it's acceptable to go into the bars and not buy anything; something which they would never dream of doing in a bar or restaurant in town. We need to realise that the bars are there to provide a service, not a seating area.

The students who use the bars aren't the only people who will feel the loss; the people in this situation who have suffered the most are the bar staff and licensees who have lost hours to work, and the money that comes from them. Some of these members of staff are students themselves.

I'm not saying we should spend all our money on the college bars, we all know how hard times are, but why should the University have to lose money catering for students' whims and fancies?



It's not realistic to want the bars to be open if no one is using them

The bars help with a feeling of community in the colleges, but we need to put this in perspective. The changes in Student Based Services are far more likely to have serious repercussions in the long term than the closure of the college bars for one night a week each.

All that said, it's hard not to feel that the University doesn't help itself – every time a decision has been made about the bars, it has been done with little, if any, consultation with stu-

dents for their opinions. It's the same pattern over and over again; the University makes a decision and takes a service away, we kick up a fuss, but nothing will have been done to prove we use the service, and the campaigns only last for so long.

It might seem counter-productive to close them to try and make money, but making savings must come first when profits are so low. There's more that can be done than joining a Facebook group and not using a vending

machine; for many there's more at stake than just a college bar. For most students the college system as a whole is under threat by this move and for some members of staff this is just the latest in a long line of efforts to gradually remove Lancaster's collegiate system.

If students are passionate about getting the college bars back to their previous opening hours, the best thing they can do – better than any protest

**“It's the same pattern over and over again; the University makes a decision and takes a service away, we kick up a fuss, but nothing will have been done to prove we use the service”**

or boycott – is use the bars as much as possible. And sitting in them isn't enough. It would be a wonderful world if the Facilities division hired people to sit in the bars and do a quick head count to prove how popular they all are, but they don't.

We need to come together and spend money and demonstrate – at least on a financial level – how much we love the bars and our colleges. If we don't, the University can insist upon making these cuts without any consultation.

The only chance of getting the message through to the University is through profit. It's a shame, but for some it is a small price to pay for the use of the college space and community that sets Lancaster apart from so many other institutions.

## Lack of definition means colleges are becoming clones

**David Guy**



College apathy has left us with nine clones and no loyalty

Anyone during Freshers' Week wouldn't have failed to hear hoards of freshers chanting in unison. The familiar chorus, which only seems to rear its head during Intro Week could be heard anywhere that groups from two or more colleges were close by. At my introduction to these chants, the Social Secretary and Reps seemed keen to impart the secret words of our college songs. It almost felt special to hear the traditional words, passed down by each generation, being passed onto me. That was until I heard the same song and words coming across from a rival college, albeit with a different name inserted.

It's true that the chants are just a bit of fun, reserved mainly for Freshers' Week, but surely we should have original songs and words, which say something about each college. Or is it proof that college apathy has left us with nine clones?

“We hate Pendle, we hate Pendle” only seems funny because it makes no sense when the only obvious unique feature of the college is that it uses a witch for a logo. Similarly, County's “do it for the tree” seems to have been born out of that college's lack of personality.

Worryingly though, if this trend for college character to be based purely on location, logo and name carries on, Lancaster could be at risk of

**‘Lancaster could be at risk of losing it's colleges all together. Being proud of what is essentially a name and a series of buildings isn't easy, let alone being loyal.’**

losing it's colleges all together. Being proud of what is essentially a name and a series of buildings isn't easy, let alone being loyal. Yet, these feelings would be vital in resisting any further threat to the collegiate system. Joining a Facebook Group seems to be the extent most people went to in defending the autonomy of college bars, which serve as the heart and focal point of each college's social life. So, it has to be wondered if they would do much more for the college itself.

Though those on JCRs, aware of all college goings on, may sense a strong college identity, the average student doesn't. Once moved into town, it's easy to see your college as being that place you were part of in the first year. And if you don't take part in any college sports then there seems little reason to identify yourself with it anymore.

If you check out Facebook and online forums in the summer before

term, you will see threads started by freshers, anxious to know which college to join. Their impression that there really is a personality to each college is soon washed away though by responses such as “Bowland is best”. Yet, it's the only chance to get like-minded people together in each college.

Character can't be designed, but maybe it is worth getting members together to discuss what each college is really about. What are the political leanings, sporting preference? Are they intellectual? Where do members come from? Are Furness all socialists? Does everyone in Fylde play sport? Do Lonsdale girls just have more fun?

Basically anything that makes each college different and sets it in a new direction. Then promote it in the brochures and online, and give future students an idea of what they are buying into when we they put a tick in the college box.



## The Crisis in Higher Education

# Policy and penny pinching are driving students and staff further and further apart

Chris Witter



In his third column of the crisis in Higher Education series, Chris Witter asks what is to be done next?

What is to be done? After the announcements of the Comprehensive Spending Review, as well as the publication of ex-BP chief executive Lord Browne's Higher Education Review, this is the question being asked throughout the country.

The problem is common to us all, yet every sector is searching for its own solution – and within sectors different interest groups are forming. Students are wondering how they might combat increased fees (and decreased education); teaching staff struggle with cuts to the teaching budget; university administrators construct their plans to navigate the next two years, beat off their competitors, and re-imagine the university in line with the (probable) total privatization of Higher Education in 2012.

Thus, an actual as well as a “merely ideological” separation of interests appears; yet even as it appears each distinct grouping is incorporated actually and ideologically in line with neo-liberal hegemony. Going against the tide, one finds oneself isolated, one's actions ineffectual, one's arguments missing their mark. Going with the tide, each group senses some potential advantage to be had – at least, down to the common denominator: those who are genuinely subaltern because effectively excluded from the ‘negotiating-table’ (perhaps students fall within this latter category). The partial cause thus fails against the oppressive weight of the totality: the objections of pressure groups appear “unrealistic”.

What am I talking about? The various political negotiations (observable in strategically timed interviews, premature disclosures of key information, the tapping of pressure points)

between Government departments (not to mention the two parties of the coalition); the compromises that see Vice Chancellors accepting budget cuts in exchange for the destruction of the fee cap and deregulation of funding and admissions; the trickling down of this to departments, where Heads construct crisis plans to keep their departments afloat; the individual academics who allow this to work by conducting research for department business plans, teaching extra hours, making do. Then there are the students who, along with their families, bear the

brunt. But they too make do: for, after all, they do want an education (perhaps even need an education), and will take the little they can get, if it's all that's on offer.

A thousand pressures and conflicts, but we make do – and not just for ourselves, but for others. Heads try to do the best by staff, staff by students: the actual conflicts between these separate but united groups obscured by good will, compromise, and mutual care. Indeed, it becomes apparent that without this care, this making do (call it the “big society”, if you will), the system

would collapse overnight, unable to function were it not for our will to humanise the ruthless asceticism of austerity. The paradox, then (though is actually no paradox): our struggle against the system is caused to function in such a way that it actually aids the consolidation of the system. Dissent and contradiction are harmonized into false unity.

The question remains: what is to be done? Perhaps you will disagree with my analysis - I'm sure it's not unflawed. But, I am convinced that, one way or another, a student movement against increased fees and cuts to Higher Education will not succeed so long as it remains a partial cause. It will not be enough to go out on the streets and demand our plight is recognised; it will not be enough to observe the illogic of Government policies. I'm convinced that we cannot bring into question the logic of these anti-intellectual attacks without bringing into question the whole: the problem of our pseudo-democracy; the problem of an economic system built upon exploitation; the problem of the incorporation of culture and the academy into the ideology of the free-market; in short, the problems of capitalism, bureaucracy, secrecy, corruption and violence upon which our (crisis-prone) society is founded and functions. But, it is exactly here that a new unity appears: an actual basis for solidarity between all sectors and all people who recognise the existence of shared problems, shared needs, shared desires. It is this common experience that should dictate the course of future action, and our mutual desires the ends of that action: not policy, not MPs, not politics – not even the iron laws of the economy.



## The only word for the Commonwealth Games is ‘shambles’

Will McDonagh



India cannot blame the weather for their embarrassing, and dangerous, Games

India's first attempt at hosting the Commonwealth Games failed quite spectacularly. They have been pummelled with criticism for their lack of planning and organisation: for not only disrupting the actual running of the events but for jeopardising the safety of participants and spectators, the prime example being the collapse of one of the constructed bridges injuring close to 30 people.

Many New Delhi residents had hoped that the billions of dollars the country was spending on hosting one of the world's biggest sporting events would rid the city of its problems. But as construction work was being carried out right up until the scheduled start in early October, it looked like their problems were not being resolved by hosting the competition, but were being made worse.

Monsoon rain was a constant hindrance for the labourers, working day and night on the various struc-

tures needed for the games, with conditions so bad that their health has been a serious concern for many. Dug-up construction sites with shallow pits of muddy water serve as ideal habitats for disease-carrying mosquitoes. In remarks broadcast last month, the city's chief minister, Sheila Dikshit, urged the nation to pray in case rain ran right up until the start of the games. “I can only pray and request you to pray, the city to pray, the whole country to pray,” she said.

Clearly this is much more than a sporting competition for those directly effected by the games in New Delhi, and the opportunity to host them was in essence a glimmer of hope for their troubles. So is the criticism that they have faced fair, considering the environmental disasters plaguing the country over the year?

Scott Stevenson, Director of Sport for Commonwealth Games Canada, believes it is. Before before his ath-

letes were due to arrive in India he said: “We recognize that the monsoon rains have made things more difficult for workers here. But the current conditions are unacceptable and we have formally requested that the [Commonwealth Games Federation] and the organizing committee get these issues resolved prior to the athlete arrivals.”

His criticism is mainly directed at the poor state of the Commonwealth Village which Michael Cavanaugh, Chairman of Commonwealth Games Scotland, described as “uninhabitable” and “filthy,” not secure, and noted that there were stray dogs lingering around the complex.

Many have blamed poor planning and an lack of organisation on the sorry state of the event this year, believing that India's failure cannot be forgiven or forgotten just because of the natural disasters that have plagued the nation, which is true. India were given an opportunity to display them-

selves as developing and maturing: a chance to create a new image for themselves to present to the world as a whole. I know they have been faced with difficult circumstances in trying to do so but you have to wonder if those circumstances did not exist and rain did not act as any sort of prevention, would India truly have been giving the world any more hope in their ability to produce a memorable year for the games? I think not.

They failed, but criticising them will not repair the damage caused to an already disputable reputation. What we need to realise is not what a travesty they have concocted, but instead what a tragedy the country has faced, as this beacon of hope that they were given in the shape of the Commonwealth Games has been lost. India does not need a telling off right now, it needs sympathy and help as their problems have only gotten worse, and it's the everyday citizen who have to pay.



# scan

Editorial

## Students want politics, not just piss-ups

**IT IS FAIR** to say that the Students' Union was taken by surprise this week, both by how quickly its tickets to the NUS's London Demonstration sold out, and the type of students reserving them. 200 tickets gone in two days, and an extra 50 disappearing just as quickly, while other Unions in the region struggle to reach 100. This is a credit where credit is due case.

But what is more impressive, or worrying depending on your point of view, is the number of so called "ordinary students" attending the Demo. For ordinary student you can read students who aren't Cross-Campus or JCR Officers, whose names aren't instantly recognisable in the Students' Union building. Less than a quarter of those signed up for London are Union Officers, breaking the model for almost all Lancaster campaigns in recent memory.

This proves wrong a lot of accepted norms. The first being that students at Lancaster don't care about politics, and don't want to know about what goes on down in Whitehall. Students do care, enough to get up at 5am for a six hour coach journey at any rate. They care because they understand how it is going to affect them. The Students' Union can't take credit here: the national media has made sure everyone is aware of what the government is up to and the repercussions their decisions will have. The second norm proved wrong is that it is only JCR Officers who take part in Students' Union campaigns. This certainly seemed to be the case last year, but for whatever reasons it is not the case this year. It can only be healthy for student democracy at Lancaster that more students are engaged than officers: it means that the message is more genuine, stemming from students' real concerns, not just what a select bunch feel the agenda should be.

There was one more thing that was proved wrong, and that was the JCR Officers themselves. When the Students' Union decided to dip into its coffers to provide the £3000 needed to send 200 students to London, the JCRs expressed concern that it would not be able to find the 200 students who would be willing to attend which justified that amount of money. It was suggested that if every JCR officer took just a few friends the 200 places would be filled easily, not that this was needed in the end.

Those officers who questioned if 200 students were that committed to fighting their corner should seriously rethink their understanding of the student body at Lancaster. It's clichéd to say JCRs are out of touch with the students they represent, but on this occasion the remark is bang on. Students don't just want a piss-up organised every other night. They want to get involved in the decisions which affect them. They want their voice to be heard. And if their elected representatives won't do it on their behalf, then they'll do it themselves.

## Letters to the Editor

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



### One stop disappointment

I recently went to visit the garishly branded Base in University House after I had been directed to it as a "one stop shop" for student help, specifically I was looking for learning support. The Base didn't know where to direct me on the matter, at all. In fact they seemed to have no idea what they were talking about. Because the issue was important to me I made a long and exhaustive series of enquiries by other channels, through my tutors etc, and have found out about the learning support that is available in my Faculty. But what is the point of the Base if it doesn't deliver on its promises and cannot support students.

Louise Bryning  
County College

### Bar woes

I am very unhappy to hear about the college bars being closed one weekend night every week. Not

only is it inconvenient for those of us who enjoy going for a drink in our nearby college, but it seems acutely unfair for licensees to have to succumb to reduced hours. It's particularly annoying because one of the things me and my flatmates enjoy doing on a Sunday evening is doing the County quiz, but County bar will now be closed on Sundays. We want our bar back!

Anon.

County College

### JCR let down

We brought our (free!) tickets for the National Demonstration yesterday [Tuesday] and cannot wait to get to London and show the government why the issue of higher education is important to us all. At least that's what we had figured. We are extremely disappointed to find that our college JCR Officers seem to have no interest in the Demo. When we tried to speak to them about it to see how they've been involved in the campaign, but they didn't seem to understand why

we thought the JCR should have been involved in the campaign, or to know much about it in general. We felt we had more of a clue about it just from reading Facebook Groups. We elected these officers to represent us locally and nationally, not just to organise a few socials every weekend.

We feel very let down.

Disappointed voters  
College not given

### Corrections

- The writer suggested not calling 999 and instead ring the on-campus police officer. It should be ring 999. ('Playing it safe', October 19, Carolynne page 11).
  - The Management School did not host the Peace Lectures, it was FASS. ('Awarding winning human rights...', October 19, page 12).
- SCAN's policy is to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please contact the Editor with the date, page or weblink.

**DEEP DOWN DISCO**  
GET DOWN AND BOOGIE

★★★★★  
"totally awesome"  
Owen Wilson

★★★★★  
"more bulby than a tulip farm"  
NME

★★★★★  
"brutal is a disco maestro"  
FHM

★★★★★  
"funkia fantasia"  
MTV

BUY YOUR TICKET AND GET  
£6 worth of drinks vouchers,  
Free Entrance into The  
Lounge, Hustle & Dalton Rooms,  
Bus Journey back to  
Campus all for only £6  
Buy your ticket from  
Lancaster Students Union

NO 1#  
STUDENT  
NIGHT

LOVE TRAIN  
EVERY MONDAY  
3 VENUE STUDENT PUB CRAWL

THE LOUNGE Hustle Dalton ROOMS

£6 DRINK VOUCHER  
FREE ENTRANCE  
FREE BUS

**iRock**  
Live Bands - Early Doors  
Best Indie Night in town  
Excellent Drinks Offers  
Hustle  
1 Spring Garden St, Lancaster, LA1 1RQ

FREE ENTRY  
WITH TICKET  
£1 WITHOUT

OFFICIAL Student Night

DON'T MISS...  
£1 Cocktails

LOUNGE COCKTAILS

LOVE TRAIN  
DEEP DOWN DISCO

FREE ENTRY  
WITH TICKET  
OR £3 WITHOUT

3 Bottles for £5  
IN THE CLUB

Dalton ROOMS



# No club is bigger than the player

It is impossible to look at the events of the last two weeks at Manchester United without a certain degree of confusion. The extraordinary public show of dissent from Wayne Rooney towards his manager, Sir Alex Ferguson, was both captivating and infuriating at the same time. Indeed, Ian Holloway, the manager of Blackpool, was scathing in his criticism of Rooney.

He said in a press conference during the saga: "What if he sits there for 18 months, throws tantrums, doesn't try, doesn't play, and someone's already said to him, 'We'll take you and we'll pay you some of that money we should have paid Manchester United because you can walk out on a free'? Do you want to sign a person like that? Do you want to play for a club that says that to you? How do we know it hasn't already happened? The game is wrong."

He even went on to add that Sir Alex was being "bullied". For someone as powerful, respected, and ruthless as Ferguson, that is quite something to suggest.

But all things considered, it is true. The balance of power in the modern game has shifted so significantly that it is the players who can almost exert complete control over their managers - something satirised excellently in this paper's Sport Distort column. It was Ronaldo who managed to orchestrate his departure from United, it was Gallas who allegedly threatened to score an own goal if forced to remain in a Chelsea shirt, and it is Rooney who so publicly embarrassed his manager in the press over the last few weeks. Quite simply, it is disgraceful.

The matter is made even worse if you consider the size and stature of Manchester United as a club, and remember the old adage that "no player is bigger than the club"? That has been completely disproved by the Rooney saga, as Ferguson and the club realised they would simply not be able



Rooney's behaviour is an indictment of the modern game.

**“Remember the old adage that ‘no player is bigger than the club’? That has been completely disproved by the Rooney saga”**

to cope without him. While players such as Obertan, Macheda and in particular Hernandez are very talented, they still need to develop in order to perform consistently at the very highest level.

While United have lost many star talents in the past - mostly due to falling out with Ferguson - there is a key difference this time around. As pointed out by Matt Lawton of the Daily Mail: "When Ince was sold on

for growing rather too big for his boots, Ferguson already had Keane. When Beckham dared stand up to him, a certain Cristiano Ronaldo had already been lined up to wear the No 7 shirt. By the time Van Nistelrooy had been moved on to Real Madrid, Rooney had emerged." Who would have been ready to fill the void left by a Rooney departure now?

That is exactly why United were prepared to throw money at him to stay, and the player - or perhaps the agent - was fully aware of that. Bridges have been burned with the team's loyal supporters, who made a point at the recent fixture against Stoke City of chanting the names of former legends of the club. Even Cristiano Ronaldo's name was sung - anyone except Wayne Rooney. He wasn't booed, just ignored. That will be the case until he gains form again - and all memory of this saga will most probably be swept away, such is the nature of the modern game. As ever, it is Holloway who sums the situation up best. "[UEFA and FIFA] say it's not fair on the player. Rubbish. The player has had his wages every week. They bought him, they worked with him, he belongs to them. It's so obvious. The world should change if it's wrong and football should look at itself."

**Jack Smith**  
Sports Editor



## Regional Football

# Cup success provides distraction from ailing league form

**Matthew Todd**

OCTOBER HAS SEEN Lancashire's football clubs struggling for consistency as the league season progresses. Fortunately the lottery that is knockout cup competition has yielded improved results for the local sides.

Wigan have progressed into the quarter-finals of the League Cup with a 2-0 victory over Swansea at the DW Stadium. An added bonus for Roberto Martinez is that Mauro Boselli notched his first goal for the club since his summer arrival. Wigan fans will be hoping that the prolific striker can now reproduce his form whilst playing for Estudiantes. The result may also inspire a Wigan side that have stumbled to league draws with Newcastle and Bolton, and suffered an injury to creative midfielder James McArthur.

Blue Square Premier division new boys Fleetwood are also dreaming of facing the big guns after reaching the first round proper of the FA Cup. A last minute win over minnows Buxton secured their passage into the draw, which has resulted in a favourable home tie against League 1 strugglers Walsall. This cup success has come with the club on a four match winless run in league matches, including a 1-0 defeat to bottom of the table Altrincham.



Wigan fans will be hoping for a good cup run. Photo by Dan Farrimond

cham. Micky Mellon has been quick to bring in some much needed experience with the capture of Sean Gregan from Oldham.

Local side Lancaster City are competing on three fronts with progress secured in the League Cup and FA Trophy, which is the equivalent of the FA Cup for non-league sides. Unlike their Lancashire neighbours, their

league form has also picked up, with a 3-0 victory over Prescot Cables on Tuesday night.

In front of a sparse crowd of just 104, Swarbrick put the Dolly Blues ahead with a clinical finish on 20 minutes. With the last kick of the first half, McKenna slammed home from the edge of the box after a jinking run to double the advantage. Lancaster con-

tinued to press after the interval and added a third from the spot through substitute Watt.

The region's other League sides have failed to take advantage of their early exit from cup competition and have struggled for form in their respective divisions. Although Blackpool were unlucky with refereeing decisions in their 3-2 defeat to Manchester City, (Varney's goal was wrongly called offside and Tevez's opener for City should have been disallowed) the Tangerines have lost 4 of their last 5 games and sit just a point above the relegation zone.

Preston are also hovering dangerously above the bottom three despite a thrilling 4-3 victory over Crystal Palace moving them up two places. Jon Parkin added another two goals to his season's tally as North End held on after taking a 4-1 lead.

The Globe Arena may not have witnessed a goal fest like that at Deepdale, but Morecambe's 1-0 win over Shrewsbury was equally vital; the Shrimps first win in their new stadium moved them clear of the danger zone for the first time in over a month. Saturday's FA Cup draw has given Morecambe a tough trip to Cheltenham, but Sammy McIlroy will no doubt be prioritising his side's league form during November.



# Students are the casualties of poor planning

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

Last week was without doubt one of my most depressing weeks since being involved in sport here at Lancaster. Having to tell two university clubs and college teams that their facilities for matches and training will be taken away from them for the remainder of this term was something I had to do with a very heavy heart. Due to the re-surfacing work which is taking place to the tennis courts by the main entrance to the University and the netball courts by the current Sports Centre, an injury list of the affected teams reads as the following: three university tennis sides, three university netball, the Women's Rugby Union team, and 15 college netball teams. For those of you who do not know my old position within LUSU, I was Inter College Sports Co-ordinator, a role which had very close ties with some of the people who have been most severely affected with this problem and so it has been a personal mission of mine to fight for the fairest deal with regards to this resurfacing and all parties involved, but my attempts were to no avail and fell on deaf ears.

This process is something that should have happened over the course of the summer, and yet this task has been sat in University House for the entire of the vacation to ensure "value for money" from the project. What I would ask those responsible for this action, or lack thereof, is where on earth is the "value for money" for those who wish to compete for and represent the University, or their college? I certainly can't see it, and neither can the many students whom this affects and to whom I have had to give this disappointing news.

These types of tactics should be something the University should be striving to eradicate. Surely the greatest benefit to the students is when the Institution and the Students' Union work in unison, not in opposition to each other.

It is key to remember in this situation, however, that the facilities gained after this work has taken place are going to be much better than what we have had to deal with at present; but in keeping with what seems to be a common theme of the University not sticking to their promises, poor time management has led to the sorry state of affairs we are in today - students being at a disadvantage as a result of something well beyond their control. In the mean time I hope the external options which are being looked at by myself and Kim Montgomery, the Director of Sport will help relieve some of the pain for the teams affected.



# Cartmel secure South West bragging rights with crushing victory



Photo by Matthew Todd

## Inter-college football

<b>Cartmel</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Lonsdale</b>	<b>0</b>

**Matthew Todd**

CARTMEL STARTED THE inter-college A league football season in fine style with a 5-0 victory over rivals Lonsdale. Although Lonsdale strung together some attractive possession football, they were unable to deal with the pace and power of the Cartmel attack.

The opening stages of this contest were decidedly scrappy, with both teams adjusting to the tricky surface and clearly short of match practice. Both defences were forced to resort to route one clearances early on as neither side looked entirely comfortable on the ball.

However, it was Cartmel that settled first and they duly opened the scoring on six minutes; an incisive

through-ball gave Brown the chance to deliver a pinpoint cross for Carr to slot home at the back post. At this point the game was still highly competitive and Lonsdale threatened to grab a quick equalizer. A period of concerted pressure resulted in Needham in the Cartmel goal tipping the ball over via a post, to the relief of his teammates.

The failure to convert pressure into goals was to haunt Lonsdale just moments later. An exquisite long pass from Bury was seized upon by Carr, who rammed home with confidence to put Cartmel 2-0 up after just 15 minutes. This goal clearly affected Lonsdale's morale, their passing became erratic and they were unable to threaten the Cartmel goal for large periods of play.

It seemed inevitable that Lonsdale would fall further behind and when Leatham delivered a quick corner to find Brown in acres of space, there was only one outcome. A firm header found its way past a stranded Al-Hendi in the

Lonsdale net to give Brown the goal that his performance merited.

Just when a capitulation looked likely however, Lonsdale came back strongly and finished the half the better team. A string of set pieces caused chaos in the Cartmel area and only a heroic block from Humphreys denied Ackroyd a certain goal with virtually the last kick of the first period.

Cartmel reorganised at the break, with a 4-4-2 formation employed to stifle the game and deny Lonsdale space in the wide areas. The plan appeared successful as 15 minutes passed without major incident, the game largely fought out in a congested middle third of the field. That was until Lonsdale squandered their best opportunity to find a route back into the game on 68 minutes. A floated corner was poorly dealt with by the Cartmel defence, the ball deflecting invitingly for Lonsdale into the path of their centre half, who proved why he plays in defence by lashing over the bar with

the goal gaping.

Having weathered this storm, Cartmel retook the initiative and forced Lonsdale onto the back foot once more. Two quick strikes ended any hopes of a dramatic comeback; first Humphreys with a cushioned volley to notch a rare goal and then Leatham added a fifth on his debut after more fine work from Brown. Cartmel then proceeded to miss further glorious opportunities with weak finishes before referee Holden brought the game to a close.

Whilst this game may have provided Lonsdale with a footballing lesson for large parts, there are certainly positives to take into their game against Furness. Their passing football is certainly an improvement on last season's direct approach and a two pronged attack will yield a greater return of goals. As for Cartmel, they have set a marker for the rest of the league, and with County beating Fylde on the opening day the race for the league title looks set to be an exciting affair.

## Team Spotlight

# Boat Club

**Nick O'Malley**  
Sports Editor

THE LANCASTER UNIVERSITY Boat Club (LUBC) has an extremely hectic year ahead, with numerous races and fundraising events.

The Club's first race of the year is the York Small Boats Head, the main British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) competition before Christmas which gives pre-existing members a taste of inter-university competition, and novices an opportunity to transfer what they have learnt in to race conditions. It is seen as the perfect opportunity to determine where LUBC is up to as a club.

On the same day there is the British

Indoor Rowing Championship at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham for the largest indoor rowing event in the world, while the club's non-rowing members will attend.

The Club is not just about racing, they make a special effort to do at least one fundraising effort per term. Their sponsored event for first term is a 24hour ergometre - the device used to determine the amount of work performed - in which experienced rower Dan Morgan will be attempting to break the world record for most metres rowed in this time. This will take place in town in the early part of December. The proceeds will be split equally between LUBC and the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Second term sees the Boat Club attending the Women's Head of River Race and the Head of River Race. These two events are both raced on the river Thames, from Mortlake to Putney. Last year the women came in the top 100 of over 300 teams, with the men finishing in the top 200 of 400.

The end of their year will be just as hectic, with the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham for the BUCS Regatta not to mention Roses, when Lancaster will be looking to retain the trophy by beating York on their own river.

The climax of the year for the women's team is the Henley women's Regatta, one of the most prestigious

rowing events, with teams travelling from all over the world to attend. The women's team has a lot to live up to after last year's brilliant effort that saw them reach the quarter finals before narrowly missing out on a semi-final spot after being beaten by a canvas. And finally there is the Henley Royal Regatta which is the men's equivalent of the same event due to be held between June 29 and July 3.

Boat Club Novices train on Wednesday mornings doing circuits and have outings on the River Lune each Saturday and Sunday, while the seniors train almost every day. If you are interested in joining the club they can be found online or you can email the Captain at j.williams3@lancs.ac.uk.



# Battling performance from Lancaster but MMU too strong

## Women's Football

Lancaster Man Met	1 4
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Matthew Todd

LANCASTER WOMEN'S FIRSTS football team played host to Manchester Metropolitan University on Wednesday in their second northern conference fixture of the season. Lancaster were looking to bounce back from a narrow 3-2 defeat against Liverpool Hope in their first game, whilst MMU were in confident mood following a 10-0 hammering of Keele.

Both sides started the game positively and the early exchanges saw the ball moved around briskly despite the extremely boggy and rutted pitch. MMU seemed to settle in their rhythm quicker than the home side, and their dangerous striker was the first to test McTague in the Lancaster goal with a long range effort that was smartly handled.

Lancaster looked dogged when chasing the game but had to wait until the tenth minute for their first sight of the goal, Leahey was gifted an opportunity from a weak MMU goal kick, but could only fire over from a tight angle.

Although Lancaster defended doggedly, the MMU side continued to look threatening; this attacking intent paid off when Smith found space in the area and rifled home a stunning strike. Lancaster's defence reorganized and deployed Lloyd in the sweeper position to counter the movement of the MMU front two. This allowed Lancaster to break up the play more effectively and the wide players benefitted from seeing more of the ball. Thompson swept down the left wing after 32 minutes, nutmegged her marker and played a tremendous through ball which had just too much pace for her teammates to get on to.

However, immediately following this good work, Lancaster were hit by two goals in as many minutes from Johnson and Reid; the first a rasping strike from 20 yards and the second a crisp volley from a right-wing cross. At 3-0 down Lancaster rallied as the half neared its conclusion; Thompson missing a decent chance after a lung bursting run.

After some wise words from their coach, Lancaster emerged for the

**'Lancaster looked dogged but had to wait for their first sight of the goal'**

second half looking determined to find a route back into the game. MMU were still dangerous on the counter attack and McTague superbly tipped a long-range strike over the bar; the striker had already wheeled away to celebrate.

That save looked even more crucial with 57 minutes played as Murphy struck back for Lancaster; she picked the ball up on the right wing and with the MMU goalkeeper sneaking off her line, chipped home a sublime finish from 25 yards. However, Lancaster proved that teams are at their most vulnerable after scoring by promptly conceding just 60 seconds later; a poor clearance allowing an MMU substitute to poke in from close range.

Lancaster continued to attack for the remainder of the tie and commanding defending from Bird and Lloyd kept MMU from adding a fifth. Despite a late barrage MMU held firm to claim a 4-1 victory that their composed possession football merited. Despite the result there is much to be positive about ahead of Lancaster's next game against Salford. The possession football played will be rewarded on better surfaces, and all of the players showed the required spirit to pick up some positive results in the rest of the campaign.



Lancaster put in a passionate performance. Photo by Elliot Westcott

# Individuals win it for Lancs

## Basketball

Lancaster L'pool Hope	59 52
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Neil Richardson

LANCASTER MANAGED TO win a respectable victory against Hope, but only after strong individual displays from Karl Viilver, Pambos Hadjitheodosiou and in particular Chris Hodkin in the final period.

Straight from the team huddle the home side seemed determined to win. The first period showed both teams' attacking intentions; Lancaster point guard Constandinos Christofi opened the scoring and led from the back, creating an abundance of chances for the home side. Estonian centre Karl Viilver demonstrated his ability with a series of long range efforts, scoring a spectacular three pointer and repeatedly creating chances. Point guard Mike Molloy was a peripheral attacking figure for Liverpool Hope, scoring two baskets and a three pointer. But with the score being 15-11 to Lancaster at the end of the first period, it was hardly the straightforward victory the home side were hoping for.

If the first period was a display of attacking ambition, the second period was a much scrappier affair. Hope's small forward Ashley Grey continued to cause problems for the Lancaster defence, drawing numerous fouls and making a series of speedy runs. This allowed Hope to claw their way back into the match. At one point the score was 18-15 in their favour. Then Lancaster power forward Pambos Hadjitheodosiou scored a basket, won a foul and scored the resulting free throw to make it 21-18. Viilver continued his long range expertise, scoring a further three pointer. A 30-25 scoreline kept Lancaster in front.

Early in the third period, Lancaster found themselves under the cosh, their attacking threat quelled by Hope with the deficit reduced to two points at 33-31. However, Chris Hodkin a sublime three pointer after coming off the bench, to edge Lancaster further clear at 36-31. Pambos Hadjitheodosiou continued where he left off, demonstrating strength, raw pace and vision on the ball, scoring a basket and two free throws.

At the start of the fourth period the game sparked into life. This period belonged to one player: Chris Hodkin made a couple of excellent defensive blocks, and was constantly bombing forward looking to finish the game off. The undoubted highlight was when he won a tussle with Mike Molloy, and ran the length of the court to score. This individual battle boiled over when Hodkin made another defensive intervention on Molloy. Tthe Hope player kicked out at him and was sent off. Hodkin went on to score another as Lancaster overcame a late rally by the away side to win.

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

# Rooney's contract a clause too far for Sir Alex

Fearsome patriarch and all round footballing force Sir Alex Ferguson was found in an unfamiliar and vulnerable state this morning, buckled on the pavement in pain just outside Manchester United's training ground in Carrington.

The 68-year-old Knight was discovered by members of the United reserves, who called paramedics when it emerged that he could not stand up. Steroid-addled giga-teen Federico Macheda was nice enough to recount for Sport Distort what happened as Fergie and the players waited for his ambulance:

"The gaffer was in agony." Macheda recalled. "He explained to us that as part of Wayne's new contract -" - the

player's tone darkened notably - " - he had to personally carry Wayne to and from the training ground every weekday and to and from Old Trafford every Saturday. He gets Sundays off, unless Wayne fancies a trip down the links."

Fergie was clearly in huge amounts of pain as Sport Distort managed to catch him for a quick interview. "Wayne's a big lad," he groaned. "I can normally just about manage to get him to Carrington in the mornings if I'm in bed by 7pm. Today though, Wayne wanted to go on my shoulders for a bit - I gave him 10 minutes but my knees starting knocking so I had to revert to the piggy-back. Then he wanted an ice-cream so we had to stop and pick up

a Feast. He'd just had breakfast, the little trooper, but I didn't want him getting stropky. Bless him, it was only a matter of time before my aging legs gave way."

Meanwhile, Macheda pulled no punches when asked for the rest of the team's views on Rooney's lucrative new deal. "It's a disgrace," he muttered, the disgust there for all to see. "Part of the contract stipulates that we

**"Part of the contract stipulates that we have to laugh at all the jokes he cracks in training. They're always so dire!"**

have to laugh at all the jokes he cracks in training. They're always so dire! Plus we have to score his goals, do his shopping at Waitrose, clean his car with our tears and fight each other for his pleasure. Scholesy took Chicharito's eye out the other day, all in the name of entertainment for the mighty Wayne."

In other news, a middle-aged Villa fan who mocked Macheda United whilst having his lunch in a pub in Dudley has been rewarded with a five-year deal. Ian Woolstenholme, 47, is "settling well" according to his new teammates. "He can put in a shift up front," commented Dimitar Berbatov, "plus he's actually here for the weekend and not out on the lash and punching camels in Dubai."





Digging up trouble.  
Photo by Elliot Westacott

## Clubs in crisis as courts are closed

### Teams forced to play off-campus as resurfacing work begins

**Jack Smith**  
Sports Editor

THE COLLEGE NETBALL and tennis schedules for this term have been scrapped following the University's decision to begin resurfacing work on the courts.

The work, which was originally planned for over the summer, began on the tennis courts at the main entrance to the University last week, while work on the netball courts is expected to start in Week Five. Kim Montgomery, Director of Sport at the University, explained: "The work to the netball courts and tennis courts would have ideally taken place during the summer vacation. Sign off on the job was delayed because it was essential that we were able to deliver the best possible and most flexible areas that we could. Therefore, and in line with the Outdoor Masterplan, we saw opportunities not just to recreate what we already have, ie, a tennis area and a netball area but to create our first two multi use games areas."

Team captains have reacted to the

news with disappointment. Laura Christie, Captain of the Cartmel college netball team, told SCAN: "I am angry and disappointed at the way the situation has been treated by the University, as I have only recently become Captain and now most of my plans for the team, training sessions, and matches, have been scuppered due to the desperate situation of the courts."

Lonsdale Captain Nina Best added: "As a team, Lonsdale are very disappointed about the situation with the courts this term. All the colleges are in the same position, and as this is such a competitive league, it seems a shame to have to wait until next term for the season to get underway. However, after meeting with Lancaster University Students' Union, they are helping us set up a tournament to keep competitive spirits high, ready for the league [to begin] in January."

Marc Handley, LUSU Vice President (Sports) told SCAN: "What I want to know is where precisely is the value for money for the over 200 students that this affects? Sport was put on the map here with the success of

**"I am angry and disappointed at the way the situation has been treated by the University"**

Roses 2010 and yet that seems to be a distant memory now as we are back to the times of old where the University doesn't think about the effect their choices have on its students."

He added: "What must be thought of though is the benefit in the long run for the affected teams - I just hope it is money well spent and not a poor attempt at keeping the sports clubs quiet and contented. If the Sports Association [the new name for the Athletic Union] is being asked to perform on a regular basis, we need to be given the chance to do so and not have the rug pulled from under our feet."

Handley is understood to be working closely with LUSU Involve to find alternative locations to host matches. Options being considered include using courts at local schools, or hiring an outside venue for a weekend col-

lege competition. Montgomery also says she is working to aid the afflicted teams. "Given that this term the netball courts will be out of action. I have personally contacted local schools and the city council to find alternative accommodation. In addition we are going to mark three netball courts on the artificial surfaces and some sessions can be moved indoors. In the event that teams still have to go off campus then costs will be met so that no team or individual is out of pocket."

While the timing of the works has come under fire, it is generally accepted that the courts were in disrepair and desperately needed the resurfacing work. The Lancaster University Tennis Club have been playing their fixtures off campus for some time, at the Bowerham Tennis Club. The University courts were in terrible condition, a fact not helped by their regular use as overflow car parking on events such as open days.

Montgomery added: "I understand that this is frustrating for netball players but given the health and safety issue the work has to be carried out."

## University

Find out how the Women's Firsts did against Manchester Met  
Page 19

## College

Who owns the bragging rights in South West?  
Page 18

## Distort

Rooney's having a laugh  
Page 19

### 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 Four, Michaelmas Term

**Going off  
with a bang**





emails from  
@australia

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

UNLIKE THE Milder autumn climate that now shrouds the UK in showers and shorter daylight hours, Australia continues to get sunnier and hotter with the summer fast approaching. Sorry to gloat. Yet with the sun and increasing temperatures comes an overwhelming surge of health warnings and precautions. As the Australian beaches have filled with tan-craving sunbathers, advisory adverts have started to appear more often on the television, sun cream has been placed closer to shop entrances, and the infamous national campaign Slip Slop Slap has resurfaced. It is questionable whether such strategies are effective at informing the public of the risks they take when they enter the sun though. Currently, over 1600 Australians die every year from skin cancer and a further 380,000 are get a skin cancer removed each year.

The Slip Slop Slap campaign is the Australian Government’s biggest national effort to raise awareness of the precautions to take whilst in the sun. The slogan stands for the three safety measures that can be taken: slip on a t-shirt, slop on some sun cream, and slap on a hat. In the 1980s the campaign was voiced by a cartoon mascot called Sid the Seagull who made it accessible for children and parents alike. The Australian Government felt that Sid the Seagull’s efforts were futile and so a new hard-hitting campaign was introduced in 2008. The campaign features horrifying footage of melanoma patients under the knife, including a 22-year-old woman having a large piece of flesh cut out of her back. This new campaign strongly advises beach goers to seek shade and stay out of the sun where possible. So what should Australians do: stay out of the sun or follow the slip slop slap thinking? Perhaps it is this contradiction that is a limiting factor in lowering skin cancer incidences. Shock tactics may work, but the lack of a strong, singular message dilutes the intended scope of the campaign.

This contradiction deepens as the Cancer Council Australia have recently proposed the commercial sale of SPF50+ sun cream, which will begin in late 2011. Even though sun cream has been confidently proved as less effective than clothing and shade, it is regarded as a means of preventing skin cancer because of the attention that the Cancer Council Australia has placed on it. Obviously the increase in SPF is because of the need to protect Australia and its citizens against skin cancer by any means possible, but this has been misinterpreted by many as a reassuring idea that higher SPF sunscreen will eliminate the risk of skin cancer. Again, it is this misconception that has restricted the reduction of skin cancer incidences in Australia.

As I took the bus into Wollongong city centre today I noticed a handful of skin cancer clinics, specifically established to deal with the increasing anxiety and incidences. When I talked to Australian students at the University of Wollongong about skin cancer, many could recount of friends, friends of friends, or even themselves who had/have skin cancer and visited these skin cancer clinics. The cancer is the most common cancer in 15 to 24-year-olds.

Skin cancer is obviously a very high priority for the Australian Government yet their campaigns are surrounded by ambiguity and contradiction which is why skin cancer continues to be a major threat and financial drain.



**Rachael Gartland** looks at how we could be doing more to celebrate the fallen

This month once again plays host to one of the more sobering events of national interest; Remembrance Day. With Remembrance Sunday this year falling on the 14th and Remembrance Day as ever being November 11, we are once again given the chance to think about and reflect on the many sacrifices made by British soldiers since the beginning of the 20th century. However it can perhaps be questioned how well we as a nation actually commemorate these soldiers.

There have long since been grumbings about the lack of a public holiday for Remembrance Day in Britain, and though we are not alone in this (several other nations, for example, the Republic of Ireland, also do not have a public holiday) we may wonder why we have chosen not to mark the day in this way, particularly when others such as France have seen fit to do so. On a closer level it seems that even at Lancaster University the day is not being given the attention that it deserves, as I discovered to my dismay last year when a lecturer of mine failed to observe the two minute silence.

Remembrance Day has been a feature on our calendars since it was introduced in 1919 in the aftermath of one of the most destructive wars in recent history - the First World War – because of which approximately 10 million people worldwide lost their lives. When thinking of this war our minds are driven towards images of trenches and barbed wire, bayonets and machine guns, horror and bloodshed. It

is then little wonder that Britain in 1919 felt a need to honour and celebrate the soldiers that had gone through this.

Of course Remembrance Day now is not only for those who fought in World War One, but also for all those who have fought in conflicts since; World War Two, the Malayan Emergency and the Falklands are but a few examples. The recent war in Iraq and ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan serve as a present day reminder of the strength and bravery of British soldiers and the seemingly daily reports of servicemen and women being killed or injured is a stark reminder of why we owe them all our thoughts in the coming weeks.

So what exactly can we do here at Lancaster to celebrate Remembrance Day? Well there are a number of things happening locally. On Sunday the 11th there will be a Service of Remembrance in the Garden of Remembrance in town at 10:40am during which wreaths will be laid. For those of you who are not put off by a bit of travelling there is to be a Remembrance service and concert in Morecambe on the 13th at 7:30 with tickets costing £6. And of course there are the good old Poppies which will be on sale at LUSU, proceeds of which will go towards the Royal British Legion.

Whatever you decide to do this November 11 I hope we can all spare just two minutes to think about what exactly the day stands for, and I urge you all to wear your poppies with pride.



# The ‘I Hate Rachel Green Club’ dilemma



**Louise Day**

The I Hate Rachel Green Club gave us all a few laughs in Friends, but it's also a good example of something that could have turned out a lot differently if it had happened in today's Internet generation, rather than in the days of Ross' electronic keyboard and dodgy moustache.

Internet users are much more likely than ordinary citizens to be found publishing defamatory comments, this is basically due to what the law classes as publishing. Without the Internet, it's unlikely you'll manage to publish something which is defamatory (i.e. a false statement which would lower public opinion of a certain person). It's easy to see examples of defamation in the media, and some newspapers are worse than others (we won't name and shame them here, let's just call them The Daily Fail) at basically using stories that are not backed up by fact in the rush to get the first or most shocking story, which show an individual in an undesirable light. Debate as to the line between free press and defamation doesn't really apply to the average citizen, but rest assured that you are equally capable of publishing a defamatory statement. In the olden days it was established that publishing a defamatory statement could be achieved by as little as sending a letter. With the ability to send messages, emails, create groups and upload photos, most people don't register how their actions could actually put them in a rather precarious position.

**1. Inbox messages and emails**

The issue with emails and inbox messages is that they are so easy. Unlike a letter, they're sent straight away. The simplicity, informality and false sense of security you feel when you're not chatting face to face means you're much more likely to say something that could be considered defamatory without even realising. What's worse, the Internet has the added facility of forwarding emails. What many don't realise is that the republisher of a defamatory statement is just as liable as the person who wrote it.

Most importantly, emails are not like letters under the law for many reasons. Although sending a letter under English law does not automatically count as publishing to the public (it has to be read by more than just the intended recipient), an email is much less secure than a letter. Added to this, it is completely international, so you could find yourself affected by another nation's defamatory law.

**2. Statuses and Wall posts**

Here things get very difficult, law-wise. There is a lot of controversy and as yet not enough time has passed to thoroughly deal with this phenomenon. But it can be said that publishing something on a friend's Wall must count as publishing. You have no idea who can read your comment, and if your friend is an exhibitionist and has a totally public profile, literally anyone can read it. Then with only a few clicks you have done something akin to publishing an article in The Times, and that's the risk you run with the Internet.

**3. Photographs**

Do you remember when Naomi Campbell was photographed outside an Alcoholics Anonymous building? She brought a lawsuit against the Mirror for invasion of privacy. In the law of England and Wales we have no right to privacy by tradition, but with expanding influence of the EU and human rights, it's something English law is having to confront more and more. Data Protection laws extend just as much to ordinary folk as it does to celebrities. It might be a little extreme, but if someone puts a photo on Facebook which tells the world a little too much about your private life, you could have recourse in the courts. When an unattractive drunken photo goes on Facebook we all get the awful feeling of exasperation, because to us it may as well be on the front page of the Sun; all of your friends have seen it, including your mum. And they all commented. When can the ground just swallow you up? The law is by no means certain in this area, but there are indications that it will err on the side of protecting the privacy of your average Joe (the one that was pictured vomiting in Sugarhouse with the caption "drugged up... LOL").

There is no need to be totally paranoid, and implying your friend has cheated on a test or is a bit loose with their morals publicly on Facebook probably won't leave you with a £10m lawsuit. But as we get older and get jobs, it doesn't hurt to be more wary about what we put on the Internet. As for gossip, maybe keep it face to face. Unless of course you think your room is bugged.

## Getting on a bit

**Bex Hamilton**

I AM A third year. If anything, those four words should allow you to feel a great deal of sympathy for me. The stories are true; it is just how you imagine it. I have become an old aged pensioner with a penchant for essay writing and am living in fear that I might never know what it is to experience fun ever again.

It isn't just the workload, Oh no. It is the idea that now you have reached the age of 20, you should be able to cook a meal that doesn't consist of the two words super and noodles. The fact that Facebook statuses are overloaded with the 'D' word (Dissertation, as if you didn't know.) The heart-wrenching fact that you can no longer stay in Sugarhouse until Oasis comes on, because you're just too tired.

So far, so depressing. However, sometimes it is comforting to know that all is not lost. In the three weeks that I have been a third year, I have been more productive than I ever was in the first six

The other day, I was made to play ride the bus, and now I can't face public transport.

months of my first year. I have become one of those smug people that find joy in posting on Facebook what I have achieved that day: "Bex has saved the world and it's not even lunchtime." I like to mention in passing just how knackered I am, and make tutting sounds at my boyfriend when there is too much washing-up. The four first years I live with refer to me simply as Mum. They stare in disbelief when I mention my hey-day of Carleton nights and Sugar doubles. The other day, they made me play ride, the bus and now I can't face public transport. They drink gin as if it were water, and favour centurions in place of Monopoly.

In truth, I am optimistic and like to think that I have the best of both worlds. My days are filled with meetings and deadlines that Alan Sugar would be proud of and I find myself having discussions about mortgages and cake-making. However, despite all that, I'm in Sugarhouse on Saturday night like any student. I might be dancing away to a song I've never heard of and wincing when I down an apple sourz, but I will be having the time of my life.

Only difference is, with age comes wisdom. I'll be going home alone and I won't fall asleep outside the porters lodge with my face covered in cheesy chips whilst murmuring the lyrics of Mr. Brightside. Remember the good old days?





# A dance on the wild side



Just a tad surreal. Photo Hugo Glendinning

4 Forced Entertainment's hilarious and unsettling new production is not your traditional night out, as **Alex Harris** discovered

## THE THRILL OF IT ALL

UK tour began at the Nuffield Theatre

If I were to die tomorrow and leave behind only one piece of advice that I would wish for the whole world to follow to the best of their abilities it would be this: when trying to appear normal to friends you haven't seen for a while, inviting them to a surrealist avant-garde theatre production is probably not the smartest move. They might politely agree to come with you, but the evening's conversation will constantly be infused with a raised eyebrow and a suspicion over the months since you've last seen them, you've gotten into some pretty weird stuff.

This was the scenario I found myself in the other night when going to see Forced Entertainment's premier of their new show *The Thrill of it All*. I have to confess, I'm not an expert in theatre at all. In fact my knowledge of dramatic art is roughly limited to seeing *Dr. Doolittle* in London starring Philip Schofield just after I'd reached double figures. Oh, and I think I might have fallen asleep at a few Shakespeare productions in school. *The Thrill of it All*, in contrast, advertises itself as a play in which "nine performers in grubby tuxedos and tarnished sequins play out a comical and disconcerting vaudeville to the strains of Japanese lounge music".

You'll forgive me, then, for thinking that I'd maybe jumped in at the deep end. I was, in fact, quite worried that Forced Entertainment

would be putting on a show that you need a PhD in abstract theatre to understand, full of allusions to misreadings of Jacques Derrida and stuff which is intentionally bad because that's ironic and cool, right? After we'd taken our seats and the lights came down, women wearing massive blonde wigs and ill-fitting white skirts danced badly with men in white suits who wore dreadlocked wigs. They shuffled about, tripped over each other and darted from one side of the theatre to the other whilst spinning around. I had absolutely no idea what was going on.

Then, all of a sudden, my friend started to laugh. I had no other choice but to join in, but then I thought to myself – what if we've both got it wrong? What if this is a massively serious production with some very heavy and challenging philosophical notions behind it and we're just a pair of Beavis and Butthead clones sat in the room ignoring all the complicated symbolism and laughing at the funny way they're dressed? I looked around. The room was in hysterics. I took a sigh of relief. Then the performers began to talk. The pitch of the male voices was altered so as to make their voices sound comically deep and the female voices comically high. I couldn't help it any more, I just burst out laughing and barely stopped for the rest of the performance.

It's difficult to accurately describe what actually goes on in *The Thrill of it All* because it's so unique, but if I had to summarise I would say it's a comedic farce in which a group

of preposterously dressed characters try and put on a production that has some connection with its audience and fail miserably. Various moments throughout the show involve performers trying to invoke universal themes. One character's attempt to do a segment on little things in life is misinterpreted by the others as being about things that are very small. The show is full of sardonic absurdity and comedic efforts at portentousness, yet each time the effort devolves into platitude.

As the production ended, I still wasn't quite sure what I'd experienced, but I was definitely sure that I enjoyed it. It's not your average night at the theatre and if you go along expecting anything conventional then your expectations will not be met, but if you're after a hilarious and unsettling 90 minutes then you can't go wrong with *The Thrill of it All*.

**They shuffled about, tripped over each other and darted from one side of the theatre to the other whilst spinning around. I had absolutely no idea what was going on**



# What the feminist did next

**Bex Hamilton** sits down with Kate Nash to discuss her new album and what it means to be a so-called feminist icon in 2010

**K**ate Nash is not your stereotypical pop star. Nor is she your stereotypical feminist. Indeed, she can be said to be part of a new generation of feminist pop stars taking their inspiration from the punk rock stars of the 70s and 80s, distinct in both style and voice and insistent on the notion that in 2010 “you don’t have to suck dick to succeed.”

Rising to fame in 2007 following the success of her number two UK hit single Foundations, Nash was more well-known for her kooky dress sense than any grand feminist pretensions. Three years on, the girl with the fringe has grown-up and her message is clearer. Nash’s latest album *My Best Friend Is You* is certainly a change from previous album *Made of Bricks*. With a darker subject matter and a distinctly punk feel, Kate describes this as more of an experimental album, taking her influence from bands such as The Riot Girls and The Shirelles.

It is this eclectic blend of styles that makes Nash so popular with her fans. But even with a unique sound, Nash has faced the trials of being female in a largely male-dominated industry and takes solace in her idols of years gone by. “Being a female musician in the music industry, it has become more important to me to listen to other female artists who have done a similar thing”.

A fan of 60’s girl groups such as The Supremes, Kate discusses the dark side of the genre: “I was on a plane once and I was listening to Stop In The Name of Love” she recalls. “It made me cry. It was the first time I had listened to it and realised how sad it is. They sing these heartbreaking songs with insane smiles.”

The 1960’s influence is certainly present on the album, in particular the slightly avant-garde Mansion Song, in which Nash expresses her views on sexism: “I wrote it on my phone as a text message” she says. Inspiration really does strike anywhere. The song itself contains an almost religious howling in the background and enthralls the listener with its atmosphere. The lyrics are gritty and on first listen, almost offensive as Kate shouts obscenities in that famous cockney dialect.

She also makes a subtle reference to one of her favourite tragic heroines, Scarlet O’ Hara. The character from *Gone with the Wind* is paid homage to as she depicts the scene in which Scarlet bites into a rotten turnip by triumphantly announcing: “Take a raw vegetable and hold it to your breast!” Nash claims it was being at a festival that gave her the idea for the song. Sick of seeing oversexed young girls sharing tents with strangers, she created the song as a message. Kate explains: “Some girls think it is so exciting to be doing what they’re doing, but it’s not. They’re just used by people who don’t have any respect for them. They could be a lot more interesting.”

Nash is clearly opinionated and firmly believes that girls should be independent in their own minds and actions. “Live your life on your own and feel empowered!” she says, but hastily adds that being a strong woman is not about being oversexed. “You don’t have to do shitty things to feel like you’re empowered.”

So, does Kate see herself as a feminist icon? At even the mention of “that word”, she becomes very shy. “I find the term icon a bit strange, because I didn’t even know.” she says. Nash is definitely strong-willed and has her feet firmly on the ground: “I’m definitely a proud feminist. I think girls and boys should encourage that. People are afraid of it and I don’t know why. It’s about equal opportunities.”



Kate Nash. Photo courtesy of Fanpop



# Exploring the great outdoors

**Alison Young** unearths an action packed day out filled with a mix of breath-taking scenery, quaint cafes and sporting challenges right on our doorstep

As the term has begun and lectures are in full swing, you are probably looking for some ways to relax and avoid any reading, seminars tasks or quite simply anything university related. So, what better way to escape reality than to journey to and explore the wide variety of options around the Lancashire area? Most family members probably told you before heading to Lancaster University that you were going to one of the most picturesque parts of the country and, well, they are quite right. We are lucky enough to only be a short train ride away from the Lake District which plays host to many activities that will keep you busy.

After a short 40minute train journey, you can find yourself exploring Windermere. A quaint yet glorious village with lost to do and see.

Whilst exploring the village you can soak up the stunning scenery. Not only is it friendly on the purse strings but there are numerous designated walking areas and paths that range in mileage depending on what you are after. To find out more visit <http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/index/visiting/outdoors/walking.htm>.

However, if walking is not for you then don't despair, why not pick up the pace and explore the surroundings via a bicycle. Country Lanes bike shop offers a variety of different bikes and located by the railway station, so locating the shop isn't too much of a trauma. Prices start from £20 and vary depending on the model. They also include information regarding routes to take, so there is no need to worry about getting lost in the wilderness.

Some other activities to try your hand at are boating, climbing, horse riding and crazy golf. If you fancy an adventure on the water then you can hire canoes and kayaks from £20 for four hours and a wetsuit for only £3.



© Julian Thurgood

There is no experience required for the sit-on-top kayaks and they are also available in tandems. Lessons are also available if you feel this could be your new found calling.

If a trip on a boat tickles your fancy, but you would rather not do the work, then you can book onto one of the many cruises offered on Lake Windermere. Prices start from £2.45 for a single trip to the Ferry House or you can opt for a longer trip, lasting approximately 45 minutes. The Island Cruise costs £6.75 and takes you around the many hotspots around the lake. For more information, see <http://www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk/cruisedetail.php?id=7>. There are many other options to choose from catering for everyone's taste. It will most definitely allow you to capture the sights and take a photo or two.

So, with the many options offered at Windermere it really is a day trip not to be missed. However, with winter drawing near be prepared to wrap up warm. Why not also take some time out of your day and watch the world go by and catch up with some friends. Make sure you stop for a hot chocolate and a cake in one of the many cafes in this quaint little town and the small shops and craft stalls can be sure to keep you amused.

## Useful Information

### Trainline.com

Trains run regularly from Lancaster to Windermere Railway Station. Prices around £8 return (with railcard) on off-peak hours.

### Country Lanes Bicycle Hire

Opening hours: 9am-5pm

Tel: 015394 44544

### Windermere Canoe Kayak

Opening hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm

Tel: 015394 44451

### Windermere Lake Cruises

Opening hours: Vary

Tel: 015394 43360

# Sex, drugs and the Runaways

## Elizabeth Moyser

### THE RUNAWAYS

15, 106 mins

Out now on DVD

BEING A TEENAGER isn't exactly something new to you, you may still feel that rawness, that rippling desire to be free, the anger and contempt of authority, and perhaps a willingness to stand out of the mind-numbing crowds and be counted. Never before, however, have you seen it so unpretentiously captured on film as it has been in this year's rock band biopic *The Runaways*. Based on the book *Neon Angels: A Memoir of a Runaway* penned by lead singer Cherie Curie and directed by the highly esteemed Floria Sigismondi, the film documents the very first teenage, all-girl, hard

rock band formed in 1975. The Runaways were only together four years, but in such a small space of time they grew up, and fast.

Beginning with 14-year-old Currie's first period on the sidewalk of busy road, it would be fair to say the film starts as it means to go on. Played by the well known child star Dakota Fanning you can see why this would be her perfect breakout role. Honest, and at times harrowingly candid, especially considering the age of the girls involved, it does the job of justly representing the band from shaky formation to thorny finish.

Becoming part of the male dominated, rock 'n' roll circus as young girls immediately labelled *The Runaways* as a firm minority, and the issues that faced the band as icons of change in the music industry features strongly through the portrayal of tough kid, guitarist Joan Jett. Performed by a surprisingly competent Kristen Stewart, Jett battles relent-

lessly with the oppressive and often negative media attention the band attracted; it's apparent from the beginning that Jett just wants to play music, and more importantly, she wants people to listen.

The catalyst for the band's success, the tomboyish, leather clad Jett, first spots record producer Kim Fowley outside a nightclub and tells him of her desire to form an all girl rock band. Fowley, a lover of the unknown musician became the band's manager, producer and co-writer and to this day he is still the very same bizarre cult figure seen on film in *The Runaways*. But the band is missing a singer, so Fowley with the concept of taking on a blonde siren frontwoman approaches the underage Curie in a nightclub and she is swiftly persuaded to become a part of his musical vision. He quips to Curie: "I like your style. A little Bowie, a little Bardot, that look on your face that says you could kick the sh\*\* out of a truck

driver." Focussing strongly on the highs and lows of Jett and Currie's relationship, viewers rivetingly learn of the struggle the band mates have between the jail-bait image of Currie and the somewhat feminist ideals of lyricist Jett.

Steamy sex scenes involving Stewart and Fanning as the young band members, the habitual drug use and the eventual overdose of fifteen year old Currie in a Japanese hotel whilst on tour classically and adequately fulfils the archetypal schedule of 'things to see and do in a rock band'. But it's the unusual female set-up that creates an aura of controversy.

The music is as raw and true as the teenagers themselves with raging guitar solos and sexually explicit lyrics. The Runaways go where no band has gone before, and it's cemented early on in the film when Jett receives her very first and very last Guitar lesson; her teacher simply states: "Girls can't play rock and roll".



# How the other half live

From one way of life to another, **Lauren Hirst** talks about why we should be thankful for our university experience.

A 9am lecture; the bane of all students' lives. The torture of getting out of bed at such an ugly hour can often feel over-bearing, especially if you are nursing a hangover from the night before. However, despite our constant fear about our dwindling bank balance, which we only have ourselves to blame for, we still surround ourselves in a world of convenience and luxury. This is the life we have become accustomed too, taking for granted the bare necessities which for some people across the globe are a source of constant worry.

This year, almost 500,000 individuals attended a university in the United Kingdom for the first time, giving them the opportunity to deepen their knowledge on a wide range of subjects as well as taking part in the university experience. In the UK, we are given the freedom of choice, the ability to make our own decisions and choose our own paths. We made the decision to come to university. It was our choice. Yet we still complain about extensive reading lists and curse the days when we have more than two hours of lectures and seminars.

However, whilst we load our shopping trolley with emergency snacks to keep us company during times of an imminent deadline, individuals our age are struggling to find the basic essentials they need to take the first steps out of poverty.

Esther Ario is 23-years-old and lives in Amuria in Uganda. At 18-years-old, at an age when thousands of eager freshers descend upon university for the first time laden with alcohol, a selection of fancy dress and a crate of baked beans to last them a lifetime, Ario

was struggling to transport water for miles from the water hole to her home. A home where she has no form of sanitation. Unlike the UK, where clean and safe water is easily accessible and plentiful, her economic position means that she constantly has to worry about every sip of water she takes. Sadly she is not alone as 12.5% of people across the globe currently live without safe water.

Ario said: "Often the water gets spoiled because of the number of people using it. When the borehole gets spoiled we have to walk to another borehole further away, it takes us two hours sometimes, and often there is queuing, as a lot of people need that water".

But when most students in the UK are saving their pennies for a night on the town, Ario is struggling to get money to repair damages to the water wells to ensure survival. "Sometimes when it's spoiled we have to collect money to repair it. It took two months to get the money, it can take longer. It was two months ago that that happened last," said Ario.

So when we're moaning about how we are going to afford our fifth night out of the week or what we believe to be a mountainous workload (which has only built up due to our ability to procrastinate) just stop and think. We have been given an opportunity that some people couldn't even imagine in their wildest dreams. University gives thousands of students across the country the platform to excel whilst some individuals have been brought into a life without basic human rights. A constant battle for survival. So don't take for granted this experience and make the most out of every opportunity that comes your way.



Esther Ario carrying water - Amuria, Uganda © Water Aid

## Remember, remember

**Amy Packman**

That night of the year that slips shyly in after the hype of Halloween and the soon-to-be build up to Christmas is nearly here. The night where we wear three pairs of socks, wellies, our large winter coat, hat and scarf, and stare gormlessly up into the sky waiting for the fireworks. Bonfire Night – a.k.a Guy Fawkes Night. It's strange how we are so used to the traditions of fireworks night and yet we rarely remember the real reason we are there, apart from the "oohs" and "aahhs" sounding from the crowd as the fireworks are let off. The usual complaints of how cold it is, how long you wait around and how short the firework display is are widely known but subsequently forgotten each year.

We do all keep with the tradition. We have a scarecrow or a Guy made out of old clothes and stuffed with paper on a stake that we burn. But should we reflect more on the idea that the Guy in the bonfire is a symbol of Guy Fawkes – one of the people who attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. The fireworks are a reminder of the gunpowder that Guy Fawkes hid in order to do this.

Bonfire Night began as a celebration of the discovery of his plot against the King. In a rage against King James, a group of Catholic men plotted his death, and although by no means the head of the plot (that was Robert Catesby) it was Guy Fawkes who was found on the morning of November 5, and taken to the Tower of London to be tortured and even-

tually executed. But these origins have been almost lost save for primary school lessons.

So we might not be celebrating the survival of King James and the protestantism reign when we go to a firework display each year – but we are still here to celebrate. November 6 kicks off this year's fireworks display in Lancaster in Ryelands Park. The event is from 7pm-9pm but the fireworks don't start until 8pm. The event will also be going on during the day, with themed walks, lantern making and street entertainment. In Ryelands Park itself on the night there will be a fairground, refreshments and entertainments as well as BBC radio Lancashire broadcasting live from 7pm. Advice from last year though, there will be mud, and it will be cold.



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# Looking after the pennies

**Rebecca Pocklington** shares her tips to staying clear from debt

For many students, going to university is the first time they will be in full control of their own finances. What was once your clothes fund now has to be divided and shared out between living costs and you quickly realise that the fully stocked fridge at home doesn't just magically refill itself. With so much to splash the cash on, it is very easy to become strapped before you know what you've even spent it on, especially after an action packed Freshers' Week. Learning how to spend your money wisely is not something you will get to grips with over night and with the odds of winning the lottery slimmer than ever, educating yourself about how to control your spending is a must (if only to avoid the baked bean diet). So here are a few tricks to help you cut back whilst still having fun in the process.

- **Set a budget for each week as by giving yourself an equal amount of money you can easily find yourself in a routine without dipping into the overdraft:**

Don't take out more money than you know you will need, especially on a night out. But it is vital to make sure you take enough money out with you to avoid drunkenly get the cash card out and pressing '£100'. At the time this might seem like the best idea you've ever had. The morning after, not so much.

- **Cook as a flat whenever possible sharing the cost and the cooking load. This way is a lot more sociable too:**

If you look through newspapers and magazines, there are tonnes of coupons and vouchers to help you save money. Student websites are a brilliant source for checking out any deals there are and can have promotional offers saving you money on nights out, meals, the cinema and much more.

- **Getting books out of the library is a lot cheaper than buying the vast amount of books on your extensive reading list, which will probably only end up as a doorstep:**

As well as taking full advantage of the library resources why not get together with a group of your course mates and each buy one of the books from the list and then share. This will work out loads cheaper and will defer your attempt to work out the library book system.

By monitoring what you spend, it can also help you realise where you are going wrong, and will prevent that sickening feeling when you realise you have £12 to last you the rest of the term. Once you have a routine in check, you will begin to see how easy it can really be to live within your means without losing your social life at the same time.



# Coping with the distance

**Rebecca Moorcraft** reveals how to survive the dreaded long distance relationship



So you've moved to university and have left your boyfriend/girlfriend at home. After deciding to stay together you find yourself entered into the dreaded long distance relationship. But before you start worrying that it will never work or you find yourself screaming at the next person that explains that absence makes the heart grow fonder, take comfort in the fact that it many couples have survived and come out the other side and by following these simple tips so can you.

- **Talking:** Of course, keeping in regular contact with your partner is crucial for any relationship to work, but there is always the temptation to spend hours every night on the phone to one another in the attempt to stay close, when in fact this could have the opposite effect. Talking too often can sometimes leave couples with very little to say to one another, leaving space for awkward silences and petty arguments, which could ultimately leave you feeling distant. Instead arrange a day or two a week for catch up phone calls, this way you will find yourselves with plenty to talk about and something to look forward to.
- **Trusting:** Trust is what makes the world of relationships go round, and is vital for the foundations of any relationship. If there are trust issues already then the relationship will, purely and simply, not work. Naturally, being away from your partner

will mean that you are no longer aware of where each other are, or what the other person is doing, possibly leading to worry and suspicion. The key thing here is to be able to fully trust your partner and let them live their day to day life without letting any doubts or irrational concerns take over. The clingy, jealous look is just not attractive.

- **Visiting:** No matter what else you've got going on, make sure that you and your partner find the time to arranging regular visits, and if possible visit each other at both of your places of residence. This allows you to integrate each other into your new lives, meet any new friends and see what the other person does whilst you apart, which is crucial for staying close. As well as introducing your partner to your new world, make sure you set aside plenty of time to be alone and intimate. No doubt not seeing each other for a while will leave passions running high and it will be important to catch up and spend quality time together.

Surviving several years with your partner in a long distance relationship is all about putting in that extra little bit of effort together and no matter how difficult you find it, keep reminding yourself of why your in the relationship in the first place, surround yourself with good friends and keep busy at university, all of which will help you stay positive.



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# Holy costume party Batman!

As the winter blues descend over Lancaster, **Hugh Metcalf** tells all about how to look stylish without the backlash of frost bite

**C**apes are not, by any means, a rare sight in Lancaster. Whether it be the staple superhero themed party, Edward Cullen wannabes at Halloween or the entertaining if not slightly bizarre antics of the Lancaster University Live Action Role Playing Society (trying saying that with a mouth full of crackers), capes are an indispensable item of fancy dress attire. But no more. Cape-wearing just got casual.

However, capes have found their incarnation in the fashion world more as a mix between a coat and a poncho than what we would generally consider a cape; think more Little Red Riding Hood than Superman. Capes have a stigma of fancy dress built-in and one of the most annoying questions for fashionistas trying to push boundaries is "what have you come as?". However, the shorter style encompassing front and back makes the cape not only more mainstream acceptable, but also a feasible choice for those cold Lancastrian days.

The cape does not need to announce itself to have the optimum effect in your wardrobe. In times past, a cloak may have been a great way to hide your dagger, but nowadays they are undoubtedly conspicuous. Try to be subtle, picking a cape that does not outwardly look like much more than a coat. You may wonder the point of wearing one at all, but there is one key aesthetic to the

cape that you want to emphasise. Unlike jackets, they are not form-fitting, rather opening out from the shoulders towards a wide hem at the waist.

They are an exercise in playing with your silhouette. Team it up with skinny trousers to contrast against the shapeless androgyny of the cape. If your cloak is sleeveless, experiment with wedge heels for a filled-in outline to your outfit.

Capes have been a part of military uniform throughout history, so brass button embellishment is a common occurrence on the high street. Take off the safety latch and wear your military cloak with textured leggings, army boots and boot socks for an explosive outfit.

If G.I. Jane isn't your style, then bring out your inner emo and go goth. A completely black, cape-based ensemble will show off your distorted figure and give you an edgy look, perfect for this time of year. But just remember to keep your make-up pale and your lips poison-apple red.

## Styling

- **Materialise:** Your new cape will be the bulk of an outfit, so pair it with other textures of fabric such as lace or leather to avoid looking like you're in an all-in-one sack.
- **Don't Overload:** Layering is usually key, but too many visible fabrics on your top half will over-complicate the outfit. Be confident and be subtle and let the styling talk for itself.



Hooded Cape £70,  
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## New look Asda Lancaster gives students the chance to win a month's shopping

# ASDA

The new look Asda store in Lancaster is offering a lucky student the chance to win a month's worth of shopping thanks to the new Asda Student Card.

Asda recently received an extension as part of an exciting makeover which included extending the George department with G21 a great young range for Students and a new look customer café, great for a Sunday breakfast.

It also offers students the chance to pick up the Asda Student Card which lets parents put money on a shopper card which their kids can spend on essential food and groceries. This is linked to the student's own card, which they keep to pay for their groceries, again at any Asda in the UK. Students can then have access to exclusive promotions, offers and competitions online.

The lucky winner will win a £400 student card which will easily stock up their cupboards and keep their fridge full until the end of term. This competition is perfect for cash-strapped freshers and existing students who are living away from home.

Parents and students can apply for the card online at [www.asda.com](http://www.asda.com) or in Asda Lancaster.

To be in with a chance of winning a months shopping, answer the following question:

What is the clothing department at Asda called?

- A. Jonathan
- B. George
- C. Andy

T&Cs - Entries must be sent to [competitions@lusumarketing.com](mailto:competitions@lusumarketing.com) and received no later than Monday 8th November. The shopping will be in the form of a £400 giftcard to be spent at Asda Lancaster.





## MYSTIC MACLEOD



### SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

You will find a shiny new penny! Stopping to pick it up, a dashing young gentlemen will bump into you and initial awkwardness could develop into something more! The coffee he buys you will save you more than that crappy penny...

### SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

Someone is carrying too much hand luggage. Lumbering Jupiter predicts that now is the perfect time to attempt to lose that flab! Everyone needs winter padding, but even a short run will have you looking less spacious and more curvaceous!

### CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 20

Open for too long, your milk will turn sour and lumpy. Bought in the Sunday reductions at Central, this shan't be money wasted. Simmer on a window-ledge in the sun for a day, add garlic to taste, and serve over a friend's pillowcase.

### AQUARIUS JAN 21 - FEB 17

Interactive Venus predicts internet and real worlds will collide for you, Aquarius! Poking friends and relatively-unknown acquaintances alike when you see them will be a blast! But remember, it's all fun and games until someone loses an eye.

### PISCES FEB 18 - MAR 20

You will find yourself in Italy this week! Cursing your bad luck for being spontaneously transported just before a social, stock up on Italy's finest cheap chocolate and seek out the almighty Italian Chief of Pizzetta Republic to get home.

### ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

A marooned Morecambe seagull, distressed to find himself inland and on-campus will deposit his fruits upon you. Although lucky in some cultures, this is bad news, particularly if you attempt to wipe: it will only get bigger and messier.

### TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 21

Bi-annual excitement from the national altering of clocks will go to your head, causing you to believe you are indeed a Time Lord. The creation of an hour from nothing will send you barmy with wonder, inevitably culminating in isolated confinement.

### GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 20

You will break something valuable this week. A laptop, to be specific, by individually removing each key, in a Philosophy-induced hallucinatory state, in an attempt to prove Plato's theory of forms and find the essence of each letter, hidden beneath. You mad man.

### CANCER JUNE 21 - JULY 22

An over-zealous cycling expedition one weekend will leave your sporting ego bruised when Morcambe chavs attack, stealing your front wheel and leaving you stranded in the quicksand. That'll teach you for making others feel lazy and unhealthy.

### LEO JULY 23 - AUG 22

Your loving, kind flatmates will ditch you for "better" company! It's not always easy to get along with new people so don't despair. Try getting to know them more, or put knives in their bed. Weren't expecting that were they?

### VIRGO AUG 23 - SEPT 22

A spontaneous campus-wide game of hide and seek with your flatmates will result in the discovery of Spar's secret door, between the cheese and ham! If you get lost in this supermarket Narnia, follow the smell to freedom!

### LIBRA SEPT 23 - OCT 22

You will lose a shoe this week. Unfortunate enough to find the stickiest part of the Carleton's oddly panelled flooring; the shoe will be firmly tacked. Five will make you get down now, but nothing will get that shoe up.

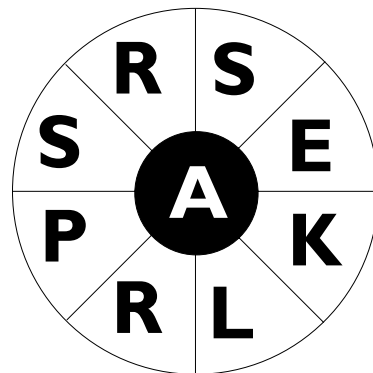
## THE QUIZ - Name the movie the quote comes from

1. "Stop trying to hit me, and hit me!"
2. "Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine."
3. "We are Sex Bob-Omb and we are here to make you think about death and get sad and stuff."
4. "Why so serious?"
5. "I am Jack's smirking revenge."

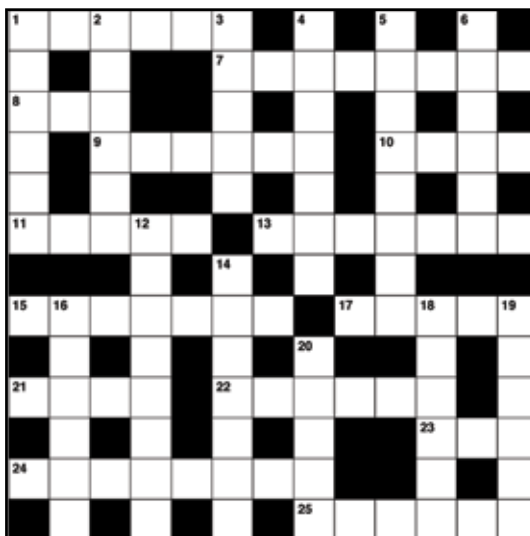
Answers below

## The Wheel

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



## The Crossword



### Across

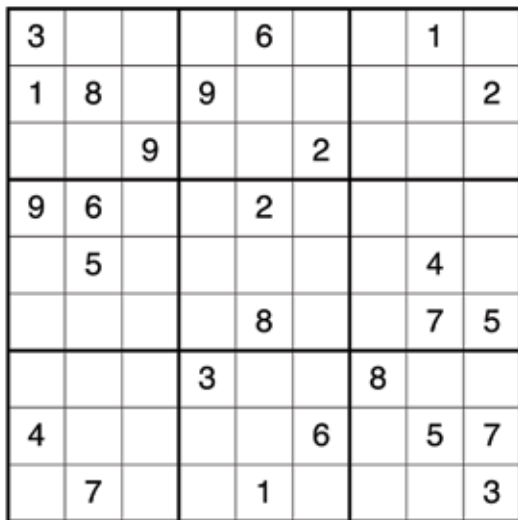
- 1 - Artois (anag) (6)
- 7 - Reflex kick (4,4)
- 8 - Large body of water (3)
- 9 - Slender (6)
- 10 - Anorak (4)
- 11 - Protective garment (5)
- 13 - Angular units (7)
- 15 - 20th letter of the Greek alphabet (7)
- 17 - Equip (5)
- 21 - Niche (4)
- 22 - Curved bone (6)
- 23 - (Consume) (3)
- 24 - Scornful negativity (8)
- 25 - Flat; two-dimensional (6)

### Down

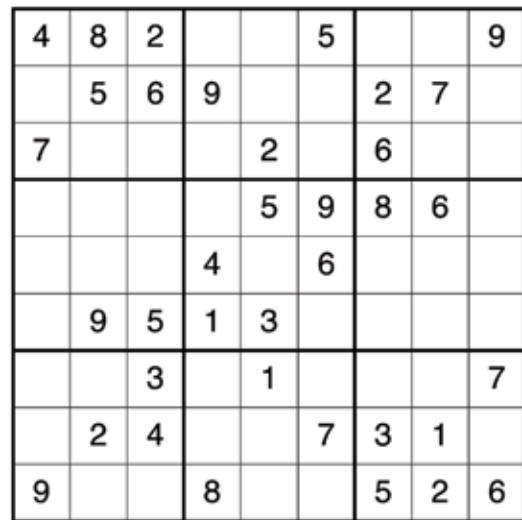
- 1 - World's largest country (6)
- 2 - Tricky puzzle (6)
- 3 - Bony structure in the head (5)
- 4 - Not limited to one class (7)
- 5 - Expulsion (8)
- 6 - Establish by law (6)
- 12 - Fat commonly used in cooking (5,3)
- 14 - Early Spring flower (7)
- 16 - Fruit tree (6)
- 18 - Reduce in worth (6)
- 19 - Table server (6)
- 20 - Rascal (5)

## The Su Doku

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



www.sudoku-puzzles.net



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Answers: 1) The Matrix 2) Cosobianca 3) Scott Pilgrim 4) The Dark Knight 5) Fight Club

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