



One night. No alcohol?

Carolynne takes up the challenge

Lancaster students propose Vote of No Confidence in national president

- VNC to be discussed at tonight's General Meeting
- Motion to mandate LUSU President not to vote for Aaron Porter

Chris Housden
Matt Power

A GROUP OF students at Lancaster are proposing that Lancaster University Students' Union follows calls from several other universities for the National Union of Students (NUS) President Aaron Porter to resign.

Just two months before the annual NUS Conference is staged in Gateshead, Porter is facing a battle to retain the leadership of the Union.

At a meeting of the local student group Lancaster University Against Cuts in Week Four they decided to bring four motions to Lancaster University Students' Union's (LUSU) General Meeting tonight: Tuesday, Week Five. The motions are aimed at getting LUSU to take a harder line against education cuts and tuition fee rises. All students are allowed to attend and speak at the general meeting.

The first motion they will bring to the General Meeting is to directly back the calls of a Vote of No Confidence

(VNC) in Porter. As part of this, the students present would be voting to "mandate the [LUSU] President to call for an Extraordinary Conference to hear this vote of no confidence."

The NUS is a confederation of over 600 students' unions and rules require 25 student bodies to propose and vote in favour of a VNC against the president to force an emergency NUS Conference. At that conference, a vote would be held to decide if the officer was able to continue with their term in office.

That wouldn't be the only requirement of LUSU Full Time Officers (FTOs) if the motions were passed. The second proviso is, crucially, "that

25
affiliated students' union have to call for an Extraordinary National Conference before one can be convened

LUSU delegates, including the LUSU President, will under no circumstances vote for Aaron Porter to retain the Presidency at the NUS National Conference in April, or at any subsequent conference".

LUSU, as with every other students' union affiliated with the NUS, will be sending delegates to the conference in April. The election for president will take place at the conference and Porter is yet to confirm if he will follow in the footsteps of his predecessor, Wes Streeting, who successfully ran for a second term in office.

The likelihood of the motions being passed appears to be slim. In his recent speech to University Court, LUSU President Robbie Pickles stated that "LUSU has forged stronger links with the political minds of the NUS" and that LUSU had been "supporting Aaron Porter as the moderate to lead the national union". He went on to say he shared Porter's "conviction and his direction".

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Aaron Porter has been under increasing pressure since the tuition fees march in November. Photo by Tom Skarbek-Wazynski

Students' Union gears up for Full Time Officer elections

Jen Day

THE INTRODUCTION OF critical campaigning will allow Full Time Officer (FTO) candidates more freedom to put forward their opinions in the coming election period.

In previous years candidates have been restricted from commenting on their opponents' manifestos, focusing purely on their own policies. This method has been criticised as being too restrictive, since it has not allowed candidates room to have a constructive debate. The introduction of a panel debate instead of Hus-

ting will allow candidates to engage with their opponents opinions and be critical of policies that have been set out in manifestos.

"Critical campaigning, clarification of rules and a lot more ability for candidates to shout what they are about rather than having to tread carefully around a stagnant by-law" are some of the changes that have been introduced this year, said LUSU VP (Finance, Events, Democracy, Societies) Matt Windsor.

The gruelling campaign period has been reduced from 14 days to 12 days, to reduce candidate exhaustion. The previous time scale was seen as "too

long", by Windsor. He added: "Some may argue that if you're running for an FTO position then you should be made to jump through hoops to do

'Expect a lot more cardboard, Facebook pictures, bed sheets and more inventive structures and initiatives'

everything and anything. Wrong. You should be doing everything relevant and useful for students. There is no

point in candidates getting shattered, not eating and falling behind on their dissertations because they feel that they haven't got enough cardboard on campus."

Student apathy is seen as an issue during election periods, particularly during FTO elections, since some students find it difficult to engage with the candidates. So candidates will be encouraged to find more inventive ways to interact with students, such as one to one interactions in college bars or through anonymous surveys.

"Robbie Pickles had an interactive Rubix cube last year that stu-

dents wrote all over regarding their views. This had more student input than any general meeting than I have seen in four years," said Windsor.

The relaxation of campaigning rules will give candidates more freedom to be inventive with their campaigns.

"Expect a lot more cardboard, Facebook pictures, bed sheets, shout-outs and hopefully some more inventive structures or initiatives around campus. To a degree, the elections will only be as exciting as the candidates make them, so we'll be encouraging people to go all out," said Windsor.

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WANT TO WRITE?

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



NEWS

Lancaster expected to charge maximum fees of £9,000

Charlotte Urban
News Editor

FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT on December 9 2010 that tuition fees will be increasing to between £6,000 and £9,000 per year, Lancaster University looks set to file its interest in setting the fees at the maximum threshold of £9,000. A meeting to be held by the Finance Committee on Friday, Week Five will ascertain whether Lancaster has the capability to ensure poorer students will still choose to attend Lancaster. In doing so, Lancaster will be able to set the fees at the maximum.

With Lancaster's aim to remain the top university in the North-West, top 10 in the country and top 100 in the world, there are expectations to follow top institutions like Oxford and Cambridge in placing the fees at the top end of the threshold.

Recently Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said that universities who wanted to charge more than the minimum £6,000 would have to improve access for poor students unable to afford higher fees. "There is a social crisis in this country - a crisis of opportunity. Universities, the gateway to the professions, are too often

acting to inadvertently narrow opportunities, rather than widen them," he said.

NUS President Aaron Porter expressed anger at this sudden turnaround, saying that it was idealistic to assume that this would make him [Clegg] a "champion for students". Porter added: "Warm words do not cover the fact that a toothless regulator and a paltry scholarship scheme will do little to offset the impact of vastly reduced investment and trebled tuition fees."

Currently, universities have the overarching ability to decide how much their institution charges. In a recent interview however, Clegg stated that when it comes to deciding the amounts universities charge, "it is not up to them" and that they can only make these decisions having proven that they "can dramatically increase the number of people from poorer and disadvantaged backgrounds who presently aren't going to Oxford and Cambridge". He went on to say: "I believe our reforms will [...] make the university system fairer".

Lancaster University Vice Chancellor Paul Wellings who is also the Chairman of the 1994 group which supports research-based institutions,



Nick Clegg changed his tune

stated that "laying down crude targets will do nothing to aid social mobility" and that the decision to charge at the higher end of the threshold should not

"Laying down crude targets will do nothing to aid social mobility"

merely be based around the number of poorer students attending that university.

According to the BBC "at the moment just over 7% of pupils in England go to private schools (more attend in sixth form) but they make up about half of those at Oxford and Cambridge". Therefore, a large number of students who wish to attend Oxford and Cambridge are able to afford the higher fees, making it unfair for other institutions to charge the same. However, the BBC stated that "Oxford University says it needs to charge fees of at least £8,000 to replace university budget cuts".

Lancaster is not the only university who aims to follow Oxbridge's lead in charging the higher amount. Porter has expressed his concern that most institutions in England will charge the maximum annual tuition fees.

IN THIS ISSUE

Carolynne

- Features Editor Louise Day does some not so undercover reporting of the Students' Union's employability workshop.
- Alison Young explains how dress can be your strongest suit when going for an interview.
- Claire Hazel on selling the nation's forests.

Comment

- Ronnie Rowlands makes an impassioned response to Sam Fresco's call to being back the t-shirt tyrants.
- Helen Wishart asks why Yellow Door has to make her house a target for burglary.
- Lucy Casale weigh up the pros and cons of compulsory seminars.

Sport

- Lonsdale overcome rivals Bowland to top the College Football League.
- The Women's Rugby Union team also beat their rivals, UCLAN to reach the top of their league.
- Marc Handley puts to rest any doubts of the quality of Lancaster's sportspeople.

What SCAN says

The motion by an autonomous student group to propose a Vote of No Confidence in Aaron Porter is a good move for student involvement in Union politics. Time will tell if this is the beginning of a

Lancaster Roses Cheerleaders Presents a

CIRCUS

Night to Remember

Come support your Cheerleading team on

WED 16TH FEB

9.30 til Late at Bentleys, selected £2 drinks and £1 shots

£2 Wristbands available from outside LUSU; Thurs Week 4 & Mon Week 5 between 10am & 4pm or £2.50 on the door.

Lancaster students propose Vote of No Confidence in national president

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

When asked on his support of Porter, Pickles said he believed students should be “united as a movement” and that he would support Porter whilst he was still President of the NUS.

When asked about the forthcoming conference, Pickles said he would not decide on who he would vote for as NUS President until he saw the candidates.

Chris Witter, a member of Lancaster University Against Cuts, has clear views on the way in which students’ unions should vote at the NUS Conference. “We’ve seen a mass student anti-cuts movement develop in recent months that has far outstripped all expectations. Not only has Porter consistently betrayed both this movement and the interests of student in general, but he has done his utmost to sabotage and undermine both this movement and student interests in general.”

Witter added: “Whatever way you look at it, Aaron Porter is betraying students: whether through his careerist collaboration with an anti-intellectual and philistine government or through his sheer incompetence. He must go now.”

This focus of universities nationwide on Porter rather than the body he heads seems to reflect the feeling that his leadership of the NUS has been disappointing.

Continuous pressure on Porter’s leadership from across the country climaxed on Saturday, January 29 when a Manchester based protest against public spending cuts and the rise in tuition fees turned aggressive and resulted in the NUS President being escorted away by the police for his own safety. Porter was subject to chants such as “students, workers, hear our shout; we want Aaron Porter out” and his deputy, Shane Chowen, was the target of apple cores and eggs, when he took to the stage to address the crowd.

Since December several students’ unions have proposed a VNC against Porter. The School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) held a Union General Meeting on Friday December 10, 2010 and their Union Secretary, Elly Badcock, successfully proposed a VNC. Speaking to SCAN Badcock was keen to state she did not think the “NUS is irrelevant” but had proposed the vote because students “want the leadership of our national union to stand up and fight against cuts - something Porter has repeatedly refused to do”.

Badcock went on to condemn Porter’s recent actions and his comments to the media, saying “he has characterised the student protests as extremist and unrepresentative, and refused to call more NUS-backed national demonstrations save last Saturday’s in Manchester. A VNC against Porter shows he’s the unrepresentative one, and increases the pressure for a union leader willing to properly represent students fighting against cuts.”

A Facebook group called It is time to go Aaron Porter - we need a fighting NUS has also been created, and



People took to the streets of Manchester on January 29 to voice their opposition to education cuts. Photo by Matthew Wilkinson/Flickr

Protests continue against education cuts

Erin O'Reilly

ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 29 thousands of students took to the streets in Manchester and London to show their steadfast contempt towards education cuts.

The protest in Manchester was organised by the UCU (University and College Union) and the NUS (National Union of Students) through their Fund Our Future Campaign. NUS President, Aaron Porter, sent out an email the previous day urging people to come out and “defend education and young people from the coalition government’s ruthless programme of cuts.”

Porter, however, received a frosty reception on the day and had to be led away by police from angry protesters. As the Guardian reported, protesters labelled Porter a “Tory too” due to a difference in opinion with the way demos and sit-ins have been organised around the country. Protesters were also said to have thrown eggs and oranges at NUS Vice President (Further Education), Shane Chowen, when he took to the podium. The BBC reported that protesters were looking for a “more militant leader” than Porter, leading to a division in the groups of protesters.

There were 16 arrests in Manchester, after a group of around 150

people broke away from the protest in an attempt to break into the University of Manchester Student’s Union resulting in scuffles between police and protesters.

The protest in London was reported by the Guardian as peaceful overall, with only a few people trying to break through police barriers in an attempt to get to Tory HQ, a target in previous protests, resulting in a handful of arrests.

There is due to be another protest taking place in London on Saturday, March 26. The NUS will be joining up with the Trades Union Congress (TUC) to march from Victoria to Hyde Park.

has already attracted just under 1000 members. The group declares their reasons for not supporting Porter are down to his “failure to call or even back another National Demonstration, his refusal to back up his promises of support for occupations, his weak stance on police brutality and his collusion with the Government in identifying cuts means that he has lost the confidence of the movement”.

When Aaron Porter spoke to SCAN in Week Three he played down talks of a VNC. “Students’ unions are incredibly democratic organisations, and if one student would like an issue discussed then that is the case, but this does not mean it’s a widespread opinion.”

He added that he felt “the overwhelming majority of students and students’ unions, believe that NUS’ campaign has helped to raise the profile of student issues this year in a responsible and relentless fashion.”

On the subject of his own and the NUS’ stance on some of the more militant protesting, which has attracted criticism from some students as not being conducive to a unite student body, Porter stood firm. “It was right that NUS condemned violence, in order to protect public support.” His confidence in the backing he has from students and his awareness of the situation were clear. “Only two students’ unions have passed votes of no confidence (SOAS and Birkbeck), but the same motion has been resoundingly defeated in countless other unions, who have endorsed NUS’ position, and my leadership.”

The proposed motions from Lancaster University Against Cuts also go on to call for more than just Porter’s resignation. At the general meeting they will propose that LUSU should immediately promise to actively back two upcoming protests, in February and March, the first of which will be aimed locally at University management as they decide the fees to charge in 2012.

The second protest is London based and aimed nationally, and organised by the NUS, indicating that the lack of support for Porter doesn’t necessarily reflect on the Union. The motions ask that LUSU get as involved in this protest, to be held on March 26, as eagerly as they did for the November 24 national protest in London.

The extent of the involvement expected from LUSU by Lancaster University Against Cuts is clearly outlined. Should the third motion, involving participation in protests, be passed, the Students’ Union must “fully support this protest and all further NUS sponsored protests”; “provide free or subsidised transport”; “use its resources to advertise these protests and transport”; and “encourage its officers to help organise and to attend these protests”.

The last motion to be proposed is that LUSU should immediately begin to “work with staff unions on campus to build a campaign to defend staff jobs and student services from cuts”.

SU reviews strategic plans ahead of fees hike

● SU working to engage students in new plan

Tzeitl Holding

WITH THE INCREASE in the level of tuition fees and change in student funding the pressure is on for Students' Unions to perform. Lancaster University Students' Union is adapting to this change by reviewing its strategy for the coming years.

The Union's Strategic Plan, a binding document which sets out the Union's aims and goals for the period between 2009 to 2012, is being edited in preparation the increase in fees and the changed attitude towards students as consumers. The mission statement of the current Strategic Plan is to ensure "representation, support, opportunities and services for Lancaster students".

LUSU President Robbie Pickles, who is in charge of the revision, insisted that it will not be a complete rewrite and the key principles of support and representation of students will remain. Pickles said the updated Strategic Plan "won't be throwing away all our ideas, but we really need to restock where we sit in context of a new form of Higher Education".

In order to answer the question of why the plan is being revised a year earlier than expected, Pickles said: "When we wrote that plan, we couldn't have predicted how things would change in the Higher Education sector, and things have changed quite phenomenally [...] We've really got to take into account that students will be expecting a different kind of service from the University and that means they may well be expecting a different kind of service from the Students' Union as well."

The question remains as to what it is exactly that Lancaster students want from their Union. First year student Laura Clancy said she didn't have a clear idea what the current LUSU plan is or how to contribute to its changes. Clancy said: "I don't know how I could get in touch with them. I suppose I could email, but I'm not sure how comfortable I'd be doing that because I don't know who I'd be sending it to".

A communication breakdown between LUSU and some of the students is evident and is something that Pickles acknowledges: "Personally I'd like to see more student engagement in the plan and more things in there that the students want to see. A lot of students don't get LUSU and what LUSU does. People thought we owned college bars, people thought we had no involvement in sports which we do. We can kill two birds with one stone as we can write the strategic plan and engage with the students."

Pickles stressed his wishes to avoid any more confusion in the future following the revisions to the plan and particularly wants to emphasise a renewed level of engagement with the Postgraduate and International Lancaster students, admitting there may have been some "failure to engage" with these two particular groups in the past. "There are new rules coming in about Visas and we might find that those rules affect how students can get here and their rights and we need to be on top of that".

The consultation process for this edition of the Strategic Plan is more clear and easily accessible to students than in the previous versions, as LUSU is holding focus groups with staff, offic-



ers and students in the form of a survey that is both using face to face contact and utilising online facilities through links to Facebook. The survey currently has over 1000 responses and is expected to have over 2000 by the closing date in late February.

An anonymous student who has previously had issues with LUSU's organisational skills doubted the relevance of the changes to the plan. "One of their issues is getting things done in time particularly in clubs and societies."

The student added "combining more departments will just make it impossible for anything to get done. It's too much for a small group of people to do".

LUSU also has two more on-going surveys gauging opinions on space, nightlife and campus environment. Pickles insisted there will be more focus on what sports and societies in particular want following the revision to the plan.

Pickles continued by saying: "Barker House Farm is a fantastic facility that has been put in completely the wrong location. How we solve those factors are things we need to work with the University on. There has to be more to be done to support South West

'When we wrote that plan we couldn't have predicted how things would change in Higher Education'

Campus in particular". Pickles also discussed how this area of campus has also had facility issues, as the largest laundrette on campus was out of use over the entire Christmas period and the surrounding weeks.

In a final statement, Pickles said "One of the things that the Strategic Plan will be drawing out is that the Students' Union needs to become much more critical of the University in terms of holding it to account.

"At the moment students can expect a certain level of satisfaction, but once the fees go up students won't just say: 'We'd quite like to have the laundrette fixed, students will say the laundrette needs to be fixed'. It's a different kind of way of approaching it and the Students' Union needs to be much stronger in vocalising that."

International students' online guide set for improvement

Josie Campbell

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' Union is set to improve their online guide for international students. It aims to inform prospective students about the culture and student life at Lancaster through a series of short video clips.

The Lancaster International Students' Guide, according to the current website, is "made by students, for students". The editor of the website, Chirag Gude, is calling on both international students and students from the UK that study at Lancaster to contribute to the production of the videos and the online guide. He is appealing for enthusiastic and creative individuals to add to the team with a view to

finding new ways to welcome students to the University.

The current guide at international.lusu.co.uk needs to be updated in order to cater for the 2,300 international students that come to the university from over 100 different countries. The search for new contributors to the website is integral to the success of Lancaster's future international alumni.

The team at Lancaster International Students' Guide wants to highlight the need for current students to share their experiences of life at Lancaster from different aspects of the work and leisure spectrum. The guide intends to answer any queries or problems that international students may have both before and during their stay

at the university. It presents information such as advice on applications, entry requirements, accommodation and the best places to eat on campus.

Starting university is a stressful time for many students and travelling abroad to study and experience a completely different culture can prove even more daunting. Some international students will only study at the university for a term so it is important that they are helped to get the most out of their stay at the university and from their visit to the UK.

The International Student Advisory Service at Lancaster University offers support to students with regards finance, academic difficulties, or problems adjusting to a differ-



ent culture. The Lancaster University International Students' Guide, however, addresses ways in which international students can integrate with student life and become aware of activities and events at Lancaster. It provides an aspect on the social life as well as the academic.

Making students feel welcome at the university is a fundamental

way of adding to Lancaster's Alumni Relations Programme which is a network comprised of over 52,000 international graduates. This network emphasizes the value of the work of Chirag Gude and his team with the online guide. The guide requires renewed interest and input if it is to continue attracting international students to Lancaster.

Union meeting called to let students voice their views



The General Meeting of Lancaster University Students' Union in December 2008 attracted over 500 students to discuss the role of Vice President (Activities).

Jonnie Critchley

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' Union has scheduled an Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) to take place at 7pm on Tuesday Week 5 in George Fox Lecture Theatre 1, despite being constitutionally bound to be held last term.

This meeting, called according to the LUSU Constitution by Vice-President (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies) Matt Windsor, gives students chance to question Union Officers and discuss important issues. However, there is debate over participation levels and the value of the General Meeting.

There has also been contention regarding the timing of this General Meeting. The LUSU Constitution states that "there shall be an Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) held during the first and last term of the academic year on a date determined by the VP (FEDS)". No such meeting was called in Michaelmas term, apparently an omission on the part of Windsor. "We are having one this term instead to cover the last," he said.

Asked about the lack of a meeting last term, LUSU President Robbie Pickles suggested that this may have been because there was little to discuss. "I think that one was looked into last term but no agenda items were received." A General Meeting held last term would have been highly unlikely

to discuss changes to FTO roles, given that these were only passed at the end of Week Nine.

On the agenda for the meeting will be the changes made recently to the roles of Full-Time Officers (FTOs). Passed at Union Council late last term, these changes saw the creation of a Vice-President (Activities) and a Vice-President (Events and Democracy) to replace the existing Sports and FEDS remits. The financial aspect of the FEDS role was passed into the President's remit.

The meeting will also provide opportunity for an Officer Question and Answer Session. Matt Windsor explained how this element has been built into the meeting in an attempt to counter the view that a General Meeting is "boring, cliquey and completely pointless to the average student".

'We are supposed to be a democratic, but Meetings are normally centred around one issue that a particular group have a grievance with'

The relationship between LUSU and the National Union of Students (NUS) is also expected to be discussed.

Windsor expressed doubts about

the overall worth of these meetings, arguing that they can be unrepresentative. "[They are] a tired concept," he said. "We are supposed to be a democratic union, but [General Meetings] are normally centred around one issue that a particular group have a grievance with, who then hijack the whole process".

This occurred at a recent meeting, said Windsor, when a disproportionate number of sports team members attended a meeting "at the request of a potential VP (Sports) candidate", causing what he calls "a skewed argument".

Windsor is more in favour of a more democratic process whereby Officers are seen to go out and speak to the lay student. "One thing LUSU doesn't do is talk to our members enough – we'd rather hide it in a committee," he said. "You alienate people in the [General Meeting] – but if you go to a society training session or club game and speak to people like human beings, people will gladly talk to you about it."

Lack of student participation seems to be becoming an issue in forming agenda. "The average student has not proposed a motion or initiated a discussion for as long as I can remember," observed Windsor. "That's a problem".

He argues that issues such as the LUSU-NUS relationship are given inflated importance by this sort of

meeting. "The danger is that you can build a [General Meeting] around an issue and pedestal that issue beyond

200
members need to attend the meeting for it to be quorum

its real level. The issues for the agenda should be coming from students on the ground."

However, Pickles was keen to maintain the importance of the meeting. "We want to press ahead and hold one because it is important that students get a chance to raise their opinions," he said. "Hopefully people will take up this opportunity, although attendance at past meetings has sadly been rather low."

Regarding the discussion of changes to the FTO roles, Pickles said: "Students are welcome [...] to discuss any of the changes Union Council has made to the Union By-Laws, which includes changes to Officer roles."

Constitutionally, a General Meeting has the power to repeal any decisions passed at Union Council, giving it a potentially significant say in the running of the Students' Union. However, support for the changes to FTO roles, as well as historically low participation, makes this notion seem unlikely.

Students' Union gears up for Full Time Officer elections

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The FTO positions are elected in Week Eight of Lent Term every year, and the chosen candidates take up their paid role from the end of Summer Term for a year. The positions available are those of President of the Students' Union, and five Vice Presidents, covering different areas - Events and Democracy; Academic; Media and Communications/SCAN Editor; Equality, Welfare and Diversity; and Activities.

Vice President (Events and Democracy) and Vice President (Activities) are relatively new roles, being elected for the first time this year, and formed from the previous positions of Vice President (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies) and Vice President (Sports). Societies and sports teams will now be under the care of the VP (Activities), with events and democracy remaining part of the same role, but giving that officer a more manageable task.

Nominations for FTO positions will be open on Thursday, Week Five at 10am and will close on Wednesday, Week Six at 6pm. This will be followed by a candidates meeting and workshop at 7pm on Wednesday, Week Six. The campaign period opens at 10am Sunday, Week Six and continues until voting closes. Hustings, which includes a panel debate, is on Tuesday, Week Seven and voting is from 10am on Thursday, Week Eight to 4pm on Friday, Week Eight. The results will be announced on the evening of Friday, Week Eight. All voting will be done electronically through Mi-Voice.

'Critical campaigning, clarification of rules and more ability for candidates to shout what they are about'

Last year's FTO elections will be remembered for the problems with the elections of the Vice President (Academic) and Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity). While all the results for the other positions were announced as expected on Friday Week Eight of Lent Term last year, a problem with voting codes being sent to Graduate College members meant a revote had to be held for these positions.

Due to the risk of some people being able to vote twice, it was deemed that the results of these two elections were too close to announce, and so a re-election was held the following week.

Last year's elections were also notable in that Robbie Pickles and Marc Handley were uncontested when they ran for President and Vice President (Sports) respectively. Handley had initially been contested by Erika Vann, but she dropped out prior to hustings and the vote. Two uncontested positions was unprecedented, and this year will see more of a push to get as many people as possible standing in the elections.

Fylde student set for Oscar success



Lancaster student, Sam Holland as David in Wish 143.

Charlotte Urban
News Editor

SHORT FILM WISH 143 featuring Fylde student Sam Holland has been nominated for Best Live Action Short for this year's Oscars.

The film is a 23 minute long coming of age story, where Holland plays a boy called David who has terminal cancer and makes it his dying wish to lose his virginity before time runs out. When asked about the film Holland said: "There's a nice mix of comedy and tear-jerking, which I think makes it popular. Holland went on to say: "The writer Tom Bidwell is very talented and is really the reason we have done so well". Bidwell has also directed several well known British institutions such as Eastenders, Casualty and Holby City.

The second year English and Creative Writing student makes time for

acting in between his degree and says that he's "not finding it too hard to manage the work load at the moment. There tends to be periods where I miss things, but I catch up".

In terms of performing such a demanding role and the overall experience, Holland said: "Obviously I loved being a part of it. It was great to work with actors of such high calibre like Jim Carter and Jodie Whittaker."

Whittaker is best known for her roles in films such as St. Trinian's, Venus, also starring Peter O'Toole, and Good, also starring Viggo Mortensen. Holland also said "the role itself was probably the most challenging I've done so was nice to try push myself".

Wish 143 is up against four other short films and the winner of the award will be announced on 27th February. The Oscars will be broadcasted on the BBC that evening.

UCAS applications to Lancaster rise alongside grade entry requirements

Matt Power

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY'S UCAS applications have risen by 35% this year, coinciding with a series of rises in grade entry requirements.

Universities across the country have seen a record level of applications in 2011, but Lancaster's dramatic increase is higher than the 4-5% rise nationally.

It is though important to note that the percentages are based on year-on-year figures. This means that a decrease in applications (which Lancaster experienced last year) results in a large increase the following year. Whilst it appears the University is oversubscribed, figures for this year are hitting the University's expected targets.

By UCAS' January deadline, 583,501 people had applied to universities nationally, which is a rise of 28,026 from January 2010. But the rise of 5% is the lowest in recent years, and a dramatic fall in applications was noted at the time of student protests and parliamentary votes on tuition fees.

Fred Binley, Head of Student Recruitment and Outreach for Lancaster University, described the increase in applications as "phenomenal", and declared Lancaster was at "the cutting edge [...] in being very much a global, research-led institution." He went on to say that "the calibre of students we are attracting is definitely improving which is noticeable in the typical entry requirements we are asking for our programmes."

By analysing the statistics for this year's admissions, it is noticeable that there are a large number of applicants who have placed Lancaster as an insurance choice. It has been suggested that the large number of insurance choices is a reflection of the rise in typical entry requirements.

Robin Hughes, the Students' Union's Vice President (Academic), was pleased with the rise in applicants.



"I think the increase in grade requirements reflects both the national trends in A-Level results, and Lancaster's aspirations to continue to recruit brilliant students," he said.

Lancaster University's Undergraduate Admissions Officer, Heather Willes, is currently reviewing the admissions data. Early indications have suggested that campus-type universities and members of the 94 Group were performing noticeably well. There have also been national increases in applications to subject areas such as Physical Sciences, Mathematics, Engineering, Management and Art and Design. This trend was reflected in Lancaster's data, to the same extent as national trends or to a greater degree.

The University's application rise has taken place in the year in which several courses have changed their minimum grade requirements. Law now requires students to gain three A grades. Shane Manning applied to Lancaster three years ago and he was asked to attain AAB. Manning said: "I know lots of people who got lower than AAB but still got in. It will be interesting to see if that occurs next year when the minimum grade requirements have increased."

Subjects across disciplines have seen an increase in grade require-

ments. Whilst applying for Theatre Studies with English Literature, Ellie Cootes received an offer of ABB. If she applied in 2011, she would have to attain AAB and she believes the change in grade requirements would have to be justified.

Cootes said the rise is "good as long as they raise the standards of the course with it. I know a lot of people on our course currently who didn't get the grades and it hasn't mattered at all."

Lancaster University's Management School's (LUMS) courses have also requested better grades from potential students this year. LUMS' Accounting and Finance degree previously asked for ABB, which has now increased to AAB. Tom Counsell, a third year student, agreed with the increase, saying: "Accounting and Finance is a difficult course so grades should be high to ensure there is the best selection of people. With so many people wanting to go to university, and especially Lancaster with its excellent reputation, we should be ensuring we get a high calibre of students to ensure a good set of results." Counsell added that the University should still seek other factors: "I did a year in industry which would put me in a better position than, perhaps, someone who got slightly better grades than I did."

Islam Awareness Week sees guest lectures return

Ruth Byrne

ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK, running from Monday February 14 to Friday February 18, is being marked by a series of four talks organised by Lancaster University's Islamic Society.

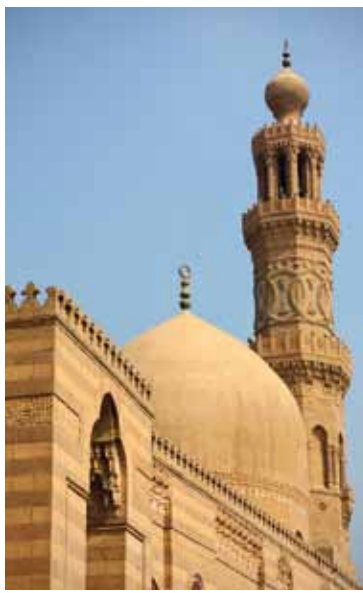
The newly elected society committee seems set to build upon the success of previous years' lectures, having organised a combination of influential Muslim orators and University lecturers to speak at this annual event. Designed to raise awareness of the world's second largest religion, each talk will be followed by a Q and A session as a means of encouraging positive debate.

Current Vice President of the society, Rizwaan Mohammed, stresses that all are welcome and said the society felt that "cohesion is par-

amount to a constructive student community".

Events will begin on the Monday at 6pm with Shaykh Amer Jamil's talk entitled 'What Was Prophet Muhammad Really Like?'. Jamil is a prominent and respected Muslim scholar from Glasgow and co-founder of the Solas Foundation, which provides guidance on contemporary Islamic issues in the West.

Perhaps the most anticipated event of the week, having been advertised on several Lancaster societies' Facebook groups, is Dr Christopher Allen's 'Who Is Afraid of Islamophobia?'. The University of Birmingham research fellow has conducted research into the phenomenon of Islamophobia. Specifically, he was the co-author of a publication entitled Summary Report into Islamophobia in the EU After 11 Sep-



'Cohesion is paramount to a constructive student community'

tember 2001, written for the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia.

Following the theme of Islamophobia is Lancaster's own Leon Moosavi with 'Why Are So Many Britons Converting to Islam?'. A PhD student who is currently examining the experiences of Muslim converts in Britain, Moosavi has been interviewed by both BBC One and The Guardian in relation to his research work.

Adam Deen, whose talk enti-

tled The Dawkins Delusion was well attended last year, will be returning to conclude the week with The Purpose of Life. An international speaker on Muslim Apologetics (a branch of theology concerned with the rational justification of Islam), Deen has also featured several times on mainstream television.

Previous Islamic Society President Faye Almar had been pleased at the "success" of last year's events, adding that "feedback from those attending was that they enjoyed it very much." All talks are in Cavendish Lecture theatre, with the exception of Monday's, which will be held in Faraday Lecture Theatre – hot food is available to everyone who attends. Further details regarding the event can be found on the society's website - www.lancaster.ac.uk/socs/islamic

Sexual health campaign falls limp

Yasmin Spracklen

A CAMPAIGN TO promote sexual awareness failed to take place after confusion over responsibility and organisation.

Live at LICA (Lancaster Institute of Contemporary Arts) approached Pete Macmillan, LUSU's Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), several weeks ago with a view to organising a sexual health awareness campaign that would tie in with Sex Idiot, an autobiographical show by Total Theatre Award winner Bryony Kimmins. Sex Idiot explicitly addresses the 29 year old's sexual experiences and discovery of an STI after her very first STI test last year.

Macmillan accepted, hoping that a sexual health campaign in combination with a dramatic performance that touched on the subject would effectively raise sexual health awareness among the audience present on Saturday, February 5. Prior to the show, Macmillan suggested that "having it in a theatre setting will hopefully add to its success."

However, according to Ele Kinchin-Smith, Front of House Manager for Live at LICA, plans failed to materialise. The stall Kinchin-Smith had planned to use for the campaign was unavailable at the last minute due to a mix-up over dates. Furthermore, confusion seemed arise over respon-



sibility and organisation for the campaign itself. Kinchin-Smith was under the impression that Macmillan had begun organising and spoken to members of the JCR about involvement:

"I gathered that they were all good to go but never heard anymore - unfortunately I wasn't aware of who the people were otherwise I could have been able to make sure they had all

the details."

Macmillan on the other hand felt that "the emphasis was shifted from the LUSU angle of sexual health to it being more about the Vagina Monologues and getting publicity out for that." Moreover, Macmillan had thought that outside agencies were organising a sexual health campaign independent of LUSU and accordingly "eased off." Macmillan was also unaware that the campaign hadn't transpired, due to absence that particular weekend.

Both Kinchin-Smith and Macmillan recognise the need for a sexual health awareness campaign. Kinchin-Smith remarked: "I think sexual health awareness is incredibly important, especially in a society where even though condoms are readily available and the subject is on the whole very well promoted so many people can still remain so oblivious." Macmillan added: "We haven't reached out enough in the past and engaged with students."

The show Sex Idiot was a success with the audience, consisting of a mixture of students and residents of Lancaster. Kinchin-Smith said: "The response to the show was very positive, there was a lot of laughter but also I think a real empathy with Bryony and the stories she told. She struck a lovely balance between humour and vulnerability."

Student looks to bring healthy living to campus

Charlotte Urban
News Editor

A TWO DAY event promoting healthy living is being initiated by LUSU and a Lancaster student. The event, taking place on Thursday and Friday of Week Six will involve a number of stalls which will offer advice and support to students about healthy eating, moderate drinking and keeping fit. The event which has been organised by Theatre Studies student Richard Clark, with help from LUSU and the Marketing Department aims to encourage students to lead a more active and healthy lifestyle.

On Thursday, there will be a farmer's market and activity stalls such as a penalty shootout and a time trial with the rowing machines. Clarke said: "For Friday, we shall hopefully have some chefs to perform a Ready Steady Cook challenge, as well as more activity stalls and information stalls about healthy living." The event will be accompanied by local and national companies such as Asda and Juicafe, chefs from Dalton Rooms and Verdes and societies such as LUDans, Football, Basketball and Cooking Society.

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Enterprise Day to encourage student entrepreneurs

Chris Housden
News Editor

ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 LUSU Involve are holding Enterprise Day, a whole day of workshops on topics such as idea generation, sales, social media, marketing and more. The focus of the day is aimed at helping students build up your idea and turn it into a business plan. The day starts at 10 am and is taking place in Bowland North Seminar Room 1. A free lunch will be provided along with the chance to talk to other students who have already been through the Enterprise process.

LUSU Involve Enterprise is the start up business unit of the volunteering arm of the Students' Union. Led by Enterprise Manager Joe Buglass, Enterprise gives students the opportunity to turn any business idea in to a fully developed business plan. As well as assigning a member of student staff who has been through the process and set up their own successful businesses, Enterprise offers students workshops varying from idea generation, to getting your product to market and sales.

Odette Schofield and Faye Hewitson are two students who have worked with Involve and both set up successful businesses from their projects. After coming to Enterprise in November 2010 Schofield has already produced her first consignment of Odette's Sunglasses, unique sun-



Students Matthew Summers and Duncan McCaffrey set up their software company Insiris with LUSU Involve's assistance.

glasses hand-embellished with lace, sequins, beads, feathers, button and net. She has already begun selling to several retailers in Lancaster, such as Arteria, The Exchange and at the Dark Side Night at Cuba.

Hewitson, who has now graduated from Lancaster, set up her own cheerleading squad offering cheerleading

sessions to children in the area whilst studying here and has now won several awards for both her business and sporting achievements.

Schofield "came up with the idea when I saw a very similar pair of glasses in Vogue. I looked for lace covered sunglasses on the internet and found that only top designers had

made them." Her project a basic level she then built it into a business plan. "I made my own first pair last summer and I got so many positive comments from friends and strangers and I saw a potential for a product that would be unique and fun at a reasonable price."

Hewitson found her businesses

basis in a slightly more unlikely place. "I came up with my business idea as I was captain of Lancaster University Roses Cheerleading Squad and could

'LUSU Involve Enterprise gives students the opportunity to turn any business idea into a fully developed business plan'

see no cheerleading squad for the young people of Lancaster or Morecambe to join. Being Captain of the squad gave me an insight into how a business ran. I loved running the squad and decided I should do it for myself."

Both Schofield and Hewitson speak highly of Involve. Schofield would "recommend any student wanting their own business to go for it", advising that "they should take all feedback as important and not to be struck down by any negative comments." Hewitson has a similar opinion of emerging into the business world, cautioning that students should "make sure you have a concrete idea and an idea of where you want to go. Enterprise will help you find a path and set you on your way."

To sign up to Enterprise Day or get more information visit www.involve.lusu.co.uk/enterprise

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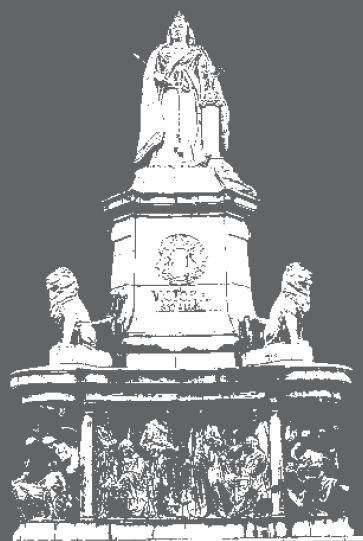
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Model UN Society founded

Heather Mann

A GROUP OF students have formed a new society on campus to hold debates imitating topics discussed by the United Nations and create resolutions accordingly. The Lancaster University Model United Nations Society (LUMUN) offers students the opportunity to act as a particular state and speak in that nation's interests.

Recent topics have included the Korean Peninsula Crisis, the Middle East Conflict, the Egypt Riots and a mock Security Council meeting concerning Wikileaks.

The society is a branch of the Model United Nations, which has a large presence on many North American university campuses, including Harvard, UC Berkeley, and The Hague University. Oxford and Cambridge both have Model United Nations Societies and university chapters often meet for national or regional conferences. The organisation has been running since the 1920s where university clubs emulated the League of Nations.

LUMUN was set up by Mahesh Sheshadri, who is now Vice President of the Society who has previously been involved in Model United Nations. Talking about a previous event he attended Sheshadri said: "I was debating political matters against top class debaters from the world's best universities at that conference. It felt like I was in the real UN." He set up the soci-



ety so he "could share these new experiences and feelings with people who not only like to debate about recent incidents but also like to socialize with others who are from different background and cultures."

The society also offers its members the chance to travel extensively, from Asia to America, and meet other people from across the country and other parts of the world.

LUMUN is planning to meet their York counterparts during Roses Weekend and are attending various other conferences throughout the year, including at Warwick and Oxford University. They are hoping to host their own conference in the next few years.

The society offers students the opportunity to practice their debating and analytical skills, whilst learning more about international relations,

diplomacy, negotiation and conflict prevention.

Members' experiences range from highly skilled people to newly introduced enthusiasts, the more experienced members leading debates and helping the newer members get involved.

Each member is assigned a country, from which they have to argue for a resolution which reflects and advances their interests, aims and points of contention.

LUMUN is looking for new members and meets each week at 6pm on Tuesdays in Management School Lecture Theatre 2, and can be found on Facebook under Lancaster University Model United Nations Society. The society charges £4 to join. The society is also holding an information session for prospective members in the following weeks.

Student satisfaction survey launches with positive response

Emma Hughes

PROFESSOR AMANDA CHETWYND, Pro Vice Chancellor for the Colleges and Student Experience, has launched a new Student Experience Survey, aimed at postgraduates and first and second year undergraduates, in order to give students the opportunity to have their say about facilities on campus.

"The survey covers sports facilities, shops, catering, colleges and student support. The survey gives students the opportunity to comment on the existing provision and to give suggestions for improvements," Chetwynd explained.

She went on to cite how student feedback had been incorporated in the past. "The Learning Zone was created because of comments students made in the first survey about the need for a group learning space open 24/7. And we now offer a catered accommodation option as a result of students commenting that they would have liked this option to be available."

The survey is conducted online and takes about ten minutes to do. As an incentive to take part, everyone who completes the survey is entered into a prize draw to win HMV vouchers.

"This year we have asked students to prioritise new services and facili-

ties they would like to see on campus, for example a new Student Union building, small group teaching hours, increased contact hours, better college social spaces and increased opportunity for work placements. I am very grateful to all the students who take the time to fill in the survey. Their comments are considered very carefully and help us plan for the future," said Chetwynd.

It also appears the survey has the support of the students. "I think it's great for students to get the opportunity to have a say, because what goes on affects us so much," said Craig Leigh, a second-year student. "The only problem is it takes ten minutes, but I'll be doing it for sure. I definitely think we need a new Student Union building, one where you can socialise. It should have common rooms and meeting rooms as well as all the Student Union offices."

"Also, everyone should be offered the opportunity to do a year work placement, not just those doing a business course. If it is offered to every student already, it needs to be publicised better," added Lauren Jones, an English Language student.

Chetwynd is a Professor of Mathematics and Statistics. She was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship in 2003.

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then at	45	2210	then at	then at	2238
45	05		29	29	
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scan:COMMENT

New system condemns students to academia over diversity

Reform in school league tables means students will get a limited choice in their curriculum

Alex Littleboy
Deputy
Comment Editor



There is little good to say about the new English Baccalaureate, the system that is now being used to rate schools across England. It has tossed many subjects out of the window, instead grading simply on English, Maths, two sciences, a modern or ancient foreign language and either history or geography.

Part of me may simply be bitter as, despite having received good grades in my GCSEs, I studied neither history nor geography so my own grades would not be included as a measure of my school's performance. I chose to study Drama, which has been of great benefit to me in my academic life, and Religious Studies, a humanity subject notably absent from the new grading system and so my grades would not be included in the percentage of passing students.

A recent article in my regional paper illustrated that, under the previous system, 71% of students at my old school had earned 5 A*-C grades at GCSE – however, under the new system, this figure plummets to just 10%.

Having attended a rural state school, I knew many students who had no intention of going to university – they just wanted to leave school and find a practical job, be it in a factory, on a farm or on a building site. They prepared for this by studying practical GCSEs such as technology subjects. Unfilled spaces in their timetables would be filled with things that they would enjoy, like drama, PE, and music. Before the English Baccalaureate came in, the individual aims of the students didn't have to be twisted to serve the school league tables – whatever they studied, so long as they worked hard, the school would reap the rewards. Although I studied subjects with the primary goal of continuing to A Level and then ultimately university, I was one of few. I was offered a reasonable education, tailored to my own needs, just like everyone else.

Now all schools will pressure their students to take these GCSE subjects, some perhaps making them compulsory. I see this as a sad day, where people are forced to follow a path that may not be the one they would choose,



or to be judged as unworthy to represent the school on the league tables. State schools where students will take practical subjects over academic subjects, like my own, will see a sharp drop in their ratings on the league tables, while those schools in which academic subjects are more important, for example private and grammar schools, will remain on top.

In essence, for some schools, the goalposts are simply being moved further and further away, whereas those schools that already focus on the more

academic subjects will benefit.

This development means that secondary education is no longer about the students, but the schools in which they are taught. Individual needs and desires will be ignored for the good of the school, something that I see to be a massive step backwards. Schools will have to make a decision: do they choose to allow students to follow their own paths, tailoring their subject choices to the future that they see ahead of them, at the cost of a high ranking in the league tables? Or do

they instead constrict students with subjects they don't want, subjects that they may not succeed at and remove the element of free will in GCSEs, just to appear to be a better school in the papers when the league tables are announced?

I did not study history or geography, meaning that, despite getting all A-C grades at GCSE, they would not be counted under the new system. As previously mentioned, I instead elected to study drama, which exposed me to German literature in the form of Brecht plays, something that I am still feeling the benefit of to this day, often

'For some schools the goalposts are simply being moved further and further away'

facing his texts here at university. If I had not studied drama before starting my degree, I feel that I would have suffered for it. Furthermore, religious studies, something that I see to be of great value, is notably absent from the list. Most of my public speaking and debating abilities come from these two subjects, subjects that I have found a concrete benefit in studying, which I wanted to study.

I do see a few positive points from the new system. As foreign languages are one of the subjects included in the top five of the English Baccalaureate, their popularity may see an increase as schools put greater pressure on students to study them. Although this could be seen as a loss for the free will of students, gaining a language is a valuable tool in later life, whatever path you take, and can be very rewarding. Furthermore, the league tables could be considered meaningless, and moving the goalposts could be seen as an attempt to bring some credibility back to the system. However, this system is just taking the good work of schools such as my own and stomping all over it.

Several years from now, the students who have been through the English Baccalaureate will come to university. Whether they chose their subjects to impress, because they had no choice, or because they truly wished to study them, we have yet to see. However, they will have had less of a role in their choices of studies than previously, which I believe is counterproductive, and a great shame.

Don't make me a target Yellow Doors

Helen Wishart

Lancaster has a reputation for being the safest student city in the UK. It seems to provide the perfect campus environment setting for the first year and, having moved out in the second, a reasonable place to live while renting a student house. In my experience, since coming here for the most part it has lived up to its expectations. Having heard horror stories from friends studying in Manchester and Nottingham about experiences within their groups of friends of burglary and violence I feel it is worth the compromise on night life and variety in such a small city for the assurance that my possessions are most likely to be where I left them.

I have a cousin studying in London who has been mugged three times during her first year just travelling from university to her halls. So students at Lancaster really are comparatively lucky where security is concerned.

Despite this however, there have been incidents recently of burglary in student residences. It surprises me that they have not been more frequent. Whilst the modern en-suite accommodation on campus is more difficult to break into, with swipe keys to enter each building and locked flats and rooms, standard rooms, at least in my college, seem to be very poorly secured. In my friend's flat you were simply able to stroll into their building and then into their kitchen and with the number of gadgets around it's amazing things are not taken all that often.

Student housing in town is not much better. It has always seemed bizarre to me that the biggest student housing company in Lancaster blatantly advertises who its residents are by marking them out with bright yellow front doors. Knowing that students generally all leave during the Christmas and Easter breaks, it is astonishing to me that the rate of burglary is not higher - it's like leaving a big sign on your front door saying this house is empty and probably full of valuable items. Even living in a privately rented house has some problems, with considerably dodgy door locks and a landlord who was less than obliging about sorting the problem when we raised it until the council became involved.

So while on the whole students in Lancaster are secure, there are some issues that could be addressed. Hopefully refurbishments on campus should improve security. On the whole, whilst we cannot stop people from breaking locks and entering, it is up to us to not make an easier job of it for burglars.

Bring back the T-shirt tyrants, you say?



Ronnie Rowlands

The JCR are not a clique of t-shirt tyrants but a group of hardworking students elected to represent you

Sam Fresco's article, Bring Back the T-Shirt Tyrants, was intended to be an "inspiring debate". The intention of this article is to huff and puff and blow his argument out of the water.

The fact that this article was liked on Facebook by over a 100 people on the day of its publication came as a shock, given that the complaints about "the current calibre of [...] the JCR" were questionable to say the least. What evidence is presented to prove to us that the current JCR have proven themselves to be utterly useless in the whole month since their instatement? Well, the fact that Pendle College has "a fresher president" would appear to be "the strongest piece of evidence". That's me told, then.

He claims, through an admittedly impressive ability to predict the future, that having a "shivering fresher" join the JCR will result in the said fresher becoming "arrogant", getting "an ego, and this cycle reset[ing]". By this, he means the return of t-shirt tyrants, so what's the problem? After all, it is supposed that the JCR needs to be egotistical and cliquy in order to function?

I spoke to second year Law student Jemma Gaskell, President of County College. She was elected Vice President as a "shivering fresher" in 2009. This "shivering fresher" was instrumental in winning the campaign for the bus route around north campus, a task failed at by previous JCRs. She also received praise for putting on what was considered to be one of the finest extravas Lancaster has ever seen.



With the knowledge that the previous JCRs were privileged and lavished upon, presumably any fresher of that year would have contended to be in the clique? "I do it for the passion I have for the college and its members. I don't do this for the credit or the popularity", she said. Apparently not, then.

So, Gaskell joined as a "shivering fresher" wanting to do it "by the book", yet it would appear that she did a bloody good job of it. Furthermore, the hustings I attended for the County College elections was a marvelous exhibition of passion and capability, with equally impressive manifestos to boot. That we no longer have t-shirt tyrants means that the elections are now a democratic procedure in which prowess and good strength of character secures votes, not popularity. To say that weaker students are elected

because votes are no longer cast based on peer acclaim is the biggest sack of trumpety moonshine I've read in many a long year, as is the assertion that the "freshmen of 2010" don't want to be in the JCR anymore". Last time I checked, there were 28 people running for 15 positions in the County elections alone. Four for Vice President, two for President, four for Magazine Editor. Lonsdale College had 10 candidates for the role of Social Secretary. Pendle had three people contending for President, so his belief that the freshman got the gig because no one else wanted to run is worryingly narrow-minded.

I cannot fathom the idea that joining the JCR for perks is better than joining to play by the rules. While it's not quite on the same scale, let's use British politics as an example. It is widely believed that the reason there

is no trust in politicians is that none of them radiate a conviction in their beliefs like they used to. Michael Foot and Humphrey Berkeley are two old school politicians who, against ridicule and opposition, genuinely wanted to make a difference, regardless of their popularity. Popularity and perks are the teats that today's politicians suckle on, which is obviously why British MPs are so revered these days. The more people who contend, regardless of the privileges the job brings, the better.

The article declines to acknowledge the mitigating circumstances under which someone may run for an uncontended position. Robbie Love, fresher and General Secretary of County College, noted: "Unless you check the table right before the deadline, there's no way of knowing if there's competition. The two I was competing against pulled out, so I didn't apply thinking I'd be the only candidate." He added: "The only egotism involved in my membership is the pride I'll take in knowing I've been a part of something that has benefited people. I see the same in other members around me".

Regardless of year group or job perks, the JCR is gelled not by being a clique, but by the like mindedness of people who take pride in their work. Those in power should be equal to those they serve, not under the pretence that they are above. I believe that the one who recognizes this is a stronger character with a thicker wad of integrity than someone who doesn't.

Bring back tossers so that people will want to be tossers? Let's not.

Commentators' remarks weren't offside

Ed McConnell

Gray's and Key's comments were blown out of proportion and out of context

Last week David Mitchell wrote a piece in The Observer entitled, Andy Gray and Richard Keys have finally met their Waterloo. I'm glad. Now I'm not going to jump on the pro-Gray bandwagon but, at the risk of sounding like an awful misogynist, what exactly is the issue?

I'm not a particularly ardent, or even mildly ardent, football fan, so my perspective on this isn't skewed by any sense of loyalty. Neither do I afford any sort of superiority to males in regard to the intellectual capacity to understand basic sporting rules. However I do question the context of the jibes made by the two.

The main point of Mitchell's article was that Sky's commenting duo was genuinely under the impression that a female lineswoman does not have the ability to understand the offside rule; despite the fact that being a lineswoman necessitates understanding the offside rule. Whatever level of football she is officiating, a strong grasp of the offside rule is crucial. I am unsure of exactly how aware of the rule Mitchell is himself, but he was seriously implying that both commentators were valuing the complexity of the offside rule to be surpassing that

of complex mathematics. It's not. I am certain that two grown men working million pound careers in football, however sexist they may be, can also see it's not.

The main issue is that he appears to have argued his case too fully, putting so much effort into humiliating Gray and Keys for their stupidity that he has forgotten to take a minute to analyse his argument.

Mitchell claims that the pair seriously thinks that comprehending the offside rule is too much for the female brain. Now Mitchell is a comedian famed for his deadpan humour and thus you would expect this to be sarcasm on his part, but no, Mitchell genuinely believes that Gray and Keys are so bombastic, so arrogant, that they do actually think this. Here he's shot himself in the foot; because this is such a ludicrous proposition that humour suddenly becomes evident in Gray & Keys' comments.

Mitchell's points all stem from the single assumption, made by many, that the comments made were spoken sincerely. It is hard to conceive of how anyone is in a position to make that call. Without a full grasp of the context in which these statements were made it is incorrect for anyone to claim that



they were devoid of all humour. A joke is still a joke regardless of the expression on the perpetrators face; a fact which Mitchell, of all columnists, should be aware.

The Independent's Sarah Sands also regarded the pair's actions to be inexcusable. Sands referenced Soccer AM and questioned its laddish humour. It was her opinion that the section of the show in which dippy female football fans paraded in front

of the audience, pouting and wearing tight football shirts, was inappropriate. The issue here relates to money and exposure. These women are paid to "flaunt their wares", they are paid because men like them to "flaunt their wares", and they will continue to "flaunt their wares" as long as they are earning money and enjoy doing it. They have not been captured or bred to do so; they have chosen to do it and to take advantage of the men who enjoy it. If anything they are the sexists.

Sands also spoke of how male journalists had questioned why "there is one rule for men and another for Loose Women". Obviously this was below her and she brushed it aside. But the males have a point here, because Loose Women is ridiculous. It shouldn't be axed, but it digs into the male race at every available opportunity. The only difference between Gray & Keys and Loose Women is that Gray & Keys did not publically make any comments. The fact the comments are now in the public domain is not their fault. If this argument was applied to society in general, 90% of people wouldn't be able to leave their homes without being judged to be a sexist, or a homophobe, or a racist.

To go to my seminar, or not to go to my seminar, that is the question?

Lucy Casale



Students shouldn't be forced to attend seminars though it's money down the drain if you don't

BEEP beep beep. That's your alarm clock, and this is what it tells you: "You have exactly 10 minutes before your first seminar, and no, this time you really can't hit the snooze button – again."

Seminars, to attend or not to attend? While strictly speaking, seminars are compulsory, this age old question faces many a groggy university student on an early morning. Unfortunately, even after one cup (or two, or three, or four) of the strongest coffee in the cupboard, some mornings prove too much for the best of us. Feeling a strange mixture of defeat and liberation, we crawl back under our covers and say screw it to our seminars, defying personal, parental and tutor expectations.

Personally, I haven't missed one seminar yet – but I've only been here for three weeks. As for my future, it doesn't look so promising. On quite a few mornings already the get-back-in-bed-bugs have been on my case, dangling temptations of beauty sleep before my droopy eyelids. I will admit that in these first three weeks I have missed two lectures. However, unlike seminars, no one is taking attendance and all the PowerPoints go up on LUVLE anyway.

Still, we skippers and almost-skippers don't have much of an excuse. A case of laziness is what it really boils down to. Unless you're sick – in which case I completely understand. But if



your seminar attendance record is already at zero out of three, it's either time to break out those sleeping pills, buy a second coffee pot, find a comfier mattress, or something.

There is a reason why tutors include seminars in their courses and I believe you and I should make every effort to attend them. Not only will sitting in on seminars gain you bonus points with your tutor, but unlike lectures, you will get to improve your public speaking skills, partake of and contribute to meaningful discussions, and most importantly learn from your classmates. Furthermore, it's quite likely in your independent reading and study-

ing you won't pick up on everything tutors point out in seminars – things that could very well help you get higher marks on your exams and papers.

And it's not just about learning from your classmates and tutors. Your own money goes towards seminars too, even if you're not paying it yet. You will be one day, so you might as well get your dollars worth.

Now I should mention that I am an American student and as such, I am biased about skipping class. Back at my home college (note college, not university) rarely do I miss a class. While inevitably, there are exceptions to the rule, the majority of my class-

mates join me. After all, we are literally paying for every minute we get with our tutors.

According to collegeboard.com, tuition at a public, four year college in the US will cost you roughly \$9,000 (£5600) per year. Fork up about \$35,000 (£21,750) per year and you can graduate from a private, four year college. In fact, many private colleges are even more expensive than this average. In Brian Wingfield's article, America's Most Expensive Colleges on forbes.com, 2010's most expensive American college was Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, N.Y. Thank God for financial aid applications because their yearly tuition is \$57,556 (£35,753.51).

With the British House of Commons' recent and unfortunate decision to raise your 2012 tuition fees cap from £3,290 per year to £9,000 per year, I am certainly sympathetic. After all, who wants the cost of their education nearly tripled? However, I do see one positive aspect to this fee raise. As you pay more for each class you take, you will be that much more motivated to attend your seminars.

As for now, no, your tutors shouldn't have to scold you if you don't attend a seminar. And yes, you are paying to attend Lancaster so if you don't want to go to your seminars, it is completely your choice. Still, I think the right decision at the beginning of the day is to go.

Please take my seat if I manage to get one

Emily Roberston
Comment Editor

In the dog-eat-dog world of Lancaster buses students have forgotten the golden rule of general etiquette

How many of you living in town have gone to get that dreaded bus to take you to your 9am lecture and, after dragging yourself out of your only-too-comfy bed into a cold Lancashire morning to stand at the bus stop with the rest of the half asleep students, seen bus after bus after bus go flying past you? I'm one of the lucky ones. I live very near the bus station so nearly always get not only a seat on the bus, but a choice. And so, every morning I see crowds of students huddled around bus stops as I go hurtling past them on the bus only to see them again 15 minutes later, red in the face running late into our lecture.

I know what you are going to say: they should get up earlier and get a less busy, earlier bus. That would be a fair argument if it was just one or two buses which were just to full to pick them up. The truth of the matter is it is more like four or five that fly past every morning. Just how early are students expected to get up? Surely it would be easier for the bus service to be more regular in the busy morning period and then we would all be on time without getting up before the sun rises?

I do not understand why this has not been rectified by the bus company as it is a daily reoccurrence. I always



feel so guilty when I speed past and see everyone cold and disappointed that yet again they will be the late one who rushes into the seminar to face that disapproving look of their tutor who is blissfully unaware of bus situation in the morning.

Not only do I have a problem with the absolute lack of buses in the morning, always a ridiculously busy time, but also to the conditions whilst on the bus. When I first started catching the bus in Lancaster I noticed a strange

hostility between the elderly residents and students; older people who got on the bus could often be heard muttering under their breath about these noisy, rude, lazy students who were filling up their bus. At first this just seemed a little bit uncalled for. They had just got a little bit grumpy in their old age. But having seen the treatment of the elderly on several occasions I am nearly as disgusted with students as they are.

Students seem to have forgotten

general bus etiquette, such as giving your seat to the elderly. Apparently some students are unaware of this or are simply selfish and rude. On a number of occasions I have seen several older people, shopping and walking stick in hand, struggling to stand as the bus speedily turns the corner whilst a youthful, walking stick-less student sits comfortably in their seat. I even once overheard a remark on this bus when this etiquette was brought into question in a conversation between students, "I paid £200 for my bus pass and they get theirs for free, why should I give up the seat when I've paid for it?"

This statement is ridiculous and I simply do not understand the logic of the speaker, but I do think this is how many students must feel given the treatment of the elderly on public transport. Evidently local residents are going to be annoyed at the increased of students swamping their city and its services so we should at least show them some respect in the few years that we are here.

Then again, maybe if there were more buses running, us students would be more spread out and not have to clutch onto that precious seat we managed to nab before the bus drove off. It's a novel idea, but it just might work.

COMMENT

scan

Editorial

Love him or loath him, the VNC of Porter is good for Lancaster

REGARDLESS OF HOW the debate at tonight's General Meeting of the Students' Union on the proposed Vote of No Confidence in Aaron Porter, President of the National Union of Students, falls the very fact that the motion was brought it a good thing. To see an autonomous student group actively engaging in student politics is a positive step change from the last couple of years when the only ones talking about, and willing to act over, the policies of the Students' Union (SU) was its own faithful.

The last two years has seen a deprivation of students who, despite not necessarily agreeing with the policies of the SU, get involved with it anyway: putting their own views across and challenging the status quo.

It wasn't always this way. For several years the Labour Club on campus played an active role in SU politics, without aligning themselves to the LUSU line. The benefit of the Labour Club was that it was an alternative breeding ground to the JCRs for students to form their views on the University and Students' Union. On paper this might not appear like it would make much difference, but on the small scale of Lancaster the differences seemed large indeed.

The Labour Club rarely saw eye-to-eye with the Union, but instead of retreating to their arm-chairs to moan about how the SU did not represent them, they took an active role in reshaping it. Every time there was a Union election (Cross-Campus or Full Time Officers), you could be sure that there would be a Labour Club candidate standing. At best it meant that two different but valid arguments were made for how the Union should move forward under new leadership. At worst at least meant that uncontested elections were a rare occurrence. More often than not, a Labour Club block would be voted in.

Engaging in the Union meant that the Labour Club could steer the agenda. Meetings of Union Council would see that different factions debating on points of ideology, not just convenience. The Labour Club would campaign when the Union would not, but their engagement meant that they also understood when the Union could not. In those incidents the Labour Club could front a campaign which would have damaged Union/University relations too much on an issue the Union could not afford to lose, appearing to be independent but actually working behind the scenes with LUSU to get the most effective campaign across.

An engaged but autonomous group can be that most valuable thing: the critical friend. They can hold the SU to account, but also facilitate them in times of need. The Lancaster University Against Cuts group may not embrace the LUSU system in the same way as the Labour Club, but it can only be a good day when a group of students stands up to be counted.

Letters to the Editor

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



Dim witted letters

Can I just put a question to Rory. You seem to write into SCAN most weeks complaining about life at university, if you hate it so much, why are you here?

You write into SCAN assuming everyone at Lancaster University knows who you are...but seriously who are you?

You make sweeping generalisation about the population on campus, however from reading your letters you seem to be only common factor in all your bad experiences.

As a "right on" clone of this university, I was most disappointed with lack of burning at Pendle Hill, it was quite clear this was not the consensus of the University.

Anon

Getting wet feet

The new fitness trail around the edge of campus seems a great idea, but I'm wondering if whoever designed and built it might have thought they were somewhere other than Lancashire.

I hate to remind people of this but it rains here. Quite a lot. The woodchip trail has become completely waterlogged so your feet

sink through it into the puddles and mud underneath, so it might as well not be there. The wood bridges that join up some of the trail are great except when they're wet, when they get extremely slippery. On top of that, only a few weeks after it was set up some of the slats in the bridge had already had bits snapped off. Just another thing the Uni are wasting our money on. Get rid of that, and the Learning Zone, and use the millions to make a skyscraper bar. That might at least serve its purpose.

Benjamin Colm

Third year

Flouting the four week feedback policy

I recently submitted two essays in the first week back, making the deadline as I promised I would when I started at Lancaster. Imagine my surprise when I went to get it back four weeks later, as the University promised it should be marked within that time when I started here, and they weren't ready.

When I questioned it, the staff got lippy with me as though I was in the wrong for wanting my work back on

time to know how well I'm doing. I'm sick of holding up my side of the bargain when the department can't be bothered to hold up theirs, which I'm paying for them to do.

It's about time they started doing their jobs.

Anonymous third year

What the hoot?

I was confused about the letter that appeared a few issues ago, in which the author complained about the increased number of owls on campus. I have never seen any owls, and neither have any of my friends. Though we would like to. Could the author please tell us the best spots? County first year

Corrections

● The Captain of the Netball 1st is Rachel Taylor, not Josie Tyas and the score was 34-47 to UCLAN. ('Lancaster fight courageously...', Feb 2, pg 23.) SCAN's policy is to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please contact the Editor with the date, page or weblink of the error.

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The age of romance is dead

Are Fernando Torres' comments the most accurate representation of the current state of football in recent times?

For £35m you could buy 70,140 iPads. You could buy 33 Bugatti Veyrons. You could probably even buy the whole of Charlton Athletic FC and still have enough left over for an iPad and a Veyron. In case you hadn't guessed, I like the idea of owning all three of these things.

However, Liverpool have decided to spend their money in a different way. £35 million is the apparent valuation of Andy Carroll, judging by his recent move from Newcastle to Anfield.

I think the immediate conclusion to take from this deal is that money is no longer a suitable measure of a player's ability, experience, or even marketability. We are talking here about a 22-year-old player with half a season of Premier League experience, who has been found guilty of smashing a glass in a man's face among alleged implications in other off-the-pitch incidents. And he has a stupid ponytail.

Admittedly, Carroll is a very able player – and the comparisons to Alan Shearer that have been made are probably not too far off the mark. He is a classic number nine, and can produce some excellent headers. However, if transfer fees are an accurate measure of a player's ability, Andy Carroll of Gateshead is the eighth best player in the world – and automatically the best English player. Is that quite as easy to agree with?

In order to facilitate this move, Fernando Torres took the expensive trip down to London – although the £50m Chelsea paid is a fair amount more than the £50 it takes me to get back down there.



Torres won't be sharing teammate John Terry's passion for the club

Strangely enough, Torres hasn't had a great season so far and his move comes in spite of a poor record this season of 0.4 goals per game, having scored just nine in 24 matches. That is over £5.5 million per goal.

These figures were supported by the first match Torres played in a blue shirt, with Chelsea at home to none other than Liverpool. While this fix-

ture suggested that someone up in Premier League towers must write a script that this mad game follows, the dream debut did not happen. Chelsea lost 0-1 through a Raul Meireles strike in the second half, while Torres got one shot on target and lasted just 66 minutes on the pitch. In short, his performance was more than disappointing.

There was a time when the January transfer window was for readjustment. It was for small, safe signings to help a team reach their most probably half fulfilled ambition for that season, or perhaps to cover for injuries. Long-term panic buys are not for January, and the fact that Torres most definitely needs a lot of time to fit in at Chelsea judging from his performance just confirms this mantra. Football has become overrun with short sighted, egotistical multi-millionaires who are desperate for headlines, shirt sales and money.

After completing the deal and arriving at Chelsea, Torres spoke quite frankly at a press conference. When asked about the age old cliché of badge kissing, he said: "I see some players doing that when they join a club, but the romance in football has gone. It's a different thing now. People [players] are coming and leaving. When you are joining a club you want to do the best for yourself and that club, and that's all."

As he strolled out on to the pitch as a £50m player while banners of "he who betrays will always walk alone" are unfurled, that the romance in football has gone might be the wisest thing a footballer has said in recent times.

Jack Smith
Sports Editor



Regional Football

Busy transfer window for local clubs

Blackpool recruit five and hold on to star midfielder Charlie Adam

Matthew Todd

IAN HOLLOWAY WAS the most active manager in the region during the January transfer window. Arguably his best move was to reject the overtures of Liverpool and Tottenham for Charlie Adam; If Blackpool are to survive then the talented Scot will be key. Holloway has also added five players to a squad that will be tested in the coming months. Salaheddine Sbai will provide competition at left-back and the captures of Andy Reid and Jason Puncheon will add firepower to a frontline strengthened by the arrival of James Beattie and Sergi Kornilenko. On the field Blackpool have now lost five matches in a row and slid alarmingly towards the relegation zone. They lost 3-1 in a crucial home game with West Ham, followed by a 5-3 loss in a thrilling contest with Everton. The seashiders had found themselves 3-2 up but were unable to handle Louis Saha who helped himself to four goals. Blackpool must turn their form around and get back to winning ways, starting with a home game against Aston Villa.

Preston manager Phil Brown was also busy during January. He recruited stalwart midfielder Ian Ashbee from former side Hull and boosted his striking options by loaning Eddie Johnson from Fulham and Leon Clarke from QPR. Despite the new additions, North End lie 10 points from safety after two consecutive defeats. They lost 2-0 at Barnsley and were thrashed 4-0 at home by a resurgent Bristol City. Eddie Johnson missed chances in this game and Nathan Ellington was unable to get the better of David James in the



Charlie Adam is still at Blackpool

Bristol goal. It doesn't look like getting easier for Preston, with trips to Hull and Watford ahead and the news that defender Conor McLaughlin has suffered a suspected broken leg.

Morecambe have added two players to their squad with the loan signing of Kevan Hurst from Carlisle and Andy Holdsworth on a free transfer. They have also allowed Craig Stanley to join Torquay and sent Will Haining to Fleetwood for a month. These changes appeared to have galvanised Morecambe who have now gone five games unbeaten, after three successive 1-1 draws. Sammy McLory will

be pleased with a point gained from a trip to Accrington Stanley but will feel disappointed that leads were also squandered against Cheltenham and Aldershot.

Wigan had a quiet transfer period with the signing of striker Conor Sammon from Kilmarnock their only move. The Latics are unbeaten in their last three games and have begun to stabilise their season. They gained a credible 2-2 draw at West Brom thanks to goals from Charles N'Zogbia and Ben Watson. Wigan followed up this result with a stunning 4-3 victory over Blackburn Rovers in a topsy turvey game

that saw them come from 1-0 down and narrowly hang on after leading 4-1. This upturn in form will be severely tested in the coming games, with Wigan facing Liverpool and both Manchester clubs in quick succession.

While other clubs were strengthening their squads, both Fleetwood and Lancaster have lost players. Mickey Mellon has allowed Ian Craney to return to Accrington for a fourth spell and Wayne Curtis to join Barrow. The Highbury outfit are clinging onto a Blue Square Premier play-off spot after consecutive 1-0 defeats. The most disappointing came against bottom club Histon; with AFC Wimbledon also taking all three points thanks to a late Christian Jolley strike. They will also have to do without centre half Sean Gergen for their tie with Luton after he was dismissed for a second bookable offence against the Dons.

Lancaster City have suffered a double blow to their hopes of making the play-offs with the sale of their two contracted players. Inspirational captain Andy Teague has joined fierce rivals Chorley, while midfielder Paul Jarvis signed for ambitious local side AFC Fylde. The Lancaster board were left with no choice but to drastically overhaul their wage structure and have been forced to offload their highest earners. Despite this double blow, the Dolly Blues have won two of their last three games, with a 1-0 result at Curzon Ashton and a 2-1 victory at home against Skelmersdale in the President's Cup. The only blot in this recent form was a cruel 2-0 loss to Chorley, just 24 hours after the Teague transfer.

Belief is the key to success

Marc Handley
LUSU Vice President (Sports)

After my last article, I have been asked by a number of students just exactly where this ability and sporting prowess on campus is, because they couldn't see it. Personally I'm not sure if they needed their eyes testing but I thought I would dedicate my comment piece to the teams who have undoubtedly shone through so far.

After the what can only be described as a phenomenal year last year, Men's Football have come away with wins for both the 1sts and 2nds in both of the last two weeks - a consolidation year for the club it may be, but great determination and resolve being shown by the winners of the President's Award in 2010.

On a college level, credit is given to members of Lonsdale Men's A Pool who have only lost one game all year and are currently on course for the title. Women's Pool is incredibly close at the minute with Founder's rivals Bowland and Lonsdale vying for the top spot and it couldn't be much closer to be honest.

A special mention must also go to the American Football Team, the Lancaster Bombers. After losing their head coach of a number of years over the summer vacation, the Bombers have had an excellent season. The Bombers are currently preparing for a rubber match with Leeds Met Celtics. If they can get through them, the whispers of an unbeaten season may become that bit louder.

But the most impressive sporting displays that I have seen this year so far have been found on the Rugby pitches. Our Women's team have lost only their first game of the season and seem to be growing in stature each and every match. York have had the dominance overall in the women's game at previous Roses matches in the years gone by, but I have a feeling the Black and Gold may be getting a little bit tarnished this year.

Over the summer two members of the Rugby Union 1sts came into my office and set themselves a challenge there and then. They said that they wanted the team to become the primary team of the University after Football's domination last year. Going off their 10-0 unbeaten streak and 300+ points scored to date, there isn't much to argue here. Our Men's 1sts have been nothing short of devastating at times on the pitch, and with their eyes firmly set on the treble of League, Cup and Roses. I can't wait to see how far they push themselves.

Don't let anyone tell you there isn't any quality sport at Lancaster. For those who questioned my previous words, consider yourself told.



Photo by Nick O'Malley

Men's 1st take first point of season

Football Men's 1st

Lancaster	3
UCLAN	3

Nick O'Malley
Sports Editor

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY MEN'S 1st picked up their first point of the season in an enthralling 3-3 draw against bitter rivals UCLAN. Lancaster completely outplayed UCLAN and were unfortunate not to take the three points.

The game started in an unbelievably scrappy fashion, with the boggy pitch restricting Lancaster's usual flowing football. Lancaster had the first effort worthy of note in the game with Chris Brown curling an effort towards the bottom corner forcing a fine save from the UCLAN goalkeeper. Lancaster continued to dominate possession with left-back Dan Whittingham unleashing a fierce effort that the goalkeeper could only parry; but it was the UCLAN defence who reacted first to clear.

UCLAN responded strongly to Lancaster's period of dominance, creating three clear cut chances in as many minutes. The first of which came from a clever dinked ball from their centre forward, before a clever curled effort that was saved smartly by John Moran. UCLAN blazed over from the resulting corner, before another opportunity fell to their centre back, who danced

his way past two Lancaster defenders before crashing a thunderous strike against the post.

The first goal of the game came from UCLAN just two minutes before half-time, as their big centre forward laid the ball off cleverly to their number six, who struck a shot that went straight through Moran. Within a minute, Mike Hogg, for Lancaster, was played through over the top, controlled the ball magnificently and showed great composure to round the goalkeeper before slotting home with the final touch of the first half.

The second half began at a fierce pace with tackles crashing in from both teams, however the referee seemed reluctant to card anyone. Moran made a smart double save to deny UCLAN; he pounced low to deny the initial effort, before reacting quickly to save the follow up.

A clever ball over the top to UCLAN's target-man saw him clean through on goal, seemingly destined to score, before a desperate lunge from Mike Scott, brought him down, to give away a penalty. The referee seemed to have left his cards at home, as Scott had denied a clear goal-scoring opportunity, he probably should have been sent from the field of play. The UCLAN striker dispatched the penalty with aplomb into the top right hand corner sending Moran the wrong way.

Only minutes later, Hogg of Lancaster was clean through on goal and as he went to round the goalkeeper, the

keeper grabbed out at his leg, but there was no contact made before Hogg fell to the ground in dramatic fashion. The referee waved away the penalty appeals before having a quiet word with Hogg.

Next, came the play of the match, as Brown flicked the ball on cleverly to

'Their centre back danced his way past two Lancaster defenders before crashing a thunderous strike against the post'

Hogg on the half-way line, before Hogg played an inch perfect pass to Dan Hull who had bombed forward from mid-field to finish the opportunity with the nonchalant ease of a premiership striker.

Lancaster had two more chances in quick succession as their goalkeeper denied Hulls rasping 25 yard effort that was locked on the top corner. Moments later Rob Newton headed just over from eight yards. However this was not the end of Lancaster's pressure. Substitute Craig Hickford flicked onto Hogg, who finished coolly from the edge of the area, to send Lancaster 3-2 up. The goal did not come without controversy however. As the referee had to overrule the UCLAN

linesmen's incorrect offside decision, who had taken matters into his own hands with some dubious officiating. The UCLAN goalkeeper was irate at the decision, as he demonstrated by booting the ball halfway to Galgate in dissent.

No sooner had Lancaster taken the lead; they had given away an unnecessary free-kick in a dangerous position. Although the free-kick initially seemed to be harmless, it skipped treacherously off the surface, which caused Moran trouble, and he could only palm the ball out to UCLAN's centre forward who composedly squared the ball to his team mate who slotted home with ease for a 90th minute equaliser.

UCLAN had one final counter-attack from a Lancaster corner; however Jack Davidson showed great positional awareness and defensive tenacity to prise the ball from UCLAN in the dying seconds of the match to help Lancaster hold on for a 3-3 draw.

University Captain Alex Low said: "It's been a tough start to the season, having been promoted last year it was always going to be difficult. We've been very unlucky with injuries and are still yet to play with our full strength team."

Stand in Captain Ric Marshall said: "It's great to get our first point of the season, but our performance deserved more today. I thought we were outstanding and hopefully we can pick up our first win next week."

Victory over rivals puts Lonsdale in pole position for league title

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

to no avail. Lonsdale were able to comfortably play out the remainder of the half and the intelligent hold up play of Duggan and Chris Floodgate relieved any pressure on their defence. There were jubilant scenes at the final whistle as Lonsdale's players and supporters savoured a potentially title clinching victory.

Bowland will obviously be disap-

pointed with the result but should take heart from a wholehearted performance. Although they missed the creativity of the injured Billy Tosh, Bowland competed superbly and crafted enough chances to have earned a point. Clinical Lonsdale finishing and organized defence prevented a 2-1 half time lead from being overturned.

The result sees Lonsdale three

points clear at the top of the league with one game remaining. In the last set of fixtures on Wednesday, Bowland needs to beat Fylde and hope that Lonsdale lose to Grizedale in order for them to seal an unlikely league triumph. Conversely, Lonsdale will rightly be confident of collecting the solitary point they need to secure the title.

Dominant Lancaster go top of the league



Photo by Matthew Todd

Women's Rugby Union

Lancaster 25
UCLAN 10

Matthew Todd

LANCASTER WOMEN'S RUGBY Union team recorded a long overdue victory over local rivals UCLAN to boost their chances of claiming the Northern Conference title. Lancaster controlled the game and were able to move the ball quickly over several phases of play to wear down a disciplined UCLAN defence.

The game started in conditions far from conducive for flowing rugby. Both sides struggled to keep ball in hand as the swirling wind and rain made handling difficult. However, Lancaster settled first and made an early breakthrough as Claire Chiu crashed over for a third minute try after some fancy footwork out wide. In what was to become a familiar theme, the fierce crosswinds prevented Simpson from

adding the conversion.

The elements were having a profound effect on the game and had a hand in UCLAN's equalizing try. A kick from deep carried 50 yards in the wind and forced Lancaster into conceding a lineout which resulted in a touchdown under the posts.

Although the scores were level, it was Lancaster that looked more likely to add to their points tally. They were throwing the ball around well and possessed individual players who made decisive contributions. This was illustrated by Robyn Smith, who gained 30 yards on a lung-bursting run from a scrum, only to be felled by a determined UCLAN defence.

However, Lancaster were not to be denied and retook the lead on 12 minutes after Amanda Spencer finished off a fine 10 pass move in the left corner and made the score 10-5. Just minutes later, Spencer made a 60 yard dash and another try looked a near certainty until UCLAN's fullback intervened with a fine tackle.

'Lancaster never looked in danger of conceding and the vast majority of the half was played with the ball in UCLAN territory'

With the game closely poised, Alex Simpson swung the game in favour of the home side with two tries in eight minutes just before half time. The first was a clinical finish to a team move and the second an extraordinary display of footballing skill, which saw Simpson dribble from halfway with a plethora of UCLAN players in hot pursuit. This gave Lancaster a commanding 20-5 half-time lead.

Lancaster opened the second half in confident form and looked sharper and more composed in possession than their rivals. Every player looked

comfortable running with the ball and even the props looked liked scoring; Catriona Hay made a pacey 40 yard break only to be hauled back with the try line in sight.

For all their pressure, Lancaster were unable to put the game to bed and UCLAN defended stoutly. However, Lancaster never looked in danger of conceding a try and the vast majority of the half was played out with the ball in UCLAN territory.

With 20 minutes left, Lancaster upped the tempo again; Catherine Jones picked the ball up on the right-wing and jinked past a tired looking UCLAN pack to score her side's fifth try. Robyn Smith introduced several substitutes as the home side gave playing time to some promising freshers. With time running out UCLAN grabbed a consolation try that their persistence merited to give a final score of 25-10.

In what was a polished display from a well organized and committed Lancaster side, Kathryn Forsyth

and Robyn Smith led by example and ensured that Lancaster triumphed over UCLAN for the first time in several seasons. They were ably assisted by a vocal subs bench and fanbase whose cries of "who wants this ball?" with met with the intimidating chorus "I want this ball" when their side were under pressure. If the team can continue to function as a cohesive unit and play open and expansive rugby, then they will head into the title decider versus Chester (the last fixture of the season) with an exceptional chance of winning the league.

Lancaster's inspirational captain Robyn Smith spoke to SCAN after the game. Smith cited the most pleasing aspect of victory as "the time it has taken to beat UCLAN, it hasn't happened in three years, and was even sweeter after the large scoreline they had over us last year". She was also delighted that all the hard work put in over the last three years will be rewarded by their highest league finish to date.

Sport Distort: Nick O'Malley gives his alternative view on sports

Suarez named as new Liverpool number one

In a bizarre turn of events, Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish has admitted that Luis Suarez has been signed in order to replace Jose Reina in goal. With Jose Reina's impending move to Villarreal, Dalglish hopes that Suarez will be able to replicate his fine international form that has seen him yet to concede a goal in net for Uruguay. The most memorable of "El Gato's" (The Cat's) performances came against Ghana in the World Cup quarter final, as he reacted instinctively to push Asamoah Gyan's extra time effort over.

Clearly not aware that Suarez had declared himself "rush goalie", the ref-

eree brandished the red card, seeing him banned for the next round of the tournament and ending any hopes of what seemed to be inevitable World Cup glory for Uruguay. However, recent revelations that Suarez's permanent position is now Goalkeeper have seen the odds on Uruguay to win the World Cup for a third time in 2014 slashed from 14/1 down to 2/1. A special market has also been made available - Uruguay to win the World Cup without conceding a goal available at 10/1. Uruguay Head Coach Oscar Tabarez has issued a warning to all World Cup rivals that "with statistically the best Goalkeeper in world football,



we will win the 2014 World Cup". He then remarked on how pleased he was that he had snapped up odds of 14/1 before he held the press conference regarding Suarez's official change of position.

Liverpool's signing of Uruguay Goalkeeper Suarez at £23 million makes him the second most expensive goalkeeper of all time after Gianluigi Buffon. Suarez hopes to repay the faith shown by Dalglish in his goalkeeping ability, stating that "I have supported Liverpool all my life and even remember them winning a trophy. I hope one day my Goalkeeping can help Liverpool win the Carling Cup".

Victory over rivals puts Lonsdale in pole position for league title



Photo by Matthew Todd

• Bowland defeated thanks to a first-half double from Josh Duggan

College football

Lonsdale	2
Bowland	1

Matthew Todd

LONSDALE MEN'S FOOTBALL team took a massive step towards clinching a surprise title win in the College A league. In what was rightly billed as a title decider, Lonsdale overcame a dogged Bowland side with a narrow 2-1 victory. In what was an even game where a draw perhaps would have been the fairest result, the ruthless finishing of Josh Duggan proved the difference as Lonsdale provided a lesson in finishing.

In front of a noisy crowd of vociferous supporters the game kicked off with the pitch looking heavy and un-conducive to passing football. However, both teams were clearly motivated for the game and the opening minutes were played at a ferocious pace, with committed tackling which prevented any flow to the game.

In the first attack of note, Lonsdale were able to grab the opening goal with

just four minutes played. Colin Bridge made a bustling run down the left-wing and his mis-hit shot was turned in at the back post by Josh Duggan. In spite of taking this early lead, Lonsdale lost concentration and almost immediately allowed Bowland to grab the equalizer. A long throw was flicked on by Denholm Hesse into the path of the onrushing veteran Dave Fullylove who had run from deep and he dummied the keeper to calmly slot home a vital goal for his side.

This goal gave Bowland a foothold in the game and as the half progressed they took control of possession and looked the more composed side. Their confidence was growing and Christian Steels forced Matt Phillips into a smart save with a powerful 30 yard free kick. The Lonsdale midfield looked rattled as Dave Fullylove and the other Bowland midfielders worked tirelessly to deny them time and space on the ball.

On 20 minutes came arguably the pivotal moment in the game. Hesse was played through on the left hand side of the box only to fire wide with the goal gaping and two teammates in

‘The opening minutes were played at a ferocious pace, with committed tackling which prevented any flow to the game’

space to his right. This miss seemed to galvanise Lonsdale who gradually worked their way back into the game and began to pass the ball with greater purpose. This improved style of play saw Josh Duggan put clean through on 33 minutes, only for Ronan Szelesi to make a perfectly timed tackle with the striker bearing down on goal.

Duggan was not be denied his second though; just a minute later he latched onto a cleverly taken quick free kick and cut in from the left before passing the ball expertly into the far corner giving James Bowry no chance. Bowland were clearly shocked by this goal that came against the run of play

and failed to threaten Lonsdale for the remainder of the half.

Lonsdale started the second half on the front foot and looked to add a third goal which would have killed off the tie. Josh Duggan continued to look lively and his teammates seemed to fancy their chances of scoring from long range; with a barrage of efforts failing to beat Bowry.

With Lonsdale only 2-1 ahead, the game was very much alive and Bowland were the next team to threaten. The energetic Catterall burst past Alex Lanigan and fired a warning shot just over the angle of post and bar from the edge of the box. However, this was the last clear chance for Bowland as tired legs and resolute defending from Lonsdale's centre-half pairing of Chris Marshall and Dominic Keely stifled their attack.

As the game neared 70 minutes it was obvious that both sides were feeling the effects of the heavy pitch as huge spaces opened up in the mid-field area. Bowland resorted to a more direct style and peppered the Lonsdale backline with a series of long throws,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

IC Football League A

Team	W	L	D	Pts
Lonsdale	4	1	0	12
Bowland	4	1	0	12
County	3	1	2	11
Pendle	3	2	1	10
Fylde	1	2	1	4
Cartmel	1	3	1	4
Grizedale	1	3	0	3
Furness	0	4	1	1

IC Netball A

Team	W	L	D	Pts
Furness	5	1	0	15
County	5	2	0	15
Fylde	5	2	0	15
Cartmel	4	3	0	12
Bowland	3	3	0	9
Lonsdale	1	4	0	3
Pendle	1	5	0	3
Grizedale	0	4	0	0

Charter Shield Sponsored by IBM

Team	Pos	Pts
Fylde	1st	47
Lonsdale	-	47
Bowland	2nd	41
Grizedale	-	41
County	3rd	38
Pendle	4th	30
Furness	5th	23
Cartmel	6th	9
Graduate	7th	0

Charter Shield Fixtures

Week	Sport
2-4	Taster session
5	Aeroball
7	Kwik Cricket
8	Men's Basketball
9	Uni Hockey
10	Finals Day

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

Carolynne

Week Five, Lent Term



**Could you handle one night
without alcohol?**

emails from @australia

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

ALTHOUGH THE AUSTRALIAN music industry may not be as commercially significant as that of America and the UK, it does boast an eclectic assortment of sounds. Much of this music may not have reached international ears apart from the obvious big names such as Kylie Minogue and Pendulum. These big names are a mere bucketful in the vast ocean of Australia's music. Thus it is time to hoist anchor and set sail into uncharted waters to explore the best sounds from Down Under.

Although there are known gems and treasures in the ocean of Australian music, there are also the icebergs, whirlpools and jagged rocks that represent its utterly abysmal music. Like the sickly pop teen sweethearts of America (Miley Cyrus and Justin Bieber for instance), Australia has also been plagued with its own vomit-inducing offspring – Cody Simpson. His sun kissed, boyish face gushes over-sentimental, sloppy drivelt that undeservedly weakens the knees of preadolescent girls. In addition, the Australian music chart is littered with money snatching commercial acts including a handful of Australian Idol castoffs, such as the tasteless and provocative Jessica Mauboy.

Within this chart trash though is a deep treasure chest of richly euphonic pop music. Although it would be impossible to name them all, there are several that are currently dominating the radio waves. In particular, Sia and Kate Miller-Heidke are two female artists who have carefully balanced synth-pop beats with sweet and charming vocals. Of course, Australia also has its own cheesy pop anthems that are chanted in pubs and clubs. The most notorious of these is Down Under by Men At Work, which inspires Australian patriotism within the lyrics "I come from a land down under, where beer flows and men chunder".

Sailing on from the coral reefs of pop into the waters of the alternative and rock genres, there is a vast panorama of artists and acts. Some of these have broken through to UK listeners such as The Temper Trap and their massive hit Sweet Disposition, Jet's Are You Going To Be My Girl?, and The Vines' driving anthem Ride. Likewise, Australian rock acts such as AC/DC and INXS have also conquered international waters to achieve worldwide acclaim. Lesser-known acts, such as Wolfmother and Angus & Julia Stone, still have vast success within Australia, and their nationally bound recognition is not a reflection on the quality of their music. The blue whale of all these genres though is the John Butler Trio. Formed in 1998 by front man John Butler, the three piece band's latest album, April Rising, boasts intricate guitar melodies with clever and beguiling lyrics, which portray a carefree outlook that echo the stereotypical Australian attitude.

Of all the genres of Australian music though, I find myself quite happily marooned on the island of hip-hop. Australian hip-hop is unique and of a considerably higher quality than America's. The genre stretches from playfully clever acts such as Drapht and Hilltop Hoods to politically focused artists such as The Herd whose track The King Is Dead is a sharp comment on the Coalition-Labor power switch in 2007.

I just love your

Louise Day offers the inside scoop on the Students' Union's Future Choices workshops

If there is one thing playing on students' minds this time of year, it's their future career. It's a little too premature to be fretting about exams and coursework, so being the natural worriers that we are we grab hold of any qualm we can lay our hands on and lose sleep over it accordingly. Not that career woes are an unreasonable occupation of your mind juices, but since students are worrying earlier and earlier in their university careers thanks to the economic crisis and graduate competition like never before, something needs to be done.

Despite the building work in Alexandra Square, CEEC is still up and running and at your service, but some students have been a little disheartened with the career guidance they have received. If you too are concerned and worry what you need to do next, never fear. LUSU Involve are putting on a Future Choices Workshop every Wednesday to help students learn how to cope when they don't know what to do next.

A common thread of the sessions are to not worry, but rather than empty advice and promises, the sessions focus on why exactly it will be okay. Students learn not only how to go about making themselves attractive to future employers, but also have the opportunity to engage in an almost philosophical debate over how everything you do now influences where you will end up in the future. Real life examples ranging from those who trained as nurses setting up a holiday cottage company, to undergraduate students who grabbed the opportunity to work on campus bars and ended up in the job of their dreams manag-

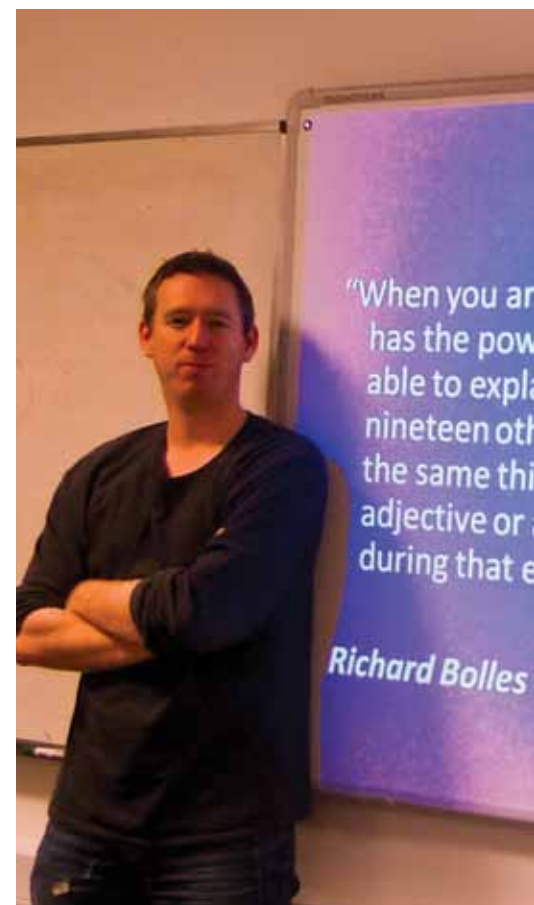
ing a bar in Manchester. The transition from the academic bubble, where days spent in the library amount to severe exhaustion yet miraculously untouched seminar work, to the world of work, is an enormously difficult thing to handle.

Communicating with employers is the first hurdle that students face. Instead of panicking and signing up to any mailing list on the internet, we are advised instead to relax. Your career is an uncertainty for now, but it is important to be open minded. A variety of exercises offered in the session demon-

'My CV has gone from a three page blurb to a pastel dream of succinct achievements and clearly evidenced skills'

strate just how much is possible to achieve in our short time on earth, and makes you realise how unwise you were to worry that your whole life rests on getting on a well paid Grad Scheme. You should never be afraid to go for the wrong job, as everything is a learning experience and something to add to your CV. You will meet people along the way that may inspire you, and take you on tasks or learning opportunities you never knew possible, which could lead you to where you need to be.

Next it is important to analyse what is so good about you. Volunteering and hobbies are not only good CV additions, but they can become careers. There are many chances to volunteer for a short period of time on campus through LUSU Involve, without long term obligations. It is an opportunity unlike any other outside of university life, where you have the freedom to spend a day fund-raising and helping others, all the while meeting new people



and gaining contacts. Networking may sound like a buzz-word used in the business world as an excuse to get drunk on free chardonnay, but in fact most job opportunities are found not through internet sites or newspapers, but through friends. The chances are if your mate works somewhere and they think there's a position right for you, they can let you know ahead of time and you have a greater than average chance of getting the job of your dreams. And if not, chalk it down to experience. Never take it to heart that you were

Dress to impress

Alison Young on how to look the part for interviews

Everyone knows that going for an interview is a nerve-wracking experience. You have butterflies in your stomach and you're praying your employer is not at all like the nightmare employers you witness on The Apprentice interview stage where the word 'interrogation' seems far too pleasant a word. Sadly, these are all things you will only find out on the day, but what you can do is dress to impress so that you can walk into that interview with ease and confidence, knowing that you look the part. With the credit crunch still in full swing and unemployment at an all time low, competition for that dream job is harder than ever, but if you dress smartly and look efficient then you are sure to stand out from the crowd.

Recent research from T K Maxx has found that a third of employers make a decision in the first ninety seconds of an interview, with over half the employers surveyed admitting they wouldn't hire an employee if they didn't approve of their outfit. Don't let this be the

reason for failing an interview. Follow the advice in this article to make sure that you are not caught out on the day.

A recent survey revealed that the top five interview fashion faux pas are:

Men

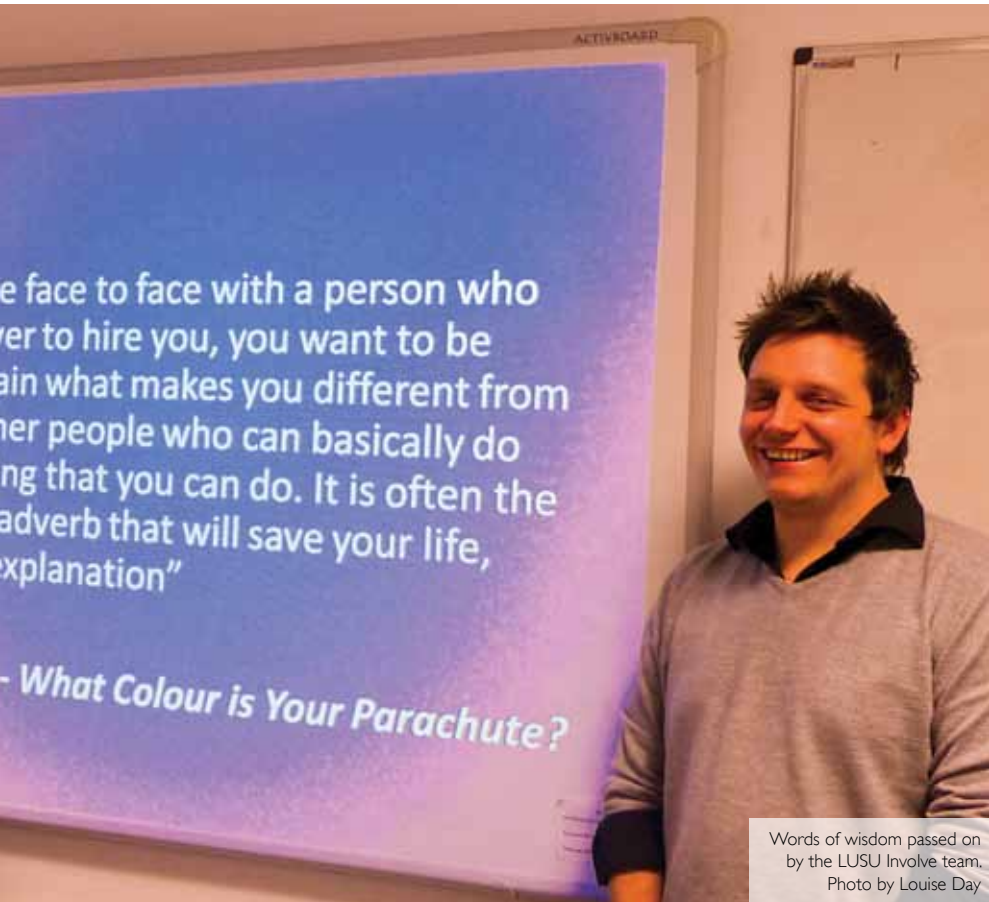
- **Badly ironed shirt:** 58%
- **High waisted trousers:** 32%
- **Top three buttons undone:** 29%
- **Excess jewellery:** 14%
- **Loud/Comedy tie:** 9%

Women

- **Tight/ill fitting tops/shirts:** 48%
- **Cleavage on display:** 22%
- **Coloured/Black bra under white shirt:** 18%
- **Mini skirt:** 8%
- **Over accessorised:** 12%

First things first, confidence. You'll be nervous enough as it is, so treat yourself to something which will give you a boost. Go and buy a well fitted outfit which you feel comfortable

God box



Words of wisdom passed on by the LUSU Involve team. Photo by Louise Day

rejected, at the interview or CV stage; employers are only human. You must never forget that your interviewer's career, more often than not, involves a lot more than sifting through 80 CVs and asking someone when they have worked successfully in a team. It is up to you to sell yourself. Arrogance, whenever it is backed up with evidence, is the best way to make sure you have demonstrated effectively what the interviewer wants to hear (but may not know it).

There are of course tried and tested ways

to get your CV read, and the Future Choices workshop explains them all thoroughly. From God boxes, which act as your mission statement to ensuring that nothing on your CV gives the reader a reason to say no, the workshop allows you to get into the mind of those who make the recruitment decisions. By empathising with their time constraints and the pure annoyance at careless grammar mistakes and frankly creepy and unnecessary headshots, we were able to learn a lot in a very short time, and all left with significantly

in. If you feel confident in your clothes that will shine through in your personality and, let's face it, there is nothing worse than a nervous and desperate graduate pleading for a job.

Next, keep it simple. You want your assets, from your CV that is, to do the talking. Don't wear something extravagant that will detract all the focus away from your talents and previous achievements. After all, you are there to convince them it will benefit them hiring you to be part of the team. You want to impress them with your skills, so wear something simple and sophisticated.

Make sure you know your size. If you're still carrying a little holiday weight then don't fret. Buy a bigger size and cut the label off. The statistics clearly show that ill fitting clothes are a no-go and will get you no brownie points with your potential boss. Make sure your chosen outfit fits you cor-



improved CV plans. In one day my CV has gone from a three page blurb covering some of the most unimportant events in my school years with red headings (a no no) to a pastel dream of succinct achievements and clearly evidenced skills. I have added value to what was previously just a tick box of extra-curricular activity and left knowing all there was to know about the art (not science) of job hunting, only to be informed that in fact the Future Choices workshop changes every week. I guess if Rome wasn't built in a day.

Quick Wins to instantly boost your CV:

- **Do one off volunteer days with Involve:** Just ask in the LUSU building by Sultan's for more information.
- **Organise an event for charity:** However small, this shows dedication and organisation and is very attention grabbing amongst that pile of 2:1 BAs your CV is surrounded by.
- **Start a blog:** But make sure the content is job friendly - and do the same with your Facebook account. Making it private doesn't always cut it, because one day your boss or colleague will add you and they will find that picture of you on the Carleton bus that you'd just rather forget about.
- **Join a sports club:** It's a hell of a lot cheaper than the gym and if you actually contribute it is a major addition to your CV.
- **Get involved in LUSU, societies or your JCR:** There's no need to overload yourself, but if you aren't in final year now is normally the time that societies start thinking about passing the hat, and your JCR will need all hands on deck soon in the run up to extras, so just offer to lend a hand. You never know where it could lead.
- **Attend a LUSU Involve Future Choice session yourself:** I mean I love you all, but there is a limit to how much time I'm willing to spend doling out careers tips to you; I have a CV to work on!

rectly and that it is not too revealing, and that goes for the men too. How you present yourself reflects how you present your work and more importantly to them, how you would represent their company.

Remember, colour-code it. Show you are respectable and presentable and match your outfit accordingly. Girls, this means appropriate underwear for your demure outfit and boys, don't leave it until the night before to realise your only clean shirt is your favourite Hawaiian beachwear. Be organised, have everything ready, washed, ironed and you'll be raring to go.

No matter what job you're applying for, be sure that something as trivial as your clothing is not the demon holding you back. And make sure that the first ninety seconds of your interview is memorable, in a good way of course.

Going underground

Bex Hamilton

WEEK SIX IS on the horizon. This means, for many humanities students at least, just one thing. Reading week. Also known as chocolate bourbons and daytime telly week, it is that little ray of sunshine that means you are half-way through the term. The sensible among us, of course, will choose to utilise these five days of freedom for the writing of a dissertation chapter, a little light revision, or perhaps even some reading. Many, however, will be journeying home for a week of liver-recuperation and to reunite themselves with the joy of a sofa and a bath.

Travelling home for me, means braving the London Underground. Now, for anyone that has seen An American Werewolf in London (the film, not an actual wolf) will be aware of the scene where a man is

'There is something distinctly wrong about a place that is so dirty it makes your snot black'

nearly butchered to death on one of the escalators. To me, this is not too far from the truth. Now, my boyfriend works in London he is what you would refer to as a commuter and this means he knows the etiquette. This means that whilst I am making sure my body parts are to remain intact whilst battling against a million others, he is frequently shouting "keep left!". Each step is like some sort of MI5 mission. Must get on the train first, must acquire table seat, must claim baggage rack before anyone else can.

Truth is, this sort of rage and ruthlessness lives in everyone who has to commute. I recently came across a fantastic website purely for this purpose, aptly-titled Ihatelondonunderground.com. Full of rants about ticket prices, their least favourite tube lines (Jubilee wins hands down) and how they're going to move country just to avoid it all, it is a forum for commuters to let off steam about their journeys, possibly making them even angrier.

Amateur Transplants also sang about the underground. It documents everything about the tube that makes it so, well, shit. Let's face it, no one wants to fight against a crowd of people at 7am to stand in what is essentially an oven on wheels, with a stranger's elbow in their face that has not yet discovered the magic of soap and water. There is also something distinctly wrong about a place that is so dirty it makes your snot black.

I'll never be a fan of the underground and the journey home in Week Six will only remind me of this. Still, my boyfriend is meeting me at Euston- so at least I'll know what side of the escalator to stand on.



One night without alcohol

Could you resist the temptations of alcohol for one night? **Steph Barry** reveals what a night of sobriety is really like

Have you ever been sober on a night out when your friends are more than a little worse for wear? How about when everyone is consuming their fourth sambuca shot whilst you're still sipping your first glass of Coca Cola? Usually, I would never entertain the idea of a night of sobriety but for the purpose of this article, yes a night without alcohol is classed as research, I thought I would take one for the team and experience firsthand what a night on the town is like without my good friend vodka.

I'm not an alcoholic by any means but I found the biggest problem of my night was the temptation and longing to join in with everyone, as whilst your friends' spirits (excuse the pun) are not so quietly soaring, yours are situated at the bottom of your non-alcoholic beverage. Also, enduring the process of others pre-drinking and the marrying combination of applying make up, styling your hair, and selecting an outfit whilst they're sipping your favourite drink, can take its toll on anyone's mood before heading out and into a taxi, or in my case, my car as I found myself as the designated driver for the evening.

On the way to our first drinking destination of the night, my friends attempted their best Mariah Carey impressions much to my ears disgust. It appears demanding songs off the driver, and singing along as if you're in an X Factor audition came hand in hand with the journey into the city centre. Probably not a sober person's ideal way to travel, but from my experience I say embrace it, especially when you're the driver and in control of what songs are played. That being said, picking songs with low key notes are a must. Also, acting as a taxi driver for the night does have its perks. The ability to leave whenever you wish, as well as your passengers chipping in for petrol money paying for your soft drinks, making the night out friendly on your purse strings.

Although, speaking from experience, if you are driving home friends who have consumed more alcohol in one evening than Phil Mitchell at a brewery, then I advise sick bags. Standard supermarket carrier bags will do, but please check for holes at the bottom of the bag as I doubt you will be able to charge the standard £75 soiling charge like local taxi firms do.

Hitting the dance floor without a bit of Dutch courage was a strange experience at first. However, once you've realized that your friend's body poppin' moves, which would look more at home in a Cheeky Girl video, make you look like Beyonce your confidence suddenly sky rockets.

The night also provided endless humorous anecdotes which will have my friends squirming all the way up to graduation and beyond, as well as that I was able to revel in the fact that I didn't wake up with the dryness of the Sahara in my mouth, and a longing for rehydration. I welcomed hearing everyone's drunken, although slightly slurred, conversations and the occasional confession of a few secrets which are unearthed after hours of drinking. It worked as brilliant leverage for skipping the next round of household chores. Although, my personal highlight was waking the next morning to a clear head and the ability to function properly while everyone else was suffering in bed.

Overall, I confess that the night was not as bad as I had anticipated. Remember, being with your friends, enjoying the music, and feeling comfortable in your surroundings are key to having a good night, and it is not the consumption of alcohol. Although, I must admit, I wouldn't fancy a t-total night at the Carleton.



The Ballroom Dancing Society's Charity Showcase was a sparkling success, as **Joe Henthorn** discovered

I really had no idea what was going to happen when I turned up on a bitterly cold Friday night to cover the Lancaster University Ballroom Dancing Society's Charity Showcase. Ballroom Dancing has enjoyed an explosion in popularity over the last few years, which prominent philosophers are now attributing to something called the Strictly Effect, but since I've never watched an episode I didn't have the slightest idea of what to expect. This lack of prior knowledge, combined with the promise of "campus-celebrities" trying to dance, meant that my brain had conjured up images of Robbie Pickles et al performing pirouettes and back-flips in sparkly, multicoloured leotards - not a particularly appealing thought, I'm sure you'll agree.

It was therefore incredibly fortunate that this nightmarish vision was about as far from the truth as possible.

The Ballroom Dancing Society – along with LU Dance Society (LUDans), the University of Lancaster Music Society (ULMS) Big Band and the Cheerleading Team – managed to put on a brilliant and highly varied showcase of Lancaster's massively talented students, raising a huge amount of money for Cancer Research UK in the process. And there wasn't a single sparkly leotard in sight.

The night kicked off with a couple of great performances from the Big Band, which led straight on to the first few dances from members of LUDans and LUBDS. The performances were impressive in terms of both skill and variety; the transition from Latin Ballroom dancing to a Michael Jackson medley was slightly jarring, but a lot of fun nonetheless. Equally impressive was how many relative beginners took part; the Michael Jackson section (including the obligatory pretend to be zombies to Thriller bit, obviously) was followed by another superb performance from newer dancers. Training up new folk in the arcane art of Ballroom is quite clearly one of LUBDS' biggest strengths.

"I am really grateful to those who took part in our formation team dances", said Jodie Waggoner, the choreographer of the group dances, "we didn't have a lot of time to get the routines together, but everyone worked so hard". It was quite hard to believe that some of the dancers had only been training for a couple of months, since they moved like pros.

With the initial few dances over, the tension in the room had built to enormous levels (well, there was a lot of clapping at least) as the centre-piece event of the showcase, the much anticipated LUBDS does Strictly Come Dancing, approached. The dancers entered the stage accompanied by the Big Band before launching into their routines. Lizzie Houghton and Ben Marshall kicked things off with an entertaining Rumba, which was followed up by performances of the Brazilian Tango and the



Robbie Pickles and Becki Finney perform their victory dance. Photo by Chris Osborn

Strictly Come Lancaster

Salsa (which is apparently a dance as well as a tomato-based hot-sauce – who knew!). The second half of Strictly was even better than the first; Robbie Pickles and Becki Finney did a great Rock n' Roll number, which was very entertaining and energetic.

My personal favourite was the Charleston, which was performed by Alex Grievson of the Sailing Society. Not only was he the clear victor of the prestigious Best Beard in Show prize, but his dance performed alongside LUBDS officer Becky Hallworth was bloody brilliant, and included a huge number of difficult looking manoeuvres and lifts.

As good as the performances were, it was

a shame to see that the Big Band wasn't playing the music for the dancers. The Band were consistently excellent throughout the evening and it would have made the show even better if there had been more link-up between the two groups during Strictly. Obviously it would have been a difficult feat to learn the songs for each dance, but being left to listen to the music through the Great Hall's terrible PA system diminished the effect somewhat, especially when there was so much musical talent sat on the stage.

Robbie Pickles, the LUSU President, came out on top after a particularly hard fought competition. "I really enjoyed teaching

'The LUBDS Charity Showcase seems to have become a bit of a beacon of quality for student-run events over the past few years, and this year's performance will only serve to cement that position'

Robbie the Rock n' Roll", said Becki Finney, the President of LUBDS and Robbie's dance partner. "Practices were always lots of fun, despite being dropped when trying out the lifts! He was very enthusiastic and gave an amazing performance despite several injuries". Cartmel JCR member, Natalie Hook, and LUBDS Charity Officer, Andrew Pickup, also impressed with an extremely lively Quickstep, which came third in the public vote. Pickup was awarded a special award at the end of the night for organising the event.

The LUBDS Charity Showcase seems to have become a bit of a beacon of quality for student-run events over the past few years, and this year's performance will only serve to cement that position. The fact that it has managed to bring together so many different groups to work together is an extremely encouraging sign, and hopefully it paves the way towards more events of this type being run by different societies.

It's a shame, then, that Lancaster doesn't really have the top of the range facilities to match top of the range talent. The most obvious example is the Great Hall, where the showcase took place. Rather than being a central hub where events like these can thrive, it's a squalid, dark, out-of-date place that is put to shame by most primary schools, never mind other universities. It's probably wishful thinking to hope that eventually the University will stop spending money digging up (and subsequently relaying) the flagstones in Alexandra Square, but a bit of investment in the right areas would really help cultural life thrive even more on campus.

The night was not just a success for campus culture, though. By the end of the night LUBDS had raised massive amounts of money for charity, too. Over £1000 pounds was raised through ticket sales and raffle tickets, and the sale of the night's DVD has seen that figure rise even more. The DVDs are still available through LUBDS (send an e-mail to lancaster-ballroom@gmail.com to get a copy).

The 2011 LUBDS Charity Showcase was an enthralling night which did not fail to entertain at any point. It's fantastic to know that there is such a massive amount of talent in the University, and its success will hopefully lead to many more of these events springing up on campus.

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How to beat the procrastination bug

Amy Packham

I THINK IT is fair to say that no one is immune to the procrastination bug. It hits all of us and often reaches its peak when the dreaded deadlines surface and our main priority really should be finishing our 3000 word essay. Distracting ourselves from what we really don't want to be doing is fine every once in a while, but, there comes a time when we need to focus on our work. Everyone knows deep down that the day before the deadline we should really be finishing our essays.

The Facebook addiction is widely known and universally recognized as a key procrastination technique. It's hard to explain why we will sit on the computer for hours, pressing the refresh button and hoping something interesting will pop up. We will willingly scroll through photo albums 200 pictures long to comment on every other one and we'll happily go ahead and write on our flatmates wall instead of popping next door and talking to them. This addiction is great and one that only gets worse the more work we seem to have. When we have our essay up on our laptops the ultimate rule is not to have Facebook open at all, helping us to avoid indulging in recent social gossip by the click of a tab. So, try disconnecting your internet or just be brave and close Facebook. It's definitely an achievable goal.

Often, when you are writing an essay and 5.30pm comes along, the easiest form of procrastination is to start letting your mind wander to food. Cooking, chatting, eating and maybe watching some after dinner soaps can carve hours off vital essay time. If you procrastinate this easily whilst sitting inside and doing your work you're more inclined to

abandon it all together, go out into town, and not do it at all. Although that night in Elements might sound like a good plan at the time, you'll most definitely regret it the next day when your word count is settled at 300.

But, never fear, there are a fair few ways to help bring the dreaded procrastination bug down to minimum impact.

- **Take Breaks:** Whilst doing your work you should stop regularly to recharge those batteries. Although you might have 3000 words to do in one day, it doesn't mean you should do the whole day doing it non-stop. Think of realistic times that you can stop and have half an hour breaks, where you can eat, Facebook, stalk and talk to your friends in peace. Once a relax is deserved and out of your system it's easier to carry on.
- **Work with others:** Group work can be very helpful, even if you aren't doing the same thing. If your housemates are also struggling with finishing work then sit down together and do it, it then gives all of you the incentive to do your work when you're all in the same stressful situation.
- **Don't just sit in your room:** Changing your work environment is important, doing work in halls isn't always very productive as you're likely to associate your room with sleeping, watching TV and getting ready to go out. Work in a communal area, go to the library or sit in a friend's room. It's something different and might provoke motivation.

It's easy to say don't leave your work until the last minute, but harder to apply. Even if you do, it's not impossible to finish as long as you're focussed and set yourself realistic targets. But, no matter how much we try to hide from it, the procrastination bug will always be a part of our university lives. So, looks like we'll just have to get better at fighting it off.



Dreams of a greener Britain are well and truly up-rooted

Claire Hazel

YOU MAY HAVE seen news recently concerning the debate over the sale of the nation's forests. At a glance it all seems very bizarre: the government selling England's forests to the highest bidder. Who can buy them? And what can they do with them? Many issues have been raised and the opposition to the idea is great. It seems that once again the coalition government is choosing a very unpopular path.

It is not just a small amount of woodland being sold, not even a sustainable amount. In fact it is all of the state owned English trees, covering a 650,000 acre Forestry Commission estate. This includes state owned ancient woodlands, sites of special scientific interest, royal forests, heathland, campsites, farms and sporting estates. You may be led to think that

by privatising the forests, it will free up some of the government's spending, but this is not the case. Many may lose their jobs when a private company takes over the forest and any company which is continuing forestry is still eligible for public funding. This funding is likely to outweigh the money gained from the sale. Anyone who buys the land can also bid to receive further grants including environmental stewardships and rural development subsidies, something which the government has no intention to alter.

At face value the privatisation of forests may make little economic sense, but the new land owners can only receive these grants if they maintain the trees and plant new ones in the place of any trees they remove. The government is hoping that the land will be exploited by developers for financial gain. It is feared by many that foreign companies may buy the land and remove the trees to make



renewable energy. The forest of Dean is known to contain coal and other resources and other forest land could be used to develop wind farms, holiday retreats and new roads.

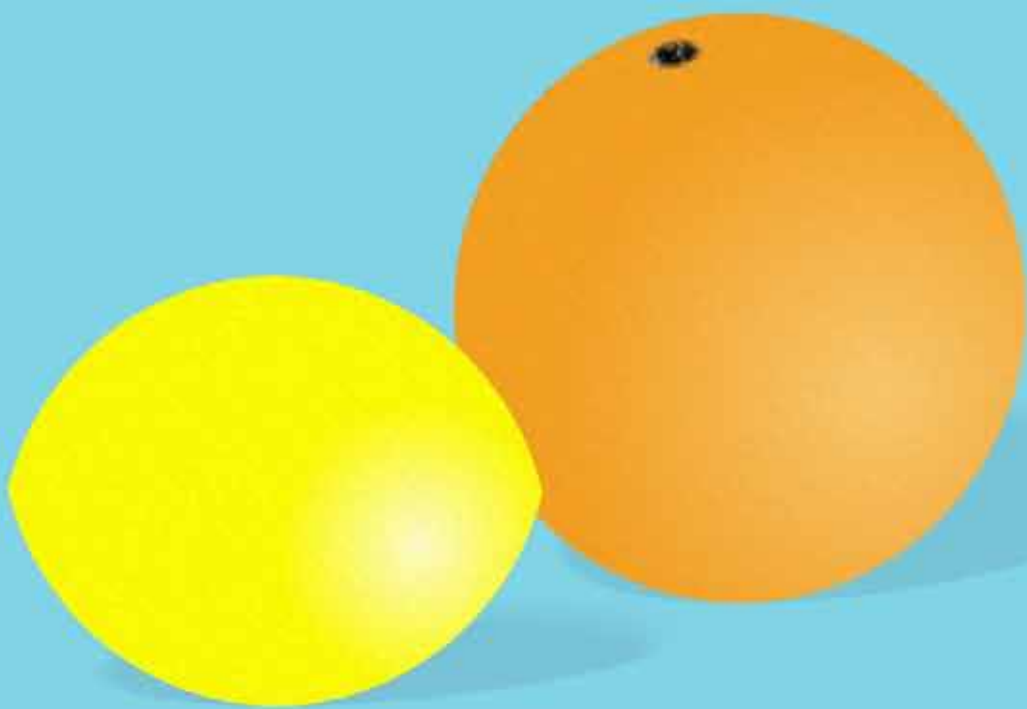
Opposition to the idea has been significant, despite the Department for Food and Rural Affairs trying to reassure the public by stating: "Tree felling is controlled through the licensing system managed by the Forestry Commission, public rights of way and access will be unaffected, statutory protection for wildlife will remain in force and there will be grant incentives for new planting that can be applied for." One of the most notable protests took place in the Forest of Dean where thousands gathered to protest about the sale of public land. Many more have signed the online petition to save our forests at www.38degrees.org.uk.

Perhaps the government's most bizarre idea so far the privatisation of England's forest seems to be another desperate attempt to free up public spending. Arguably the forests of England are something unique and beautiful which everyone should have a right to appreciate. It may be something we all take for granted, but I for one am sure that most of us will miss the trees once they're gone.

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Disney’s latest fairytale is easy to get tangled up in

Hannah Fearon

TANGLED
Directed by Byron Howard
PG, 100 min

Walt Disney released their first animated classic over seventy years ago, with Snow White and the Seven Dwarves hitting the screen in 1937. Released at the end of January, Tangled is quite possibly going to be Disney’s last fairytale film. Ed Catmull, Pixar Animation Studios Chief who oversees much of the animation at Disney, believes that the genre has run its course and stated that Disney have no plans to release a fairytale or musical for the foreseeable future.

Disney’s last fairytale, Tangled, takes its place 50th animated classic, and it certainly deserves the title. Based loosely around the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, Tangled tells the story of Rapunzel (Mandy Moore), a young princess who has been locked away in a tower by the wicked woman, Gothel. The elderly woman, Gothel, finds a magical flower which can cure the sick and injured, thus having the ability to make her young again. When the queen of the nearby kingdom becomes ill during labour, the palace guards find the flower and make it into a broth which heals her. The queen gives birth to a girl, Rapunzel, whose hair possesses the healing abilities of the mysterious flower until it is cut. Gothel learns of this and kidnaps the child, locking her away in a tower and raising Rapunzel as her own.

Every year, on Rapunzel’s birthday, the King and Queen release lanterns in the sky in hope that she will see them and

return. Entirely unaware of this, Rapunzel yearns to discover the mystery of the magical “floating lights” that she witnesses from her window every year on her birthday. As her eighteenth birthday approaches, she desires to leave her tower, something that she has never done before. When her wish is refused by Gothel, Rapunzel escapes with the help of wanted man, Flynn Rider, who is wonderfully voiced by Chuck’s Zachery Levi.

Tangled is an enjoyable, heart warming and visually stunning animated film. Ranking at the second most expensive film ever made, and the most expensive animated film, you wouldn’t expect any less; especially since the film was produced by the wonderful John Lasseter. Whilst the songs are a little disappointing, more Miley Cyrus than classic Disney, they’re held up by the wonderfully animated characters. With no surprise, the non-speaking animal characters of Pascal the chameleon and Maximus the palace horse steal every scene. These lovable creatures provide genuine laugh-out-loud moments, something that’s perhaps been missing from recent Disney flicks such as The Princess and the Frog.

With Tangled taking the place of the 50th animated classic in the Disney canon, this has caused much debate over the ranking of films, which has been published by many websites and magazines. Total Film rank 1991’s Beauty and the Beast at number one with older classics such as The Jungle Book (1967), Bambi (1942) and Snow White (1937) close behind. My personal favourite Disney flick will always be The Lion King. Released in 1994, it’s odd to think that I was only five years old at the time and that my close second, The Little Mermaid (1989), was only released the year I was born. In fact, most Disney films in the classics canon hit the screens way before many of us here at Lancaster University were even born.



Coens lack grit

Thomas James Durrant

TRUE GRIT
Directed by Joel and Ethan Coen
15, 110 min

The term re-imagining is an expression that has certainly been overused in recent times. Usually, it’s a roundabout way of directors, producers or actors to describe their latest work as more than just a remake and to shake any preconceptions about the nature of remakes not living up to the original. However recent re-imaginings have spectacularly failed to align with the good intentions of the phrase with such chronic remakes of The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, A Nightmare on Elm Street and Clash Of Titans rethinking the original beloved films as being charmless, witless and most of all boring. True Grit is not a remake of the original film as such but a self proclaimed re-imagining of the source material – the 1968 novel by Charles Portis – by the Coen Brothers.

Mattie Ross’s father has been murdered by one of his own men, Tom Chaney, who is now an outlaw on the run. 14 year old Mattie swears to act her revenge and kill Chaney by her own hand and attempts to hire the help of Rooster Cogburn, a Deputy U.S Marshall, who reluctantly agrees to assist her. Along with the help of Texas Ranger La Boeuf, she and Cogburn set out on tracking down the killer of her father.

As Rooster Cogburn, a role which earned John Wayne an Oscar in the 1969 version of the film, Jeff Bridges grumbles and mumbles his way through his performance, with 50 percent of his lines barely comprehensible. It’s a straight laced and hard edged take on the character which plays off well with Matt

Damon who reliably drops by as the likable and empathetic Le Boeuf. Hailee Steinfeld’s much lauded portrayal of the independent and strong willed Mattie Ross is in fact an incredibly constructed and acted performance straight out of a weekend teenage drama school. It is such an unnaturalistic portrayal that it seems lost at sea among the effortless talents of Damon and Bridges. Mattie is presented as being very mature for her age – this shown as either her haggling the price of horses or rolling cigarettes for Bridges - yet as her search for Chaney gets deeper it is clear that the world she thought she had tamed is in reality extremely dangerous. Yet the most intriguing character of Tom Chaney is given excruciatingly little screen time as Josh Brolin is fantastically hopeless and without redemption in the little space he is given as the desperate murderer.

The film works well as a by-the-numbers steady western tale of revenge, but perhaps what is most disappointing about True Grit is how pedestrian of an outing it is for the Coens. The brothers work best when working with their own original ideas and it shows as the film lacks any of the true strangeness or brooding nature of their previous work . Whilst their projects usually consist of three different breeds of film – crime thrillers such as Miller’s Crossing and No Country For Old Men, madcap screwball comedies like Raising Arizona and Burn After Reading and blackly comedic dramas such as Barton Fink and A Serious Man. True Grit appears as none of these and is a disappointingly generic motion picture for their tastes. Even regular collaborator Roger Deakins’s usually vibrant cinematography seems washed out and saturated giving a very pale colour palette that fails to leave a memorably visual picture upon the audience. True Grit marks that after the career peak of A Serious Man, the Coen Brothers should get back to doing what they do best.

Overcoming the anxiety culture of university

Lauren Hirst offers her top tips on how to ostracize worry and anxiety from your life

All universities' prospectuses should come with a health warning that emotions such as stress, anxiety and constant worry come hand in hand with your degree, or at least they should include it in the small print. I'm a third year student and, nowadays, can be brought to floods of tears every time the D-word (yes, dissertation) is brought up in conversation. Constant worrying can take a heavy toll; it keeps you up at night and makes you tense and edgy during the day.

Worrying can be like a parrot sitting on your shoulder rambling on about all the awful things that could happen to you, how dreadful they will be and how little you can do to prevent them. Consequently if you spend too long listening to the parrot then you will start to believe it. We all suffer from anxiety from time to time but it's how we deal with these emotions that matter. So here are some tips to help prevent stress from dictating your life.

- **Taking action:** There is often something you can do about a situation you feel anxious about. Consider each preoccupying thought, one by one, and then decide whether there is something that could be done about it. Make a list of possible solutions, starting with the most pressing worry first.
- **Set a worry time:** Set aside ten minutes during the day especially for worrying as, by designating a time to think about all things stressful in your life, the rest of the day should hopefully be stress free to tackle your problems. Then if something starts niggling at you during the day, you

can block it out until your next worry time.

- **File it away:** Keep a notebook with you at all times, especially at night. This way when a worry pops into your head you can write it down, ready for your next allotted worry time. Hopefully this will allow your mind to be stress free to enable you to get some much needed rest.
- **Positive outlook:** Write down all the things you are thankful for and what is good about your life such as "I have loving parents supporting me through thick and thin" or, simple, "I'm healthy". Then look at these whenever you dwell on any anxious thoughts and remember how lucky you actually are. Not everyone has the opportunity to further their education and enjoy the wonderful times that we experience at university.
- **Get physical:** Physical activity gives you something positive to focus on and triggers brain chemicals that improve your mood, helping you to deal better with stress. It will also give you something else to think about and will give you more energy for those long nights ahead when a deadline is looming.
- **Have something to look forward to:** It's amazing how having something to look forward to can improve your overall mood and keep your mind from worrying. It doesn't have to be anything big, it can be as simple as a weekly movie night with some friends or why not take the full day to chill and escape from Lancaster; the Lake District and Manchester are only an hour away.



The man flu myth

Ruth Eaton explores the effect of illness upon the suffering male to ask whether disbelief comes a little too easily when faced with a man flu victim

IT ALL STARTS with a cough, then comes the snuffle and finally we hear the sigh. Three small but sure signs that indicate the rapid breakdown of the male to utter those dreaded words, "I don't feel well". Only it's never just a dodgy stomach or a mild cold it's always something that clings much more unavoidably, a state of deprivation so severe it sends even the toughest of men bolting for the chicken soup and into the depths of despair. Man flu. It's big, it's ugly and apparently we have no choice but to hand out the tissues and get used to it.

I'm sure we've all experienced an encounter with man flu, whether as a bloke you've been the ailing patient or as a woman you've faced a moping father, brother or boyfriend. Nevertheless, it's often an unwelcomed event met with many a raised eyebrow and much too frequent eye rolling. But why? Why does pity seem like an all too distant prospect the moment he brings his duvet to the sofa to spend the afternoon with Jeremy Kyle? No matter the generation, most typical women seem to have little or no sympathy for the male that succumbs to the fever, seeking indifference over acknowledgement in times of flu crisis. Simple encouragement to get a grip and get over it is often

'Why does pity seem like a distant prospect the moment he brings his duvet to the sofa?'

far too easily interpreted by the flu sufferer as harsh misunderstanding, a lack of sympathy and cruel disbelief of the illness in question. But, maybe they have a point. Should we let the man regress into the little boy every once in a while? Surely everyone is allowed to be ill without interrogation?

In my experience, there are many possible ways to handle man flu. The first being, ignore it. Unless that thermometer reaches 100 degrees there's no reason at all for him to be bed bound. Subtly let him soldier on with his melodramatic sighs, the world doesn't have to stop just because he's cracked out a Lemsip. If ignorance fails to tame the sniffles, when he says he's ill, say you're ill too. The moment he realises he might have to nurse you instead his coughing will miraculously become bearable

and he'll be boiling the kettle in no time.

If this approach fails and you've exhausted all attempts of rousing enthusiasm from the feverish male you have no choice but to sympathise. For the saintly amongst us this will have been the first option, with the welfare of your loved ones paramount no matter the state or symptom. But, for most, recognising the utter dependency of the male will not be an easy step to take, especially if you've brought it all on yourself because you gave him the flu in the first place. So, mollycoddle him, bring him toast, mop his brow, whatever. Will he be contagious? Maybe. Does he deserve a little bit of sympathy? Well, probably yes.

I'm not advocating ignorance to every illness. If his leg is in plaster, by all means, make him his lunch. However, if his major symptom is an Alan Rickman style husk to his voice then pack him up with a multi-pack of Soothers and go about your business. A typical man flu patient is regularly criticised by the female non-sufferer for exaggeration of coughs, recurring pleas for compassion and the odd melodramatic sigh. But maybe, every so often, we should spare a thought for the patient. Genuine illness could be, after all, a rare possibility.

On your bike son

Fashion columnist **Hugh Metcalf** looks at how to bring the leather jacket into 2011 through the new trend for biker clothing

BOYS LIKE A leather jacket. It's a manly jacket because it's made out of something dead. It's a manly jacket because we grew up with our strongest male role models wearing them: Arnold Schwarzenegger in *The Terminator*, Neo of *The Matrix* fame, even Brad Pitt's questionable red number in *Fight Club*. The problem is, these icons of masculinity are somewhat out of date. The man in the leather jacket has entered a crisis. On the one hand, the leather jacket is a classic, on the other it's bordering onto the cliché of the manly man. All the while fashion has moved in the opposite direction, towards androgyny. Leather jackets are

nevertheless popular, but it has also never been more important for men to avoid a clichéd wardrobe. Nowadays, the majority of our male fashion role models come from stylists with only one *modus operandi*: the boy-band. This season, the military trend has evolved to create a space where the leather jacket is no longer passé, but rather is adopted into utility clothing. Get on board and get in the gang, Lancaster Black Rebels Motorcycle Club. It might seem easy enough to do, just throw on your leathers and some tattoo sleeves, but there are some important details for attaining the essential biker look; the most critical being the style of collar. The perfect collar (double-style split lapel) is the only choice for authentic biker style, and has the vintage feel of a Brando biker movie. Because the style has evolved from the utility trend, follow your utility handbook in choosing your new leathers. Studs and spikes are superfluous detail, so unless you're going down the punk avenue, à la Ramones, stay away from them. Zips are the detail to embrace to add a little character to your jacket, and are also useful for storing loose items while you're on your



hog. Another feature from last season to transcend into the biker trend is quilting. We saw it last year in the high-street explosion of Barbour jackets, but the quilted leather jacket is nothing new to bikers. It detracts from the vintage appeal, because modern-day bikers have a tendency towards it, but nonetheless it has the edginess of the biker style that you're looking for. The real problem with leather jackets is that because they are seen as classic, people just throw them on with anything. The biker jacket has to be supported with a bit of attitude from the rest of your ensemble. You're meant to be a rebel, so tees with funny slogans and cats that shoot lasers out of their eyes just don't cut muster. Distressed clothing gives that don't-give-a-damn look perfectly, but at the same time, stick with clean lines: skinnier styles suit this particular utility trend better. Why not finish off the look with a pair of biker boots? Almost any pair of leather boots will do (provided they match your top half), but if you're looking specifically for the biker boot, they are characterised by leather straps linked to a metal loop on the side.



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AQUARIUS
JAN 21 - FEB 17

It's cold, your hungry and tired but you must continue.

Strapped to your desk by loving friends, your dissertation will not be unattended until it is complete and emailed in. If there was ever a time for recreational drugs.

PISCES FEB 18 - MAR 20

Unlucky in love, you were ditched right before Valentine's Day. As compensation for your misfortune you will soon receive a turtle of joy. Stroke his shell and he will sing to you-comforting songs about the death of your ex.

ARIES MAR 21- APR 19

Horror and trauma of the worst kind will frighten you soon, Aries. A large spider who spent his winter in hibernation getting bigger and scarier will come out to play merry hell with your sensitive disposition. Use this copy of SCAN!

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 21

After a lonely Valentine's spent in your room cutting out the face of Lizzie Houghton from multiple copies of SCAN to wallpaper the ceiling of your room, you will meet a girl who looks just like her and begin a twisted new relationship.

GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 20

A jolly game of hide and seek will backfire. The huge general waste bins are the perfect place to slip in unnoticed, but stay there too long and you'll find yourself whisked away to Heysham or somewhere similarly worthy of our refuse.

CANCER JUNE 21 - JULY 22

The way she flicks her hair, the way she walks and blinks when she's not sure. The way she giggles at your jokes. You have this warm fuzzy feeling inside, but it's not love, it's a horrible bowel infection and you need a

doctor.

LEO JULY 23 - AUG 22

During one of your manly games of tough contact man sport outside in the freezing cold with your fellow man friends, you will slip on some black ice and break your leg! Man up and carry on, or face total peer-based humiliation.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Like something from The Sims, your charisma levels are super high this time of the month, Virgo! It's like a reverse period, perhaps? Make the most of this golden opportunity to meet new people and make better friends. Yay!

LIBRA SEPT 23 - OCT 22

An affectionate floral tribute from an anonymous admirer found its way to you last weekend, you gorgeous thing! How patronising, as if all women want is something that smells nice? Hunt him down and get him to give you the money.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

Your broken Xbox, smoking from over-use will cause havoc for your carefully laid procrastination and leisure time plans. Rather than acquiring a gun and playing your game on the streets, have you considered the fine art of matchstick sculptures?

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

Apparently you can now hire out iPads in the Learning Zone, Saggy! Now you can sit in a pod wearing your mac using an iPad and eating an apple. Haha? Don't worry, the joke intended to give you a synching feeling.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 20

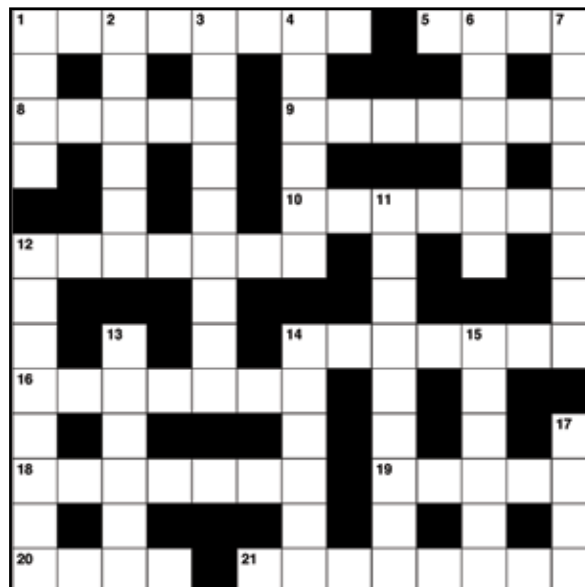
No parties allowed in the residences- who knew? Certainly you didn't Capricorn, your heavy weekend was hot and dangerous and in true Ke\$ha style you've got yourself an STI! Fear not, the Nurses Unit can...oh wait no, you're screwed!

THE QUIZ - Maths

1. What mathematical symbol did math whiz Ferdinand von Lindemann determine to be a transcendental number in 1882?
2. What do you call an angle more than 90 degrees and less than 180 degrees? What does the word Valentine actually mean?
3. What's the top number of a fraction called?
4. What number does "giga" stand for?
5. What do mathematicians call a regular polygon with eight sides?

Answers below

The Crossword



Across

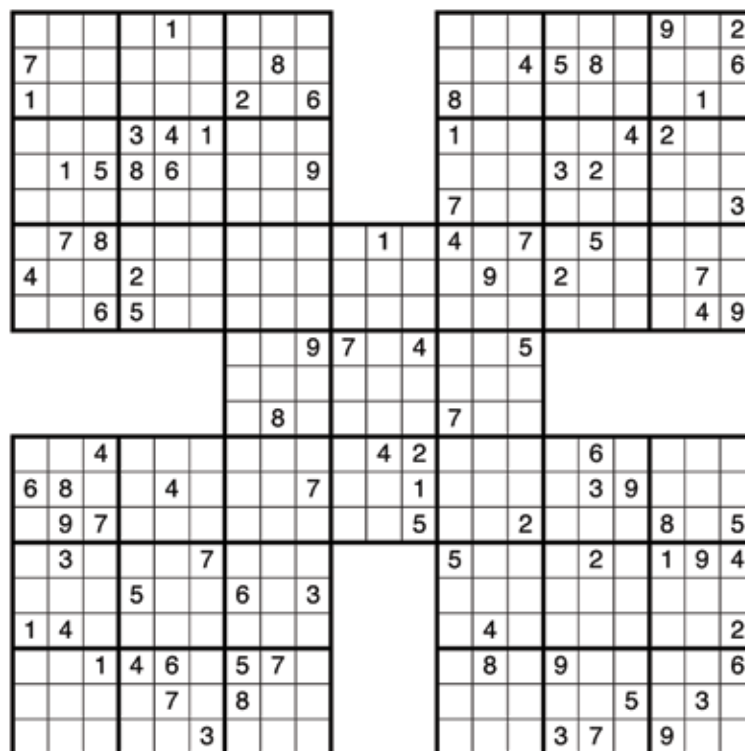
- 1 - Pain in the neck (8)
- 5 - Verge (4)
- 8 - Abatement (3-2)
- 9 - Large Israeli city (3,4)
- 10 - Pertaining to the tongue (7)
- 12 - Share; portion (7)
- 14 - Equilibrium (7)
- 16 - Ancient galley (7)
- 18 - Loft ran (anag) (7)
- 19 - Run away with a lover (5)
- 20 - Big cat (4)
- 21 - Purple quartz (8)

Down

- 1 - La ____ Bonita: Madonna hit (4)
- 2 - Part of the eye (6)
- 3 - Trifle soaked in wine (5,4)
- 4 - Stinging weed (6)
- 6 - Pious (6)
- 7 - Put a letter in this before posting (8)
- 11 - Indifferent (9)
- 12 - Refined (8)
- 13 - Loose robe (6)
- 14 - Extreme confusion (6)
- 15 - No one (6)
- 17 - Inner circle (4)

The Samurai Su Doku

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



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Answers: 1) Pi, 2) Obtuse, 3) The numerator, 4) One billion, 5) An octagon.

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