

Counting down the days?

Graduation's getting closer, Carolynne takes a look at the big day

Rugby team suspended pending Roses investigation

- University dean looking into allegations

Charlotte Urban
News Editor

THE RUGBY UNION club have been suspended pending further investigation following a series of alleged incidents at this year's Roses tournament in York.

The matter has now been sent to the University Dean who has opened up an investigation into the various allegations. The LUSU Trustee Board, as a result of the University investigation, has suspended the club's activities pending the outcome.

The University Dean, Matt Storey, was unable to give exact details of the accusations against the club, but said: "Regrettably we are investigating events allegedly involving the Rugby team. Incidents of this type are very rare and we are working closely with LUSU and

"There are a very small number who are determined to constantly undermine the hard work of the rest"

external parties to investigate these allegations further". Storey also said that currently there are no plans to have a deanery representative present at Roses tournaments in future.

Marc Handley, LUSU Vice President (Sports) commented on the behaviour of the Rugby team at Roses, saying: "There were issues on the Friday night concerning only a few members of the Rugby club who were extremely drunk. The way they behaved was described as disgraceful by a number of sports teams who were in the crash accommodation at the time and by York University Students' Union staff who unfortunately were portering for the night."

In a recent article by York's student

- Next year's team hope to improve image

newspaper York Vision, the Lancaster Rugby club were accused of "defecating, urinating and vomiting on the central hall". Handley denies this, saying: "I am not aware of this happening. The central hall in York is where the closing ceremony was held, and to my knowledge, there were no Lancaster students staying there."

"Unfortunately though, I know of a few instances of urination and vomiting happening where the teams were staying. I know this because due to the actions on Friday night, I stayed up all Saturday to ensure the same did not happen again and managed to see just how drunk some people got."

He added: "There are a very small number of the club who are determined to constantly undermine the hard work of the rest of the club in re-building the reputation which has taken quite a few setbacks in the past few years. A lot of teams have got in touch with me to express their anger and disappointment in the way these people acted, and unfortunately it is my role to ensure people feel represented and their views are aired."

Members within the rugby team are also conscious of the image the club have been tarred with following reports from Roses. Wilf Whittle, who will be Rugby captain next year, is keen to instil a more professional manner into the club's ethos.

"As of next year, poor discipline off the field would lead to the player losing his position in the team, end of story," he said. "Rugby is a team sport, actions you make affect everyone within the team and you will be responsible for them."

Whittle explained that he intends to get professional Rugby players and coaches to come to Lancaster to help train the team with current coach Kieran Doyle. He expressed his hopes that this will "aid our professionalism and our very talented players within the club".



Photo by Tom Skarbek-Wazynski

"Next year, when people talk about Lancaster University RUFC, we want it to be about our on field exploits rather than what happens off the pitch and I personally will go out of my way to make sure this happens," Whittle said.

Handley reinforced the fact that the bad behaviour at Roses was carried out was "unfortunate", saying: "It is unfortunate that this has happened at all, and it is unfortunate that it is only a small number of the club who have caused this trouble and this animosity towards the club, however, this is not the first time this has happened and unfortunately, it hasn't really left me in a position to defend what happened."

LUSU President Robbie Pickles said: "I think that, fortunately, the damage to Lancaster's reputation is likely to small and fleeting in people's memories. This does not, however, make bad behaviour acceptable. I am confident that this issue is being dealt with properly and that the result will be satisfactory to all parties."

Union looks for students' approval of new strategy

Zans Mihejevs

IN WEEK EIGHT, a referendum will be held in addition to by-elections for a number of JCR and CCO positions. These will open due to many of the current officers either graduating or giving up their posts due to a lack of time. The two questions which are addressed in the referendum concern whether the constitution should be altered to allow student trustees to hold other office positions in LUSU, as well as whether the new strategic plan should be approved.

In the current constitution, the wording for the section under question is "student trustees may hold no other office or staff position", and the

change in the constitution will see the removal of certain words to change the section to "student trustees may hold no staff position".

According to Elections Officer Emily Blanchard, the reasons for the expected change of the constitution is that LUSU officers are often the most knowledgeable people regarding the inner-workings of the Union and are therefore well-suited for holding the position of a trustee, as opposed to someone who has less of experience with LUSU. She also did not believe that a conflict of interest would arise if a student was allowed to hold both positions at the same time.

Ash Samaan, a fresher from County

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR

New etickets set to eliminate Extrav queues

Keith Morrison

SOME OF LANCASTER'S JCRs have recently released the themes to their Extravs, whilst LUSU are implementing an eticketing system to make purchasing tickets fairer and easier.

Extravs will be taking place between Tuesday and Thursday of Week Ten. One of the issues concerning tickets in previous years was that students were queuing and purchasing an excessive amount of tickets resulting in many students not acquiring tickets for their own college, despite queuing for prolonged periods. Therefore, eticketing has been introduced to offer a fairer way for people to buy them.

Chris Mather, a third year Fylde student, said of the new ticketing system: "I think it's a better idea because priority goes to people in that college. I know loads of people who couldn't get tickets for their own college events last year and the whole queuing up three hours before the tickets went on sale was a bit of a joke. When they did go on sale people were buying up to 20 tickets for them and all their mates. The eticketing system is fairer and is definitely a better system than last year."

Tickets will be going on sale at 10am on Saturday Week Seven. Tickets will cost £6 if purchased in person at the bars, with a further 95p booking



fee if the ticket is bought online due to credit card charges. Each Extrav has a limit of 950 tickets available. Last year, students complained that they were not able to buy tickets for their own college's Extrav as people from other colleges bought them up. Eticketing this year aims to eliminate that problem. The JCRs have agreed that for the first four hours that the tickets are on sale, only members of the specific Extravs's college will be able to

purchase them, and the ability to buy tickets for non-college members on their behalf has been removed. After those four hours have passed, if there are any remaining tickets, anyone will be able to purchase them. Leaflets explaining the process on how to get the tickets and the rules surrounding it will be distributed by the respective colleges over the coming weeks.

On the Tuesday, Furness' Extrav will be taking place and the theme is

set as Rumble in the Jungle. Furness President Rob Dickinson said: "We've got a rocking tribute band as well as DJ's, bit of soul, covers, singing and something to ride." Lonsdale and Grizedale will also be hosting their Extravs, with the later being frat party themed.

Wednesday plays host to Pendle, Fylde and Bowland. Pendle's theme has been confirmed as Black Magic. This will be their first Extrav to make use of the new bar which was reopened in Lent Term. Matt Jones of Pendle's JCR said that the theme will take on "the outdoors, almost animalistic route associated with voodoo black magic and witchcraft". Regarding the witch trials, he also added that the theme "echoes of Pendle's own history and the Pendle witches".

Fylde's Extrav theme will be Cirque Du Fylde Part II. Fylde had this theme in 2005, and according to the Facebook page, there is set to be an "amazing line up of bands, DJs, performances and dancers". The final day of Extravs sees Cartmel go from Grease to sci-fi with Cartmel Strikes Back. County theme was announced over the weekend, though not before SCAN went to print. The theme for Bowland is also yet to be confirmed.

Mather added: "Obviously I'd choose to go to Fylde because that's my college, and Lonsdale because theirs was so good last year."

IN THIS ISSUE

Carolynne

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What SCAN says

It's taken a year, but LUSU has finally moved to support the inclusion of gender neutral toilets in future buildings. Even if it one benefits a handful of students it sets a precedent of inclusion and equality which is too valuable to question, despite what naysayers may think.

ALL EXTRAV TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE ON SATURDAY 11TH JUNE AT 10AM

You will be able to buy your tickets from your JCR like always or buy them online if you don't want to queue. Tickets will be £6 if bought from your JCR and £7 if bought online. The extra £1 is due to a credit card processing fee and external booking fee for the company we use.

ALL tickets this year will be emailed to you. Simply print your ticket out and bring it on the day. We scan a barcode on it and it's much quicker to get you in the event! Tickets sold out **VERY QUICKLY** last year. We advise you to buy online to avoid the queues and potential disappointment. We will give you the online link to buy tickets nearer the time.

Due to complaints from college members not getting tickets to their own college Extrav last year, and some people buying upwards of 20 tickets, there are some new rules:

- 1) For the first **FOUR HOURS**, you can only buy a ticket to an extrav if **YOU ARE A STUDENT IN THAT COLLEGE!**
- 2) One person can only buy **5** tickets **MAXIMUM**.
- 3) You must provide a Library Card number, valid email address and full name for **EVERY TICKET YOU BUY**.
- 4) If you're buying multiple tickets in the first 4 hours, those people **STILL NEED TO BE FROM THAT COLLEGE**.
- 5) After the first 4 hours have gone (i.e after 2pm) you **CAN** buy tickets for other colleges, your friends from home etc.
- 6) If you buy a ticket in the first 4 hours and you're **NOT** from that college, we will find out via our database, refund your ticket and you will **NOT** be allowed in the event. Your credit card processing cost and booking fee will not be refunded.

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

First Dobby, now this

• Fake Graduate College extrav leads to stress, anger and laughter

Jen Day

A ROGUE FACEBOOK event promoting a Graduate College Extrav created excitement which quickly led to annoyance when it was revealed that the Harry Potter themed event was a fake.

Set up by the alias Thomas Rollins, the group, Graduate College Extrav 2011 - Graduate School of Witchcraft and Wizardry was due to take place on Thursday June 30; the same night as both County and Cartmel Extravs. The event announced on Monday May 16 immediately received interest from students with over 400 students, mostly undergraduates, confirming their attendance on the Facebook page. Drinks offers included Butterbeer, Firewhisky and Polyjuice Potion and comments such as, "best extrav ever" and "great debut theme" were posted on the Facebook wall.

Despite comments from Rollins that this, "is a real, people [...] other colleges on campus simply weren't informed, leading some of them claiming our Extrav to be a fake", Sarah Taylor, Post Graduate Students Association (PGSA) President, was quick to post that Graduate College has its own extrav, Gradstock, alluding to the false nature of the event.

LUSU officers realised that the event was a fake as soon as it was set up as it had not been authorised. Others began to catch on after looking through comments on the site, including one from the misspelled Emma Wattson<sic> which said: "Hello Lancaster, I'm up in the Lakes for a photo shoot that weekend. Graduate JCR has asked me to make an appearance so I'll hopefully see you all there."

A statement issued by LUSU on the wall of the event said: "Despite the organiser's claims to the contrary, the Graduate College Extrav is not an official LUSU event and therefore not an official Extrav. Extravs are organised by the JCRs and PGSA with funding and support from LUSU [...] The matter is currently being dealt with but we advise students not to buy tickets for this event as it has not been cleared through the Union, College, or University."



By midday of the following Tuesday the students of County, Cartmel, Grizedale and Furness colleges were sent emails telling them that the event was a fake.

Asked about his initial reaction to the event Matt Windsor, LUSU VP (Finance Events Democracy Societies) thought it might have been a real event organised by the PGSA taking a new direction with Gradstock. Once he realised the event was a fake he voiced his concerns saying: "I was worried that students might be able to buy tickets and whoever was running it might be able to run off with the money."

He added: "The licensing people

from the council in town keep a strict eye on [extravs] and you are only allowed one night a year for a college extrav. So if you have a rival extrav set up you could possibly lose your license for the actual one."

While this Facebook event can be seen as a bit of fun by a group of students who are clearly aware of who is actually behind the event, seen by comments posted on the event wall, there have been unforeseen consequences for the promotion of Gradstock, the official Graduate college extrav taking place on Saturday July 9.

"I was frustrated because whoever this person was had completely aimed the event and undergraduates and the

whole point of Gradstock is that it is aimed at postgraduates and is organised in a way that they would enjoy. [...] we have had to delay our publishing of Gradstock by a week because we didn't want to look like we were completing with this fake extrav so to speak," said Taylor.

Gradstock offers a less intense event than most undergraduate extravs, consisting of a day-long event that is aimed at families and mature students followed by a night event that runs similar to undergraduate extravs. A major difference with this event is that tickets are free which means that there it does not need security and fencing and there is no theme.

Harry Potter as a theme created a buzz from students, and despite the aggravation caused by the setting up of this event the theme has been commended; although it has been seen as more of an undergraduate event than a postgraduate event.

"I think it could work and be quite a good one [theme] actually [...] The Harry Potter thing wouldn't work in Grad but as an undergraduate event it probably would," said Windsor.

When asked about the positive reaction the Harry Potter theme had created Olly Trumble, VP (Events and Democracy) elect said: "Themes are incredibly important to extravs as one of the most important college events of the year; they create an imaginative buzz around the event and make the evening memorable for everyone that attends."

The event on Facebook has recently been changed to a Higher Tuition Fees Celebration as part of an elaborate reveal, sparking questions about the initial purpose of the event. It has been seen as an act of internet trolling – a troll being someone who posts provocative or off-topic messages in an online community, with the primary intent of provoking readers into an emotional response. Comments from individuals such as, "what a legendary Troll" and the name of the event organiser T. Rollins highlight this point.

"I think that whoever it is [behind the Facebook event], if they have got a problem should come to SCAN as the person and write an article about it. Don't put up this fake person and have an issue without saying who you really are or why you have the issue," said Taylor. When asked to comment on the event as a whole the organisers failed to get in touch with SCAN.

Tickets for all undergraduate college extravs will go on sale on Saturday of week seven at 10am. The introduction of e-ticketing is being introduced to avoid the issue of students not being able to buy tickets for their own extravs. However some tickets will still be available to purchase over the bar. Ticket prices have increased slightly this year to £6 over the counter or £7 online due to a credit card charge.

BBC presenter on hand to give out Lancaster awards

Charlotte Urban
News Editor

A CEREMONY TO celebrate students who participated in the Lancaster Award scheme will be held on Thursday, Week Seven. The ceremony will be presented by Pro-Vice Chancellor Amanda Chetwynd, as well as BBC Radio Lancashire presenter, John Clayton.

Those participating in the award

had to undertake certain tasks before receiving the award, including becoming involved in the campus community and social development, work experience, an additional skill and involvement in employability and career development. The award, which is coordinated by CEEC (Centre for Enterprise, Employability and Careers), is regarded helpful for students who are graduating this year and wish to boost their CV and showcase their abilities.

Danielle Warren, responsible for the PR for CEEC said "The Lancaster Award is a really great achievement that graduating students have worked hard at throughout the year". The students participating also have to attend a number of workshops and courses.

Alison Corkill, a third year Geography student who completed the Lancaster Award said: "The award is a great way to recognise all the skills



gained throughout your time at university. It's definitely something else to show to potential employers." When asked about the ceremony, Corkill said: "It's great because those students who took part get some recognition for their good work".

John Clayton has worked at BBC Radio Lancashire since 1994. At currently presents Friday Night at Ten with Sean McCinty, a classic and contemporary rock show.

Confusion over netball team funding leaves bad blood

• County President sets record straight on teams' funding

Chris Housden
News Editor

A SEARCH FOR funding for County College's netball team has grown into a contentious issue over two terms with the team captain and the JCR president both commenting extensively.

Team captain Lauren Tanner, contacted SCAN claiming there had been unfair favouring of the college's football team over the netball team and that despite attempts to find funding for them the netball team are being overlooked.

County JCR president Gemma Gaskell has spoken openly about the JCR funding. Any allegation that there has been a lesser attempt to provide for one team while another has been pandered to was flatly denied by Gaskell.

Furthermore, Gaskell mentioned that she was concerned "as I have tried very hard to explain the current situation to the Netball team and not received any response from them", later indicating that as such she was worried what had been alleged may have been hearsay and incorrect. Gaskell reasoned that "if this article is printed then an accurate version of it needs to be told".

Tanner's version of events differs slightly from her JCR president's. "Basically, at the start of the year I was under the impression that no funding was available for inter college teams." She asserts that the main contention is the difference in treatment of teams playing different sports for the same college. "I am quite good friends with a number of players for County FC and I soon found out they had received a sum at the start of the year."

Gaskell holds that at present there is equal and ample opportunity and funding available to societies through a democratic process she brought in once elected. She "decided to look into alternative forms of funding for all the college teams. I invited all the captains together to have a meeting to discuss forms of sponsorship for next year and



Tanner thinks her team have been treated unfairly compared to the likes of Cartmel and Furness (pictured). Photo by Nick O'Malley.

make a decision as to where we would go from here."

Looking into the immediate future, more money has been made available due to discussions with a business popular with several societies and clubs on campus. "Since then a deal has been sorted with Revolution to sponsor all the college teams starting in the next academic year.

"It is the policy of the JCR to match any money given to one team to all of the teams."

"I went to the sports rep [Talia Nadarajah] who then passed the funding issue onto Gemma our president, who looked into sorting something for us," said Tanner. Here both accounts tie together: "She contacted our dean who refused the funding but said she would sort something."

But Tanner highlighted that "this was in term two and I was only contacted last week to say that we weren't going to get anything towards our court hire fees, which I felt was really late considering I asked for funding about ten weeks previous. I have since seen the County dean who is looking to sort something and really did seem helpful."

Realising that there still needed to be a proactive attempt to find a solution to the current funding issues, Gaskell says that she and the rest of the JCR exec then embarked upon a different avenue approaching the fines fund of the college, controlled by County's SCR.

The process culminated "in a very heated meeting with the SCR [where] we were told that no money was available and that the college teams needed to look into alternative forms of income like fund raising."

In the interest of clarity, Gaskell "let the Netball team know this and said I would continue to look for funding. I asked the SCR again a few weeks later

to which I was told there was still no money."

Gaskell gave the reasoning behind any confusion over the process of allocating funding to the teams representing each college. While each college has a certain amount of autonomy in this regard, there is no rule encompassing all colleges to dictate a process of funding allocation. "Previously, JCR Execs had not specified amounts of money to go to individual sports teams. As far as I can gather from looking at past accounts the football team has been given one off payments to cover their costs for training at the beginning of two separate years", she said. However, Gaskell was keen to clarify that "this is not something set in stone, it just so happens that it has been done twice by previous execs".

Tanner wished to indicate that it was a matter of principle rather than a purely monetary issue. "The lack of funding isn't what I have a problem with, the girls in the squad will pay subs to cover the fees. I just find it frustrating that one team receives funding and another doesn't. It should be an equal amount throughout inter college sport or it should be based on performance in the league."

Gaskell wanted to counter Tanner's initial claim of unfair favouring. "Since the new JCR has come into office no money has been given to County Football Club and it is the policy of the JCR to match any money given to one team to all of the teams. This, so long as I am president, will be the case."

Tanner allowed that "Gemma as far as I know did her best. The money released to the football team was under another JCR president and she since tried to amend our lack of funding but I still feel that it's her responsibility."

The extent to which the County team feel overlooked is summarised in context of the rest of the colleges on campus. "Every other netball team in the league has had funding and we haven't had a penny and bought our own kits. As for the sports rep, her role in this seems to be minimal."

Union looks for students' approval of new strategy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

College said: "It's hard to make a decision like this when you don't know what the trustees do. I wish these things were more advertised somewhere". Nevertheless, the new strategic plan aims to tackle such concerns, as one of its promises is that LUSU is going to be "clearer about who we are, what we do, what we stand for and why."

When asked about the plan, LUSU

President Robbie Pickles said: "The new strategic plan was designed and written with students in mind and will empower LUSU to fight for the things students truly want, including a new activities hub."

The strategic plan had to be updated early due to the increase in student fees, and it includes several ambitious new initiatives such as the proposal for a new LUSU building, which will "provide a vibrant space

for students to meet other students". As students James Flynn and Lucie Milner say: "We think the idea for a new Students' Union building is fantastic, especially given that the current LUSU bunker is tucked away under a staircase and tricky to find."

Another major point of the plan is to make sure that all the "must haves of university life" are included in the university package. This is a welcome move as according to one student,

Matilda Blick: "It is really unfair for the university to keep charging you for extra things such as college membership or the [philosophy] course booklet after you've already paid your tuition fees."

According to the LUSU Vice President (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies), Matt Windsor, a minimum of 1200 students need to vote for the referendum to pass. However Blanchard, whose role as Elections

Officer has resulted in the highest election turn out for the FTO positions in recent years has said that she expects at least 1500 people to vote this time.

The Students' Union by-elections will coincide with the vote on the referendum. Blanchard has articulated that almost 20 Cross Campus Officer positions will open, ranging from media officers to equality and diversity officers.

LUSU finally agrees to fight for gender neutral toilets



There has been an unfair stigma attached to gender neutral toilets in the past.

Chris Housden
Charlotte Urban

UNION COUNCIL TOOK place on Thursday, Week Five, with a full agenda including motions for the introduction of gender-neutral toilets and the removal of EWD (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) sub-committees in favour of more time campaigning and interaction with students.

The motion put forward by LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) Pete Macmillan, if passed, would see LUSU promise to argue for the incorporation of gender neutral toilet facilities in all new buildings planned on campus. A slight variation of the proposal had been brought to Union Council in the last academic year. After a heated and thorough debate it was voted down at that time by many of the same officers present at Thursday's meeting.

LUSU President Robbie Pickles suggested an amendment to the motion before it could be voted on in its entirety. He reasoned that "I think that the main reason it got voted down was because of confusion, nobody really quite understood it" and he wanted to achieve clarity.

The amendment put forward by Pickles was intended to clarify that passing the motion would ensure "where feasible for LUSU, including the JCRs, to promote the inclusion of gender neutral toilets in all building work at Lancaster University" was

passed after a brief discussion. Pickles wanted to ensure that "it's not just JCRs doing it, we'll have a look at doing it across the whole campus", with several builds looking very likely "including a new LUSU building which I would quite like to see gender neutral toilets in".

Equality Welfare and Diversity (EWD) Council Officer Kevin Wong questioned whether that proposal included any possible refurbishments of the Sugarhouse, which it was confirmed was correct.

The main topic of discussion in the brief questioning of the proposal concerned price. Pickles had stated that gender neutral toilets would not cost any more than gender specific toilets, a point which was queried by Christy Parkes. This led to clarification from Pickles and Equality Officer Aaron Spence, using the gender neutral facilities in Pendle as an example, stating that the cost could be minimised as much as possible with the right planning. When it went to a vote, the motion was passed.

Also brought as a motion to replace the sub-committees, was passed at Council, following a similar motion at EWD Council earlier in the term. Now that it has been approved by both council, the committees have been officially abolished.

The apparent aim is to encourage student EWD representatives to become more involved in campaigns and increase the time spent engaging

with students. Macmillan suggested that this will prevent representatives from simply talking about campaigning and instead actually interact with students. Macmillan also suggested that encouraging EWD representatives to more closely engage with students will also help develop interpersonal skills, which will be transferable into the workplace after graduation.

Jess Newton, Lonsdale Vice President argued that the removal of consistent meetings may bring into question how much EWD officer are putting into their role, but Macmillan counteracted this in saying that if representatives are not adequately contributing to their role, they will "be held accountable". Robbie Pickles, LUSU President suggested that the removal of meetings would prevent students using them as "a smoke screen" and will have to interact more with students.

Instead, EWD representatives across the colleges have been encouraged to maintain contact through a Facebook page, where they can voice views and make suggestions. Matt Saint, the Vice President (EWD) elect suggested that the use of a Facebook page, set up so EWD officer can communicate ideas, "will not solve everything" and encouraged the representatives to also contact each other "in different ways". However the Welfare Campaigns Officer, Danny Maguire disagreed in saying "the Facebook group means we can communicate because it's quick and effective". Fol-

lowing much discussion, the motion was passed.

The meeting also saw the submission of a new Activities bylaw by Marc Handley which, if passed, would finalise the process of merging the roles of Vice President (Sports) and the responsibility for societies. Societies had previously been incorporated into the remit of Vice President (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies). The process of merging those roles had been in Week Nine of Michaelmas term at a meeting of Union Council, where Pickles said that "the new position will be a fantastic way to ensure that both sports clubs and societies get a high standard of representation".

A few superficial amendments were proposed, discussed and voted on before, as a whole, the bylaw was passed by Union Council. The bylaw was put to a vote and passed symbolically finalising a merging of roles which was initially discussed during the 2008 review of Full Time Officers, then known as Sabbatical Officers. At that time the idea was very quickly dropped following a lack of enthusiasm from clubs and societies.

Another bylaw which was brought to Union Council was the change in name of the student television society LUTube.tv, to LA1:TV. Station Controller, Will McDonagh stated that the reason LA1:TV wanted to change their name was simply to "re-brand". This bylaw passed and the change in name of the society is effective immediately.

Grad Ball edges closer to selling out



Noisettes are headlining this year.

Erin O'Reilly

WITH LESS THAN 200 tickets left to sell as it stands, Grad Ball 2011 and its theme of Seven Deadly Sins, is having one of its most successful years of ticket sales to date.

There were originally 1400 tickets up for grabs, at the cost of £39.50 with a Purple Card and £49.50 without, and a thousand of those were sold on the first day of sales. Over the past five years the prices of Grad Ball tickets have fluctuated; in 2007 they were £36.50, but were considerably higher in 2009 at a cost of £57, £2 more than the previous year. Last year they cost £37.50, similar to the price of this year's event. Arguably, the more reduced cost of tickets this year could possibly have something to do with its success; however, second year student Jenni Nowell said that she felt tickets were "still rather expensive" and that her driving force for attending the event was "to spend a nice evening with friends that are graduating" more so than anything else.

Vice President (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies) Matt Windsor commented that "Grad Ball ticket sales this year have been really impressive overall. On the first day of sales we had queues that haven't been seen before for years, so although we've not sold out, we're obviously pleased by this result."

Windsor went on to say that the unprecedented success could be "due, in part, to the issues we had with Extrav ticket queues last year, but primarily and more importantly, I think a lot of the students are impressed by the line-up and are simply wanting to go to the event."

This year's line-up includes Noisettes, recognisable for their hits "Don't Upset the Rhythm (Go baby Go)" and "Never Forget You", who will be headlining the event, along with popular Radio 1 D.J. Greg James. Supporting them is Stevie Starr, also known as The Regurgitator, whose novelty act won attention in the 2010 series of Britain's Got Talent.

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LANCASTER

Universities still holding breath over government white paper

Catherine Chorley

A POLEMICAL WHITE paper on higher education reform is scheduled for imminent publication, with media reports from newspapers such as the *The Guardian* indicating the possibility of its release next month. The bill follows on from the Browne Report, published in October last year, which resulted in the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, instigated in November 2009 by Lord Browne of Madingley. The report tackled issues surrounding the implication of the planned rise in tuition fees and the social mobility that the government is keen to facilitate through access to Higher Education.

The new draft legislation was due to be released in March, but was delayed in order to allow the impact of universities' tuition fee tariffs to be accounted for. Labour have already criticised the government for not accounting for the majority of universities charging the full £9,000 per year fee in its budgeting, with estimates for public spending being based on most institution charging around £7,500 per year. There are fears that with universities charging the full limit in order to avoid being discredited as a less reputable establishment, higher education funds will have to be cut elsewhere in order to



Willetts has faced heavy criticism over a series of proposals. Photo by Edge Foundation/Flickr

facilitate higher student loans.

Conservative Minister of State for Universities and Science, David Willetts, has faced heavy criticism over his proposed changes to the higher education funding system, with the controversy surrounding the white paper following on from the chaos of the student protests that were sparked last autumn against planned rises in tuition fees from 2012.

David Cameron faced embarrassment earlier this month after Willetts proposed the possibility of creating extra university places for home students through privately-funded

access. Currently, universities may create extra places independent from public funding for international students. Willetts' proposal would mean the same flexibility also being granted for home students.

Critics claimed that this would lead to an unfair system favouring the wealthy and disadvantaging the poorer population. Willetts was quick to dismiss these claims, stating that he did not intend the reform to allow individuals to fund their own university education, but rather be funded by businesses and charitable organisations.

Shadow Business Secretary, John Denham, said: "I think it is clear that the government still intends to create a two-tier system – one method of entry for the most able, another for those with access to private funds from one source or another."

The Prime Minister was forced to step into the debate, saying: "There is no question of people being able to buy their way into university." Cameron went on to claim that it was not Willetts' intention to privilege wealthy students and discriminate against those less well-off. However, the proposal is set to feature in

the white paper in some form, according to various news sources, including the BBC. Accusations of confusion and U-turns directed towards members of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which is leading the reform process, has placed further strain on the already fractious coalition government.

Despite the furore, there have been statements of support for Willetts' proposals, which he claims will increase the quality of Higher Education by creating a more competitive arena for universities. The Chief Executive of GuildHE, Andy Westwood, claimed that so-called "off-quota" university places could actually be "socially progressive", providing the flexibility for less well-off students to study part-time or on an intensive or modular basis.

Issues of student finance and social mobility are highly contentious within the coalition, with the Liberal Democrats, who explicitly opposed raising tuition fees in the run-up to the 2010 General Election, being accused by opposition parties and members of the public of abandoning their policies in favour of acquiescing to Conservative initiatives. With all the controversy surrounding the issue, there is a great deal of pressure on the government to deliver with the publication of its reform bill.

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Carolynne: Time for a reality check

Surveillance Society host public forum



Keith Morrison

A PUBLIC FORUM aimed at discussing the CCTV state and privacy issues was a success however was let down by the absence of Lancaster University's Head of Security.

Watching the Watchers: The Surveillance Society Exposed took place on Thursday Week Five from 12-4pm in Furness Lecture Theatre One. The event attracted more than 20 individuals which was a vast improvement on the previous meeting. Dan Ray, a third year Philosophy student attended to talk about the rights to privacy and said: "I'm pleased with the turn out this time around. Last time there was only four people in for a discussion". Ray was debating with fellow speaker Andrew Dixon on different aspects of the rights we have in privacy, in that the rights we are given aren't specific enough to define what privacy actually is.

Amongst the guest speakers were

Charles Farrier and Steve Jolly who are founders of the No CCTV Campaign. They continued through the rest of the afternoon with their keynote address on 'Watching the Watchers'. Mark Salisbury, Acting Head of Security was scheduled to talk in the early the afternoon, however he was unable to attend as he was stuck in traffic.

One inevitable topic to arise was the recent super injunction saga, which concerns a Premier League footballer who was allegedly involved in illicit relations outside marriage and wanted to conceal it from the public. This brought on a heated discussion on the value of private matters that left both Ray and Dixon split.

One member of the audience was asked why he turned up and what he expected. "I wanted to come to a forum where I could discuss an issue that I feel strongly about. I was looking forward to what [Mark] Salisbury had to say for himself but I wasn't surprised that he didn't show."

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Bin Laden's death can't be used to justify torture

It was measured policework not torture which led to the discovery of Bin Laden

Alex
Harris



In Robert Bolt's play *Man For All Seasons*, Sir Thomas More makes an impassioned speech on the urgency of the rule of law to his future son-in-law, William Roper. Roper, in conversation with Sir More, suggests that granting the devil the benefit of the law would be absurd and unjustified. On the contrary, More argues, if you chase the devil and cut down all the laws in order to do so, once the devil turns around and starts chasing you, there won't be anywhere left to hide. The law, More says, must protect even the devil "for my own safety's sake".

After the assassination of Osama Bin Laden, it seems we've found ourselves in a somewhat similar situation. The devil has been chased to the tranquil city of Abbottabad, been shot square in the eye (twice for good measure) and dumped in the sea. To add insult to injury, we've gone through all his personal possessions, told the world of the embarrassing medication he was on and uploaded humiliating videos of him to YouTube. It's hardly compensation for the thousands of lives lost, but I take no real shame in having smiled at learning the personification of evil spent his days sat around in his pyjamas watching videos of himself in what looks like messy, sub-standard student accommodation.

The devil that's eventually turned around to face us in this instance isn't the much talked-up threat of a retaliatory strike from al-Qaeda on Western shores. For all their dystopian, Orwellian swagger it seems like the reams of anti-terrorism legislation both in the UK and the US has, at least, done its job in making it very difficult if not impossible for large-scale attacks to occur for the time being. The threat that faces us at this instance is in fact the western war criminals that have seen fit to come out of the woodwork (or should that be shadows?) and insist that their brutal conduct during the Bush years was in fact what led us to being able to shoot Satan in the eye.

The claims being made require a big logical assumption on the part of those who believe them. It goes something like: we were looking for Bin Laden, people were tortured beforehand, therefore – torture led us to Bin



Photo by ssoosay/Flickr

"What led us to the devil himself was boring analysis and calm, measured interrogation"

Laden. Obviously there is no actual evidence for the claim that water boarding and sleep deprivation were instrumental in leading US forces to Bin Laden, but what evidence there is suggests in fact the opposite. The

cause célèbre of torture advocates, Kaleid Sheikh Mohammed, was water boarded 183 times and actually provided false information relating to the courier who led to the eventual death of Osama Bin Laden. But "ah" say the torture advocates, it was precisely that false information that tipped off his interrogators that the courier was a high-value suspect.

The cognitive dissonance is as astounding as it is obvious. When torture leads to correct information it's vindicated, but when it garners false information, it's also vindicated. Furthermore, perceptive commentators like Andrew Sullivan have also

noted the sinister shift in focus of those eager to torture. Before, torture was only permitted in a ticking time-bomb thought experiment. The dubiousness of the ticking time-bomb scenario has been recognised for a long time, with human rights lawyers such as Geoffrey Robertson QC correctly pointing out that if there truly was a ticking time-bomb, a terrorist could simply lie and lead the authorities on a wild goose chase. Now it would seem the efficacy of torture is broader – it's permitted even when there is no imminent threat and irrespective of whether the information it leads to is correct or not.

It's important to be aware of the reality of the operation which led to Bin Laden's assassination. The Economist ran a piece recently referring to the death of Bin Laden as "Lester Freamon's finest hour". For those not up-to-date on TV dramas, Lester Freamon is one of the main characters in *The Wire* who spends his time painstakingly taking photographs from buildings, sifting through financial reports and constructing family-tree style diagrams in order to take down Baltimore's drug cartels at their source. He's also one of the more effective police officers in the series. Whereas the war criminals of the right would like to pretend that it was Jack Bauer from 24 who was really at the heart of counter-terrorism leading to Bin Laden, the truth is that what led us to the devil himself was boring analysis and calm, measured interrogation which is frequently proven to be much more effective than suffocating people until they'll tell you something.

There is a perception in the minds of people like Liz Cheney and Bush lawyer John Yoo in thinking that the ultimate prohibition on torture in international law is the result of a bunch of radical, do-gooder human rights lawyers who have no conception of how warfare is to be conducted, but this is not the case. Aside from the inherent wrongness of torturing anybody, people like former FBI interrogator Jack Cloonan (who served on the FBI's Osama Bin Laden unit for six years) recognise that reliable information from sophisticated terrorists such as those in al-Qaeda doesn't come through torture. Terrorists are trained to resist brutal measures and furthermore view suffering as a thing to be endured in return for ultimate reward in paradise. What gets effective information is calm, measured police work, not sleep deprivation and simulated drowning.

Labour flicked the first domino

Ronnie Rowlands

Lancaster University campus's less than modest capacity for advertising space was, in the lead up to the local elections, wallpapered with posters rooting for the red team. Student interests were at the heart of them.

I voted Labour based on social policy and their inclination to build crutches for the poor amongst us. But "A Vote For Students"? A student feather in Labour's cap admittedly is the introduction of the Educational Maintenance Allowance: funding less well off students so that they needn't dent the finances of their parents to buy books, bus passes and other apparatus. Like anything, it was exploited by people who turned up at college and did little else other than be there.

But EMA is a mere mouse to the elephant in the red room: Labour introduced tuition fees in 1998. They themselves trebled them in 2004. Undoubtedly £3,290 is less than £9000, but what does that reduce the persuasion to vote Labour to? Under the Labour government education fees were extortionate but it's daylight robbery now that the Tories are in power, so shall we go back to just being extortionate? Fees were introduced in the interest of fairness: more people should be able to get a University education, but the grant system wouldn't cover a higher-education free-for-all, so it became a debt that graduates would have to pay back with the fees that their nice graduate jobs would cover.

University began to be presented as the only career ladder there was. Everyone had to go to University.

Universities and schools started scratching each other's backs. A school looks like it has a lot of intellectual powerhouses steamrolling their way into Universities, which are simply glad of the money and will take them in with three E grades. This happened when the grant system was in operation, but in those days you could base a decision on a candidate's character. Now that it's competitive, good universities can no longer spend the time to focus on individuals, and largely reserve judgement of a candidate solely on their high scores.

In an effort to make university less competitive by increasing the number of places and courses, Labour, wittingly or unwittingly, heightened the number of applicants and instigated competition between schools to see how many students they could cart off to university, and it's all a mighty mess.

I like Labour, but like the Lib Dems, they screwed up. Why does Labour not invoke similar levels of ire for flicking the first domino?

Students don't need to be involved in politics



Richard Sykes

Decent social mobility and freedom of speech means there is little need for political engagement

I am not going to pretend that politicians are honest; they are not. However, I don't believe they are any more dishonest than the average person or that politician's dishonesty is the real reason for lack of interest in politics. Like everyone else, politicians are put in situations where lying or manipulating facts benefits them more than being honest and the temptation is often too strong. More honest politicians usually fail to be elected in the first place or when they are, they are not considered realistic leader figures by the electorate. People don't like being lied to but usually prefer to vote for someone's lies over the truth, which is not as nice to hear. A good example is the recent Scottish National Party landslide in Scotland. In a five year period where their grant from the UK government is going to be cut significantly, they promised several big ticket spending increases and no major spending cuts, despite the Scottish Parliament not having significant tax raising powers. They promised a fantasy budget and the Scottish electorate loved it. I agree that politicians should be responsible enough to be honest but it is an equal to the electorate's responsibility to reward honesty, rather than punish it.

Idealism is a problem that plagues students participation in politics. The hero worship of Obama in 2008 or the Clegg-mania of April 2010 highlights that students want to believe that a politician can change the world or at least this country. Barrack Obama has achieved great success through introducing universal healthcare in the USA but has been incredibly unpopular for much of his time as

president; he is likely to be re-elected simply because there is cur-



Photo by madock/Flickr

rently no good alternative within the Republican Party. He has lost a significant amount of his support amongst young people who now believe he lied to them. I would argue to some extent he did, but that for the most part he has worked hard to implement his reforms. When he has failed it has occurred because even the president cannot force through reforms by him-

self. Unfortunately a lot of his former supporters lack the pragmatism to accept how venal and complex politics is and that while he has failed in many areas he deserves their full support for his successes.

Another reason why students don't get involved in party politics is that they usually focus on one issue. In many ways this is very beneficial,

often supporting good causes such as Amnesty International, combating climate change or third world poverty. However, political parties campaign on an enormous range of issues. They do not chase one issue and instead seek to introduce an entire range of policies to be implemented if they win power at either a local or national level. This requires compromise between different policy areas as the party seeks to form a coherent plan for governance. If a coalition between policies is necessary, then the compromise will be even greater. A neutral and detailed analysis of the Liberal Democrat's efforts in government shows that they have or are implementing huge sections of their manifesto. Their problem is that they tend to be the less well known policies. Many students voted on one particular issue such as tuition fees and when they failed with one specific policy a lot of students lost interest not just in the party but often with politics itself.

A final issue that I think is overlooked is that most young people do not get involved in politics because to a large extent we do not need to. Unlike students who fought in Tarrir Square in Cairo, our prospects are good. Despite our economic and unemployment problems, and the cuts that inevitable have to follow, our standard of living will remain incredibly high by world standards. This combined with a society with decent social mobility and freedom of speech means there is little need for most people to get involved in politics. While this country has problems they are not considered big enough for most people to dedicate significant amounts of time and effort to a political party seeking to solve the problems.

In spite of popular opinion I still agree with Nick

Joe Henthorn

Cameron is Clegg's whipping boy, not the other way around

Did you ever "agree with Nick"? It seems a long time ago since he stared lovingly through those cameras, pierced our naïve young hearts with his arrows of hot political love. He was going to change everything. No more broken promises. A new, fairer politics.

Well, a year has passed since then. Nowadays he doesn't stare into our home through television cameras, but into the abyss. Have you seen him recently? He's sad, lonely, and cries himself to sleep at night. And unfortunately for him, some sort of political time dilation has meant that he has aged thirty times quicker than the rest of us over the past year.

But there's some hope. You're not alone, Nick. I still agree with you. A quick glance at the statistics suggests a lot of you disagree with me. The Liberal Democrats suffered an embarrassing defeat in the recent local elections, especially in Lancaster.

But I like Nick Clegg. In fact, I like him even more now than I did originally. Before his polished debate

appearances, he always came across as skittish – the typical Lib Dem full of promises but not so hot on the delivery. Over the past year he has proved himself as a real politician, capable of working well in Government. His party have done an equally stellar job as proving themselves as very capable parliamentarians, truly putting to bed the pathetic pre-election jibes that the Lib Dems "aren't capable of being in government".

They've also done an excellent job of implementing their manifesto pledges. Raising the income tax threshold to bring poorer people out of tax; Introducing the Pupil Premium; Capital gains tax is up for the highest of earners; No like-for-like replacement for Trident; An end to some of Labour's ridiculous anti-terrorist laws. I would like to go on, but I have a word limit to abide by.

Of course, some of their manifesto pledges had to go – let's not forget they're in a coalition here. They hold 57 seats. The Tories have 306. That's a pretty whopping difference – the Tories have a bigger mandate and more influence in what goes through parliament.

Which brings me to my next point; they've also played an important moderating role in what might have been an incredibly radical Tory government. And whilst the Lib Dems might not be trumpeting this fact themselves, you only have to glance at a copy of the Telegraph to see how successful they've been in the capacity. The right wing press are absolutely seething – in the political cartoons of the right-wing media Cameron is Clegg's whipping boy, not the other way around.

Any an article on Nick Clegg and the Liberal Democrats, especially one in a student paper, wouldn't be complete without a mention of tuition fees. I don't think that they don't deserve half the opprobrium that's been heaped on them. If the Lib Dems had been elected with a majority and then went on to do this I would have very probably decapitated my life-sized cardboard Clegg. But the fees have a cap (albeit a high one) and a moderately progressive repayment scheme. It could have been worse, and if anyone is getting the criticism for the decision it shouldn't just be the Lib Dems. The

Conservatives introduced the Bill, Labour introduced the review, some Lib Dems voted for it. Everyone is to blame.

But, like I said, they are in a coalition. Compromise was necessary. If the Conservatives had their way fee caps might well have been lifted altogether. I also struggle to believe Labour would have failed to act on Lord Browne's report after they commissioned it, especially when you consider their past record on fees. After all, if you want to talk about broken promises, we only have to go back to Labour's 2001 election manifesto. "We will not introduce top-up fees and have legislated to prevent them", it proclaimed. Surely, for a government with a 167 seat majority, they would have been able to keep this promise? My bank balance suggests that this wasn't the case.

The Liberal Democrats have a important place in British politics as a party that believes the state can be progressive without being intrusive. If you agree with these ideas too, then I wouldn't write the Liberal Democrats off just yet. A year ago I agreed with Nick. I still do.

David Willetts is a higher education liability

Alex Littleboy
Deputy
Comment Editor



Willetts is a man who appears to have no idea what he's doing

David Willetts has a history of putting forward ideas that would later be completely scrapped. Before the Browne review was published, he was one of the supporters of the ill-fated graduate tax. Since then, higher education has been plagued with one issue after another: A raise in tuition fees to between £6000 to £9000 per year, with the insistence that the price of £9000 would be reserved for exceptional circumstances.

Along with other higher education reforms, the idea of students being able to pay for extra places on their course was put forward. Normally, I can attempt to see a good point in most policy proposals, but this has no redeeming qualities. Were it adopted, it would mean students from rich backgrounds who don't quite make the grades could pay upfront costs in order to create new places on their courses, allowing them to essentially buy themselves into university.

Who on earth could think this is a good idea? The education system is already biased, with learning opportunities more readily available for those who can afford things like private tuition. If higher education is going to even resemble a meritocracy, it should offer equal opportunities to everyone, allowing people from all backgrounds an equal opportunity to fight for university places. Although theoretically those buying their places wouldn't be taking it from other students who had earned it, it undermines the meritocratic system that should be in place in higher education, as it gives more rights to those who can afford higher education than to those without money. Richer students have the opportunity to fight for places, but even if they fail, they can essentially bribe their way into university, having places made available just for them.



Willetts hasn't had much divine inspiration.
Photo by bisgovernment/Flickr

This debacle caused Number 10 to denounce the idea, denying the suggestion that it was giving the green light for students to buy places at university, though it is possible that a limited version of this proposal could be included in the government's higher education White Paper. Liberal Democrats are up in arms over the idea that the proposal would be increasing access to universities for the rich when they already have a great deal of access, and offers very little to poorer

students in the way of improved social mobility.

David Willetts' ideas on tuition fees have been largely blown out of the water. The proposals for the raise in tuition fees have been a disaster for him – in trusting that universities would form themselves into a feudal system, with top universities like Oxford and Cambridge charging the highest possible fees, and those lower in the rankings charging less for degrees, he made a crucial mistake –

all universities are seeking to charge the highest amount possible for their degrees, arguing that they need the money in order to improve the quality of their teaching. No university wants to be seen as a budget university, charging lower fees for a lower-quality degree, and most are charging well above the standard prices foreseen by Willetts. Furthermore, the idea that universities must offer support to the poorest students has never

“Willetts’ ideas on tuition fees have been largely blown out of the water”

been fully set out in stone. To me, this is indicative of Willetts' attitude – he has refused to follow through with his statements that universities charging the maximum tuition fees shall be an exception, when they have instead become the norm.

Because of the issues that he has brought on, Willetts is currently facing a vote of no confidence by the dons of Oxford University at their conference on June 7, over whether he is actually suitable for the role. He has been described as “incoherent and incompetent” by Dr. Karma Nabulsi, a politics fellow. In trying to inject elements of a free market into education, Willetts is opening the system up to grave abuse by the rich, and his refusal to back up his claims that universities should only charge £9000 in exceptional circumstances has led to a system in which the majority of universities, no matter their place on league tables, is charging an extortionate amount for degrees. I hope that the vote of no confidence at Oxford passes, and that this can cause a greater outcry against a man who appears to have no idea what he's doing.

Lancaster's slip in the league table isn't a cause for concern

Emily Robertson
Comment Editor

Regardless of it you read much into university rankings you can be proud that you are attending a top ten university

This week the Guardian published their most recent university league tables. Lancaster dropped to seventh place from its 2010 position of sixth. We are still ranked within the top ten universities in the UK and surely a drop of a single place won't matter a difference to our future job prospects. How much attention do we even pay to the league tables in the first place?

In years gone by, the methods used for applying to universities was a long winded and mundane task. The means in which we chose our university of preference was down to a few simple points; its location; where our friends and peers were planning on going or already attending; parental advice; and the tables upon tables of data produced by national newspapers analysing every detail of each university in the land, from male to female ratios to capital spending on staff and students.

During my own selection progress all I wanted from my university of choice was it be as close to the top ten as pos-

sible, as long as it was closer to the top than the bottom, I was happy. In 2008 when I was compiling a shortlist of universities I might attend, Lancaster University was ranked by the Guardian as 23rd in the UK, consequently I treated it as an insurance further down my preferred choices with more prestigious and well-placed universities taking my fancy. But on visiting the campus other more prominent points came to view: I fell in love its rural position; its number of beneficial pastimes and activities; and the obvious benefits of being a student with a caring and attentive staff. I had come to realise the league tables were just numbers on a screen and I could see for myself that Lancaster was by far the best of the universities I had applied for.

The league table I had used to base my shortlist of universities upon was only a guide and visiting the campus gave me a first hand impression that the university deserved greater accolade than a mediocre 23rd place. This belief came into reality with the uni-

versity climbing to twelfth in 2009 and now stands at a very respectable seventh best university in the United Kingdom.

But enticing students to the certain universities isn't the only use of the league tables; many employers will be aware of the league tables and use this scoring system to base his or her judgement on whether you went to a good university. So will this way of thinking have a direct impact on your future career?

Take Lancaster's recent surge in years to its dizzyest of heights in national university rankings. In 2004 and 2005, Lancaster dipped as low as 51st and 58th respectively in national rankings, an all time low. What if the employer you are applying to last used the league tables during this period and therefore has a diminished view of Lancaster University, would it be fair? Perhaps not, but the university ranking system is a means for an employer to rate your degree amongst the influx of students partaking in undergraduate

degrees in recent years. In their position how would you decide which graduate to interview when all their educational achievements read in almost identical forms?

It could be argued to publicise the fact that you attended a top ten university during your studies on your CV and use the rankings has its benefits. But as with all statistics, they can be manipulated and made to work for you or against you.

Whether or not you read much into these newly published university rankings, you can be proud that you are attending one of the top ten universities in one of the world's most prestigious graduate countries. Whether we are sixth or seventh in the league table will make little difference to us but perhaps in the future when students are paying significantly more, a universities position in the league table will grow in importance as students will be more selective as to where they will spend such a large amount of money.

scan

Editorial

Even if it only benefits one student it's worth the fight

THE COLLECTIVE STUDENT officers who make up **LUSU's Council** last week voted to promote the inclusion of gender neutral toilets in all future build-ings and refurbishments. This simple agreement has taken more than a year to reach. It was attempted last summer and was shot down amid various miscon-structions, ranging from a prudish "wouldn't they be really messy" to the outlandish "don't people have sex in them".

The extra year hasn't caused too many set backs, and it was long enough to convince officers that neither of these points, or those in between, is the case. And it's better to take it forward with the whole of the Union behind rather than having to drag some along by their heels.

Outside of the meeting there were still some worryingly inward looking grumbles over how necessary they really are, a classic case of "I can't understand why someone would have a problem with the status quo so there can't really be a problem". The grumblers have presumably completely missed the point of a union, student or not. Even if just one student on campus feels uncomfortable or disadvantaged by the current set up then their Students' Union should be standing up for them, arguing on their behalf.

At a time when national equality policy is becoming more regressive, students' unions everywhere need to make sure they're becoming more progressive: equipping people with the tools and confidence they need to combat ignorance and discrimination in the wider world. We won't see gender neutral toilets springing up over night, at Lancaster or anywhere else, but this move does mean our university will be more inclusive in the future, which can only be a good thing.

Letters to the Editor

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



Cycle path rage

I am writing to SCAN to voice my opinion on the state of the cycle path into campus. I live in town and cycle to campus almost everyday. On several occasions, the path has been soiled by enormous horse turds, which were not cleaned up for a good many days. I assure you, having to wipe horse shit from the tracks of one's bicycle's tyres is a task that one would not enjoy, and I sincerely doubt many others would feel differently.

There are fines for dog fouling, are there not similar fines for horse fouling?

*An Avid Cyclist,
Bowland College*

Macleod's no Meg

Dear Miss Macleod, After recently reading several of your 'horoscopes' I've become more and more convinced you have absolutely no idea what you are talking about. Most weeks I find your predictions amusing, but not in a good way.

Being a 3rd year student, graduating this July I find your prediction of the Gemini horoscope

this week rather offensive & dismissive.

I'm pretty sure you're no 'mystic meg' or anything alike, so your 'prediction' that I should fall into a "future of employment", is not only unnecessary but absurd. You cannot predict the future, or tell fellow students that because of the month they were born they are not suited to the employment spectrum or opportunity.

What degree do you actually do? And if you wish to pursue a career in 'Horoscopes' I would quit whilst I was ahead, but in your case behind.

*Yours Sincerely
Danielle Harrison,
Lonsdale College*

Back to square one

I may just happen to be more clumsy than most but the new Alexandra Square is lethal. The glass lines, which "supposedly" point to the college origins (this has been disputed), whilst looking pretty are like black-ice after a slight shower. Its only been open a fortnight and I've already nearly twisted my ankle twice. Given that 90% of the time it rains in Lancaster

I can predict a good deal of calls from students to Lancaster's A&E. Yet another case of Lancaster management not thinking things through.

*Chris P
Grizedale College*

Responding to noise complaints

I am surprised that Ben's automatic assumption on the issue of reporting noise is that we lack the ability to talk to our neighbors <sic>.

I would like to point out a few things: first of all, we are all informed that to call the porters is a last resort, and that we should talk to our flatmates first... which we do. The subsequent calls constitute a lack of response on the noisemaker's part, and not a lack of communicative ability on the complainant's part.

Second, in some circumstances it may be impossible to talk to the noisemakers. For example, if the person living in the flat under you or the flat next door has a subwoofer which goes up to eleven, are you really prepared to

go through the hassle of finding out which flat it is, and which room, and talking to a total stranger? In such instances it is best to call the porters, who deal with noise with a lot more diplomacy than I'm capable of at 2am before an exam.

*Cheers,
V. Ellis*

Corrections

- The American Football score was 18-6 to Lancaster, not 65-55. ('Bombers blitz...', page 20, May 20).
- The Men's Basketball score was 64-55 to Lancaster, not 65-55 ('Lancaster Men's Basketball...', page 15, May 20).
- Jake Aspden should have been Jack Aspden ('Kirkwood is chief...', page 14, May 20).

SCAN's policy is to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please contact the Editor with the date, page or weblink.



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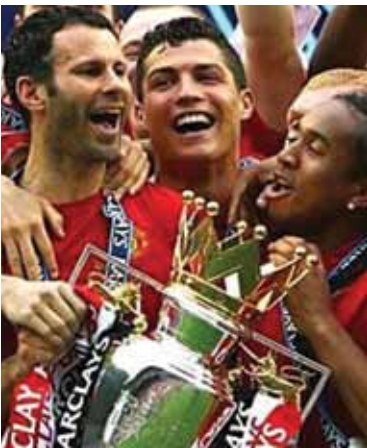
A brief look back over the Premier League season reveals some surprising statistics

So, that was the Premier League season once again. The circus has stopped for another few months, and we look forward to a summer without football. Practically every sporting column across the country is reflecting on the season, and SCAN Sports is not going to buck that trend.

This has been a bizarre, and exciting, season from start to finish. This year, we’ve seen an astonishing goals per game average rate of 2.8. To put that into context, the last English top-flight season to see a higher goals per game rate was the 1967-68 season, which saw an average of 3.03 goals per game.

In 2005, Liverpool finished 37 points from first place and came fifth (and of course, won the Champions League). This season, Blackpool and Birmingham were both 41 points off first, and were relegated. But that isn’t to say there was an injustice; as was perhaps expected, the Champions, Manchester United had the greatest conversion rate (16.9%) and West Ham had the lowest, with just 10.2%.

The first fact alone describes a season that has been tight throughout. It has been one of the most open at the top end for a long time, and still looked open until, perhaps, Arse-



nal conceded that penalty against Liverpool.

The bottom end of the table, however, has simply been extraordinary. Going in to the final day, it was looking like any one of six teams could be relegated, but it was West Ham, Blackpool, and Birmingham who dropped out of the top flight in the end, while Wolves, Wigan and Blackburn all flirted with the drop throughout the course of the final day.

This is where the shocking fact that just ten points separated relegated Birmingham, on 39 points, and eighth placed Fulham, on 49 points. Either

the majority of teams lived life dangerously this season, or quality took a massive jump above most seasons. I’ll let you make your own conclusions.

Blackpool, however, were a complete credit to themselves this season. It was obvious that they were going to struggle right from the start, and it was clear that they didn’t have a Premier League budget. They had Luke Varney upfront, who at times could barely hit a barn door for Charlton Athletic back when they were in the Championship.

What they did bring was passion, embodied in the relentless style they played. Even against Manchester United (who Blackpool put four goals past this season, it is important to remember) on the final day of the season, with the score at 2-2 and a matter of minutes remaining, they tried their hardest to play football - and that’s what it should be all about.

Ian Holloway also lived up to expectations, bringing humour and a bit of everyman reality to football, a sport that at times can be so incredibly out of touch. His observations have frequently been quoted in this column over the course of the season, as he spoke for supporters - particularly over the World Cup venue debacle. Blackpool supporters can be proud.

As a footnote, in writing this article, I reflected on my predictions article at the start of the season. I was trying my hardest to ignore it and make no reference, but I feel like I should simply for completeness. I essentially predicted the bottom three to be Bolton, West Brom, and Blackpool to be relegated - and also said that Newcastle would be dangerously close. I also said Chelsea would win the league.

But, I think we’ll gloss over the fact that West Brom and Newcastle occupied the 11th and 12th positions respectively, while Chelsea’s manager Carlo Ancelotti was sacked on the last day of the season. We’ll just focus on the fact that Blackpool went down. Sounds fair to me.

I’ve learnt my lesson though. I can assure you that I won’t be writing a Premier League predictions article next season.

Jack Smith
Sports Editor



87.7 Bailrigg FM

Bailrigg FM is your student radio station. Here’s this terms schedule; you can listen and text in via www.bailriggfm.co.uk world wide or tune into 87.7 FM on campus.

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
9:00	GML BFM News Team	GML BFM News Team	GML BFM News Team	GML BFM News Team	GML BFM News Team	Weekend Trifle Anum Ali	Weekend Trifle Anum Ali
10:00	Hot Mama in the Morning Becky Hoose & Tasha Iddin	Non Stop Music	The Extra Show Arik Johnstone	Non Stop Music	Friday Fever Sara Bowyer & Amber Chester	The Community Arts Show	GML Weekender Sophie Parker
11:00	I Don't Like Mondays Hannah O'Flanagan	Something Completely Different Toni Bellamy	The Big Release Curtis Kennington		Non Stop Music		Non Stop Music
12:00	NML BFM Music Team	NML BFM Music Team	NML BFM Music Team	NML BFM Music Team	NML BFM Music Team	The Rhys and Jay Jay Show	Nick and Jake's Adventures through time and space
13:00	BBG in the Afternoon Sean Barton, Ben Barnard & Sam Gibbs	The Yorkshire Show	Flat Noise	The Fo Show Danni Wilmott, Rachael Butler & Eileen Davison	Have you heard the News? Adele James & Zans Mihejevs		Nick Bilous & Jacob Home
14:00		Andy Ryan, Joe Brewer & Tom Siddle	Shaun Gray, Matt Freeman & Paul Topping	Training Show Andrew Dowd	The Andy Experience	Non Stop Music	Talk of the Devil (Comedy Panel Show)
15:00		Sarah and Billy's Realbigg Show Billy Haigh & Sarah Main	Wicked Wednesdays with Vaz and Zim	Frolikings with Georg Downing & Matt Simmonds		Bailrigg FM Live Sessions	
16:00	The Matt Freeman Perspective	From Indie to NME Adam Heaynes	The OK Show Oli Barden	Humble Sam's Time Travel Jomar de Vrind	The Vinyl Hour Paul Hodges	We are Biologists	Touch Me! I'm (not) Sick! Martyn McEwan
17:00				Angus' and Phil's Teatime Takeover	This Week in Lies Adam Heayns, David Fisher & Ben Farnworth		FilmSpiel LU Cinema
18:00	Closing Time Josh Dickson & Martin Ramsbotham	Music When the Light goes Out Johnatan Vandesquille	2 Ps in a Pod Paul Hodges & Phil Roberts	Angus Bowron & Phil O'Hara	The Show with No Name	Eurock! Leo Burtin	Non Stop Music
19:00	A Certain Point of View Chris Housden & Krissi Roberts						
20:00	Newspeak Adam Taylor & Samantha Newsham	Bailrigg FM Live Sessions	CPR Chris Keady, Pete Goonajee & Rachel Harvey	That Radio Show Sam Naylor, Rachel Harvey & Wes Cosgriff	The Vault Hannah O'Flanagan	Andrew Dowd & Amanda Payne	Radio Free Europe Jonny Casey
21:00			Get Ready Tom Graham				The 80s Show with Pat n Phil
22:00	Late Night Love James Philipson	Dead Air Emma Ashley & Chris Housden	Non Stop Music	Tune In, Cop Out David Walker & Nathan Connell	Punk Rock Show Marcus Dean	Will Hine & Craig Farrow	Pat Simpson & Phil Harvey
23:00	Sam and Tom's Midnight Moodle						Non Stop Music
24:00	Sam Foster & Tom Randall	Big Dave's Instant Moustache Ben Foster & Ash Deadman	Radio No!	The Lock In Ryan McCann & Tom Dransfield	Non Stop Music	Dan Ross	
1:00	Non Stop Music		Will Lewis			Non Stop Music	

It's time to celebrate our successes

Marc Handley
LUSU Vice President (Sports)

Now that the dust has settled from the Roses weekend, I am able to look forward to the last event of the sporting calendar here at Lancaster, the LUSU Sports Awards, which takes place in Barker House Farm on June 15. It is such a brilliant that has seen an evolution over the past number of years and as you will have guessed, recognises the achievements of the talented people that we have at this University. It's also a fantastic chance for the inter college teams to be recognised alongside those representing the University through our BUCS clubs. Now more than ever, we can be very proud of the provision of sport we have on campus. We have for the first time in a number of years, completed the football league without any hiccups due to adverse weather, allowing the cup to be played at the end of the second term. On top of this, the issues with the netball courts did not hamper the college league as they have both been completed with time to spare too.

As well as presenting trophies and medals for the achievements in various sporting competitions, it is also a chance for us to recognise those individuals who are competing at a very high level in their chosen sport. The LUSU Colours Awards are given to students who meet certain criteria such as county, regional or national level or won national competition in their discipline. As well as making sure we are as inclusive as possible at Lancaster, we must also recognise excellence when it is there too.

As much as I would like it to be the case, we are not a sporting university. We do not have the degree schemes or facilities that can match up to the likes of Bath, Leeds Met or Loughborough but we do have some fantastic talent. This is going to be much more of a realistic goal next year as we move into the new facility right next to the main entrance of the University.

The new Sports Centre is going to be absolutely out of this world and I have been working closely with the University to ensure the greatest service possible for students. We have some fantastic pricing points for next year so hopefully this will encourage as many people as possible to get involved in some way shape or form.

Here's to a fantastic awards event, and an even better year ahead.



Mixed fortunes for BUCS teams

• Four promotions and six relegations represents a diverse season

Matthew Todd

LANCASTER'S BUCS TEAMS have fought hard this season, with differing degrees of success. Overall the University has maintained their position in the national standings, with a ranking of 47th, just one place below the previous year. There has also been a moral victory, after Lancaster finished two places above Roses opponents York.

Four clubs won promotion from their respective leagues and will compete at a higher level in the coming year.

The men's rugby union first team completed a stellar year, winning the league and being narrowly defeated in the semi-final of the cup by UCLAN; it was a result only repeated on two other occasions during their BUCS campaign. Their remarkable consistency saw an unbeaten run of 12 games which stretched from October to February. The title was won after a nerve jangling 15-10 victory over their bogey side UCLAN in the final game of the season. The title is testament to the strong leadership of Dave Wrightson and the hard work the team puts in during their regular training.

Another league winning side were the men's table tennis first team. Like the rugby side they also progressed well in the cup; being beaten by York in the final, a result which was spectacularly overturned in Roses. The side only lost one game in their league season and stated off with an eight game winning run. This feat is more remarkable as Lancaster conceded an average of just 4.3 points whilst winning 13.

Promotion as league winners was



Photo by Nick O'Malley

also achieved by the netball second team. The title was clinched after a nail biting 34-33 victory over UCLAN which maintained Lancaster's three point advantage. Defeat in just two league games stands the side in good stead for a tougher league next year, where they will compete against first teams from other institutions.

The final league winning side were the men's hockey thirds, who pipped Cumbria's first team to the title; Lancaster beat their local rivals 3-1 in what turned out to be a decisive fixture. The team were also able to hold their nerve in the final league game to defeat Manchester and earn a well deserved title and promotion.

At the other end of the scale, the men's cricket first team were relegated

after final day defeat. The side lost to Liverpool University after being skittled for just 80 in what was a must win game. Jack Aspden's side will rue the postponement of their tie with Newcastle as they slipped out of the league by a narrow margin; finishing second from bottom.

The men's rugby union second team also found themselves relegated after finishing bottom of the league. The team had a very poor campaign and won just two league games, with a run of nine defeats to open the season. However, it was always likely to be an uphill struggle as the league contained six first teams from other universities.

Similarly the women's badminton first team had a torrid campaign

and finished propping up the league. In what was a strong division, the side struggled to some pretty comprehensive defeats; with two draws against MMU Cheshire proving the highlights.

Another team that was relegated by a reasonable margin was the women's basketball firsts. The team struggled to gain their first win; starting the season with seven consecutive defeats. The side will be hoping to build on the momentum of a win over Leeds which was secured in the final league game.

The same fate befell the men's firsts football team, as they slumped to sixth and last place in their league. The season was marred by injuries and unavailability which prevented a settled team from being selected. This disappointing season sees the team slip back into the league from which they won promotion 12 months earlier.

The final side to taste relegation were the women's squash firsts. The team were unable to make an impression on their opponents and contrived to draw only one of their eleven games, collecting a mere four games in the process.

One side at Lancaster earned a reprieve, as they finished bottom of a league without relegation. The men's seconds tennis team finished bottom after winning just one game, their opener against Keele. The hope for next season is that the team can build on their good fortune and secure promotion.

Next year promises to be more successful; with the new sports centre providing superb facilities for many of our sports clubs. The emergence of numerous promising first year students also bodes well for the future, in terms of BUCS standings and with an eye on reclaiming Roses on home turf.

If you would like to take a closer look at any of Lancaster's other sporting teams www.bucs.org.uk is the place to check for all of the stats and facts from the previous season.

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

Man United dongle bans twits

Sir Alex Ferguson has made huge steps towards removing his players from social news site Twitter as well as providing alternative entertainment for his players. After claims that he doesn't understand such sites and people's constant desire to use them, he has followed through with his initial suggestion of "why can't they just read a book or something" by setting up an official Manchester United library.

Sir Alex has claimed that such moves are not as a result of CTB attempting to sue the site following

an alleged affair. We can't see why CTB's latest misdemeanour would have any bearing on the internal politics at Manchester United either. Sir Alex claims: "It is more to do with the general idiocy of some of our players. Some struggle to communicate appropriately in everyday life as it is. When there are no holds barred on such sites, I am more concerned than ever for my players".

"After setting up an account just over a week ago, in order to gauge how it works and how footballers behave and respond on such sites, I inten-

tionally provoked a player, and was shocked when I was immediately threatened by the player in question, saying that he was going to put me to sleep".

Sir Alex admitted that he did not know what he was more concerned about, a player saying something that would reflect badly on the club, or them being outsmarted by Piers Morgan. He went on to admit further concerns, raising the issue that "some players react far too aggressively to their followers, whereas others need to mind where they put their dongle".

And for that reason Twitter's days at Manchester United are numbered.

John O'Shea was delighted by the news, as a player who could only muster seven followers after two months on the site. He said: "I agree with Fergie in everything he has said. I just don't see the point of it. I am looking forward to spending time in our new library and I am especially excited about the reward scheme that has been put in place by the gaffer". He went on to admit that "with Patrice's hatred of books, I can look forward to a few more starts at left-back next

Regional Football

Last day heartbreak for the Seasiders

Blackpool relegated
as Wigan survive on a
hectic final day

Matthew Todd

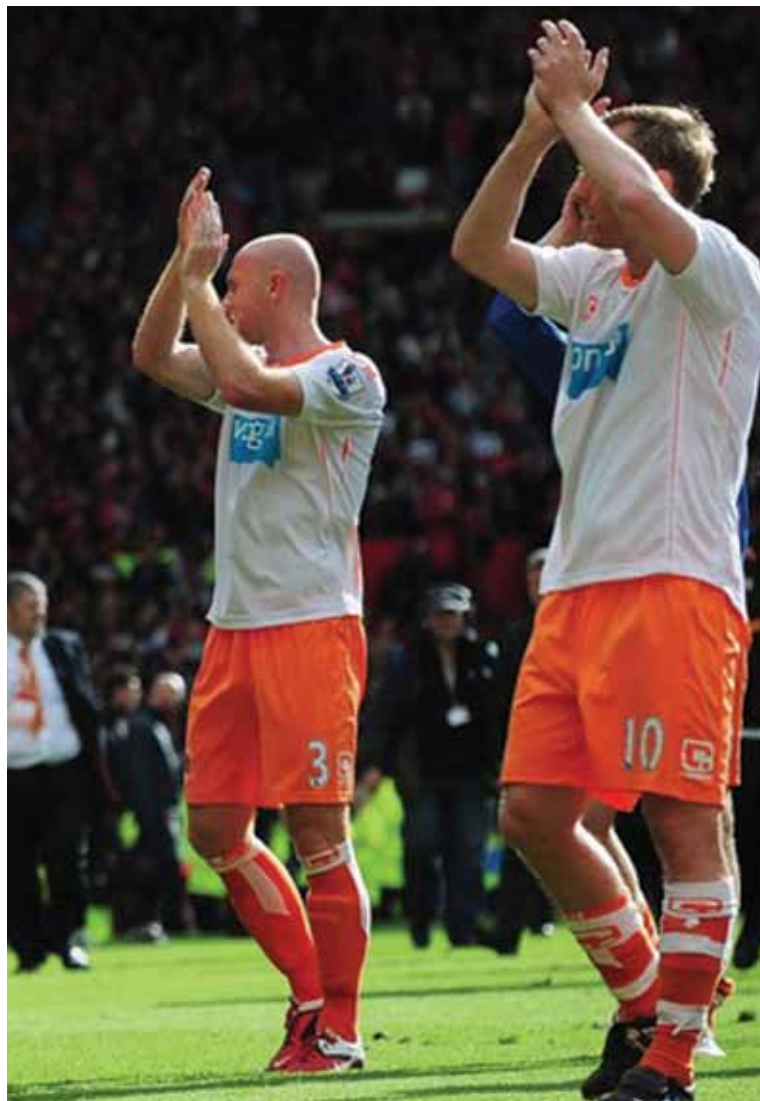
SUNDAY MAY 22 was a dramatic day in the Premier League as Blackpool fell through the relegation trap door after losing at Old Trafford and Wigan survived thanks to victory at Stoke. The great entertainers ultimately paid for their porous defence and will face a massive task in returning to the top flight in the near future.

Heading into the final day the Premier League table was incredibly close, with five sides being separated by just one point; meaning that there were 81 possible outcomes in terms of the league table.

Blackpool faced the seemingly impossible task of heading to Old Trafford, where the hosts were celebrating winning the league after the game. Ian Holloway's tactical choices were arguably made easier as he knew that his side could win and go down and lose and stay up. In short, there was nothing to do but go out and try to win; a stance that had served Blackpool well throughout the season.

The Tangerines began the game strongly and created the first two half chances after clever play from Charlie Adam; playing what was almost certainly his final game for the club. However, the achilles heel all campaign has been the defence and Ian Evatt's sloppy play allowed Park to put the hosts ahead against the run of play. However, Blackpool then showcased the resilience that has made them many friends during their one year stay in the Premier League. First Adam smashed home a fine free kick and Taylor-Fletcher finished sublimely to put Blackpool ahead after the break.

In what was an emotional rollercoaster of a day, Blackpool found themselves above the relegation zone despite a quick fire equalizer. Only when Ian Evatt unfortunately turned a



cross past Gilks did the Seasiders fall below the line. By the end of 90 minutes Holloway's men had run themselves into the ground but could not avoid slipping to a 4-2 defeat.

Sunday was a day of contrasting emotions for Wigan Athletic. The

Latics managed to scrape a 1-0 victory away at Stoke to ensure that they will play at least one more season of Premier League football. This outcome had looked impossible just one week previous; when they trailed 2-0 to a desperate West Ham side, only for a

miraculous comeback to win 3-2 to give the side hope.

On Sunday Wigan started in cagey fashion, with Stoke providing stiff opposition despite having little to play for. They were thankful for Emerson Boyce, who cleared off the line with Al Habsi floundering. Wigan were clearly feeling the pressure and at half-time the side remained in a relegation spot; although five sides were level on 40 points and separated by just two goals.

As the game reached 78 minutes, Wigan were still 18th and in real danger of dropping into the Championship. That was until Hugo Rodriguez delivered another priceless goal; rising salmon-like to power in a superb header and give Wigan a 1-0 lead that they would hold until full-time.

Fleetwood are another side that will remain in the same division for 2011/12. Their first campaign in the Blue Square Premier saw the Cod Army reach the play-offs; where they met AFC Wimbledon, the side that eventually won promotion to the football league. It represents a momentous achievement for a club that has risen through the leagues with alarming regularity and now sit just one step from the Football League.

Their two-legged play-off proved a step too far as a well drilled and clinical AFC Wimbledon ran out 8-1 winners on aggregate. The first leg at Highbury was a close game, with Fleetwood restricting the Dons to two goals and looking threatening themselves. However, the second leg saw an attacking line-up from Fleetwood dominated by the destructive counter attack of AFC. The result was a 6-0 mauling that did not do justice to the fine performance of Fleetwood throughout the season. With expectations at the club lofty, it remains to be seen whether Mickey Mellon will remain as manager for the next campaign.

Bowlin' Shane

Spin legend retires
after glittering career

Matthew Todd

SHANE WARNE HAS retired from first class cricket, ending a playing career that has seen him established as one of the greatest bowlers of all time. He has cited a tiring body and new business opportunities as the principle factors behind his decision.

The 41 year old finished his career as he spent most of it; winning cricket matches. He led the Rajasthan Royals to a crushing ten wicket victory over the Mumbai Indians on Friday as the IPL group phase drew to a close. In fairytale fashion Warne also took a wicket in his final over, outfoxing an advancing Rohit Sharma to present Rayudu with an easy stumping chance. It completed an IPL during which Warne claimed 13 wickets in as many games whilst skippering the Royals to a mid-table finish.

However, it is in the test arena that Warne is best known. His mammoth career haul of 708 wickets with an average of little over 25 makes him the second most prolific bowler in test history. For over a decade he tormented the best batsmen in the world with his array of deliveries and ability to vary his pace cleverly. Warne also developed a reputation as a highly competent slip fielder; despite several high profile dropped catches in recent Ashes tours. Shane retired from test match cricket immediately following



the 2006/07 Ashes series.

Despite such a storied career there are a few golden moments that stand out. For example, in the early stages of his international career Warne was responsible for what many commentators coined 'the ball of the century' to dismiss Mike Gatting during the 1993 Ashes series. Gatting took the usual approach to dealing with a leg spinner by offering bat and pad outside off-

stump only for a remarkably turning delivery to clatter into his timbers.

Fast forward 12 years and Warne claimed an outstanding haul of 40 wickets in 2005 Ashes series; despite being written off as past his best. However his personal triumph would provide scant consolation as the Aussies were defeated 2-1 in what has become an iconic series.

Warne also successfully adapted

his game to perform at the top level in one day and limited overs cricket. In the early years of his One Day International career he blazed a trail for spinners in the shorter form of the game. The control that Warne had over his deliveries and the change in pace he offered compared with the quicks made helped Australia to become a dominant force in ODIs.

The baggy greens recorded three successive World Cup wins; starting with their triumph at Lords in 1999. By the time Warne retired from ODIs he had collected close to 300 wickets, with his usual impressive economy rate.

Warne is also well known for his off field exploits no stranger to controversy, having made the front pages frequently over the years. He has been photographed with a conveyor belt of women and has admitted infidelities which have led to the break up of his marriage. He was also suspended for taking a banned diuretic in 2003 and was caught selling advice to bookmakers in 1998.

However, Warne's enthusiasm for the game and phenomenal performances are what he will be remembered for. With over 1,000 international wickets and an under-appreciated haul of 4,000 runs the game will miss a player named among the top five cricketers of the century by Wisden and respected throughout the world.



County's spurt wasn't enough to take them to the finals

Fylde look set for Carter Shield glory

- Fylde top their groups in both events this term
- Title rivals Lonsdale fail to field teams

Nick O'Malley
Sports Editor

AFTER ONLY TWO events of term three there has been a significant change in the overall leaderboard for this year's Carter shield. After two terms and eight events, Fylde and Lonsdale were tied at the top with 94 points each, with Grizedale (88) and Bowland (85) in third and fourth spot respectively.

Fylde have made huge strides toward the title, topping their groups in the two events so far, Tag Rugby and Ultimate Frisbee, while title rivals Lonsdale have failed to field a team in the two events so far, missing out on a potential fifteen points per event, as well as the five bonus points for attending every event in the term. Fylde are now in the driving seat and will be confident of retaining their Carter shield title.

Ultimate Frisbee

GROUP ONE SAW Pendle, Grizedale, Bowland and County grouped together. County edged a 2-1 win over Bowland in the opening game, before Pendle

with a strong University contingent dispatched of Grizedale 4-0, in spite of playing with one less player on the day. In an extremely tightly contested game County drew 2-2 with rivals for second spot Grizedale.

Pendle demonstrated their dominance once more in a fine display as they triumphed 3-0 over County. Pendle made sure of the clean sweep with a 3-1 win over Bowland, as they conceded for the first time on the day. Pendle had guaranteed top spot as they had won all three games, however all was still to play for in the battle for second place, and a semi-final spot on finals day.

Grizedale knew they needed to win by two to tie County and if they could win by three or more they would automatically qualify in second. They edged to a 2-0 win over Bowland. Bowland finished bottom with no points. However County and Grizedale had tied for points, goal difference and goals scored, as well as having drawn 2-2 in the head to head match.

A play-off between these two teams is yet to be played and could yet have a massive bearing on the final resting

place of this year's Carter shield. As if they crash out in third, the shield will be all but Fylde's already.

Group two had only three teams, Fylde, Cartmel and Furness, with Lonsdale failing to field a team. The opening game of group two saw an entertaining 2-2 draw between Cartmel and Furness. This was in contrast to the match-up between Fylde and Cartmel, which saw just one score, in Fylde's favour, immediately seizing control of their group.

Fylde managed to keep a clean sheet in both of their games on the day, as they eased to a 2-0 win over Furness. Cartmel progressed in second spot courtesy of conceding one fewer than Furness did in the match versus Fylde. Fylde will expect a tougher test in the semi-final, whether it is against County or Grizedale. The fixture that is determined is Pendle versus Cartmel, in the other semi-final.

Tag Rugby

WITH LONSDALE AND Furness failing to field teams for the event, there were six fewer fixtures than scheduled meaning everything was finished ear-

lier than planned, meaning those that were interested, could catch as much of 'Survival Sunday' as possible.

Group one saw Pendle, Fylde and Grizedale pitted together. The opening game saw Fylde romp to a 12-3 win over Pendle. Fylde secured top spot in group one courtesy of a 3-1 win over Grizedale. This meant that Pendle versus Grizedale had more than local pride resting on it, a semi-final place. Grizedale rose to the occasion magnificently as they defeated Pendle 9-4 to snatch second spot.

Group two placed Cartmel, County and Bowland together, which on the surface didn't bode well for Cartmel. The opening game saw Bowland defeat Cartmel 5-2. County put paid to Cartmel's Tag Rugby dreams as they ripped them apart 11-3, to see first and second spot resting on the final game of the day.

County were equally ruthless as they tore Bowland apart too, 9-2. This saw County go through top to play Grizedale in the semi-finals with the other match being between Bowland and Fylde.

Fylde and Grizedale seem to have

edged away in the race for the overall title, with Lonsdale missing out on a potential 35 points already, whereas Bowland's bottom placed finish in Ultimate Frisbee sees them losing at least another six points to title favourites and current holders Fylde.

Carter Shield Sponsored by IBM

Team	Pos	Pts
Fylde	1st	94
Lonsdale	-	94
Grizedale	2nd	88
Bowland	-	85
County	3rd	54
Pendle	4th	53
Furness	5th	42
Cartmel	6th	41
Graduate	7th	0

Carolynne



Week Six, Summer Term

**Put
on your
best robe**

emails from @australia

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

WITHIN THE WORLD of comedy, there have been controversial attitudes towards the ownership of jokes and plagiarism. Particularly in the past week, comedy plagiarism has been in Australian news as Jordan Paris, a stand up and contestant on Australia's Got Talent, has tactlessly ripped off material from British comedian Lee Mack. The young Aussie lifted Lee Mack's anecdote about Robbie Williams almost word-for-word in probably one of the laziest attempts of plagiarism. In turn, I feel an obligation to look at original and clever Australian comedians to combat such idiocy.

Two of the most well known Australian comedians who are currently kindling popularity in the UK are Adam Hills and Tim Minchin. Adam Hills is mainly recognised for appearances on Mock The Week and Live At The Apollo. Yet within Australia he is a strong presence on the comedy circuit, and hosts Spicks And Specks, which is the loose spin-off of 'Never Mind The Buzzcocks'. On the other hand, Tim Minchin is arguably less acknowledged in Australia as he has spent much of his life in the UK. His work is generally branded as musical comedy, echoing traits of Victoria Wood and early compositions by Hugh Laurie in A Bit Of Fry And Laurie.

There are also many great entertainers in Australia who have little following in the UK such as Hamish and Andy. Although Hamish and Andy are commonly identified as television personalities rather than comedians, they are far more amusing than their UK counterparts Ant and Dec. Hamish and Andy are alternatively refreshing though and have revived the comedy in tomfoolery and general naughtiness. Personally I find their public demonstrations hilarious, such as their sporting creations ghosting, three step hiding, and put-pocketing.

Moving on from Hamish and Andy's innocent slapstick, some of the most contentious Australian comedians are a group called The Chaser. The Chaser are famous for their amusing stunts, and satirical views on political and public interests. Since their beginnings in 1999, The Chaser have hosted various comedy shows such as The War On Everything, and Yes We Canberra! which was produced in the lead up to the 2010 general election. Recently they began creating a commentary show in the lead up to the Royal Wedding but it was withdrawn on request as its sarcasm was apparently insensitive. Equally, they have had numerous public complaints on the darkness of their sketches such as the Make a Realistic Wish Foundation skit, a parody of the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Nevertheless, The Chaser are funny and original because of their shrewd irony and open mockery of all around them. I am very surprised that The Chaser have not yet become as successful in the UK where dark humour is perhaps more appreciated via the likes of Mock The Week and Have I Got News For You.

The Chaser adds to the significant list of Australian comedy that far surpasses the plagiarism featured on Australia's Got Talent. Its variety should hold great value in the world of comedy. Especially in The Chaser's case, such Australian comedy should be more widely acknowledged.

Time to wake up and smell the careers coffee?



Should we aim for our dream job, or settle for reality?

Ruth Eaton

WHAT DO YOU want to be when you grow up? Think back to how many times you've heard that age old question. First at family parties when you'd just started to crawl to the much more recent "are you ever going to get a proper job?" from your drunken uncle; it seems like everyone is ready and waiting for us to make up our minds, fly the nest and become a career success. If only it was a more straightforward answer, such as a doctor, lawyer, magician or astronaut we could be beamed into our ideal working scenario, pull up an expensive leather chair and start living the dream. But sadly, it's never that easy.

From the little girls playing teacher to the stressed student hunting for a graduate training scheme, the desire to seek out that perfect job has been something which almost all of us will have been dreaming about and hope to find sometime soon. But with the constant pressure around us to decide on our future, are we being too rash with our choices when it comes to employability? With everyone convinced that jobs are few and far between are we at risk of settling for security and the comfort of a weekly wage rather than holding out for that dream job, the one with the complimentary red Ferrari?

At this time of year for most of us there are far too many exams, deadlines and revision guides to cry at and throw out of the window before we even start contemplating what the

future holds. That job that makes you want to crawl out of bed and drive to work before the sun shines seems a distant possibility while the exam hall with invigilators swarming like Daleks is an absolute certain.

As students we tend to focus on the here and now; the lecture, the seminar, the official fancy dress code of the Carleton. But occasionally, when we let our minds wander; the bigger picture can seem a daunting, anxiety ridden canvas, illuminating us to the fact that at some time we'll need to get a wriggle on, be independent and put our glow sticks away. Not all of us often acknowledge this fact, we hide and cower and hope that university will go on forever, or at least long enough for a job to fall into our laps while we have our eyes closed.

Chance and luck are often too easily blamed when a student finds that ideal working scenario, when in reality the roll of the dice is far from the deciding factor. Some students use their time at university as the ideal opportunity to work their little Lancaster hoodies off, leaving no excuse not to be at the front of the pack when it comes to the job hunt. However, despite their level of determination the likelihood of anyone becoming an overnight success the day after you graduate is almost certainly a distant dream.

As worrying as it may seem that you'll never get to where you ideally want to be, don't settle for the here and now why there's still the chance to dream big. Live for the what ifs and the maybes, work hard and you never know, that job with the fancy briefcase could well become a reality.

Graduation fever



Photo by Jill Jennings

With graduation day on the horizon, **Alison Young** reflects upon what we'll take from Lancaster to help us out in the big wide world

The time has come for us final years to hang up our party shoes and brace ourselves to join the real world. For the eager learners amongst us, maybe you're continuing with your studies, but for the majority it is time to get a real job. A job where you can't sleep until noon or chill out in a beer garden; our time shall be spent, in the words of Dolly Parton, working nine till five.

After three years at university we shall no longer be in education and no longer be a student. Whilst I'm sure you will agree our time here has flown by, it feels like only yesterday my parents waved me off as an awkward fresher unable to cook even the simplest of dishes and with no idea how to use a washing machine. I cannot believe that come September I shall no longer be buying new folders and dividers, but instead I'll be hunting for office wear and shoes, fit ready for a commute.

There are many impressive skills we can take from our time here at Lancaster. We have the obvious like trying every flavour of shot from Hustle, how to bear a lecture whilst hung-over and even the best places to stop for a take-away at 3am. However, we have also learnt many other tricks of the trade ready for the work force; like mastering a presentation, working effectively in a group and we're sure to win the prize for multi-tasking. Many students enjoy a night out whilst still attending all their lectures the next day, being a team captain, part of a society or head of a JCR. Keeping busy with our workload, activities and part time jobs means we certainly know how to burn the candle at both ends.

Whilst no one can quite prepare for the mental shock we shall endure switching to

working life, we have shown commitment and determination to walk away from Lancaster with a respectable degree. We have learnt the theory and now it is time to join the rat race. Who knows what the Class of 2011 shall become, do we have a future prime minister amongst us, a pop sensation or even the next medical marvel? Only time will tell, but one thing is for sure Lancaster has provided an excellent transition period for us; from being mere teenagers at home to living independently and finding our chosen career path.

'Your memories here at Lancaster are sure to last a lifetime'

Whatever you choose to do next year, whether it is further studying, travelling the world or joining the work force, your memories here at Lancaster are sure to last a lifetime. The thought of losing my purple card and leaving Lancaster life behind is of course going to be daunting. I can already predict there shall be plenty of tears shed at graduation, I'm sure a special order from Kleenex has already been confirmed.

But surely the uncertain future ahead will be equally as exciting as our university years? Keep in touch with your nearest and dearest and students of Lancaster, we shouldn't wait too long for a good old knees up, after all a reunion would be the perfect chance to gain autographs of all the famous faces amongst us.

Is more than a handful a waste?

Bex Hamilton

NORKS. KNOCKERS. MELONS. They go by many names. They come as a pair. Every second person in the world has them. Perhaps even more than that, if you're counting moobs. I am, of course, talking about the humble human breast. At times, it can feel like everyone is breast-obsessed. Trashy magazines are full of advice on how to make your baps look bigger, smaller, perkier. Search the word 'boobs' into Google, and it's likely that your search results will contain little else than dodgy surgery and free pornography.

I was recently on the London Underground, the only place, bar a game of back seat of the bus where you can become disturbingly unsure of just which limbs are your own. From what I have gathered, a cramped tube compartment seems to be some sort of breeding ground for perverts. Evident from the delightful man who spent a large proportion of the 11 minutes from Kings Cross to Victoria station staring intently at my chest. Whilst this still baffles me, it is something I'm used to. I'm frequently told that these are the first two things people notice about me. Yes, not my sparkling wit, or dazzling humour, or my serial killer smile. No, they are much more interested that I am able to comfortably hold a bottle of Apple VK in-between my bosoms. (A handy party trick, if ever there was one.)

Of course, aside from the unwelcome male attention I have received since I was about 12 (along with the heckles from cheeky builders), there are the everyday aspects. Shopping is one. Unsurprisingly, most high-street stores don't cater for women looking for literal over-the-shoulder boulder-holders. It is more than embarrassing that whilst the majority of my friends are purchasing enticing skimpies in satin, lace or the latest fashionable print, I am buying a bra that could also function as a marquee for a very large garden party. It's safe to assume that most dresses never fit me either, and even when they do, I am increasingly aware that low neck-lines make me look like a low-budget version of Abi Titmuss (pun intended). Roll neck jumpers are a distant memory, lost in the haze of my pre-pubescent wardrobe. Buttoned shirts are to be worn only with the accompaniment of a risk assessment. In the tragic case that my fun-bags might break free and cause an unassuming passer-by to lose an eye.

Still, with anything in life, there are positives for having big boobs. I nearly always manage to get served in the pub before the girl next to me. My assets could well be the key to my future, particularly with plastic surgery and fake tan. As I keep telling my parents, if I fail my degree, at least I've got a back-up plan. Most importantly, as my wise old Grandad used to say, I'll never fall flat on my face.



Scottish independence: fact or fantasy?

Nick O' Dowd

IT WOULD BE strange, almost unreal, to wake up one morning and find that the United Kingdom as we currently know does not exist anymore. But, with the Scottish National Party in possession of most of the seats in the Scottish Parliament, and with their promise of a referendum on independence, that abnormal morning seems no longer the stuff of fantasy. AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND would have dramatic consequences for the rest of the UK. Political and economic issues aside, it also raises cultural questions too. For one it would necessitate a fundamental re-evaluation of what what being "British" means. Can we, or should we, still call ourselves British without Scotland? Another issue would be what to do with the Union Flag. The Union Flag was made by merging the English and Scottish flag together, without Scotland in the UK, the Union Flag would have to go. The question then is do we use the English flag or make an entirely new flag to represent what's left of the UK? Some English people support Scottish independence, because we give Scotland £31 billion a year, which in turn is used to fund the NHS and higher education in Scotland. Only about 1/3rd of Scot's apparently support Scottish independence, partially because they would lose that £31 billion, and also they rightly question if Scotland can economically support itself without England. They only voted SNP because they disliked the Tories, the Lib Dems and Labour. Who could blame



Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP.
Photo by Ewan McIntosh/Flickr

them really?

At any rate, the matter of independence will be decided by referendum. SNP leader Alex Salmond has indicated that he would wait until the latter half of his term before holding a referendum, thereby tactically waiting until the economic climate in Europe has improved. Salmond will also be taking advice from like-minded allies across the Atlantic Ocean. Parti Quebecois, a political party in Canada which has tried and so far failed on two referendums

for Quebecois independence, has been offering advice to Salmond. Their key recommendation is: "Be careful with the timing and keep an eye out for rule-bending rivals."

This piece of advice exposes two major problems with referendums. One is timing. The result of a referendum often depends on the public mood. The "mood" of the public is a very capricious and slippery thing. It can be altered by superficial things such as the result of a football match or the release of a Holly-

wood blockbuster. It can also be manipulated by the media and savvy, well organised and funded pressure groups. Switzerland is a country which frequently uses referendums, and you do get the occasional weird result. In 2009 the Swiss voted in a law which bans the further construction of minarets. Were minarets a major problem in Switzerland? Not really, there were only two of them! It just so happened that 57% of the Swiss electorate were Islamophobic. The lesson to be learnt is that most people vote with their instincts and not their minds.

As for the rule-bending rivals? Possibly one of the major determinants of whom wins a referendum is whom shouts the loudest, and which side shouts the loudest often depends on who's got the most cash. Parti Quebecois blame losing their referendum on independence on the Canadian federal government unfairly funding the "no" campaign. The current British Government, dominated by the Conservatives, or to give them their full name the Conservative and Unionist Party, could mobilise their well organised and funded campaign machine to "steer" the opinions of the Scottish people towards the parties interest.

Partially for this reason, I would place a cautious bet that Scotland will vote "no" on their referendum on independence. However, if Scotland suddenly win the Rugby Union world cup and by shocking coincidence Braveheart II comes out, then we could wake up that one morning and find that the United Kingdom we all know and are familiar with no longer exists.

There is more out there than Microsoft

Richard Sykes

I think it's fair to say a majority of readers will have never heard of Linux or Ubuntu. Ubuntu is a free Linux Operating System (OS) with about 15 million users worldwide. It is made by a non-profit organisation funded by British businessman Mark Shuttleworth and primarily written by volunteers. I am not writing this to insult Microsoft, however, I believe that Microsoft's dominance of the market is unhealthy for consumers and I believe that people should be aware of the alternatives; the free market only drives down prices and increases quality when most people are aware of more than one or two products.

During term time I use a laptop that does not have Windows on it instead it uses Ubuntu. It is obtained through downloading it for free from ubuntu.com and burning it to a CD. The Ubuntu provides a detailed but short installation guide designed for novices. It can be installed alongside Windows giving you a choice of which to load when you start your computer or can be installed on its own in replace of windows. You can also trial it using the installation disk or USB, without changing anything on your computer.

Ubuntu uses the popular Mozilla Fire-

fox web browser and has the fantastic advantage that it is totally invulnerable to all Microsoft viruses and spyware; they simply cannot work on an operating system they are not designed for. There are no known active viruses for Ubuntu and there are unlikely to be in the future for various reasons that I do not have space to explain. It means that if you use Ubuntu you simply do not need to worry about most aspects of internet security.

A key part of Ubuntu is the Open Office suite; it is also popular on windows. It is free and supports both the Open Office file formats and Microsoft Office 2007/2010 Formats meaning both suites are nearly totally compatible with each other. Open Office contains good alternatives to Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel, using a layout similar to Microsoft office 2003. The one downside to it is their alternative to Microsoft Access (Open Office Base) is incompatible with it and is in my view a weaker product.

Most of the main non-Microsoft products used in Windows are available on Ubuntu such as Skype, Adobe Flash Player, Google Chrome and Spotify (the premium version only). Lesser known but equally good programmes for windows such as VLC Media Player and Pidgin Messenger are also available on Ubuntu. Pidgin Messenger is a great chat programme; it simultaneously mimics Facebook chat, MSN,

AOL, Yahoo chat and several other chat services. There are some Linux only programmes but they are primarily (but not solely) utilities such as CD / DVD creating software.

'Microsoft's dominance of the market is unhealthy for consumers and people should be aware of alternatives'

Ubuntu is designed around being usable for the average computer user. To install a programme you search for it and press the install button and the programme is downloaded and installed for you without needing restart your computer. When you are not looking for a specific programme they are helpfully arranged into categories with information about each programme to help you to decide which to install. The updates programme in Ubuntu updates most of the software on your computer as well as the operating system itself, this means it is easy to keep both the OS and its programmes up-to-date. However I must

warn you that the software centre and update service does not work on campus, although I hope ISS will change this at some point. Complex Games such as Crysis, The Total War Series and Farcry can be run on Ubuntu using an emulator programme but I would not recommend trying this.

A final advantage of Ubuntu is its speed; my laptop used to take over two minutes to load when I used Windows Vista; now it takes approximately 30 seconds to start up and it almost never loads a programme slowly. This is particularly helpful if you computer is old or is a netbook. While it is perfectly possible to install Ubuntu on a computer that runs windows, some companies (such as Overclockers and Novatech) sell Desktops and Laptops without any operating systems installed, meaning you can buy a computer without having to pay for Windows 7 and install Ubuntu or another Linux OS.

I have found Ubuntu to be a fast, secure, simple and free alternative to Microsoft. While many people are happy with using Microsoft products or can afford to buy and prefer Apple Macs, many users might prefer Ubuntu. I hope more people are aware of its existence after this article and consider using it. If you are more computer savvy I would recommend two other Linux operating systems: Fedora and SUSE.

Sorry **girls**, we can't do it better

Features Editor, **Kristina Beanland**, explains her outrage at the new supermodel

FHM Magazine has recently released their notorious list of the 100 sexiest women in the world. Who got that coveted title of the most gorgeous girl on the planet I hear you ask? Rosie Huntington-Whiteley. A 5ft 9, size eight blonde and a Victoria's Secret model. Yes she is absolutely gorgeous, and yes, I am absolutely jealous. However, up in the heights of number 82, if you look hard enough, is Christina Hendricks. Made famous by the TV show *Mad Men*, Christina Hendricks is a red head, and a size 14.

I have never seen her on TV but I already like Christina. Apart from her obviously brilliant name, I like the fact that she looks how real women look. Unfortunately for the majority of the female population, we may be flipping fabulous, but we aren't models. We have bad hair days, and fat days and oh-my-god-my-bum-looks-huge-days, because that's what happens to real life women who don't have stylists and make up artists ready at their every beck and call.

So, I think we've established that I quite like Christina Hendricks. Now for someone I do not like: introducing number 98, Andrej Pejic. This 6ft 2, gorgeous blonde model from Australia has been gracing the runways of Jean Paul Gautier in stunning wedding dresses and doing campaigns for Marc Jacobs. Why don't I like Andrej I hear you ask? Because this model who looks like a she, is in fact a he.

Seriously, Google him. He doesn't look like a woman in a Lily Savage kind of way, this guy is hot stuff. Now, I don't dislike him because he's a man wearing a woman's clothes – if that's what floats your boat then that's fine by me, but that's not what I'm getting at. Andrej lives his life as a man, and walks male fashion shows. The reason why I'm so annoyed about Aussie Andrej is because he's being paraded around on world famous fashion stages in clothes that cost thousands of pounds as a female model. Models are presented as the ideal. Women, whether we like it or not, aspire to look like them. Except the thing is, we can never ever look like Andrej, because Andrej is



Male model Andrej Pejic is famous for modeling women's clothes

not a woman.

We've always known that the fashion industry likes tall, starving girls who really don't need to be wearing a bra. It's no secret that models battle bulimia and anorexia everyday just to maintain the industry's perception of beautiful. But now, surely women everywhere are experiencing the ultimate slap in the face – you girls are just not skinny enough, or tall enough, or flat chested enough for us. Basically you don't look enough like a boy, so we're gonna have to use a real one. Biggest. Insult. Ever.

'Unfortunately for the majority of the female population, we may be flipping fabulous, but we aren't models'

Without meaning to sound too melodramatic, how dare they? These designers design for women, they get their millions from women buying the clothes, and yet they can't bring themselves to let women advertise their clothes just because they might have one tiny ounce of fat on their already impossibly tiny hips. I don't think it's too over the top to say that I'm rather disgusted. Surely the fact that the only 'woman' who can pull off this women's wear is in fact a man, should tell them something? Start designing clothes that real women can look gorgeous in too.

If I had it my way more women like Christina Hendricks would be walking in Couture fashion shows, but somehow, I highly doubt that. It's not all bad news though – finally women seem to be embracing their shapes, even stick insect Victoria Beckham has designed an entire collection around womanly curves. So let's see how Andrej looks in cleavage boosting, curve hugging designs. I'm no expert, but I bet he'd look a right idiot.

Procrastinate for charity

Marianne Cronin gives tips on worthwhile procrastination

WHAT IF YOU could procrastinate, and feel good about it? It's possible with the help of a website called freerice.com. Launched in 2007 by John Breen, Freerice.com is a multiple-choice quiz website with the ingenious twist that for every answer you get right, 10 grains of rice will be donated to starving countries through the UN World Food Program. The website affords to pay for the rice through the advertisements, some placed by well known companies and others by private sponsors.

Freerice.com works by asking you a question and giving you four possible answers. Selecting the right answer will donate 10 grains of rice to charity. It is that simple. There are a variety of subjects available, ranging from maths to famous paintings, chemistry or geography. The original, and my personal favourite is the vocabulary test which ranges

from the easy level one to the almost impossible level 60. For each correct answer the questions get one level harder. If you get it wrong, you drop a level to an easier question. The game quickly becomes addictive as you try to beat your own best level. A little counter on the screen tells you how many grains of rice you have donated.

Freerice.com has come a long way since its inception in October 2007, on its first day 830 grains of rice were donated. On the 5th of May 2011 over 46 million grains of rice were donated, with 90 billion grains of rice having been donated to date. Since the UN food program took the website over, Freerice.com has been updated to include social networking elements so you can get your Facebook fix too. By signing up (for free) you can join groups of like-minded people donating, and you can

record your scores.

It's the perfect procrastination game because your mind is still active, and it may even expand your vocabulary (definition of apotropaic anyone?).

Of course, procrastination in large doses can be harmful, but in small doses it can provide a welcome break from the monotony of revision. So the next time you see an ad for a charity and feel guilty that you don't have any spare cash to donate, or the next time you are watching Jeremy Kyle instead of revising, or using your internal phone line to call your friend in the room next door and ask if they are procrastinating too, then you should visit freerice.com, play the game, donate some food to the hungry and maybe even learn something while you're at it. Perhaps there is such a thing as a free meal.

A case of good cop bad cop

L.A. Noire is a revolutionary, flawed action-adventure game

L.A. NOIRE

Rockstar Games
PS3 and Xbox 360
Out now

Alex Harris

There are two things to review, really, when sitting down to talk about Rockstar's latest foray into historically-based sandbox gameing, L.A. Noire. The first is the revolutionary MotionScan technology, in which

actors movements are captured by a series of cameras in a video recording studio and digitally projected onto in-game characters' faces. The second is the actual game itself, which is a kind of mirror-image Grand Theft Auto. In that game, you're a nihilistic criminal awarded points for murder and destruction. In L.A. Noire, you're a straight-up police officer and points are deducted for crashing your car or harming citizens. The question is, does the face capture serve the game or not? After all, the technology will surely have gone to waste if it's all in service of a completely uninteresting and disengaging experience.

The facial capture technology in LA Noire is nothing short of magnificent. For a long time, now, games have suffered from the effects of a phenomenon known as the uncanny valley, in which computer-generated characters become steadily more unsettling the closer they are to resembling actual humans. Those who've played Bethesda's masterful Oblivion and Fallout series will be familiar with this – eerie characters engage you in fixed conversation holding a rigid, unflinching gaze like they've been just emerged from some kind of Lovecraftian cult brainwashing session. The solution, then, is to hire professional actors to do the parts instead. It's not like games haven't attempted stuff like this before – in the early 90s there was a brief series of so-called interactive movie games like Deadelus Encounter that tried to import performance through pre-recorded scenes into the game itself, but the effect was jarring and schizophrenic. L.A. Noire, in contrast, seamlessly blends performances from big names such as Mad Men's Aaron Staton (playing lead detective Cole Phelps) to create a cinematic experience reminiscent of last year's dark whodunnit epic Heavy Rain.

The game play itself is less revolutionary, often becoming formulaic, even tedious at times. Most of the early missions have you attending a crime scene, search for clues and then question two or three witnesses, eventually giving chase to the person who committed the crime and throwing them in the slammer once you catch them. This is fun for the most part, but working through four or five story



lines that differ in largely superficial ways with less attention paid to any wider, enveloping narrative does become a bit boring and it takes a while for L.A. Noire's story to pick up the pace. Furthermore, whilst the idea of ruffling through suspects' houses and murder scenes to search for clues sounds great on paper, in practise you'll find yourself trying to cover every square inch of an area rapidly tapping the action button in order to leave no stone unturned. This button-mashing detracts from the feeling of immersion somewhat, harking back to the less elegant moments of the point and click adventure games which had players walking around using every item against every other item to advance the storyline. It feels very unnatural and the bizarre decision to include clues which are completely pointless (like beer bottles and cigarette packets) makes what should be an integral and vibrant part of the game feel like a chore.

The comparison with point and click games isn't entirely negative, though. In fact, playing through L.A. Noire I was increasingly reminded of some of the better adventure games of the 90s, games like Bladerunner and

Discworld Noir. The sense of piecing together clues to try and arrive at a logical conclusion to a task coupled with dialogue-heavy game play – elements which made those games so great, is still present. Thankfully, as well, some of the more absurd lateral thinking elements that made those games so frustrating has been removed. Missions can be worked out using clear, rational thought and careful questioning of suspects.

The interview sections are L.A. Noire's cause célèbre designed to show off exactly what MotionScan can do. The theory goes that players are supposed to use their well-honed social skills to be able to tell whether they wish to believe a character, doubt their truthfulness or present them with evidence that they're lying. In reality, there are much more than three options police officers can take when interrogating witnesses, but still the effect works remarkably well and in this reviewer's opinion these are the moments where L.A. Noire really shines and becomes the game that makes it stand out from the standard fast-paced action games like Killzone 3 and Dead Space 2. The biggest criticism I can think of the interroga-

tion scenes came when playing this game with a friend and I was asked "can you not do anything like good cop/bad cop?" The Truth/Doubt/Lie system in L.A. Noire means that there is only one correct way to get the right answers out of witnesses during interrogation. This seems like a step backwards from the recent trends in gaming which seek to give players control over the storyline and present multiple ways to arrive at a correct answer. Including a strategic element to interrogations and an open-endedness may have made L.A. Noire a classic, as opposed to just a great game.

In short, L.A. Noire is in parts highly original, interesting, fun and engaging. There is enough in this game to highly recommend a purchase to anybody who's still on the fence about whether or not to pick up a copy. It's flawed and by no means the revolutionary classic that some of the publicity would suggest, but involving enough to warrant a play-through to the end. The story lines are decent, the performances excellent and there's much to love. Ultimately, however, it feels that there is still much more that could be done with MotionScan technology.

What a Rush!

Deputy Culture Editor, **Joe Henthorn**, explains why there's a lot to be said for dad music



You may have heard of Rush before. Studies have (probably) shown that your dad is likely to have at least one album of theirs on CD or vinyl; and it will be your dad, as their fanbase seems to be entirely devoid of females. And if you haven't done so already, you should really check that CD out. Arguably their most famous album, 2112, includes a 30 minute progressive hard-rock space-opera in which the unnamed protagonist fights against the tyrannical forces of an authoritarian, interplanetary Empire. Kind of like Star Wars, but more confusing by several magnitudes. Oh, and the whole thing is littered with references to Ayn Rand's preposterously large (and equally confusing) book 'Atlas Shrugged'. So if you're trying to describe Rush in a single word, your only choice would be 'pretentious'.

Not that this is a bad thing. But this is proper, old-school pretentious; Rush were pretentious before being pretentious was cool. Shunned by mainstream critics for the majority of their decades spanning existence, they have instead had to build a fanbase on the basis of their excellent live show, which has been round the world as many times as the International Space Station in the last twenty or so years, and their almost unparalleled musicianship.

So, to recap, they are ancient prog-rockers with extremely high-pitched voices who play extremely long songs with titles like La Villa Strangiato – An Exercise in Self Indulgence

and dabble in obscure political philosophies. So why should you care about them? Because a) they've influenced pretty much every artist in some way since the 1970s, b) they do a bloody great live show and c) they're just kind of awesome.

They opened with a fantastic rendition of one of their most well-known songs, Spirit of the Radio, and didn't let the momentum drop from there. They bounced between styles and eras seamlessly, segueing effortlessly from the hard rock of Spirit of the Radio into the almost cheesy synth-pop of Time Stand Still and back to extended versions of funky instrumentals. 'I have to apologise for our little indulgences', said frontman Geddy Lee half after playing a gloriously long version of Leave That Thing Alone, but the crowd lapped every second of it up. It's such a treat to watch them play; all three of them are true masters of their instruments and Geddy Lee somehow manages to play the keyboards with his feet whilst playing some of the funkier bass lines heard in human history. Some more excellent performances came in the form of Subdivisions and Freewill, the latter of which really lived up to expectations live as my favourite song in all of human history.

YYZ was another highlight after the brief interval - you know you've done something right when a crowd of 30,000 people sings along to every note of a five minute instrumental. Neil Peart, their truly god-like drummer, then took center stage for one of his world-

renowned 360 degree drum solos (his kit rotates whilst he's playing). I timed the thing at nine minutes 46 seconds. He is verging on his sixties and he can still do this in the middle of a demanding three hour set. There aren't really any words you can use to describe things like that, to be quite honest. Two movements from the aforementioned 2112 suite and an encore of crowd-favourite Working Man brought an excellent set to a thrilling

This is proper, old-school pretentious; Rush were pretentious before being pretentious was cool'

conclusion.

Overall then, they were nigh on perfect. Perfect musicianship, perfect set list, perfect all round performance. But that wasn't the most impressive part; if any aspect of this hadn't been perfect then the crowd would have been disappointed. They're amongst the best musicians in the world on their respective instruments, and they've been doing this stuff for almost double the amount of time most of us have been alive anyway, so nothing but the best would have sufficed.

But what was truly impressive was that they managed to set this fantastic music in the context of a frequently hilarious, occasionally awe-inspiring (and sometimes just plain confusing) live show that incorporated bits of theatre and film alongside the music. "I just can't stop thinking big" is a lyric from their latest single, and it really is obvious that that's true. Every bit of their equipment - from the amps to the drum kits to the on-stage sausage maker - was impeccably styled to match the steampunk-esque concept of their upcoming album. Three films played throughout the set that showed us the 'True History of Rush'. They were originally a folk band, apparently, until their manager invented a time-machine and turned them in prog-rock superheroes. It's refreshing to see that a band as respected and as pretentious as Rush have an excellent and slightly odd sense of humour. They also have a penchant for awful puns, which is something I can relate to. But undoubtedly the best bit was the whopping great transformer that unfurled itself from the roof and cast an almighty shadow over half the crowd, before exploding in a flurry of rave lights and fireworks and robot dance moves.

They're getting quite old now but they certainly don't look like slowing down, so when their tour inevitably finds itself back in England, I really recommend catching them. After all, there was a reason that most of the crowd left the arena saying "that was the best gig I've ever seen".



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Time for a reality check

With graduation creeping closer **Sophie Kernohan** wishes she'd made the most of the career service

Question: How many of you have made use of the careers service on campus provided by Lancaster University? For the majority of us the answer to this is likely to be that we have always had every intention of making an appointment, but in all honesty, it hasn't taken priority above the million and one other things we should be doing at the moment.

Yes, we are made aware of the service during the first talks of Freshers' Week, but at the same time within days of arriving every fresher is undoubtedly bombarded with talks on lectures, the best societies to join, the best places to go in town, and in reality our future career is most likely to be the last thing on our minds. That careers timeline we are given in our welcome packs, which lets face it seemed so overwhelming not to mention daunting and far away, is hidden at the back of a drawer somewhere, and the closest thing we get to in terms of questioning our future is deciding if we've chosen the right course, never mind if it will lead to the career we want. By second year the reality that it does actually matter if we achieve the 40 percent needed to pass or not hits us and the workload will start to amount, yet still graduation seems like a long way off. Before you know it you're in your final year, trying to complete the dreaded dissertation or frantically trying to find notes for revision when in reality you slept through that seminar.

What we don't realise is that our time at university does go unbelievably fast. All of a sudden it will be time for your final exams and the stress of trying to find a job once you graduate, especially in this current climate, does in no way help to make your revision any easier. However all this stress could be easily avoided with a few hours planning and a meeting with a careers adviser.

Although we might not already know it, many of us are clueless about the right way to write a CV, fill in an application form, or for those of us lucky enough to get through the application stage, prepare for an interview. With a CV for example should it always be one hundred percent formal, a black and white list of achievements you have gained over your university career? Or should it in fact be a colourful representation of who you really are, and if so what's the best way to go about it?

As a third year I am ashamed to admit that I was doubtful at first of how much the careers service on campus could actually help me. However after initially having little success with the first few applications I filled in, I decided it was time to make an appointment with an adviser and see what help they could give me. To my surprise they were in fact unbelievably helpful, not to mention friendly. I was offered clear and individual advice on how to present my CV in an eye catching way that would make me stand out from the thousands of other graduates applying for the same job.

With personal tutors often having a couple of hundred students to look after each it can be difficult to find the help that is right for you. Needless to say, this small yet efficient team of six careers advisors: Agnes, Chris, Elaine, Heather, David and Wendy, are not here to tell you what to do or indeed to tell you off for not coming to see them earlier. They are here to help you work out and achieve what it is you want for your future. With the right planning – and a little help from the careers team – you too could have your graduate job sorted earlier than everyone else, giving you the edge you need in today's difficult economy...so what are you waiting for? Make an appointment with the careers service, situated in University House on Alexandra Square, and get yourself



Revision releases

Kathy Wright

ON THE DAY of our last exam, in the back of our tired minds, we all hear the imaginary countdown music, signifying our closeness to freedom. Walking out of the final exam is one of the best feelings of term time, because we all know relaxation can begin immediately. After a million hours of sleep followed by many visits to the Sugarhouse, we still need to find time to relax. After exams, we can have an amazing time resuming our normal social life and balance some great revision releases that are within our student budget.

Seeing as summer is swiftly approaching, it is time to make the most of some low budget BBQs. All you need is a group of friends, a portable BBQ and some great summer music. Gather a group of friends and divide the cost of burgers, buns and hot dogs by putting your money together and parting with a few quid. Portable BBQs are readily available and usually won't blow your budget, meaning you can have a great day socialising in the sun. BBQs are available to buy on campus at a reasonable price, so get your food and drink together and head down to the field to spend the afternoon soaking up the sun. Just remember to follow the university rules and set up camp in one of the designated areas and you can have a great afternoon or evening chilling around the BBQ and relaxing with friends.

With the eve -changing weather in England, we all know to make the most of the sun when it is here. So why not pack your beach bags and head to Morecambe? With bus prices only costing around £5 to take you directly there, you can spend the whole day lying on your beach towel and completely forgetting the stress of revision. If that seems optimistic, why not walk along the beach with an ice cream, or failing the weather, visit the bowling alley, which offers student discount. It is a chance to get competitive on your friends and see who among you is a champion bowler and by a champion I mean someone who manages a strike without the trusty side bars up. If you are feeling more adventurous and looking to head further a field then why not spend the day at Blackpool? The pier offers lots of fun and exciting ways to spend your day and you can get rid of your pennies on the slot machines too.

Cocktail parties are always fun and make the most of being loud after the quiet period. Create the perfect summer setting with an iPod blasting your favourite tunes and invite plenty of your favourite people. Create some of your own summer cocktails by looking up recipes on the internet or buy some cheap fruit juice and become experts in mixing, tasting and hopefully enjoying your creations.

Just because we are students on a budget, it doesn't mean we can't have a great time banishing the memories of revision from our lives. The summer is calling and it's up to us to make the most of the time we have left of this academic year. Look on the Internet to find day trips, go and spend time in local beer gardens or just have movie nights and spend time with your friends. We deserve some fun after all of our hard work, wouldn't you agree?

Go on, be smelly

With the season of welly wearing fast approaching **Matt Haslam** urges everyone to festival at least once

Summer is definitely my favourite time of year. Not just because of the sun, endless barbeques and holidays abroad but for that gloriously smelly alcohol fuelled weekend right in the middle of festival season. Festivals aren't always everyone's best friend; ask someone to pay £200 for the privilege of sleeping on a cold, hard, muddy floor, have no shower for three days and to constantly smell of things you never thought existed and you'd probably be laughed away. But if you mention that part of the package would be to see dozens of bands, singers, comedians and acts from the early morning to long into the night, to attend one huge 72 hour party, who wouldn't reconsider?

The beauty of festivals is that they give us the excuse to do all the things we generally want to do in life but without the guilt; no showering, no shaving, paying nature a call in the middle of a field and freely drinking beer for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There really is nothing like the feeling of waking up in the morning and letting your eyes adjust to the summer sunshine before stretching out your arms and reaching for cold one. Then the next stop is usually a trip to the hot food van on your own personal pilgrimage for an extortionately priced bacon muffin to be your day's main supply of energy. What better way to wash it down than with another ice cold beverage? You have, after all, got three crates of the necessary provisions to last you the weekend.

The daytime attractions are usually brilliant and really add to the festival experience; carnival rides, funfairs, bars, club tents and food stands from every corner of the globe, all spread out over acres of land for your enjoyment. Then when the music acts start in the afternoon, the stereotypical festival experience begins. The crowds gather and the drinks, loud music, drunken dancing, epic legends on stage, mosh pits, people sitting on their mate's shoulders and pure ground shaking brilliance begins.

Hours seem to pass like days when you soak up the atmosphere and become one with the festival feeling. As the sun sets, the rowdy crowd turns into mass gospel choir belting out the power ballads of the worldwide famous acts headlining on stage. From Wonderwall and Umbrella to a classic chorus of Sex on Fire; you can say that you love a song so much but to



Photo by Peter Brown/Flickr

hear thousands of people scream the lyrics at the top of their voices raises the bar so high it's truly magical.

To end, here are two things you have to do when you attend a festival. Firstly, make friends with strangers, this is definitely a must while you're waiting for acts to come on. Talk to the people around you, especially if you're in a squashed crowd, they might be more forgiving if you end up standing on their

foot when you're soon to be jumping up and down. Finally, you have to trust me with this one; always make sure you get the view of a lifetime by sitting on your mate's shoulders in the crowd. Guaranteed one of the best moments of my life was up high, watching and singing along with a bunch of pure music fanatics enjoying themselves to the fullest. So go on, ignore that smell, what are you waiting for?

Vodka isn't a good colour on you

Kathy Wright

PICTURE THE SCENE; you've spent all night getting dressed up, all of your friends are having a laugh, you have some pre-drinks and eventually get to the club. The next day you wake up, your clothes are ruined with a luminous tint of a Strawberry Woo Woo and the only question on your mind is 'What happened last night?' So many times a great night out leads to a boozy bust up or lets face it, pure embarrassment. So how can we have a great night out without going too far?

All of us have those nights out, where on reflection; we can honestly say things have gotten out of hand. Thankfully most of the time we usually have some great friends forcing down that essential pints of water. However, if getting ridiculously drunk is becoming a regular occurrence then a lot of unnecessary arguments and situations can occur. We all get that extra bit brave after a few drinks and things can be said that would never be said when we are sober. Texts can be misconstrued and one joke, taken the wrong way, can lead to a serious fight. If an argument goes too far on a night out, then it's prob-

ably better to sort it out the next day when everyone is thinking more clearly. Let people cool off when they've had a few or if you're slightly more sober try and diffuse the situation. If you feel yourself getting out of control, stop and think for a minute; a minute to calm down could be the difference between a night to remember or a night you always want to forget. If a fight just couldn't be avoided it's always best to try and sort it out the next day. There is really no need to lose a great friend over a few drunken words.

All of us have that one friend who loves to be high on life and sometimes goes too far and if this is the case make sure you, or one of your group, stays reasonably sober to stop any major incidents from occurring. Unfortunately being a good friend might mean you have to be the one bringing the water and spending the night in the toilets, but it's always worth it to make sure your friend is O.K. Just remember you might be in that situation in the future too. Sometimes, if friends are regularly making a fool of themselves, it's better to just talk to them privately when they are sober. It always helps to be honest and remind people that you can have an amazing night out without becoming the drunken mess that people are becoming embarrassed to go out with.



We all need a break from those crazy essays and personally I think nights out at Lancaster are an amazing way to de-stress. Always have fun, but remember there is a fine line between a good and bad night out and that line is probably that last shot of Vodka you really didn't need.

Don't look back into the sun

...without the proper eye protection. Fashion Columnist **Hugh Metcalf** looks at this season's retro take on sunglasses.

SUNGLASSES ARE A perilous summer purchase, not only in the potential case of them being a waste of money (come on Lancastrian weather!) but also because there's a variety of ways to tackle them. You could splash out on a pair of designer classics like your Dolces or your Ray-Bans or spend a little less to pick up this season's statement eyewear, the cat-eye lense.

This trend is part and parcel of the revival of 50s and 60s style such as the midi-skirt and the kitten heel and, arguably, just as controversial. However, after featuring fierce designs on the spring/summer catwalk earlier in the year, the cat-eye has hit the high street in a range of more accessible incarnations.

Not every pair is as camp as this style's retro ambassadors; Catwoman and Dame Edna Everege. Variations in colour, frame and shape mean that these glasses can suit any outfit from your most vintage creation to something chicly modern; a block blackout pair will give Hepburnesque glamour to a LBD, while a pair of white frames are a playful summer accessory with a striped vest and denim shorts. In shape, there are two real options, a strong, statement diamond shape



frame or a slight flare out to an understated point for the everyday look. Of course, like all sunglasses, certain shapes suit certain faces, so it's important to identify your own face shape to the pick glasses that best suit you. These tips can be applied to any glasses purchase, not just the cat-eye trend. For both diamond (narrow at the forehead and chin) and square face shapes, rounder, less severe frames work best. For the diamonds, the aim is to draw attention to the eyes, while the rounder lens will help soften the jaw line of a square. Angular styles are better for round faces, as they will give more definition and lengthen this face shape. However, these rules are

subject to the individual. Your hairstyle, complexion and facial features all play an important part in how sunglasses work with your face; sometimes it's just a case on trying on a few pairs until you find the ones that suit you.

If you want to take this trend further than sunbathing by Carter's lake, you can also try out the cat-eye spectacle. It's always a good thing to be able to turn long or short sightedness into a fashion statement, but glasses are ever popular with those who don't need them. A clear lensed cat-eye can add the retro touch and a pinch of glamour in an instant.

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How to wear:

- **Looking back:** Cat-eye glasses are part of the 50s/60s style resurrection.
- **Experiment:** Different frames, colours and lenses change this style's entire outlook.
- **Face it:** Certain styles only really suit certain face shapes. Find the one that suits you.



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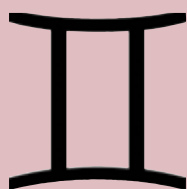
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MYSTIC MACLEOD



GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 20

It is predicted you will become socially isolated and

fail at life for having no sense of humour. After another job rejection due to your unlikable tendency to take things literally you'll go for a stropky sulk in the woods and fall into a hole into oblivion. Whoops.

CANCER JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Taking psychotic crazy madman to whole new levels, the cocktail of pro plus you've been living on has sent your mind on a journey to a dark land of legless coconut people who will eventually drown in the blood that rains from the purple skies.

LEO JULY 23 - AUG 22

You feel like chicken tonight, but the frozen chicken doesn't feel like you. It's hiding deep at the bottom of your freezer; attempts to retrieve will throw you off balance and you'll be preserved in ice before you can say eat within one month.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Maximising on style and sunshine you'll slip on a Maxi dress for a day in town. Not warned of the dangers of fabric lengths, however, you'll become snagged, ensnared and bedraggled on anything at floor height, like dogs, escalators and tramps.

LIBRA SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Playful Mercury is making a planetary raucous. Similar havoc will be wreaked at your hands brought on by the joy of finishing your exams ahead of your sorry peers. Air horn in the reading room? I think so.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

A bite from one of the feral cats on campus whilst you were having an innocent stroke (if there is such a thing) will reveal

they have mated with vampires and you are now immortal and can fly. Crazy cats.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

A fault with your cooker is causing a nuisance, but you'll be out of the frying pan and into the fires of passion when you get an eye-full of the maintenance worker who fixes it! You two will be turning the heat right up to six.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 20

Mummy was worried about how you did in your exam so decided to give you a friendly ring, before the exam had finished. It is predicted you'll be too stupid to turn your phone off in the exam so frankly you don't deserve to pass anyway.

AQUARIUS JAN 21 - FEB 17

Quiet period: two words that bring only false hope. Apparently no one told the grass cutters, wood chippers, builders and road sweepers who can all go and burn in a fire of your making when you lose your mind, as it is predicted you will.

PISCES FEB 18 - MAR 20

It is predicted that friendships are on the line this month! Seasonal stress will give way to the unleashing of tension undercurrents. If you get out the wrong sized spoons for apple crumble you'll end up in a custardy mess.

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

Sense of direction will be your downfall this week, Aries when you fail to prepare for the unusual location of your exam. Foxed by George Fox, the Great Hall not looking so great, Marcus Merriman not feeling merry: you're well lost!

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 21

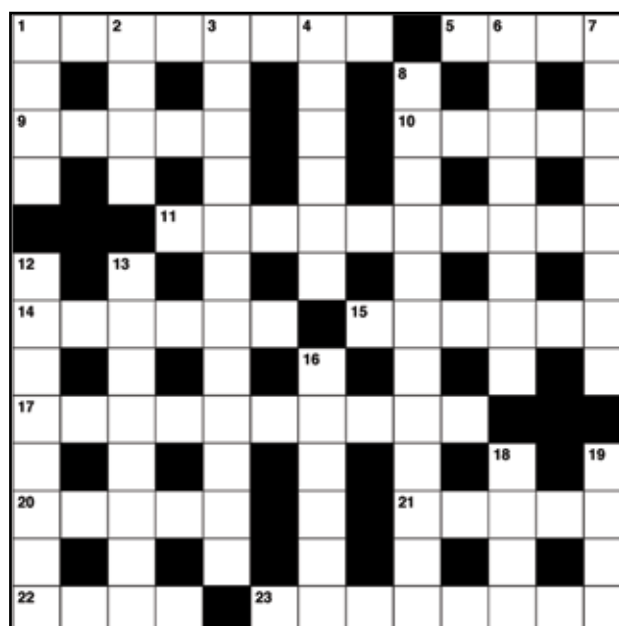
A sly piece of bone from a dinner you thought was comfortably bone free will find its way into your windpipe and play merry hell with your respiration. If no one is about, throw yourself at a wall to help dislodge.

THE QUIZ - First lines from novels

1. "Mr and Mrs Dursley, of number four Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much..."
2. "Amergo Bonasera sat in New York Criminal Court Number 3 and waited for justice..."
3. "Stately, plump Buck Mulligan came from the stairhead, bearing a bowl of lather on which a mirror and a razor lay crossed..."
4. "Someone must have slandered Josef K., for one morning, without having done anything truly wrong, he was arrested..."
5. "I was born in the Year 1632, in the City of York, of a good Family, tho' not of that Country, my Father being a Foreigner of Bremen..."

Answers below

The Crossword



Across

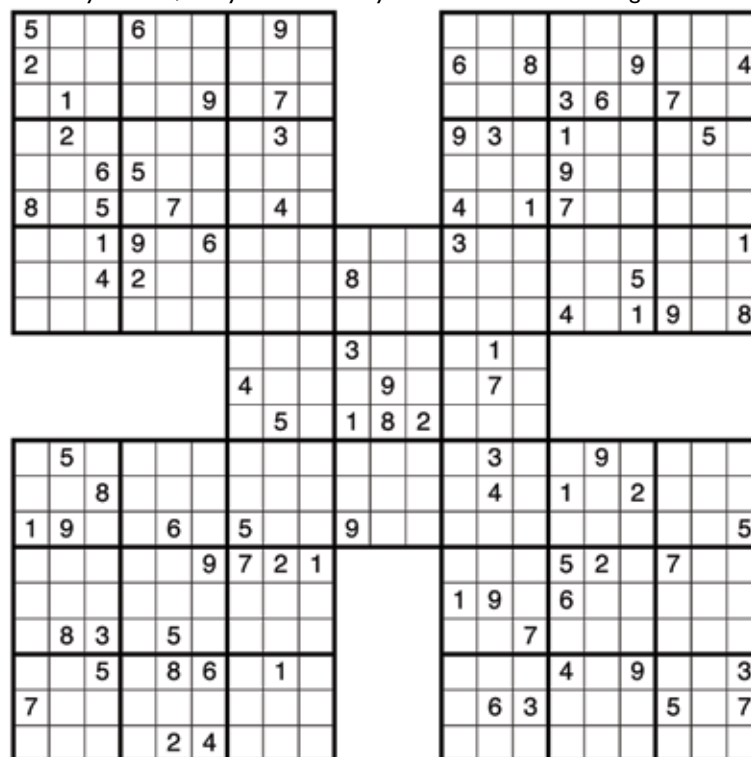
- 1 - Close (4,4)
- 5 - Leap in the air (4)
- 9 - Bundles (5)
- 10 - ____ and lows (5)
- 11 - Restriction (10)
- 14 - Idle (6)
- 15 - Lively Spanish dance (6)
- 17 - Supervisory (10)
- 20 - Constructed (5)
- 21 - Conspicuous feather (5)
- 22 - Boundary of a surface (4)
- 23 - Exterior of a motor vehicle (8)

Down

- 1 - Cries (4)
- 2 - Unattractive (4)
- 3 - Sad (12)
- 4 - Fish (6)
- 6 - Uncontrolled after launching (8)
- 7 - Place (8)
- 8 - Art of planning a dance (12)
- 12 - Atrocious (8)
- 13 - Prickling (8)
- 16 - Dual audio (6)
- 18 - Greek spirit (4)
- 19 - Look for (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) Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone 2) The Trial 3) Robinson Crusoe 4) The Godfather 5) The Godfather 6) The Godfather 7) The Godfather 8) The Godfather 9) The Godfather

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