

Clue up on the candidates

It's elections time again so SCAN gave the people wanting to run your Union the Paxman treatment. Read the full interviews on pages 10 to 15

74% of students don't care which of these two wins



George Gardiner (left) and Mark Lord (right) are both standing for election as president of the Students' Union. Photos by Elliot Westacott

Jen Day

A RECENT SURVEY by SCAN has revealed that 74% of students do not care who wins the upcoming elections, with 82% saying that they do not know what a Full Time Officer (FTO) is.

Student apathy, particularly with regards to elections, has been a topic of hot contention recently and LUSU have attempted to tackle this issue by putting flyers into every kitchen, informing students of the FTO positions and their responsibilities. Nonetheless, LUSU officers understand that not everyone will be interested in elections.

"What is important is that we have people in those positions that are doing the work [...] ideally I would love it if everyone knew what was going on, but we don't need to be too precious about recognition and reputation, as long as there are people doing the hard work," said Robbie Pickles, LUSU President.

Issues surrounding JCR cliques and

officers making the leap to FTOs has also been high on the agenda lately, with some students being seen to be being put off running for positions because of these cliques. But, knowledge and experience gained whilst being on a JCR is seen to directly assist any candidate running for a FTO role, since it gives them a vital insight into the inner workings of LUSU.

"When you go through a JCR system, it is sort of, without you knowing it, training for if you would like to do an FTO position, it does put you in a better stance [...] to be in an FTO position you have to have done something extracurricular that has had you been involved in the Union in some way," said Vice President (Finance, Events, Democracy & Societies) Matt Windsor.

"I think that we have found in the last couple of years the range of candidates has closed down a little [...] I think people expect you to have a certain level of knowledge about the

role which you can only really have if you have been in it before, a role before without having to do extensive research," added Pickles.

Last minute nominations ensure a fully contested election, as 16 candidates are battling for the six posts. The official election period began on Sunday morning, and sees two former JCR Presidents campaigning for the position of LUSU President; Cartmel's Mark Lord and Fylde's George Gardiner. Lord is currently Union Council chair and was formerly Cartmel JCR's sports representative, while Gardiner

82%

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was Fylde JCR's General Secretary and missed out on the position of University Council representative in the summer elections to James Davies.

Full Time Officers take a year out during study, or at the end of their degree, to work in a full time, paid position within the Students' Union. The positions up for election include LUSU President, and five Vice Presidents, whose remits cover Academic; Events and Democracy (ED); Equality, Welfare and Diversity (EWD); Media and Communication/SCAN Editor and Activities.

The most highly contested position is the new role of Vice President (Activities) with four candidates running for the job. The role brings together sports clubs and societies, and is arguably the position which represents the most students. Notably, all of this year's candidates come from a sporting background: Marc Handley, the current Vice President (Sports); former Chair of Sports Exec, Matt Neve; current Inter-College Sports Cross Campus Officer (CCO) and former Bowland JCR Male Sports Representative, Dean

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Pregnancy support lacking following Nurse Unit closure

Heather Mann

IT HAS BECOME apparent that the University has had no services or support in place to help girls worried about or going through pregnancy since its closure of the Nurse Unit.

The Nurse Unit, closed over the Christmas holiday after the University pulled its funding, used to provide a service for girls which included offering pregnancy testing kits costing 50p and acting as a source of support and advice.

LUSU's current advice is to visit your GP, as there are no longer medical professionals able to handle such cases within the University. However, this advice is poorly signposted and not easily accessible. The online Health & Wellbeing advice pages on the LUSU website have not been updated since summer 2009, and the most recent advice on pregnancy is dated August 29, 2008. This merely advised on protecting against pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, offering no advice on dealing with the repercussions were such situations to arise.

The only advice offered on pregnancy is dated May 2, 2008, and the advice is obsolete due to the Nurse Unit's closure. It advised girls to visit the Nurse Unit where they will be able to take a urine test, and advertise the 50p testing kits which used to be available from the Nurse Unit.

"The closure of the Nurse Unit is a loss in resource to anyone seeking advice, including those worried about pregnancy, and that the loss of this service is a problem," said Furness' Female Education & Welfare Officer, Priya Jadeja.

A pregnancy guidance group does meet on campus on Saturday mornings, but it is unclear when and where this group meets. The group is independent of LUSU, the University or the Health Centre, and it is ambiguous who runs this group and its purpose.

Several college Female Education & Welfare Officers have also made clear that girls worried about pregnancy can come to their officers, where they could point them in the direction of other avenues of support and guidance.

Similarly Eleanor Whitmore, President of the Christian Fellowship on

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Pendle Rooms opening night universally praised



The new Pendle Rooms. Photo by Elliot Westacott

Lucy Casale

PENDLE COLLEGE'S BAR reopened on Friday, February 19 after a long-awaited refurbishment, and having been rebranded as the Pendle Rooms met with great success.

The doors opened at 8pm to those with student ID, with bouncers on hand on the door for the opening night. A constant crowd to get into the venue and the queues at the bar itself indicated that the night was going well.

Inside the effects of the refurbishment were obvious. Beneath glass chandeliers and a multi-coloured lighting rig the night lasted until 2am. A new sound system has been installed and flat-screen televisions have been mounted behind the bar. Surrounded by new booths, new furniture, a new bar, and an attention-catching ceiling that sports a mix of modern light fixtures, the overall appearance is that of a high-end club.

Solo act Danny Gruff kicked off the performances. As the evening progressed, the new stage featured acts such as the band Vinyl Jacket and the Safe & Sound DJs.

Pendle College residents were impressed by the new bar. "Basically, it was horrible before," said Nick Bilous, sitting with a group of his flatmates on stools around a tall, smart-looking black table. "It was described as an airport lounge," said Sarah Evans. "It went from that to a chic hangout place."

"It's more sophisticated," added Sophie Halliday. "More classy." This sentiment was agreed with by others at the night. "It's up-market but chilled," said Pendle resident, Hayley Smith. "It looks more like a bar now," Fani Neophytou, sitting near one of the new booths remarked. "Before, it was a big space with some chairs and a few tables."

Some who attended were more impressed by the attraction the bar

had over the crowds present. "Look at all these people," said Kate Henderson, one of Pendle's JCR officers. "It makes you happy to be in Pendle. We're all coming together and we're all having fun." By 8.30 pm it was standing-room-only.

While most of Pendle College

'Beneath the glass chandeliers and a multi-coloured lighting rig, the night lasted until 2am'

turned up for the opening night, the crowd also contained a mix of students from other colleges.

A few Lancaster University staff members also attended the event. Anne Stubbins, the Senior Tutor for Pendle College and Jill Harpley, Pendle College's Administrator were both present. Both women remarked on the improvements to the

new space. "It's a place we can belong to," said Harpley, before being surrounded by Pendle students. "When you're outside you want to go in," added Stubbins.

The bar's refurbishment has introduced the possibility of a more varied night out for students, with some opting to use it as a venue in its own right. "The new one has people in it," said Jen Draper. "I think I could stay here and not go to town if it stays this busy." Others, however, would use it as a place to start their evening. Pendle resident Nate Shehata said that while "it has quite the club feel to it" he appreciated Pendle's new bar for the opposite reason Draper gave. "I can see it being a good prep place before going out onto the town to the actual clubs," he said.

Friday's festivities will be followed by more events to come, including a DJ battle on Saturday of Week Six and a Quiz followed by acts by two comedians on the Sunday.

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Crabb; and current Sports Representative for Pendle JCR, Ben Holden.

As well as the popular Vice President (Activities), the other newly formed role of Vice President (ED) is being contested by three candidates, including current Societies CCO and former Vice President of Fylde JCR, Olly Trumble; the current Social & Events CCO and former Pendle JCR President, Andy Barnett; and former University Council Representative and Cartmel JCR Audio-Visual Technician, James Davies.

Vice President (EWD) is also contested by three candidates, one of which is the only female standing for election this year. Isobel Davies, current Fylde JCR LGBTQ* officer will be competing against former County President and current liberations CCO, Matt Saint and former Lonsdale JCR Education & Welfare officer and current EWD CCO, Kevin Wong.

Alex Carlin - current Academic Campaigns CCO and former Lonsdale Vice President - is competing against Jacob Home - Male Sports Representative for County JCR - in the race for VP (Academic). Former Student Media Board Chair and ex-Lonsdale President, Matthew Power, will take on current SCAN Sports Editor Nick O'Malley for the role of VP (Media & Communications)/SCAN Editor.

LUSU President, Robbie Pickles saw the amount of contested positions as a mark of approval for the role changes: "I think that it is a vote of confidence in the roles. I think if people didn't think as worthwhile then nobody would run for them."

In previous years, Alexandra Square has been used as a central campaign area since it is the main thoroughfare for students and allows candidates the space to attract attention - many students will remember Robbie Pickles' Rubik's cube and Dance Society display from last year. Without this central space candidates will have to be more inventive and think outside of the box when campaigning so that they can effectively reach the voters.

"I think it will make candidates have to work harder and I think that is a good thing. In many ways it is too easy, many candidates, myself included to an extent, just loitered around Alex Square and talked to the same 50/60 people around there, or you have the even worst thing where you just talked to the other candidates," said Pickles.

With 33% of undergraduate students voting in the JCR elections in Michaelmas, 21% above the national average in student elections, Lancaster students are getting involved. E-voting has been seen as one of the reasons for this increase and therefore Mi-Voice, the website which hosts the vote, will be used again for the FTO elections.

But after last year's election - which saw the positions of Vice President (Academic) and Vice President (Equality, Welfare & Diversity) have to be re-run, due to human error - and other errors made by the site in the past, Windsor is prepared to reconsider LUSU's relationship with the site: "If we come across any issues this time I will strongly recommend to my successor that we say goodbye to them."

Pregnancy support lacking following Nurse Unit closure

campus, said that the Chaplaincy Centre would be a source of support.

She expressed her concern that "many pregnant girls may simply drop out of their courses," and that "LUSU should raise their awareness in helping and letting women know that they are there for them."

Nevertheless, beyond the GP service there remains a lack of support provided by the University, be it emo-

tional help for people in this situation or aid for those looking for general advice on safe sex and the risk of pregnancy.

History student Vicky Cross has been disappointed by the lack of support available to her since she found out she was pregnant. "The GP service is great, but you only get a 10 minute appointment every few weeks. It would be nice if there was some sort of support group available for stu-

dents in this situation," she said.

She added, that "being pregnant is difficult for anyone. But it's particularly hard when you're away from home and trying to keep up on all you're reading and coursework."

Second Year student Charlotte Hill worried that "the lack of services could mean a lack of proper healthcare for both mothers and babies," whilst Pendle student Zoe George said, "it seems to show a general

prejudice towards girls who have decided to make such an important step in their lives to keep and bring up a child. They would benefit from more support from the University."

Student Amy Baker agreed. "The lack of services is a problem, especially in emergencies." She added that she feels "the health centre is too public. The Nurse Unit was definitely the place to go on campus for pregnant students who needed help."

Is the key to success who the

Do the JCRs provide a training ground for more experienced Union officers or do they close doors to those not involved?

Samantha Newsham
Jen Day
Heather Mann

WITH THE ELECTION of Lancaster University Students' Union's new Full Time Officers (FTO) barely a week away, here at SCAN we posed ourselves, and the 100 students we surveyed, a question: with candidates who have previously been on JCR Execs more likely to win, does this lead to a LUSU and JCR clique? Or, does it give Lancaster students more experienced officers than other students' unions with a different system?

Survey findings would suggest it encourages the creation of a clique. 76% of respondents believe FTO positions are won on who rather than what you know and 73% regard JCRs as cliquey. The feeling is that the network of friends and acquaintances acquired whilst on a JCR encourages these students to run for FTO positions whilst excluding other students.

"It often seems like the JCR and LUSU form a bit of a clique. They all seem to be friends," said Cartmel student Vicky Crosbie. "It might make a regular student feel uncomfortable trying to run, as they're not part of that network." Second year Zoe George agreed: "I don't know if only JCR officers run for LUSU positions but they do seem to be the only ones that get them. More people win through popularity contests than anything else."

LUSU President Robbie Pickles refuted this, commenting that "on the JCR, you make friends but you also make enemies."

College turnout figures in FTO elections suggest students are more likely to vote for people who have been on their JCR. In the 2010 elections, Bowland and Pendle had no

69%
of students believe FTOs win on the basis of who they know rather than what they know

FTO candidates and the lowest turnout whilst Cartmel and Lonsdale had not only the highest turnouts but two ex-Presidents running, Robbie Pickles and Matt Windsor respectively. In 2009 Andy Johnston, former County JCR President, was elected Vice President (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies). His opponent, Sandeep

Banwait, a County student who had never been on the JCR, won just 17.5% of the vote in their home college.

There is a belief that LUSU could benefit from a more diverse range of officers. As Politics student Ben Smith commented: "It's not like non-JCR students are incompetent." The student body is filled with society executives, sports teams and members of Nightline, SIFE, Involve and other organisations. Yet these students often

"More people win through popularity contests than anything else."

don't run for LUSU positions despite having relevant university-based experience.

However, the link between JCRs and LUSU is not necessarily a disadvantage for Lancaster student politics as experience gained on the JCR often gives people the skills necessary to become a successful FTO. 69% of students believe that JCR officers are better prepared to run for FTO positions.

"JCR members, by nature of their position, have a lot of insight in to the Students' Union and arguably then have more time to spend on a campaign, whereas others may have to spend most of their time looking for information rather than focussing on 'getting their name out'," said Vice President (FEDS), Matt Windsor.

Furness President Adam Pearson agreed that JCR experience could be a stepping-stone to an FTO position. "The experience gained by having a JCR position is like the experience of any job," he said. "If the experience is relevant to the next job you are going for then it will certainly help. Being on a JCR then running for a FTO position is a logical step in experience terms."

With contention surrounding the idea of the JCR clique, current Presidents are keen to put measures in place to dispel it. "People think that JCRs are cliques for many reasons," said County President, Jemma Gaskell. "The t-shirts don't help. The idea is to make us noticeable so people know who to come to when they have a problem, but I do think some JCRs take this too far, wearing [them] too much and alienating their college."



85%
of students say they have never felt alienated by the JCRs or LUSU

Gaskell and her Exec have taken steps to counteract this view.

"The JCR try to split up at the quiz and on socials to show that we aren't only capable of speaking to each other," she said. "Furthermore, I have told my JCR only to wear t-shirts when necessary. They help a lot at big events and sometimes they are vital when there is a high risk rating to a social, but is it really necessary to wear [it] in the bar for the quiz on a Sunday? I think not."

Lonsdale President Rachel Essex is trying to ensure that Lonsdale students feel involved in the college's decision-making processes. "I have increased office hours and introduced a president's office hour where people can come and talk to me on a one to one basis," she said. "I have also for the first time made sure that there are non-JCR members on Extrav committee [...] I want people in Lonsdale to feel like they do have a say in everything that goes on in their college, and that not everything is decided by a supposed clique of 15 students."

How does the Lancaster system compare to other students' unions?

Jen Day
Heather Mann

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY, THE University of Liverpool, the University of Manchester and the University of York all represent very different types of Students' Unions to Lancaster's and hence have very different styles of elections.

At Loughborough the Students' Union is the heart of the University and elections take on an American style, with a high media presence capturing candidates on the campaign trail. Last year one candidate used a flash mob as an innovative way of capturing students' attention.

"Candidates are known for spending over £600 on their campaign," said Lucy Hopkins, Loughborough Students' Union President.

There is a huge amount of infor-

mation available to candidates on running campaigns, from where to buy sweets to choosing a successful theme. Hustings involves two minute speeches from candidates followed by interactive tasks set by the current officer. With 54% of undergraduate students voting it is clear that methods of engagement are working. 33% of undergraduates voted in Lancaster's 2010 elections, compared to a national average of 12.8%

York University elections appear to be even more entertaining, with several joke candidates running for each position. Three years ago the student body elected a pirate as their SU President. Mad Cpt'n Tom ran with little experience and without ever being part of student politics. He wasn't intending to win, or even be a serious competitor, yet he defeated two other candidates with his manifesto that included "pointing a cannon at the Vice Chancellor's house" and "cutting classes for all".

As one student remarked: "Student politics in York is powerlessness; the Students' Union has no power to influence the University, so we may as well vote for silly things."

They know or what they know?



Of this year's Full Time Officer candidates only one has never been on a JCR. Photo by Elliot Westacott.

Outside of the comical stunts, the structure of the University is remarkably similar to Lancaster in its collegiate set-up and Full Time Officer (FTO) positions. Like Lancaster, candidates often rely on their JCR experience. A perception of a JCR clique is also evident. "We all helped each other campaign and our friendships have improved drastically as we are always together, so I understand where the clique idea comes from," said Chris Edwards, Events Officer at Halifax College and YUSU Events Officer candidate.

In comparison, FTO elections at Liverpool are more elusive. There are only four positions: Union President, Deputy President and two Vice Presidents. All candidates run for Union President and the candidate with the most votes is offered the Presidential position, the second most popular candidate Deputy President and so on. There are no set remits for these positions although the President and Deputy tend to cover more academic issues, whilst the Vice Presidents cover welfare and sustainability.

There appears to be less student engagement at Liverpool since only 19% of students voted in the last election. Campaign rules are more lax,

yet unclear. With no specific campaign period or information on how best to campaign elections create less of an impact.

Students do not have to have previous experience of being involved with their Union, however "there are of course a lot of involved students, [such as] active course reps or society leaders," said Josh Wright, Liverpool Guild of Students President.

These universities do not appear to be particularly politically engaged, focusing more on the issues that matter to the students rather than aligning themselves to a political party. "Loughborough is not really a political Students' Union," said Hopkins. "I do believe that if someone came in very party political they would not get elected."

This is in stark contrast to Manchester, where elections are taken very seriously and are predominantly political. Without a collegiate structure candidates are drawn from a wider range of backgrounds but are often affiliated with a political party. Current Campaigns Officer Amanda Walters was Chair of the Amnesty Society and a Council Member before being elected, acknowledged that "elections are political; Labour Students tend to form a

slate, as does the Left."

As with JCR experience at Lancaster, factionalism within the Union can act as a barrier to student involvement and the Union is still regarded as cliquey.

According to Robbie Pickles, LUSU President, in the past "the elections [at Lancaster] were very much run where every candidate was either a Labour Club candidate or not. And you used to go to Union Council and the factions would sit at opposite ends of the room and argue."

"It's always helpful to have other groups of people coming in, because the more scrutiny on the Union the better," he added.

LUSU could learn much from other unions, but inevitably the type of university will affect the structure and tone of the SU. Campus universities like Loughborough make the Students' Union more important as students rely on them to provide entertainment therefore elections are more significant. Liverpool's Students' Union is arguably less important due to the city's better nightlife. Similarly Manchester can afford for its elections to be political as the Union does not have to focus on entertainment.

Analysis

The feeling of cliqueiness is obvious. How to fix it isn't

Samantha Newsham
Investigations Editor



Notoriety is key. It may not be better to be hated than to be loved, but without doubt it's better to be hated than to suffer the sting of indifference.

It is clear that this maxim holds true in the case of LUSU's Full Time Officer elections. There is a very strong link between past JCR officers and successful FTO candidates, which boils down to one simple fact: on a JCR, people know who you are.

The public face of JCRs has been rather a topic of contention lately, with a succession of comment pieces in SCAN arguing whether they ought to be seen by students as some kind of exclusively powerful in-crowd. Such was the strength of feeling inspired by these articles that, to date, six out of eight JCR Presidents I contacted for their thoughts has replied to me – an unprecedented level of response in my two and a half years of student journalism.

Perhaps a more relevant question, though, is why JCRs are seen this way. It's not just a couple of SCAN commentators who feel like this; 73% of students we asked felt that JCRs were synonymous with cliques.

By the very nature of a JCR this is to a certain extent inevitable. JCRs need to work together and be seen together; if they don't their ability to make things happen for students would be severely compromised.

But the furore raises the wider issue of communication between students, JCRs and LUSU. If so many students believe that JCRs are nothing but cliques, does this put them off getting involved? The evidence seems to suggest it does.

Although some of the statistics from our survey were striking – 82% of students questioned don't know what an FTO position constitutes, 74% don't care who'll win them in the up and coming elections – none were particularly surprising. Equally unsurprising were the findings of a recent research survey carried out by LUSU as part of its new Strategic Plan: it is seen by uninvolved students as internally-centric and although it talks a lot within a small group of people the facts don't disperse to the wider student body.

For proof of this we need look no further than the JCR and LUSU websites. Although elections took place in December 2010, half of the JCR websites have yet to be updated with details of the 2011 Execs, and as for LUSU, it is so difficult to find any

useful information on there that just thinking about it makes me want to weep.

And it's more than just a lack of communication, it's a failure to engage. When an organisation like LUSU, representing over ten thousand students, can organise a General Meeting and get only 74 to turn up, as happened on Tuesday Week Five, it's clear there's some kind of failure somewhere.

It may be that General Meetings tend to concern themselves with issues that most students simply do not care about. The last one covered – or would have, if it had attracted the 200 people necessary to vote anything through – a debate on casting a Vote of No Confidence in NUS President Aaron Porter.

"The furore raises the wider issue of communication between students, JCRs and LUSU."

The effect of such a vote on the lives of students at Lancaster would be infinitesimal. (Which perhaps raises certain questions about the efficacy of the NUS, but that's another story.)

It may also be that our collegiate system condemns LUSU to its position at the back of most people's minds. For the majority of students faced with a problem, their JCR is the first point of call. The college is there to provide accommodation, entertainment, advice and free condoms. The JCR is more easily identifiable, more easily located than the LUSU officers hidden away in their bunker. There's a reason that turnout in JCR elections is consistently higher than Cross Campus Officer elections despite both taking place at the same time: JCRs may come across as close-knit cliques and they might put people off wanting to get involved but there will be far more students who recognise a member of their JCR than recognise a LUSU Cross Campus or Full Time Officer.

I don't know the solution to the problem. JCR-attained notoriety might help you win an election, but whether it helps you engage with the vast majority of students you represent once you've won it is debatable. Student politicians are always going to be faced with student apathy; just as there are students who go out and make the effort to become involved there are those who, whatever steps are taken, will not care. But in the middle there's a grey area of students who might be interested if LUSU only managed to reach out to them in the right way. How to do it? That is the question LUSU must answer.

General Meeting fails to reach quorum

Matthew Power

DESPITE A DELAYED start, Tuesday's General Meeting of the Students' Union failed to reach quorum. 200 students were required to attend the meeting in order to discuss the meeting's business, which included four motions submitted by Chris Witter. The motions were submitted on behalf of the Lancaster University Against Cuts (LUAC) group and included a proposed Vote of No Confidence (VNC) towards NUS President Aaron Porter.

Due to start at 7pm, the meeting began shortly after 7.15pm, with the announcement that quorum had not been achieved. Vice President (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies) Matt Windsor suggested to Witter that he stayed behind after the meeting to discuss his opinions. After a short conversation, it was agreed that the motions would be discussed as the first item at the meeting, but it was made clear that the discussions would not result in union policy and no vote would take place on the motions submitted by Witter.

In the first motion, which proposed the VNC of Aaron Porter, Witter produced a statement from the NUS President, written in response to LUAC's arguments. Witter declared "it was a fucking insult" and claimed the response may not have even been written by Porter, but instead by a member of NUS staff.

Further discussions took place on three other motions, during which a member of the audience proposed the meeting had lost its sense of purpose. Chairing the meeting, Windsor responded that "it's pretty pointless if we're not discussing things as a Students' Union". Windsor then arranged

to meet with LUAC after the meeting to discuss ways in which they could take their motions forward for further discussion within the student body.

Immediately after the meeting, there appeared to be a sense of disappointment. Witter described the meeting as "heated", whilst another member of LUAC, Beau Bulman, summarised: "I am so disappointed about how defeatist everyone is. 'Oh there's been a vote so there is nothing we can do'. I mean this is crap. Throughout the representative history of England, people came back time and time again because they weren't happy. The Suffragettes, they came back, they kept fighting, they didn't give up and look what happened."

LUSU President, Robbie Pickles, said: "I am extremely disappointed that the turnout wasn't high enough to reach quorum. We did more to publicise this general meeting than in most previous years. I strongly hope at another date this term, we can discuss and vote upon the proposals put to the general meeting today. It is fundamentally vital that the Students' Union listens to its membership but also that those it takes it lead from are representative of the broad views of the student body."

With the George Fox Lecture Theatre emptying, Windsor explained his decision to allow the discussions of the motion.

"Even though the procedures of the Students' Union stated clearly that there were not enough students in attendance to pass democratic policy that would represent the entire spectrum of student opinion, I took the decision to allow the debate to take place as discussion and collaboration is vital for the success of the student union movement."



Chris Witter puts the motion to those inside George Fox Lecture Theatre One. Photo by Amie Slater.

Running Club organises charity fun run around Alexandra Park

Jack Smith

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY RUNNING Club (LURC) is organising a charity fun run around South-West Campus in Week Seven. The event, entitled Alexandra's Lap, takes place on Sunday March 6 and consists of a lap of Alexandra Park and the length of Graduate Drive.

The fun run is being held in support of two charities: MacMillan Cancer Research and AVERT, which is an international HIV and AIDS charity.

Last year's event was highly successful; through the sponsorship and race money that was collected from the 130 participants, over £600 was raised for MacMillan. This year's event is expected to raise even more money for the charities, with organisers anticipating around 150 people to take part.

Starting at Cartmel South Avenue's bus stop, the route leads participants along the perimeter road of South-West Campus around Cartmel and Lonsdale residences, while the final 300 metres covers Graduate Drive towards the pedestrian forecourt outside Barker House Farm in Cartmel College. In all, the route is approximately one mile long, with the finishing line between Lonsdale Bar and Barker House Farm.

The event begins at 2pm on Sunday Week Seven. Registration costs £4 on the day. People who wish to participate can pay the lower fee of £3 if they pay in advance, with members of the LURC exec running sign-up stalls over the course of the week. All finishers receive a free goody bag that has been supplied by the event's sponsors, Ernst & Young. There will be cash prizes available for the top three placed male and female finishers. In addition, there are also other prizes available throughout the day, such as for best fancy dress and most sponsorship money raised.

Friday feeling for finance meeting protest

Chris Housden
News Editor

ON FRIDAY WEEK Five a small protest was held across campus aimed at convincing university staff not to raise tuition fees to the highest they can, £9,000 per year.

AROUND 15 STUDENTS began the protest, which was not endorsed by the Students' Union, at 9:30am in Edward Roberts Court. They carried homemade signs written on cardboard bearing slogans such as "Philistines what will they flog next?" and "Don't let the s**t hit the fan- say no to nine grand".

The group progressed along the Spine to stop outside County Bar and diner. After some discussion among themselves they agreed to head back towards the centre of campus given that there were very few people

around. One of the protestors keen to move reasoned that they'd reach more people "even if we just go and stand outside Greggs or something".

There appeared to be confusion between the protestors as to whether there was a planned route or not. After a brief pause in Alexandra Square they then moved to University House. The protest was evidently expected by University staff. Porters were positioned around Alexandra Square and in Edward Roberts Court at the beginning of the protest, and security personnel were present at University House.

Staff attempting to head to their offices in University House were redirected as the main doors to the offices were locked. Two police officers arrived during the protest as the group arrived outside University House but good-naturedly stayed a fair distance away from the small group after an initial

introduction.

The group addressed Paul Wellings directly via megaphone while standing outside the University offices. One protestor called up to the higher floors of the building, "hello Vice Chancellor, we're here to see you."

The chanting and calling, while jovially intoned, carried some reasonably loaded language. Mantras such as "Paul Wellings, we know you, you're a fucking Tory too" and "It's bollocks. You know it's bollocks, we know it's bollocks, and we're calling you out" were aimed at the offices. This prompted a warning from one of the security personnel present, though a swift jovial apology via the megaphone was the group's answer.

While at University House the protestors managed to get a member of the security personnel to call the University Secretary and ask whether or

not they would be allowed to attend the meeting. The feeling according to one member of the group, who after a discussion with the rest of the group decided adamantly to remain anonymous, was that "it's a no, basically", but that it had to be asked "just to show that we are not allowed into a meeting that is all about us."

Accepting that they would not gain entry to the meeting, the group moved away towards the library to protest across the road from the reverse of the University House offices. The speakers were aimed at the library while the group stood chanting to students queuing for buses.

One protestor confessed that he felt nationally the volatile feeling related to the fees protests had "ebbed down" and that while they hadn't expected a particularly high turnout the group had been "hopeful for more".

Feeling towards the protestors did seem to reflect a measure of resignation among the student population and weariness with them. At one point during the protest one of the group began talking to a student who had come out of the library, and was asked to move away or turn the music down. "I'm just asking you to go anywhere but outside this window", he said. The group moved away shortly afterwards to head towards Furness College. Other students made similar comments, claiming "you're only pissing off other students."

As the protest moved towards Furness the group handed flyers to the passing students. One recipient of a flyer loudly complained to the people he was walking with about the futility of the small protest, saying "look how stupid this is - they're protesting in a place full of students."

Porter says he will not re-run for National Union Presidency

Emma Hughes

AARON PORTER, PRESIDENT of the National Union of Students (NUS), has announced he will not stand for re-election when his current term in office ends.

In a statement released on the NUS website, Porter said: "After considerable soul searching, I believe there needs to be a new president to lead the student movement into that next phase. As a result, I've resolved not to seek re-election at National Conference this year."

Porter's decision comes after a torrid year for students, which saw MPs vote in favour of the plans to treble tuition fees and cut funding to higher education institutions. He is only the second president since 1969 to not re-stand for a second term.

"The Government's decision to treble tuition fees was a bitter pill to swallow," Porter said, continuing: "And whilst a number of concessions were secured, notably for part-time students as well as an increased threshold of repayment for all graduates, this was still not the outcome we wanted."

"Thousands of students will now decide that Higher Education is not for them and the ones that do get to go will be plunged into an era of market chaos. It's a tragedy, and one that requires relentless pressure, both locally and nationally, to ensure that it is exposed and replaced with something better as soon as possible."

Many students applaud Porter's decision to step down amid accusations that he did not do enough to oppose government plans to increase fees. Popular feeling is that Porter should have taken a firmer stance against the proposals from the start.

A number of anti-Porter Facebook pages have been set up. One cites "Aaron Porter does not represent me" as its title and reads "Aaron Porter, I am a student and I think you are an utter disgrace. If you do not support students then don't lead the NUS."



Aaron Porter will not be standing for re-election.

Students began to turn against Porter in December, after a small number who were protesting against the increased tuition fees were involved in violent skirmishes with police. A number of people were arrested during the demonstration. Porter quickly condemned the actions of this minority, but some felt he was too hasty and showed a lack of support for the students who were still demonstrating peacefully.

However, Lancaster University's Student Union (LUSU) President Robbie Pickles feels Porter is not solely to blame. "I believe that in general the NUS does not make the best use of its huge membership or of its resources to truly represent UK students. In this context, Aaron Porter took on an

extremely difficult task. In the year that such a huge amount of damage has been done to Higher Education, no NUS President would have been able to successfully prevent the Government from taking the action it wanted. The NUS as a whole is simply not powerful enough and was not united in preventing an alternative.

"This was shown by the fact that neither Aaron's more moderate approach nor the more militant action which took place had any effect whatsoever. I do not believe that either approach would have altered the view of the Conservative-led government or prevented the policy from passing on December 9."

Porter himself acknowledged the

difficulties of his presidency and the criticism which such a prominent position can bring with it. Writing for The Guardian's Comment is Free blog, he looked to the future of the NUS with caution. "The challenge for the new national president will be great. They'll need to support students up and down the country to ensure the continuance of quality education, while running a major national campaign to defeat damaging marketisation in education and planning to hold to account the politicians that turned their back on us."

Other students have also leapt to the defence of Aaron Porter, who organised a protest march in November which attracted 52,000 people. "Porter has been unlucky that all this happened during his time in office,"

'The Government's decision to treble fees was a bitter pill to swallow'

said Leah Lindhurst, a third year Criminology student. "The march in November which was attended by so many people resulted in the Liberal Democrats pledging to vote against an increase in fees, but they went back on this promise."

Porter concluded his initial statement by thanking everyone for their support. "I want to say thank you to the hundreds of students and student officers who have been so supportive this year and indeed for the nominations for a second term which I had already been sent. It goes without saying that with a white paper on its way, the next four months remain a huge opportunity for the organisation and I will be relentless in ensuring I do the very best I can in the role."

"We should continue to be proud of what we have achieved, and it has been an honour to be President at this time."

Friends Programme seeks projects to fund

Zoe Haynes

THE UNIVERSITY'S FRIENDS Programme is currently accepting applications for the funding it allocates annually to a variety of projects.

The Friends Programme is a fund raiser for improvements around the University campus that "fall outside statutory funding but are vital to the life of the University", according to its official website. It relies on donations from alumni as well as friends and contacts of the University in order to make the improvements that current students are witnessing. In the past, up to £160,000 has been donated, and the Programme is hoping to improve on this for this year's applicants.

The donating alumni and friends of the University are contacted by a team of approximately 25-30 current students, who work evenings for three weeks a year, to telephone around and keep all donors up to date. As a part of working for the Programme, these students also get the chance to talk to graduates from Lancaster University, which provides a possibly useful connection for future progress in their degree.

The website further states that "the Friends Programme is a major part of Lancaster University's development venture, which aims to generate funds to enable the University to achieve its long-term objectives."

Some of the developments made on campus that the Programme has helped to fund include improvements to all the colleges, such as the provision of live entertainment equipment for Cartmel's Comedy Nights; the introduction of The New Ideas Festival for Graduate College, which integrates everyday campus life and the city and how to present ideas for research students; and improved bar and seating areas and student provisions for all the colleges.

Several sports societies have also benefitted from coaching courses that the Friends Programme has funded, and the Theatre Group has been given the ability to take performances to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival through the Friends Programme, with a particular small group called The Offshoots given £5,000 in May 2010 to perform their adaptation of Dr Faustus. Other projects supported by the Friends Programme include the upcoming Roses Tournament with York University.

The 2010/2011 application window has opened and for those interested in applying for funding, forms can be picked up from the Alumni and Development Office. Applicants can vary from individuals to departments and colleges, most of whom will fall into the category to receive £2,000-£5,000. Applications should normally fall under one of the categories specified, according to details on how to apply online; Priority Fund, Student Support Fund, or Research and Academic Excellence Fund.

The deadline for the Disbursement Committee is Friday, March 25. The Committee is made up of around 15 individuals who decide how funding can be distributed by May 2011.

Charles Carter delays continue

Ruth Byrne

THE MANAGEMENT SCHOOL'S new Charles Carter building has been delayed, failing to meet an already revised December 2010 deadline.

The building, an unmistakable presence opposite the George Fox building, was initially scheduled to be completed by early September 2010 following a 59 week construction programme. Newsletters pertaining to the progress of the build had been placed upon the facilities website at regular intervals between July 2009 and October 2010, at which point they ceased to be updated.

The building, whose namesake was the University's Founding Chancellor between 1963 and 1979, is designed to

house lecture theatres, seminar rooms, offices and social learning space.

The delays were evidently unanticipated, as groups of students who were intended to have lectures in the building were relocated to other rooms. In several instances these new lecture theatres lack facilities which would have been available had the project been completed.

Communications officer for Facilities Louisa Duff countered these claims: "As soon as it was evident that the building wouldn't be ready for this term, lectures were rescheduled through the live LUVLE system and departmental secretaries were notified in advance so no disruption was caused as they continued to use the lecture theatres they had."

One second year Management student who was supposed to be in the building this term said she wasn't particularly concerned about the time delays "as building work is renowned for taking longer than expected".

She added, however, that "the downside is that some lectures that were supposed to be in that building, are now in smaller lecture theatres or older ones without amenities like plug sockets." This last detail is undeniably unfortunate as numerous students use laptops during the lectures. There is the possibility that the lack of necessary equipment could negatively affect the student learning experience.

Facilities' staff have been quick to dismiss suggestions of financial problems associated with previous projects such as the delayed Pendle Bar refurbishment earlier this academic year. At the time of writing the contractors were unavailable for comment, the Charles Carter delays have been blamed upon the Lancaster weather, rain and cold having slowed productivity over the winter weeks.

An example of this weather disruption was evident in the inability of the work team to pour concrete due to cold conditions. The team had also been

increased to working Saturdays due to the perceived delays.

Many students quizzed whilst passing the building seemed unconcerned about the building delays mainly due to the fact that they had been unaware of the original deadline. Most changed subject to the Alexandra Square rejuvenation, expressing scepticism that it too would be completed in time for its March 2011 deadline.

Several students did raise an issue with the safety of the paving in the recently completed George Fox Square, work on which had also been delayed due to adverse weather conditions.

The individuals complained that the paving outside the building could get slippery after rainfall. The landscape architects replied that "the slabs are conservation slab, smooth ground, which complies with the relevant British standard", adding that "wet, dirt or icy conditions can affect surface friction and increase the likelihood of slips on all external paving materials".

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Lancaster hosts first University Brass Band Championship

Chris Housden
News Editor

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY HOSTED the first ever University Brass Band Championship of Great Britain on Saturday Week Six, with 12 of the best university brass bands travelling from across the United Kingdom to compete.

The brass bands, visiting from as far away as Edinburgh and Southampton, were competing to win the UniBrass Title. The Great Hall was chosen as the venue to, with a stage and audience seating set up for the day. The contest was judged by adjudicators Alan Fernie and Richard Evans, marking the bands on two criteria, their musical skill and their entertainment factor.

Keele University played first, a relatively new band who played a varied repertoire including the Shostakovich Jazz Waltz and Wagner's Under the Double Eagles. The adjudicators commented that many bands offered more classical music pieces rather than contemporary music.

Lancaster followed the trend of classical music, giving a performance of Resurrection from Mahler's second symphony which was met with varying degrees of success.

The winners of the first ever UniBrass Title were the Brass United, consisting of players from the Royal Northern College of Music and Man-



Lancaster's Brass Band. Photo by Elliot Westacott.

chester University. Their programme included Paganini Variations, which is renowned as a difficult piece to play, and their performance also earned them the award for Most Entertaining Performance.

Brass United also featured among their number euphonium soloist Matt White, who was last year's winner of BBC Radio 2's Young Brass Soloist of

the year. He gave a performance of Bravura which earned him the Best Soloist prize.

Overall second place went to Huddersfield University, who had been second favourites with a programme which deviated from the classical repertoire Fernie and Evans had noticed, including an entertaining performance of Bohemian Rhapsody.

The University of Birmingham won the award for Best March for their performance of Susa's Liberty Bell March. They came fourth overall.

Lancaster came seventh out of the 12 bands who were present, beating Cambridge University and historic rivals University of York, who came twelfth. The adjudicators noted that York were let down by the entertainment side of their performance. Though Lancaster said that they are pleased with where they came, they have already begun to look towards next year's contest. They believe they can do even better next year, and hope to enter with a band featuring many new members to ensure that they come at least within the top five.

The other bands entered were as follows- Cardiff University, who came third; Oxford University, who were one ahead of Lancaster in sixth; Edinburgh University in eighth place; Cambridge University in ninth; Southampton University in tenth and Bangor University in eleventh place.

The success of this year's competition has already spurred more universities to express an interest in entering their bands for next year's competition. Once again it will be hosted by Lancaster University, and will be once again be supported by the British Federation of Brass Bands and the Arts Council, who were orchestral in this year's contest.

Fylde gets ready to Love Culture, Hate Sexism

Collette McColgan
Assistant Editor

AN EVENT WILL be held, on Thursday Week Seven, in Fylde Bar, to celebrate International Women's Day.

Though International Women's Day takes is on March 8, the event has been moved earlier to avoid a clash with the LUSU Full Time Officer elections. The event, which starts at 7pm, is "in celebration of women across the globe and the men that support them" and hopes to raise student awareness of problems and issues affecting women in this country, and across the globe.

Love Culture, Hate Sexism will include performances of poetry, dancing, music and Monologues by the cast of Lancaster's Vagina Monologues. Shelley Tomkins, a student at the University, will also be shaving her head for charity.

The event will also host a banner making session for These Hands Don't Hurt, as well as a positive body image campaign.

The evening is free, but donations will be accepted.

The global United Nation theme for this year's International Women's Day is Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women.

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LUSU Full Time Officer Elections 2011: Candidate Interviews

GETTING ELECTED IS a tricky business, but choosing who to vote for can be even harder.

Most students won't have the chance to speak to every candidate in the LUSU

LUSU President

The Union's figurehead

George Gardiner



Fylde

George Gardiner is running because he "thrive[s] on steering and leading". "It's something I'm good at and that I really enjoy doing."

But mainly the former Fylde JCR President is standing for LUSU President because "I've got a lot of vested interests in a variety of things that the Union does".

"I've got a lot of visions about having an exciting Students' Union," he said. "I think the role of President is the best to facilitate those visions and making the Union a really exciting place to be."

On the task of keeping 12,000 students informed about what LUSU is doing, Gardiner was enthusiastic. "Communication is something that I'm quite big on." He cited his time as a college president, saying that "[with] my team of 17, I was very open with them. It was very clear where we were going, what we were aiming to do at each event, each different thing that we'd put on, and I think that's something that I'd carry through into this year as well".

Mark Lord



Cartmel

Mark Lord feels that it was primarily his previous role as college president that inspired him to run for the role of LUSU President. "I've always sort of seen myself, not in an arrogant way, in a leadership role. I feel that's what my skill set is best suited to. I enjoy co-ordinating and leading a team."

With the prospect of leading a students' union of over 12,000 students Lord was asked how he would keep everyone informed. He answered: "Point one on my manifesto is communication, I think that is somewhere that LUSU is potentially not as good as it could be at."

Lord cited his previous positions as a Faculty Representative, Sports Representative and Block of Six officer for experience in communicating and co-ordinating teams. He also highlighted the out of office hour campaign he was part of, "which was aimed at just giving people information about LUSU".

Lord isn't wholly critical, adding: "I think the

Full Time Officer elections; to question their policies; to see what they are offering students.

SCAN thinks that every student should have the opportunity to make an informed

- Opening up communication channels is key
- University needs to provide a better experience if fees are going to rise
- Research what stance students want him to take

He acknowledged that "obviously, I can't see 12,000 people on a week to week basis but [...] I think this is where the JCRs come in." He plans to "have quite an open relationship with the JCR presidents and try and use them to the best of the Students' Union's advantage".

Gardiner recognised that communication is key for the officers too, having already made a start. "Obviously I don't know everything and I think that it would be wrong for me to go into the position [of LUSU President] thinking that I did know everything. [I've] been speaking to students on what they think is important, what they think the Students' Union should be providing."

Asked what he would have done differently to this year's president, Gardiner stuck to his previous topic. "I think I would have probably communicated with students better". He reasoned that "it's not a particular criticism of this year's president, it's something that I think has gone before, it's a trend."

"I think that it's a general criticism of the Stu-

- Believes University needs to set fees at £9000
- Wants to use the web to increase communication between officers and students
- Increase awareness of what LUSU does across campus

problem with LUSU has been that we're very good at communicating between officers but now the next step is to get that communication out to the wider population of campus and off campus, and I hope to do that."

Lord is also keen to produce a booklet "that literally outlines what LUSU can do for you as a Union and send it to people before they get here so that there's an instant awareness".

"I could very easily have gone for positions that led to being president but I've never been that careerist in my officerships."

Asked what he would have done differently to this year's president, Lord returned to his previous answer. "I think communication. I mean,

choice when electing the people who will run their Students' Union, so we questioned them for you. We asked the tough questions, we pointed out weaknesses, we pushed them to be honest.

dents' Union".

On the subject of setting a price for Lancaster's tuition fees Gardiner was diplomatic. "I think the University needs to make sure it's a reasonable price because it needs to be something that's accessible still." He argued that any raise would need reason: "At the same time [as raising fees] providing a better experience and better things than we're getting at the minute to justify the increase."

Pushed for his opinion on what level the University should charge, Gardiner was reluctant. "I don't have an exact figure, but if I'm responsible I'd say it needs to probably be towards the higher end of the fee."

Previously Gardiner had said that if he could have one positive SCAN article written about him if he were elected President he'd be happy. His ratio of popularity to making the right decision was queried. He asserted that: "I'd always do the best thing" for the student population over the popular decision.

Gardiner argued that for "any major decision I'd have to use a lot of advice, I'd use a lot of research, for lack of a better term seeing as we're at a university, and whatever was a sensible choice then I'd go for".

He added: "I'd always try and do the most popular thing, because that's the most important thing in this job, because you are representing over 12,000 students."

He finished: "If I think it's the best decision but I'm wrong then I'd have to go with the students rather than myself."

Robbie [Pickles] has been exceptional at communicating with Cross Campus Officers this year, we're finally working as like a team. But I mean it's all well and good us knowing what we're doing, what about everyone else?"

Lord would also "up the fight" on securing more flat floor space for societies. He said: "I know that that's in the process anyway but it's something that I really want to work on".

On the subject of tuition fees, Lord was forthright. "I'll be quite honest, I think it should be, regrettably, £9,000." He reasoned that: "Obviously I don't condone the initial rise in tuition fees at all, but sadly if we're in this situation I think £9,000 has to be the way to go, just to remain competitive as a university." Lord added: "We would expect to pay the top rate, if we weren't to do that it would make people question Lancaster University as an institute."

Asked whether the largely varied roles he has occupied reflect a lack of focus, Lord countered that "it reflects a keen interest in all aspects of LUSU and the University." He explained that: "I never got here wanting to be LUSU President I've just kind of got more and more interested as I've gotten into it."

"I could very easily have gone for positions that led to being president but I've never been that careerist in my officerships."

Lord's stance on alleged careerism between JCR officers and LUSU positions was balanced. He acknowledged that "there's quite clearly a trend of going from a JCR executive position to a LUSU officer position", but reasoned it is mostly

The following six pages will hopefully give readers more of an insight into the people standing for election, and hopefully make the job of picking the people who should represent students that little bit easier.

Having said that he can identify with student issues being a student himself, Gardiner was asked whether he felt LUSU was lacking ordinary student involvement. He countered with a quota of involvement as proof of students engagement

"If I think it's the best decision but I'm wrong then I'd have to go with the students rather than myself."

with their Union; "1,000 people involved with Involve, 4,000 people in societies, the amount of clubs we have, I think 130 officers."

Gardiner added: "I do understand the issues [students have] because I'm going through them at the moment."

Asked about the omission of any academic issues in the list of topics he perceives he may encounter, Gardiner reasoned that "it'll be required of the President to steer the direction of the Union", while "to an extent [...] the other Vice Presidents are very much leaders in their own remit".

Asked how he would ensure his time and attention are equally shared across the five Vice Presidents under him, Gardiner will rely on "making sure that each of the Vice Presidents is meeting students, representing students."

warranted through experience. "I did my term as Cartmel president and finished and in the term since I've thought about running for LUSU president".

Having stated that his term in office would be forward thinking and wide ranging, Lord was asked for specifics that would fulfil such descriptions. He answered that "obviously the manifesto has to reflect all aspects of LUSU, so that's an aim and that's the wide ranging side of things".

Lord hopes to launch several initiatives during his term in office. A LUSU web portal for communicating with officers and staff was one idea. Questions "will get directed to the right person and then in theory that can be responded to very quickly".

Lord also wants LUSU's influence felt around campus more. "I'd like to see things like signs going up in Central that say 30p from every pound that you spend is reinvested into whatever." He also wants to show LUSU is a professional organisation, running Winter Officer Conference training on JCR public awareness to "drastically help in getting people to run for JCR exec positions."

Asked whether the fact he is still gathering opinions from students reflects a lack of solid plans, Lord referred to his earlier answers. "To give those as examples, I said communication is an issue and I want to combat that with the web portal, with the booklet, with reinvestment times. Similarly, space. I'm looking towards the bid for the sports centre. Tuition fees? Answer, fight for the block grant increase."

Vice President

(Academic) - Represents students on academic issues

Alex Carlin



Lonsdale

- Standardise essay feedback across departments
- Ensure extracurricular activities are recognised
- Set a fee level the represents Lancaster quality as a university

Alex Carlin has been involved with university politics since his first term at Lancaster University, and believes that his experience will set him in good stead should he be elected as the next Vice President (Academic).

"I feel I am very much in the loop in terms of what students need and should receive from their academic rights. In the current climate [regarding the expected rise in tuition fees], what I think we should be doing is gaining more academic rights for students".

In his three years at Lancaster University, Carlin has held the position of Lonsdale's Education and Welfare Officer before being elected as Vice President of the college. He is currently the Cross Campus Officer for Academic Campaigns. All these positions have had "remits that strongly revolve around ensuring that the academic rights of students are upheld, that any problems which occur are addressed and that any opportunities to improve learning are seized". It is this experience, along with the opportunity to represent students

at a time of imminent and drastic change, which has born his enthusiasm for the role.

Carlin strongly believes that feedback from assessments must be improved as it is "vital learning tool" for students hoping to improve on past marks and excel at university. Already, Carlin has been looking into the differences in the levels of feedback between departments noting that this disparity is "unacceptable". When asked about what he planned to do to alter the wide spectrum of assessment feedback across the university, Carlin outlined a new system he wished to implement which would introduce a pro forma type of feedback for all essays. "What you would have is a different criterion that the professors would mark you on like the argument, structure, format, language and bibliography in a table [...] underneath will be a space where they have to write the main strengths and weaknesses and how to improve it next time".

When questioned if this would extend drastically the amount of time spent marking essays,

Carlin was quick to point out that this would not be the case as "[professors] essentially just have to tick a box to say yes they've done that well and when the student receives their work back they can see where they can improve".

Carlin also commented on the ongoing issue of graduate unemployment. "I'd like to ensure that other extracurricular activities always go recognised because these are the things which will set aside two candidates, who have the same degree, and thus makes them more employable. I want to make sure these efforts always get recognised and that they're encouraged".

With undergraduate's rights very much at the forefront of student debate, Carlin said that he will not forget about post graduates' rights. "We now need to be aware that post graduates might well be next for the chop in education cuts. The University has always been very proud that it is a research led university. The University must recognise and encourage that we receive the same grants for research that we've have done previously and that they protect the post graduate's desire to study here".

When pressed on how high he believed fees should be raised, Carlin's reply was diplomatic claiming that "there are lots of very complex things to take it to account when setting the price of tuition fees". In order to match the stand still costs (the amount of cost cuts from the University and how much is needed to compensate for this short fall), Carlin said "they're [the University] looking at the cost to be around £7,500. However, we need to be allowed to take part in the discus-

sion in setting this price. [...] I'd struggle to say that people are happy with the £3,000 [worth of education] they are getting at the moment. So the University needs to look into using that £9,000

"Charging £6,500-£7,000 sends out the wrong message to prospective students."

and spending it in such a way that students will get much better value for their education".

During the interview, Carlin made it clear that it was not a black and white decision mentioning that "most of top 40 universities, which includes the Russell Group and the 94 Group are pretty much all looking into charging the maximum if they can. So if they're all charging £9,000 and we're charging £6,500-£7,000 it sends out the wrong message to prospective students, who aren't aware of Lancaster's reputation as a centre of excellence in teaching, that we are a sub-standard university compared to those [who charge the full amount] so it's important to make it competitive in that sense".

However, throughout the discussion on tuition fees, Carlin made it clear that "should fees increase, students should be receiving a higher quality of education. I want the integrity of our degrees to be maintained and I would like to see hidden costs reduced amongst many other improvements to our education".

Jacob Home



County

- Tackle Wednesday afternoons
- Encourage course reps to engage with departments when developing new modules
- Does not agree with fee rise, but Lancaster must a high level to compete

Jacob Home's motivation behind his decision to run for Vice President (Academic) grew out of his enthusiasm for Lancaster University. "The role of Vice President for Academic Affairs would allow me to continue my passion for making Lancaster University one of the best places to study and plus I would love another year at Lancaster".

Home is the first to admit that he hasn't had the strongest ties with LUSU during his three years at the University. But he believes that his other commitments and positions have provided him with the essential skills needed to take on the role of Vice President (Academic). As the Sponsorship Coordinator for the Lancaster University Science and Technology Association, where he sat on Academic Council for one year as a representative for the Faculty of Science and Technology, as well as serving as a course representative, Home says: "I consider the roles I have undertaken outside of LUSU are a strength and not a weakness. I have seen alternative ways of getting things done and

have not had one set routine drilled into me".

Home was also appointed as County College's Sports Representative on the JCR in which time he set up the Legends Cup.

Home outlined a number of key issues which he hopes to improve should he be elected as the new Vice President (Academic). On the ongoing problems concerning timetabled lectures and seminars on a Wednesday afternoon, Home labelled it as "unacceptable". He went on to say: "I would just try and find a good way to try and spread out the seminars by talking to departmental staff, hearing their view points as well as the faculty members. But I would do everything I could to change this".

Improving the course representatives system was high on Home's agenda. "The fact remains that being a course rep is not attractive or sexy and, really, there is nothing to encourage people other than it being a CV filler. It is important because there are course reps out there who do it purely because they want to represent their col-

leagues and fellow students but there are too few of them. I am looking to find a way to give some of this enthusiasm to the rest of the University".

Home then went on to discuss his plans to improve the current system: "I want to develop the course rep role from not only reporting on problems but to encourage students to actively engage with departments when developing new modules and ensuring the course as a whole is delivered as one product instead of bits and pieces that are loosely tied together."

On the topic of tuition fees, Home made it clear that the "focus should now shift to making sure students will get value for the fees they are paying. I will take every opportunity to make sure this university continues to provide high quality education worthy of a top 10 institution".

When pressed on how high he believed fees should rise Home, before answering the question, said: "I don't believe they should go up but

"Ensure the course is delivered as one product instead of bits and pieces that are loosely tied together."

I do realise that economics is a driving factor in the University's policy plans so I can sort of understand why they've done it, even if I don't agree with it."

Home said that he would not wish to see tui-

tion fees rise above £6,000 but once again was understanding that this could indicate that Lancaster was "a second class university" and that discussion was needed. Although the rise in fees will not be implemented until the following year, Home wanted to ensure that the next Vice President (Academic) had a support system in place: "I will prepare some framework for should whoever succeeds me".

With plans to ensure all student attending Lancaster receive value for money, Home turned to the problems concerning LUVLE. "I think it goes without saying that the LUVLE system could be improved, from the beginning of the 2011 Michaelmas term the new MOODLE virtual learning environment will come into partial use. The year-long transition will doubtlessly throw up many challenges which I look to combat while ensuring the transition occurs as smoothly as possible".

Given that he only put himself down as a candidate on the last day of nominations, Home was questioned on whether his choice to run for the position was a last minute decision but he was quick to refute this claim. "It is something I have considered for a long time and the planning and the vigour have always been there. The actually signing up was the thing that I was unsure of and in the end it came down to the fact that I believe that I can do a good job in the role".

Home went on to reiterate that his main focus is making sure students' academic rights are not compromised: "I think this university is great for academic support for students. I just want to continue to do that and improve upon it".

LUSU Full Time Officer Elections 2011: Candidate Interviews

Vice President

(Media & Communications)/SCAN Editor - Facilitates student media and LUSU's message

Nick O'Malley



Lonsdale

- More collaboration between student medias
- Promote a 'team spirit' between SCAN, Bailrigg FM and LUTube.tv
- Utilise SCAN website for up-to-date coverage

Nick O'Malley is currently one of SCAN's Sports Editors, a role which he says gives him knowledge to take into the Full Time Officer position. "I do realise that the role is not all about SCAN. However I think I am suited to the role of Editor, following on from my role as Sports Editor. I now understand exactly what an editor's job entails," he says.

As a student member of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), O'Malley says he has a "genuine interest in journalism". He sees the importance of this in providing useful contacts, which he hopes will allow him to provide media events at Lancaster in the vein of this year's Making it in the Media Day. "I'm a member of the NUJ and obviously have contacts there. It'd be great to have more of the [NUJ media] days and promote awareness."

O'Malley admits to his experience being predominately founded in sports. "I obviously know what being an editor entails but maybe not exactly what goes into the other sections; that's something I can learn from speaking to the other people involved. I know each [current Section] Editor now from going to Editorial Committee and then the new Deputies who are more likely to be the Editors of each section next year".

O'Malley has little experience of the design element of the remit, though he is keen to address this. "Although I'm able to, I haven't actually got involved with laying up the newspaper yet. It's something I've seen done but not done myself."

He appeared keen to learn from current VP (Media and Communications) Lizzie Houghton by "shadowing [and] working out exactly what I'd have to do and then seeing how I could improve it from there."

Despite a lack of experience working with Bailrigg FM and LUTube.tv, O'Malley's main idea is to use the Vice President remit to push for collaboration

between media. This he particularly relates to sports coverage. "It's obvious that at Roses they're able to cover sporting events. That can obviously be done throughout the year as well, and this can be applied to other sports and to LUTube."

He outlined the benefits of this to students. "People are interested in how the sports

"I know what being an editor entails."

teams are doing, sometimes they can't make it down to the match [...] but they can listen while they get on with their work, for example." This increased unity across student media would be all about creating a "Lancaster identity", he says.

O'Malley also sees the importance of creating a "team spirit" within student media, and would like to see investment in team-building and creating a united brand awareness. "It's good to have a good team spirit and to see an identification between the three student medias," he argues. "I think it'd be important to spend a bit of money at the start of the year, promoting it."

So what direction would he like to move student media in? O'Malley sees the potential for SCAN's website in particular. "I don't see an online-only SCAN, but I see the website as a useful extra because it can be updated throughout the two weeks. SCAN's only fortnightly, but it can be updated throughout, keeping people updated so they don't have to wait until SCAN comes out, they know stuff straight away."

Once more he links this potential to sport. "As soon as a sport happened, within a couple of days you can read about exactly what happened [...] the same with news, if it's important news that needs telling straightaway."

Matthew Power



Lonsdale

- Champions a more accountable student media
- Give student journalists more ownership over SCAN
- Look at enhancing web presence of all medias

Holding numerous positions within LUSU and student media has given Matt Power a good deal of experience. He has served as Webmaster and later President for Lonsdale JCR, Chair of the Student Media Board (a Cross Campus Officer role) and as SCAN Web Editor.

His most specific student media experience comes from his time chairing the Student Media Board, through which he has initiated a highly successful Making it in the Media Day. Power sees the future potential of the Board in encouraging collaboration between SCAN, Bailrigg FM and LUTube.tv.

His role as SCAN Web Editor has given Power a good working knowledge of how the newspaper works. As news media becomes increasingly digital, Power's experience working on the website gives him a strong understanding of this issue. "I've really gained knowledge of how people interact with the website and how people want to receive news," he says. Power has also previously written for SCAN Comment and, more recently, SCAN News.

His biggest weakness, he admits, lies in the design aspect of the remit. "I haven't had as much experience, there's no denying that," he says. "I think that design of SCAN currently

"I've gained knowledge of how people want to receive news."

is strong and I'd be looking to carry on that work and I'd have to gain experience in that by shadowing the Vice President (Media and Communications) if I was elected."

Power would like to see more delegation of the SCAN's design to Section Editors. "I think they could take a real first-hand approach to laying up the paper themselves. I would obviously

have an overall editorial aspect but I think it's important that they gain that experience."

He would also like to see increased unity between SCAN, Bailrigg and LUTube, and to increase recognition and accountability of the latter two. Bailrigg and LUTube currently elect their heads internally, but Power would like these roles to become cross campus elected positions. "I think [this would] give them the acknowledgement that they haven't had previously. By making them a cross campus elected it would give them the recognition that they are part of the Union. They do receive Union funding and they should be accountable to the students."

Power has a record of seeing his election pledges and ideas come to pass. His work on the 'Making it in the Media Day won him LUSU's Officer Initiative of the Year award, and saw 50 students benefit from the experience and advice of professional journalists. "I was really pleased to see that through from the hust right through to the day."

Perhaps the biggest issue the next Editor will have to address will be SCAN's readership, which has suffered as digital media becomes more popular. Power wants to evaluate readership and the way student media is organised. "I'm not going to say that within the next year SCAN won't be printed in paper format, I think that would be stupid. "[However], we spend £15 000 a year printing SCAN; could that money be spent on the resources for the student media portal that I envisage we'll have?"

Power sees this media portal as a prospect for the next "five to six years". It would, he suggests, be a way of uniting student media. "We'd have people going onto a website and seeing videos uploaded from LUTube, listening to podcasts and reading news coming in all the time," he argues. "I think we should have a student media which is accountable to the students and working together".

Vice President

(Activities) - Looks out for societies and sports clubs

Dean Crabb



Bowland

- Wants to improve welfare of sports teams
- Help teams fund experienced coaches
- Use Founders experience to organise Roses

Dean Crabb insists that not currently being a member of a university sports team or society is actually beneficial, as it prevents him from being biased towards a particular group, "even sub-consciously". He also promises equal attention for any sport or society that has a problem.

"I'm not saying that all people in the past who have been members of teams have been biased, I think that would be unfair to say, but even from my experience of sports reps - I was on the darts team and players would ask for extra money, but I knew it wouldn't be fair to give it to them when there were more pressing needs. I think there's none of that, and it means I can be completely equal and give everyone a fair hearing."

Crabb disputes the suggestion that this would in fact lead to a lack of understanding of how university teams operate. "Obviously that's the counter argument to it. I would like to say 'no' because I am friends with people in the hockey [team], the basketball [team]. I know how they function. Obviously they've got the chair, the captain, so I wouldn't say [I have] a lack of knowledge."

The key issue facing whoever is elected, Crabb believes, is Roses 2012. He thinks that the key to achieving a successful event is through the organisation. The experience Crabb says he can offer to show that he can do this is through Founders, the annual sporting competition between Bowland and Lonsdale colleges, which he helped organise as one of the former's sports representatives.

Another theme in Crabb's plan is representation and a focus on welfare of those playing sport. He said: "I think I can give everyone an equal footing. I can represent everyone's views quite fairly, and obviously make sure that all sports and societies have a voice, that they feel represented. Maybe it's all about the winning rather than the actual welfare of the team. I think maybe, obviously, it's nice to

win, but teams need to enjoy it, that's the ultimate thing."

Regarding the increase in tuition fees over the next few years and any improvements that need to be made to the student

"I think I can give everyone an equal footing."

experience as a result, Crabb feels that floor space needs to be increased, while sports teams need proper coaches.

"One of the main concerns I have regarding sports teams is that a lot of them don't have coaches, and I think that makes a huge difference," he said. "At the minute a lot of teams are paying out of their own pocket for it, or the budget's being stretched to cover it, and I don't think that's acceptable, because that makes a huge difference."

He continued: "I think people feel they are getting enough, but there's a little bit more with the welfare, that people think they're being cared for. And maybe if they're paying that much more a year, maybe the gym membership should be looked at; maybe some concessions could be made if we have a good relationship with them."

As Inter-College Sports Officer, Crabb is heavily involved in the running of the Carter Shield. He thinks attendance on competition is currently good, but can be improved. He believes it should be "revamped" and that JCR sports representatives should be more passionate and positive about the competition, as well as promoting it more.

"Something that I find is that some reps feel like it's a bit of a chore," he said. "If they enjoy it, it makes other people enjoy it. At the end of the day, if you say role models it's quite patronising, but they are, they're the ones that other students will look at it."

Marc Handley



Lonsdale (Graduated)

- Believes experience gives him the edge
- Societies will have to trust that they won't be neglected
- Improve Lancaster experience by removing hidden costs

Marc Handley believes experience is the key in this election for the new role of Vice President (Activities). He describes himself as the "driving force", along with current Vice President (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies) Matt Windsor, of the creation of this new role, and is insistent that it is "a positive change" for students.

Experience was an ever present theme as Handley spoke. He stated that his unique selling point was the fact that there is "no need for a learning curve" if he is elected for a second term. He spoke of the issues he has dealt with over the past year - specifically the pricing structure of the new sports centre and the provision of flat floor space.

Asked whether he had any regrets over the past year, except for the lack of a home Roses, he had none. "I'd have absolutely loved a home Roses, but that doesn't mean I'm not happy with an away Roses. It's a completely different challenge, but it's a challenge I'd like to think I've grasped with both hands. That's obviously not for me to decide, it's for the membership to decide if I've actually done that right or not. Other than that, I've got no regrets at all."

Would he have done anything differently? "I don't think there's anything that I would do differently. I'm quite happy with the choices I've made so far. Some people might not like them, but you're not voted in to be popular. You're voted in to actually do the job."

He also talked about the synergies that exist between sporting clubs and societies, suggesting that the latter need not fear any possible reduction in representation as a result of the creation of the new role. "The only real change will be within the office itself," Handley said. "Hopefully clubs and societies will see no dip in representation; if anything they should, it's the aim anyway, see an increase in it."

Handley completely refuted the idea that his background

would lead to a bias towards the sporting side of the role. Asked how he can reassure societies that he will represent their needs as much as he might for sports, he said: "Well, they can't be sure. They'll just have to wait and see, really. The only main argument I can give to that is, whilst I've been Vice President (Sports), you don't just deal with sports clubs. It doesn't matter where you're from in the student groups or memberships; if there's a problem and you come into the office, I'll sort it - or at least try to sort it."

In terms of what he wanted to achieve, Handley's main concern seemed to be the provision of storage. He said: "I

"If there's a problem and you come into the office, I'll sort it."

think the biggest challenge is going to be storage for everything which we've got. I mean two of the biggest problems that we could have had would have been sports centre pricing and space, but we seem to have solved those issues, so it's now just a case of trying to figure out exactly where everything is going to go."

Another key challenge was the student experience in the light of increasing tuition fees. He said: "One of the key things really is letting people know that just because people are paying three times more, that doesn't mean they are going to be getting three times the experience."

One solution he offered was the possibility of improving value for money through reducing hidden costs to students. "It's things like sports centre membership that will have to be looked at, things like the Library and other additional costs that are taken in by the students that they're not actually told about when they come. That's what we've got to look at; we've got to try and roll it into one Lancaster package, and that's not going to be done overnight."

Ben Holden



Pendle

- Use contacts to get big acts for Freshers' Fair
- Encourage big sports competitions
- Combine college sports leagues to increase participation

Though Ben Holden has more of a sporting background - being Pendle JCR Sports Rep, Captain of their Pool B team, and Captain of Men's Squash 1st team - he also has experience as former Chair on Pendle JCR Exec, and wishes to turn around the popularity of societies.

As a member of the Politics Society, he feels he has an understanding of their needs and feels "there is always room and scope to improve and build on what we have - make them better known for example". His main ideas involve a printed guide to societies being produced for new and returning students, as well as a possible societies section in SCAN.

Holden feels there needs to be more advertisement of Freshers' Fair: "Other universities that I've visited, they get a big act in, a big DJ or something like that [...] I know Lancaster's not renowned for getting the biggest bands in the world in, but there's contacts out there, there's stuff that can be made better."

He continued: "[You could] put a big article in SCAN, put big posters up, get South West campus involved, because chatting to people down in Cartmel and Lonsdale, they didn't really know that it was happening. It was just on main campus that they thought that it was going on."

Other notable ideas include utilising space created by the new sports facilities on campus. "I would want to utilise the brand new sports facilities to attract some bigger names and

"There is always room and scope to improve and build on what we have."

look at holding some competitions [...] for example a Lancashire Open for badminton or squash, or some national swimming event."

He went on: "I've got a few

names in the pipeline to come down if I possibly get elected, who can come and play squash... I'm quite contacted in. There's also the possibility of utilising the old sports centre for societies space; have the sports hall as a dance area for LUDanS."

Holden felt that Roses would be his biggest challenge if he were to be elected, but he feels he could put his own mark on the event. "The biggest challenge will be Roses, because that's one of the biggest events at the University, the biggest varsity event in Europe. The idea of that is to try and tie not just the sports in, but the societies - get everyone involved and motivated about it and just try and make it the biggest and the best it has been."

A more controversial idea came from his desire to improve participation in the Carter Shield. "One of my ideas, was to try and combine all the college leagues, so you still compete for your George Wyatt, your Carter Shield, but there's also a collegiate trophy, almost like a campus based Roses, at the end of the year. That, hopefully, all being well, will increase participation in the Carter Shield, because it is a good event and it needs to keep going."

He did not seem concerned about trends in the past, when the leagues were combined, which resulted in one college running away with the trophy. "Every college has a selection of such amazing, talented individuals, and if they manage to get hold of them, get them all down, get them all playing in these sports, then I think the college sports on campus could really accelerate in the next few years."

This Activities role is new this year, and though Holden admits that he could be more involved with societies, he is positive about being able to reflect both sides of the role if elected: "I think that the idea of combining sports and societies was never going to be completely accepted across the board. But it's what we've got, and it's what we've got to work with."

Matt Neve



County

- Showcase societies and campus culture in Roses
- Continue fighting for more student activities space
- Improve college pride and involvement in Carter Shield

Passion and enthusiasm are the key qualities Matthew Neve says he will demonstrate should he be elected Vice President (Activities). He also believes that Roses could involve societies more, while the University's multicultural nature could be used to further develop the event.

"It is my aim to make Roses a collaboration of all the talent found at the University, to showcase the boxing society, the great cheerleading and dance societies just to name three, and to display the wide variety of cultures that we have at our university, and all this around the biggest inter-varsity event in Europe."

He added: "We've got such a multicultural campus, so why not include these cultures in Roses? At Lancaster Festival last year there were so many kinds of food available. We could showcase what we have at Lancaster around this weekend of great sporting action, and I think that would be brilliant."

Neve says the key issue facing the new officer would be the transition from Vice President (Sports) to Vice President (Activities). "I think that will be one of the biggest challenges, to make that smooth, and I think that's what you need to do, make that transition very smooth."

"I think it can be a very smooth process, but what I think the new officer will need to learn is just how to allocate time to both sports and societies personally. I plan to do that quite openly," he added.

Another key issue, Neve believes, is space for societies. "I know that the current Full Time Officers are campaigning for the old sports centre to be used as a new LUSU building, or as a place for activities, and I will carry on that campaign. I will try and get that space for activities and for flat floor space, and I will campaign for that to happen."

He added that there must be communication with the University over this issue, as it is in

their interests to be able to encourage students to come to the University. "I think activities as part of student life are incredibly important and especially if our University is going to be charging more money in the next few years. So I think a good relationship with the University will be greatly beneficial to getting more space."

Participation in college sport is another issue Neve spoke about. He was particularly concerned by a lack of college pride leading to a lack of involvement, as well as the timing of the events.

He said: "In speaking to Graduate College, some of them say that they don't care. I found that very sad. I think the Carter Shield is incredibly important. I think getting students active on a Sunday afternoon is great. Participation can improve, and I'd have to talk to the College

"I can share both of them and hopefully enthuse more people to be involved."

Executive officers, and try to see what we can do to improve [it]. If that means moving it [to] later in the day, then perhaps that could be a way of looking forward."

As for the issue of whether he is too sports orientated to represent societies, having been president of the Lancaster Bombers and the Sports Cross Campus Officer, Neve was convinced that will not be an issue. "Yes I'm more sports orientated, that's just the way I am. That does not mean I don't care about societies, I care greatly. I think having an active role in anything at University is part of the student life, and an integral part of the student life. I think I can give that passion that I have for sport over to societies as well, I can share both of them and hopefully enthuse more people to be involved, not just in sport, but in societies as well."

LUSU Full Time Officer Elections 2011: Candidate Interviews

Vice President

(Events and Democracy) - Coordinates big events and elections

Andy Barnett



Pendle

- Reassess part time officer roles
- Bring in external companies to put on events
- Get Union Officers to spend an hour a week speaking to students

Andy Barnett hopes to increase office times, so the Union can offer advice when running events or helping with politics across the student body.

Barnett was asked what he thought would be the main issues he would be facing would he be elected. "Democracy wise, over the past 12 months there's been a big change in all the bylaws for the colleges." On how he would look into these bylaws he continued "try and make sure that's something that I agree with." Between a pause he said: "Also maybe go over all the roles from JCRs to Cross Campus Officers (CCO) and make sure there is no unnecessary overlap, make sure there's no one who could be doing another role because they haven't got much on their remit."

Throughout Barnett's time with Pendle JCR, he has been part of socials. When pushed to give examples and what he had learnt from them Barnett replied: "We did something similar to the Gallon Challenge in Fylde. We didn't know there was a Gallon Challenge; we did the Pendle Beer Tap Challenge which got a lot of stick as everyone was saying it was just the same Fylde's. So before I throw everything into something, [I'll] do a lot more research behind it."

Considering the issues for events, Barnett would like to look at more external events. "I'm CCO at the moment and we've been doing things like Battle of the Bands for Beach Break Live which has been going really well. So hopefully we can build on using more external events."

As there is a good level of involvement required for the role of Events and Democracy, Barnett was asked what ideas he could bring to the table. He brought up external events again as he believes that, as he has collaborated with Beach Break Live, he'll be able to do so with other companies. "We could look at some more external companies and see what they have

to offer because there's only so much one person sitting in an office can do. With the Get Loud and Live and the O2 tours, and try and explore a way to say 'we've got a venue down in this college which can support this many people, would you like to support us?'."

Talking about student politics, Barnett was asked how he could get students interested in becoming candidates for the many positions around campus as well as potentially increasing votes. "I don't see forcing voting down students neck is going to help." As a possible solution, Barnett thinks provid-

"Hopefully we can build on using more external events."

ing students a chance to speak to Full Time Officers (FTO) will get them wanting to take part in democracy. "I'd like to be able to maybe have an FTO have an hour in each college once a week. As soon as you start getting the communication between everyone I think it'll be a natural progression upwards. You've then got a pool of people interested in the FTOs and JCRs and we can get people who want to run for it"

On international students, Barnett believes that the key lies in translating things into different languages so students feel more included. "You can send them something in English, and they can read English but they might not feel like they're being involved. So we could maybe send out an alternative language version of things."

Asked how foundations would be set next year to begin catering for those students paying up to £9,000 Barnett was unclear. He said that there would be more choice for students as there is more money involved but failed to answer how he could set the foundations.

James Davies



Cartmel

- Build on success of current events with more promotion
- Concentrate more time on promoting democracy
- Let students set the tone of cross campus events

James Davies aims to improve the relations between the Full Time Officers (FTOs) and the student body in order to get more students involved in elections and events.

Having been part of events such as Cartmel's Comedy Night, Winter Fest and the Indian society's Diwali Night, Davies wants to get students involved in events that are already happening. "We've had a lot of success recently with the CSSA New Year (Chinese Society) in that a lot of people came to that who wouldn't normally."

He also mentions that the Ballroom Dancing society struggles with publicity for events such as the Charity Showcase and believes that help with advertising through SCAN and SQUEAK more people can get involved. "We don't want to take over the events; we want to help others develop their events."

With this new role removing societies from the remit, Davies was asked how he would be able to use the extra time to benefit students. "I could spend it making better events."

He believes that as the role is less demanding, more time needs to be spent on democracy. "Democracy has always taken a back seat because it's the one that's seen as the more boring and dull side of things. That needs to come to the forefront and we need to get more people involved with that in the Union." Davies was then asked how he would be able to make democracy fun and interesting to which he said: "I don't know initially how to do it."

He continued: "The way I intend to look into it is speak to other officers and find out what made them want to get involved and also speak to people that aren't getting involved and finding out ways in which they would."

Davies had previously said that: "I am not known for coming up with new ideas." As the role of Vice President

(Events & Democracy) calls upon some levels of innovation especially in regards to events, Davies was asked how his lack of originality could benefit students. "I actually think it's a beneficiary not being particularly great with ideas. I've sat on the JCR for two years and it was quite often that social secretaries would back from Social and Events Group (SEG) to ask our opinions. I think if we're getting SEG to come back with more suggestions, they're going to feed back into the Union with better ideas so we get ideas that the students have come up with."

As is central to his campaign, Davies wants to get more people involved in different aspects of the University. When asked how he would do this he admitted "getting people involved is the issue that has flummoxed years and years of officers. I've not got the golden answer for it but if you can make it more fun and interesting to get involved then people will do."

Further to getting more students involved with the University, the question then was how he would be able to get more

"Democracy needs to come to the forefront and we need to get more people involved."

students involved in becoming candidates for future JCR and FTO positions. "I think if you look at the FTO candidates at the moment all of them are ex-JCR members, so it proves to get people into the higher positions in Unions it is key to get them at the grass roots at JCR levels and also Cross Campus Officer level. If I was coming to this not having sat on the JCR I wouldn't have a clue how any of the Union side of things work. I certainly wouldn't discourage anyone that wants to go straight into a high role to go for it."

Olly Trumble



Fylde

- Get Union officers out of the building and spending time with students
- More high profile acts on campus
- Empower students at Lancaster campuses in other countries

Central to Olly Trumble's bid to become Vice President (Events & Democracy) is that he wants to create a "buzz" around the student body and LUSU.

He believes that the Union should be something the students want to get involved with and believes that including more relations between Full Time Officers (FTOs) and JCRs and the student body can achieve this. "I think one of the key things about the organisation is that it needs to have a buzz around it. It needs to be exciting."

When asked how he would create this buzz he replied: "One of the plans that I'd really like to put into action is a process of face to face engagement with students that aren't in JCRs, that would involve encouraging the other FTO officers next year to put aside at least one hour a week where they would spend time in Alex Square or maybe an hour with a society."

On the hot topic of tuition fees, Trumble said: "What will be key is creating the dialogue between FTO positions and University Management. Building stronger relationships will enable us to have a greater say in what we do with our money. I'll be a really strong voice for students when talking to University Management and make them listen."

Half of this Vice President remit is events and Trumble was pushed at what innovative ideas for events he would like to try. Although he didn't say anything fresh, he did say he wants to try events similar to last year's Campus Festival.

"One of the key things I want to look at is collaboration. Last year [at Campus Festival] one of the bands performed with fire jugglers. You can create some imaginative and wacky things."

Trumble went on to say that he believes his experience in theatre directing at Lancaster can bring a bit of an edge to events.

Another thought on the

cards would be to include more big name acts throughout the year and to turn Lancaster into more of a hub. "At Lancaster we don't often get high profile acts to regular events. You've got Grad Ball which is always fantastic, but that is one high profile event a year so I'd like to look into getting more high profile acts and attracting them to Lancaster as a hub of student

"LUSU needs to have a buzz around it"

pop culture." Trumble believes he could "look at relationships with companies in town, and companies wider and look at what they can provide to create fantastic events."

Talking about international relations, Trumble had previously said that "student democracy should not stop at Bailrigg Campus. We should be empowering all our students to represent themselves within their communities and to University Management at all Lancaster campuses [across the world]."

In regards to student politics, Trumble was asked how he could get more students involved in running for FTO and JCR positions. "I think publicity and the noise the Union projects have got to be ten times louder than it is at the moment. I knew where to sign up but I didn't know when the sheet was going up, and I was going to run."

He then talked about how he thinks people who run for FTO positions should be members of societies and sports clubs or those with an interest in politics, not just ex-JCR members.

This year only one female is running for an FTO position so Trumble was asked if he believed it to be an issue. "It's definitely an issue that needs addressing, as you have an entire body of male and female constituents."

Vice President

(Equality, Welfare and Diversity) - Ensures all students are treated right

Isobel Davies



Fylde

- Increase mental health provisions and care
- Promote the charitable work of LUSU Involve
- Visually effective campaigning rather than just number gathering

Although she is the only female candidate running for Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), Isobel Davies does not feel that this factor should “influence the way people vote”. Rather, people should be voting for the person who is best qualified for the job. She feels she is a confident and diplomatic person and is keen to “work with the JCRs and wider student body to develop a close relationship between all those involved with and in the University, for the welfare and wellbeing of all concerned.”

She feels that her role as Fylde LGBTQ* officer has given her a larger understanding of the types of issues that occur in a university environment and how to deal with them. “I think it’s helped me personally to develop my communication with people” and “my sensitivity” she said, whilst also broadening her horizons on mental health issues like depression or body dysmorphia in young people.

Mental health provisions are a key focus for Davies, predominantly as cases of mental health issues are “rising every year, particularly amongst young people”. Davies feels that there needs to be a vast amount of support for these types of issues, as mental health is a huge concern and one that she feels is not taken seriously enough. She also thinks that it is imperative that people are provided with “the mental health specialists that the University promised us” and the kinds of pastoral care that are needed in these situations.

Building a larger awareness of LUSU Involve, which she thinks is a brilliant institution and one “that needs to be shown off,” is another important factor to Davies. She would like to demonstrate to people that, while significant, Involve isn’t just about working with other countries, but also “working at home and working with the local people”. Davies has spent a lot of time working for differ-

ent charities. She spent a month in Istanbul, under the instruction of Amnesty International, setting up various campaigns and protests. “While over there I learnt the effectiveness of small but highly visual campaigns and demonstrations, which I think really lends itself to a university environment.”

“I think just having something that people see, that really hits them visually, can have more effect than a petition signed by a hundred thousand people or a demonstration of a million walking the streets.”

She does think that there “has been some imbalance in

“Having something that people see really hits them.”

the past with the concentration on the roles” in EWD and will, if elected, try to focus on all three as equally as possible. She thinks “naturally welfare often gets sort of more concentration than the others” but think it’s important to focus on the equality aspect, ensuring “there is no discrimination or prejudice”, along with diversity which she feels is “increasingly becoming an issue with the greater influx of international students in our university”. She also feels that there needs to be more communication between the Full Time Officers (FTO) and the student body, “having spoken to a few people about the FTO post its come back that people don’t even know who are in the roles, let alone what they do, and how they can go to them for help and assistance, so I think that will be one of the big things that I’d change” she said.

With the increase in fees, Davies thinks that “in order to retain” itself as a high quality institution, Lancaster will need to set “the bar quite high”, enabling the Union to push for “services to reflect that”.

Matt Saint



County

- Plans for an alternative Freshers’ Week
- Support student officers in putting on their own campaigns
- Communicate to students about advice provisions

As the current Liberations Cross Campus Officer (CCO) and previous President of County, Matt Saint believes he has the leadership skills vital to the role of Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity). If elected, Saint says he will strive to look at all aspects as equally as possible, bringing in features of liberation as well.

With the University wanting to increase international participation by 50 percent of its current intake, he also believes that diversity will become a definite focus, with cuts to the University being another issue. Saint claims that he will “keep on top of what the university are doing” in regards to “making sure that the services that are available and the faculties that have replaced the Student Learning Development Centre are up to the standard they need to be to support the students”.

Saint also has previous experience as LGBTQ officer on the County JCR and took up the role of male Education and Welfare after someone stood down. He believes that this experience has given him a “broad view of the entire remit”. His current liberation campaign is focused around positive body image and set to be showcased “when International Woman’s week takes off”.

He also believes that it is important to have a good working relationship with current officers, such as CCOs and JCRs, and will strive to encourage those officers when it comes to their own initiatives and campaigns.

A main focus for Saint are alternative Freshers’ Week events, with more non-alcoholic activities. He believes that the CCOs would have to take the lead role in this; “last Freshers’ Week I had some of the CCOs helping me on moving day” he explained, “which was really nice for people to actually see them because they’re not as visible as JCR officers are.”

His idea is to expand on cer-

tain things that have already been done, “I think when people think about non-alcoholic activities and alternative activities they automatically think they’re boring, and I think they shouldn’t be. I think people that are enjoying the rest of their Freshers’ Week with their ‘traditional’ alcoholic events sometimes may even want a break, they might want to do something different”. Saint would like to think out of the box in terms of these activities, suggesting possible excursions to places like Go-Ape or professional paintballing, “I think if you miss people in Freshers’ Week it can often mean they don’t feel at home at Lancaster for their whole degree.”

With tuition fees set to rise, Saint thinks that it is key to have a larger support system for students, because “an increased amount of people are likely to feel the pressure of their degree a lot more”. If elected, Saint said he will first “look into what the LUSU Advice and the University between them already have in place and after that we need to make sure we can keep up with that, and making sure, obviously this is a larger univer-

“If you miss people in Freshers’ Week it can often mean they don’t feel at home.”

sity issue, that communication with students is kept up.”

Saint also believes that if tuition fees do rise Lancaster does need to be charging around seven or eight thousand pounds because otherwise he feels it “will lose money” and “not do well for itself.” He thinks that as a top ten university Lancaster needs to be charging that money in order to give students a good education. “I think my focus would have to be getting out of the University an education worth what they’re going to charge and an experience worth that money.”

Kevin Wong



Lonsdale

- Take inspiration from other unions
- Not afraid to ‘ruffle a few feathers’ when dealing with the University
- Work on engaging International students

If elected to the role of Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), Kevin Wong, wants “to ensure that every member of Lancaster University, regardless of their uniqueness, is entitled to have their say, to be treated equally and to feel safe”.

As previous Lonsdale Education and Welfare officer, and current Equality, Welfare and Diversity (EWD) Council officer, Wong believes that after doing the EWD remit for the past two years, he has “up to date knowledge of it” and knows how everything works, including the relevant councils and sub committees, along with experience of running his own events. He also stood in for current Vice President (EWD) at an NUS International Conference.

Wong has a passion for international issues and is willing to put a lot of time into it. Attending the conference gave him “an insight into what happens in one of these conferences. It showed me that there are other unions that are doing things better than us and there are other unions that we are very far ahead of; and I think it’s good to go to one of these conferences because it gives you that perspective on things”.

If elected Wong will aim to communicate better as he thinks that communication “is an issue within the Union as a whole”. He feels that “sometimes officers don’t know what Full Time Officers are doing; they don’t know what committees they sit on” and really wants “to work on communication and make sure that all the officers know where they’re supposed to be, what is expected of them, and also what I’m doing in order to help facilitate their events”.

Wong thinks it’s important that the University has an understanding of the situation we’re in. “Cuts are coming” he said, and “what we have to do is really pick and choose which battles we’re going to fight and put all of our time and energy into that.”

Although he does not believe that confrontation is always the best route to take, he is adamant that if there is a contentious issue he won’t “be afraid to go and ruffle a few feathers.” Compromise and a good working relationship with the University are both things that Wong would like to continue. With the rise in tuition fees, he believes that the University should realistically be

“Other unions are doing things better than us.”

charging £9000, which would mean “we could then demand a lot more of the University and it would strengthen our position as a union.”

Wong thinks that his campaign should not be all about one “big event” or one “big idea” but more focused upon “what the students want and what the student officers want”. He would like to allow student officers as much “responsibility as they feel comfortable taking” and give them the opportunity “to do something that will make them shine”.

If elected he will also focus on more international inclusion through more consultation; he feels that voter turnout and integration are quite poor at Lancaster and would therefore like to get some “focus groups and forums up and running”. He feels that sitting down and engaging with international students in order to find out what they would like from the Union is the way forward, particularly as they pay fees of £15,000.

He is also keen to continue the work that’s been done on mental health provision. He thinks that knowledge of mental health first aid is key for officers, with a motion already put in at EWD Council to send JCR EWD officers on a mental health training course, he would also like to get “the SCRs to give college administrators mental first aid as well.”

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scan:COMMENT

With the Middle East in turmoil can democracy really be the outcome?

Military involvement could lead to yet more struggles before these nations can begin to build the society they are fighting for

Alex Littleboy
Deputy
Comment Editor



As all of you will know, over the past month the Middle East and North Africa has been in turmoil – riots breaking out, million-strong protests against governments and dramatic changes in leadership in several countries. In Egypt this has led to the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak, leader of the country for almost 30 years. In Tunisia President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has fled the country.

This appears, on the surface, to be a positive step – the people of the Middle East are making their way from political systems based around the domination of the government to one in which, hopefully, the ordinary Egyptian and Tunisian people will be better represented and have greater freedoms and levels of human rights.

This does not mean that there will be no complications. The Egyptian Armed Forces Supreme Council have taken power, dissolved parliament and the constitution, and have taken it upon themselves to maintain order until the new general election in six months, at the same time as investigating the Egyptian legal system and reforming the government. Although there is a need to maintain order in Egypt, and the fact that these major political issues in Egypt need to be addressed, part of me is very sceptical about these developments. Although the freeing of the press and ending of propaganda are entirely good things, there is always a level of suspicion felt when the military takes over the day-to-day running of a country. Quite often they can be reluctant to let go of their newly-gained power when the time comes.

Remaining optimistic though, it should be hoped that the Egyptian and Tunisian states will continue to develop and become more open with their citizens and ultimately serve them, instead of just the elite sitting at the top of the metaphorical pyramid.

In Libya, however, the situation is steadily getting worse and worse, with reports of the military firing on protesters, and as of the time of writing two fighter pilots had reportedly defected to Malta in response to orders to bomb citizens, having come close enough to carrying out their

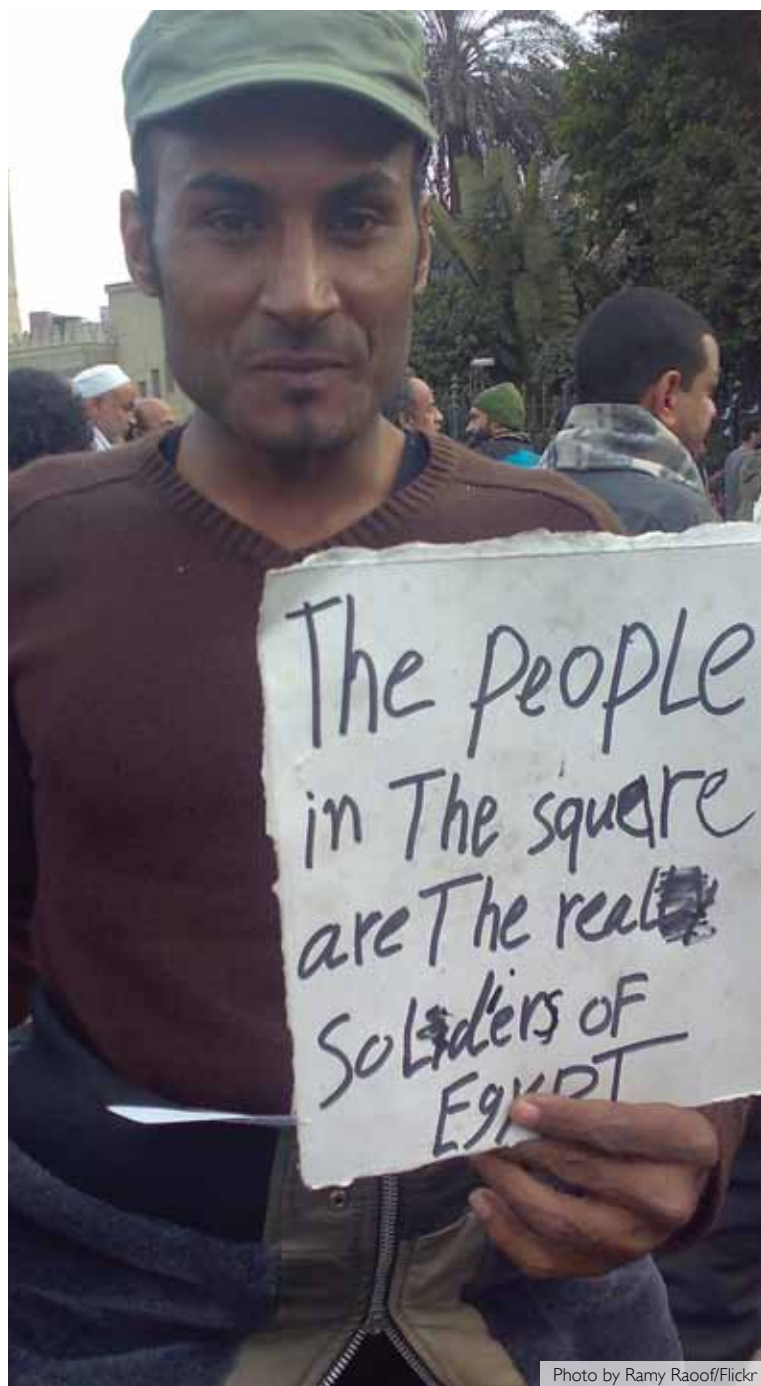


Photo by Ramy Raoof/Flickr

mission that they had seen the protesters on the ground. It appears that Colonel Gaddafi is willing to do anything to hold onto power, no matter the cost in lives, including his own.

There is also the issue of Iran, where there have also been crackdowns on protesters, as well as calls for the execution of opposition government members who have called for these protests to occur. They have also attempted to distance themselves from the reasons for the protests, instead placing the blame on west-

ern spies attempting to destabilise the region. There is a fear that, should other nations undergoing protests follow suit, the number of lives lost throughout the Middle East could be staggering, and throughout the world there have been calls by leaders, including UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, to curb violence and ensure that everyone remains peaceful.

Leaders in the west have been slow to denounce the governments and support protesters. Many of the North African leaders, such as Mubarak

and Gaddafi, have been supported by western leaders because they provide stability for their nations, even if ideologically they are at odds with western values. I can understand that President Obama did not wish to jeopardise 30 years of relations with Egypt, but this does not make it any more right. Obama was too slow to condemn Mubarak's attempts to hold onto power, which would have been a powerful political gesture and encouraged further protest, perhaps removing him even earlier.

Despite these fears, the protests were worthwhile. The fact that the

‘There is always a level of suspicion felt when the military takes over the day-to-day running of a country’

people of the Middle East and North Africa are willing to risk their own lives in order to gain greater freedom for their country and future generations is something to be admired, and we should be thankful for the decision of the two Libyan pilots to defect instead of carry out their order to kill protesters and hope that more people will stand up and refuse to carry out threats of violence on ordinary citizens. Let us hope that there is a lasting knock-on effect from these protests and that it provides the incentive for many middle-eastern nations to reform and crack down on issues such as corruption, which have been a major target for protests in Iraq, and the detention of prisoners without trial in Saudi Arabia.

These protests can be seen as a force for good – the people of the Middle East and North Africa are finally holding their governments to account, and demanding more from them in terms of human rights, a renewed fight against government corruption and freedom of speech. They are striving for a society that they want, not one that is forced upon them. But people need to remain cautious of the situation, for despite the progress, everything could change at the drop of a hat. As Nelson Mandela said, there is no easy walk to freedom, but we can feel happy that the people of North Africa are beginning their slow slog towards their goal.

**This article was accurate at the time of print, though circumstances may now have changed.*

The latest intellectual feat: Blaming women for misogyny

Chris Witter

Before setting out on a critique, you wonder if it's worth it. In some cases the person you are critiquing is so oblivious that the more cunning your argument, the more likely it is to go over their head. It is with a certain ambivalence, then, that I set out to put Ed McConnell straight, following his apology for a couple of chauvinist football commentators.

The bulk of McConnell's argument consists of dismissing another article, by David Mitchell, on the basis that Mitchell's accusation of misogyny "stems from the single assumption, made by many, that the comments made were spoken sincerely". For McConnell, "a joke is still a joke regardless". This context apparently makes the remarks "not sexist". McConnell seems to be blind to the obvious fact that a sexist joke is sexist.

A more interesting context in which to locate the comments might have been the generally accepted chauvinism that apparently informs McConnell's comment piece. For, it is this that makes the subsequent uproar by the media against Gray and Keys so ironic.

Instead McConnell moves on in the last paragraphs of his piece to brush over some disturbing opinions. The first of these is to claim that the young women who are sexually exploited by Sky's TV program, Soccer AM – the skimpily dressed Soccerettes – not only enjoy their exploitation, but are actually the ones to blame. McConnell goes as far as to suggest that these women are actually the ones who are exploiting paying men and that it is therefore these women who are sexist.

He then goes on to suggest that society in general is sexist towards men, and that 90% of "society in general" are privately racist, sexist or homophobic – which apparently makes it all right, and anyone who critiques these attitudes a hypocrite.

In short: the chief feat of McConnell is to launch into a misguided defence of pervasive discrimination and oppression, and then to blame the oppressed for their own oppression. I only wish the fault were to be found in McConnell alone, but unfortunately not. We live in a deeply reactionary moment. Indeed, in his defence of misogyny, McConnell is actually only parroting an argument recently made by Tory MP Dominic Raab, which accused feminists of being bigots. Not surprising given that the Con-Dem policies are, in their effects, racist and sexist.

Since this argument has gone over the heads of (according to McConnell's estimate) 90% of you, let me finish with the shout: Wake up people. And please stop filling SCAN Comment with this garbage. It's an embarrassment.

What RAG needs to be raising awareness of is itself if it wants students to donate



Emily Robertson
Comment Editor

The amount Lancaster raised for RAG week is pitiful when put into contrast with other universities

RAG societies, or raising and giving, collect money for a number of good causes and that has always got to be a good thing. It's a point no one can argue with. The work done by the RAG committee and the support the rest of the University gives is inherently brilliant.

It would however, be even better if I knew how to show my support and get involved. This year I didn't know what was going on for RAG Week or how I could give support and I don't think I am alone in this. There have been messages on Facebook but other than that not much hype has been created about what is going on during RAG Week. It hardly compares to hype that surrounds the much awaited Extravs in the summer. Indeed with Extravs all the events and activities are discussed and known by the majority of campus months in advance. But to find the date of RAG Week requires serious digging, let alone what went on. I wouldn't be surprised if much of the student body did not know that it went on at all.

Last year we raised around £5000, which sounds like a lot of money. It is a whole years worth of tuition fees at the moment after all. But when you compare this to our rivals the University of York who raised an amazing £25,000, it is pitiful.

Obviously, yes, every little helps as Tesco says but couldn't we be doing a little bit better than that. Why is York so much better than us at raising money for charity? Do the students of Lancaster just not care or should RAG Week be more interesting to get more



'Lancaster only raised £5000 last year in comparison with York who raised £25,000'

students involved and parting with their cash?

It seems that the majority of money for RAG week comes from the sale of the RAG bands that give wearers discounts in many clubs, bars, shops and restaurants in Lancaster. This is great and probably saves us penny-pinching students some cash but it is hardly thrilling, fun and excit-

ing. It hardly creates a buzz across campus. Other activities included a bake sale, classic Carleton night out and bag packing in Sainsbury's. None of these particularly catch my attention, I am on a diet, I hate the Carleton and I am perfectly capable of packing my own shopping, thanks.

The lack of exciting events to persuade students to give to charity whilst having a bit of fun is shown up even when it gets thrown again into contrast, yet again, with our rivals York.

At the University of York RAG Week they have events such as a fashion show, some of the students are sponsored to hitchhike to Amsterdam, and they put on a James Bond style casino night. All of these events sound interesting, all of these events would persuade me, at least, to come along and either spend my money or get involved raising it. So why can't we do something just as exciting at Lancaster?

Giving to charity shouldn't be something that we should have to persuade someone to do, you might say. Charity should come from the goodness of one's heart and shouldn't be commoditised through fashion shows and exciting events and parties. But the whole idea of RAG Week is to make raising money for charity more fun and hopefully by doing so raising even more money.

At the time of writing the total profit of this years RAG week is unknown and hopefully we will raise more than last year and more than our rivals, but at the moment I'm not holding out much hope.

It's calibre not gender that counts in candidates

Ed McConnell

People running for Students' Union positions should do it out of passion not demographics

There is little doubt that a little female intuition is often priceless in any institution, organisation, or household. Many men can learn from females throughout both their education and careers, and whilst there may be competition there is now almost always acceptance and respect between the two sexes. The organisational skills and differences of perspective alone are in themselves testament to the benefits of inclusive business, government, and learning.

Of course there are counter arguments that mainly stem from the misguided view that women at any level will distract men; this view being crucial in the decision to keep female troops off the front line. But whilst in the years directly succeeding puberty such an argument may hold some strength, it is naive to maintain that modern day men cannot comfortably work with women due to their raging hormones. Not only is this view unrealistic of the majority of modern society it is also pretty damaging to the reputation of males in general. So, evi-

dently, in light of the sparse number of female candidates running in next week's Full Time Officer elections, a Students' Union comprised of an entirely male Full Time Officer team is a bad thing?

Well no, not necessarily. It is obviously true that such a coalition lacks representation and diversity which could prove vital in the productivity of the organisation, we must also consider one other factor, motivation. Whilst in national government there are many arguments attached to the issue of female representation within party elites, such debate cannot be fully applied to Lancaster University Students' Union. The reason for this is that such prejudices do not exist in student level politics. Money and family ties do not play a part either. There is equal opportunity for anyone from any background to compete in the Students' Union elections and to win. Indeed, at the voluntary officer level women outstrip men. But if they do not want to compete for a full time position and win then there is not much point of them doing so.

Whilst it is all well and good constructing a union based on diversity in order to maximise potential and representation, if such a move is likely to decrease potential then it is probably better to avoid it. It is easy to look at

'If people do not want to stand then they cannot be made to stand'

a list of candidates and become concerned due to a lack of females, and to an extent it is right to be so, but when you analyse this fact it becomes clear why women may be less represented. Just like the fact people named Ben may be absent, or people with size eight feet may be absent: the lack of women is almost certainly not a reflection of anything more than a lack of willingness to fill a role. Shockingly it may even be entirely coincidental.

It is very unlikely that, given the demographic being dealt with and the time we live in, women feel a sig-

nificantly greater level of pressure to compete in Students' Union elections than men. Whilst it is true that the fact women are not standing is disappointing and detrimental to the output of the Students' Union, it would be far more damaging to the Union if people were pressured into standing when they lack the necessary motivation needed in order to do the best they can in a particular role. It is clear that the candidates standing are willing to give their all and in turn the elections will prove who is best suited to fill the roles. If people do not want to stand then they cannot be made to stand and if that leads to an entirely male Full Time Officer team then so be it.

So yes, an entirely, or majority, male-led Students' Union is a bad thing, but it is certainly better than anything else. The list of candidates is not just a list of numerous males and one female; it is a list of the most willing people. The issue of representation is not as important as it at first may seem. Perhaps the issue is more who we should be voting for rather than who we can't vote for.

The free market is not suitable for university tuition fees

Richard Sykes



The free market will destroy the essential meritocracy of the university system

The free market has liberated hundreds of millions of people out of abject poverty and helped to advance our technology enormously. However there should be clear limits to which public services it is applied to. While the free market generally has a positive effect, I don't believe that as a Tory I should want to apply it blindly to everything.

The university system is not comparable to other public services where the free market principle can work very well. Many people have little choice of where they can go to university. For various personal or financial reasons there may be a strong need for them to stay in their local area. Others for instance want to live away from home but also want to go to the same university as their boyfriend or girlfriend thus limiting the choices of suitable universities.

The second reason why the university system is not comparable is that unlike most government services it is not free for the user. By providing different providers (the universities) and different prices (the tuition fees) you will inevitably push the less affluent in society towards the worse universities because they are cheaper. The theoretical extra gain of going to a notionally better university will not be worth the risk unless your from a better off family where £9000 is not an enormous sum of money. The extra funding and free tuition only applies to the very poorest. It does not create real social mobility and hurts those from relatively poor families the most. Rather than provide a good quality degree that will be valued by employ-



ers at the cheapest cost universities are seeing £9000 tuition fees as a badge of quality that they must obtain.

By charging an extra £2000-3000 more than necessary to provide a good degree a university merely increases the help students receive. This reduces value of a degree in terms of self help and individual ability. The difference in future income will not be worth paying an extra £3000 per year for, especially for those on humanities courses.

The university system does need to be significantly changed. Rather than funding cuts of 80% the cuts should be in line with most other government departments, up to around 40%. It is fair the taxpayer funds the whole education system in order to provide real social mobility. As a compassionate Conservative I believe that wealth ine-

quality is natural. However this is only fair if those in need are looked after and if every effort is made to give everyone a good start in life. This is up to the point they enter the job market not when they leave school.

People should be encouraged to go local universities when possible. This would require more effort by universi-

'Universities are seeing £9000 tuition fees as a badge of quality that they must obtain.'

ties to make sure that students living at home can have most of the social opportunities as those living in halls. While it has disadvantages it would

save thousands of pounds in accommodation costs and therefore significantly reduce student debt.

I think the government should fund professional apprenticeships and use the money saved to provide free tuition to those who need to go to university for the jobs that you can't qualify for through a professional apprenticeship. My father was from a working class background and spent four years doing an accountancy apprenticeship. He worked part time and studied part time with a company, qualifying as a Chartered Accountant without any debt. The vast majority of people seeking to become a chartered accountant will soon leave university with £40,000+ of debt and still need to be trained for an extra year to be fully qualified. Proper government funding of the modern professional apprenticeships that exist would not only be cheaper for the government than paying student grants and other costs, it would also provide much more social mobility.

I do not like the principle of tuition fees, they are against the principle of meritocracy that is key to why I am a Conservative. Instead of improving our secondary education system and funding both professional and technical apprenticeships the government is reinforcing a system that means you must go to university to have a high chance of getting a well paid job in the future. By doing this they are creating a generation of people who will start adult life with a massive debt. To make matters worse they are introducing the free market to sector that is not suited to it and this will favour those from wealthier backgrounds.

Keep attending seminars, it will be worth it in the end

Ben McCarthy

Early starts may not seem appealing but it's the whole reason why we are here

Picture the scene. It's stupid o'clock. Your head feels like someone hit it with something heavy. Regret washes over you as you realise that the five consecutive shots that seemed like such a good idea at Sugar last night now makes about as much sense as Nick Clegg's policies. Your alarm clock is droning on and on like the worst kind of lecture. Your sigh fills the room as you dimly accept the truth. It's time for a seminar and you have to go. Why are they doing this to me? Why make me go to these things? Should they even have that right? It's my money, after all.

These little gatherings are some of the very limited amount of contact time I myself get as a first year Law student. Seminars and the occasional case class are also the only compulsory lessons I must attend, though judging from attendance numbers I am sure half the people in first year Law didn't receive that piece of information. Outside of Law, differing degrees force some level of compulsory attendance upon its students, alongside some

optional lectures.

Maybe there are some of you out there who can say, since starting university, that you have never missed a single thing. Unfortunately, I am not one of them. Every now and again a morning will come along where my bed becomes some kind of prison and I am unable to escape its tender

'It is easy to complain but remember that we are lucky to be at university at all'

embrace. Yet, I drag myself painfully away as I realise one thing; if I don't show up to my seminar, I'll be handing in that dreaded green form.

This ultimately raises a debate that has probably crossed many minds. Should there be compulsory activities on a time table? At the end of the day students are technically adults and should therefore be responsible enough to drag themselves to these things of their own accord. Right?

The sad thing is we students are lazy. Sure we work hard when we need to but it doesn't change the fact that if something is not compulsory and we are not up for going, we won't go. Missing lectures can seem like no big deal if nobody is watching, especially when you can read a textbook to catch up.

I have spoken to many different people about this and they all agree there are many things they will miss unless they have to go to them. Reasons vary, from being hung-over, to having too much work, to simply not being bothered to get out of bed early. Speaking as someone whose timetable strongly prefers a early get up every single day I can relate. Some get more out of these compulsory sessions than others, though I can grudgingly admit that seminars are very helpful in my rather challenging degree, mainly because they show me just how wrong I'm getting everything. In all seriousness I appreciate the sessions and I can see how helpful they have been one term in.

The thing is, at the end of the day

we are here primarily for the degree. Sometimes the work sucks but it's what we are here to do. Compulsory lessons are compulsory to make sure we do not miss valuable information that at the end of the day we'll probably be thankful for come exam time. Though the people who put together my timetable may at first seem evil, it's all in the idea of helping me get the best degree I can.

So in answer to the question of whether there should be compulsory activities on a timetable, it is my view there should be. It is easy to complain but remember that we are lucky to be at university at all, especially with the Government, in its infinite wisdom, increasing fees for the class of 2012.

The sad thing is there are those who would probably never show up to anything, wasting their time and the University's. Even those who want to do well may feel compelled to miss more than they should. Though some classes may be less than an inviting prospect, I personally feel it'll ultimately be worth it in the end.

scan

Editorial

Give us a leader with conviction

THE NEWS THAT Aaron Porter will not be re-standing for NUS President in April came as a surprise to most. The general discourse had been whether or not he would win a second election, but never on whether or not he would stand.

It's reasonable that this question was never posed. Porter is now only the second NUS President since 1969 not to serve a second term. The fact that he had to announce that he would not be seeking a second term is indicative of how the general expectation - probably even his own expectation - was that he would be fighting for re-election. We'll never know when he decided to buck the trend, but a safe bet would be somewhere in Manchester on January 26, around the time angry students were throwing oranges at him.

Porter is a classic example of having too much responsibility at too young an age. To have the futures of entire generations on your shoulders before you've reached 26 is not an enviable position. But it was his choice to take it on, and he knew the risks attached.

This year was always going to be a volatile one for the NUS. The fact that the Browne Review would propose an increase in fees was one of the worst kept secrets in politics, and whatever the colour of the party of government at the time it reported, the recommendations were always going to be considered.

Regardless of when he first decided he would like to be NUS President, Porter will have certainly known of the implications of the Browne Review when he began campaigning to be elected National President. He had time to factor in the likely outcome of the Browne Review into his plan and to realise what it would mean for student politics. He should have realised that this would be a year that called for strong principles and even stronger conviction. It would need someone who could be a leader of hearts and minds, as well as a shrewd enough operator to negotiate the best deal for students with the politicians.

If Porter ever truly had this conviction, and it's questionable, he certainly does not have it now. His - in effect - standing down is nothing short of admitting defeat.

In hindsight the news this week should not have been a surprise. The decision not to restand is probably the most telling point of Porter's presidency. The road which Porter has travelled down to reach this decision is the one which has guided his term in office. It demonstrates not only a perpetual defeatism but an innate inability to grit it out when things get tough, two qualities which we have seen become increasingly prominent since the first march in November. It proves in the end that he never really was the right person to lead the student movement. Regardless of where your politics lies, no one can truly want someone who is so easily beaten down as a leader.

The new NUS President will be elected in April. There will be plenty of discussion between now and then of who will get it, but let us hope it is someone with the conviction to get the job done.

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.



More dim witted letters

Dear Anon,

Just to clear things up (not that it particularly matters), I have written two, that's two letters to SCAN, and only one complaining about life in Lancaster. Not "every week" as you have suggested.

I would love to leave Lancaster if I could, unfortunately I can only afford the price of one degree.

Thanks
Rory O'Brien
Pendle College

Fantastic society events

Lancaster has seen an absolutely fantastic fortnight for student-led events. From the Vagina Monologues to the Unibrass competition, LUBDS does Strictly Come Dancing to The Dance Societies' Third Edge, there has been no shortage of amazing opportunities to see the fantastic talents of students from Lancaster.

Our university is at its best when students take the initiative to harness their abilities to the max and I wanted to extend a massive congratulations to all of these groups and the many others who

put countless hours into making these events a total success.

Well done.
Robbia[sic] Pickles
LUSU President

The nanny state of some departments

I am two weeks away from freedom. The freedom from my dreaded dissertation that is. However, it has come to my attention that each department seems to have their own rules about the amount of guidance and feedback given on these monstrous essays.

It seems some departments *cough Psychology* have taken to mothering their students allowing them to submit a first draft of their entire dissertation as well as running their work through the plagiarism machine. All work is also given written feedback about how to improve. I was allowed to submit one section (not even a chapter) of my dissertation and was only given verbal feedback. Surely each student who attends Lancaster University, no matter what degree scheme they are

reading, should be treated equally? Everyone will graduate from Lancaster with the same degree and I think it is incredibly unfair that some students are given more support than others.

Furness Student

Well done rugby union

I would just like to say a big congratulations to Lancaster University's Rugby Union team who has had an amazing season so far. Well done to the entire team and long may it continue.

Ben Roberts
Lonsdale student

Tuition fees to rise

I cannot believe that Lancaster University is planning to set tuition fees at £9,000 per year.

Currently, I do not believe we are getting value for money when fees are costing £3,000, and it is most certainly not worth the amount of money the University are proposing.

Are the degree certificates going to be gold plaited and jewel incrustated, because otherwise I don't think it's good enough.

Anon



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Regional Football

Poor form continues for local football sides

Matthew Todd

PRESTON REMAIN IN deep trouble in the Championship relegation zone, still rooted to the bottom of the league and unable to bridge the 10 point gap to safety. Phil Brown does at least seem to be making them a more difficult side to beat, with three consecutive draws in the league. All came against decent sides and in a normal season would have been regarded as good results. However, North End contrived to throw away a two goal lead at Watford and on the balance of play may feel disappointed with just a point from the QPR game. The same cannot be said of their thrilling 96th minute equalizer from Billy Jones against Nottingham Forest to secure a 2-2 scoreline. Their sole defeat came at Hull, a 1-0 defeat ensuring that Phil Brown did not have a happy return.

Wigan are also in the relegation zone and find themselves in 18th place. Roberto Martinez does have plenty to be positive about, as his side gained a hugely creditable and deserved point in their last outing at Anfield thanks to a rare goal from Steve Gohouri. In their only other game over the last two weeks, Wigan were dumped out of the FA Cup by Bolton; although with Premier League survival of paramount importance, it is unlikely that many at Wigan will be unduly concerned with this result. Wigan will have to continue their improved play, with ties against both Manchester sides, Tottenham and Chelsea to come in the next five games.

Another side who must be looking over their shoulder are Morecambe.



Blackpool take on Spurs

They have collected just one point from their last four games and look to be devoid of confidence. Undoubtedly the recent high point was Paul Mullin's 88th minute goal to secure a 3-3 draw at Northampton. Unfortunately this was sandwiched between three defeats; including a recent loss to fellow strugglers Macclesfield. The Silkmen were tenacious throughout and prevented Morecambe from moving the ball quickly and supplying Phil Jevons up top. Fans can take some encourage-

ment however, as club legend Danny Carlton has re-signed for the club after being released by Bury.

Although Blackpool have halted their alarming slump with four points from their last two home outings, the Tangerines are still just five points clear of the drop zone. Their first game resulted in a 1-1 draw with a pacey Aston Villa side; and this was followed up with a superb 3-1 win against Champions League chasing Tottenham. DJ Campbell continued his fine

scoring form and Brett Omerod struck a third to ensure his place in pub quizzes for years to come; as he has now scored for Blackpool in all four divisions. However impressive this result was, Ian Holloway will be aware of the significance of their tie with Wolves at the weekend; another positive result and survival will look much more certain.

The region's two non-league sides continue to occupy the top half of their respective divisions and buck the trend set by their more illustrious neighbours. Fleetwood continue to cling to the final Blue Square Premier play-off position after two wins from three games. Most impressive was a 3-1 win against Luton in front of a bumper crowd, courtesy of a brace from the rejuvenated Gareth Seddon, who continues to excel playing in his natural position of centre forward. The other victory came with a convincing 3-0 win over Grimsby. Finally, there was a bizarre story to come out of the club as it was revealed that midfielder Jamie McGuire has found Durham City's missing away kit, which was taken when they visited Cammel Laird.

Although Lancaster City sit in a comfortable 10th place; their form has dipped alarmingly with three consecutive defeats in the last two weeks. There has been some respite however, with a 2-1 home scoreline sending the Dolly Blues through to the Presidents Cup final at the expense of high-flying Chester. In other news, there is now an official Lancaster University student's supporters group for Lancaster City and details of this can be found on Facebook.

WEDNESDAYS

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Ready yourselves for the Roses Rally

Marc Handley
LUSU Vice President (Sports)

This week we have been able to make the final confirmations needed to release the information for the Roses Rally 2011. This event is set to be even better last year with our key guest, the world champion athlete Derek Redmond, on hand to offer what I'm sure will be an inspirational and motivating speech. For those of you who are unsure of Derek's achievements and life story - I won't divulge too much as you should be attending the Rally. But he has seen his fair share of success and failure throughout his career and certainly knows the price of hard work and never deciding to throw in the towel; so I really hope to see tickets fly out of the Activities Office once they are on sale.

The Rally sees the official start to the Roses build up but I know a lot of our teams are already starting to set their eyes on the biggest inter university competition in Europe and going to York to prove a point. I hope to see as many people as possible sign up for coaches over to see our teams play once we are able to release that information as there is nothing more disheartening for a team than to walk out and not see anything but people wanting them to fail. I will be at as many events as humanly possible over Roses, but I cannot support our teams by myself. So I know not just myself, but the teams would certainly appreciate your participation in some capacity over the weekend.

With regards to the event as a whole, from this week I would hope that the weekend starts to take much more shape than in recent weeks. York's focus will be entirely on Roses now and I hope to let all teams know what is expected of them in the next fortnight or so with regards to fixtures and transport etc. so really it's a case of watch this space. The whole Lancaster Roses effort will become much more prominent as the term comes to an end so I would encourage as many students as possible to get out there and watch our teams in their last BUCS matches of the season, because I'm sure they're going to want to set the tone for their next big match - which is on a certain weekend in May.

This year is our big change to even up the Roses playing field. If we win in York then not only is that an impressive away win, it will mean we're neck and neck with Roses wins going into our homes. Roses in 2012. Cliche though it may sound, it times like this that teams need their proverbial 12th man. So I'll see you there.



Spirited Lancaster overturned by strong Manchester side



Photo by Nick O'Malley

Men's First Football

Lancaster	1
Manchester	4

Rhys Elias

LANCASTER FOOTBALL MEN'S firsts have slumped to their seventh defeat of the league season, with a spirited performance against undefeated league leaders, the University of Manchester.

This latest defeat means Lancaster's next three games are of extreme importance in order to avoid relegation from the Northern Conference 1A league. Their second half performance against an undefeated Manchester side showed that this aim is well within reach.

Lancaster were undone in the first 15 minutes with a hatrick of goals from the Manchester striker. A vastly improved second half performance gave Lancaster some hope with a goal from substitute Chris Brown bringing the score to 3-1. Lancaster found themselves unable to build on this and a late Manchester goal hammered the final

nailed in Lancaster's coffin.

From the very start it was clear that things were not going to go Lancaster's way, with Lancaster finding themselves playing from right to left towards the sun. Some early pressure from Manchester in and around the Lancaster box forced the home team to produce a series of clearing headers. This pressure came to its climax in the 10th minute, when Manchester's first corner of the game resulted in a goal from an easy header by the towering Manchester striker at the far post. It was not long before they were able to double their lead when the referee pointed to the spot after the Manchester attacker was fouled in the box. The Manchester striker sent the keeper the wrong way, slotting the ball comfortably into the bottom right corner to score his second goal of the game in the 12th minute.

Lancaster's best chance of the first half came in quick response to the Manchester goal when a poor back pass by the Manchester defender gave Lancaster's Rob Newton a clear one on one with the keeper. However, his poor shot was comfortably gathered

by the goalkeeper. Some great footwork from the left wing for Manchester gave them their third goal of the game and the striker his hatrick. When the winger was able to beat the Lancaster right back and produce a cross which found the feet of the Manchester striker, he found the net comfortably. The remainder of the first half transcended into a number of missed chances by Manchester. An effective use of the long ball put Lancaster's defence into complete disarray whilst a solid defensive performance by Manchester ensured Lancaster never looked like scoring.

The second half kicked off with much improvement from Lancaster. A desperate scramble in the Lancaster box resulted in a great counter attacking opportunity for Lancaster who were able to force a corner. Another opportunity came in the 58th minute when Lancaster found themselves through on goal, but another poor shot was easily gathered by the keeper in a move that was reminiscent of the Lancaster's only real opportunity of the first half. Lancaster did not have to wait long for the elusive

goal however, when substitute Chris Brown found himself clean through. Not even the keepers attempt to close him down could stop him, and Brown slotted the ball into the bottom right corner to bring the score to 3-1 in the 60th minute. It appeared that Manchester had lost much of their attacking flair that they showed in the first half with a series of offsidings hampering their attack. Some poor defending by Lancaster, however, gave Manchester a cheap fourth goal in the 85th minute, when a scramble in the box allowed Manchester to poke the ball into the net. This sealed the game for Manchester in what was a thoroughly deserved 4-1 victory.

Captain Alex Low praised Lancaster for their "great performance in the second half" yet highlighted the importance of "taking this performance into the next three games". Lancaster's next game sees them at home to fellow strugglers The University of Sheffield, in what will surely be a vital relegation battle. Both these teams must face each other twice before the league season is over and both will be desperate for a win to avoid relegation.

Sport Distort: Matthew Linnett gives his alternative view on sports

Curators burn Mona Lisa to honour Rooney wonder strike

Spectacular scenes unfolded within the Louvre today as esteemed art curators moved to incinerate the original canvas of the Mona Lisa, swiftly replacing it with an everlasting YouTube video of Wayne Rooney's match winning bicycle kick against Manchester City. The museum's board of directors voted unanimously in favour of the decision to torch the world renowned masterpiece, proclaiming that a new cultural zenith had been found in Rooney's 78th minute strike.

Where the timeless portrait once stood, visitors now encounter an inter-

active tribute to Rooney's shinned strike that sees the 55 second clip of the goal repeated ad infinitum. Curious punters can also request Martin Tyler and Alan Smith's vapid commentary in French, Italian, Spanish, Latin and Sanskrit, and may also experience a recreation of Rooney's messianic celebration through the medium of jaunty Parisien electro house.

"As lifelong students and professors of the arts, we've encountered our fair share of unparalleled genius," remarked head curator Gaspard Dupont to Sport Distort. "We have revelled at Rem-

brandt's Storm, Monet's Water Lilies, and Van Gogh's Sunflowers. But as soon as Wayne got the ball in his sights today, we knew we were in the presence of pure, undiluted inspiration."

The old man burst into tears with joy. "After it flew in, the decision to immolate our archive of classic paintings seemed obvious. Years of meditation, dedication and meticulous brushwork are all well and good, but Rooney just has that instinct and sheer natural ability. He didn't even have a good game overall, which proves how good he is."

Swiftly dubbed Goal of the Season by pundits and fans alike, it seems that Rooney's apparent brilliance has not gone unnoticed in the art world either. Other galleries across the world appear keen to follow in the footsteps of the Louvre's artistic revolution. Leeds Royal Armouries have discarded four 11th century ballistas to make space for Faustino Asprilla's old Mercedes, whilst the British Museum were pleased to announce swapping their one surviving copy of Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience for Jamie Carragher's seminal autobiography, Carra.

Bombers edge out Leeds Carnegie



Photo by Lenny Worthington

American Football

Lancaster 26
Leeds Carnegie 24

Maxwell Mitchell

LANCASTER BOMBERS SNOOK past Leeds Carnegie 26-24 after a fourth quarter stand-off. Lancaster triumphed in a tense encounter as they continue their drive towards the playoffs.

The Bombers struggled in the first quarter, only managing to score two points when the Leeds Quarterback's 2 point conversion pass was intercepted by Marc Handley who sprinted 80 yards for the score, leaving the Carnegie players in his wake.

Carnegie reached 12 points in the first half before an injury to one of their players stopped the game for close to

half an hour. After the air ambulance had carried the player away, play resumed. Carnegie struck again with a third score before the end of the first half. However wide receiver Jason Kloze returned the ensuing kickoff 75 yards for six much-needed points. The two point conversion saw Quarterback Len de Wit execute a perfect pump fake, fooling the Leeds players to back off into coverage before he darted into the end-zone to pull the score back to 10-18 just before half time.

The half time break seemed to revitalise the bombers side. De Wit, a former standout basketball player in Canada, ducked and dived all his way to gain many invaluable yards for the Bombers offensive, but ultimately it was the pace and power of Swedish Running Back Didrik Finnoy that brought Lancaster back into the game.

The end of the third quarter saw

the game delayed further with a serious injury to a Carnegie player as he broke his clavicle while Bombers Right Tackle Stephen Fan, after initially seeming fine after a collision collapsed to the ground with severe concussion.

Both teams were forced to adapt due to the injuries, meaning Tim Barton, Peter Schaefer and Max Mitchell finished the game playing on both Offensive and Defensive teams. It also saw a debut for Defensive Tackle Gregor Dickie, who rotated in with Defensive End Harrison Bennett.

After the break for the injured players to be seen to by paramedics and the Bombers still down 18-10 Finnoy ran the ball in for a touchdown, then de Wit converted the two point conversion bringing the score to 18-18, only for Carnegie to take back the lead 24-18 at the start of the fourth quarter.

However the Bombers are a team never to let their spirits drop, stepped up with Finnoy running in yet another score, with de Wit converting the two point conversion yet again to bring the Bombers on top 26-24 with just one minute left to play.

The Bombers defence adjusted for the Carnegie Offense, bringing on Pete Schaefer at Defensive End. Schaefer brought down the Carnegie Running Back for a three yard loss to finish the game 26-24.

Coach Chris Plant said: "The team showed it's resolve to come back from such a deficit, I never stopped believing the Bombers could do it, but in future we need to play four quarters of quality football, not just one. If we are to take the team deep into the playoffs then we need the intensity, drive and focus we had in the final quarter, all game long".

Results vary as Korfball squad rebuilds

George Lincoln

THE END OF the Lent Term witnesses the climax of the season for the Korfball club as national university standings and the North West regional Korfball league are settled. The graduation of 80% of last year's league winning squad has brought about a period of regeneration for the club with a new group of players brought together this academic year to push for successes over the next two seasons. Inevitably the results of matches have varied significantly since the autumn, as the new management of Jonathon Parton and Jay Patel have sought to develop new players and existing members of the squad. Individually, these efforts have proven fruitful.

Freshers, such as Becca McKenny and Lucy Wooldridge, have quickly developed fundamental defensive and attacking skills. The likes of Alex Whittam and Mary Lee, both in their second year, have become accomplished players and, in recent weeks, have put in impressive performances against more senior players from other clubs.

On top of this, final year students such as Kate Skellern and James Whitehead - who had limited opportunities last year - have quickly adapted as important senior members of the first team.

A team of mixed experience won two, drew one and lost three at a recent tournament for teams from across Britain hosted at Leeds University. Emily Hancox, a final year student, was voted the team's player of the tournament during a tough day in which the squad faced players capped at England U21 level. The next day, a similarly experienced team was unfortunate to go down 6-2 to Manchester Hawks (a team of graduates from Leeds and Manchester) in the North West league, George Lincoln and Patel picking up Lancaster's goals either side of half time.

Most recently, this past weekend saw Lancaster triumph over a Manchester University 2 side 7-3, with goals from Hancox, Patel, Whitehead and a first of the season for Alice Marshall.

The club are currently placed fifth, mid-table, in the North West league and will be seeking to consolidate a place in the top half with five fixtures remaining. On the March 26 the club shall feature amongst 20 teams in the final inter-university tournament of the season at Bristol University for the Second Team Nationals. Here, the club hope to finish the season strongly and signal the regeneration of the team with a view to success in the next academic year.

Prior to this, the club will be sending members to trial for the British student squad as well as a British freshers development team; a recognition of the improved performances of individuals within the squad throughout this season.

Team Spotlight

Trampoline Society

Neil Robertson Deputy Sports Editor

THE CREATION OF the Northern English Universities Trampoline (NEUT) league marked a new chapter for Lancaster University, as our Trampoline Society was invited to participate in competitions up and down the country.

Having won the last four Roses competitions successively, the Trampoline Society had the chance to prove themselves on a national level against the very best. The team got off to a flying start in their first competitive game in the NEUT league, with Steven Edgar winning a first place medal and Katie Grocott a third place medal in Loughbrough on October 31, 2010.

The Trampoline Society were

back in action little over a month later in the three day long Manchester Open Competition from 3-5 December and carried on from where they left off. Lancaster won another first place medal, this time with Geoffrey Pogson, and Katie Grocott continued her good form with a runner-up medal. This feat was replicated by Kat Halliday, Lizze Spence and Rachel Page. The collection of these medals meant that Lancaster finished in first place as a team, their first win in the NEUT; a significant breakthrough.

Back on home soil a week later in the City of Lancaster Winter Tariff, December 12, Lancaster kept up their winning sequence. With Amanda Pedder and Emma Dootson claiming third place and Cassie Street picking up a runners-up medal, Kat Halliday and Victoria Benyo took the glory in

a successful team performance, finishing in first place for synchronized routine.

As if all this wasn't eye-catching enough, Lancaster will be travelling across the Pacific to face the cream of the crop from University Trampoline teams from all over England, Ireland and Wales in the Irish Student Trampoline Open competition. This huge competition is held at Dublin City University from March 24-27.

The story doesn't stop there. Since trampolining was added as a sporting event to the prestigious annual Roses competition against York in 2007, Lancaster have won the last four and will no doubt be ardent to make it a perfect five wins in a row. The incentive will be all the huger given that Lancaster presently only stand one win behind York (23

wins to 22 in York's favour) in the overall results table since the competition began in 1965.

Away from the competitive side of things, the Trampoline Society has a busy schedule. Training takes place on a Monday from 8:45am-11:45am and 7pm-10pm on a Tuesday, with extra sessions held from 8pm-10pm at Lancaster and Morecambe College. Opportunities to join this promising, up-and-coming Society are understandably limited, with only 15 places currently left. But on the evidence of the Society's huge success in the last four Roses tournaments and the chance to complete five successive triumphs, coupled with the more recent national success, who would pass up the opportunity to help Lancaster University Trampoline Society make further history?

Did the Bombers deal Leeds Carnegie a mighty blow? Page 23.



Photo by Lenny Worthington

Lancaster bounce back to slam Man Met

Basketball

Lancaster	70
Manchester Met	56

Rob Lucas

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY MEN'S Basketball team faced a tricky fixture in their Northern Conference 2A league match. Their opposition, Manchester Metropolitan 1st team, not only sat top of the table but knocked Lancaster out of the BUCS cup quarter finals the week earlier. A spot of retribution for the home side would sweeten any bitter aftertaste of the cup and place them in a position to challenge for the league title.

The first quarter was no indication as to which way the game would go, with both teams starting brightly and matching each other point for point. Lancaster's Karl Viilver looked threatening outside the key, raining in a barrage of three point attempts during the early exchanges. Yet it was the

defences who were coming out on top, keeping the score down with the game very much open. Lancaster looked to be finishing the first quarter marginally ahead, until a foul gave the visitors an opportunity to take the lead from the free throw line with only seconds to spare. Having sunk the first throw the ill-judged second attempt meant that the teams went to the break all even at 10-10.

Lancaster soon got into their stride in the second quarter, where they really began to control the pace and rhythm of the game. Jason Uresti emerged as a player with real class. He controlled the play all round the court, scored points and got assists whilst appearing to have all the time and space that only those athletes on top of their game seem able to create for themselves. It was the home sides' ability to keep the scoreboard ticking over that placed them in the driving seat. Constantly adding two pointers, and the not-so-occasional three pointers, Lancaster started to pull away, whilst at the other end a dismal display of finishing saw Manchester only score three points in eight minutes. A brief flurry of points

for the away team towards the end of the first quarter saw the teams end the half 37-21 to Lancaster.

It was hard to see how the visitors would be able to get back into the game if Lancaster continued to play such composed basketball. The third quarter passed with little damage done to Lancaster's comfortable lead, in part due to a blunt Manchester attack but mainly owing to an immaculately tight home defence. Captain Charalambos

'It was hard to see how the visitors would be able to get back into the game'

Hadjitheodosiou dominated the defensive board, being first to latch on to any stray rebounds and unleashing expansive counter attacking plays from deep within the Lancaster half. One would be excused for believing this match was all but over as Lancaster finished the third 59-30 ahead.

The start of the fourth quarter saw Manchester score a succession of early baskets as they looked to minimize

the deficit. It was the referee however that posed the greatest opposition to the visitors in the final period, losing track of the score and missing off two of Manchester's points. This erroneous emission directed the verbal tirade of the visiting coach away from his team, and allowed him chance to exhibit his full repertoire of emotion, shifting seamlessly between rage and fury as he addressed the officials. With the score corrected the game got underway again, where the visitors continued to pick away at the Lancaster lead. Despite the final onslaught the home team's early dominance had given them an unassailable lead that, when the clock finally ran out, saw Lancaster win 70 points to 56.

Speaking after the game Lancaster's coach Konstantinos Artonis accurately summed up his teams performance: "We showed tonight what we excel at. We established our own rhythm, made good use of our speed and skill, and maintained our composure. We need to keep in mind that we conceded heavily late on and, had it not been for our shooting ability earlier on, this could have cost us."

IC Football League A

Team	W	L	D	Pts
Lonsdale	5	1	0	15
County	4	1	2	14
Bowland	4	2	0	12
Fylde	3	2	1	10
Pendle	3	3	1	10
Cartmel	1	3	1	4
Grizedale	1	4	0	3
Furness	0	5	1	1

IC Netball A

Team	W	L	D	Pts
Fylde	7	2	0	21
Cartmel	7	3	0	21
Furness	6	2	0	18
County	6	3	0	18
Bowland	3	6	0	9
Lonsdale	2	6	0	6
Pendle	2	6	0	6
Grizedale	0	6	0	0

Carter 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

Carter 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 Seven, Lent Term

Let battle commence
We heat up for the battle for Beach Break Live

emails from @australia

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

NO DOUBT ANYONE who has read Alex Garland's *The Beach* or watched the film adaptation will have had the fantasy of finding a real-life utopian equivalent. For the past month I have been searching for such a paradise, exploring the east coast of Australia for an untouched and idyllic wonderland.

The island that Garland's character, Richard, finds off the coast of Thailand is an assortment of tranquil lagoons and rock pools concealed in lush tropical greenery, and sweeping white sand beaches that are home to vibrant aquatic life. In the foreground of this backdrop is a self-sufficient society that follows a living off the land mantra by working as a democratic group of equals. Sounds perfect doesn't it? Unfortunately the paradise collapses in the end and Richard learns that his idea of utopia is a short-lived concept.

In my case, the paradise must meet several essential criteria that reflect Garland's ideas: Deserted or inhabited by very few people; colourful fish life and tropical flora; luxuriously sandy shoreline with a dramatic rocky cliff line; good waves for surfing; vibrant atmosphere; and it must not be in any of the Australian guidebooks.

Of the numerous beaches I explored, a handful is worth mentioning to show how diverse and contrasting beach life is on the Australian coastline.

One of the first beaches that many tourists come across when they enter Australia via Sydney is Bondi Beach. Bondi Beach is a sweeping embayment that has been labelled as one of the most beautiful beaches in Australia. However, its fame and reputation often attracts masses of sunseekers, snap-happy tourists and surfing posers. In my opinion, it is overrated, crowded and a far cry from Garland's idea of paradise and my criteria.

Up the coast from Sydney is Brisbane and Byron Bay, which is the furthest I travelled north. Byron Bay is a tranquil small town situated on a long sand beach. It is a very relaxed atmosphere with a carefree, mellow attitude. On the night of the full moon each month, surfers can be found partying on the beach with flame jugglers, bongos and beer.

Further south from Sydney is one of the most picturesque bays in Australia. Jervis Bay is a large enclosed bay with stunning white sand beaches more often inhabited by kangaroos than people. Within the sheltered waters there is also bountiful sea life – notably, whales come and breed within the bay during the winter season. The bay is so large that although there are many popular tourist beaches, there are also secluded private beaches that have very limited access.

Its adjacent neighbour Seven Mile Beach is a national surfing Mecca, renowned for consistent, beginner-friendly waves. Set in the lush forest backdrop of the Seven Mile Beach National Park, the beach lies between two striking rocky headlands with sand stretching a breathtaking distance as the name illustrates. On weekdays it is practically deserted. Although it may not be quite as heavenly as Garland's creation, I believe it is the closest I can get to it. The hunt will still continue, but for now I will happily settle for Seven Mile Beach.

Giving the gift of literature



World Book Night is coming to Lancaster and this is what it's all about

Claire Hazel

MOST PEOPLE HAVE probably heard of World Book Day, a celebration of books and reading in over 100 countries around the world. Perhaps you remember getting a £1 World Book Day token at school, which could be exchanged for one of six specially published World Book Day books. In 2011 World Book Day is on Thursday March 3 and this year it will be different. For the first year World Book Night will take place and some selected givers have gained their chance to distribute their favourite book.

On one night 20,000 people will hand out one million books. Anyone could apply, all you had to do was select your favourite book from a list of 25 titles and describe why you wanted to distribute this book and why you were passionate about reading. Each selected giver is to be given 48 copies of their selected title and encouraged to hand them out to people who are more likely to be reluctant readers, or those who may not be able to gain access to books. Out of the one million books 40,000 are to be distributed by World Book Night to those who are unable to participate.

The books are to be handed out on Saturday March 5 with people from all over the UK and Ireland participating as givers. The aim of World Book Night is to achieve an equal spread of givers throughout the country. The givers have been notified of their acceptance but are yet to be announced by World Book Night. You can follow @WorldBookNight on Twitter or keep an eye on the website www.worldbooknight.org so that you can see who the giver will be for Lancaster or your home town.

The 25 titles were chosen by a committee of

people who are dedicated to books and reading. Through the recommendations of publishers and booksellers the list was narrowed down to a list of 25 modern classics. Possibly the most well known member of the committee is Stephen Fry, but the list also includes the heads of books at Waterstones, Amazon and W H Smiths. Journalists, authors, poets and broadcasters are all adding their collective influence to the mix as well. The books include Phillip Pullman's *Northern Lights*, Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front* and Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*. The chosen books provide an interesting mix of literature and poetry in order to appeal to everyone and try and add a new piece of literature into people's lives.

The World Book Night organisers have also set up a facility for people to create their own reading groups in celebration of World Book Night. The groups are designed to encourage people to further discuss World Book Night and to allow people to discuss any other books they are interested in. The World Book Night website provides information on local groups or how to set up your own.

The World Book Night is a fantastic organisation providing books to those who may not be fortunate enough to have the opportunity to read so many incredible titles. So no matter where in the country you are on March 5 there should hopefully be a World Book Night giver somewhere close to you, but make sure you are quick as each giver will only have 48 copies of their favourite title to give away. A World Book Night giver could make an enormous difference to people's lives, with the simple gift of a book. If you are fortunate enough to receive a World Book Night book, why not pass it on to another person who you thinks deserves the book and keep the spirit of World Book Night going throughout the year.

Be a maverick: take up something for Lent

Lent's not just about giving up chocolate, TV and crisps. Sometimes it's about taking up a little challenge

Eleanor Whitmore

LENT IS THAT 40 day period of the year when we are encouraged to give up some of our favourite things. Chocolates, coffee, crisps and TV are some reoccurring favourites; the ones people automatically think of. But how about giving up plastic for 40 days? So no plastic bags, wrapping plastic or anything like that. Tricky.

Or how about not giving anything up for Lent? How about taking on something new that you would never normally do? When I was at school our Chaplin (yes, I went to a very Christian school) told us that there were two types of people when it comes to the 40 days of Lent. There are those who fall into the category called GUS and those who are TOMs (and I am sorry girls that we get referred to as boys). GUS stands for give up something and TOMs are people who take on more. For years I was a GUS, dutifully giving up my precious chocolate bars and crisps but in recent years I've become a TOM. As a TOM you can do all sorts of weird and wonderful things. I've challenged myself to write a short story every night, to keep a diary (which failed miserably) and do more exercise (also failed miserably). You can do anything as a TOM and you still get to eat chocolate, which is a big bonus when you've done something good.

This year I am taking up the challenge to get through Catch-22 in Lent. It's been sat on my bookshelf for months and finally I'm going to read it. If books aren't your thing then you could always take up a new hobby or something like that. If you are really struggling for ideas then this might be something you can have a go at for Lent.

Peter Burkimsher has made it his ambition to feed 5000 people during Lent. Not all by himself, obviously. But it's not a bad idea. I asked him what the motivation was behind the idea and he said that it was about "meeting people and getting to know them". You can feed anybody. Someone from your course, a society you belong to, a flatmate or someone who lives down the street, anyone who looks hungry and could do with a good meal inside them. And you don't have to do a big three course meal either. "Any form of food will do," says Peter, "Takeaway, a home cooked meal, coffee". Sounds easy really. But for Peter's idea to work 360 people need to pledge to feed one person once a week for seven weeks. One meal a week isn't as bad as giving up chocolate and there is a great opportunity to get to know someone better. It's not part of a national organization or anything like that, it's just one student wanting to encourage people to do something different and become more culturally aware of the people around them.

If this sounds like something you want to do during Lent then go to www.feed5000.tk and make your pledge. Do something different this Lent, feed someone else. It beats giving up chocolate any day.



On being human

Gareth Horn

IT HAS BEEN said that we live in a post-human world. A world in which the concept of humanity, as classically understood, is redundant. A Renaissance ideology of the autonomous, rational, free-thinking human, now replaced by a technological fetishism of man-machine coexistence. Human nature is not a universal state, a higher plane of existence that separates us from our tree-dwelling cousins. If human nature is anything, it is a default setting to not only embrace, but to absorb all technological advancement. We are all, some would have us believe, the real-life examples of a sci-fi vision. In other words, we are all cyborgs.

It's an interesting thought, isn't it? There's no doubt that technology plays a gargantuan role in the day-to-day lives of most people from time-pieces to mobile phones, media, transport, clothing, accommodation, it is seemingly inescapable. But are we all really so integrated with our technological world that we no longer feel the need to exercise that other classical trait of what it is to be human: human relations? The answer, it would seem, is yes. Or at least it is as far as the University is concerned.

Now, let me take this juncture to make my position clear: I love technology. I really do. I am a techno-geek through and through. I also love people, and I have yet to encounter a single piece of technology that can produce anything approaching a convincing smile. The smile of, say, a librarian.

The library situation is a moot point about campus. Some love it, some hate it; most probably don't care either way. I've used the new system umpteen times and I have to say it was rather a painless experience. It was quick, it was efficient, it was clinical. But so is a tooth extraction and only the most sadistic amongst us would relish the thought of that experience every day. It's just so impersonal. I miss the librarians. Sure, I never enjoyed a particular rapport with any of them. No swapping of funny anecdotes over a mug of tea in The Venue, God no, but there was an interaction nonetheless, and I miss it.

Student-tutor contact is at a minimum; the dependence upon LUVLE is such that the slightest murmur in the system brings productivity grinding to a halt. Registration is online, lectures are conducted via podcast, the Learning Zone is a glorified chat room. If the University had its way, I'm pretty sure the campus would be patrolled by a crack squad of ED-209s* with the sole purpose of enforcing the University's smoking regulations. (*RoboCop reference: I told you I was a geek).

Technology's all well and good in its place, but not at the expense of human interaction. Until they invent a machine that can hand me a book with an insincere "thank you" and a disgruntled smile, I'll take a librarian any day.



This is England?

Jeni Smith takes a look at the upcoming national pride and saints' days

WITH MARCH AROUND the corner, national identity is soaring in Britain. St. David's Day in Wales comes on March 1 with St. Patrick's Day in Ireland closely following on March 17. The importance of these days should be recognised, since they affirm a sense of belonging which is renewed annually.

It seems that Ireland, Wales and Scotland have a strong sense of National Pride which contrasts sharply to England. To some, St. George's Day will pass unnoticed with many people not realising its annual passing on April 23. But many English people will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a pint of Guinness, and so this begs the question of what creates a sense of National Pride, and how can England regain it?

National pride, it can be argued, is a result of conflict. Ireland had to struggle for years in their battle for home rule, and since their independence in the formation of the Republic of Ireland, national pride has rocketed. It seems that St. Patrick's Day is a day of celebrating Ireland's independence which is why it is so widely recognised.

Perhaps since England has been at the centre of the British Empire for so long, she has not had to suffer from a lack of independence, which the smaller countries in the UK and other colonies have. This has resulted in English people taking their independence for granted since they have never had to question their identity.

Similarly, Welsh National Pride has increased over recent years. Like St. Patrick's Day being linked with independence, St. David's Day also holds this symbolism. Two days after St. David's Day this year, a devolution referendum will be held by the Welsh

National Assembly to strengthen their law making powers in Wales. Holding the referendum so close to the country's National Day displays the important symbolism St. David's Day holds for Wales; a symbol of independence. Wales' desire for extended independent power perhaps also stems from Scotland and Ireland's distancing from England; results of which has shown significantly different handlings of matters such as free tuition fees in Scotland, displaying how the parliaments have taken different approaches to the English Government.

The lack of National Identity in England has been addressed by David Cameron in a recent conference in Munich. In the speech, Cameron blamed extremism on a "weakening of ... collective identity" in Britain, which has led to Muslims feeling they do not belong, leading them into extremist groups where they define themselves solely by their religion. Cameron also suggested that the separation of Britain has occurred because we allow "different cultures to live separate lives apart from each other" creating fragmentation. This leads to the common conception that Nationalist days such as St. George's Day are racist, where other cultures cannot get involved. However, Ireland and Wales and Scotland have managed to retain a sense of National Identity and so England should too.

St. George's Day should be about celebrating life in England where all faiths can be involved; it is about celebrating our heritage and success as an independent, free country. So this St. George's Day, support England and celebrate its achievements, even if it is over a cup of tea or game of football.



How to beat the mid-term itch

Alison Young

It's getting to that time in the academic year when all the parties have long gone and we're still only half way through the term before we can enjoy the Easter break. You were probably greeted by Lent term with numerous deadlines and if your course is anything like mine then new coursework titles have already been issued, which is always great. The start of a new year should be an exciting time except we are plagued with miserable weather, student loans are diminishing and workloads and deadlines just keep on mounting up. But do not despair, here are ways to beat the mid-term itch and get you focused again on your degree, after all that is what you are here for.

Your first priority is to manage your workload. We've all been a fresher where going out

four times a week is acceptable and sleeping until noon is the norm. Now it's second term and exams are fast approaching it is time to structure your day. Get up at a decent hour, make some appearance in the library or learning zone and devise your time accordingly so you're not pulling all-nighters at the last minute. Time management is key and if you keep on top of your work then a cheeky extra night out to the Carleton will never be a let-down. Give yourself some goals by having a productive week and make sure you reward yourself. Yes, students are usually represented as binge-drinking, tax-dodging youngsters, but we all know how hard we work and we definitely can all appreciate a fun day out and a night on the tiles to de-stress, so make sure you get it.

Now I'm sure when you're stressed and your tutors are handing out more work, deadlines and readings you probably sit and ask yourself, why? Is it all worth it? But remember why you're here in the first place and keep

focused on the degree you will get at the end of it all. If you manage your course in sections you can appreciate what you are learning again and recognise the resources you have available to you being a student here at Lancaster. By taking your time with your work you will be well prepared for your exams and may even realise that the lecturer's here do in fact have some very interesting things to tell you.

Try and make sure you make the most out

Get up at a decent hour, make some appearance in the library or learning zone and devise your time accordingly

of every opportunity. If you have group meetings then why not grab a coffee as you go. It is a great way to get to know your fellow students better and have a natter without rushing through everything. If you spend a day in the library then don't forget to take plenty of breaks, there is only so much of that place one person can stand. Meet friends for lunch on campus or have a tea break. Whatever you do, make sure you have some time to relax and de-stress and I can guarantee you will return to work feeling re-energized and ready to tackle it again. If you have a productive day, you won't feel guilty going out at night or even just relaxing in front of the TV, and more importantly you will slowly be making your way through your mountain of work.

It may be mid-term, but keep the energy up. Keep enjoying your time here in Lancaster both in and out of the University. Make the most of everything, because believe me, your time here will fly by.

Internet dating: how young is too young?

When looking for love, how soon is too soon to start jumping into the online dating pool?

Lauren Maughan

WHY SINCE THE spread of the internet are people searching the web to find love? Even if it's not love, maybe just a fling or for some people a friendship. With technology so vastly available a new form of dating is open to all. But how young is too young? What happened to good old-fashioned romance?

Over the past week I have signed myself up to several sites such as Zoosk and Match.com all in the name of journalism and intrigue. However, I must admit that creating my own working profile was quite enjoyable. I was faced with having to answer endless questions about myself and had to reflect upon who I am and what I wanted out of life, all so they could mathematically work out my Mr Perfect through compatibility.

Finally, the moment had arrived, I was ready to start my love story. With endless amounts of people online aging from 18 all the way up to their 90s there are thousands of suitable suitors for all. If I am being honest, however, none really caught my eye. Maybe I've realised I'm just a little fussy when it comes to the opposite sex. Saying this, by the end of the day my luck was in. I gained seven profile views and one wink, lucky me! By 11pm I had attracted interest from a male from Blackburn who emailed me his number and suggested that I contact him. As nice as it was to gain some interest, I am not going to lie, it did scare me slightly. Even as a mature young adult it still felt as if there was something wrong and that I shouldn't be looking online for love.

In the media we are constantly warned and bombarded with stories of people who have been talking to con artists who create fake profiles to communicate with love inter-



ests. That seems a large price to pay aside from the £30 a month joining fee. However, there are many people who have found true love from online dating, but maybe this is the option for the more mature singleton who is perhaps separated and is struggling to meet people? According to a 2008 singles survey by a leading matchmaking service UK singles aged between 30 and 40 are apparently the fastest growing group of online daters. Not us teens and twenty some things who are constantly surrounded by people our age. Surely it should unquestionably be a last resort and not a first look for romance?

Aside from my scepticism I must admit this online dating is a little addictive. I found

myself checking my profile several times daily to see if another loner in love had checked me out or sent me an inbox message. However, I still feel too young to be in the online dating world, never mind the 18 year olds and maybe even younger people who are taking part in the process. On the other hand, I know that for many people looking for a partner this way has worked perfectly, but at my age I don't think I am ready for this way of finding love.

Maybe when I'm getting old and I'm still single I might think differently, but for now I am quite happy waiting for love the old-fashioned way, even if it is whilst a bit tipsy in Sugar. I am only 21 after all.

To gap year or not to gap year?

Rebecca Pocklington

Some of you may be wondering what to do when you finally finish university, some may just want a break from all the work and dreaded exams of the last three or so years. For all those people a gap year might seem like a great option, travelling to new places, relaxing and soaking up the sun while you think about what to do with your life. Maybe you're even just thinking about saving some money by working a few part-time jobs to decide where you want to go from there. But, while it seems a great thing to do for right now, finding a job won't go away forever and this leaves many of you worried about taking that step and spending some time away.

A gap year abroad doesn't necessarily have to last the full year, some people may want to work for a few months before they leave to save the money. Others may wish to travel

for a while and then find a job. Whichever you may choose, the chance is there to think about exactly what they want to do, instead of accepting or applying for a job that they won't enjoy. You may dread the idea of going back to that old Summer job you've kept returning to each year, the one that provides just enough money for the next term. However, this could be a quick and easy way to earn the pennies needed to really enjoy yourself on a year abroad, so don't rule it out just yet.

Companies such as Real Gap or STA Travel provide deals from a few weeks up to a year or more as a package in foreign countries, giving you a chance to spend as much time as you wish there and allowing you to meet new people. You may also want to apply for a placement or some work experience abroad. This looks great on your CV and will help you decide if that's the career for you. Either way, visiting a foreign country provides that break that so many students feel they need after university.

'Finding a job won't go away forever and this leaves many worried about taking that step and spending some time away'

Travelling seems like a great way to spend a year after finishing education, or even before starting a new post-graduate course. It is possible to gather experience of different cultures and many would say that this is a form of education in itself. Yet travelling can be seen as a diversion from finding a job or carrying on further education. It's not for everyone, but for those still confused about what to do, it

may be the perfect way to try and decide.

If you don't necessarily want to travel, a gap year working in some part-time jobs and taking on work experience placements not only looks great to potential new employers but also gives you an insight in to which careers suit you. Working amongst professionals can provide a new insight into a career you might not have realised existed, helping you make the decision about whether a job could be right for you.

Students are increasingly choosing to take a year off from education to discover themselves, and although this may seem a sort of cliché it continues to attract more and more people who see it as worthwhile, particularly as jobs are so hard to come by as a graduate. That said a gap year remains a personal decision that may be more beneficial to some than to others, perhaps providing that perfect chance to get away and see the world before finally taking a deep breath and settling down.

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Lonsdale: the scene for the first **battle** of the bands

Joe Henthorn braces himself for the battle for Beach Break Live

There's nothing quite like a good ol' fashioned Battle of the Bands. It's arguably rock and roll in its purest form; pick a rag-tag bunch of ambitious, up and coming musical gladiators and let them fight to the death in a heated arena of vicious musical combat.

And these battles are not just the preserve of films starring Jack Black either. Over the next few weeks bands from across campus will compete against each other for a genuinely impressive prize, a slot at the Beach Break Live festival. Lonsdale Bar was first up to showcase a selection of campus talent, and the bands on show gave some very solid, if unspectacular, performances.

Muse famously began their world-conquering career at a Battle of the Bands way back in 1994 (they then went by the unfortunate moniker The Rocket Baby Dolls), and although I don't think the next Matt Bellamy graced Lonsdale with his presence, a couple of these bands might have the potential to make a chal-

lenge for the spot at Beach Break.

Lonsdale Bar was absolutely packed by the time the first band, acoustic duo Me + You, entered the stage. They reminded me of She + Him, a similarly named band with the same acoustic set-up, although they didn't really approach the standards of that particular two-some because a) neither one of them was Zooey Deschanel and b) their songs weren't particularly strong. Ange was an especially poor moment on the lyrics front, with words that might as well have been pulled from the inside of a particularly cheap Valentine's card.

When both of them picked up guitars things improved musically, though the vocals and lyrics remained slightly off. They were singing so close to the microphone that the lyrics to one chorus sounded like "summer days are over", although it could have just as easily been "Socrates fell over" (a better lyric, in my opinion). It wasn't too bad though; they were confident performers and their guitar playing was lively and bright, so with a bit of work on their lyrics they could quite easily become a very decent act.

Me + You were followed by another acoustic act, Ollie Gaskell, who is fairly well known around campus for his musical exploits. He put in a solid solo performance in front of the rapidly growing crowd, with some nice guitar playing complimenting his strong vocal performance. He was much stronger than Me + You in terms of interaction with the crowd, with the best bit of his set coming mid-song when he asked everyone "to imagine some sort of sick, screaming guitar solo over the top of these chords". He's a natural performer who quickly charmed the crowd with his awfully cheery demeanour, but the major weakness of his set was that it didn't stand out. Aside from the aforementioned guitar solo and a couple of other quirky lyrical couplets nothing was particularly memorable: there was nothing approaching a catchy rhythm or a hook that could have given his sprightly folk-pop songs the lift they needed to compete with the acts that followed him.

As soon as Ollie Gaskell's performance had finished The Lash took to the stage, their singer greeting the enthusiastic crowd with a cry of "how's it goin', Lonsdale". Not a particularly original opening line but they were certainly the best crowd-banterers of the night, chatting confidently with the audience in between their songs.

Their set was just as well practiced as their chatter; their performances were polished and professional, although their drummer occasionally strayed out of time with the rest of the band. The songs themselves weren't half bad, either. They played an entertaining mix of rock and blues and whilst no song was particularly exceptional, none of them could really be faulted, either. But on more than one occasion their lyrics let them down, with one song boiling down to little more than a list of words that rhymed with cry. It therefore came as no surprise that their best performance of their set (and the night as a whole) was an excellent cover of All Along the Watchtower. The ability is obviously there, so if they can refine their own songs to the standard of their covers they might just have a shot in the final.

The wonderfully named Makrel Jak brought the heat to a conclusion with the most interesting performance of the night. Their performance was extremely rough around the edges, though when their ideas worked well, the relatively sloppy playing could quickly be forgiven.

Makrel Jak's eclecticism was very much apparent from the start after a relatively sedate opener they surprised everyone in the room with a song that was part bongo-driven head-banger, part spoken word poetry recital. It was very odd and more than slightly pretentious but, most importantly, a lot of fun. Compared to swagger of The Lash their stage presence was a let down, moving awkwardly around the stage between songs. But after mumbling

something or other about "how this song is a bit heavier than the others" they launched into an extremely schizophrenic number that rapidly switched between a relaxed boy/girl vocal duet and a ridiculously distorted guitar breakdown. I Bought you Flowers was a much more down-tempo affair and didn't work as well as the rest of their set, although they impressed yet again in their last song with the unexpected addition of some surprisingly effective harmonica playing.

Overall it was a very interesting night, and although the acts weren't fantastic they certainly showed a fair bit of potential and they've all got plenty of time to develop further. After the contest was over the panel of judges solemnly decreed that it was to be The Lash who would progress through to the final, with Makrel Jak taking second place and a shot in the final as a wild card. Both Me + You and Ollie Gaskell had their strengths, but ultimately their basic acoustic-pop lost out to the professional sheen of The Lash or Makrel Jak's abundance of ideas.

It'll certainly be interesting to see how these two fare against some of the more established names on campus (if they win their heats, of course) at the final in Pendle Bar. Both of them have the potential to succeed, but they both need work on their weaknesses to stand any chance of earning that slot at Beach Break.



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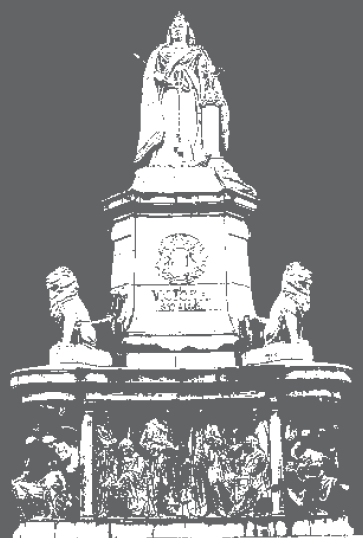
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On at LU Cinema



The Tourist makes for a predictable round tour

Sarah Smiley

THE TOURIST

Directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck
12A, 103 min
March 12-13

In December 2010, *The Tourist* was unleashed upon UK cinema screens. Boasting an impressive cast, including Johnny Depp, Angelina Jolie and Timothy Dalton, it was all set to blow our minds with a mixture of comedy, action and mystery (or so the enthusiastic trailer would have you believe).

There was, on the surface, a lot right with the film after all. The actors are good, the soundtrack is good, and the ridiculous amount of money thrown at it was obviously well spent on giving everything that Hollywood perfect feel. There was but one problem: the story itself is just not done well. Much as I would like to presume that my Poirot-esque skills of deduction allowed me to guess the ending of the film, by the time our leading lady had met Depp on a Venice bound train, it was obvious that the film was simply predictable.

The Tourist begins interestingly enough as an inept surveillance team slowly tail Jolie through Paris. Later in the scene they seem surprised that she has obviously been aware of their presence the entire time. After the revelation that it is actually the British authorities that are monitoring Elise (Jolie) in the hopes of finding her fraudster ex, Alexander, there is some note-receiving on her part, subsequent note burning and the arrest of the misfortunate note courier. Elise manages to escape and the man in charge of the case (Paul Bettany) is consequently told off by his chief inspector (Dalton). That all happens within 10 minutes and there are about 85 to go.

The note was from Alexander to Elise, asking her to pick someone who could possibly be him (Scotland Yard apparently have reason to believe he may have had extensive plastic surgery

to throw them off) and leaves her instructions about which train to catch. Enter Johnny Depp, in the form of American widowed maths teacher, Frank. This slightly awkward and unsure character is led along by Elise, her soft, English accent and voluptuous figure obviously causing him to forget his former plans and stay with her for the night. Though nothing happens and he sleeps on the couch, Elise seems surprisingly disappointed that this is the case, for a woman supposedly so madly in love with a man that she would carry out the charade for in the first place.

It is at this point that we discover that it is not only Scotland Yard after Alexander, but also his former boss, British Mafia Boss, Reginald Shaw (Stephen Berkoff). The most comedic moment of the film is certainly when two of his thugs attempt to break into the hotel room in which Frank is staying alone - Elise having mysteriously left early that morning - and his attempt to escape. Frank is now at the centre of all the trouble, with both Bettany and the Mafia after him. It is left to Elise to rescue him. Meanwhile, Frank has fallen madly in love with Elise so decides to stay and try to woo her. His attempts are futile as she reveals that he was just part of a plan and that she is not quite so keen on him as he is on her. But will he be fazed by this? Have you ever seen a Hollywood film before?

The rest of the film frazzles on with a kidnapping, a bit of violence, Frank's attempt to be a hero, a major twist and a bad end for at least a couple of the characters.

The lights come up and the credits roll and yes, that really was the film. It had action, it had romance, it had beautiful people, yet not one of these elements was brought to its full potential. The romance did clear up a bit towards the very end of the film and a couple of the deaths were quite impressive, but I ultimately left the screen scratching my head and lamenting my lighter pockets. If you are determined to challenge the bad press, or are a die-hard Depp/Jolie fan then of course, feel free to watch *The Tourist* and form your own opinion. I can't help but feel that those pounds would be better spent renting a copy of *Sweeney Todd* or *Girl, Interrupted* and letting this flick pass quietly by.

Hands on with the Nintendo 3DS

Dom Stroud

NINTENDO 3DS

RRP £190-£230
March 25

When Nintendo first announced the 3DS at E3 in 2010, my reaction was muted. I'm not a fan of 3D technology for a number of reasons, but the most important one for me is that I find the experience uncomfortable and annoying. I simply don't enjoy wearing glasses over my glasses to view an effect that neither adds or takes away from a conventional flat, 2D screening. The fact that the 3DS is much-touted glasses free gaming was interesting because it might finally jump this hurdle.

Nintendo refused to nail down an RRP for this fresh slab of hardware, instead leaving that decision to retailers. This was initially disappointing, but has actually opened up a price war between shops. As such the 3DS can cost anything from £190 to £230, while most games have a beefed up price-point from a £25 DS standard to a £32-£40 range. It's certainly a big ask, seeing as how the DS was a casual friendly £99.99, and it'll be interesting to see how many of the Brain Training mums brought in from the this initial attraction will be convinced to upgrade their hardware.

As of yet there's not much software that will convince the

casual audience to carry over. Currently the only game that could do this - and also the only confirmed Nintendo launch title for March 25 - is the pet-'em-up sim game *Nintendogs + Cats*. I had a chance to sample this at a recent hands on event, and I can't say that it's a particularly worthy sequel. Apart from the obvious additions of 3D and cats, *Nintendogs + Cats* is much the same as the original DS version, and I couldn't easily recommend anyone an upgrade based on what I sampled.

But, something that is much more deserving of a sequel is the long awaited *Pilotwings Resort*. Set on Wii Sports Resort's Wuhu Island, the brightly coloured flight game is delightful, relaxing, and easy to play for the casuals, whilst the more hardcore pleasing challenges should turn this into a hit that the series deserves.

Another Nintendo 64 gem that will be sure to satisfy fans is a 3D remake of *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* (OoT). This is the demo I spent most of my time with at the event for the simple reason that it's still the finest slice of gaming ever made. The graphics and interface have been refined, and the 3DS' circle pad will alleviate any fans' worries of a Super Mario 64 DS style control disaster. OoT was also the game where the titular 3D effect was most obvious, and delving into first person mode to look around your surroundings gave a real sense of depth to the area but otherwise offered no discernible advantages.

This brings me in a neat circle back to discussing the 3D. While it can work, it felt gimmicky and unessential compared to its predecessor's introduction of double, touch-screen gaming. I admit that I have eyesight problems that prevent me from pro-

cessing 3D images as well as normal people can, but this is a problem I share with an estimated one to five percent of the world's population. It was a huge problem when viewing the video demos of *Animal Crossing 3D* and *Paper Mario 3D*, where the alleged 3D effect that should make the foreground, middle ground, and background easily identifiable just didn't show up. Stepping out of the 3D zone is also too easy to do - especially when using the machine's gyroscopic features - and it produces an ugly ghosting effect on the screen before you can refocus to the centre. The 3DS has a copycat design and build of the DS Lite, so holding the machine in this position isn't the problem, but rather keeping it there is an annoying niggle that regularly draws you out of the experience.

The 3DS has also given other critics motion sickness and headaches after only a few hours play. Thankfully, this isn't a significant hurdle to overcome due to the 3D slider that can turn the effect off completely or make it extremely pronounced (and also because the 3DS only has a short battery life of up to five hours). What it does present is a problem that some prospective customers strongly need to consider - do you buy a 3D marketed console to not use the 3D? The current lacklustre launch line-up would say no, as the 3DS' built-in features (3D camera, minigames, and Augmented Reality features) are momentary gimmicky fun at best. Nevertheless, the prospect of what's to come, with the likes of *Kid Icarus*, *Professor Layton*, *Mario Kart*, and a chance to relive OoT with a new lick of paint, is still worth the price of entry for me, with or without the 3D visuals.

The Middle East isn't as alien as you think

Nicholas O'Dowd takes a look at the current situation in Egypt and why it shouldn't be so alien to us

The Middle Eastern protests took the world by surprise. Nobody, even the wisest sages in international politics, could foresee the events that are happening now in the Islamic world. Suddenly, President Ben Ali in Tunisia had been overthrown, sending shock waves throughout the Middle East, causing ordinary people in Egypt to dare to ask themselves "Could what has happened in Tunisia, happen here?". And, as we know, it did.

The success of the Egyptian protesters has further inspired people in Jordan, Yemen and Iran to take the streets and bring an end to political tyranny and the beginning of economic prosperity.

The rest of the world watches with interest, many of us are no doubt hopeful that the protesters are successful and the Middle Eastern dictators are overthrown- but others are more worried about what will come next. They remember the Iranian revolution of 1979, which brought about a regime where women can be hung for adultery, denies the holocaust and may or may not be seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

Will Egypt turn into the next Iran? We're all too familiar with the images surrounding 9/11 and the War on Terror - Islamic fundamentalism, terrorism, persecution, suicide bombing, the Taliban, Shi'ite and Sunni militias, death squads causing death and misery to others in the name of God. In some circles, the Muslim Brotherhood were painted as a regime in waiting that will assume control of Egypt and turn it into the Islamic theocracy that the Western world fears so much.

These protests will herald the creation of new despotic regimes who will turn the Middle

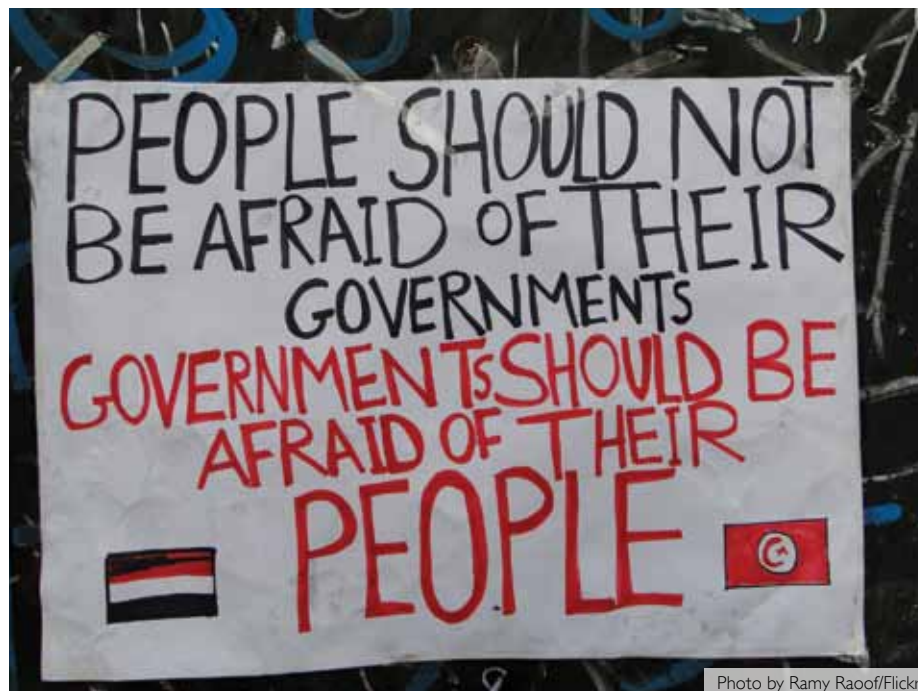


Photo by Ramy Raouf/Flickr

East into a quagmire of religious violence and a breeding ground for terrorists who will strike against "us" in the Western world.

But aren't we losing sight of reality here? It's as if the ordinary, real Muslims have been lost beneath all the news reports that come out of the Middle East. We read stories about how women are stoned to death and how Muslims kill one another because they have a slightly different interpretation of the Islamic faith. To an uncritical mind, it almost seems as if all

Muslims "over there" are like this and completely alien to "us" because that is what the media implicitly tells us. You certainly get the impression that a lot of people actually believe in this false picture: The EDL, Nick Griffin and the Park 51 protesters all come to mind. It is these kind of people who should meet the families of those killed by car bombs and suicide bombers - their grieving mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, lovers and friends. Nobody is more sick of the violence in the Middle East

'At the end of the day, no matter what your creed, race or religion we are all human and all have similar wants and desires'

than they are, yet we seldom hear their testimonies on the news.

In Tahrir Square, we saw Christians form a protective ring around Muslims whilst they prayed, and in turn Muslims protected the Christians in their churches whilst they too prayed. In the Middle East there is tolerance and respect for others of different faiths. In the streets of Cairo the protesters chanted "tanmiyya" (development) and "hurriya" (freedom). Wouldn't we be doing the same if we were in their shoes? They want democracy, they want jobs and money. In essence, they want happiness.

Are these concepts alien to us? No, because at the end of the day, no matter what your creed, race or religion we are all human and all have similar wants and desires. The protesters in the Middle East don't want to trade a secular dictatorship for an Islamic one any more than we do. If we are to learn anything from these protests, it is that behind all the negative news reports we are all to painfully familiar with, the ordinary people of the Middle East aren't that different to us.

Girls, get some balls

Holly Newins

When Sky Sports commentator Andy Gray was dismissed earlier this year for commenting about the female incapacity for understanding the offside rule, the press went into overdrive. This was yet further proof that sexism is a continuing problem, with women remaining the inferior gender. As a female who is rather passionate about football, I found myself in almost constant debate over the days following. The more it was brought to my attention however, the more ridiculous I found the entire situation.

Yes, Gray made comments of a sexist nature, but he was unaware that his microphone was still switched on. I frequently make comments I don't really mean in the name of the great British pastime that is banter. Banter has always been, and still is a big part of sport- from local league through to the international

scale. Would sport really be as interesting without it? Without a level of competition, winning is practically meaningless, from a personal to an international level. To me it seemed as though terminating Gray's contract was underlining the fact that it can sometimes be taken the wrong way, frequently by women. The news stories were purely focused upon the issue of sexism, and to some degree, rightly so. But would victory have not been sweeter had the news focused on the fact that video replays proved Sian Massey (the female lineswoman involved) was actually correct and knew the offside rule better than an ex-professional player who has been analysing matches on TV for almost 20 years?

I'm not always so cold and heartless towards the female plight though, I understand the struggle women experience in the male dominated world of sport. I have played football since the age of five (as the eldest child I think my Dad was anxious that he wouldn't get an athletically competitive son), and began my playing career in a boys' team. From the

age of 11, mixed gender teams were not permitted; therefore I was forced to leave my male friends and join a girls only team despite the lack of difference in size and ability. Things have changed since then, as last year the Brunel University Report found there to be no sufficient differences between males and females to support gender segregation. Their findings highlighted the social benefits mixed gender sports can bring to individuals, such as respectful relationships between the sexes. This ruling was altered by the FA last year, and the age at which children of mixed gender can play together is now 13.

The Kick It Out campaign run by the FA highlights racism within football, and has successfully reduced racist offences within sport. With such a multicultural plethora of players within the Premiership it seems ridiculous that such ideas ever existed. Homophobia on the other hand is very much ignored, fuelled by the fact that there is yet to be an openly gay footballer within the top four football leagues. It also manifests itself in the

female footballing world through homosexual stereotyping. Whilst I, myself, partly conform to this stereotype, in my experience it is not an issue and the environment is more tolerant towards women. The FA has attempted to combat these homophobic attitudes through a video campaign in 2010, although it was unsuccessful due to every single Premiership footballer being unwilling to back it. 'Coming out' is considered to be commercially damaging to a player's marketability, but I find it surprising that heterosexuals are refraining from providing support to a liberal, open-minded scheme.

This is a different story in the world of rugby; Gareth Thomas, the most capped Welsh player 'came out' to mass support and little problem in the way of acceptance. So what is the reason for the dramatically different outlook between the sports? The last time I checked the only difference between the two is the shape of the ball, but then again as a female I probably don't know what I'm talking about, right Mr Gray?

Show me some skin

Fashion Columnist
Hugh Metcalf pops on his X-ray glasses and takes a look at this season's trend for sheer clothing

MY BIG FAT Gypsy Wedding has been an eye-opener in the style stakes. Sure, the girls' wedding dresses are about eight miles over the top, but it's their scanty party-wear that's really eye-popping.

But who are we to judge? The trend for sheer clothing as seen on the catwalks for spring/summer 2011 doesn't exactly leave much to the imagination. Sheer style is nothing new; it's the medium through which Kate Moss has been showing us her nipples for years.

Lancaster and nipples are incompatible for two reasons. One, you're likely to frighten the locals and two, bitterly cold winds plus bare chests equals, well, you get the picture. But, sheer isn't just for the supermodel set. We mere mortals have options if we



Lucy sheer blouse, Sunflower peg leg trousers £34.99, Nairobi sandals £39.99 from River Island

want to show off what our mamas gave us.

Sheer panelling is the perfect detail for those who love some of their body, but hate others. Pick a dress which exposes the parts of the body you feel lucky to have. It'll create instant sex appeal, but the sheer will only be doing a little of the work, the rest is down to the confidence you'll feel in yourself.

The key item to add to your wardrobe is a collaboration between sheer and the maxi dress. The problem with the maxi dress is that it can be all consuming of your figure unless you're careful. The sheer maxi dress still has the impressive outer silhouette, but a second shaping to the body underneath.

So let's tackle what is obviously the most important issue of see-through clothing. Underwear becomes a part of your outfit like never before with sheer. Though undoubtedly you wear your best stuff when you're dressed to impress (you never know who might be seeing them later), you now have to match it with what's on over it.

As a rule, I wouldn't suggest anything too raunchy; after all, you don't want to run the risk of looking like a stripper. Where a black lace bra may work under a little black dress with sheer chest detail, it won't be the same

under a floaty, nude top.

Sometimes more is more. A white spaghetti strap vest under a complete sheer top may be less edgy and dynamic, but it allows you to take advantage of the double silhouette this trend affords without looking trashy.

Sheer is also on the style horizon for the boys this spring/summer. Topman, amongst other high street stores, has started to sell a range of sheer clothing for guys. Though surely to be adored by Situation boys (Jersey Shore anyone?), the sort who like to get their abs out on the Sugarhouse dancefloor, the material is also perfect for summer layering. It's lightweight, so it becomes ideal for the months when it becomes warmer and also gives some visibly different texture to your outfit.

How to wear:

- **Love summer:** Sheer is a versatile piece that encompasses all other 2011 trends. Wear bright, bold colours while you can, remember summer only lasts a few weeks in this country.
- **More is more:** Use sheer sparingly. It should be suggestive, rather than an excuse to show the world your skimpy undies and perfectly toned body.
- **Accessorise underwear:** Try different shapes of underwear than you would usually wear, it all adds to the second layering of silhouette.



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PISCES
FEB 18 - MAR 20

A kiss with a fist is better than none. Or is it? No! You

know your friend is getting a hard time from her lad at the moment, so be really creepy and flirty with him until he never returns! Failing that, see a trained counsellor maybe?

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

A nasty surprise is lurking in some fruit near you, Aries. Spiders in bananas, oranges full of spider eggs, pineapples full of spider-egg spiders throwing eggs at you, etc. Stay away from fruit until you are weak and withered.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 21

Turning up the heat, Taurus, you will start a fire. The stir fry from heaven will transform your kitchen into hell when a tea-towel ignites and flames spread. Grab the alcohol and run! It would irresponsible to leave it behind.

GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 20

A trip down memory lane is in store when you bump into an old friend in town. You will re-ignite the wheezing wheelchair-bound relationship over lunch in a lovely café, found at the end of memory lane on the left.

CANCER JUNE 21 - JULY 22

It's that time of the year again and everyone is stressed out and angry with their flatmates, including you, Cancer. Putting your anger into something productive just never works, so burn the place down and have a good laugh.

LEO JULY 23 - AUG 22

Having spent your reading week productively getting through multiple bars of chocolate, tubs of ice cream as well as an entire series of Glee, you will find yourself unable to return to your lectures due

to the University's narrow doorframes.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEPT 22

A friend from home at an inferior university will try tempting you to visit one weekend for some top class polytechnic banter. Tell them where to go: top 10 universities only mingle with the riff raff during the holidays, blates.

LIBRA SEPT 23 - OCT 22

So you've got that presentation next week, Libra? Not one for public speaking, those dastardly nerves will have you on the poo pot minutes before you're due, but with no bog roll it will be a multi-sensory presentation to forget.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

This term has taken its toll and with the prospect of essays and end of term deadlines looming, your body will give up on you and make you horribly unwell. Fear not, sofa-bound Scorpie, for DJ Pep is on Come Dine With Me on March 6.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

Uninspired in the kitchen, you'll be sitting down to pasta again this evening. But help is at hand from DJ Pep of Carleton fame; he's on Come Dine With Me on March 6. Wonder if his food will be as cheesy as his music?

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 20

Motivated by being fat and lonely for Valentines, you've hit the gym and are ripped! It is predicted, however that your new muscles will backfire when you hit the clubs. She hit the floor, next thing you know, you've broken her arm.

AQUARIUS JAN 21 - FEB 17

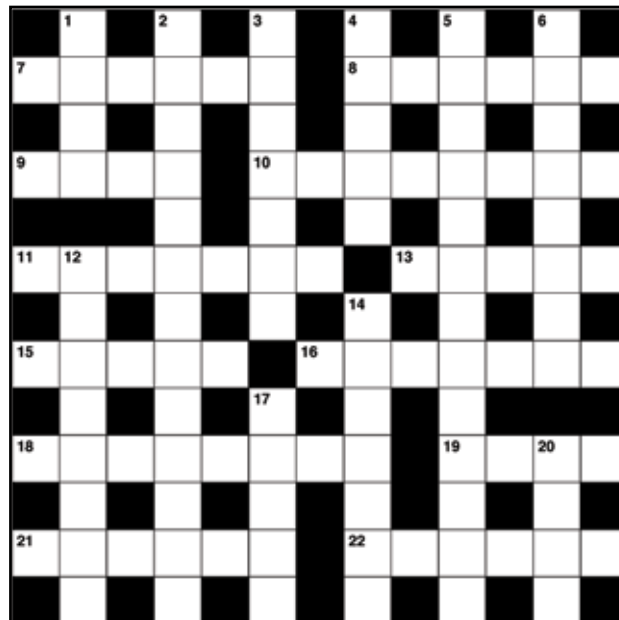
Mum's struggling with the mortgage re-payments and Dad is still looking for a job in the harsh economic climate. But you don't care; thanks to their troubles you're plush with bursary and will drink yourself silly on their behalf! Lucky old Aquarius.

THE QUIZ - Video Games

1. In the Legend of Zelda series, what is the name of the character in the little green outfit that you play as?
2. In the mobile app, Angry Birds, who are they angry at?
3. Who is the main antagonist in the popular Capcom series, Resident Evil?
4. Necromorphs are the main enemy of which game, a sequel of which has recently been released?
5. Master Chief is the central figure of which popular games series?

Answers below

The Crossword



Across

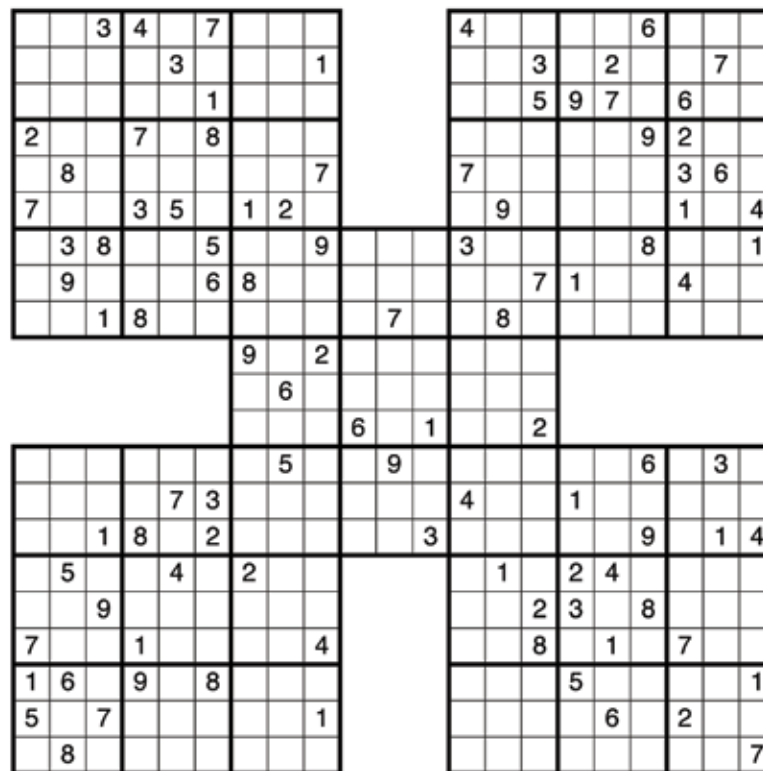
- 1 - Sheep know for its wool (6)
- 8 - Servile (6)
- 9 - Capital of the Ukraine (4)
- 10 - Eg. iron and oxygen (8)
- 11 - Ripping (7)
- 13 - Imagine whilst asleep (5)
- 15 - Years for (5)
- 16 - Sophisticated hair style (7)
- 18 - Happiness (8)
- 19 - Appendage (4)
- 21 - Large pebbles (6)
- 22 - Selected (6)

Down

- 1 - ___ Moore: Hollywood actress (4)
- 2 - 25th anniversary (6,7)
- 3 - A person (7)
- 4 - Implant (5)
- 5 - Questioning (13)
- 6 - Capital of Chile (8)
- 12 - Increase (8)
- 14 - Science of matter and energy (7)
- 17 - Untidy (5)
- 20 - time (anag) (4)

The Samurai Su Doku

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



www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Answers: 1) Link, 2) Pigs, 3) Albert Wesker, 4) Dead Space, 5) Halo

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