

Here come the girls

- Over 3000 students vote in record breaking election
- Fylde has highest college turnout as Smith is elected President



Richard Clark, Rachel Harvey, Liz Ashworth, Libby Martin, Rosalia O'Reilly and Ste Smith are the newly elected team. Photo by Jay Theis

Matthew Power Editor

For the second consecutive year, the Students' Union Full Time Officer election has broken records for the highest turnout ever.

In the vote for the next LUSU President, 3011 students (22% of the electorate) voted in the contest, which was over a 10% increase on last year's record breaking figure of 2733 voters.

Fylde College had the

highest number of voters, with 420 voting in the contest of President, which resulted in ex-Fylde President and current LUSU Campaigns Cross Campus Officer, Ste Smith, being elected LUSU President.

In terms of the number of votes cast, the second highest college was County, who elected three of their own students. Libby Martin, Liz Ashworth and Rachel Harvey were elected LUSU Vice Presidents (Events and De-

mocracy), (Activities), and (Media and Communications) respectively.

Completing the new team are two students from Pendle. The college's current JCR Vice President (Equality and Welfare), Rosalia O'Reilly, was elected LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), whilst the Academic Council Cross Campus Officer, Richard Clark, won the contest for the position of LUSU Vice President (Academic).

As the election drew to a close on Friday, the voting period was extended by two hours from 4PM to 6PM following complaints from voters that the system was not working. Olly Trumble, Vice President (Events and Democracy) explained to SCAN how the situation arose.

"Due to a high level of traffic to the Mi-Voice site, there was a delay in voting and people registered complaints that they were unable to vote." Trumble added

that "the decision was made by myself in my role as Vice President of Democracy, and the Cross Campus Elections Officer."

Cross Campus Elections Officer, Joe Molloy, exclaimed he was "delighted with the voting turnout". He went on to say that "to get anywhere near last year's figure would have been amazing, but to exceed it is ridiculously good."

FULL COVERAGE - PAGES 4, 5, 6, 7 & 15

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**SIXTY
SECOND
SCAN****NEWS****Smith elected President**

News Editor, Erin O'Reilly, reports from the Sugarhouse, following the election of Ste Smith as the next LUSU President. The report includes a breakdown of voting figures. **Page 4**

CULTURE**Exclusive interview - Kaiser Chiefs**

Steff Brawn sits down with the Kaiser Chiefs to discuss their rise to the top with 'Employment' and what the future holds for the band who once predicted a riot. **Carolynne - C5**

SPORT**Clay Pigeon Shooting Club**

Rebecca Bracey meets the Clay Pigeon Shooting Club, who were founded in 2008, and are going from strength to strength. She finds out all about their training and events. **Page 17**

COMMENT**Scotland and the UK, united we stand?**

Peter Grundy and Tom Forrest take opposing views on the future of Scotland, with the intended referendum on Scottish independence due to take place in 2014. **Page 14**

SPORT**American Bombers vs York Centurions**

Alex Rastall, Sports Editor, reports as the Lancaster Bombers take on the York Centurions in a league match. Lancaster have won every game between the two at Roses. **Page 19**

NEWS**Death of Physics lecturer**

Sophie Gibson reports on the recent passing of the retired member of the Physics department, Dr Max Lazarus. The lecturer was popular with both colleagues and students. **Page 3**

FEATURES**The poetic entrepreneur**

The 'SIFE Capture' project is a scheme which aims to help students with business ideas to get started in the money-making world. Tom Ley discusses his experiences. **Carolynne - C3**

NEWS**Threat to campus bars**

Catherine Chorley reports on a recent interview with Mark Swindlehurst, Director of Facilities, who discusses the future of the campus bars, in light of poor financial results. **Page 8**

LIFESTYLE**Big fat gypsy stereotype**

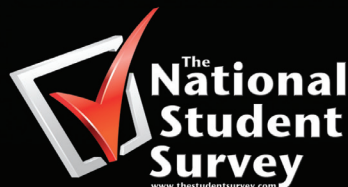
Jennifer Parkes discusses the television show, Big Fat Gypsy Wedding, exploring if the recent interest is having positive or harmful effects on the travelling community. **Carolynne - C11**

LETTERS**15 hour bar crawl**

A graduate of Lancaster University writes to SCAN to complain about the behaviour of students on the recent 15 hour city centre bar crawl ran by the Furness College JCR Executive. **Page 15**

COMMENT**Why the West was right to invade Iraq**

Jim Tracey argues that Iraq was the right course of action. He accepts the "astronomically high cost of the war" but believes that it is justified action. **Page 13**



The National Student Survey
www.thestudentsurvey.com

With your support we hope to provide Oxfam with the funds to buy

Goats



Safe water



Toilet facilities



Teacher training



Health checks



You can follow our progress on the e-campus screens.



LANCASTER
UNIVERSITY

Have you participated yet?

This term sees the launch of the National Student Survey 2012. Aimed at final year students the NSS offers a national platform for you to give feedback about your course, your university and also LUSU. As a thank you for donating your

time, the University is going to fund Oxfam Goats, Water supplies, Toilet facilities, teacher training and health checks to the poorest countries in the world. The more students who fill out the survey, the more the University will donate.

www.thestudentsurvey.com

LUSU

NEWS

Innovative students may see products manufactured in China

Laura Kay

Zac Garton and Kitson Broadhurst, two student entrepreneurs, have recently been encouraged to seek funding for products they have developed.

Garton, who is studying for a BA in Entrepreneurship at Lancaster University Management School, developed a bottle fitted with a special filter component which produces juice when the bottle is re-filled with tap water. The removable filter, containing a changeable capsule, is thought to be both environmentally and economically friendly especially as one capsule is capable of flavouring several water bottles.

Garton told Lancaster University News: "I was a joiner's apprentice when I left school - it was then that I realised I would never be happy working for someone else so I left and enrolled in college. The attraction to me was finally doing something I truly wanted to do and having the opportunity to achieve what so few people do in creating a successful business."

Central to Engineering student Kitson Broadhurst's idea, was the stigma associated with asthma inhalers. "I'm an engineer so I like to tinker and improve things and I wanted to remove some of the stigma of having an inhaler," he said. "I've had asthma all

my life but for someone my age, I thought it would be better smaller and without a protruding corner so the inhaler fits in your pocket better."

Broadhurst, a postgraduate student, has also personalised the inhaler, producing designs based on TV characters for children. There are also plans in the works for branded inhalers for teenagers with asthma, which Broadhurst hopes will sell both online and on the high street.

"It's so easy to be an entrepreneur at university," Broadhurst stated. "There is so much help on offer. I want to make my own job rather than end up in a job I don't like and now is the time to do it when you have the opportunity."

LUSU Involve's Joe Buglass, who helps to provide innovating students with contacts and advice, has commented that both students have a bright future ahead.

"Both of them have the tenacity, the ideas and the drive to make things happen and we already have companies in the UK who are interested in helping them," he told Lancaster University News.

The two students are now hoping to secure funds that would enable them to manufacture their products in China, with the aid of LUSU Involve and Allan Rennie of the University's Product Development Unit.



China could be the destination for the innovative pair. Photo by Richard I Jzermans

Physics department lecturer passes away

Sophie Gibson

Dr. Max Lazarus, a retired member of the Physics department at Lancaster, has recently passed away.

He has been described as enthusiastic and passionate, a respected and charismatic lecturer, a highly valued member of the department and an internationally recognised physicist. Dr. Max Lazarus will be missed for his efforts and contributions to the University.

"An unstoppable enthusiasm for physics"

His passion for the subject has been one of his largest attributes and in 2005 this was recognised on an international scale

as he was made 'Life Senior Member' of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Based in America, it is quoted on the website as being "the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology."

"He has consistently been the favourite of students throughout the years"

Dr. Lazarus also showed a keen interest in posting insightful comments on the 'New Scientist' website, offering his educated opinion and sparking

debate, adding to the inspiring atmosphere created for students.

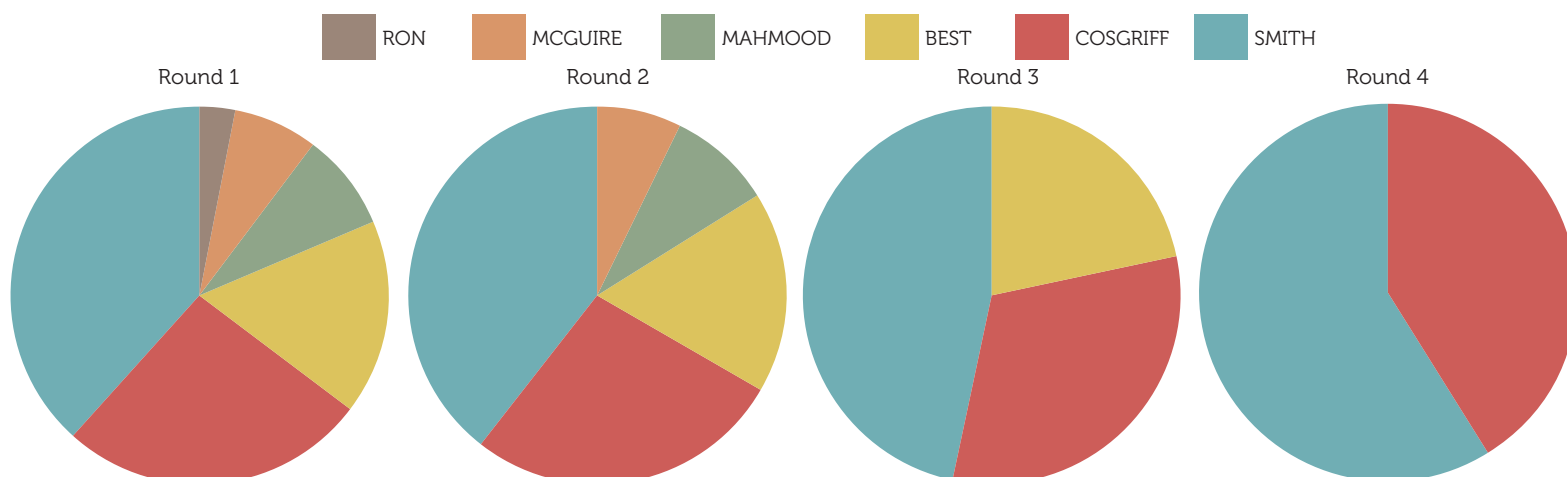
Ija Grishin, physics PhD student and recent achiever of the 'Dean's Award for Physics' is quoted on the departmental website as praising the "wonderful staff" and "friendly and flexible conditions" of the department. All which added to, in his opinion, "a family-like environment that promotes and builds confidence and independence in a student."

An official statement from the department read in full: "Max had been a lecturer in Physics since 1968 and has consistently been the favourite of students throughout his many years due to his wonderful eccentricity, his unstoppable enthusiasm for physics, his humour and his kindness. He will be missed by all who were fortunate to have worked with him."

Smith surges to victory to become LUSU President



Smith elated with his victory before delivering his acceptance speech. Photos by Jay Theis



Erin O'Reilly
News Editor

After a record voting turnout, with 3,011 votes cast in the election of LUSU President, Ste Smith emerged victorious.

There were four rounds of voting in this election. In stage one RON had 92 votes, Ellie Best had 483, Wes Cosgriff had 767, Amar Mahmood had 241, Ste Smith had 1109, and Danny McGuire had 207. The quota for this round was 1449

votes, and was not met.

In the second round, Ron was eliminated. Best received 483 votes, Cosgriff received 767, Mahmood received 241, Smith received 1115 and McGuire received 212. The quota was 1414 and was once again not met.

In the third stage of voting, Mahmood and McGuire were both eliminated. Best had 564 votes, Cosgriff had 825, and Smith had 1209. The quota was 1299 votes and was not met. Best was eliminated after this round.

In the fourth and final round of voting, George Gardiner, current LUSU President, announced that one candidate had received 977 votes, with the other receiving 1395. It was then revealed that Smith had won the race for president.

Commenting on the newly elected LUSU President, Gardiner said that he thought Smith had ran a "very good campaign," particularly his "social network campaign" which "was probably the best [the University]

have seen in a long time."

"He thoroughly deserved to win" he added, "and I'm really happy for him." Commenting on the elections period in general, Gardiner thought the "elections were brilliant" with "so many diverse candidates."

Talking to SCAN, Smith echoed Gardiner's statement. "There was a really good standard of candidates this year and I'm really happy with the new team" he said.

Fellow competitor, Amar

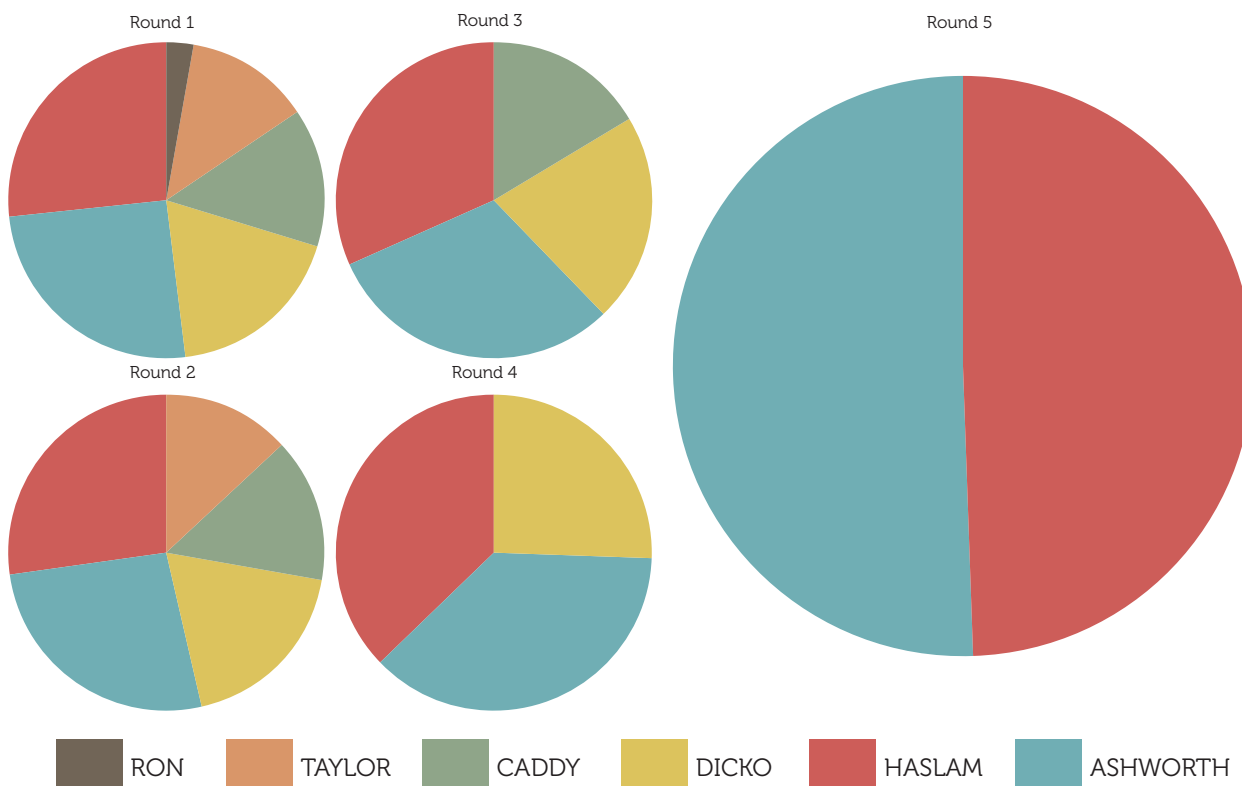
Mahmood, said that "the best person won" and wished Smith "the best of luck" going on to comment that he hopes "that things change in LUSU" and "that Ste can bring a sense of optimism to the role."

Speaking about the elections, Smith thought "these elections were some of the most engaging and interesting that we've had in a while" and believes the record voting turn out is a "true testament to the hard work that everyone has done."

Ashworth wins Activities in nail biter



Vice President (Activities) and Vice President (Academic), Liz Ashworth and Richard Clark. Photos by Jay Theis



Rachel Stafford

Liz Ashworth was elected Vice President (Activities) for 2012/13 after five tense rounds of voting.

Throughout the rounds she battled with fellow candidate Matt Haslam for the position, with Haslam leading by a small margin in the first four rounds. Ashworth, however, won the final round, with 988 votes to Haslam's 972, a mere 16 votes between them.

In the first round of voting, Haslam had 668 votes,

Ashworth 643, Rob Dickinson (Dicko) 462, Richard Cadd (Caddy) 358, Jack Taylor 326, and RON 71. RON was then eliminated.

The second round saw Haslam receive 674 votes, Ashworth 649, Dicko 463, Caddy 361 and Taylor 329. Taylor was then eliminated.

In the third round, Haslam took 747 votes, Ashworth 716, Dicko 505 and Caddy 392. This resulted in Caddy being eliminated. The fourth round saw Haslam gain 811 votes, Ashworth 806, and Dicko 563.

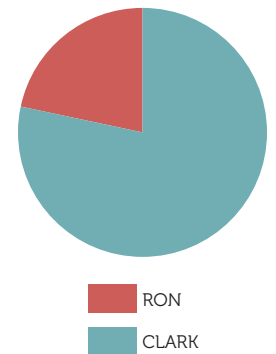
Dicko was eliminated, and in the fifth and final round it was revealed that Ashworth had claimed victory.

Ashworth was understandably emotional and began her acceptance with the words "I always said that no one likes the ugly crying girl" raising laughs from the Sugarhouse crowd. When interviewed by SCAN later on in the evening, she went on to say, "I never expected to win at any point. I'm speechless at the moment! I'm really thrilled and grateful."

Marc Handley felt that the closeness of the voting showed that the student body cared about who their next Vice President (Activities) is. "I'm really, really happy for Liz. All of the Activities candidates were phenomenal," he said.

Finally, Ashworth wanted to thank the people who voted for her, "I owe the people who voted for me everything, they probably don't realise how much it means to me but I am so grateful and I know that I was up against some brilliant candidates."

Clark hits the mark



Emma Nelson

Richard Clark was the only candidate in the Full Time Officer Elections to go head to head with RON as he ran for the position of VP (Academic). The current Cross Campus Academic Council officer soared to victory over RON with 1557 votes to RON's 424 votes.

Speaking to SCAN in response to the election results, Richard exclaimed "I'm really excited. I can't wait for the coming year, it's going to be brilliant!"

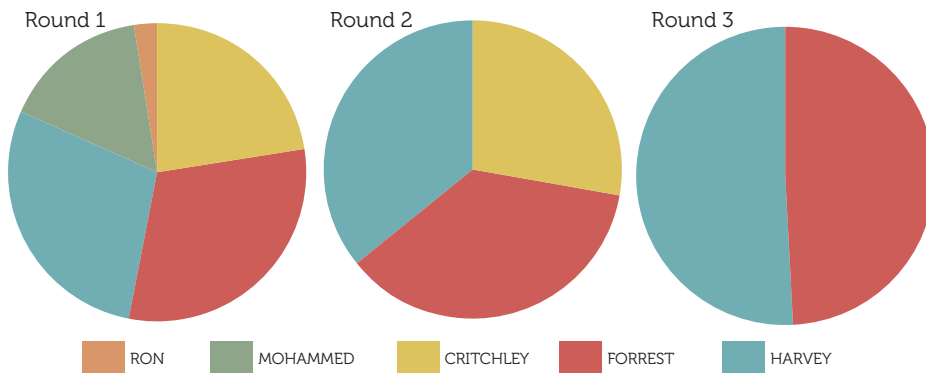
In terms of running against RON, Clark pointed out that "people always say that it's slightly easier but it's [about] making sure you've got a good campaign and you've got a good idea."

When asked about his time in office, Clark said he is going to make sure that the student experience is at "the forefront of my decisions and my job, particularly in making sure that the £9000 fees aren't too much of a detriment towards students."

Current VP (Academic), Alex Carlin, stated that Richard "has probably one of the hardest years coming up against him in a very long time" as "the University is making lots of big strategic decisions and they're not all going to be finished by time June/July comes along."

Nevertheless, Carlin expressed utmost confidence in Clark, as he stated that "he's excelled so far in everything that he's done" and "I'm extremely confident that Richard will do a fantastic job."

BFM's Harvey hits the right note



Rachel Essex

After three rounds of tense voting figures, Rachel Harvey, current Bailrigg FM Station Manager, was elected into the role of Vice President (Media and Communications).

In a heartfelt acceptance speech she told the crowd and her fellow candidates "Tom, Jonnie, Rizwaan, you

were unbelievably hard to beat," then went on to thank her friends, her campaign team and everyone who voted.

The contest was extremely close, with Tom Forrest winning the first round with 738 votes against Jonnie Critchley's 545 votes, Rachel Harvey's 693 votes, Rizwaan Mohammed's 387 votes and

RON's 57 votes. Mohammed and RON were eliminated.

The second round was equally as close with Critchley gaining 592 votes, Forrest getting 781 votes, and Harvey achieving 758 votes. Critchley was eliminated after this round of voting.

In the final round of voting, Harvey emerged as the winner, after beating her close

competition Forrest, with 962 votes to his 936 votes.

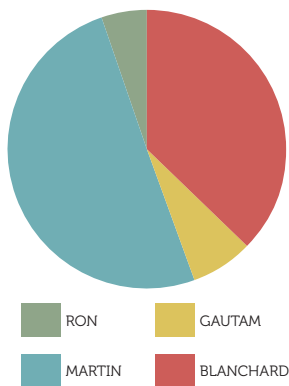
Speaking to SCAN after her victory, Harvey said she was going to "sleep forever" and was looking forward to the coming year and to "getting the media in Lancaster where it needs to be," as well as focusing on the improvement of college magazines.

Current Vice President (Media and Communications) Matthew Power gave his thoughts on Harvey's win, stating: "I think Rachel's going to do a fantastic job." He also emphasised how important her experience on Bailrigg FM will be to her next year adding, "Bailrigg's seen some tough times over the past few years, so I think it's great we now have someone with a real extensive knowledge of Bailrigg, so we can really bring the station up to the level it should be."



Photo by Jay Theis

Martin dances away from the rest of the pack to win Events & Democracy



Matthew Power Editor

Libby Martin, former County Vice President and LUDans President, was elected Vice President (Events and Democracy) after one round of voting.

Martin received 1077 votes, defeating ex-LUSU Elections Cross Campus Officer, Emily Blanchard, who gained 798 votes, and Parth Gautam, who received 153

votes. Re-Open Nominations gained 108 votes.

Speaking to SCAN after her election, Martin said she felt "absolutely incredible" to have been elected. She expressed her surprise at winning in the first round of voting, explaining that she "thought it was going to be a lot closer and go through several rounds of voting."

Martin praised her future colleague, Liz Ashworth, who she described as having been "her rock" for the election fortnight, along with County JCR Executive President Levina Masterson, and her friend, Jen Sims.

This year's election saw a record turnout with over 3000 students voting. There was also an increase in the number of female candidates, as well as international and postgraduate students. Furthermore, there was over a 30% increase in the number of students who voted in

Graduate College, in comparison to last year's election.

Martin acknowledged the success of this year's election and explained how Olly Trumble (Vice President Events and Democracy) had already begun the handover process. She joked that he had already approached her saying "We've got a lot of work to do, and we've got a lot to talk about."

Trumble told SCAN he was "looking forward to working with Libby to ensure she gets a good start in the role in July."

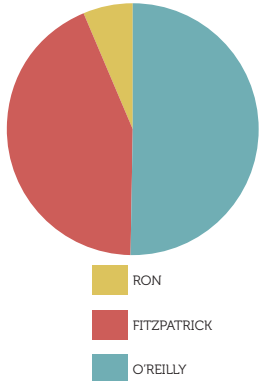
He also praised "all the candidates who did a fantastic job. They all worked hard and this was what made the contest so exciting."

Summarising, he said "a very big well done to Libby on being elected Vice President (Events and Democracy).



Photo by Jay Theis

Blimey O'Reilly - Rosalia scoops EWD



Ronnie Rowlands

In a single round of voting, Pendle College's Rosalia O'Reilly was duly elected Vice President (Equality, Welfare & Diversity), after a tight competition with opponent Grace Fitzpatrick, whom she defeated with a difference of just 144 votes.

Having received 1039 votes, O'Reilly narrowly

overcame Fitzpatrick, who received 895 votes, and massively defeated Re-open Nominations (RON), to which 127 votes were cast.

O'Reilly appeared overcome with shock during her brief acceptance speech, in which she reiterated her thanks to those in attendance for believing in and voting for her.

After the results, O'Reilly told SCAN: "I am ecstatic. I had no idea how the elections would play out, but being enveloped by my friends after they announced me the winner has to have been one of the happiest moments of my life."

The incumbent Vice President (EWD), Matt Saint, was similarly pleased with the result: "It was a very close contest between two excellent candidates, and I'm really happy to have Rosalia take over from me. She has

wide and varied experience from both outside and within the University, and I know she'll do a superb job in the future".

Despite the joviality of the occasion, O'Reilly later expressed to SCAN the seriousness with which she takes her new role, promising "to put in all [she] can to give students the best experience they can possibly have."

Throughout her campaign and her time at university, O'Reilly has worked to raise awareness of EWD issues, having already established a stop-smoking group on campus and lobbying the University to fit disabled access into Pendle Bar. She wishes to continue in this vain, vowing "to stick rigidly to all of the pledges [she] made in [her] campaign, and develop the University as well as [she] can."



Photo by Jay Theis

CAMPUS FESTIVAL

TWO THOUSAND AND TWELVE

SATURDAY WEEK 9

LANCASTER SQUARE COUNTY



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LUSU

LUSU Business Development Manager moves to University

Rachel Stafford

Jo Hardman, the current Business and Development Manager of the Student's Union has recently been appointed as the new Head of Commercial Service for the Facilities Division of the University. Beginning in May, Hardman will be based in the Facilities Office on the B Floor of University House.

In his current position at LUSU, Hardman has been working on exploring the potential possibility of the Student's Union being able to work closely with the colleges in order to create more student satisfaction regarding the bars on campus. His new position as Head of Commercial Service for the University will see him oversee the operations of the bars.

When asked to comment on Jo's departure from the Student's Union, LUSU President George Gardiner said "Jo has been a fantastic servant to the student movement in Lancaster and will be greatly

missed by the Students' Union. We wish him all the best in his new role."

"An agreement on the future of the bars could not be concluded"

LUSU officers have been in discussions with University staff about the future of the bars on campus for almost 12 months now. Gardiner explained that as far as LUSU taking over the bars at the present time was concerned, "an agreement could not be concluded, regrettably" due to the fact that "various legal and business related issues were insuperable obstacles."

In a SCAN Comment article from March 2011 it was



Bowland Bar was most recently refurbished. Photo by Meher Gupta

found that while some students were happy with the prospect that LUSU taking over the bars may see lower drink prices, others thought that LUSU should not have any more control over stu-

dents' lives. There were also concerns that LUSU would make all the bars the same, decreasing the individuality that can currently be seen.

Gardiner said that despite the current knock back with

regards to the status of the bars, LUSU would "continue to work in that spirit [meeting the needs of current students] and in the belief that the ideas developed last year are the kernel for the future."

City centre venues threat to campus bars

Catherine Chorley

Lancaster University's campus bars may close because students are turning their back on them in favour of drinking in the city centre.

Director of Facilities at Lancaster University, Mark Swindlehurst, said the number of students choosing to take advantage of the facilities provided for them by the University or College had declined.

He revealed that 70% of the recent Freshers' Week activities took place off-campus, adding: "If the students don't want the bars anymore then they need to face the reality of them closing."

Mr Swindlehurst hopes

to hold talks with the Students' Union, the University, the Colleges and the student members themselves to discuss the situation.

He said: "College bars used to dominate college life, but now we need to look sensibly to the future and establish the long-term viability of bars which are taking in less profit than the cost of overheads required to run them."

Revenue generated by such establishments can be fed back in to the system to fund further student facilities and opportunities.

Mr Swindlehurst stated that the Lancaster student population may have to make a collective decision

regarding just how much they value their licensed premises on campus.

"The bars are taking in less profit than the cost of overheads required to run them"

He said that losing the bars would leave students with no alternative to drinking in halls or off campus but

students cannot expect the University to continue funding campus venues that they then largely choose to bypass.

Mr. Swindlehurst stated, "All we need is for each student to buy one drink per week in a college bar, but at the moment we aren't getting anywhere near that."

The fact that the total number of drinks purchased per week equates to less than one per student highlights the preference students now have for alternative drinking venues in the city, which run drinks promotions and offers.

Safety is also a key issue, as campus facilities offer a protected environment in

which students can relax and enjoy themselves – without as much danger from the non-student population as is posed by venues open to the general public.

"We need to look sensibly to the future"

There is evidence that this is not just a localised phenomenon. Across England and Scotland, there have been reports of university bars and clubs facing closure due to a lack of demand from their intended customers, the student body.

Students get set for 'One World Week' cross-campus event

Laura Kay and Rosalia O'Reilly

Week 19 signals the return of 'One World Week' to campus, an international charity movement aimed at raising awareness of global issues.

Initiated in 1978 by the World Development Movement, 'One World Week' seeks to educate individuals on worldwide problems with the hope that positive change will arise.

The five day event, organised by a host of students within the University including JCRs and students from different societies, will involve a different theme, or 'element' each day. Monday will signify Trade Justice and Economic Inequality Day, whilst Tuesday to Friday will herald Peace Day, Environment Day,

Diversity Day and Liberation Day. Each element is intended to focus on an aspect of life that requires the support of the common people to successfully thrive, reflecting on the notion that we as a global community need to work together to improve, help one another and stride onwards.

Throughout the week a variety of different events and activities will be available, highlighting the issues represented by each day in question. Caroline Arnold, Furness' Female Education and Welfare Officer, expressed that the week "celebrates the University's diversity," facilitating engagement through a set of fun, touching and educating events.

Monday's trade justice event will involve a delicious 'Portions Exhibit' in Alexan-

dra Square, with free food available from 12-2pm. A faithshare talk at the Chaplaincy centre regarding religion and social change will follow in the evening at 7pm.

Throughout Peace Day, Lancaster's Amnesty International Society will be present in Alexandra Square for activities, whilst an Israel-Palestine 'Question Time' event will be held later in the evening, offering students the opportunity to present questions on the on-going conflict.

Central to Wednesday's environmental-based events will be a bike sale in Alexandra Square from 11am-3pm; sequential to this, a two-hour 'blackout' in Pendle Quad is planned for the evening. Awareness of environmental issues will be provided by Green Lancaster.

"The idea is that for two hours the quad turn off all their lights and appliances, come downstairs and out into the quad to celebrate with some mellow acoustic music, and actually talk to each other rather than sitting on the computer or texting - everyone is welcome" stated Pendle JCR Vice President, Rosalia O'Reilly, who is involved with organising the week.

Thursday will mark the celebration of diversity, with an invitation extended to the entirety of the University to Pendle Bar during the evening for Lent Term's 'Love Music Hate Racism' event. Speaking to SCAN, organisers of the event have said "we're getting some great acts together for a fantastic cause."

'One World Week' will be joined by YOURlgbtq* on Lib-

eration Day, during which a Campaigns Officer will help provide a workshop including fun, interactive means of raising awareness regarding the on-going struggle for liberation within the LGBTQ community (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer).

This follows on from the awareness raised by YOURlgbtq* during February, the UK's official LGBT History Month, when the association promoted several anti-homophobia campaigns and began work on a Lancastrian rendition of the 'It's Time' video for equal love.

Matt Saint, LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) believes that "the week will provide a means of raising awareness of the global community."

LUSU President to lobby MP's in light of 'Come Clean' campaign

Catherine Chorley

Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU) is backing the National Union of Students' (NUS) campaign calling for the Government to 'Come Clean' on issues to do with student funding and Higher Education reform. Week 19 will see the Union launch its own 'Come Clean' week of action in order to raise awareness on the changes faced by both current and prospective students of Higher Education.

Responding to the decision to shelve the proposed Higher Education Reform Bill, the NUS is instigating a week of action, called 'Come Clean on Student Funding', from Monday March 12th to Friday 16th. Students will be encouraged to participate in any way they can, including walking out of lectures in a

national show of solidarity on Wednesday 14th.

"The Government is not being democratic or transparent"

Whilst LUSU President, George Gardiner, has stated that LUSU will not be organising a local walk-out here at Lancaster, he affirmed that the Union will support those who wish to take the unilateral decision to register their support of the campaign in this manner. On this day, there will also be a 'visual campaign' in Alexandra Square; students may sign up to mark their

opposition to the privatisation of Higher Education institutes, one of the proposals that was to be put forward in the now defunct bill.

Furthermore, on April 18th, Gardiner will be one of those set to lobby MPs to keep decisions regarding the future of Higher Education in the sight of Parliament as a whole, rather than taking 'back-door' initiatives that are not held to account through Parliamentary debate. The decision to shelve the Higher Education Reform Bill in January of this year has provoked concern for the legitimacy of decision taken without being subjected to thorough scrutiny in the Houses of Commons and Lords.

On the issue of the need for political clarity, Gardiner said, "[By] dropping the HE Bill and taking the changes

through other routes, the Government is not being democratic or transparent."

Gardiner's major concern is that in shelving the proposal for reform, the Government would be able to make changes to the way universities are run without having secured a general consensus of opinion, meaning that the opportunity to oppose and vote against undesirable changes, as may be argued by MPs on behalf of their constituents, would be lost.

Gardiner is intent on keeping the reform-process "subject to the correct, legitimate scrutiny" so as to avoid the danger of public funding being diverted away from institutions such as Lancaster and into the pockets of unregulated private institutions, as has been suggested as a possible model of privatisation based upon the

university system currently operating in America.

A localised agenda for LUSU's week of action is the lobbying of the University itself regarding transparency over course fees and student funding. The Union wants students to speak out on the 14th by making known the expenses they face in addition to the publicised tuition fees, as LUSU believes that prospective students deserve to gain an idea of the hidden costs they may face throughout their degree.

Gardiner explained, "The University should be clear on this and moreover, should be working hard with LUSU to establish how to cover additional course costs that students face. This is just part of an on-going campaign and we will continue to lobby the University on course costs beyond this day of action."

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CAROLYNNE

STUDENT CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

GETTING
EGG-CITED YET?

CAROLYNNE WTF?

THE EASTER HOLIDAYS ARE FAST APPROACHING AND ASIDE FROM GIVING ME FOUR FREE WEEKS TO GORGE ON EGG AND BUNNY SHAPED CHOCOLATE IT ALSO MEANS THE START OF THE DREADED EXAM STRESS.

FOR MOST OF US EASTER MARKS THE BEGINNING OF REVISION WORRIES, FINAL PROJECT PANIC AND THE DAWN OF THE STRESS SPOTS. BUT REMEMBER, IGNORANCE IS BLISS SO LETS TRY AND FORGET ABOUT THE FEAR FOR NOW AND ENJOY LENT TERM WHILE IT LINGERS.

SO GO ON, GET YOUR SUGAR ON, FANCY DRESS FOR THE FINAL WEEK OR JUST TAKE A BREATHER FROM YOUR DISS AND SETTLE DOWN WITH CAROLYNNE. BEFORE YOU KNOW IT MAY WILL BE HERE AND YOU'LL BE PULLING AN EXAM PREP ALL-NIGHTER IN THE LEARNING ZONE WITH YOUR CRATE OF RED BULL, A MULTI-PACK OF HARIBO AND THREE CHUNKY KIT KATS (MIXED VARIETY). JUST ME THERE THEN?

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CHRISTIANITY VS. THE CREME EGG



Should they stay or should they 'goo'? Photo by Karen Blumberg

FEATURES

When searching the word Easter on everyone's favourite and trusted site, Wikipedia, the first line that jumps onto the screen is this; 'Easter (input various languages here) is a central feast in the Christian liturgical year.' However before the word 'Christian,' most of our minds would have wandered off, dreaming of the "feast" that glorious Wikipedia speaks of and the chocolate that it involves. And that, of course, is the meaning of Easter for most of us.

My Easter weekends usually go something a little like this. Friday and Saturday are spent eating chocolate, in preparation for the chocolate that will be consumed on the Sunday, and weeks afterwards. On Sunday, we will then exchange the usual eggs with most of the family. From my mother, I usually receive something girly along the lines of make up, so I can look nice for the chocolate consumption.

GIVE ME A MULTI-PACK OF CREAM EGGS AND I'M SORTED

Then the most useful present will be from my nan who will offer me money, because despite being a Christian and understanding the joyous symbolism of the classic egg, 'eggs are a rip off- you get no chocolate and they are too expensive. Go and buy yourself some jeans' she'd say. This advice is often very helpful, because once the last of the chocolate has been devoured, a couple of dress sizes will have been added.

This example clearly shows my general reflection on Easter, but is this really right? After recently working on an article about the consumerism involved in Valentine's Day, it seems that Easter is going down a similar route. Just recently, I walked through Boots, and instead of its counters being filled with Paracetamol and cures for that blue patch of skin you found on your thigh, the shelves are embellished with Malteser rabbits, caramel ducks and Mini Eggs in.... wait for it.... newly designed cardboard cartons.

It could be said to be shocking to see marketing like this in a shop that is supposedly a pharmacy, but it did not shock me at all. It appears we have all become used to such consumerism that we do not even notice, and instead, I will happily stare in amazement at my favourite little coloured eggs being in such cute, new packaging.

I agreed with this type of marketing for the day of St Valentine, a day devoted to love and chocolate. But should a religious festival be treated in the same way? And this is when I realised, of course it should. This is exactly what we do for Christmas, except the chocolate is replaced by a far greater element; alcohol.

On Easter Monday, it is typical for a lot of families to go on holiday. On one occasion, a good friend travelled to Hastings, and managed to capture one of the few religious sights of the time. She gathered with her family at the bottom of a hill to watch a symbolic re-enactment of the crucifixion, with three actors on crosses at the top of the mound. However, after a while, it was rather apparent that the cold weather had affected "Jesus" in a rather negative way, and instead of taking away religious sentiment, my lovely friend told the story of how "Jesus" nearly caught pneumonia as he pretended to be attached to a cross in Winter temperatures without any clothes on.

But I wonder what the actor was thinking as he shivered in the coastal breeze? I bet he was thinking back to that good old Wikipedia page and about that "feast," and how in a few hours, he would be warm, watching TV and biting the heads off chocolate rabbits.

Lauren Baddeley

THE POETIC ENTREPRENEUR

FEATURES

I have a short anecdote for you. I have recently been getting involved in the SIFE 'Capture' project, a scheme at Lancaster which aims to help students with business ideas get started in the money-making world. A friend and I, both of us studying creative writing as part of our course, heard about this project and began to form a magnificent and completely fool-proof plan. It was something along the lines of: 'We should write some things, and get them published. Then people should give us money.' Granted, we knew it wouldn't be that simple, but it couldn't hurt to look into it. The following is a rough description of our first meeting to discuss ideas.

Having dealt with the initial introductions and inevitable signing of forms, we sat down opposite a pair of helpful and very patient advisors who began asking us questions.

'So, what's your business plan?' they asked. 'We write,' we replied, 'short fiction and poems. We have a lot of poems.' Everything was going fine, until the business words started to emerge. 'So what are your goals? Do you have a business plan, a marketing strategy?' We exchanged blank looks and replied that our goal was to get some kind of collection published, and that was about as far as we'd got. 'Have you thought about who to target this at? Who would purchase a book of poems?' I thought about this. 'Probably other poets,' I said, and felt silly.

HOW EASY IS IT TO START A BUSINESS?

The meeting continued in this fashion, and at the end of it as we walked away with a large to-do list I felt that its main purpose had been to make me realise how little I knew about the real business world. As great as it is to have a passion and a simple goal, becoming an 'entrepreneur' takes a lot more than some initial talent and a desire to succeed. Nonetheless, it's an attractive prospect which has received an awful lot of attention in recent days. 'Start your own business!' 'Forge your own path!' 'Become the glorious architect of your own shining future!' All slightly hyperbolic examples of the sort of thing you see plastered across careers advice services and university emails on an almost daily basis.

So why all this hype over entrepreneurship? Has someone simply spent too much time watching *Dragon's Den*? There is of course more of a strategy to it than that. What with the depressingly ubiquitous news that graduate jobs are becoming scarcer by the minute, it's no surprise that there is a push to make us create our own through independent effort. There is significant government backing for university enterprise societies; in November the Government announced that it would provide these societies with financial support to kick-start entrepreneurial activities.

C.3



Photo by _Davo_

The problem with all of this is the potential it has to turn entrepreneurship into a sort of gold rush, where everybody thinks that the answer to employment worries is to start from scratch with a hope and a dream and none of their own money. Now, I'm not trying to dissuade people from having these kinds of goals, as that would be counter-productive and extremely hypocritical. But we must not get complacent. Finding a foothold in the business world is no simple task. It takes planning, perseverance, and various other weighty virtues. Perhaps, as the enthusiastic emails and campus posters seem to suggest, it is something everyone should consider - but it's certainly not something everyone can succeed in. Thankfully, there is always advice available and projects like SIFE willing to help. So good luck, business pioneers. You're going to need it.

On a final and somewhat philosophical note, the whole experience has made me realise something (though I'm not quite sure how I feel about it). While it's sometimes tempting to be terrified of the word 'business', it seems to be everywhere whether we like it or not - even in poetry. Tom Ley

ALL BY MYSELF

LIFESTYLE

I'm going to guess that almost everyone went to see *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* at the cinema at least once? I did too, three times actually: twice with friends, and once on my own. Yes, I went to the Vue cinema in Lancaster, on my own. At the time it seemed like a very proactive decision as I thought to myself 'Well, I can either stay in on my own and be bored, or go out on my own.' And, for about an hour, I felt empowered, independent, a one-man wolfpack, surely oozing confidence as I sat on the bus with only my handbag for company - but this sensation swiftly disappeared as I asked for my ticket and popcorn for one, sandwiched between couples and groups of friends in the queue.

I suddenly felt very self-aware, knowing that if I saw someone queuing to see a film alone then I would be nudging my friends and briefly pointing out the weirdo with an empty chair on either side. So what did I do? Did I salvage my dignity and go home? No, I 'subtly' followed a group in front of me. I shamelessly latched on to the back of them and hoped they wouldn't notice as I acted like I was member of the gang, looking for 'our' seats before perching on the end of their row. For a while I willingly carried on this awkward charade, just so other people wouldn't guess that I was on my own.

FANCY BEING A LONE WOLF?

So why is it generally considered a social taboo to be seen as a lone wolf in public? Aside from shopping, activities such as going for a meal or (as demonstrated by myself) to the cinema are less easy to do solo. Some people find it horrific even to enter the toilets by themselves on a night out, so going to the loo becomes akin to a team-building exercise.

It's difficult to pinpoint why, as a society, we tend to think this way and instinctively judge the loner in Starbucks to be a social reject, rather than accepting that they may have just fancied a half-hour on their own. Perhaps it stems from our caveman pack instincts; nobody wants to be the lone neanderthal, risking getting clubbed by nearby tribes. As my experience goes to show, some things just aren't easy to do alone, due to some unwritten social guidelines.

But, I think, it is not just the fear of looking socially awkward that stops us doing things alone. It's just some things can be so much more fun when done with friends; a chat over a coffee offers a chance to bond, a film gives the opportunity to discover a shared interest or debate opinions. Of course, if you are confident enough to roam the bars of Lancaster alone at night or order a table for one at Bella Italia, then be their guest. But personally, the next time I decide to indulge the Vue Cheap Tuesday offer, I'll avoid having the fun of the film being overshadowed by my cloud of self-consciousness and add a couple more guys to my wolfpack - for fun's sake, as well as appearances. Jennifer Parkes



KAISER CHIEFS

CULTURE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

THE KAISER CHIEFS FORMED BACK IN 1996 IN LEEDS AND ARE NAMED AFTER THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTBALL TEAM, KAIZER CHIEFS. AFTER IMMENSE SUCCESS WITH THEIR DEBUT ALBUM 'EMPLOYMENT' (WHICH SPAWNED INDIE DISCO STAPLES LIKE 'I PREDICT A RIOT' AND 'OH MY GOD'), THE 5 PIECE INDIE ROCK BAND HAVE CONTINUED TO TOUR ALL OVER THE WORLD INCLUDING PERFORMANCES IN UK CITIES SUCH AS LONDON, BIRMINGHAM AND MANCHESTER AND ALSO GIGS IN THE USA, AUSTRALIA AND ALL OVER EUROPE; NOT FORGETTING OF COURSE THEIR APPEARANCES AT FESTIVALS SUCH AS GLASTONBURY AND READING AND LEEDS. THE 2012 TOUR AIMS TO PROMOTE THE RELEASE OF THEIR LATEST STUDIO ALBUM 'THE FUTURE IS MEDIEVAL', ENTERTAINING CROWDS ACROSS THE LAND WITH BRAND NEW WORK, AS WELL AS THE TIMELESS CLASSICS.

On a wet and windy Friday in the glorious city of Manchester, I set out to interview British Rock sensations The Kaiser Chiefs. After being extremely hyped up for this really unique opportunity that had been presented to me, a slight bit of disappointment struck as I was only in the end able to interview the keyboardist. However, the topics discussed were entertaining and it was great to gain an insight into a famous band's lifestyle and how they felt about their music and fans. After making my way through the backstage doors of Manchester Academy, I sat down with master of the keys Peanut to share some thoughts.

You've played in some huge arenas before, such as the MEN. Do you prefer larger venues to smaller ones?

Well, it's hard to say, it's a different experience. Large arenas are fun because of course you've got lots of people and a huge stage and big lights. You enjoy that kind of unique experience, but different people come to smaller gigs. They're always closer so you feel the energy more. I love how every front row is different.

What are you most looking forward to about this year's tour?

The fact that we go round the world and get to play our songs to everyone from all sorts of places. We played a big part in last year's festivals in the summer. Soon we're going to be travelling to the States and Dubai. Never played Dubai before and Australia is coming up as well. World tours are a really special opportunity for bands that manage to sell a lot of records and it feels great when you get that experience.

I was intrigued by your 4th album "The Future Is Medieval" which you created through fans picking the tracks that they'd like to hear. Why did you choose to give it that theme?

Well it was a new idea that Ricky came up with. We were generally frustrated with how the CD process usually works; it's all the bands choice usually. We were just tempted to try something different. Writing 20 songs and letting the fans choose 10 was something no one else has really done before. It's like finding something fun to do at work.

You've got a new album coming out in March, "Start the Revolution Without Me", what's the story behind this album and do you feel it's going to be big?

It's the US version of "The Future Is Medieval". We played about with track listing and we had some taken out and added a new track called "On the Run" which we're playing live at the moment. Essentially though it's "The Future Is Medieval" for the US audience.

Do you think that anything will ever live up to the success of "Employment"?

You've got to hope for it! In terms of sales and songs yes but I don't think you could have the same experience again, usually a band only breaks once. You can still go on big tours and sell records, but we were just huge at that time and we can still enjoy our time whilst we change our style and outlook. We enjoyed the excitement of breaking and everyone finding out who we were; I don't think you could equal that again.

Who are your main inspirations and have these changed over time?

Inspirations come through from when you were younger. I loved the Beach Boys and early surf sort of stuff. Even nursery rhymes give me some inspiration because I heard them so much. Also people like Guns N Roses, Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins, The Kinks, Pink Floyd. All the traditional British stuff. From them doing big stadium shows and being successful live, I got to know how I wanted our gigs to sound and look.

"WE WERE HUGE AT THE TIME OF 'EMPLOYMENT' BUT WE CAN STILL ENJOY OUR TIME WHILST WE CHANGE STYLE"

What's the best gig you've ever played?

I don't know, last night? *laughter* There's too many to choose from. Of course there's experiences that really stand out like Glastonbury where the crowd were unbelievable and Live 8 and Hyde Park and huge places like that will never happen again probably. We have so many good gigs though, we are always determined that each one is good. As long as the crowd are up for it, so are we.

Interview by Steff Brawn

COMIN' THIS MONTH



LU THEATRE GROUP - LENT SEASON

THEATRE - THROUGHOUT MARCH

Lancaster University Theatre Group are offering another round of dramatic delights this term, in the form of three plays. The first stop is the Dukes (DT3) on the 9th & 10th of March, for Anthony Neilson's surreal 'The Wonderful World of Dissocia.' Next is the Gregson Centre, 12th-14th, for Russia's funniest farce, 'The Government Inspector.' And our final destination will be the SUGARHOUSE, 18th-20th, for Cirque du LUTG; "He Who Gets Slapped." Take your pick or have 'em all!



XIU XIU - ALWAYS

MUSIC - OUT NOW

Jamie Stewart is well known in America as one of the hardest working men in indie rock, but he and his restlessly experimental pop troupe Xiu Xiu are almost total unknowns on this side of the Atlantic. This might well be down to his relentlessly dreary disposition; his lyrics make Morrissey at his most downhearted seem as chirpy as Fearne Cotton on ecstasy. Though if you don't mind thinking about how irrevocably rubbish the world is whilst listening to artsy electro-pop, then this is the album for you.



KID ICARUS - UPRISING

WAITING

Kid Icarus' winged protagonist Pit has had a life that most of us can probably relate too; that is, he was born in 1991 and hasn't really done anything of note at all since then. And now, like us, he's now perched on the precipice of the big scary real world, ready to unfurl his (non-metaphorical) wings and leap off into the big 3D world! But instead of getting a low-level corporate management job, he's starring in what will almost certainly be a bloody good slice of action platforming.



MASS EFFECT 3

WAITING

The third and final installment in Bioware's critically acclaimed space opera has already had more than its fair share of pre-release criticism, but it's only because its fans are used to perfection - Mass Effect has become for a generation of gamers what Star Wars was for their parents. Commander Shepard's final adventure promises to be the suitably epic conclusion to this galaxy spanning series.



THE HUNGER GAMES

WAITING

Suzanne Collins' fantastic Hunger Games trilogy always seemed like that would translate brilliantly to cinema - fantastic story, complex characters and gory action scenes aplenty. And with two Academy Award nominees in the cast (Jennifer Lawrence and Woody Harrelson as protagonist Katniss and her mentor Haymitch) and a screenplay written by Collins herself, this is set to be a fantastic adaptation. Oh, and Lenny Kravitz is in it. What more do you want?



THE CIVIL WARS

GIG - LANCASTER LIBRARY - SATURDAY MARCH 17TH

You'd expect Lancaster Library would find it difficult to improve upon the preposterously good series of acts that have graced their stage so far this year - UNKLE, SBTRKT, Dog Is Dead and King Creosote stand out as particular highlights. But they've gone and done it anyway by getting a pair of Grammy winners in the form of The Civil Wars. Their debut album Barton Hollow is a minimalist folk wonder that has impressed everyone from The Guardian to Adele to Taylor Swift, so whatever your musical tastes, make sure to get down to the Library on the 17th March.

All reviews written by
Joe Henthorn (Culture Editor) and
Ronnie Rowlands (Deputy Culture
Editor).

VAGINA MONOLOGUES

The Vagina Monologues is a play that is living; it breathes, transforms and reaches out. As part of the global activist movement V-Day, it is unlike any other theatrical event. Sure, it is not the theatrical event of the year. It is, nevertheless, a vital vision for its vendetta, continuing to fight until all forms of violence against women has stopped.

The performance is part of a University wide campaign which started weeks before the opening night, promoting awareness of the V-Day movement which was borne out of Eve Hensler's pioneering play which she wrote in 1996 based on her conversation and interviews with over 200 women about their most private parts, for a most public piece of theatre. As her most famous work, the Vagina Monologues has not just inspired a global movement- it has also been translated into over 48 languages and performed in over 140 countries, indicating its success and significance in initiating social change.

It is no surprise then that the expectation of a sold-out event was met thanks to the relentless work of its cast and contributors in publicising the event not just as a play produced at the Nuffield Theatre but as a play that is part of a grander cause. More than a decade later, the anticipation for the play is still rife; there is a buzz in the air and an excitement present within the audience which comprised all types from every sexual identity and age. When the opening V-Day film clip starts playing, it feels like a long-awaited ritual has begun. The spectators and performers were about to participate in a candid conversation concerning 'clunges' and a cry to reclaim the c-word.

RESPECT AND PRAISE TO A BRAVE CAST

Much praise and respect should be awarded to the large cast of 31 exposing themselves like never before. Their bravery to lay bare is admirable and is on a par with their commitment to their voices being heard in the auditorium and beyond. They represent more than the characters they portrayed, for those monologues reveal a multitude of discoveries that women from all backgrounds can relate to and that men could learn from.

We nonetheless realise that sexual politics does not abide by a schism- this is a play for the worldwide community and not an attack on men. As a tradition that started in 2010, the production of the monologues has been refined to the point as an artistic endeavour that solely depends on the simplicity of story telling.

To have spent that Valentine's day evening in another way now seems absurd and it would be just as absurd to single out individual stellar performances and moments. It is a collective memory that is remembered as one. United as one, Lancaster looks forward to welcoming back this production until that day it is performed not as a indicator of atrocity but merely in light of the positive changes we all deserve to witness.

Jensen Tudtud

C.7

CULTURE REVIEW COUNTY COMEDY CLUB



Photos provided by Lancaster University Comedy Institute

In County Bar, Thursday night is now 'Comedy Night,' and the event should already be advertised as having 'standing room only.' Before even beginning to assess the quality of its acts, it should be said that Lancaster University Comedy Institute (LUCI) deserves favour for what its bi-weekly gigs have created - an actual, growing comedy scene in Lancaster.

Our MC for the evening is LUCI president Tom Dransfield. Last year, Dransfield's act consisted largely of him ending shrill, rambling discussions of 'wacky' subjects with some not particularly funny punch lines. He wasn't great. This year, though, evidence of the seriousness with which the society takes its work presented itself through him. Uncharacteristically for a compere, Dransfield is not a solid, aggressive and fearsome presence. Rather, he has begun to put more of himself into his act, and carries himself like an annoying git at school who is too funny and clever for his own good. Dransfield held together the evening impressively well; he provided a strong link between acts, maintaining consistent 'banter' with the audience and using the ever salient attention to detail of a true comedian.

The first half of the show was slightly uneven - Rick Kaye could have benefited from choosing some more deserving, and more original, targets. Observational comedy must unearth genuinely new and previously unnoticed things to be worthy, and cracking gags about old people along with some dog whimsy didn't quite cut it with the audience. Nevertheless, Kaye did offer some astute, sarcastic observations and would have been worth the full slot had he the material to cover the set. Hugo Jones was similarly promising, if patchy; going into a routine about Deal or no Deal felt like a precursor to a rather dull, uninspired routine, but a late subversion into his ambitions to kidnap the banker's children made it worthwhile.

The weakest act of the first half, and indeed of the whole show, was Danny Bailey. While he is not the very model of a funny comedian, Roy 'Chubby' Brown's act in the 90s largely consisted of sex jokes, and he was the butt of them. Bailey followed the same route, but that

he evidently has had as much 'fun' as his act suggested (for suggested, see; 'forced down our throats') rendered it obsolete, and what we ended up seeing was a good looking man chatting about his 'laddish' sex life. Hardly inspiring.

After a short interval, long standing member Ed Colley kept it simple - one liner after one liner, one of which, about the Microsoft Paperclip's life fell apart because he just couldn't 'hold it together' was a zinger (to use a technical term). Colley is a comedian who had no 'persona' to develop; all his attention appeared focussed on the poetic fluidity of his gags, to the point where the person delivering them didn't really matter. Whether this will help or hinder him in the long run, he didn't fail to be funny.

My goodness, though; they saved the best until last. Being only his third ever stand up performance, one might have expected to see the same 'perfection-in-progress' aspects as seen in most of the other acts. How glaringly incorrect this assumption turned out to be. Michael Dodds is an Irishman, but the accent lent itself not to your tiresome "daft paddy" cheeriness, but to a thoroughly resentful, miserable life hater. Not to impede on his originality, for he truly was, there were shades of a true old-school style to Dodds's routine - segueing between spiralling and whimsical observations, any comedy historian couldn't fail to see the bemusement at his subjects and compare him to the legendary Dave Allen, or the downtrodden melancholy behind his act and not spot the parallel with Les Dawson. Michael Dodds was, of all the comedians, the one who seemed to have already honed his craft.

It is to the society's credit that the newer, ergo slightly inexperienced, acts were offered the opportunity to perform on stage; there is no criticism more constructive than that of an audience. County Comedy Club takes place every other Thursday in County Bar - if not for full blown, professional standard comedy, LUCI is still worth a visit for the joy in seeing these young, raw performers develop.

Ronnie Rowlands - Deputy Culture Editor



Images provided by LA1:TV



THE LA1 SHOW

If, like me, you rely on programmes such as This Morning to provide you with your daily dose of current affairs, then imagine if Holly and Phil tailored the show around recent events on campus. Stop banging on about Dancing on Ice Schofield, I want to know what the University's Ballroom Dancing Society is like. Well, LA1's flagship show does just this.

The LA1 Show includes features such as 'society spotlight', allowing viewers to have a nosy at what goes on in certain societies before they have even stepped foot in the sports hall. The team also venture around campus to broadcast student opinion about recent events, as well as including interviews with some of the university big-wigs. Ranging from upbeat pieces about Lancaster nightlife to need-to-know information for any student, all wrapped up in nifty twenty minute episodes.

When speaking to the series producer, Will McDonagh, he told us a particular highlight so far was covering a piece about Lymphoma – "The charity was able to put us in touch with a cancer survivor who was willing to talk to us about her experience," said McDonagh.

From next week LA1 will be covering all the campus goings-on following the FTO Elections, so if you see one of the team with a microphone and camera, get your telly face ready and head over to say hello. Ellie Christie

SPORTSCASTER

From the very first whistle, LA1:TV's Sportscaster has proven to be the station's second most popular show, behind only 'Sugar TV'. Its popularity isn't unwarranted either – Sportscaster is, according to LA1 manager Will McDonagh, a response to the general feeling that LUSU's medias had "a lack of content on sports".

Well, how could anyone complain now? As is standard with LA1:TV, Sportscaster not only covers the University's sporting showcases, but celebrates the athletes in return for their many, many buckets of sweat; "with our 'Goal of the Month' feature, we had just under 1000 views last term, giving people the chance to nominate the standout performance in the College A Football league", says McDonagh.

And as if that wasn't enough, Sportscaster will leave you wiser to the world of sports. There are regular presenter challenges, where our hosts Tom and Abby lead us on a journey across the niche sporting landscapes, and subject themselves to the task of playing and explaining sports such as Korfbal, and many more to come.

With the prestige of the Roses tournament growing by the second, and the Carter Shield/Legends tournaments being cruelly deprived of much awareness, LA1:TV are doing everything they can to secure that recognition and coverage – tune in until the final whistle, and come away with pride in the work of both LA1:---TV and our sporting world. Ronnie Rowlands – Deputy Culture Editor

THE SOUND-BOOTH

Do you like music? Sure you do, who doesn't? Are you bored of the perforating and repetitive sounds of the Sugarhouse? One would hope so. So what excuse, therefore, do you have for not tuning in to 'The Soundbooth', the Lancaster University branch of MTV?

With a team dedicated to publicising the musical talent that the the University has to offer, 'The Soundbooth' often gives the lens a much needed shift away from the schlock in the charts and points it at our up and coming local artists. From Battle of the Bands to the Live Lounge, LA1:TV wants to ensure that every strum of the guitar, every bash of the drum and every gasp of the saxophone in the immediate vicinity is available for your listening pleasure, lest you miss them.

"Encore! Encore!", you say? "Why should I bother when I can watch the music live?", you ask? Well stick around for The Soundbooth's bonus tones, as it flexes its maestronomical muscles, waves its baton at the hosts and conducts critical insight into albums and up-and-coming artists, with features on the likes of Kitty Daisy & Lewis. Diarise and ingest the coverage and footage of local festivals and gigs, and find out just WHERE the campus bands get their ideas from in the post gig interviews featured on the show.

The hill upon which this campus stands is alive with a mound of music, and LA1:TV wants you to hear it. Ronnie Rowlands

LA1:TV FILM AND CHIT CHAT



SUGAR TV

The Sugarhouse plays a huge part in most students' experience at Lancaster and LA1 provide the perfect show to embody the shenanigans that take place there every single week. SugarTV is a portal into the social lives of our student population, with all the bits you can't remember just a few clicks away.

You've peeled yourself off the bathroom floor and you've de-tagged the hideously unfortunate photos, it is time for the LA1 team to refresh your memory of last night's events. SugarTV presenters go on the prowl to meet those of you that make the place worth going to. The ones who say 'I have only skipped two lectures this week, and therefore I deserve to get inexplicably intoxicated'. As it happens, the people who make Sugar a great night out, make great TV as well.

Producer Will McDonagh, along with the rest of his team, edit through the night to ensure your drunken ramblings and remarkable dance moves are ready and waiting for when that bittersweet hangover kicks in. Of course, after a few Jägerbombs people realise their own potential, so when opportunity knocks to have their talents showcased on camera, it is their time to shine. From extraordinary party tricks to exceptional dance moves, that is a lot of material to edit in one night – "There are quite a lot of clips that we could have put in, which would absolutely have taken away some people's dignity," McDonagh told us, "but those are the ones that get us through the night as they are often hilarious."

Ellie Christie



THE SCENE

Silence in the auditorium, please turn off your mobile phones and relax... And now for our main feature; LA1:TV presents 'The Scene', brought to you in association with Vue Cinema. Whether your cinematic tastes lie in the piano accompanied black and white grains of the 1920s, or the slick CGI shine of the bombastic noughties, 'The Scene' is Lancaster University's top platform for waxing enthusiastic over moviemaking, and LA1:TV's answer to 'Siske l&t Ebert: At The Movies'. If it has been printed on 35mm film and run through a projector, then the show's rotating collective of hosts and guests is going to talk about it.

'The Scene' doesn't limit itself to mere reviews, either. LA1:TV has many angles to shoot, mounds of film to get through and a thoughtful eye; each episode is chock full of talk not just on the quality (or lack, thereof) of Hollywood's latest hits, but of debate, discussion, features and musing expeditions across every landmark of anorakdom – there is not a genre, period, director or practitioner left unturned.

Of course, such a show marches on its boffins, and 'The Scene' would be a poorly acted, poorly filmed and clunky one without an ensemble of celluloid connoisseurs and raconteurs of the six reeler. If you are any of those things, then get involved! The team at 'The Scene' are always after students who have watched far too many movies to talk about them, and let's face it, you'd have to be silly to pass up the opportunity to get your face on the silver screen.

Ronnie Rowlands



CULINARY COUNTDOWN

A lavish squandering of stereotyping and a slight smattering of personal experience would have you believe that we students are a breed of oven-phobes, quite content to seek sustenance in the form of fast food and baked beans heated on the radiator or whatever. LA1:TV's soon to be released new show, 'Culinary Countdown', however, would have you believe that quite a few of us are confident to pit their dishes against each other before a panel of judges.

In joyous and patriotic keeping with collegiality, Culinary Countdown's first episode will pit Furness and Pendle college's most dexterous wielders of the knife against one another, in the hope of impressing a judging panel consisting of a fellow student and Louise Davies (Venue Manager at the Sugarhouse) strongly enough to progress to the next round.

Doesn't 'Ready, Steady, Cook!' fill this space in our stomachs already? No, because Culinary Countdown is more creative than that; each episode will consist of a round of three challenges, designed to stretch creativity as well as cooking skills. Will McDonagh tells us to expect "three rounds of Roulette, but with a culinary twist". What does he mean by this? He won't say, so we'd best watch! If not to find out what the challenges are, then at least to see the competition move away from the colleges, and into the academic and media circles when the show will be hosting students vs lecturers, society vs society, etc.

Ronnie Rowlands

The background is a dark, textured composition. It features a central, large, faceted diamond that appears to be glowing with a bright light source. Radiating from the diamond are numerous thin, light-colored lines that crisscross the entire frame. There are also several larger, semi-transparent geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, in shades of blue and grey, some of which overlap the diamond and the lines. The overall effect is one of complex, crystalline geometry.

25.06.2012

BIG FAT GYPSY STEREOTYPE?

LIFESTYLE

Big Fat Gypsy Wedding, it really needs no introduction. I have yet to meet anyone who hasn't seen at least half an episode of the hit Channel 4 programme that showcases the travelling way of life for the entertainment of us "country folk" (non-travellers, in case you didn't know). Its popularity is evident from the increasing tabloid and television coverage of its characters and issues, not to mention that gypsy star Paddy Doherty won the Celebrity Big Brother series in September 2011. However, despite the obvious interest in the show, it is questionable as to whether or not this insight into gypsy culture is having positive or harmful effects.

The episode which aired on Valentine's Day followed the rubric of pretty much every episode so far; lots of unimaginably frilly, meringue wedding dresses by designer of choice Thelma Midane, spray tans, diamantes, tiny girls in tinier outfits, and a few token shots of the gypsy men, all to a soundtrack of fairground accordion music and thick Irish accents. A simple formula, yes, but entertaining nonetheless. But perhaps it is this very fact, that this is viewed primarily as entertainment, which is the problem.

I WON'T LIE, I'M LOVING THE HUGE DRESSES

I won't lie, I like everyone else, sat gawping and giggling at Dolores' luminous pineapple and palm tree hen party dresses and shook my head as girls no older than ten writhed about in outfits that wouldn't look out of place on an ageing Ibiza poledancer. It was only as I began this article that I realised how much footage is used to portray the gypsy community as a materialistic, slightly stupid group (see Sammy Jo on a sunbed proclaiming that 'if I get cancer, I get cancer, at least I'll still look good,') and to be honest we are not offered anything to inform us otherwise.

Aside from the occasional snippet of information regarding history or tradition, the programme seems more concerned with portraying the gypsy community as something to be poking fun at, rather than attempting to educate its audience to look beyond the stereotypes. This is done very cleverly, with a serious-sounding narrator explaining to us that a young girl is preparing for her Holy Communion by having her nails done – cue camera shot above the aptly-named salon, 'Sin City.'

Similarly done with shots of brides in elegant horse-drawn carriages trotting along graffiti-littered back streets, or subtle camera angles at the wedding dinner that show plates of nuggets and chips on the tables as the bride talks about her wedding being "dead classy," this editing openly invites us to ridicule and scorn these people.

In BFGW, we are being shown a glimpse of traveller culture, but edited and communicated



Photo by Feggy Art

in such a way that encourages already existing stereotypes, furthering the differences between cultures in a way that would be deemed unacceptable if it were focused on distinctions such as race or sexuality. Despite its entertainment value, there is an argument to be made that BFGW is, as Live journalist Ian Hyland suggests, a 'spineless and spiteful trick,' a form of cyber-bullying at its worst, and one that should not be allowed to continue, unless a more balanced, factual account of traveller life is delivered. Jennifer Parkes

TO TIP OR NOT TO TIP?

LIFESTYLE

It's true that in life we don't always get what we want, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't at least try. As students it's often assumed that we have few rights and that it's okay for us to be messed around or fobbed off. But when we are paying customers we should get quality service and products we are happy with. Complaining and returning things may seem like a hassle or not worth it, but even though they are always in the small print or hidden away in the terms and conditions – your rights are there waiting for you.

Restaurants can be very jammy, especially those who assume their food was amazing and their service was second to none by placing a cheeky service charge on the end of your bill. This unfortunately can make it very hard and awkward to refuse. But, if you aren't happy, you don't have to pay it! Unless you're with a large group service charge isn't usually mandatory.

POOR SERVICE? DO YOU SPEAK UP OR SIT OUT?

Service charge is designed to be left if you are particularly happy about how you were served and not something you should feel coerced into doing. So if you aren't chuffed with your meal, tell them and ask for it to be removed. Granted you might get a stern look or a 'tut' and you may even have to speak to the manager but why should you pay if you aren't entirely satisfied? We are students at the end of the day, so they will probably half expect us to anyway.

Admittedly complaining is not so easy when you aren't face to face with the service provider, so in some respects restaurants are the easy bit! Not quite so easy are the online stores where the prospect of going through the automated system, hanging on the phone for hours and ultimately spending a fortune on an 0845 number makes you give up. The important thing to remember is that buying online doesn't give you any less rights, in fact it gives you more.

So ladies, when ordering three dresses on ASOS because you just can't decide, or books on Amazon you are protected by the distance selling regulations (food and personalised goods not included). This means you can send most goods back within a week and get a full refund and often the delivery costs are included. So if you're not happy – don't feel as though you can't return it, unless you can't decide between the three dresses!

Apart from getting what you want, standing up for your rights can also be rather exhilarating. Speaking from experience I'm not usually one to bow out when I'm not happy. After ranting to a waiter in Pizza Hut because a special free pizza had been burnt and an order was wrong, I asked to speak to the manager, realised he was the manager and then got our food for £3 each, which wasn't too bad really! Go on, give it a go! Lara Sharp

AMAZING VALUE EVERYDAY!



CULTURE CLASH

IS COMEDY AN ART FORM?

Well, yes. I mean seriously, are you insane? Of course comedy should be treated as art. I could easily leave that short sentence as a glaringly obvious piece of evidence and go about with my day, but apparently there's such a thing as developing an argument.

Again, yes of course comedy should be treated as an art form. Repetition may be lazy at reinforcing a point, but I can't express that enough. I personally think that if one were to deny this, they don't know what art is. Comedy inspires, provokes, offends, communicates, entertains and questions. Also, did I mention that it can actually change the world?

Not by much, granted, but if it wasn't for such acts as Lenny Bruce, Peter Cook and later George Carlin, the relaxation of censorship laws may not have had the same weight in their argument for them. Basically, imagine the overused and generally false 'political correctness gone mad' arguments, make them true and multiply them by a gazillion, and you have what these people were rebelling against. Swearing on stage in America could land you in prison. It happened to Carlin. Obviously they're not wholly responsible, it was the sixties after all, but they and therefore comedy should definitely be given credit for these small artistic liberties.

TO SAY COMEDY ISN'T AN ART FORM IS JUST PLAIN LYING

Comedy originates from some of the most highbrow forms of theatre regarded today. Greek, if you were wondering. With this piece of information in mind, to claim that comedy is not a form of art is just plain lying. Just like any other form of art, comedy has genres, sub-genres; some comedy are political, whereas others are much more escapist/banal. Replace 'comedy' with 'painting', 'theatre', 'cinema' or anything else in the media. Do it, I dares ya. Nothing changes does it? Thought so.

A final point. Comedy is so inherent in our culture that to deny its gravitas as an art form that commands, and always receives, an emotional response is quite frankly an insult to the men and women who are so bloomin' good at it and are lauded worldwide. Hell, the biggest arts festival in the world, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, is dominated by comedy.

Yes, there are some problems with comedy. Its practitioners are mainly male and white, partly due to the general hostility from mainstream audiences (not in any way fellow performers) to minority stand-ups who do not focus on their personal backgrounds, which in turn can force some brilliant acts into giving what is 'expected' of them in order to simply get their name out. This sucks, and it frustrates me as a lover of comedy. But if you can find me another art form that doesn't have this equal or similar level of hierarchy, I'll write you a set that no one will laugh at.

Ross McCaffrey



Image provided by BBC Radio 4

I'd like to argue that comedy need not be taken as a serious art form. To begin with, I'd like to point out how clever and tactical it is. Analysing everyday actions and happenings that we take for granted and barely notice most of the time is a very simple yet extremely effective way to make people laugh. Because we don't notice how ridiculous our mannerisms can be and the hilarity within some of the routinely things that we do, it does in fact take some intellect from comedians to pick these things out and dramatise them on stage. Furthermore, because they choose to turn common behaviour into comedy, it has an effect not only whilst you're watching but all the time! You're always reminded of the jokes as you come across the things that you thought were oh so normal and realise they're absolutely ridiculous and downright funny.

Another point would be that, with the exception of a couple, observational comedians don't seem to swear a lot. I personally admire that they don't need swear words to further sensationalize their performance; their jokes are funny in their purest form. Comedians such as Frankie Boyle swear incessantly, but there's no need if what you come up with is simply hilarious and is delivered clearly with personality and confidence. You will notice also that observational comedy relies a lot on stage presence and I prefer this to someone standing still and swearing every other word.

COMEDY CAN BE SEEN TOO SERIOUSLY

With regards to observational comedy being an art form, I'm not sure it should be looked at artistically. I can see why some people would see it as an art form because at the end of the day, it is a performance. However, art to me will always have a deeper resonance to it with something you need to emotionally or academically connect with. Comedy, particularly the observational genre, is very simple and doesn't have much deep meaning behind it and so should be taken more passively. It is supposed to make you laugh after all, so if you take it too seriously you're destroying its purpose. Additionally, art is usually specialised and can only be fully appreciated by certain types of people whereas observational comedy is accessible to everyone, as everyone experiences the things that are analysed at some point in their life.

Not only can everyone relate to the observations that are made, but because of the lack of political or satirical content, no one is really offended or put off by observational comedians. They are doing their job without causing any harm or getting themselves into trouble, which ironically wouldn't be that funny. Moreover, younger people can appreciate the humour as the content isn't too mature or complex, showing how it appeals to several audiences.

So there you have it, observational comedy is the bees knees. It puts a sparkle into everyday life that we often think is cyclic and boring, reminding us that we can live in laughter alone.

Steff Brawn

IRISH PRIDE

FEATURES

St Patrick's Day has its own special place in the student calendar, because it seems to embody what we like to do best; drink, dress up, do something stupid and engage in the sort of revelries that would have left St Patrick himself frowning with disapproval. This is precisely why we English celebrate this foreign patron saint more than our own. St George was cool slaying dragons and all, but his feast day doesn't lend itself to drunken parties very well. Then again, neither does St Patrick by driving the snakes from Ireland, so how did drunken partying come into the equation?

The reason why festivities are associated with St Patrick's Day is because it marked a break in the Lent fast so people could eat and drink alcohol. So, if you want an excuse to break from that diet then the 17th of March is your chance. Since then, St Patrick's Day has morphed into a day where people dress as leprechauns and wear green, drink Guinness and, for the most part, celebrate Irishness without having any tangible connection to Ireland itself.

More people arguably celebrate St Patrick's Day outside Ireland than inside Ireland, it's a festival globally instigated by persons of Irish ancestry even if it was only their great-great grandfather who was actually Irish and they have only an inkling of Irish blood in their veins. Given this ambiguity, it's not hard to see how everyone else can get involved and, in essence, pretend to be Irish for the day.

WHY THE DRUNKEN PARTIES?

But why Irish? It can't just be the accent alone which explains their popularity. I think being Irish is what subconsciously what many of us would all like to be in real life. To have a good sense of humour, musically talented, and to have an identity of mystical Celtic origins but also an identity of innocence. Ireland has, mainly, been the underdog of European history, and with that comes a streak of rebelliousness and freedom. The famous "Freedom!" cry from *Braveheart* is like a rallying call for the Celtic way of life over the rigidly ordered lives we're forced to live in 21st century Britain.

To celebrate St Patrick's Day is in some ways to celebrate an identity that we wished we possessed, and maybe that's why we drink so much at St Patrick's Day. Alcohol is a drug to make us somebody we wished we were. However, whilst you can't magic yourself Irish unless you are born and raised there, you can still be like the idealised Irish stereotype. You can teach yourself to be musically talented and to have good humour if you try hard enough, and alcohol doesn't have to be involved either. Whilst there are only around four million people who can legitimately claim possess an Irish identity, potentially anyone can possess the positive flavours of Irishness. Nicholas O'Dowd - Features Editor

THE GEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH



Photo by duda C

FEATURES

There was a dark age not so long ago, in a galaxy relatively nearby, when nerds like me were thought to hold a burdened and stigmatised role in society. High school movies were not concerned with the likes of the mathlete, and although *Star Wars* was considered to be a massive phenomenon in my parent's day, to become a fully-fledged fanboy was a step too far in social terms.

Then an ominous wave of the first proud geeks emerged in the mid-2000s. People started ironically making references to *Pokemon* long after its SM:TV heyday. The *Lord of the Rings* movie trilogy brought the previously fragmented and divided nerd masses in our droves to the cinemas to be united under the White Hand of Saruman, and from there we marched upon popular society's equivalent of Helm's Deep like so many Uruk Hai. The economic power of the geek-as-consumer was realised. Think about it. Geeks are loyal to their interests and have the disposable income to invest in their hobbies - they don't spend loads of money on parties that they aren't invited to (and probably wouldn't enjoy anyway.)

The recent run of highly successful *Batman* movies are just the culmination of the string of modern comic hero movies that have been coming out of the big studios. Need I say more than *The Avengers* to prove that the geek industry is alive and kicking? And it's not just the movies. When the big videogame franchises release their latest game or when a new console hits the market, the hype and furor that surrounds it eclipses that of almost any other medium. The most notable such event in recent times was the release of the *Elder Scrolls* game *Skyrim*, which is practically a household name to any-

one with a current generation games console (which is a lot of people, might I add). But one could ask: why this didn't happen before? Surely there's always been this latent nerd market?

IN CYBERSPACE THE NERD RULES SUPREME

One answer is society's shift towards improving telecommunications, including the rise of super fast internet and smartphones. Giving the traditionally shunned geek the ability to connect and unite with other geeks has been mentioned as a reason before. But as well as this, the general arena of society has moved with Facebook and Twitter to the realm of cyberspace - where the geek rules supreme.

Whatever the reason for the rise of the geeks, I for one want to thank the stalwart geeks of yesteryear who bought Gamecubes and comic books before they were cool, and to thank those of you who are relatively new to the nerd scene for making that big leap to our side, and making our loving, if often dysfunctional family, that much bigger. Jak Marshall

SUPER STUDENT SCRIMPERS

LIFESTYLE

The student life mainly consists of supermarket own brand beans, own brand toilet paper and supermarket all brand mystery meat, suspiciously labelled as beef mince. The luxuries of Andrex toilet paper and prime cuts of beef really do seem like a myth from home life past – but trust me- there are ways to live a champagne (or more realistically Cava) lifestyle on limited student loans. That is if you follow these few simple steps to super scrimping heaven.

Bargain shops: why go to Sainsbury's or Boots when there's the likes of Bodycare, Home Bargains and Farm Foods on our doorsteps? At these discount stores, you can find your favourite home comforts and branded products for half price in some cases. Farm Foods do an amazing offer of five pizzas for £4 and Bodycare sell luxury hair care brand, Aussie hair for £2.99 a bottle. By swapping where you shop you can save loads of money without compromising on your favourite brands and still have change in your pocket.

Scrimp week, Splurge week: Another way to save money and treat yourself at the same time, is to do alternate weeks of scrimping and splurging. Simple. Week one, you live life like the classic student, scanning Sainsbury's own brand All Bran and 49p orange juice and in splurge week you can live it up gorging on Coco Pops, Cathedral City cheese and Tropicana Orange Juice. This way makes you realise



Photo by i40

how similar luxury branded products can be to cheaper alternatives and may even stop your life long affair with Walker's crisps for a cheaper just as good option.

Chip in: birthdays are always a massive worry to students. Not only do you have to buy a killer new outfit, booze, pay for a night out and plan your uni work round them- there's also the added stress of what to buy your uni best friend on a limited (non existent) budget. They were there when you had to do an all-nighter after deleting your coursework due in the next day, when you broke up with your long term boyfriend and when you lost your ID, so the least you can do is buy them the present they deserve. Only problem with that is things cost money and your balance is currently -£50.

Solution? Get everyone to chip in from your group of friends and suddenly that gift doesn't seem so out of reach. Ten people chip in a tenner and you're well on your way to an amazing present.

Thieve: Ok, ok I'm not really telling you to loot Tesco Express but nabbing a few packets of Hobnobs from your Mum and Dad when you visit surely won't matter. Just remember to bring an extra big bag on those visits home and that way you can stash luxury items like fresh fruit and veg, Dolmio sauce and real Heinz beans in your luggage. After all, you paid for the train ticket to come see your family, if anything, it's only fair they should reimburse you somehow. **Yasmin Jaunbocus**

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

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

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



This is what Sugar looks like without a queue. Photo by Amie Slater

Too much Sugar is bad for you

Yasmin Jaunbocus

Everyone knows that Lancaster city isn't renowned for its raving nightclubs, array of classy bars and sold out student nights. For example you'd never compare it to the likes of the nightlife displayed by our northern neighbours such as Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool but lately it seems to have got even worse. I'd even go as far as to say that it has become non-existent. That is apart from the Sugarhouse.

Now don't get me wrong, as far as Sugar goes I love it. I can still remember the first, fresh, tentative steps into the cheese scented, sticky floored student haven and dancing with wild abandon to 90's cheese till the lights came on. It was brilliant! Cheap and cheerful, chart music in one room, everything else in the other and the DJ would play whatever you asked for (even the spice girls, I know). But now, and I'm ashamed to admit it, I'm getting a bit bored of Sugar.

It seems to be, that nowadays, Sugarhouse is the only

place to be, well at least with any sort of atmosphere.

This time last year Elements was the place to be on Monday, there was Vodka Tuesdays and Skint Thursdays and the legendary Wednesday Carleton night. Older students even talk in whispers of the good old days where there were mythical places of Lancaster nightlife such as Cuba, Walkabout and a full Elements.

It's not even like we can have a cheap quiet few on campus what with the massive hassle of getting a bus to campus for really expensive drinks and a lacklustre ambience, especially if you're sat in Barker and they've stopped serving food.

There have been attempts of promotion of other options though. Dalton Rooms saw the launch of Bollywood Masti nights, which going off the pictures, seemed like a lot of fun. But Element's renewed attempts at punter gathering have left you feeling a bit sorry for them really, when their queues are still a poor relation to those at Sugar.

Sugarhouse have even re-

duced their guestlist allowance since their new found popularity with five guests being the quota now for birthday groups, opposed to the much larger 20 it used to be.

The one rule though I cannot abide by, is Sugar's not so sweet fifteen minute rule. I remember when, in a time long ago, one could pay their Sugar entry, check out the atmosphere then pop to 'Spoons for a couple while you wait for it to heat up and still avoid the queue. Now, heaven forbid you have a fag for longer than fifteen minutes or even go find an AWOL friend for fear of rejoining the Sugar queue and having to repay entry.

Ultimately, is it fair that Sugarhouse should be allowed to monopolise the nightlife in a city as small as Lancaster, or should we be trying to help other venues such as Hustle and Lounge to thrive a little and give us students a bit of choice. After all, sugar is sweet and lovely and morish, but too much makes you feel just a little bit sick.

Sports cheats should be called out permanently

Jon Wilby

Pakistan's Mohammed Amir was released from Portland Young Offenders Institute in Dorset last month after being convicted of spot fixing by deliberately bowling no balls. The inevitable question is now being asked as to whether this young fast bowling sensation should be allowed to take the field of play now or in the future. If the International Cricket Council is serious about eradicating this ugly cheating from the sport then it is clear that Amir should never play cricket again.

The 18 year old has drawn comparisons with Pakistani legend Wasim Akram as a master of left arm swing bowling. Indeed the Sultan of Swing along with West Indies icon Michael Holding lamented Amir's involvement in the spot fixing saga as this young man with seemingly limitless potential as a fast bowler tarnished his career by bowling no balls at certain points during his spell. But if Amir is allowed to play again, it will be to the detriment of the entire cricketing world. Salman Butt and Mohammed Asif, Amir's co-conspirators, received jail sentences with bans of ten years and seven years respectively. However these bans are insufficient and will not discourage future cheats. Infamously, Hansie Cronje was banned for life from professional cricket for his role in a match-fixing scandal in 2004. This sentence evidently did not stop the cheats; a no-nonsense life time ban

for Butt, Asif and Amir would serve as a better deterrent and send a strong message to professional players; that any role played in spot fixing, no matter how big or small, should carry a zero tolerance life time ban.

There is an argument that the youthful Amir was naïve and not necessarily malicious in his intentions. Some argue that the fast bowling youngster was acting under orders of his captain Salman Butt and that what was happening was all over his head. However, ignorance is not an excuse. Amir bowled no balls at specific points and made no real effort to disguise these no balls, they were blatant and commentators were left bemused. They had no idea what was lying beneath the surface as Amir pocketed thousands of dollars.

As a cricket fan it is sad to see spot fixing and it's with even greater sadness that I believe that Amir should be permanently banned from the sport. I was in awe of Mohammed Amir when he played in England, expertly harnessing the notoriously difficult conditions to produce spells of bowling that rivalled Wasim Akram in his prime. However, cheating is cheating and Amir's naivety, ignorance and tarnishing of a sport as rich in heritage as cricket warrants a harsh ban and he deserves to be made an example of. Spot fixers in sport should be subject to the severest punishment that any sport's governing body can issue. After all, where's the fun in sport if it's all based on corruption?



Searching for explosives in the Intisar neighbourhood of Mosul, Iraq. Photo by Pfc. Sarah De Boise

Iraq was the right course of action

Why the West was right to go into Iraq

Jim Tracey

Whenever one puts forward the 'other side' of the argument in any conversation regarding the Iraq War, it is immediately greeted with raised eyebrows, a repudiating glance, and a bemused tone of voice. This, I believe, is the legacy of nine years of partisan broadcasting and biased press coverage. There is no doubt that the astronomically high cost of the war, both economically and in terms of human life, does provide substance to a negative critique of the decision to go to war in 2003. Indeed, those who are critical of the war are often arguing on legitimate grounds: the *casus belli* for the war was to disarm Saddam Hussein of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) which he had not yet acquired. Furthermore, the legal basis for the war

and the renaissance of terrorist bombings in Iraq are all justifiable reasons to disagree with the decision.

One cannot be anything other than horrified at the present state of Iraq, but I would urge the reader not to believe a lot of the propaganda that accompanies any mention of the word 'Iraq' in the left-wing press. This is not, incidentally, a defence of the neo-conservative inspiration for war in the United States which largely underpinned George W. Bush's foreign policy, the practicality of which is questionable. However, it is both naive and foolhardy to claim that the casualties in Iraq are all the result of the intervention. Indeed, an intervention to remove a genocidal autocrat who was responsible for the loss of life of more than 1.5 million people, and likewise an intervention that was supported by

many Iraqis in 2003, does not justify suicide bombings. The people responsible for the atrocities that are continuing in post-war Iraq are inspired by a perverted manipulation of the faith of Islam and believe that the slaughter of innocent people is morally justifiable. It isn't.

Furthermore, it is so often, and incorrectly, claimed that every fatality in Iraq is the result of removing Saddam. The fact that the majority of civilian casualties took place in 2006-2007, this is quite clearly a fabrication. When one debates this issue with people, it is at this point that people pull out the trump card: the clichéd response of 'it's the imposition of Western values on a Muslim people where such values are neither recognised nor desired.' It is here where I have to suppress the desire to laugh at the immoral intransigence of such a

claim. Try telling the people of Syria who have rebelled against the tyranny of Bashar al-Assad and his regime that democracy and free speech do not matter – a current body count of more than 7,500 Syrians is testament to the ridicule of this contention.

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and now the Arab Spring of 2011 shows us incontrovertibly that human nature is fundamentally incompatible with dictatorship and the desire for freedom transcends cultural and ethnic distinctions. We should celebrate and encourage this kind of human emancipation and be prepared to intervene when it becomes apparent that a rogue, genocidal regime has become too great a security threat that it would be a travesty to humanitarianism to fail to intervene. Indeed, in Iraq we toppled a regime that had, as the Iraq Survey Group

report concluded, retained the scientists, the intelligence and the laboratories capable of developing WMD. When you combine this tangible capability with the history of the regime – which had used chemical and biological weapons against its own people, even the most fervent anti-war voice would be hard pushed to deny at least some evidence for the necessity of an intervention.

Whilst we must take heed of our errors in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is vital that western political leaders retain the confidence and resolve to confront barbaric dictatorships especially if they have the capacity to threaten our national security. The 21st century has seen a vast proliferation in new and different wars. It is imperative that we still keep our resolve as these are conflicts that the West cannot afford to lose.

England needs to let go of Scotland

It's not you, it's me... No wait, it's you

Tom Forrest

England seems to be holding onto Scotland only because it is the nearest thing we have to an empire. We have lost the colonies and, in the process, our own English identity. Scotland seems desperate to regain their independence so what is stopping us granting it? If this was a dispute between two people rather than two nations it would take the form of an acrimonious and bitter break up between two people who have long since stopped caring about one another but one who is frightened of change.

As English people, and I do mean English rather than British, we hold on to a few imperial ideals that are long

since extinct. We believe that we are sophisticated and beacons of civilisation for the rest of the planet, when in reality we are thought of as uncouth and yobbish. We believe that we are still in control of most of the world when nothing could be further from the truth. The British Empire has waned to the extent that we can no longer go by the painfully outdated moniker Great Britain, but we are the United Kingdom; a title that also seems useless when we are no longer effectively governed by a monarch. We are holding on to the past more tightly than an infant clings to its mother's leg when it is shy to face the world. This is seen most clearly in our refusal to give independence to Scotland. We believe that if

we grant them independence we will finally have to admit that England is not the centre of the world anymore, we do not have an empire, we are merely one of the pieces on the chess board.

"we are holding on to the past"

We are keeping Scotland under our control simply because it is the closest in proximity to us and it was the earliest of English conquests. Just because we conquered the Scots centuries ago does not mean they are now by rights people of our territory, nor does it mean that Scottish

land has become in some way Anglified. The fact is that they have their own name, national identity, sports teams, currency and parliament and this is enough for me to recognise them as separate from England. The United Kingdom is little more than an outdated gimmick and doesn't reflect the national identities of any of its citizens. The only time I would say I'm from the United Kingdom is on forms where I am given no choice. We both need to split off from each other as the relationship has become one where we are only together for the money, and that is never healthy. We can still share trade as separate entities, why not recognise that Scotland is its own country?

The sooner we come to this

realisation the better, for me, since we lose a certain identity under the United Kingdom. I say grant independence to our former colonies and concentrate on our own, not inconsiderable, problems closer to home. Create some pride again in being English, sort out the infrastructure and look to the future. Like any relationship that's coming to its end we should split now to save years of torment and boredom. Concentrate on ourselves for a while. Pick up a hobby, become good at it (perhaps something in manufacturing or any sport, I'm not picky). Get a new outlook on life, enjoy the single life. Get a new modern wardrobe and reinvent ourselves as modern and attractive. After all, single people have more fun.

United we stand, divided we fall

Why Scotland and the UK need each other

Peter Grundy

The proposal for Scottish independence should not be dismissed out of hand as an issue of nationalists and Anglophobes; it is a serious proposal supported by many and independence from a larger nation has worked out for smaller countries in the past. The common arguments for independence usually run along the lines of economic benefit, cultural and political differences and plain old national pride. In my opinion, Scotland seceding from the United Kingdom is demonstrably the wrong path for it to take, however if in the referendum the vote is pro-independence then Scotland's right to self-determination must be respected.

To secede from the United Kingdom would be a very big step for Scotland, so entwined are the two countries due to their 250 year history. Scotland would have

to go through applying for EU membership, UN membership, creating its own diplomatic embassies and links, a military and a true independent government. Now this alone should not and will not solely persuade anyone that Scotland should not go for independence but it should be considered as a factor and a point for staying in the UK, perhaps with more devolution of powers.

How Scotland will perform economically separate from the United Kingdom is a question which cannot be answered simply depending on factors, both out of their control and to be decided at a negotiating table. The main piece of negotiation will be done around whether Scotland gets its geographic proportion of the North Sea oil, 90%, or per capita, around 10%, and indeed how this should affect the amount of debt the nation takes on. One thing

which is obvious is that even if Scotland get the most favourable terms it would not receive an AAA credit rating, a small economy with a large fraction of their revenue coming from a depleting natural resource, a large sovereign debt and a deficit at, by current predictions, 10.6%. Scotland would be a less stable economic power.

"Scotland seceding from the United Kingdom is the wrong path for it to take"

A lot is made of the dif-

ferences in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, but the truth is the fact that they share a lot more principles than they don't and as a single nation have more economic and diplomatic power to put forward their shared opinions than they would as separate nations. Scotland and the rest of the UK occasionally disagree on matters of foreign policy, but in a far greater amount of cases the United Kingdom's position is supported by all the members. Essentially we are greater than the sum of our parts in these matters and we should treasure that.

There are some who do support independence purely from a point of nationalism, however, pointing to their own proud history and arguing that Scotland should self govern again so that Scottish taxes can be spent in Scotland. I hope people can see this small minded

thinking for what it is, the same logic that could have my home village of Milborne Port demand all taxes paid be spent solely in Milborne Port, if you'll forgive my rhetoric.

"we are greater than the sum of our parts and we should treasure that"

It should not be considered to be in Scotland's interest to become independent. If the Scottish people choose independence on the referendum of 18th October 2014 then I wish them the best of luck, however I really hope they do not, not only for the sake of the UK but for the sake of Scotland as well.

LETTERS

Editorial

A record turnout should be celebrated but the hard work starts now

Matthew Power
Editor

It is a truly fantastic achievement that for the second year in a row, SCAN's front cover on Week 19 is reporting a record number of students turning out to vote for the new Full Time Officer team.

As the hangover of Friday night fades away, the new Full Time Officer team can look forward to a year of setting the vision and direction of a Students' Union in a financially healthy position. The Sugarhouse has seen huge numbers going through the doors, LUSU Living has let

a large number of bed spaces and the shops continue to provide a healthy trade.

But that is just the beginning of the story. For the past two years, the words '£9k fees' has become etched in to any literature relating to universities in England. After two months in the job, the new officers will be faced with a new batch of students who are paying fees which are triple the amount current students pay. Officers will be expected to deal with expectations and help to deliver a student experience that students deem 'good value for money.'

Then there is a potential

collaboration between Lancaster and Liverpool that is very much on the horizon. The new LUSU President and LUSU Vice President (Academic) will have to work closely to ensure the students' voice is heard as important decisions are made in relation to any potential collaboration. Ultimately though, the result of the talks could well affect the entire team and the student body as a whole.

Whilst it's all gone quiet on the Business Process Review, it doesn't mean that it has gone away. As the University reflects over the process so far and decides on a future

course of action, student officers need to continue to fight for proper consultation and to ensure that the student experience will not be hindered by future plans deriving from the process review.

Finally, space. There is no hiding the fact that the current LUSU building is simply not good enough. If LUSU wishes to continue to develop its services and activities, more space is required. The breezeblocks of Slaidburn House were practical a decade ago, but now a new space is required.

With a new Vice Chancellor at the University, it will be

the President's responsibility to lobby and strive for a new space that fits the agenda of an ever-expanding union.

2012/2013 will be an incredibly challenging year for the Higher Education sector. It is unclear how students will respond to paying £9000 fees and we can only wait and see what happens.

But despite all the uncertainties and challenges ahead, the chance to represent students at the highest level and the chance to deliver a student experience to over 12000 students should leave six (very tired) people very excited about the year ahead.

15 hour bar crawl complaint

Dear Editor,

I recently saw something that made me ashamed to be a graduate of Lancaster University.

On Saturday 18th of February, my fiancée and I were eating lunch in a restaurant on Church Street when we saw a group of students from Furness College pass by the window. We know they were from Furness because they were all wearing their 'Trev on Tour' t-shirts. They were taking part in the traditional 'Fifteen Hour Bar Crawl'. Some of these students had written charming slogans on their t-shirts, such as 'c**t', 'wa*k*r' and 'kiddie fiddler'.

Bear in mind that this was not two o'clock in the morning, after a long night out. This was market day,

during the schools' half term. The town centre was full of families, many with young children.

Have the JCR officers responsible for organising the bar crawl all undergone lobotomies? That is the only reasonable explanation for it. Either that or they are so lacking in common sense that they should not be organising a trip to the bathroom, let alone a JCR.

But what about the individuals wearing said t-shirts? I appreciate that there is a certain code of behaviour associated with these events. One would not think of attending Ascot without a hat, for instance. With student bar crawls, it is considered only proper to behave like an anti-social pig, shrieking away at all hours like a banshee with his genitals caught in a vice, and informing passersby of the sexual health of the ladies of Fylde College, but surely they could have paused to think

about the affect their t-shirts would have on any young children?

Perhaps I have misjudged these students. Maybe the words scrawled on their t-shirts were not examples of a puerile sense of humour unworthy of a five year old. Maybe they were warning labels, identifying said students as 'c**ts' and 'wa*k*rs'. In that case, might I suggest alternatives less likely to cause offence to the general public? 'Top Gear Presenter' perhaps? 'Tabloid Journalist'? 'Member of the Cabinet'?

As I said, I am a recent graduate of Lancaster University. I have many fond memories of the institution, of Furness, and of Trev'. But seeing its students displaying such repugnant behaviour could only have confirmed the worst stereotypes about students in the minds of others: that they are selfish, juvenile and thoughtless.

Lancaster University deserves better. Trev' deserves

better.

Yours sincerely,

A Graduate

'Run Fit Boy Run'

Dear Editor,

We'd like to call to your attention your recent article "Run Fit Boy Run". Living in the 21st century in a society that is striving for gender equality, we find the blatant use of objectification of any gender both regressive and morally reprehensible.

The article in SCAN is, at best, a bad piece of writing and at worst is promoting the objectification of people and the idea that because it is women objectifying men that this is acceptable. This also propagates gender divides. A progressive way forward is for everyone to respect each other, not for women to begin

objectifying men in order to "level the playing field".

We hope in future that your publication would never allow such derogatory and objectifying articles to be published. SCAN would do well to find better content to include in its publication

Kind regards,

Matt Saint & Ellie Best,
LUSU VP EWD) and LUSU
Cross Campus EWD Council Officer

Editor note:

SCAN apologises if the article in question has caused offence to any of our readers. The Lifestyle section, Carolynne and SCAN as a whole, strive to create original content for our readers to enjoy and will continue to do so.

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

In the Spotlight

Meet the Clay Pigeon Shooting Club

Rebecca Bracey

Whilst the sport may be new to some, with its mixture of excitement, fun and skill, clay pigeon shooting in Lancaster has established itself as a pleasurable past time which transcends the traditional stereotypes of a middle-aged man, clad in tweed with a faithful Labrador at his heels.

In fact, more business is negotiated over a light spot of shooting than the more traditional round of golf. However, the sport is not merely reserved for businessmen and the like, but is becoming increasingly popular with a younger generation, as demonstrated by the success of Lancaster Clay Pigeon Shooting Club.

Since its conception in 2008, the club has gone from strength to strength, catering for a range of abilities from the seasoned shooter to self confessed novices. The club provides a relaxed, friendly and safe atmosphere in which members can share their knowledge and experience and as one member quite simply put it, "have a really good laugh".

Whilst the club had some financial worries this year, newly elected president Max Doelle has ambitious plans for the society. These range from the acquisition of two team guns; a 12 bore over-and-under and a more dainty 20 bore semi-automatic for those adverse to the stronger recoil and weight of the 12 bore.

The aim of procuring a permanent professional

coach, is also something the club wants to achieve. With regards to the latter, the club is set to move from their current training ground of Crabtree Clays in Kirkby Lonsdale to Coniston Shooting Grounds in North Yorkshire, where a higher level of tuition, as well as existing coaching more tailored to beginners, can be provided.

"The club looks set to become a force to be reckoned with"

However, this lack of higher level coaching is not something that the club has let hinder their performance in recent competitions. In the recent Spring Cup hosted by Aberystwyth University at The Mid-Wales Shooting Centre, the team of Jonathan Scott, Tom Chilcott, Andrew Brown and Maximilian Doelle put up a promising performance, leaving with a respectable placing, and even besting the formidable Royal Agricultural College. This was a particular remarkable result, considering the team had never been confronted with the challenge of a 100 bird flush in which all four guns take their places in their respective stalls to have all 100 clays fired overhead in the space of just over one minute. Treasurer Andrew



Photo provided by the Lancaster Clay Pigeon Shooting Club

Brown described this stage of the competition as "hard going but great fun", and hard going it was with over 200 shots being fired in the short time.

The clubs success was furthered at the BUCS undergraduate shoot where Mills Evans was ranked an impressive 5th out of 77 in the ladies class. Whilst the mens team did not fare as well, congratulations should still be given to Maximilian Doelle who was placed 31/271, Josh Moore and Matt Toothman who tied for the team's second placing of 114/271 and Gwinnet Bompas, a close third at 120/271, all in the C* class. As treasurer, Bompas put it "these are

great results that, as a club, we can build on". Certainly, they look promising for the club's performance at upcoming competitions at the British Open English Skeet and Lambton Team Shoot.

When they are not competing against other teams, there is still an air of friendly rivalry within the club during training sessions, where scores are regularly collated to determine the highest scoring shot of the day or mount. Most recently, Max Doelle and Ulrich Badstuber have been successful with scores of 28/50 and 7/10 respectively. This sparks much promise for Roses, where the club will be looking to make good on last year's de-

feat to York in a battle for the best of three.

In only its fourth year of existence, Lancaster Clay Pigeon Shooting Club has gone from strength to strength in both competitions and in the continued improvement of its members. Under the leadership of a new exec, the club looks set to become a force to be reckoned with, at both Roses and in other competitions. If you would like any more information or would like to attend one of the weekly shoots which take place on Wednesdays and Saturdays, you can contact the club at lucpshoot@gmail.com or [facebook.com/lucpcs](https://www.facebook.com/lucpcs).

Patriot's Cup

Furness claim Patriot's Cup

Sam Walsh

Established in 2009, the Patriot's Cup is a sporting contest between Cartmel and Furness. With last year's competition concluding in a tie, both teams went in this time looking for all-out victory.

For the first time the event was spread over two days. The bar sports and novelty events took place on Friday evening with the remaining events occurring throughout the Saturday.

Conveniently, week 17 of term had seen both colleges face off against each other in the George Wyatt league. Cartmel had achieved convincing wins in all events but B team pool and so, it was fair to say, there was a definite feeling of Cartmel dominance in the air. This dominance was made ever more prominent by the fact that the fixtures were to be played on Cartmel's home turf.

Cartmel dominated the male bar sports beating Furness 8-5 in pool and then 6-3 at darts. However, despite being defeated earlier in the week, the Furness women triumphed at both pool and darts winning the two events 4-1 and 3-2 respectively.

With the conventional bar sports having taken place which included a win

for Furness in the dominoes, attention turned to the additional events planned for the evening. This included most notably the compelling President vs Principal pool matches, and the Sport Sec dominoes fixture. Furness claimed both of these, adding another six points to their Patriot's tally.

Attention then turned to the male and female boat races, as well as the President-VP three legged race. Cartmel claimed all three leaving the final nights score at 29-28 in favour of Furness, and leaving everything to play for in Saturday's remaining events.

Last years event ended in a tie

The miserable weather caused havoc for the early netball fixtures. Due to the slippery surface, the referee ruled the courts unplayable and after all other possible scenarios were exhausted, the decision was made to cancel the netball and scrap the Patriots points available.

As the sun then came out, the focus of the tournament



Patriot's football. Photo by Chris Pomfret

turned to football. With both teams electing to pick positions out of a hat, both took to the field with 10 points available for each fixture. Whilst the A team game took an edgy first half tenure, the B team fixture was shaping up to be a brilliant spectacle when Furness grabbed a second equaliser to take it to 2-2 at the end of the first half. Ultimately, Cartmel ran out comprehensive winners with a 7-2 victory. The A team fixture remained edgy with Cartmel attaining an 85th minute goal to claim the fixture 1-0.

With Cartmel now dominating the scoreline (48-29), attention turned

to the afternoons outdoor events of rounders, ultimate frisbee, tag rugby and the tug of war. Furness claimed the first three and Cartmel the latter taking the scoreboard to 52-47 with all to play for as both colleges moved to the sports centre. This was where the cup was won. With 41 points available in the sports hall events, Furness claimed 38 of those, dominating the volleyball, dodgeball, kwik cricket and squash. With the event won, Furness managed to maintain their composure to also win the 'Capture the Flag' competition and eating contests making the overall score 92-55.

Training time for groups

Marc Handley
Vice President (Activities)

This year, LUSU took training of its college officers to a whole new level with Winter Officer Conference. The hard work and arduous planning resulted in such a positive outcome that the rest of the organisation had to have a serious look at the way in which we train anyone we come in contact with.

To that end, this year's Activities Conference is going to be totally different to the way we have trained Exec members of our over 180 groups than in the past. With much less emphasis on "form filling" and red tape we want to make our groups the best they can possibly be; from workshops on enterprise and even an Activities Hack-a-thon to enable vast amounts of collaboration to be realised I hope as many of the groups we have get involved as possible.

"I hope as many of the groups get involved as possible"

I am an avid fan of pushing people to be the best they can be, and the same applies here. When the new Exec members do their hust to be the role they are going for - they have a vision, an idea. We love ideas. Let's focus less on making people do things that aren't important, and instead, showcase our groups to be precisely what they are - an absolute necessity to the experience here at Lancaster.

I represent just under 50% of the University population, and I cannot wait to see just how good you can be. So please, pop into the office to hear more, and get signed up!

Rugby Union

Second's seize title in derby decider

Rhys Elias
Sports Editor

Lancaster Second's.....56
Lancaster Third's.....0

An emphatic 56-0 victory against the Third's in the Lancaster derby, sealed a league winning season for the Lancaster Second's. Two tries from Matt Barrett and captain Nicholas Farr, and ties from Josh Thaxter, Alex Vaughan Fowler, Nick Halstead, Toby Holder-Williams, James Day and Steve Tagg, saw the Second's run out clear winners.

Having beaten second place UCLAN the previous week, the team knew the advantage was with them in the league. With the match seeing a clash of top vs bottom, victory was really never in doubt.

The tone of the game was set in the third minute of the game when Barrett slipped though the Third's defensive line to open the scoring. From this moment on, the champions kept the pressure on.

Whilst the Second's try scoring ability was never in doubt, their kicking left much to be desired. However, a hor-

rendous kicking completion rate throughout the game reflected the light heartedness of the match with the title pretty much guaranteed and the players facing off against many of their club mates.

A promising period of play around the 30 minute mark, demonstrated the Third's best chance of the game with some ill discipline from the Second's on the five metre line gifting them numerous opportunities. Their attack was marred however by a knock on. Despite this, the Third's effort throughout the entire game could not be

called into question.

The Second's dominance shone through in their solid defence which meant their opposition never really looked like scoring. Likewise they demonstrated great skill in attack with a series of big breaks and with support runners never in short supply.

Captain Nicholas Farr had this to say to SCAN at the end of the game: "It was a good performance that topped off a brilliant season leading to new challenges next year in the league above. Everyone is now looking forward to beating York in two months."

American Football

Too little too late for Lancaster Bombers

Alex Rastall
Sports Editor

Lancaster Bombers 12
York Centurions 14

Despite having one of their best offensive games of the season, the Lancaster Bombers left it too late to claim victory over the York Centurions.

Having had to postpone the match a few weeks ago, expectations were high on Sunday's match following a 3-0 victory against Huddersfield Hawks the previous week.

The first quarter began with Leigh Marshallsay kicking off for the team, giving York possession. After fumbling on the first down, York were able to recover the play well and gained a number of yards before possession was overturned.

The Bomber's offence came to the field and thanks to a good run from the full back, Chris Weeks, they made it over the 10 yard mark.

This good attacking start continued for the offence as they drove it down the field further. However, they failed to convert this effort and had a turnover on downs forcing the defence back on.

For the remainder of the first half, both teams remained fairly equal. Lancaster's defence looked stronger as they allowed York fewer yards and were able to shut out York's offence for a large majority of it. Yet nearing half time, an intercepted pass in a dangerous field position for the Bomber's offence, followed by a momentary lapse of concentration from the resulting defence, meant that York were able to obtain a touchdown which was unconverted.

6-0 up, York began the second half kicking the ball into the hands of Marshallsay.

However, despite the promising start from Lancaster's offence, York managed to overturn possession and power through the defence again to score their second



Lancaster Bombers in action against the York Centurions. Photo by Alex Rastall.

touchdown. This time they got the two point conversion.

The final quarter began with a strong start from the Bomber's defence. Matt Triggs was able to stop a run up the middle forcing York to throw the ball and miss the concluding catch.

Offence made their presence felt on this overturn of play with a good catch from Lancaster's Tight End. The resulting general drive forwards allowed the home

side to reach their end zone to get their first touchdown, courtesy of Hector Marchetti. Unfortunately it was unconverted.

The offence continued to play well for the remainder of the game and were able to obtain another six points with a touchdown from Marshallsay.

Nonetheless, despite the Bomber's prime opportunity to level up with their opponents, they were unable to do so with only seconds left

on the clock.

The score ended as 14-12 to the York Centurions, a bitter loss to the Bombers who are notoriously victorious against them.

However, all was not a disappointment to the Bombers as it was certainly one of their better performances of the season. The Most Valuable Players were awarded to Leigh Marshallsay (Overall), Hector Marchetti (Offence) and Matt Bridge (Defence).

Basketball

Undefeated Lancaster crowned league champions

Iain Beddow

Lancaster75
Chester34

The Lancaster Basketball men's first's saw off a poor University of Chester team to wrap up a perfect league season. In beating Chester, Lancaster picked up their first silverware of the year making them deserving champions of the 2A Northern League. The result never looked in doubt as a confident Lancaster dominated all four quarters, ultimately defeating Chester 75-34. This tremendous run of form from the team has seen them go undefeated (14-0)

for the season in both league and cup, a remarkable feat by any means.

In the opening stages, Lancaster took authority of the game dictating play well. Jason Au showed his prowess from outside the circle, shooting three out of five attempted three pointers in the first two quarters alone. This great display from the point guard was backed up well by his teammate and shooting guard James Banks. Together they scored 26 points in the first half taking Lancaster into a 20 point advantage going into the second half.

Lancaster's defence shone through brightly as the game

wore on. Captain Mike Guille and Centre James Ormond looked in brilliant form ending any hope of an Chester comeback. Ormond in particular turned defence into attack on many occasions finishing the game strongly with ten points. With an accomplished Lancaster defence on the court, Chester weren't helped by their sloppy shooting which dried up any opportunities they created.

Going into the final quarter, Lancaster led 50-30, calling on members of its bench to secure victory and with it the league title. Ignas Vyacas and Rotimi Keshinro to name a few, added to the

emphatic score line demonstrating Lancaster's strength in depth.

The game finished with a 75-34 victory to the home side. Lancaster were now league champions, sparking much deserved celebrations from spectators and team members alike.

Lancaster's coach Craig Cafferty summed up the mood as he jubilantly told SCAN after the game, 'I'm really happy for everyone involved. A culmination of hard work, teamwork and a great spirit have made this achievement possible, they've deserved it!'

Whilst the team clinched the league with a game to

spare, there was no time to waste, celebrating with the chance of more silverware and an undefeated season still on the horizon. A 65-64 cup semi final victory against the same opponents Chester, secured a spot for the team in the final of the BUCS Northern Conference cup. With Lancaster hosting the event, the team must feel that home advantage will give them the edge over their competitors.

With the season drawing to a close, the team can be truly proud of the achievements and performances that they have produced throughout the course of the year.

SPORT



The club in action during a training session. Photo by Jay Theis

Inaugural fight night a big success

Boxing Society's holds first ever inter-house competition

Sean Connor

Lancaster's Boxing Society hosted its first ever inter-house competition on March 1st. There were no clear expectations laid out, but it turned out to be a hugely successful night.

The night took off with Ryan Austin winning the first fight over three rounds against Sam Levy setting a very quick pace for proceeding match-ups.

Sean Connor and Matt Preston followed up and slugged it out to the finish with the only official draw of the night.

Matt Whitehead then gave an inspiring performance to overcome the giant Dave Preston rounding off the first three fights.

An extra exhibition match saw Mikail Shaikh take on Pete Bailey in a very technical contest adding a different dynamic to the event, which was proceeded by Tom Cunningham taking the third competitive victory of the night against Krishan Mistry.

The sixth fight of the night saw Tom Bryan victorious against Arik Johnstone in a defensive yet very skilful match, with several well-timed counters being the deciding factor between the two.

Two more exceptionally speedy fighters drew against each other next as Ben Dagger took on Ed Rob. Both put in a great effort but a better display on the night swung the match in the favour of the latter.

Liam Fitzpatrick then took on Danny Summer in a fight that also demonstrated great composure from both sides with both fighters' movement and combinations tactically adjusted. Fitzpatrick triumphed overall in what can only be described as a closely fought match-up.

The intensity of the night went up a gear as Adam Ogden overcame a nightmarish first round to beat Ronan Szelesi in the ultimate comeback of the night. Ogden just managed to keep himself ahead in the fight with a good sense of movement and body shots scoring a greater total of connections. This brought the fight to an end before the third round had even finished, despite taking several resilient hooks to the head.

The penultimate fight of the night saw Whitehead enter the ring for the second time to take on Ben J. Moore. The first round began fairly evenly although the second came to an abrupt end as Moore placed his opponent in a worrying state, taking the victory.

After all was cleared to continue, the night finished with the main event, seeing Mikail Shaikh enter the ring once again to take on Kaiser Cordova.

After an explosive start, Cordova lost his footing on occasion but impressively sustained Shaikh's rallies as he fired back to keep his opponent at distance. The second round began with Shaikh throwing combinations left, right and centre. Shaikh even-

tually took victory in the third round through one last outburst of strikes that were simply unstoppable, finishing all of the bouts of the night.

To sum the night up in terms of its impact and importance, Boxing President, Sam Levy, commented: "The night was a fantastic example for our members to show off all the skills they have learnt over the year. Everyone did really well and did themselves a massive credit. All the support we received from people just coming to watch was overwhelming, it was amazing to see so many people there."

He continued: "The night went so well I really hope that the Fight Night can become a major end of term event in the L.U.B calendar in the future."