

Freshers' week fears for off-campus students

229 students without on-campus accommodation

Jonnie Critchley
 Assistant Editor

For the second year in succession Lancaster University has found itself oversubscribed, with over 200 new students having to be helped to find off-campus accommodation in the weeks running up to the start of term.

Accommodation teams from the University and Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU) have been largely successful in housing students, but disappointment and worry are still rife among those affected, many of whom fear for their Freshers' Week experience in particular.

"I feel my Freshers' Week may be affected due to the travel [between Lancaster and campus]. I know the cost of a bus pass is cheaper than many areas but it's still £200 more than I planned for," said Grizedale first-year Aimie Baker, one of the students affected.

An explanatory statement from the University has put the problems down to the fact that "the University is more popular than ever, partly due to its league table rankings and more students [meeting] very high entry standards this year.

Due to this unprecedented demand, not all first-year students can be housed on campus, although students who put Lancaster down as first choice and applied before the deadline have been offered

rooms," the statement said.

Head of Colleges and Student Life Hillary Simmons told SCAN that "we always allocate enough accommodation for the projected target of first year students," indicating that the actual number of new students has overshot that target despite the fact that no places were offered through the UCAS Clearing system as was the case last year.

The University has admitted 3122 undergraduate students for 2011/12, and it has been those students who selected Lancaster as their 'insurance' choice, such as Baker, who have had to find off-campus accommodation.

Dr Simmons apologised to affected students on behalf of the University, and added: "We will be asking Colleges to try to ensure ongoing support for students living off campus, particularly during the early part of term."

LUSU Living have been called upon to help these students, providing a "comprehensive house-hunting pack" and setting up a Facebook group to provide a forum for affected students.

"The Facebook group set up by the Students' Union has meant that I've been able to speak to some of the other students in the same situation which helps to make it all feel slightly less daunting," said Jenn Pawley, an incoming Bowland student.

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Editor

Matthew Power
scan@lancaster.ac.uk
01524 592613

Assistant Editor

Jonnie Critchley
scan.assistanteditor@lusu.co.uk

Carolynne Editor

Ruth Eaton
scan.carolynne@lusu.co.uk

News Editor

Erin O'Reilly
scan.news@lusu.co.uk

Comment Editor

Paul Hannah
scan.comment@lusu.co.uk

Sports Editors

Rhys Elias
Alex Rastall
scan.sports@lusu.co.uk

Features Editor

Nick O'Dowd
scan.features@lusu.co.uk

Lifestyle Editor

Hannah Husthwaite
scan.lifestyle@lusu.co.uk

Culture Editor

Joe Henthorn
scan.culture@lusu.co.uk

Website Editor

Craig Bojko
scan.website@lusu.co.uk

Head of Photography

Meher Gupta
scan.photography@lusu.co.uk

Marketing & Advertising

Louise Mason
l.mason@lancaster.ac.uk

SIXTY SECOND SCAN

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Front cover image by
Alex Stewart

Design by Torn Skarbek-
Wazynski & John Porter.
Printed at The Guardian Print
Centre, Longbridge Road,
Manchester, M17 1SN

LUSU

NEWS

Thousands visit Lancaster open days

Rachel Stafford

Unperturbed by the rise in tuition fees which would affect them as the intake of 2012, thousands of prospective students flocked to Lancaster University for the Undergraduate Visit Days on Wednesday 24th August and Saturday 17th September.

Frederick Binley, Head of Recruitment, felt that the August day was a "great success," with his team of 250 students and 300 academic staff welcoming 7,656 visitors on the day, a 21.6% increase in online bookings from the previous year. His team also received excellent feedback from prospective students, with 94.9% rating their day as 'very good' or 'good' and 64.2% stating that they will definitely apply to Lancaster after having visited.

It was the first time that LUSU had been an integral part of the visit day process and they rose to the challenge with a marquee and four gazebos pitched on Fylde quad, showcasing demonstrations ranging from Ballroom Dancing to Aikido. They also provided information about the volunteering opportunities available with the Union, home and abroad, along with reassuring parents of the safety of a night out in Lancaster.

LUSU Vice President (Events and Democracy) Olly Trumble had this to say about the day's events via the LUSU Twitter account: "We were able to showcase the exciting opportunities, support and activities that LUSU offers, making the decision to study at Lancaster even easier for prospective students."

Student helpers were

placed in various roles around campus in order to ensure that the University gave an excellent first impression to prospective students. Guides were also located at the railway station, where they guided visitors onto the free buses which would take them onto campus.

The responses from prospective students were very positive overall. "I was very impressed with Lancaster," one visitor commented, "everyone that I met there was friendly and helpful and I will definitely be making an application to study there."

Parents also seemed impressed by the day, with one expressing that: "My son is now desperate to attend your university and I would feel very secure in the knowledge that not only is this a fabulous educational institute, but also a very friendly and safe campus."

A record 9,276 bookings were taken in advance of the September open day. The day saw heavy rainfall throughout the Lancashire region and by lunchtime, Alexandra Square was flooded.

Prospective students were seen jumping from the bottom step to the spine outside the campus's newsagent. This resulted in one parent falling over.

Suzanne Parkinson, Head of Project Delivery in Facilities told SCAN that "following the weekends' poor weather and the occurrences of flooding, Facilities have been working to clear the blockages identified within the drainage system."

"This work is ongoing and will be completed by the end of September."



Attempting to unblock a drain at the September open day. Photo by Matthew Power

Alternative Freshers' Week has lots on offer

Emma Hughes

Lancaster University has unveiled plans for an 'alternative' Freshers' Week, with a series of events for non-drinkers and international students. Alongside the usual bar crawls and nights out organised by the individual colleges, the University and Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU) aim to cater for people who prefer not to drink or go out every night.

Matt Saint, LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), explained the need for more engaging events that aren't focused on alcohol.

"It is necessary for these events to be as exciting as possible as in the past these have tended to be a little bit boring," said Saint. "Just because some people don't drink or don't want to drink every night doesn't mean they don't want to do some-

thing fun where they can meet new people!"

The week starts with a film night in the Chaplaincy Centre on Sunday 2nd October, followed by a quiz hosted by the University in the Great Hall on Monday evening. A 'Faithshare' event will also be taking place in the Chaplaincy Centre to give students the opportunity to meet people of different religions.

On Thursday 6th October, LUSU are organising a Campus Treasure Hunt with prizes for the winning teams. Afterwards, LUSU Involve staff will be on hand to chat about the various volunteering opportunities available, with free pizza being provided. The week will then be rounded off with a night of board games and Wii in the Chaplaincy Centre on Friday and a trip to the Lake District on Sunday. This trip costs £7 per person but all other events are free to attend and

open to all.

There will also be an 'International Students Welcome Event' on Wednesday 5th October in the Great Hall, where overseas students will be treated to live music, free food and performances from some of the University's societies.

However, Saint is keen to point out the importance of integration for international students. "The term 'international students' applies to an incredibly diverse group of people and between all the events organised, I don't see why they wouldn't enjoy them as much as home [or] EU students," he explained.

"We do have the welcome evening however, so that they can get a better idea of what university is like in the UK and, in particular, Lancaster. This is a huge, exciting event which I am looking forward to very much and hope everyone will enjoy."

Off-campus students prepare for Freshers' Week

Jonnie Critchley
Assistant Editor

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LUSU Communications Manager Louise Inman explained that as well as finding accommodation for stranded students, the University and the Union are establishing support systems, particularly for Freshers' Week. "Once the students have found houses, Accommodation is going to make sure that students in the same area are in the same college and we'll make sure the college Freshers' Reps know where they all are," she said.

SCAN has spoken to a number of affected students. Bowland first-year Jenn Pawley, from Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, explained that "the whole situation has been really frustrating and stressful" and that "one of the main reasons I wanted to go to Lancaster was because it was a campus university and that was really important to me."

Pawley added that "it made me really worried about how my Freshers' Week was going to turn out and how difficult it was going to make meeting people in that first week. [...] Overall I think it's a shame that the University has put so many students in this situation."

Undergraduates are not the only students affected; Federica Formato, a PhD student, has also struggled to find accommodation. "My situation is still uncertain. I have a contact with a landlord that rents out the whole flat and I am looking for another person to share the place," she told SCAN two weeks before arrivals weekend.

Formato added that "the support from the Students' Union and more generally the University was great. They were quick and tried to help as much as they could."

Anecdotal evidence from students forced to live off-campus last year suggests



Fylde's accommodation is full for 2011/2012. Photo by Tom Skarbek-Wazynski

that it is a difficult experience, especially initially. Becca Blackburn, a Linguistics student from Fylde College who lived in Lancaster last year, said that travelling to campus during Freshers' Week was "a total nightmare," adding "we did get reimbursed slightly but not totally, and it made getting to campus very difficult."

It seems that aside from the obvious stress and inconvenience of arranging alternative accommodation, the additional expense of travel, in particular during Freshers' Week, is the major issue. Blackburn was otherwise positive about her experience, explaining that "you get a feel for the actual town and it's less claustrophobic than being on campus 24/7."

She added: "Overall I had a wicked Freshers' Week, and I enjoyed my year off campus too, but it was just a lot more hectic as we were living out of cases for two weeks."

Ellie Sutherland, another

previous off-campus fresher from Fylde, praised her JCR Exec for providing taxis to involve them in Freshers' Week events; "I still felt just as big a part of the college as those on campus," she said.

"I wanted to go to Lancaster because it was a campus university."

Sutherland added that "although it may have been nice to have the experience of living on campus in first year, I actually loved living off campus. We were so close to everything that it meant no need to get taxis or buses before [or] after a night out.

People often stayed at ours in order to avoid having to make the journey home."

When questioned on accommodation procedures, University authorities have stressed that "Lancaster's policy on accommodation is very clear and hasn't changed," despite similar issues occurring last year.

No students have been admitted through Clearing this year, which was the major cause of last year's problems, but as of yet the University have not indicated that they will make significant changes to accommodation policy, although this is monitored as part of standard practice.

"It is very important to the University that students feel supported and informed about their accommodation, and we will continue to review the process for managing demand and the services we offer to assist students with finding suitable housing," the University's statement concluded.

Analysis: off-campus

Jonnie Critchley

Last October SCAN reported on first-years having to find off-campus accommodation at short notice, and it would not be surprising if we were doing the same again next year. This problem isn't unique to Lancaster; pressure on accommodation nationwide has been building over the last few years as more students than ever are admitted, and it is unlikely that next year's fees hike will deter enough people to ease that pressure.

More students are now achieving the University's entry requirements, which on average remain lower than other top-ten institutions such as the Oxbridge universities and Warwick. More students than the University projected meeting the requirements could reflect that Lancaster is still adjusting to being a top-ten university.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that once the hysteria of Freshers' Week passes, living in town doesn't necessarily detract from the Lancaster experience. Perhaps, then, the University should look to make accommodating some first years off-campus a routine practice?

As stressful as it has been for those involved, asking freshers to live in Lancaster alongside the thousands of other students already in the city seems sensible compared to the slightly comic instance of Aberystwyth University installing bunk beds to solve a similar problem.

The problem is that this remains a last resort. If it was pre-arranged that some new students would live off-campus, there would be less of a problem. Obviously there are logistical difficulties here, but at the very least a better established contingency plan would alleviate a lot of the stress of coming to University.

Students rate University highly in National Student Survey

Erin O'Reilly
News Editor

The results for the 2011 National Student Survey (NSS) have produced positive results for Lancaster University, with 88% of 2608 students surveyed agreeing that they were satisfied with the overall quality of their course.

The survey, which covers both Higher Education Institutions (HIEs) and Further Education Colleges (FECs), was taken in January and February of this year, and is beneficial to prospective students when making decisions about where to go to university and what course to study. This is the seventh year that the NSS

has been running.

88% of students said that they were satisfied with their course

93% of students at Lancaster said that "staff are good at explaining things," a one percent increase from last year's results, with only two percent in disagreement. 84% also agreed

that the staff at Lancaster have made their particular subject interesting, with a further 89% expressing that they felt their course was intellectually stimulating.

On the question of "assessment and feedback," 78% of Lancaster students said that "assessment arrangements and marking have been fair," up from 74% last year and compared to 74% sector-wide. A six percent increase from last year also showed that 74% of students felt that they had been receiving detailed comments on their work.

In terms of "academic support," 87% of students agreed that they were able to contact staff when needed, with 76% in

agreement that they had received sufficient advice and support with their studies.

"LUSU have done a lot of work together on feedback"

90% of Lancaster students also said that they "have had plenty of opportunities to interact socially with other students", up from 89% last year and compared to 82% sector-wide. 82% of students were also happy with the efficiency of their academic

timetables, with a further 83% believing that their communications skills had greatly improved since attending Lancaster.

Pro Vice-Chancellor for Colleges and the Student Experience, Professor Amanda Chetwynd, told SCAN that "the University and LUSU have done a lot of work together on feedback and assessment and it is good to see this reflected in the students' responses," going on to say that "the responses and comments made by our students in the NSS are carefully considered and discussed in departmental teaching committees and action plans drawn up where needed."

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Investigation: Residences system

Samantha Newsham
Ronnie Rowlands

With the return of campus room deposits over the summer comes the usual round of complaints on Facebook and other social media outlets about the unfairness of charges levied by the Residence Office. SCAN investigated to see how the room charges are applied and if the process is really as arbitrary as students think.

The most frequent complaints seem to be that charges for replacing items do not match the actual cost of such items, and that students are charged for problems already there when they moved in.

"I was charged for the hot tap in my bedroom, but as far as I am aware the state it was in was the same as at the beginning of the year," said Catherine Chorley, a second year Pendle student. "If it needs mending then I think this should be the responsibility of the College, not the student."

The first piece of advice the University offers to students to try and avoid some of these problems is to carefully check their inventories on arrival.

"The room inspection results are always compared to the initial inventory before any charges are applied, so the completion of your inventory is essential," said Dr Hilary Simmons, Head of the Colleges and Residences Office.

Jacqui Brian, Residences Officer for County College, explained in more detail how the room inspection process works. "At the end of the year we recruit and train room checkers to go through and inspect the entire residential estate," she said.

Faults or damage found by room checkers are photographed then reported on a handheld computer if they think that the recorded damage warrants a charge.

This information is relayed back to the Residence Officer, who decides whether to apply a charge based on photographs and the resident's inventory. Spot checks of the inspectors' work are carried out and the same team is used in all colleges to ensure consistency.

"Room checkers have no involvement in the final decision of [...] whether to apply the charge to a student deposit," Ms Brian said. "[They] do not stand to gain in any way from reporting faults that do not exist."

"We are keen to try to ensure that the process is fair," she added. "We are more than happy to double check and carry out further investigation where a student feels that they have been unfairly treated."

Damage to appliances often results in a charge far higher than the item is worth, but Dr Simmons noted that there is more to the procedure than simply buying replacement items from a wholesaler.

"Charges for items have to cover the cost of replacing the item, VAT, plus all the associated administration and labour costs and disposal costs," she told SCAN. "For example, to replace a mattress, a new mattress must be ordered and then on delivery the mattress needs to be taken to the relevant room and the old mattress needs [...] disposing of."

SCAN sought advice from a specialist in contract law, who advised us on the rights of both the residents and the department in cases such as this.

The first point for students to note when choosing where to live is the legal difference between living on campus and living in town. Deposits paid to landlords in town must be protected through a tenancy deposit scheme, implemented to stop abuse of deposits by private landlords. Rooms on campus, however, are

agreed under terms closer to those of renting a hotel room.

"If you stay at the Ritz you pay a hell of a lot more for a cup of tea than if you stay at the Travelodge, but it's your choice where to stay," as our specialist put it.

Whilst the charges are set, all students can complain if they feel that the charge was unjustly made in the first place. However, the Residence Office does not have to use money to repair specific damages that students have been charged for, and it may include extra charges to cover the full costs of replacing items.

"[Residents] enter into a contract with this particular landlord and must put up with the scale of charges it chooses to use (within reason)," SCAN was told. "It doesn't matter whether the money is used to rectify the damage or to buy a crate of Scotch for a staff booze-up – these charges are in the nature of damages and it is entirely up to the recipient what they are spent on."

The University Residence Offices are in fact passing on charges levied by UPP (University Partnerships Programme), the company that manages University accommodation.

"Neither the University nor the student can really go behind UPP's charges – the student's relationship is with the University and the 'actual cost' to the University is what UPP charges the University, and it is this which is passed on to the student," our legal expert said. University representatives stress that they take an interest in UPP's charges and do not pass them on to students blindly.

Students who feel that a charge has been unfairly levied should write to the College Residence Officer setting out the details. Every appeal is investigated and refunds will be made if the case stands.



Lonsdale's quad will be a hive of activity during Arrivals Weekend.

Some students we spoke to expressed concerns that if a college Deanery makes little money on fines towards the end of the academic year, the Residence Departments are then instructed to be harsher in aid of making money for the individual colleges. We tried to find out if there was any correlation between a low intake from the University Deanery and the money made by Central Residences by asking every Residence Officer on campus to submit to us their intake in the years 2008 and 2009, but none of these figures were forthcoming.

However, there is little evidence that such a claim is true. Deanery and residence charges are not linked and, according to University representatives, individual

colleges do not report on total deposit deductions.

"There are some situations where a student might be charged for damage and also receive a fine from the Dean," said Dr Simmons. "For example, if a student threw a heavy item out of an upper floor window or let off a fire extinguisher, they would be charged the cost of replacing the item as well as being fined for endangering others."

Other than this there are few links between residence fines and Deanery fines. The two are collected and held separately of each other.

"College fines stay in the colleges to be spent for the benefit of all students, University Dean fines are central [and] used for dean and tutor development and



Photo by Alex Stewart

Analysis: don't cheat the system - it's not fair

Ronnie Rowlands

Whilst our investigation shed favourable light on the legitimacy of the room charges' height, along with their right to be administered, the main question from students, of "where is my money going if it's not being spent on fixing my room?" wasn't answered. Also, whilst the explanation from a Residence Officer emphasises the fairness of the procedure, my own dealings with my residence department when I complained against charges I was given contradicts a few key points. Photographs of offences are checked and a charge is made based on them, we were told. Yet, when I appealed against a £6 charge for rubbish left in my room, it was cancelled in the absence of any photographic evidence whatsoever. Had I not appealed, would I be paying for a mess that didn't even exist?

do so, otherwise it leads to innocent residents taking a lot of blame.

But remember, you're no bigger than what you believe you're complaining about if you try to be deceitful

I was lucky in that my appeal put an extra £56 into my account. If you know you've been wrongly charged, then make sure the complaint to your residence department is fully loaded - address the charges point by point, detailing every inaccuracy and your stance on the fairness of it. Be sure to persevere - ask for photographs and testimonies, even ask for them to consult central residences' historic fault records to check if a piece of damage has been left by someone else. If they can't, they are likely to cancel certain charges as a goodwill gesture. But remember, you're no bigger than what you believe you're complaining about if you try to be deceitful. If you've left your shower tiles caked in someone's blood and spiced all your woodwork in half, take the penalty on the chin and don't try to worm out, or the procedure will be exploited and you'll ruin it for everyone.

I was lucky in that my appeal put an extra £56 into my account

I was also charged for some staples in my notice board left behind by a previous occupant, which I didn't note on my inventory - yet another addition to the stories of people being fined for someone else's handiwork. Of course, as our expert pointed out, legally the University has no obligation to spend the money fixing the damage, but it's in the interest of fairness that they

training," said Dr Matt Storey, University Dean.

Dr Storey added that the funds raised "are not that substantial" and the figures bore this out; the University Deanery made £4,470 in the academic year 2008-2009 and £3,170 in 2007-2008.

CASE STUDY

While investigating the residence system, SCAN invited students who felt they had been overcharged during inspection to speak up about their grievances.

"I'm in Fylde College and after cleaning my room up on the last day, leaving it perfectly respectable, I was charged with my entire deposit," said Daniel Holland, who graduated in July. "Yet my friend who lived next

door to me was given over £100 of his back, and I also found it quite coincidental that my charges added exactly up to the deposit that I paid, not a penny under or a penny over."

Feeling that the charge was inaccurate and unfair, Holland has attempted to dispute the deductions, but says that his Residence Officer has been "stubborn regarding the decision that was made."

"She's given me a list of the individual charges but the state that I left my room in, to have had such large deductions that I've had, I still can't see where they've got them all from."

An anonymous student, also from Fylde College, incurred a charge for removing the pin from her fire

extinguisher, "yet the fire service will come round and do this for free," she said.

She also spoke of deductions to a friend's deposit at the end of her first year, including a charge for paintwork damage.

"She moved back into the same flat and the same room the next year, and none of the repairs had taken place," she said. "The charges are known across campus for being very high. After spending hours cleaning in your third term of first year it seems really unfair to be lumped with massive amounts of charges."

As a result of this, the student "will not be living [on campus] again [...] due to the very high rates and the risk of high fines for things that don't cost that much to fix."

No room for clearing as UG applications rise by 26%

Catherine Chorley

Undergraduate applications by home and overseas students to study at Lancaster University were up by 26% when compared with last year's statistics, according to information given by Paul Groves, who oversaw this year's admissions process.

Such was the popularity of the University that no places were offered to students applying through the UCAS Clearing system. Groves attributed this not only to the quantity, but – crucially – the quality of applicants seeking to enter in the 2011-12 academic year.

Groves stated: "Average A-Level grades from stu-

dents' best three A Levels for 2011 entry will be AAB, compared with ABB for 2010 entry."

"Lancaster is well-placed to maintain both the level and quality of its UG intake."

On the issue of Clearing, Groves added that the majority of places were filled by students meeting the

exact entry requirements. With no shortfall to make up, the University did not need to offer any places through Clearing. This will no doubt have impacted upon those students who, having narrowly missed the conditions of their offers, were nonetheless clamouring for a place elsewhere in order to avoid the imminent hike in tuition fees.

Not only do these statistics reflect the positive status of Lancaster as a university, as indicated by the demand for places by high-calibre candidates, but they also foreshadow the increase in competition for university places that may be a result of the recent fees increase.

In anticipating the impact

on Lancaster, Groves commented that "although the effect of the new tuition fees on applications for 2012 entry has yet to be seen, all the current indications are that Lancaster is well-placed to maintain both the level and quality of its undergraduate intake."

That Lancaster enjoys a prestigious status and high quality teaching and learning is demonstrated by the high position occupied by the University in The Times' 'Good University Guide 2012', in which Lancaster ranks ninth overall out of over 100 universities. In the Guardian's equivalent rankings, Lancaster is placed at number seven.

The esteem with which

Lancaster is increasingly regarded must only bode well for the coming Higher Education reforms, by which the Government hopes to encourage higher academic standards through increased competitiveness between institutions.

As far as the students themselves are concerned, future applicants paying almost treble the current rate in fees will no doubt want to ensure they get their money's worth from the quality of their education experience. As a current top-ten UK institution, Lancaster is well-placed to offer such a prospect to future undergraduates, as this year's popularity amongst applicants has shown.

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

A week to remember, not a week to forget

Starting university is an exciting time as you leave home and have the freedom to whatever you want to do without having to answer to your parents. The first week of term may seem a little daunting as you get used to your new surroundings and the people you are living with, but it is the perfect opportunity to meet new friends and have fun.

The Easy Tiger initiative has been developed to ensure that you enjoy your time at university and build up forever lasting memories, without any regrets. It's no secret that student life is often associated with drinking copious amounts of alcohol and Easy Tiger aims to make people aware of just how much alcohol they are drinking and the effects that it is having on them.

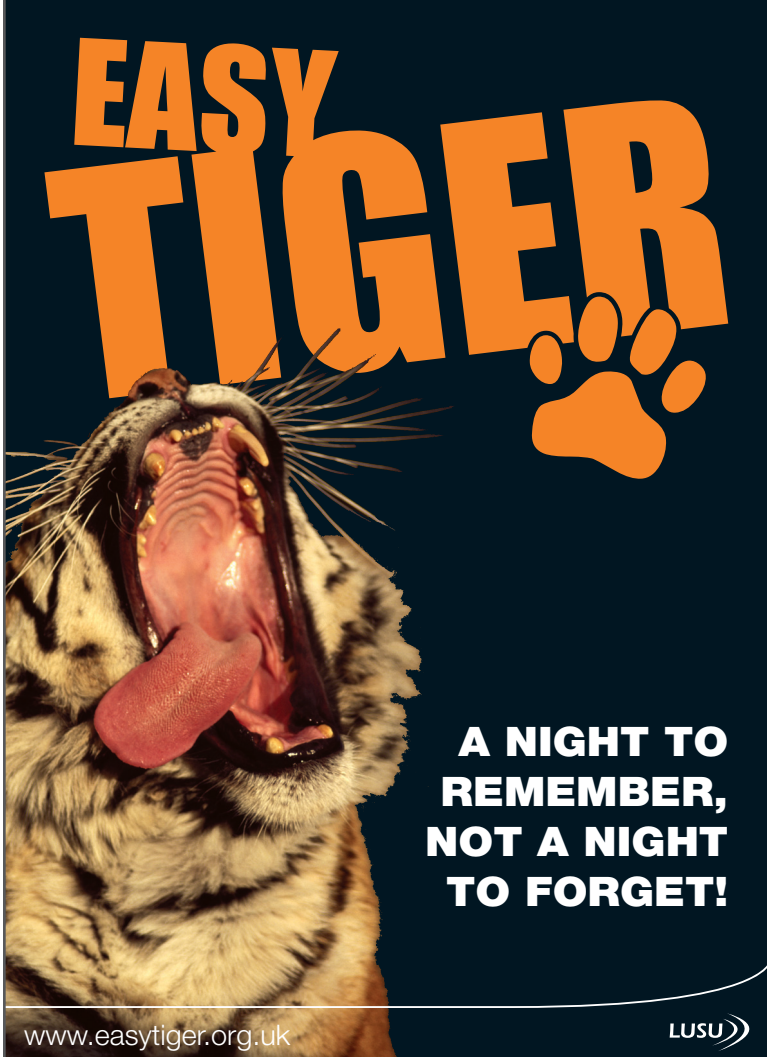
No one wants to be the one that has to be taken home at the beginning or even the end of the night because they are too drunk. No one wants to wake up the next morning after a night out and wonder who it is lying next to them or what really happened the night before. First

impressions count and alcohol can easily mask your character. Drinking soft drinks or safely drinking alcohol in moderation will not only prevent serious health issues, but it will allow people get to know the real you.

A big mistake that some students make before heading out for a night on the town, is pre-loading with as much alcohol as they can before they leave. This is not only harmful but a very anti-social way to begin the evening! Why stay cooped up in your flat when there's a whole host of bars, clubs and restaurants to experience in the city?

Don't let alcohol ruin the beginning of your university experience. Intro Week is a time for having fun and making new friends, some of whom will last a lifetime; you don't want to spend it feeling sick, being a burden on others, and apologising for your drunken behaviour.

You won't find a good night out at the bottom of a bottle of Vodka; grab a group of friends, get spruced up and go out and enjoy yourself!



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LUSU

University and City Council at loggerheads over student councilors' election

Lizzie Houghton

The University and Lancaster City Council have been in disagreement throughout the summer over the election of a city councillor, who is also a student at Lancaster, to the University's governing body.

The City Council elected Cllr Paul Aitchison to be its representative on University Council at the Full City Council meeting on Wednesday 15 June. Cllr Aitchison, a Labour councillor for the University ward, defeated the Council's current representative, Geoff Marsland. Marsland represents the Torrisholme ward in Morecambe.

University Council is Lancaster's primary governing body and is in charge of the administrative side of the University. The City Council holds one seat on the body.

The controversy has arisen because Cllr Aitchison is still a student at Lancaster. According to the governing rules of University Council, only two students may sit on it at any given time. These two student spaces are already allocated to the President of the Students' Union and the Chair of LUSU Council, who is elected in the Students' Union's Michaelmas elections.

Fiona Aiken, the University Secretary, whose job includes ensuring the University complies with its own governance and political structures, said: "The Lancaster City Council has the opportunity to appoint a councillor to membership of Lancaster University Council, on condition that they recognise the University's requirements for member-

ship of Council. The city councillor is one of the lay members of Council (i.e. is neither a member of staff nor a student of the University).

"On this occasion, the City Council has tried to appoint a councillor who is a student of the University, and the appointment is therefore invalid. We have invited the City Council to appoint a councillor who meets the University's requirements."

The City Council has challenged the University's ruling. Their legal officer has written to the University asking for the clarification of the rules in a bid to understand why Cllr Aitchison's election has been deemed invalid. City councillors, however, are hopeful that the appointment of a new Vice Chancellor might signal a fresh start in this debate, one they hope will fall in their favour.

Eileen Blamire, the leader of the City Council, said: "While the City Council is disappointed with the University's reply so far, we hope that with a new Vice Chancellor soon to be in place it can be rectified and a stronger relationship built."

Professor Mark Smith was appointed as the University's new Vice Chancellor over the summer. He does not take up the post until January, after the current Vice Chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings, has left.

The rules for the membership of University Council were altered in 2005. Until then, three students, including the LUSU President, sat on University Council. There was a total of 31 members. The University reduced the overall size of Council in



University Council was the site of a protest last academic year. Photo by Elliot Westacott

a bid, they say, to make it more effective, and to bring it into line with national guidelines. Currently there are two student representatives out of 22 members.

"The University is still of the view that the appointment is invalid" - Fiona Aiken

The rule is enshrined in Statute 9(b) of the University's governing Charter, Statutes and Ordinances, which outlines that the members of University Council shall include "one person appointed by the City Council of Lancaster, who shall be a member of that Council."

The rule continues to include "eleven lay persons (two of whom would be Deputy Pro-Chancellors)

appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee.

"The Council may not appoint any person who has a contract of service with the University, or holds a paid office in the University, or any person who is a student pursuing any course of study in the University, for which a fee is payable to the University and which leads to a Degree, Diploma, Certificate, or other academic distinction of the University," the Charter says.

Aiken admits that when these new rules were drawn up, the possibility that a student could be elected as a city councillor, and then elected as the City Council's representative on the University Council, was not considered.

"No, back in 2005, I don't think any students had ever been elected as Councillors, so it was not a specific eventuality which was considered," she said. "On the other hand, that was not relevant, because there was an understanding that this seat on Council was for an i

ndependent member (i.e. not a member of staff or a student) and several members of staff had been elected to the City Council since the University was founded."

Aiken added: "The University is still of the view that the appointment is invalid, but that the City Council is welcome to appoint someone who meets the conditions."

The councillor at the heart of this conflict, Paul Aitchison said: "I still wish to be a member of the University Council but the University still remain opposed, and I hope that we will be able to resolve this situation through cooperation and communication in the near future."

As SCAN went to print, Eileen Blamire added that "I sat with Fiona Aitken at a meeting on Monday and she made it clear that the whole Council were in agreement not to accept Paul."

"In view of that I have asked Mark Cullinan to present a report on the position to our full Council where it will be debated in public."



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CAROLYNNE

STUDENT CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

FRESHERS
& FAMOUS
PEOPLE

CAROLYNNE WTF?

WE'RE BACK, WE'RE EXCITED AND WE'VE ALMOST DEFINITELY FORGOTTEN HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY.

WITH FRESHERS WEEK IN FULL SWING AND COLLEGE BATTLES BREWING AROUND EVERY CORNER, CAROLYNNE IS JUMPING INTO STUDENT CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE GLOW STICKS FIRST. OH, AND BEFORE WE FORGET, WE'VE BEEN TALKING TO YOU ME AT SIX. YES THAT'S RIGHT, REAL FAMOUS PEOPLE HAVE SAT DOWN FOR A CUPPA WITH CAROLYNNE.

AS MY GRAN ALWAYS SAID TO ME, START AS YOU MEAN TO GO ON. SO WITH FRED'S WORDS IN MIND, KICK OFF YOUR FIRST TERM IN STYLE. MAKE THE MOST OF FRESHERS AND AVOID SNEAKING A JACKET SPUD INTO THE LIBRARY AND SCRIBBLING DOWN SEMINAR PREP IN 0.7 SECONDS FLAT.

WELL, FOR THE FIRST FEW WEEKS AT LEAST.

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CAN WE BE A FRESHER FOREVER?



Photo by Geoffrey Janes

LIFESTYLE

You're sat in Alexandra Square wearing glasses taped up with a plaster wondering which way your flat is and who the person is that's draped across your knee. For some students, this is Freshers' Week.

The late nights, the fancy dress, the socialising until your jaw feels like it's going to drop off; Freshers' is all the extremes of student life thrown into seven days of chaos. How much it really reflects student life is debatable, but there's no arguing that it's an unforgettable week that throws you into the thick of the student experience, whether you embrace it or not.

For most second and third years, Freshers' week dies down quickly; they open their books, get out their timetable and start facing the realities of a regular student routine. Nights out don't become completely absent but come a close second to ever growing seminar preparation and the deadlines you're having kittens over.

HOW HARD IS IT TO STOP, THINK AND PUT AWAY THE DIRTY PINT?

First year students will take slightly longer to adjust to a slower paced student life after inadvertently ingesting far too much foam and U.V paint for one week. But how long does it take for us students to realise we're really burning our glow sticks at both ends?

Some students try their best to never let go; after all, nightlife is an important part of the university experience and time should always be made for that odd

venture to the Carleton. But when it gets too much, when the late nights start effecting those early mornings and looming essays, how hard is it to stop, think and put away the dirty pint?

FRESHERS IS ALL THE EXTREMES OF STUDENT LIFE

As you progress through your university experience the reality of graduation and hopefully landing a job grows closer and the thought of getting out into the real world gets scarier than ever. Those early mornings where a coffee can only cure but a fraction of the headache your nursing become much more than just an inconvenient pain, but an obstacle in the way of you tackling your expanding to-do list. When we come to realise that a presentation takes priority over a 5.00am queue for cheesy chips at Sultan's, the more the Fresher in us waves good-bye and waits in the wings until the deadlines are done.

I like a night out as much as anyone and have had far too many awkward encounters with the stairs in Elements to even attempt to try and remember. But as much as we all enjoy a good night out dressed as every shape and size of animal, in reality, Freshers' Week can't last forever.

So, on that bleak note let's make the most of it while it's here, crack out the clown outfit, play ring of fire until you can sit up no longer and speak to people for hours who you'll probably never speak to again. Because for most of us, in a couple of weeks, those nights of getting kicked out of a club when the sun comes up will be few and far between. Well, until the weekend that is...

Ruth Eaton - Carolynne Editor

LET'S GET PHYSICAL LYCRA VS. BAGGIES

LIFESTYLE

With the opening of the new campus gym, I've already whole-heartedly committed to signing up for a Gold or Platinum membership. No negotiations Hannah, exercise will definitely be one of my priorities this year to eradicate any looming love handles or a saggy derriere. Pilates, running or squatting; I'm ready.

But as any self-confessed fashionista will wonder and begin to plan; what to wear?

In my experience of joining other gyms it seems that members all take difference approaches to their treadmill attire, often falling loosely into three groups.

Firstly, there are those who favour the less flattering white, baggy old tourist t-shirts, collected from a distant memory trip to Bubba Gump, Florida or the Hard Rock Café, that definitely avoid shedding any light on the figure beneath. I find this group to be the most refreshingly honest of gym goers. They say, "I'm here to work out. So what? It's not the catwalk! I'm here to sweat not pose, and I'm not bothered about looking pretty doing it."

There are also the confident, lycra-clad gym bunnies who suck themselves into impossibly tight apparel, showcasing every flex and stretch. These are the gym goers who I feel almost have more to prove. It's as if being at the gym isn't enough, that having the branded, professional sportswear is further hammering home the message of their commitment to their toned physiques. That even if one isn't a weight-lifting worshipper, that by having the designer gear, it conveys the message that we are.

Lastly are those who choose to sport a half-and-half approach; not quite gym wear, not quite street ready. I love this group. It's those who almost aren't quite sold on the whole gym idea and maybe can be seen as the rebellious bunch? It's the girls that wear full faces of makeup, fixed hair and tight leggings, and don't care to break much of a sweat, maybe choosing to use the gym primarily as a social meeting place.

MY PET PEEVE IS SEEING WOMEN BOUNCING FREELY

Whatever you decide to wear to workout this year, remember to be stylish, functional and comfy. There's no point wearing too small clothing reminiscent of the days when you could fit into that smaller size.

And ladies, whether your shirt is tight or not- please invest in a stellar sports bra. It's a pet peeve seeing women bouncing freely. Not only are you a distraction for innocent bystanders but it also puts pressure on your upper back, so I recommend heading to M&S, or any sports store to check out their collections. Furthermore, if your

C.3



Get your gym on. Photo by lululemon athletica

trainers are getting old and tattered, it could mean that your distribution of weight, support for foot and ankle and posture are all being compromised, so it might be time to invest in a new pair. The Runners Centre in Lancaster town centre might also be a worthwhile visit, though could lean towards the more pricey side, especially on a student budget. Lastly, it is both hygienic as well as socially courteous to carry a small towel to wipe apparatus free of sweat.

So let's all go and enjoy our new gym, whatever we decide to wear. Remember there is 5% discount with a Purple Card for the first two weeks of term, so what are you waiting for? Hannah Husthwaite - Lifestyle Editor

HELP! IT'S FRESHERS

LIFESTYLE

Living away from home for the first time, having to cook all of your own meals and the crucial reality of having to budget your money for a whole year can make going to university an extremely daunting prospect. However, please remember that everyone is in exactly the same position as you and it is important to make the most of your first week at university.

This week comes with the freedom of being able to go out (and come home) whenever you want, and with such a new found sense of freedom many drunken nights, vomiting in your bed and finding someone else in your bed will probably follow. Some of the things you may do during this week may seem like a good idea at the time, but they always come back to haunt you during the rest of the year so try to make sure you won't regret anything in weeks to come.

A year before I came to university a friend of mine who was going into his second year told me that for Freshers' he spent £1000. I naively misunderstood him thinking that he spent this amount in his Freshers' Year, until he corrected my innocence saying 'no, I meant the first week'. This didn't include money spent on other expenses such as food, joining new memberships, or even rent, but the money solely spent on alcohol!

REMEMBER YOUR FANCY DRESS AND PARACETAMOL

Although I personally couldn't quite comprehend spending a grand on alcohol in one week; I guess Freshers' week is what you make of it. My friend said he was content with his heavy spending as it had been one of the best weeks of his life and admitted to curbing his spending in the following few weeks. Turning back the clock, he wouldn't change a thing about his Freshers' week experience.

Although you will soon become accustomed to the Sainsbury's Basics student diet as the weeks progress, make sure you plan to eat some decent meals for the first week to keep your energy levels high and combat the ever-looming freshers' flu. Or you could try pulling on your parents' heart strings and ask them to buy your first food shop or bring food from home to get you through this week; saving your cash for the rest of the term.

Your first week of university is all about getting used to an independent new lifestyle, meeting new friends but most importantly having fun. But remember rule number one; come armed with plenty of paracetamol and maybe even a lemsip. Harry Foulkes



YOU ME AT SIX

CULTURE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

IN THE CURRENT ALTERNATIVE MUSIC SCENE, TO MAKE ANY SORT OF HEADWAY IS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT FOR A YOUNG BRITISH BAND.

IN FIVE YEARS, YOU ME AT SIX HAVE GONE FROM USING PUBLIC BUSES TO GET AROUND THE COUNTRY TO TRAVELLING TO ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD ON SOLD OUT HEADLINE TOURS.

WITH A THIRD ALBUM 'SINNERS NEVER SLEEP' AND SUBSEQUENT TOUR DUE FOR OCTOBER, WE CAUGHT UP WITH GUITARIST CHRIS MILLER TO FIND OUT HOW THINGS WERE COMING ALONG.

How's the production of the new album going? Is it different from your last two albums?

The new album is all wrapped up so we're just waiting to put it into production to get everyone to hear it. It's sort of a natural progression of the two previous albums, I think we've kind of all grown up a bit more and the songs are a bit more mature and we've got some very exciting stuff on it. I mean, it's a fairly natural progression and nothing that's going to scare anyone, but we've still moved forward as any good band would so I think it sounds great.

You have got Ollie Sykes [Bring Me The Horizon] and Winston McCall [Parkway Drive] guesting on the album. How do you go about deciding who you want to work with?

We had two heavier songs on the album and we've never really ventured into the realm of being that, well, aggressive before. We are good friends with 'Bring Me The Horizon' and 'Parkway Drive', so it was a kind of no brainer of who to ask to do the heavier parts of the songs. We asked them and they were up for it and so we got it recorded and it sounds great. It would be harder if it was someone we didn't know but as we are friends it was quite an easy process, really.

IT TAKES A LOT OF HARD WORK BEFORE SOMEONE NOTICES YOU

As a young British band who have found international success, what advice would you give to band starting out?

You've just got to get your name out there, and the best way to do that is to tour much as you possibly can. I mean, it's quite a hard thing to break into but once you've got a nice little fanbase going and more and more people start coming to your shows, it really starts to kick off. Having some bloody good songs doesn't hurt either! Just play as hard and as much as you can when you're out there though, you have to show the audience what you have got. From the age of 15 or 16 we were out there playing shows throughout the country and just travelling around. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication before someone finally notices you.

All of that touring must take its toll?

It does! The hardest part is being away from home so much, missing family and friends. There's often a lot of things that you can't be there for because you're on the other side of the world.

IT'S AN UNPREDICTABLE LIFESTYLE

One minute you think you have a month at home, the next day you get a call saying that you have been offered a tour you'll be on the road for two months. But it's what I've always wanted to do, so it's worth it in the end, especially when you think of the bright-side. Playing big shows in places like Australia and Japan, all the way over the other side of the world is definitely one of the highlights. You never think, coming from a little town in the UK, that you will be able to go over the other side of the world and people will know who you are and the words to your music!

Speaking of tours – this time you've picked places that you don't normally go to and missed out some of the bigger cities. Is there any reason for that?

We felt like on every tour we have done in the past we've just hit the major places. We thought it would be interesting to go to some new, kind of out there, towns and cities. But really, it doesn't matter where we tour, because we want to come back bigger and better than ever with a new set of songs to play. It's quite a nice, yet strange, feeling for us to go and play the new songs for the first time in some places we've never been.

So what's still to come from the band and what are the aims for the future?

Our main goal has always just been to be a band for as long as we possibly can and to keep making albums and CDs as that's what we enjoy doing, writing songs and sharing it with people. I think our aim is to last for as long as we can and go to new places and get bigger all around the world, really. It's the normal aims of a band our size and age, but I think we've got a really good and realistic chance of doing what we want. We've been lucky so far, hopefully that will continue and we get to do what we have always dreamed about.

Finally, for people who haven't heard 'You Me At Six' before at Lancaster University, could you pick one of your songs for them to listen to that sums you up?

I'd probably say a track from the 'Hold Me Down' album, probably 'Stay With Me' or 'Underdog' as I think they're the tracks that are easy to listen to. They're catchy and they really shows what we are all about musically. They are also some of our previous singles and they both have nice big sing-a-long parts, always good for a first impression!

You Me At Six's new album, Sinners Never Sleep, is released on October 3rd on Virgin Records. They're playing at 53Degrees in Preston (only 10 minutes on the train from Lancaster) on the 8th of October
Conor Scrivener

CAMPUS CULTURE THE BEST OF THE



Photo by Ben Robins

THEATRE GROUP

Lancaster University Theatre Group (LUTG) shuns the secondary school days, where direction was taken from staff and the choice was “this show in the school hall or nothing.”

There are three productions a term, sometimes four. You may be chosen for one, or you may have a choice of up to three, in which case you’ll feel less like a one trick Adam Woodyatt and more like a hurdle bounding Angela Lansbury. You might say “I’m crap at acting though.” By whose standards? But If you are then direction, production, stage management, creative assistance and scenery hauling is another circle just waiting to be expanded. No-one is restricted to performing in the same venue, either; you’ll flit between the intimacy of Dukes DT3 and the black emptiness of the Nuffield Theatre, amongst many, many other spaces.

LUTG gives you the tools to construct your own boards, but its publicity officer Matthew Bosley is keen to point you in the direction of other rich, explorable worlds. “We’ve taken successful shows to the Edinburgh Fringe and participated in the National Student Drama Festival. LUTG is essential to get stuck in to for someone aspiring towards a career in theatre.”

To join, sign up at Fresher’s Fair. If you miss it, membership can still be paid at the first set of auditions, which will take place on Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th of October in Furness Foyer, 12-6 PM.
Ronnie Rowlands



Photo provided by LUCI

CAMPUS COMEDY

Lancaster University’s Comedy Institute (LUCI) only sprung up in 2009, but they have already elicited gales of helpless laughter from those present at their Fylde bar gigs and those listening on Bailrigg FM. Their radio presence shows that they don’t limit themselves to stand-up comedy. A typical LUCI meeting, which takes place in Pendle TV room focuses on writing workshops for the first hour (6-7 PM) in which members are encouraged to write sketches for ‘Funny Stuff What We Wrote’, which will be recorded and broadcast on Bailrigg FM this year. The second hour is devoted to the writing and practicing of stand-up comedy, where members have the chance to exhibit their funnies for criticism and appraisal in preparation for the week of the gig.

Last year, LUCI was rapidly finding its feet. Now that it’s found them, the society promises that this year they’ll be staging bi-weekly stand-up shows. They’re well advertised, free to attend and free to perform in, and it’d be a great disservice on all our parts if we didn’t offer LUCI the support they deserve. Again, don’t let fear of not being funny introduce ambiguity about joining; everyone has to find their funny bone somewhere.

If comedy is a mountain you want to scale, then look out for the comedy sign at Fresher’s Fair and tuck in.
Ronnie Rowlands

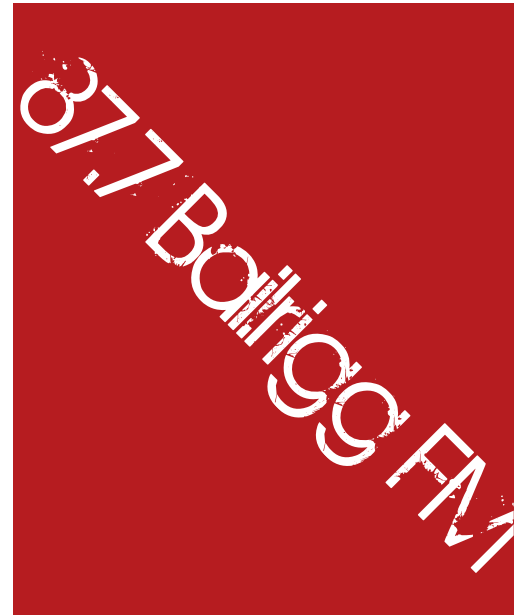


Photo provided by Bailrigg FM

BAILRIGG FM

Bailrigg FM broadcasts a full schedule 24/7, but with departing students comes empty slots that need filling. So long as the station’s rules are followed, hosts have free reign over the content of their shows. Output has included music showcases, live band sessions, roundtable discussions, talk shows, topical news chat and sketch hours.

Upon joining, the station offers students the chance to pursue areas of expertise within journalism, management, web design, technical engineering and, of course, radio hosting. Members can oversee or have a hand in news, sport and music content, or learn the technical intricacies of radio and take delight in mastering the sound desk.

With close links to LUSU, Bailrigg FM is amongst those first on the scene to cover the FTO elections and the Roses competition, Lancaster and York’s annual sporting face-off. Bailrigg FM has its finger on the pulse, and has always endeavoured to do something special for a special occasion. A 24-hour show was broadcast for Red Nose Day, the studio was abandoned for the LICA building launch and the Bailrigg FM festival, and more will surely happen this year.

There are very few chances to be heard on the airwaves, so this is one that should be jumped at. To secure a show, contact the programme controller (whose address can be found on www.bailriggfm.co.uk), arrange a training slot and get scouring your record collection.
Ronnie Rowlands

CULTURE SCENE LANCASTER LOT



Photo provided by ULMS

MUSIC SOCIETY

Have you turned up at university with a musical instrument buried amongst your pots, pans and other pointless paraphernalia? Then The University of Lancaster Music Society (ULMS) is the society for you. It's one of the oldest, largest, most active societies on campus and they welcome musicians of all abilities with open arms. So, if you're even slightly musically inclined, a trip to visit them at the Freshers' Fair should be on your itinerary.

ULMS itself is an extremely diverse society, composed as it is of several major ensembles – so whatever instrument you play you're sure to find a home. ULMS regularly perform all over Lancashire, as well as participating at competitions across the UK. Last year they went one further and helped develop an entirely new inter-university brass band competition. Rehearsals for all of the ensembles begin in week one and usually take place in the Great Hall; see the ULMS Facebook – www.facebook.com/iloveulms – for more information.

You can start as you mean to go on by getting yourself along to their first, free performance on the 16th October in the Great Hall, which will be followed by a social. Socials, incidentally, are yet another thing that ULMS are well known for. With fancy dress film nights and Christmas carol barcrawls; they do pretty much everything short of drinking wine out of their tubas. Come to think of it, they probably do that as well. But you're just going to have to join to find out, aren't you?

Joe Henthorn

C.7



Photo provided by LA1:TV

LA1:TV

Turn on Lancaster's very own internet TV channel, LA1:TV, and start to get involved in making thought-provoking, entertaining TV. After undergoing a radical rebranding over the summer (returning students may remember its previous iteration, LUTube), LA1 is back and, quite literally better than ever. "The aim of LA1:TV is to produce television content for Lancaster's students, by Lancaster Students," said Will McDonnagh, LA1's station manager. "We want to make programmes that you want to watch, whilst teaching our members some great skills."

If you're interested in developing skills for a career in TV that LA1 is the best way to do it. The society will educate new members in all the arcane arts of the moving picture – if you want to present a news show, direct or act in a drama, produce a sports show or even operate the cameras, then LA1 can teach you how to do it. There are plenty of shows to get involved with too, as LA1 caters to an extremely wide range of interests. You can even get involved on a night out – SugarTV will see a diary room chair installed in The Sugarhouse – but try not to be too drunk when you decide you want to appear on TV, or you may regret your night out even more than usual in the morning...

"When else in life are you going to be able to say 'I made my own TV Show?'" McDonnagh asked me, and he's completely right.

Joe Henthorn



Photo provided by LICA

LIVE AT LICA

LICA stands for the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts. Technically, Live at LICA is the combined organisation for the Nuffield Theatre, Lancaster International Concerts Series and the Peter Scott Gallery. Located on the top end of campus the swanky LICA building shines a beacon attracting art, theatre and music magpies to flock and worship the contemporary arts scene. Put it this way; Carlsberg don't do arts buildings, but if they did they would probably look something LICA this (sorry, couldn't resist).

Once you have immersed yourself within the building and its surroundings you are sure to discover that it is not only the sparkly exterior which is enticing, but the vast array of upcoming events which are laid out like a culturally rich banquet. Some particular goodies for the autumn season include the darkly delicious Franko B and Rachel Goodyear exhibition, the acclaimed Schubert Ensemble and internationally renowned company Reckless Sleepers, who are bringing their touring production of Schrodinger to your doorstep.

Whereas Twitter can be arguably a place for people you can't shut up, even when they're by themselves, Live at LICA's account is informative and promises never to bombard you with tweets telling you they're, "just eating a cream cake. LOL,," Honest, so visit www.twitter.com/liveatlica. Also, for more information on future tasty cultural treats check out www.liveatlica.org as well as www.facebook.com/ilovelica to keep you in the loop, on the straight and narrow and down with the kids.

Stephanie Bell

COMIN' THIS MONTH



BJORK - BIOPHILIA

MUSIC - MONDAY 10TH OCTOBER

Not many artists manage to make music for upwards of 25 years. But Björk's latest album, Biophilia, shows that even after a lifetime in the music industry she's still one of its biggest innovators. She should be making a living off 'Best Of' compilations by now, not attempting to deconstruct the whole nature of 'the album' itself by setting the incredibly experimental songs alongside a series of equally inventive iPad apps, surely?



FIFA 12

GAME - OUT NOW

By the time you read this you will probably have played FIFA 12. You'll very probably be enjoying it, too. EA have carried out some important overhauls to the game mechanics, and the new tactical defence system is set to be revolutionary. Rumours of a Fernando Torres difficulty mode - where scoring a goal is physically impossible - are as of yet unconfirmed.



M83 - HURRY UP, WE'RE DREAMING

MUSIC - TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER

M83 - the pseudonym of electronic maestro Adrian Gonzalez and his band - released their last LP, Saturdays=Youth, back in 2008, and it remains one of the most emotionally evocative records in recent memory. The 22 tracks of expansive, shoegazey electropop are as grandiose as the album's title, and if early singles 'Intro' and 'Midnight City' are anything to go by, this record is going to match up to Gonzalez's ambition.



JOHNNY ENGLISH REBORN

FILM - FRIDAY 7TH OCTOBER

That's right, the sequel that none of us have been waiting for hits the cinema this month. Rowan Atkinson is back as the haphazard MI5 agent who will inevitably fall over a lot and pull wide eyed expressions. Gillian "Scully" Anderson is also along for the ride this time around... but I must be honest, I don't want to believe.



DOWNTON ABBEY

TV - SUNDAY NIGHTS, ITV

The second season of the wonderful Downton Abbey is set against the tragic backdrop of the Great War, but much of the action looks set to happen in Downton itself. Will Mr Bates let his loyalty to the Crawleys destroy his relationship with Anna? What of Mary and the Turk's death? Will the Dowager Countess win the Flower Show this year? Must Julian Fellowes constantly make us crave an answer to so many questions?



WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN

FILM - FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER

If you didn't read Lionel Shriver's novel I can assure you it was extraordinary. Tilda Swinton stars in this screen version as the mother of a killer who tries to piece together the story of her son in letters to his father. Swinton never disappoints and I can only hope this adaptation is as beautifully conceived as the novel before it.

MUSIC, FILM, GIGS & GAMES



THE HELP
FILM - FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER

In a surprise turn of events, this tale of African American housemaids in 1960s America saved Hollywood's summer after disappointing box office turnouts by the usual superhero and action fare. Viola Davis is said to give a pitch perfect performance in this adaptation of Kathryn Stockett's bestselling novel, and the words 'Oscar nomination' have been whispered more than once already.



BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH
GIG - LANCASTER LIBRARY, SUNDAY 30TH OCTOBER

What to do on a grey, dreary and probably rainy Sunday afternoon in Lancaster? It's a question that we're faced with far too often here, but on October 30th Benjamin Francis Leftwich has answered this question superbly. The Library's gigs are already whimsical and relaxed, thanks to their propensity for selling home-made cakes instead of alcohol, and will no doubt be a perfect match for Leftwich's beautifully dreamy acoustic pop.



THE IDES OF MARCH
FILM - FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER

George Clooney, Ryan Gosling and Philip-Seymour Hoffman star in this tale of morality and corruption on the Presidential campaign trail. Gosling is the idealistic aid; Clooney is the man who would be king. Let's be honest, this has Oscar-bid written all over it. And judging by the trailer and the presence of Mr Hoffman, it might just be worthy of a few.

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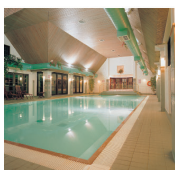
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SHOULD BRITANNIA ALWAYS RULE THE WAVES?

FEATURES

I remember being in Germany as an exchange student in 2006 and I was shocked to find that my exchange partner's brother, being about eight years old and about half my age, knew more English than I knew German. My exchange partner himself was virtually fluent in English, although notably neither of his parents spoke the language. This got me thinking about why exactly do young Germans speak such good English? The answer soon came to me whilst I was sitting on a bus, in the form of an attractive emo punk-rock chick, listening to Green Day's 'American Idiot' loudly on her headphones. She probably spoke better English than Billie Joe Armstrong, I thought to myself, after all, Billie Joe Armstrong's an American.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WATCHED A FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM?

So, is it the huge political/economic/military/cultural entity that is the United States of America that is responsible for teaching foreigners English? It's certainly part of the explanation, just look at Hollywood films with their huge budgets ranging from \$100-200 million dollars, releasing dozens of films regularly each year to dominate the global mainstream film market. Whilst of course non-anglophone audiences will watch such films either dubbed or subtitled, it certainly makes learning English more attractive if you want to speak the same language as, say, Johnny Depp or Eric Bana. Another factor promoting Hollywood's success is that America is part of a cultural network of English speaking countries, all former colonies of the British Empire. This means that these countries can draw upon each others shared history, values and talents in ways that other countries, like say Finland, Israel or South Korea, without colonial histories, can not.

For instance take Peter Jackson, a director from New Zealand who's currently working on 'The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey', a film based on an a British novel that will be distributed by two American film studios. Because the populations of North America, Australasia and the British Isles all speak English, have a common heritage and are all wealthy and high standard of living, the English language dominates the world, making it unavoidable for everyone.

Which is a bit of a shame really. When was the last time you watched a foreign language film? More people have seen Hollywood's cash cows like 'Twilight' and the



Photo by alumnosartesvisuales

'Transformers' films than have seen foreign films of actual artistic merit such as 'Pan's Labyrinth', 'REC', 'Das Boot' or 'Ghost in a Shell'. This means that there isn't much incentive, nor opportunity for us soap and sitcom-loving students to learn about a foreign language or culture.

WE RISK BECOMING IGNORANT OF OTHER PEOPLE'S CULTURES

As Britons, our entertainment needs are broadly fulfilled by a steady diet of Hollywood movies, the occasional British film, and plenty of BBC and ITV programs. Meaning that, sadly, the entertainment world outside the English language is an unknown, alien realm were only elitist hipsters and animé nerds dare venture.

The trouble is, this means as a culture we risk becoming increasingly self-absorbed and ignorant of other people's cultures, because we only typically view entertainment that's made by us or the Americans. The young Germans with whom I socialised with all those years ago could fully enjoy both German and English language entertainment, unlike my fellow pupils, as we were largely confined only to the latter.

Fortunately, most foreign works of entertainment are translatable into English, and you don't necessarily need to understand lyrics to appreciate a non-English song either. With a bit of digging, watching foreign films, listening to foreign music and playing foreign video games gives you a more varied cultural perspective, allowing you to enjoy a vast new world of artistic themes and ideas that those who are content to be spoon fed entertainment by their TV will never experience.

Nick O'Dowd - Features Editor

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JURY SERVICE VS. THE STUDENT

FEATURES

There are many times in life when I feel like a child pretending to be an adult - like when I check in at an airport and nobody asks me where my parents are, or when people are willing to rent me their house without questioning my ability to remember to lock the doors or turn the hob off. But the feeling has never been more tangible than this summer when I found myself sat with 12 strangers about to go into a court room, where a real person had been charged with a real crime; it was on my shoulders to listen to the evidence and judge their fate, and by extension, the fate of other people. Send a guilty person free and if they re-offend you're responsible for their future victims or send an innocent person to jail and you're responsible for their suffering. I must admit, as I sat there not knowing what to expect, I was scared.

When my jury summons arrived I thought there had been a mistake; I was always under the impression that students were not eligible for jury service. Also maybe more than simply being misguided, perhaps a part of me thought that students were too young for jury service, that you had to be a real grown up with a job and a proper life before you were allowed to take part in such important proceedings. But I was wrong.

Since 2004, anybody over the age of 18 is eligible to be called for jury duty. Jurors are selected from the elec-



Photo by Juliette Culver

toral roll (that'll teach me to vote) and they're randomly selected by computer, to ensure that the jurors reflect the community. But what I really want to know is this, are young people such as ourselves ready to confidently and competently deal with situations as morally and

mentally challenging as a criminal trial? Yes as students we have a certain level of intelligence and we are able to live independently, but are we mature enough to cope with such adult matters? How would we deal with a case that was grisly or distressing? Have we developed into people with concrete ideas of right and wrong and are we willing to fight for our opinions if other members of the jury were to disagree with us?

Perhaps the day will never come when something that poses great responsibility will not scare me. Others may breeze through life undaunted by such challenges, but for those of us who still yearn for the days when the important decisions were made for us, perhaps jury duty belongs on the list of things that we simply have to endure. I may not feel like an adult yet, but I blew out 21 candles on my last birthday and so in the eyes of the powers that be I am one.

In the end, as the old adage goes, you have to take the rough with the smooth, and if we, as over 18s, are willing to accept the perks of being legally considered adults (being able to buy and drink alcohol, smoke, go clubbing, get married, vote), then we must also be prepared to accept the responsibilities that come with those privileges.

So, if you do find yourself called up for jury duty, here's some advice - don't panic... and bring a book. Marianne Cronin

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CULTURE CLASH

VINTAGE VS. THE CHARTS

In recent years we've had something of a vintage revival; we're surrounded by nostalgia trips and not just in the fashion world. Old's cool and recycling past styles is now the done thing seen in the form of retro sweets, home decorating and reruns of TV series.

So it was only a matter of time before vintage revival appeared in the charts. From merely sampling older tracks and adding a modern twist to classics to a total re-creation of older music; it's now not unusual for a track from your youth to suddenly emerge back on the UK Top 40. And there have been some absolute bangers. It's interesting to see how artists adapt a track to suit their style. For instance, Florence Welch's version of 'You Got The Love'. The song suddenly took on an even more soulful tone and for a while was often found to be one of the closing tracks of a night out.

Covers are one thing. Sampling is another. Professor Green brought the INXS 1987 hit 'Need You Tonight' back to life. You might not necessarily have liked his version, but musical experimentation is surely necessary for artist development?

COVERS ARE ONE THING SAMPLING IS ANOTHER

A few months ago I discovered the talented sibling trio of Kitty, Daisy & Lewis. They record using only vintage equipment, creating a brilliantly aged effect on the tracks, and for their actual songwriting they take inspiration from swing, blues and R&B. I personally loved this album as soon as I heard the staff playing the CD in the record store, simply because it was different. It caught my attention because it wasn't the mundane repetitions Jason Derulo (I can't even say his name anymore, I have to sing it) and Taio Cruz come out with constantly. You know the ones - about how they're drunk in the club, all night, with the ladies, generally having it large. The Kitty, Daisy & Lewis album was an interesting change.

As for the contribution of such vintage inspired music to the current music industry, bring it on. It's only because of the arrival of artists who actually have more talent than looking good combined with autotune that we have found well deserving singer Adele in the charts for what seems like a lifetime. We've been reminded that singers should be successful firstly because they can sing.

It can only be a positive thing that we find the current music scene including recreations of older tracks. I don't just want music that's pretty much created by a computer pretending to be a person, but that's not to say I'm totally against electronically enhanced music. I like musicians, whether they are singers, DJs or guitarists to have some real, organic talent. And if real, organic talent presents itself in imitations of the fifties music scene, then brilliant; artists had real musical integrity then and it's good to see artists with real musical integrity now as well.

Emma Williams



Photo by Maraworld Benicassim Festival



Photo by Dani Canto

"What the hell's all this then? This music lark was much better in my day!" is a familiar cry you might associate with your grandparents. But when you think about it, it's a cry we've always ignored; musicians have ploughed on regardless and have taken their art to new and exciting places (sorry Grandma!).

But for once, it seems that our current crop of pop stars (as well as under-the-radar indie bands, for that matter) have been listening to their grandparents arguments, and looking into their own past much more than ever before. The famous music critic Simon Reynolds has dubbed this phenomenon 'Retromania' - pop culture's obsession with its own past.

The kind of pop that fills the chart and night-clubs should take a lot of the blame for this, with its horribly lazy attitude towards sampling (a technique that has the potential to be innovative and subversive). After all, why risk trying out something new when you can get Jennifer Lopez to babble over some 80's euro-pop? They were right, of course, it got to Number One. Jason Derulo had to sing his name at the start of his debut single, just to let you know that, despite his song being known entirely for Imogen Heap's chorus, it was totally his song! Honest!

The worst recent example of this type of shameless, soulless pilfering is The Black Eyed Peas' 'The Time', in which they took the chorus hook of an already bad eighties 'hit', sprinkled it with Will. I. Am's robot voice and had the nerve to call it 'new'.

It's so culturally destructive (as well as painful to listen to) that the UN should be looking at banning it under the torture clauses of the Geneva Convention. Of course, in spite of this, it got to Number 1. For whatever reason, there's a bigger market than ever for our own past.

But what's even more troubling is that bands on indie labels, the music industry's real experimenters, have fallen in love with their own past too. During the late nineties and early 2000s artists exhumed the corpse of every eighties style they could remember; post-punk, synth pop, Thatcher Rock, only to find increasingly diminishing returns.

WE NEED MUSIC TO BE EXPERIMENTAL

At the moment it's the sixties that are in vogue, thanks to bands like Kitty Daisy & Lewis, Tame Impala, Cults and even Adele. They're undoubtedly talented, what can they actually offer us? Their music is pleasant because we know it so well, but is that what art is really about?

Art and music should challenge preconceptions and break boundaries, not act as a safe and comfortable cocoon. Sure, we're human beings, and we'll always pine for the familiar. But we need experimenters and explorers to push us into the unknown, too.

Joe Henthorn

STUDENT SPENDING

LIFESTYLE

Summer is pricey; whether yours consisted of sun-soaked holidays, mud splattered festivals or even a cosy 'staycation' at home, the cost of bikinis, wellies or picnic goods is sure to have added up. This, coupled with the fact that it is increasingly difficult to find summer jobs means that when we hit Freshers' Week, bank balances are checked with bated breath and flogging a kidney seems quite reasonable. However, before turning to the drastic, consider some of these ingenious ways to refuel your finances.

Being paid to go shopping sounds too good to be true, but it isn't; mystery shoppers are wanted by more and more retailers who are eager to get feedback from customers. Mystery shoppers are employed by clothes stores, restaurants and even bars and hotels. The task may involve simply visiting or buying an item from the store in question and giving feedback to the company on grounds such as efficiency, politeness and cleanliness of the staff and surroundings.

DON'T FLOG YOUR KIDNEY

To be a mystery shopper you must first register with an agency, which is free to do and they can be easily found with a quick Google search. Through the agency you could then be requested to take part in mystery shops! You may be paid a small hourly fee or simply receive your purchase (be it your new top, your lunch, or glass of wine, depending on the location of the mystery shop) for free.

Carrie Bradshaw once said "I like my money right where I can see it, hanging in my closet," and with the rise of Ebay she may have been right. As many people now buy their clothes solely from Ebay, there is no excuse for clinging on to those trousers that no longer fit; your unloved threads could be someone else's new favourite outfit and your new bank balance. Scour your wardrobe and be brutal; if it hasn't seen the light of day in the last year, are you likely to ever wear it again?

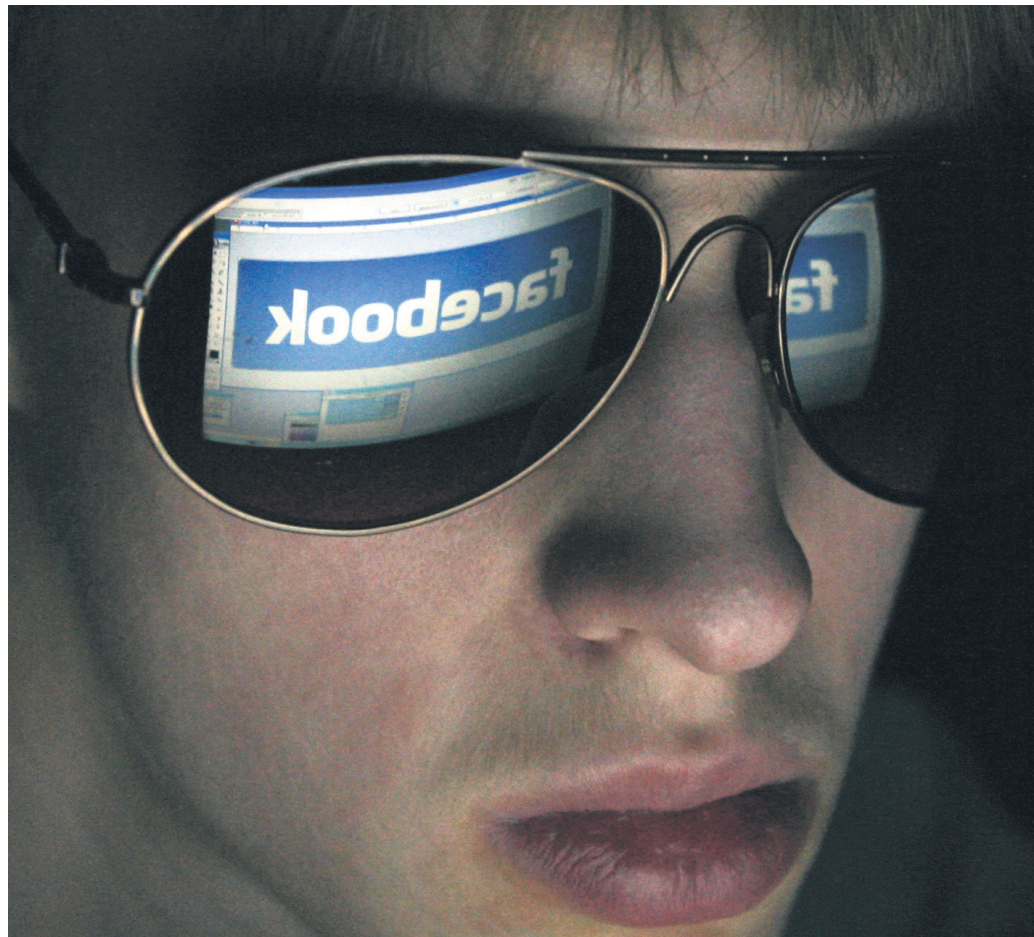
To maximise your earning potential on Ebay always take clear photos of your items from all angles and give as much information as possible. Details of size, brand and fit are the key to a sale.

Whilst on the topic of turning trash into treasure, last year's textbooks (if unneeded, of course) are a potential goldmine. You could advertise your textbooks on a flyer around campus, on LUVLE or you could sell them on Amazon.

Amazon may be a good choice if in a revision frenzy you attacked your textbook with highlighters, as you can specify the condition of your book, and even the most raggedy of books will be snapped up by thrifty students looking for a bargain. If you do want to sell your textbooks, don't forget to check if there is a new edition of the book pending as this will affect the selling price of your book.

If everything else fails, one final way to grab cash; "Daaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaad..."
Sophie Taylor

WHO'S WATCHING? DO YOU DECIDE?



24 hour surveillance, but nobody tells you when to shave. Photo by Paul Walsh

FEATURES

We live in an all-knowing society; everywhere we turn we are bombarded with information. With the use of Google we have the ability to find out almost any piece of information, and 24-hour rolling news allows us to find out what is happening on the other side of the world within minutes. We live in a lucky set of countries that have such freedom of speech, but it is important to remember that there is a fine line between knowing everything that's going on in the world and a society where the government know everything about you. What stops us tumbling into an Orwellian '1984'-esque society? With the riots bringing talk of shutting down social networks in a time of crisis, is it too extreme to consider the lasting effects of government surveillance?

The concept of watching someone sleep has always baffled me, yet millions tune into watch big brother. Despite a decline in viewing figures and a change in channel, the new series of big brother is still pulling in the viewers. The idea that 'Big brother is always watching you' seems to sell, as many people are intrigued by how others live their lives. Yet it seems that it is the cruel twists of Big Brother which makes good TV, as I am sure more people tuned in to watch Jedward get electrocuted than see that guy from 'My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding' living out his daily life.

Although we are not all subject to the Big Brother treatment it seems that we are always being watched. The UK is one of the heaviest users of CCTV in the

world, but with all these cameras, there is not enough man power or money to watch them all. This is why the controversial website 'Internet Eyes' invites members of the public to watch CCTV and report any potential crime. If your tipoff is correct you earn points which can be used on prizes. Every time you walk past a CCTV camera just who really is watching you?

With a website for just about everything, it's easy to know what just about anyone is doing at any time. Twitter allows us to follow the daily lives of many celebrities, whilst Facebook shares with us pictures and thoughts of our friends. New social networking sites are appearing every day with the latest being justlethome.com, a website which allows users to share tips and advice about a city, making it that little bit easier for people when they move out into the big wide world.

After the London riots, MPs proposed a shutdown of all social networks should a similar situation arise. Although it's easy to point the blame at social networks, the Government is forgetting the good social networking sites can do. The morning after the riots, social networking was being used to organise the clean-ups to boost morale and community spirit.

So with celebrity magazines, 24-hour news and social networking it seems that we always know what is going on in the world around us, but people are not so keen when it's the Government who knows everything about them. But can too much knowledge really be a bad thing? As Big Brother often says, you decide!
Clare-Louise Hazel

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

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

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SUDOKU - HARD

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

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COMMENT



Photo by Geoffrey James

I know it's called Freshers' Week but still...

Emma Hart

Ah, Freshers' Week. The tears, the laughter, the new friends, the baked potatoes. Fast-forward a year, and Freshers' Week is entirely different; it's catching up with friends and flatmates that you haven't seen all summer, and it's feeling comfortable enough that you are able to fully relax and enjoy yourself. In second year, you get drunker, rowdier, and in my opinion, there is a hell of a lot more to enjoy.

So this is why I felt guilty of eventually almost agreeing with my friend who suggested that this year, we book a holiday for Freshers' Week. As she said, "it seems a shame to miss it but we won't be allowed in anywhere anyway," which to an extent is true. Freshers' timetables released a few weeks ago follow the same format as previous years - largely orientated around the college bars, with the exception of the 'Big Night Out' bar crawl around town. But limit-

ed capacities within the bars mean that it is near enough impossible for older students to attend these events, and even in the case of nights organised in Lancaster town, wristbands grant exclusive entry for freshers and their kitchen reps only.

Now of course it's called Freshers' Week for a reason - it is for the freshers and they are the priority. But there are so few alternatives for older years for whom Freshers' Week is still, if not more so, a highlight of the year. There are barely any events which can be freely attended by all of those who want to, and as Lancaster is a small town anyway, there are not many other options.

There is no reason why cross-campus events, including outdoor events like Campus Festival, cannot be integrated into the Freshers' Week timetables to give a chance to mingle with other students and create a bigger, better atmosphere. Lancaster is not a big university anyway, and I remember as

a fresher finding it somewhat odd that we were pretty much bound to spend the week with the same couple of hundred first-years. A mixture of bonding with your fellow college freshers and with students from the university as a whole would enable a greater sense of a wider university spirit - and in my opinion, a better time.

I'm not for one minute saying that the first years need the older years to have a good time - we want to join in the freshers' activities because we want to run around campus in genital-covered white t-shirts and Hitler moustaches too! If anything, we need an excuse to celebrate/commise-erate our last official chance to drink ourselves under the table with minimum guilt more than ever, as we embark on our last years of studenthood. And at the end of the day, 'settled in' as I might be, I am not quite ready to shelve my collection of fancy dress costumes and marker pens just yet.

Donate for me, because I can't

Aaron Spence

Like most people, I was quick to celebrate when the announcement was made that the Government was seeking to lift the lifetime ban on gay and bisexual men giving blood. This was an issue that had come up time and time again and many equality groups have worked hard over the years to campaign for it. I was, naturally, fast onto Twitter to share the good news that I'd finally be able to give blood like so many of my friends who have been doing so for years. I was wrong.

Unfortunately I had been premature. Further reading revealed that the lifetime ban was indeed gone but that a dark shadow of it remains entrenched in British law. Defenders of the law argued that it would save time to eliminate 'high risk' donors from the register, despite infections being just as likely to show up on the screening of blood given by a heterosexual person.

The phrasing of 'high risk' is something I find interesting. The Government decided to follow apparently mainstream medical advice that a one-year ban should remain. In other words, you can give blood and be gay but in order to do so you must go cold turkey for a year. This seems like a bizarre rule. If we're talking risk, surely everybody should be celibate for a year to reduce the chances of a blood disease slipping through the net? Yet the Government seems to think that an equally-applied blanket ban on sexually active individuals would be unfair, arguing that the risk associated with gay men out-

weighs the equality factor.

Normally I'd be inclined to agree, but it's hard to do so when in banning a demographic based on sexual behaviour you don't apply it equally. Not only do heterosexuals who have had sex in the last year have the option of giving blood, but this also applies to commercial sex workers. I am one of the biggest advocates for the welfare provision of commercial sex workers but when a prostitute is allowed to donate and a gay man in a committed civil partnership of a decade who only gets sex at Christmas and on his anniversary is not, I begin to question whether this equality factor has even been applied at all.

"So the law has its flaws as usual"

The other part that I find odd is that women are asked when donating if any of their sexual partners in the last year have been men who have had sex with men in the last year. I don't know about you, ladies, but my previous girlfriends have certainly never stopped to ask detailed questions about things like that even when they've been aware of my sexuality. It's not exactly considered polite conversation.

So the law has its flaws as usual. I'm happy celibate gay and bisexual men can finally give blood and I'm sure that lives will be saved, but in the meantime a good proportion of our population including myself are still banned; if you get a chance; give them a few drops on our behalf.



It's the tabloids that have been in headlines throughout this year. Photo by Graham Holliday

Death sentence is alive and well in the media

Paul Hannah
Comment Editor

So Rebecca Leighton has been released without charge regarding the saline tampering investigation at Stepping Hill hospital (or 'has gotten away with it' if you believe the media scrutiny surrounding her). You may think this is a good thing, a vindication of her good name, but she is just as trapped by these accusations now as she would have been had she been charged and found guilty. She is a victim of a two-pronged attack from both the media and the legal system itself.

Admittedly these two assailants of integrity make strange bedfellows, yet they have worked seemingly in unison to find this nurse guilty long before a case was prepared. On the 20th of July she was arrested in her flat on suspicion of committing

multiple murders. Her name, age, address and the now iconic picture of her with a drink in her hand were splashed around tabloids and broadsheets alike. The public, myself included, were all but convinced of her guilt; I mean after all, if her information had been released to the media then it was a done deal, right? Wrong.

"The public, myself included, were all but convinced of her guilt"

As it transpired, Rebecca Leighton was arrested, charged and incarcerated for

six weeks (while on the outside a veritable maelstrom of media and public hate swirled around her family) on the assumption that given more time enough evidence would come to light to ensure a conviction. When no such evidence came to light, she was released on grounds of "insufficient evidence," i.e. "we still think she's guilty but we can't quite prove it." What kind of inhumane, totalitarian flouting is that for the pillars of justice that we hold so dearly?

The press too had a heavy hand in damning Rebecca Leighton without trial; pouncing on her penchant for alcohol and using it as a clear indicator for criminal behaviour. Friends and acquaintances were dredged seemingly from nowhere to offer an insight into the mind of a mass murderer. Over the summer a very unpleasant

picture was painted of Rebecca Leighton, a picture she might struggle to shed.

"I urge you to reserve judgement on those the media declare guilty and the police declare 'under suspicion'"

I wish I could say this was the only time that overeager journalists and overconfident police officers have ruined

the life of an innocent person, but this is far from true. Let us forget the media frenzy over the murder of Bristolian Joanna Yeates at the start of the year. Landlord Chris Jeffries was arrested and subsequently sentenced to trial by tabloid hate campaign; characters from his past were dredged up to testify he had always been a strange man in his days as a schoolteacher and the only picture ever to find itself splurged across a front page was of him looking, for lack of a better word, shifty.

Now, having only just realised the irony of me writing this to go into a newspaper, I urge you to reserve judgement on those the media declare guilty and the police declare 'under suspicion' until the dust has settled. It might be tomorrow's chipshop paper but the dirt within can stick for a lifetime.

Deposits matter, mattresses don't

Going to mattresses against deposit drama

Stefan Helm

You're a student, which is increasingly becoming synonymous with 'cash-strapped.' You've got fees, rent, books and everything else to pay for. But at any one time the University could be holding up to £400 of your money in deposits - one for the deposit for that year and another £200 if you have applied for the next year. That's £200-£400 from each student living on campus.

It is such a joy in the middle of the summer to receive that nice lump sum you so desperately need. Money you had almost forgotten about and thought long gone. That is, if there's any of it left.

That's how I felt. Being a conscientious tenant, I left

my room picture-perfect. After wiping down the surfaces, polishing the desk, washing the windows, shampooing the carpet, I left my room in a condition better than that which I received it in. So I was most surprised when I found myself being asked to pay the large sum of £90, almost half my deposit, for a new mattress. A new mattress?

I felt compelled to dispute this, so I thought it was reasonable to ask, why are students being asked to replace old mattresses? Surely that is fair wear and tear? I was then told that it was not an old mattress, but a brand new one, only eight months old. Could have fooled me; my 10-year-old mattress at home did not have me whimpering in agony from spinal injury.

Apparently when the room was inspected, a mark was found. Then I received the damning evidence. The reason for replacement? A small lightly printed footprint on the edge of the mattress.

"My mattress did not have me whimpering in agony"

I was perplexed. How could it be logical to throw away a perfectly good brand new eight month old mattress because of a small, easily cleanable mark? When

I brought up the issue that throwing away perfectly good new mattresses is detrimental to the environment, I was told the argument was irrelevant to the discussion. Obviously ripping off students is much more important priority.

Apparently students, far from being the bohemian, grotty dwellers they are credited for, would be most appalled and demand a new mattress immediately. "Sorry I can't sleep in that bed, there's a footprint on the bottom side of the mattress."

This is not a unique case; you can find countless stories of the same thing around the University. Mattresses are one of the most common, and most expensive reasons why students get their deposits

deducted. Mattresses which should be replaced every 5-10 years are getting replaced every few months. Not only is this a waste of money (not for the University, but for the cash-strapped students who pay for the privilege), but also a huge damage to the environment. Mattresses are the number one filler of landfill sites; they are 400% less compactable than most landfill waste and take up to 23 cubic feet of space.

It seems there is a culture of waste when it comes to running student accommodation. The waste being funded exclusively by the student on the student's behalf. After a long fight I eventually managed to get the charge waived, but I doubt many others have been so lucky.

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**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**

LETTERS

Editorial

We shouldn't have to report on this issue ever again

Matthew Power
Editor

I sat in the SCAN office this week and found myself reading an article by Jen Day written almost a year ago today. The headline read 'Too many students and too few rooms as campus accommodation fills up.' A fortnight later, the SCAN reported on how 20 international students had been put up in a hotel.

Fast-forward a year and we find ourselves yet again reporting on accommodation issues. It is no coincidence that accommodation dominates several pages of this edition's news.

Evidently, lessons have been learnt and the Univer-

sity have prioritised international students who are arriving in the country for the first time. It is difficult enough to find accommodation in Lancaster if you are an incoming home student.

"They should never have found themselves in this position"

Add in the language barrier for an international student and the change in culture, and you find yourself in a near-impossible situation.

However, it is simply not good enough to stand back and say changing the priority list has done enough. A review needs to be put in place and the University need to discover the exact reasons why they find themselves in this position yet again. This cannot become an annual problem.

Thankfully, LUSU have been on hand throughout the process to assist the 229 freshers who have been left without on-campus accommodation. Finding accommodation in the small private sector of the city of

Lancaster is no easy task and the whole of the Students' Union team of staff and officers have pulled together to help create a property bank for the new students. Beyond this, they have been in regular contact with all the students and provided them with crucial information.

I urge University management to reconsider their admissions policy. I accept that admissions have risen this year – this is no surprise given our exceptional league table standings. I accept that priorities have to be put in place for certain groups, especially overseas students. I accept that there has to be deadlines put in place and guarantees for students who choose Lancaster as their

firm offer.

With all this said, moving to university will be for many students the first time they have left home. Mixed in with the overwhelming emotion of excitement, will be anxiety, nerves and worry. It is embarrassing that Lancaster are welcoming 229 students to our University who will not gain the same experience that all other freshers will get from living on-campus.

I know that JCR Execs and Kitchen Reps will do all they can to fully include these students in Freshers' Week and I am sure they will all have a fantastic time, but they should never have found themselves in this position in the first place.

Labour: stop pretending that you care

Allow me to introduce you to Labour. The party who invented top-up fees. The party who then tripled them. The party who established the Browne Review that has since gone on to direct the current Government's policies on tuition fees.

How dare Ed Miliband stand up in front of his party conference and announce a cut in tuition fees. Labour, the party who have consistently acted poorly for students for over 10 years are now trying to line themselves up as the 'party for students'.

Yes, the Conservatives will never be the party favoured by the majority of students. Yes, Nick Clegg and his yellow army have cheated students and will never be trusted again. But that doesn't mean we should automatically turn to Labour on the basis of one clown's empty promise.

I don't know who to vote for in the next election. But I certainly won't vote Labour just because Ed Miliband is jumping on the back of the failures of the other two parties.

Anonymous

Thanks LUSU

I would like to take this opportunity to praise all of the staff and officers at LUSU who assisted in finding

accommodation for many of the 230 first year students the University did not offer accommodation to this year. This was an unprecedented number of students left without anywhere to live.

I was disappointed that the University used two blocks of accommodation normally used for undergraduates to house postgraduates this year, however the wider issue is that the University continues to take postgraduate students on long after the original accommodation deadline.

I understand that a lot of our postgraduates are international students and it would be difficult for them to find accommodation off-campus but with this situation in mind I would hope that the University will consider it's accommodation guarantee policy to help all students who would have

difficulty; I can assure everyone it has been no easy task for these freshers to find accommodation in town.

I am very proud that LUSU worked together to assist these students and make sure that their Lancaster experience is as good as everyone else's.

Matt Saint, LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity)

#Love Lancaster Tweets

The new hashtag for anyone in Lancaster who wants to tweet.

"You just gotta #lovelancaster pouring down its still pretty darn great" @squigglespeaks

"Very impressed with Lancaster University at the open day earlier #lovelancaster" @Jac3vans

"Really love the look of Lancaster. Although I am slightly wet from all the rain. #lovelancaster" @SophieDurrands

"Had a lovely time looking around Lancaster, despite the torrential rain! Definitely applying #lovelancaster" @LornaFinlay

"I #lovelancaster it was great: good course, chance to study in usa and also nice accommodation." @WoodyTGP

Letters to the Editor should be sent to scan@lancaster.ac.uk (SCAN reserves the right to edit letters for publication).



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SPORT

Meet the Captain

Cheerleading

Alex Rastall
Sports Editor

With tryouts around the corner, SCAN speaks to Lancaster Roses Cheerleading Captain, Shona McGinn, about expectations and ruling out old-time prejudices. A full copy of the interview is available on SCAN's website.

Lancaster's Cheerleading Squad has gone from strength to strength in recent years and represented the university on both campus and University levels, what can we expect from the squad this year?

After returning from the British Cheerleading Association (BCA)'s annual university competition in April, we aim to build on our success. Our co-ed squad came second, all-girl squad achieved the highest score they've ever received and dance squad narrowly missed out on a trophy. We plan to compete at the BCA again alongside another university open competition.

"It isn't all girls and pom-poms!"

For those who aren't aware of the club make up, what squads do the Lancaster Roses have and how do they differ?

We have three squads; dance, all-girl and co-ed, all of which are entered in national competition. The dance squad work on fast-paced dance routines using pom-poms and involving no stunting. The all-girl squad work on a two-minute rou-

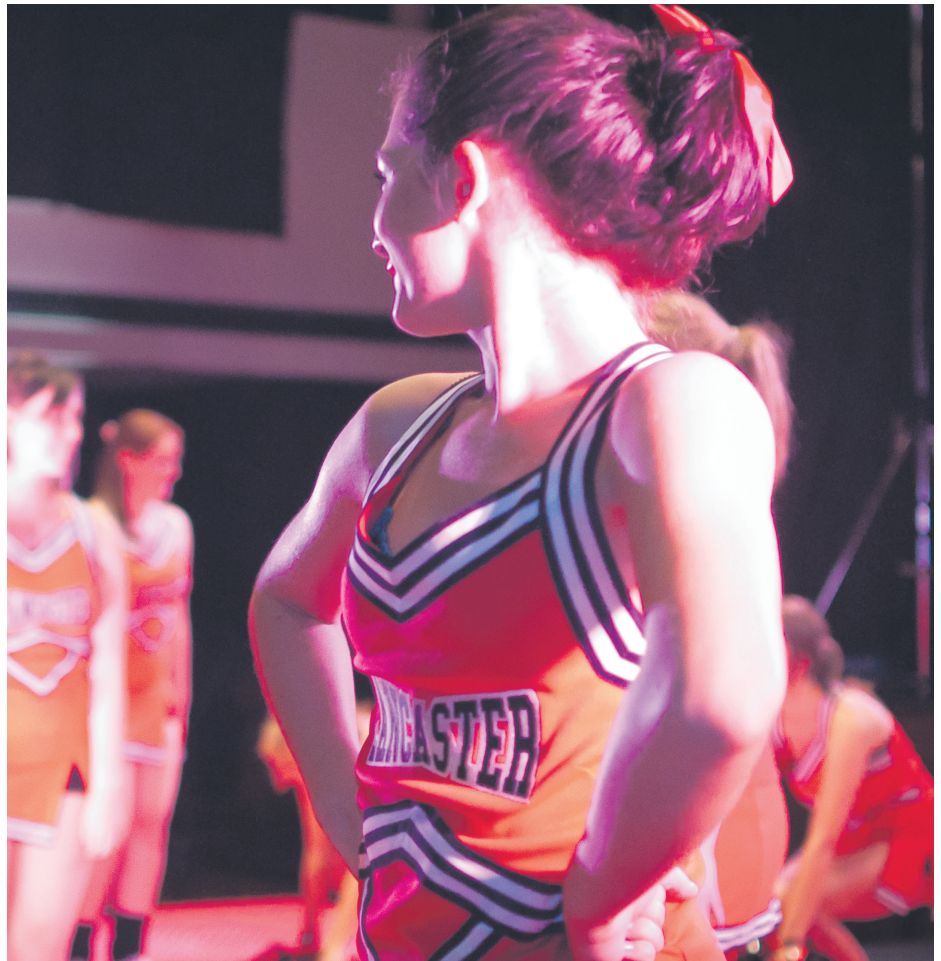
tine in which they dance, jump, stunt and do gymnastics. The co-ed squad is made up of both girls and boys. They enter competition at a higher level because having men on the team enables them to do bigger stunts.

"The sport requires great upper body and core strength plus balance to carry out the stunts"

What sort of students are you looking to attract this year?

We encourage anyone and everyone to come and have a go at our tryouts; no experience is necessary to join the squad. For anyone who is from a dancing or gymnastics background but fancies something different, cheerleading may be the sport for them. We are also looking to build on the triumph of our co-ed squad and to do this we need more male members. Cheerleading isn't all girls and pom-poms! Co-ed squads across the country have at least five or more male members who help the squads perform bigger and more complex stunts; excellent upper body strength is most definitely required.

What can people expect



Cheerleaders in action. Photo by Tom Skarbek-Wazynski

from tryouts?

There is absolutely no need to be nervous. Tryouts mainly consist of doing some basic stunts and cheers that are taught in the taster sessions. They are mainly in place to allow the coaches to place you on the right squad for you. You will be asked if you have any gymnastic experience but please don't worry if you don't; I can proudly say as captain of the Lancaster Roses my gymnastic ability just about stretches to a forward roll!

What would you say to those who say that 'cheerleading isn't a sport'?

I would invite anyone who has this view to come down to our taster trials, especially men. Many males don't want to be known as cheer-

leaders exactly because of this viewpoint. Cheerleading requires great upper body and core strength plus balance and coordination to carry out the stunts, which we are continuously looking to build on. Every year at competition we watch other co-ed squads perform some amazing routines with several male members to each stunt. This year's highlight was watching a partner stunt performance with one male lifting another cheerleader entirely on his own above his head - we would love to have some members of our squad rival this ability.

Every practice we partake in a group warm-up and cool-down as in any other sport due to the physical requirements of the activities we undertake and every year we bring back trophies

for the University. But if none of this can convince you that cheerleading is a sport, I challenge you to come down to our taster sessions and try it out for yourselves!

Why should the Lancaster Roses Cheerleading Squad be the students' choice at Freshers' Fair?

Cheerleading is definitely something different from other societies as we are a sport that combines gymnastics, dance and lifting. We represent the University proudly with our Lancaster kit and we are known across campus for our spirit.

To read more of SCAN's interview with Shona McGinn, visit scan.lusu.co.uk/sports.

Football

South West colleges look to excel in football once again

Neil Robertson

To avoid the obvious clichés, the upcoming Inter College Football League A season is one of the most eagerly anticipated in recent years. Last season saw Lonsdale crowned champions after six wins and only one defeat from seven games.

Meanwhile their South West neighbours Cartmel excelled in the cup, defeating Pendle 2-0 in the final. They will hope to carry this good cup form into the league next season to improve on their third-from-bottom finish last time round.

Pendle themselves have reason to believe they can go one step further this season in the league, buoyed by their impressive run to the final.

Last season's runners up County will fancy themselves as the main threat to Lonsdale's aspirations of retaining the league title, being the sole team to beat them last season and only finishing four points behind the champions.

Elsewhere, Bowland will look to improve on a mid-

table finish last year, and will hope to replicate the form which saw them beat Lonsdale on penalties in the annual Founders' competition.

Looking further down the league, Furness will surely be targeting an improvement from last season, having finished bottom of the league without winning any of their seven matches.

The captains of Lonsdale and Cartmel, the respective league and cup winners, spoke to SCAN about their favourite moments from last season and outlined their aims for the coming campaign. Lonsdale skipper Chris Floodgate summed up his team's championship winning season in two crucial moments. Firstly, the penultimate league match against Bowland which Lonsdale won 2-1 in a close contest thanks to two goals from talisman Josh Duggan, and then "crucially beating Grizedale in the final game of the season to confirm the title." He stated that the team's aims for the season "are to have a good team unit and all good mates enjoying



Lonsdale take on Bowland. Photo by Ferdinand Doepel

their football, if that means winning honours then so be it, but success can be measured in more ways than just trophies."

Cartmel captain Pat Leatham cited the defining moment for his team last season as the 2-1 cup semi-final victory over Lonsdale which he described as "a great moment where we really felt we could win the cup. We played outstandingly in the final and won comfortably 2-0 against

Pendle." Leatham stated that the aim for his side is to try and retain the Inter College Cup and to look for greater success in the league.

The drive and ambition to succeed embodied by these two captains demonstrates that even the successful teams can find room for improvement. If such dedication is replicated throughout the league, it will certainly make for a thrilling 2011/12 Football League A season.

Handley speaks

Marc Handley
Vice President (Activities)

So here we are, Freshers' Week is upon us once more and everyone is getting ready for it all to start again. University is an absolutely fantastic few years but the most important thing is that you get as much out of it as possible. Without wanting to sound like a headteacher, you get out of University what you put into it, and from a really biased viewpoint, any of the activities which we provide here at LUSU are a fantastic way to get involved. Be it college sport, University sport or societies there is something for absolutely anybody, and if not then come in and speak to me and we can make it happen!

You get out of university what you put into it

I'm sure over the course of this week you will be bombarded with so much information that you forget most of the things you have been told, but please make sure you get to the Freshers' Fair on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th October to have a look at everything that is available to you, it's a great chance to ask the execs of all the groups anything you want, and then you can see if it is for you or not! Also, for any of you tweeters out there, be sure to use the #lovelancaster hashtag this year- it will be one of our main ways of communicating messages to the general population of students here, so as before-get involved!

I look forward to seeing you all out and about, and if you have any questions about anything feel free to pop into the office. Here's to a great year!

Sports Editorial

Lancaster needs you!

Rhys Elias
Sports Editor

With the arrival of the new Sports Centre and a home Roses to look forward to in May, 2011-12 is looking set to be a big year for sport at Lancaster. The opportunity to get involved with sport this year is not to be missed, whether that involves playing sport for your college, the University, or by simply going down to the pitches to lend your support.

There is a wide variety of sports clubs on offer, from Korfball to Canoeing, so be sure to get yourselves down

to Freshers' Fair to find out more! Many of our clubs compete in British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) league competitions against other universities.

Lancaster will be desperate to reclaim the Carter-James Trophy

There is also of course plenty of college sport you can get involved with. Foot-

ball, netball, pool and darts are all played competitively at college level.

The Carter Shield is also another way to represent your college in a variety of events, as is the Legends Shield for Pendle, Fylde and County, and Founders for Bowland and Lonsdale students.

Roses is always a fantastic sporting occasion, and this year Lancaster will be desperate to reclaim the Carter-James trophy with home advantage giving us the best possible chance. I was part of the SCAN team that went down to York for

last year's tournament and was amazed by the amount of support Lancaster enjoyed at many events. With Roses being at home this year, I am sure that support will increase and we will be able to drown out the dulcet tones of the York fans.

To achieve victory at Roses, one thing we do need is a good sporting season in the run-up, and that means Lancaster needs the best athletes it can muster. So get involved in sport this year and join the cause! Who knows, we could be on the verge of a hugely successful sporting year at the University.

Hockey

Sticks at the ready

Rhys Elias
Sports Editor

Lancaster's Men's Hockey Thirds won the Northern Conference Men's 5A League by a single point with a 5-2 victory against Manchester Fifths on the final day of the league season to clinch promotion for the side. An impressive tally of seven wins, two draws and only two losses means the Thirds will go on to face Lancaster Men's Seconds next year in the Men's 4A League.

In an interview with SCAN, Tom Crawford, an integral member of the Thirds' solid defence last year, had this to say: "this season will be a big test for the team due to the promotion and a big step up in class, but we're looking forward to the competition in the new league.

"Our biggest strength last season was our spirit; the best example of this was during the last game of the season against Manchester when we had to avoid defeat to become champions with

Manchester the team in second. We found ourselves 2-0 down within 20 minutes, but came back to win 5-2 and become champions. We had a solid defence too. We were a strong unit at the back and kept it tight in the games.

"We played some very good hockey all season but were a little inconsistent and sometimes started games too slowly. This year we will not be able to afford to do this so I guess that is something we will have to work on."

The Thirds will also be desperate to retain their impressive record of being only one of two teams to never have lost at Roses, alongside the Lancaster Bombers American Football team. A convincing 2-0 victory over York at last year's Roses saw the Thirds retain this record and their special place in the history of the tournament.

Elsewhere, the Men's Seconds will be looking to improve on a mid-table finish last season. Inconsistent form cost them dearly when a promising start of three



Battling at Roses. Photo by Tom Skarbek-Wazynski.

back-to-back victories was followed by three back-to-back losses which also saw them dumped out of the cup in the second round at the hands of the Manchester Seconds.

The Lancaster Women's Seconds and Thirds could also manage little more than mid-table finishes last season. The Women's Seconds won six games and lost five, but had a good run of home

form, losing only one home game to eventual league champions the University of Manchester Women's Fifths.

The same Manchester side seemed to be a bogey team for the Lancaster Women, knocking the Women's Thirds out of the cup with a 17-0 victory. The cup run of the Women's Seconds proved to be equally unsuccessful with a 1-0 defeat to yet another Manchester-based

side, Manchester Metropolitan University Seconds.

So it looks like another exciting Hockey season is ahead of us and many questions remain. Will the Men's 3rds manage to avoid relegation? Will they manage to retain their unbeaten run at Roses, and will the Men's 2nds, Women's 2nds and Women's 3rds, manage to improve on their mid-table finishes last year?

Team in the Spotlight

Netball set to excite for another year

Alex Rastall
Sports Editor

With an incredible year of achievement behind them, Lancaster University's netball squad are looking to reinforce and surpass their successes this coming season.

A league win and two Roses victories away at York mean that there is unquestionable expectation that rests upon this year's squads - an expectation that the squad is taking with nothing but excitement and sheer determination.

The club is comprised of three teams; the Firsts, the Seconds and the Thirds, who all compete in British University and Colleges Sport

(BUCS) competitions and the Northern Universities Netball League (NUNL).

The 2010-2011 season was a major success for the Seconds in particular, who saw off competition from their University of Central Lancashire rivals to win the Northern Conference League 5a. Their win-to-loss ratio was one of the best across the sports teams at the University and also earned them a nomination in the LUSU Sports Awards.

Nevertheless, success was evident across the board as the Firsts and Thirds racked up credible wins at the prestigious Roses tournament in May. The former experienced a nail-bitingly close game

against their York counterparts, where even up until the final whistle either team could have won. It luckily concluded in Lancaster's favour, 39-38. The latter team, who despite undergoing another close encounter, met York with strong defence and sheer determination to win a gutsy attacking game, 24-21.

The Thirds also managed to finish second in their league, again demonstrating the success and hard work behind the club as it stands today.

Despite this, the University netball squad are seemingly on a new player recruitment drive. They lost a lot of members at the end of last year due to graduations,

placements and academic years abroad meaning that there are places to fill.

The netball team's win-to-loss ratio was one of the best across the University last year

This aside, Carla Bayliss, one of the goal-shooters for the thirds last year, said "I think we did an excellent job

this past year. Our performance at York really showed the standard of our play and how strong the teamwork and spirit is. I am really looking forward to seeing what the new academic year brings in terms of new players and I am confident we are going to have another very successful and enjoyable netball year. I can't wait!"

So with Freshers' Fair on the doorstep, the netball squad are undoubtedly preparing themselves for a busy start to the year with tryouts and team bonding. Hopefully this will all be rewarded with an emulation of winning percentages and an even greater domination at a home Roses tournament.

SPORT



Furness's Junior Common Room is ready for the refurbishment Photo by Tom Skarbek-Wazynski

Captains block Furness Squires move

Furness's bar sports fixtures set to be moved to other colleges

Tom Belger

With the latest bar renovations taking place in Furness, the College's bar sports teams have been without a home venue for the 2011-12 season.

One of the solutions proposed by the College was to move all of their bar sports fixtures off campus to Squires Snooker Centre in the centre of Lancaster. Furness approached the George Wyatt Committee with this idea but it was rejected by a 15-12 vote, the main reason that the move would ultimately dent the collegiate nature of inter-college sport.

Another stumbling point was the cost for on-campus students getting buses or taxis into town, despite the fact that Furness were willing to accommodate this issue by paying the travel costs for students.

"Fixtures will be disrupted, it'll just be a mess"

The rejection by the Committee has meant that

Furness will have to play their fixtures at other college bars. However, with Furness's bar renovations expected to the last nearly 12 months, Male Sports Secretary Sam Walsh was displeased with the decision, as some bars don't have space for two colleges playing on the same night.

"Fixtures will be disrupted big time. For example, pool is played on a Thursday evening with one team at home, and the other away. Now, one Furness team will play away on the Thursday as normal, with the other team having to play away another night of the week. This may change every week and will

be a nightmare for captains and Sports Secretaries to plan. It'll just be a mess," he said.

Walsh also felt that the decision would put people off playing bar sports for Furness, which he feels could affect the overall success of a college which has a reputation for bar sports.

Fylde College's Darts Captain Chris Bell was one of the people who voted against the decision; and said that "people (members of the Committee) raised the point that by moving fixtures away from campus it takes a source of trade away from the college bars, and with many of the bars mak-

ing very little income on certain evenings, it seems self defeating to move more events away from the college bars."

He also pointed out that Pendle College had to play their bar sports fixtures at other colleges and they didn't have any problems arranging and playing fixtures, and if anything fixtures would be more disrupted if they were played at Squires.

So as it stands, Furness will play their bar sports fixtures in various college bars and JCR's for the 2011-12 season. It has yet to be confirmed if this will continue for future seasons.