

FTO ELECTIONS SPECIAL

SCAN INTERVIEWS ALL THE CANDIDATES



Let battle commence



Emma Nelson
News Editor

Election campaigning has officially begun today with 21 candidates battling for the six positions available on the LUSU Full Time Officer.

This year LUSU's Constitution and Bye Laws have been revised, as is required every five years. The revised roles are: LUSU President, VP (Activities), VP (Education), VP (Campaigns and Communications), VP (Community and Welfare) and VP (Union Development).

Battling for the position of LUSU President, focusing on overarching issues such as the strategic direction of the Union, are Matthew Jones, Christopher Bell, Adam Harrison Henshall and Joel Pullan.

The role of VP (Activities) has attracted the most nominations for

an FTO Officer with five candidates running: Emily Pollitt, Ellie Sutherland, Daniel Katri, Catriona Hay and David Nelson.

VP (Education) will incorporate employability and enterprise into the remit. The officer will also continue responsibilities in the current remit such as working with departments and their student reps. Candidates for this role are Daniel-Sean Huisman, Joe O'Neill and Ellie Lawrence.

A change in the role from last year's VP (Media and Communication) to VP (Campaigns and Communications) sees the responsibility of SCAN Editor taken out of the role. The role will focus on communicating everything that is going on within the Union, and will also take joint responsibility for elections with the VP (Union Development). The candidates running for this position are

Rachel Harvey and Jordan Finneran.

Running for VP (Community and Welfare), are Tom Fox, Tapi Nxele, Becky Cook and Josie O'Gorman. The new role continues areas such as liberation, equality, welfare, internationalisation, campaigns and advice. It will now also include charity, community issues, outreach, housing, global issues and environment and ethics issues.

Candidates for the new role of VP (Union Development) are Sam Hale, Laurence Pullan and Luke Townsend. The role will be responsible for alumni relations, JCR Executive and Postgraduate Board support, Union Council and will be jointly in charge of LUSU's finances with the President.

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Debating the expected new Subway branch on campus
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The next issue of SCAN will be released on Tuesday Week 9

EDITORIAL



Consultation, or a lack thereof, has been a recurring theme this academic year at Lancaster. Last term began with a hastily arranged LUSU General Meeting to develop a response to Commercial Services' changes to the structure of the college bars, which were forced through with precious little staff consultation and absolutely no student consultation. This term, the focus has shifted to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), who seem to have the ambition of alienating both their academic staff and their students one department at a time.

In the last issue of SCAN, we outlined changes to the Applied Social Science (ASS) department; Criminology was to be moved out to the School of Law. Tony McEnery, the Dean of FASS, told us that the Criminologists had been consulted, which is fair enough.

However, he conceded that the other half of ASS, Social Work, had not been consulted to anywhere near the same level. Since Social Work are now left in the awkward position of being the only constituent part of ASS, the next expected move is for them to be moved to a different Faculty – namely the Faculty of Health & Medicine. The section of the department that had not been consulted is arguably that which will be most affected by the changes.

Academics told us of rumour and denials that have been plaguing the department for months. This is not a healthy way to run an educational establishment. As for the students, SCAN has been told that there is simply confusion and bemusement.

This issue, we publish the news that Music will no longer be taught at Lancaster. FASS have been tinkering with the degree scheme endlessly and have now decided to

make the academic staff redundant. Once again, the changes have been enshrined in rumour, with academic staff feeling the need to break the news to students via email.

Lancaster University should not be afraid of change. All organisations need to adapt, consolidate, and grow to face changing environments. However, Lancaster has this bizarre ability to go about change in the most comically inept ways possible.

Management need to consider who the stakeholders are. The students and the academic staff should be more than an afterthought. Universities serve two main purposes: to teach students, and to develop new research. If you alienate those two parties, the quality of the institution will suffer.

Stop the rumour. Be clearer. Talk to all parties involved in the change, not just a small cross-section. At the moment, some people feel like pawns in some grand game of "Whose Department Is It Anyway?" FASS need to make clear what their strategy is, where they see the Faculty going, and why they see fit to end the teaching of Music at Lancaster.

In this SCAN



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Clare Kelly's delicious cake recipes this issue are for Choc Brownies and Melting Drops

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Blowing the trumpet

Lancaster hosted the prestigious Unibrass event. Find out how we did in Culture

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NEWS

scan.lusu.co.uk/news

News Editors: Catherine Chorley & Emma Nelson

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Frustration at planned Subway

- Branch of sandwich retailer expected next to Bowland Bar
- Building work causing anger for Bowland residents



Catherine Chorley
News Editor

The building work for the expected campus branch of sandwich retailer Subway is causing controversy amongst students and staff.

The outlet is scheduled for opening next term, according to University sources. Despite the University's assurance that the decision to allow the fast-food outlet onto campus was based on student feedback that indicated Subway 'would be a popular new outlet to bring to campus' concerns have already been raised by some among Lancaster's campus community following rumours surrounding the departure of Diggles from campus earlier this term. Additional worries have also been expressed over the potential impact Subway's proximity to Bowland Bar may have on its profitability.

In a statement issued by the

University this week, such concerns were allayed with the assurance that Subway's sandwiches were sufficiently different not to pose a threat to the business operated by the nearby college bar. In catering for different markets, the two are hoped to operate comfortably within the Bowland complex. Indeed, the University expressed a hope for a mutually beneficial situation in which both outlets enjoy an increased footfall as a result of their shared vicinity.

In a statement, the University said: "The bar will continue to work closely with the college to make sure that the bar grows and remains as popular as it has been so far this year." The statement denied any knowledge about the reason for Diggles leaving campus.

The construction work was also a source of dissatisfaction among nearby Bowland residents, who

were disturbed by building work undertaken by the contractors outside the hours allotted. The University made assurances that it had spoken with the contractors and 'reinforced [the] working hours.' For the Subway build, 'noisy work' is permitted only between 9am and 6pm, although in general contractors are permitted to begin work from 8am.

The University was also asked to comment on whether there would be a dedicated eating zone alongside the Subway outlet, as was promised by the University Library in recompense for the restriction of eating in the Learning Zone to a small area at one end of the space. The response was as follows:

"Eating is banned from only part of the Learning Zone and a dedicated area within it is available for eating. In addition there are many spaces on campus in which students can eat their own food."

Top employers come to campus for Red Rose Weekend

Catherine Chorley
News Editor

Students who have a flair for business creativity are preparing to pit their entrepreneurial talents against one another in the annual Red Rose Business Weekend, hosted by Lancaster University Management School Association (LUMSA) over the weekend of 8 to 9 March.

The event, which this year, for the first time, is exclusive to Lancaster University students, is being sponsored by two internationally renowned companies: IBM and Saatchi & Saatchi. Students will be able to gain insight into the demands of the business world by competing in two challenges set by the sponsors, and will also have the opportunity to make contacts within the business sector. There is also a cash prize of £800 for the overall winning team.

Students from all disciplines were able to apply, and will be competing in ten teams of four students in areas that will test their abilities to use their initiatives.

Red Rose Business Weekend Marketing Manager Ieva Marcinkeviciute said that those organising the event "believe it will help participating students vastly in many areas." She added that the weekend was a fantastic way to showcase Lancaster's business talents and would be "a very convenient way [for IBM and Saatchi & Saatchi] to see what students from prestigious universities are capable of."

Oliver James Heron, Chair of LUMSA, said of the weekend:

"The Red Rose Business Weekend is [...] a great opportunity to network with other enterprising students across the University, as well as to meet some employees from each of our sponsors' companies."

More information can be found on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/RedRoseBusinessWeekend2013>)

In Focus: Music department redundancies

FASS face the Music

- Faculty fails to follow correct procedure in closing Music
- Student and staff uproar over redundancies

Ronnie Rowlands

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences' Management Committee has taken the decision to end the study of music at Lancaster University.

The decision to suspend applications to study music, delivered under the Lancaster Institute for Contemporary Arts (LICA), was taken last November, when applicants were sent an email informing them that the course is no longer offered by the university.

The closure of the degree scheme came about due to low numbers of applications - only 12 students were admitted onto the course for the 2012 academic year, even lower than the 2011 cohort, which consists of just 26 students.

It has become apparent that in the process of shutting down the Music degree scheme, FASS management has failed to follow correct university procedure, and acted outside its authority in academic affairs.

In October 2010, the Senate (Lancaster University's academic governing body) delegated powers to shut down degree schemes to the faculties, although few senators can recall much discussion on the matter. Note that Music is / was a degree scheme, not a department, and it is on this basis that the faculty are able to discontinue it without referring to the Senate.

A document outlining the delegations, which was passed by the Senate, dictates that discussions and decisions regarding the closing of degree schemes must be



recommended by the Faculty Teaching Committee, and ratified by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Minutes and accounts show that the laying down of Music has not been discussed by the Faculty Teaching Committee in any form. The decision to close down the scheme, create new academic posts and begin a redundancy procedure has been taken by the Faculty Management Committee.

In October, the Faculty management requested that Dr. Andrew Quick, head of LICA, made proposals to the Faculty in response to the

poor numbers of students studying music within the department.

Options proposed to the faculty included investing more money in Music, discontinuing the Music degree and incorporating the teaching of sound and music into other courses offer by LICA, and shutting down the degree altogether. At this point, music staff were unaware that Dr. Quick had been asked to put forward such proposals.

In a series of meetings that took place in November, Music staff and students were informed of the suspension of admissions to the course

due to low level of applications that had been received, indicating an even lower student intake for 2013.

LICA staff were informed by FASS that they favoured the option of discontinuing the Music degree and retaining modules in music and sound within other LICA courses, and told to submit plans to increase LICA's overall admissions back up to its target of 120. Professor Tony McEnery, Dean of FASS, told SCAN the reasons for taking the future of Music under consideration; "In November, it was the case that we only had four applications for

Music's turbulent history

	2004: Music is a department. It has 7 staff and admitted 55 students at the level of BCC/BBC. Instrumental/Vocal tuition budget: £35,000	2005: LICA formed as a department incorporating Art, Music and Theatre Studies (later Design and Film). Music loses departmental status	2006: Instrumental / vocal tuition budget reduced to £27,000 following the merging of arts and social sciences	2007: Student cohort: 58, entry requirement BBC	2009: Entry grades increased to BBB/BBC. 37 students admitted
	2008: Student cohort: 51, against an entry requirement of BBC				

For more, see Comment p. 41/45 and Features p. 30

Music, and that's not a viable cohort for the degree."

On January 25th 2013, proposals were agreed by the LICA Management Committee and submitted to the Faculty Management Committee (FacMag) for consideration. Amongst them was a proposal to introduce a new degree scheme in popular music. FacMag declined to invest in the degree scheme, and took the decision to open up job applications for three new posts (two permanent academics and a temporary teaching-only post) to 'teach out' the remainder of the degree.

Professor McEnery explained the reason behind the rejection of proposals to create a Degree scheme in Popular Music; "It was a very nice idea, I suppose, but we've tried it in the past, and it hasn't worked... I don't think it was ever going to be the answer to attracting a reasonable volume of students with As and Bs in their profile."

In the first instance, music staff have been invited to apply for the two permanent academic posts - the remaining five will be made redundant. Alternatively, the posts may not go to any applicants from the redundancy pool, and all will be made redundant. Worryingly, Facmag expressed a desire for its successful applicants to be able to submit to the Art & Design Research Excellence Framework (REF) Panel (publication bodies that publish academic journal articles). It is debatable whether or not this desired specification will serve to weaken the chances of the majority of applicants for the new posts.

The interview and appointment process is ongoing.

The Music degree in its current form first came about in 2005, when the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts was formed in an effort to create a 'critical mass' of arts subjects and save the Art Department, which at that point was facing closure (since this merger, Lancaster's Art degree has

maintained top ten positions in numerous league tables, and is currently ranked 2nd nationally in the Complete University Guide.)

In light of this merger and new direction for arts subjects at Lancaster, the teaching of early music abruptly ceased.

"Our main worry is the amount of teaching staff and amount of modules that will be offered to us next year"

Following the merger of Arts and Social Sciences to create FASS in 2006, a uniform departmental funding formula resulted in the reduction of money spent on music tuition, reduced to £27,000 from the previous £35,000, and also the maintenance of music-technology facilities.

By 2011, the budget for instrumental/vocal tuition had been reduced to £13,000, and no money was allocated to music-technology facilities. Additionally, Music had its entry standards raised from BBB/BBC to BBB, and was no longer permitted to accept students with 'equivalent grades'. Professor McEnery told SCAN that the reduction in funding for Music was part of a cross-departmental scheme, and that Music was receiving its "fair share."

That year, 26 students were admitted onto the course. In 2012, entry grades were raised to ABB, and the course no longer offered instrumental or vocal tuition. 11 students were accepted onto the course.

At the beginning of February, a newsflash announcing the closure of Music to the wider student body and making emphatic calls for protests against the decision was published on SCAN Online. To date, the article has garnered almost 3000 web hits and 318 'likes' on Facebook.

After the article went viral on Facebook, a number of students, from

Music and other disciplines, came forward to express their dissatisfaction with the Faculty's decision.

In particular, concerns were raised by students over the effect that the significant reduction in teaching staff will have on their education and overall experience.

Second year Music student Abigail Bavester told SCAN; "Our main worry is the amount of teaching staff and amount of modules that will be offered to us next year, as well as the standard of teaching we will receive in our final year."

Bavester also expressed her disappointment with the notion that the Music degree is 'failing'; "All of this has happened because of financial and economic reasons out of [Music's] hands."

"In such a tough situation when upholding the importance and dignity of the course is so crucial, I feel that this sort of slandering can only be detrimental."

First year course representative Tom Burns expressed similar concerns over the staffing. He told SCAN: "Seven (teachers) is enough to teach all aspects of music sufficient. I don't think that three would be."

Professor McEnery, however, was unconcerned by the potential harm that the new staffing structure could cause Music students' education; "To think that it is not possible to deliver a degree because the number of staff isn't n, I think is false reasoning. What you need to do is find out what the students need and then resource the staff to do it."

He added, "I think the idea that academics can only teach their specialism is an absurdity."

McEnery also pointed out that LICA offers modules in its other subject areas to all students (Music students are eligible to study Theatre modules, for example), and that the three posts are "not the sum total of teaching resource available to those students."

Other students expressed concerns

towards the effects that the closure of Music could have on the culture of the university on a wider scale.

In a comment to SCAN, 2nd year Art student Tom Fitzgerald described the axing of Music as "a highly counter-intuitive move which undermines LICA's very nature as an institution that prides itself on promoting a multi-disciplinary approach towards the arts."

He added; "If people of all bygone times had rejected the arts for reasons of finance of numerals, we would be living in a hollow world today."

The closure of Music prompted the creation of an open Facebook forum for discussion on how best to take action against the university. Protests, flyering and writing to the Vice Chancellor are amongst many ideas floated by the group.

Minutes from LUSU's Executive Committee and Academic Council initially indicated satisfaction with the way faculty management has proceeded. However, since the ensuing Facebook forum and spread of discontent amongst the student body, LUSU Vice-President (Academic) has announced plans to hold a 'positive protest' in Alexandra Square over the closure.

Clark told SCAN: "It's about more than music - it about the arts in general. The threat that is occurring with music could develop into something larger in the future."

"The university's strategic plan needs to change and adapt to regard the arts, Music and Theatre etc, and make sure we keep them strong at Lancaster."

Additionally, members of the University Court have submitted a motion, to be discussed at its next annual meeting on the 20th of March, calling for the Senate and University Council to reconsider the closure of Music.

Students interested in joining the campaign should contact Richard Clark, at lusu.vp.academic@lancs.ac.uk.

2011: Entry requirements raised to BBB, equivalent grades not accepted. Budget for instrumental/vocal tuition now £13,000, with no money allocated to music-technology facilities. 25 students admitted

Summer 2012: Standard offer now ABB. Course no longer offers instrumental/vocal tuition. £9000 fee. 12 students admitted

Michaelmas 2012: Head of LICA asked to respond to the poor recruitment in music. Admissions suspended. FASS expresses desire to discontinue Music degree and incorporate the teaching of sound and music in other LICA degrees

2013: FASS Management rejects most of the LICA plan, discontinues music degree and opens job applications for two new posts to teach out the course. Unsuccessful applicants face redundancy

LUSU Full Time Officer Elections 2013: The Candidate Interviews

Welcome to SCAN's 2013 LUSU FTO Elections coverage

Jack Smith
Acting Editor

The concept of the SCAN in-depth interview for each position in the Full Time Officer elections has become something of a tradition now, ever since it was first attempted in 2008.

Why do we do it? We aim to hold the people who want to represent you to account. We want them to think long and hard about just why they are running and exactly what they aim to achieve for the student population and for themselves. We are not afraid to ask the tough questions and challenge these candidates to justify why they deserve your vote.

And let us be in no doubt that your vote is important. The idea that the elected officers are

of no relevance to the general student population is a fallacy. They will represent your interests at the highest policy making bodies of the University in the face of cuts to modules, changes to bars, and inflation-busting rent increases

'SCAN is not here to provide candidates with a platform on which to spout their Utopian rhetoric.'

You need to ensure the correct people are voted into these positions, who are able to provide the voice of the students and produce results.

It is our job as Lancaster's student newspaper to help you make an informed decision. Hope-

fully we have gone some way to achieving this.

Every candidate for each position has been interviewed under the same conditions in order to ensure fairness. SCAN is not here to provide candidates with a platform on which to spout their Utopian rhetoric. It is here to challenge, be critical, and get to the heart of the issue. We have asked them searching questions; why, exactly, are they running? What does this candidate offer that no others do? Why is this "experience" they talk so freely about actually relevant to students? Slogans and hollow promises are not enough. Candidates need to stand up to scrutiny.

Now it is over to you. On the following pages, you will find interviews with every candidate. Hopefully, they will help you make an informed decision.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Running to become an NUS National Conference Delegate, in which three positions are available, are Sam Hale, Rizwaan Mohammed, Richard Clark, Charles Edwards, Michael Palmer and Laurence Pullan.

Current VP (Events and Democracy) Libby Martin, told SCAN: "These elections are of the upmost importance due to the fact that the students have the opportunity to elect the 6 people who will be leading the Students' Union for next 12 months. Many don't realise how much influence these people have and how much the decisions that they make genuinely affect every student on campus."

"With so many changes already in the pipeline for LUSU next year, it looks to be a very interesting year, one that every single student will have the chance to shape in week 8 when voting opens" she added.

Hustings this year will be held on Sunday Week 8 at Barker House Farm from 1pm, with results being announced on Friday Week 9 at Sugarhouse.

LUSU President

Interviews by Ronnie Rowlands | Bailrigg FM interviews Saturday Week 7 6pm

CHRISTOPHER BELL



- Wants to evaluate the "big changes" resulting from the FTO restructure
- The staffing structure of LUSU "needs looking at" in line with an "ever changing Union"

Fylde College student Chris Bell has served students at both a Union and society level. He is currently a LUSU Councillor and served as Chair of Fylde College JCR Executive, experiences that he feels have given him a "greater understanding of the ways in which LUSU looks to best represent its students."

As for societies, Bell served as General Secretary of the Gospel Choir and as Treasurer of the Darts society, of which he is a founding member. He was also a College sports captain. All of these roles have developed his "motivational skills" as well as his "general leadership characteristics."

If elected, Bell wants to evaluate the "big changes" that LUSU has undergone through its Full Time Officer restructuring. "It will be our job as the FTO team to decide which changes have worked, and what we need to adjust to create a better, more stable union for our students."

He also intends to "constantly scrutinise" actions taken by the university with regards to course fees and rent inflation, believing finance to be "one of the biggest problems facing our students year on year. Bell pledges to ensure that the University provides a student experience "which reflects the personal and financial investment

they have made."

The best policy for dealing with the university on student issues, Bell feels, is to maintain a degree of "realism", acknowledging that LUSU isn't "always going to get its own way."

However, he pointed out that LUSU has often "given something away to get something back in another area." He cited LUSU's handling of the Music degree situation as an example of it being "very quiet."

"We very much went along with the concept that [the closure of music] was for the greater good of the department... We should have been looking to let our students know what was going on."

Bell explained his belief that the staffing structure of LUSU "needs looking at", with the aim to work out "how best they are distributed", and "where best to fit them in within an ever changing Union."

Bell expressed his desire to improve relations between LUSU and its officers. He acknowledged that LUSU is often seen as "overbearing to its officers", and an institution

which feels it must "put its seal of approval on everything officers do." He would like to see LUSU perceived as "the place officers come to... make their plans a reality", and inspire elected officers to be "ambitious in their roles."

"We very much went along with the concept that [the closure of music] was for the greater good of the department... We should have been looking to let our students know what was going on."

Chris Bell cites his honesty as a 'unique selling point', preferring to "give the full picture" so that students "have reasonable expectations of what [LUSU does]."

"If you're honest about your goals and expectations then people will respect you for being so."

Photos by Jay Theis and Nick Lound

LUSU President (Continued)

ADAM HARRISON-HENSHALL



- Keen to “empower students to realise they have a voice”

- Feels the Union would benefit from someone who is motivated in a “political sense”

LUSU Presidential elections typically make way for at least one left field candidate, and this year is no exception.

Philosophy MA student Adam Harrison-Henshall believes that his lack of LUSU experience is well compensated for by his experience of “many sides of many Lancaster based coins, from inside the structures and outside them”, having studied as an undergraduate, postgraduate, and served the Colleges through his work on the County College’s Deanery and its bar. Harrison-Henshall was also responsible for ‘Lancaster to Euston’, a periodical campus magazine designed to “open up the

political discourse at Lancaster.”

It is therefore unsurprising that Harrison-Henshall is approaching the role of LUSU President from a political standpoint. He feels that the role of President would “benefit” from someone who is “motivated in a deeply critical, political sense.

“When we have a General Meeting, we are literally creating a space for democracy, a forum for discussion. I think that’s a far more effective form of direct democracy than representative democracy could ever claim to be. Where there’s an important issue - call a meeting, raise issues and have these expressed in the open.”

He stressed the importance of LUSU’s involvement in protests, and referred to a march to bring back EMA as one that LUSU should have endorsed; “What you’re saying, in promoting these protests, is not only facilitating democracy within your own structures, but you’re enabling students to use their democratic rights above and beyond the institution of LUSU.”

While he praised LUSU’s decision to endorse the NUS Demo in 2012, Harrison-Henshall was critical of LUSU for its late handling of campus based issues, such as the restructuring of the College Bars and the ongoing situation within Music.

If elected, Harrison-Henshall pledges to take immediate action against the university in similar situation; “any decent student union should immediately investigate, confront the right people, make the population aware and fight back. The fact that [LUSU] didn’t with Music and the bars gives the university license to cut whatever departments it likes, without fear of opposition from LUSU.”

Harrison-Henshall is keen to “empower students to realise they have a voice.”

He explained that students shouldn’t have to “wait to be given a voice via a student survey.” Rather, he wants to use his Presidency to “help facilitate students having a voice,” and asked why the student voice has to be “constantly legitimated via beaurocratic means”, believing that such means “surpress” it.

“We’ve seen, year upon year, that the university is such an undemocratic organisation. It ‘consults’, but doesn’t listen. We have the numbers and the power, and we should start demanding consultation from the university.”

To summarise, he described LUSU’s relationship with the student body; “The university management is ‘the bad guy’, and LUSU is ‘the good guy’... but it’s a bit quiet. It needs to rise up and become the protagonist, rather than sit back and allow the University to do what it wants. That is the narrative I want to push forward.”

MATT JONES



- Intends to make LUSU’s democracy “much more transparent”

- Feels LUSU’s system of finance reserves makes it difficult to know where money is spent

Management School student Matt Jones has worked “inside, outside and alongside the Students’ Union.” He served on the Pendle JCR Executive organising Extrav, served as a society president and as Cross Campus Officer for societies.

Unusually, Jones feels that his “year out” from LUSU is “most relevant”, as it allowed him to view LUSU from the perspective of “your everyday student who is here for a degree” and gain insight into how officers engage students.

“During my year out I wasn’t involved in the union...I’ve not forgotten what it’s like to be a regular student first and foremost.”

Jones explained that this experience helped to develop his view on LUSU democracy, which he describes as being “not just elections”, but about “everyday representation.” Jones wishes to champion this idea as LUSU President.

Jones feels that, over the past year, LUSU has worked on its external image and “improved its perception to students.”

If elected, he intends to “focus on the internal operation, to make it easier for students to be involved and for officers to do their jobs well.”

For example, he intends to make LUSU’s democracy “much more

transparent.”

When asked for elaboration, Jones explained that LUSU has 45 byelaws, “some quite long in length”, and described knowing what’s included as a “mammoth task.” He also referred to “five years of accumulated LUSU Council policies”, and expressed concern that they “aren’t publicly available for students to see.”

Jones also expressed concern that LUSU has “a system of finance reserves here and there” that “make it difficult for students to know exactly where their money being spent.” He believes that this “needs to be sorted.”

‘His philosophy is: “I am elected, therefore I represent. For me it’s very very simple. It’s an idea I want to espouse amongst all student officers.”’

As President, Jones intends to champion the notion that students should not wait for LUSU to announce “important issues”, but rather that LUSU should be approached by students; “If we were doing that, we’d have a lot more weight as a union in what we do.”

Jones’ management background, he feels, will allow him to have a more positive influence than most over the business side of LUSU, which he believes “sometimes lacks focus.”

While acknowledging that LUSU’s services will now have greater inclusion in the Full Time Officer remit, he intends to give students more of a say over the offerings of the Sugarhouse, the LUSU shops and LUSU living; areas in which he sees no reason why students “can’t be consulted and more involved.”

His philosophy, as an officer, is; “I am elected, therefore I represent. For me it’s very very simple. It’s an idea I want to espouse amongst all student officers.”

LUSU Full Time Officer Elections 2013: The Candidate Interviews

LUSU President continued

JOEL PULLAN



- Will focus on campus accommodation rent inflation and the impact on welfare

- LUSU can be "inward looking" and needs to speak to students

Third year Cartmel College student Joel Pullan cites his passion for all areas of the Students' Union; "From LUSU Involve International Opportunities trips to on campus socials, events and campaigns on issues that matter", as his motivation for running to be the next LUSU President.

His heavy involvement in the Union, as former Cartmel College President and current Cross Campus Officer for Education, has helped him realise that "it is LUSU which makes the biggest difference to students' time at University."

As well as this, he sits on University Council and the Senate,

leaving him with an understanding of the University and the Union that is "unrivalled."

"Without a good understanding of how LUSU works, I do not feel you can set the political direction of our Union... people must place their trust in the candidate they feel can best do the job. I feel that candidate is myself."

If elected, Joel Pullan intends to place his focus on "3 strands of issues." In particular, Pullan wishes to address campus accommodation rent inflation, and is resolved to ensure that students' welfare is "paramount" as they face the burden of £30k+ debt and "huge rent bills."

He also believes that LUSU must pay full attention to the University strategy, and keep "the best interests of our students" at the heart of any strategic movement by the University.

From a more personal perspective, Joel identifies the new structure of the Full Time Officer team as something of importance, and pledges to "support the officers... and ensure that any teething problems are dealt with effectively and with minimal disruption."

"Without a good understanding of how LUSU works, I do not feel you can set the political direction"

When asked how LUSU could be better advertised as a body of student representation, Pullan praised the existing methods of communication but criticised LUSU as often being "too inward looking, without going out and speaking to students."

"We come out with our own

opinions and our own facts that students aren't aware of, and there does need to be quite a shift from that sort of mentality."

With regards to dealing with the University on student issues, Pullan believes that the existing channels, such as University Council for "the big issues", and the Senate for Academic issues, are the best forums to do so.

However, he stressed that students "should not be afraid to approach the university themselves without using these channels." When asked to elaborate, he cited current Vice-President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) Rosalia O'Reilly's campaign to improve the University counselling service, which encouraged students to sign postcards to the University, as "an effective way of challenging the University from a grassroots level."

Pullan emphasised his desire to "fight for students' rights and wellbeing", and cites the opportunity to "make a real difference to the students of Lancaster University" as his sole motivator.

Vice President (Union Development)

Interviews by Annie Gouk | Bailrigg FM interviews Tuesday Week 7 6pm

SAM HALE



- Key issue is to "open up LUSU so its democratic processes aren't just for those in the know"

- Wants to ensure LUSU is a "campaigning union" making use of alumni

For Sam Hale, "the role of Union Development ticks all the right boxes." He has sat on the LUSU Trustee Board for the last eight months, and has also served on the Board for the British Youth Council for two years. In addition, he is a Governor for a local school in Lancaster - a role that he "thoroughly enjoy[s]."

His role on the Trustee Board is "more of a governance role rather than a practical role, but certainly you get to learn what the priorities are of LUSU in the long run, and as an officer you then know how to act to them and get the best for students."

The key issue for Hale were he to

be elected is to "open up LUSU so its democratic processes aren't just applicable for those in-the-know," adding: "The needs of the students come first, and internal bureaucracy shouldn't stand in their way."

He would also like to work closely with the VP (Campaigns and Communications) to ensure that LUSU is "a campaigning union, and that it truly reflects student priorities. There are a number of unsavoury deals taking place at the University that students are not happy with - we should be there to ensure that they are heard."

Hale believes he has experience to fulfil the alumni relations section of the role: "I'm the chair of

the most active political society here on campus, and a large part of that is engaging with our alumni, making sure they come back for events."

He ties together his plans for alumni relations with his earlier comments about making LUSU "a campaigning union" to say that he would "engage the alumni in these campaigns that we're running to see what they can bring to the table. It wouldn't be a case of ringing up all the alumni. Rather, for example a former SCAN Editor now works for an MP in Manchester - we can use that as a contact. We should be able to use these alumni for campaigning gains. We've got them in high places, we should use that to our advantage."

In terms of the JCRs and Postgraduate Board, another key focus of the role, Hale says that he would like to see more people getting engaged in actually running. "I'd like to see a lot more people standing for the positions on the JCR exec and the Postgraduate Board, purely because it's difficult to find a mandate when you were elected unop-

posed." As for how he will achieve this, he suggests making it clear what the JCR is actually doing by making them open and transparent.

"I want to make the Union a better place for the students - one where students feel we do make a difference, their voices are being heard and we are campaigning for"

Ultimately, were Hale to be elected, it would be a case of "opening up LUSU. I'm not on about deregulating everything, but not making the bureaucracy of LUSU a hindrance of students who want to get their voices heard."

"I want to make the Union a better place for the students - one where students feel we do make a difference, their voices are being heard and that we are campaigning for issues that matter."

Vice President (Union Development) continued

LAURENCE PULLAN



- Aims to build on the social activities the Union offers
- Keen to alter the democratic structures of the Union to help students contribute

Laurence Pullan told SCAN that it was “an easy decision” for him to run for Vice President (Union Development). He listed his experience; he has held two JCR positions including President of Pendle College and two cross-campus officer positions – media and socials. “As a result,” he said, “I am well practised in chairing meetings, organising popular college and cross-campus events and I’ve sat on many meetings, providing a voice for the students I represent.”

The role of Union Development is a new one, and Pullan feels it is “great... trying to get more people involved in the union, which is obviously a positive step forward.”

A key part of the new role’s remit is relations between LUSU, the JCR executives, and the Postgraduate (PG) Board. In general, Pullan feels that JCRs and the PG Board already have strong support from Full Time Officers, as well as an amount of autonomy. However, one area he feels he can contribute positively to is JCR finances.

He said: “It’s always a case that JCRs under-spend. Over spending is not so much of an issue, but at the end of every year you will have JCRs that have money left, and sometimes quite significant amounts of money – I’ve been guilty of that with being Pendle president, I know what it’s like

when you have money left in the pot and you don’t know what to spend it on. There needs to be some more guidance from full time officers to encourage the wise spending of money.”

Alumni relations is also an important part of the role. Pullan is keen to invite alumni back for networking events: “We should roll out to all the colleges the chance for alumni from different colleges to come and be able to network with current students from the college. Even in societies and things like that, alumni from different big societies can always come impart some knowledge to try and encourage as many people to get involved in the union as possible.”

One of the key issues for Pullan, were he to get elected, would be building on the social activities the Union offers. He is also particularly keen to alter the democratic structures of the Union “to make it easier for the average student to get involved in meetings and contribute.” He added: “I know the byelaws, I know the constitution, I know what might need changing

and what works.”

“I have vast experience and knowledge in the Union”

Pullan was also keen to emphasise developing on the training provided to officers. In addition to the existing Winter Officer Conference and Big Officer Conversation, he described a desire for “things like summits and conferences where JCRs and societies can contribute more, they can share best practice, they can have summits where societies show other societies what’s worked and what hasn’t and same with JCRs and officers”

What is his unique selling point? “My passion. I have vast experience and knowledge in the Union, I know how it operates on a day-to-day basis and I have firm belief in my capabilities. However, my passion for the Union and for any role and position I have held is what drives me to do better. You can never underestimate enthusiasm.”

LUKE TOWNSEND



- Emphasises finance and ensuring JCRs get the information and support they need
- Feels communication with JCRs and PG Board can be improved

Finance is the key issue for Luke Townsend, who has been the treasurer of Furness JCR. “There’s not enough communication [on the] finance side of things at all. I don’t think I ever had a meeting with any of the other treasurers, I don’t think I ever spoke to a LUSU officer while I was a treasurer.”

In particular, he said, the information from the systems that are currently used would be an area of focus for him. “The system is fine, but the information you get is always so far behind. So, to just keep a record of everything and be up to date and be able to say to a JCR: you’ve got this much money,

have you thought about what you’re going to spend it on, do you some ideas, do you want some help, do you want to look at what deals we can do with you?”

While Townsend was very keen to discuss his financial ideas, he points out that he has plenty of other ideas and experience; he has also held three executive positions within the Squash society. “Everything I did wasn’t [just] about money, it was about helping out with events, helping out with whatever. Almost 70-80% of the role was being a JCR officer, it wasn’t about the treasury side. I believe that anyone who has spent time on the JCR – it equips you

massively for the future, whether it’s as a LUSU officer, or going into a job and being able to work as part of a team.”

In terms of the Alumni component of the Union Development role, he discussed holding events: “I think it’s very important to incorporate alumni with the union. They are a massive part of the University and seeing as they’ve spent a lot of time here there’s a lot we can get back from them as well, so it can be a very two way kind of relationship. Specifically, addressing specific events for alumni is definitely worth looking into.”

“I believe this is, and still will be one of the best universities around; for this we need a Students’ Union that is ready to engage in progress”

As for JCR and Postgraduate Board relations, another key area of the role, Townsend doesn’t “think the support from LUSU is as much as it could be.” In particular, he feels communication can be improved. “I know there’s meetings and sub-committees and so on that happen, but the communication between LUSU and the JCRs could be a lot stronger.”

“For example the student union puts on events, large events, when the colleges might be putting on other stuff. We found, when I was on the JCR, we found that LUSU would give us stuff at the last minute and try and make us sell stuff at the last minute, which is not good for the JCRs.”

Townsend wants to “see the true potential of Lancaster University exposed.”

He continued: “I believe this is, and still will be one of the best universities around; for this we need a Students’ Union that is ready to engage in progress and development. I believe I am the person to make a difference.”

LUSU Full Time Officer Elections 2013: The Candidate Interviews

Vice President (Campaigns and Communications)

Interviews by Emma Nelson | Bailrigg FM interviews Thursday Week 7 6pm

JORDAN FINNERAN

- Aims to “refresh, re-energize and redesign” LUSU communications

- Wants integration of Pocket Lancaster and HQ event system as well as e-ticketing in app

Holding numerous positions within LUSU and student media, Jordan Finneran feels that his unique selling point is that he has “experienced LUSU from nearly all sides”.

Finneran has worked for LUSU as Fylde JCR Publicity Officer in 2011, CCO Communications in 2012 and Fylde JCR Communications Officer in 2012. He has worked with LUSU as part of the Photography society – he is their Publicity Officer – and as a member of the student media, editing, operating and presenting for LA1:TV and working as a SCAN photographer.

He states that this experience allows him “to pinpoint which areas

that need help, and how to be most effective in ensuring that each society and relevant group achieve their individual aims and objectives.”

Finneran told SCAN that his main objective for the role would be to “refresh, re-energize and redesign the way LUSU communicates and promotes itself to current and prospective students”, adding that “I think that people are becoming very poster-blind.” As well as wanting to redesign the LUSU website, Finneran also wants to communicate better with students during vacations and re-developing how we communicate with prospective students by introducing a Freshers’ website to

promote what students can do here.

Focus was placed on integrating the content of the three medias into a LUSU media portal. He assured that “we can maintain the separate media identities and just bring together their content into one amazing multimedia site where it’s really accessible and really easy.”

Finneran also stated “I’d like to integrate the log in pocket Lancaster and HQ, the LUSU event system that we all use, all into one system so you can see what’s going on in your college, what’s going on in your favourite bar”, as well as developing a way to buy e-tickets for events via the app to boost student involvement in events and socials.

Finneran feels that his experience as Fylde Publicity Officer would well equip him for the role’s joint responsibility for elections. He stated: “we had the most successful election Fylde’s ever seen, with 37 candidates standing. We also had one of the highest voting turnouts as well out of all the colleges.” He tells SCAN that this was done through a number of ways, which he would look to rep-

licate as VP Campaigns and Communications, such as translating posters in different languages to engage international students.

“Experienced LUSU from nearly all sides”

He also wants to re-energise the election promotion, “I think it’s best that we get out the election information earlier for elections, but we also get it out in a multimedia sense, not just a Facebook status or poster that says vote.” He would also look at compiling an election booklet, which would act as a guide to elections.

Finneran suggested that the biggest issues he would be faced with is “the public appearances side of things, as public speaking is one of my weaker skills.”

He added that “This said, I’m working hard to improve this and can only get better with practice. I know there will be a steep learning curve, however I look forward to challenges.”

RACHEL HARVEY

- Feels experience as LUSU VP (Media & Comms) is “invaluable”

- Her creative skills have been shown in work with campaigns such as the counselling service

Rachel Harvey is currently working as VP Media and Communications, and has had prior experience working with the student media as SCAN Editor this year and also previously acting as Assistant Manager and Station Manager at Bailrigg FM.

She described the experience she has gained this year as “invaluable”, telling SCAN that “it has given me experience with LUSU, the University, JCRs, Department Reps, Student Media and a broad range of students and student groups” allowing her to gain “a very clear understanding of how to work with each group.”

A concern for Harvey was that

the role of an FTO as a political officer had previously been sidelined. She feels that this year, however, the officers have “focused on bringing back the role of an FTO to that of a political representative of the students”, which she feels is an important attribute she would bring to the role next year.

Harvey told SCAN that through her experience within LUSU and the student media she has learnt how better to communicate with students, and suggested that things such as constructing Facebook polls and the forum YourVoice have been successful tools used this year.

Regarding the role’s joint responsibility for elections with

VP Union Development, Harvey suggested that she would work on increasing the student understanding of elections and what the different roles actually entail in order to improve voter turnouts, as well as helping students to understand what LUSU is a whole.

“I started a lot of things that need seeing through another year”

Harvey stated that during her time in office “I wish I had more time to work in campaigns”, for which she views her main skill as her creativity. Harvey suggested that this was displayed through the counselling service campaign, “where I made a massive piece of cardboard into a petition and got students to sign it”, adding that she obtained over 700 signatures by making “something really big and visible that students could see.”

She also told SCAN that in her year in office “I started a lot of things that need seeing through

another year”, such as continuing her work with LUCinema and assisting the transition of SCAN Editor becoming independent from the role of an FTO.

Harvey would also like to build upon ‘Make it in the Media’ and “would like to spend the next year securing it into the fabric of the role of VP Communications and Campaigns.”

She would also like to continue building upon joint student media, “allowing them to keep their own individuality and identity but also help them to use each other’s resources, and let them get to know each other.”

Harvey also told SCAN that she “would love to be a part of Roses 50” and has “big ideas for coverage and build up.”

Regarding the changes in the role of VP Media and Communications to VP Campaigns and Communications, Harvey told SCAN that she has already been adapting and trying to bring in aspects of the role next year, and is “being held back by my current remit, that’s not allowing

Vice President (Education)

Interviews by Lizzie Houghton | Bailrigg FM interviews Friday Week 7 6pm

DANIEL-SEAN HUISMAN



- Pledges to get rid of "unjustifiable" college membership fees
- Plans to run workshops with employers to focus on students graduating with 2:2s or thirds

Employability and fairness underpin Daniel-Sean Huisman's campaign for Vice President (Education). The former Bowland President makes the ambitious claim that he will focus on ensuring current music students "get the degree they are paying for, and if not [I'll] fight for their compensation", a situation he feels would only be fair if music staff lose their jobs and students are effectively taught by "substitute teachers". Fairness also plays a part in another of his campaign pledges: to get rid of college membership fees, which he finds "unjustifiable" on top of the "£9000 a year" paid in tuition fees by most students.

On employability, Huisman wants to address the employment prospects of students graduating with 2:2s or thirds. He plans to run workshops with employers who "are still looking for people who have still got a good degree from a university like Lancaster", and wants to focus particularly on students who "are getting 2:2s, who know they are, they're working hard, they've done all these other brilliant things like JCRs or societies, so I'd like to run workshops just so people can get a bit more information and know that they can still apply for graduate jobs".

Huisman points to past experience in organising em-

ployability events to prove he can be effective in this aim. "As President I ran an employability event in Bowland College," he explains. "I was also pro bono officer for the Law Society, and one of the events I ran as that was employability workshops for prisoners. I think if I can run employability workshops for prisoners I'm pretty sure I can help students."

For all the experience he feels these roles may have given him, Huisman has never held an officer position with a purely education based remit before. As president he did sit on LUSU's Academic Council, but explains: "I did not run for CCO (Cross Campus Officer) Education, the reason being I don't believe CCOs should be a stepping stone to FTO (Full Time Officer). I still wanted to be involved in LUSU and run campaigns, but I wanted to have more of a generic remit."

For those who have taken up an education remit Huisman has plans, though not necessarily new ideas. He wants to reverse the removal of Faculty representatives from LUSU Council, brand-

ing that a "mistake". He also offers the possibility of getting some department representatives onto the decision making body. He wants to increase awareness of the department representative system though is sketchy as to how. Although a fan of the new Department Representative Conference, he did not play an active role in its organisation this year: "I do love the idea of this department rep conference but I think it should be moved to the beginning of the year, so they can go through training, we can tell them [department reps] what they can achieve and then tell them things like - because a lot more will have to come from them - tell them things like email your students."

On the library, Huisman would argue for "more flexible rooms", going from group work spaces in the first two terms to silent study rooms during summer. "I would like to see a better eating space," he adds. "At the moment it's a bit like a dungeon, a cafe in the library would be brilliant: a central place for people to eat and chat so that when they are working they're working."

ELLIE LAWRENCE



- Wants more communication between departments, LUSU and Student Based Services
- Would like to increase awareness of the department rep system

Improving communication is the key to Ellie Lawrence's campaign. For the law student good communication underpins everything she hopes to achieve if elected. She wants to see departments, the Students' Union, and Student Based Service talking more to provide the best service for students: "There is not very many people who speak to all the different departments who are aware of what is going on, and I do think that I can be that central point."

She hopes to put a larger focus on alternative careers, and feels that alumni could be better utilised especially as part of mentoring programmes. She would also like

to see more departments offering credited modules for doing voluntary work. "Even if you did not do a module that is specific to your degree, even if it was more in the realms of volunteering and getting involved in the community, that is always going to add things to your prospects and your skill set."

But she is aware that her first challenge will be communicating to students why they should vote for someone who has never held an elected officer position within the Students' Union.

"I think I have prepared on a very different level to people who may have been CCO or on a JCR," Lawrence explains. "As careers of-

ficer last year, and President this year of the Law Society I feel like I actually have greater access to students. [...] I think there is such an old habit of it being presidents of JCRs going on to be in LUSU: it's important to realise that there are other resources that need to be tapped. I think I've been close to the student body I have gained a lot of ideas and a lot of knowledge."

For Lawrence a major issue is the lack of awareness about the department representative system in the student body. She wants to see more 'standardisation' in electing department reps, and more conversations between representatives and subject societies.

"I think it is again an issue of awareness and I think it needs to be stated who the student reps are: everyone in a department and subject needs to know who their student reps are. Barely anyone knows who their Faculty representative is: some don't even know they exist."

"Communication is always something that needs to be constantly developing, we've just done so much with reps this

years and it's an on-going issue."

Better communication she hopes will prevent department changes, such as those going on in FASS, coming as such a shock to students.

Similarly Lawrence feels there hasn't been enough communication about the library refurbishment to the majority of students. She said: "I think it is really about how students can be involved in that and also stay up-to-date and in the loop, because I don't think a lot of students know what is going on, and what the result is, so I think there needs to be more student input and resources."

To better engage students she wants to draw on her experience as a College of Law representative, especially difficult to reach groups, such as postgraduates and international students.

She feels there needs to be a "real understanding" of the issues faced by both groups: for the former, being as informed about university and careers events as undergraduates are, and for the latter more help in adapting to a different education system.

LUSU Full Time Officer Elections 2013: The Candidate Interviews

Vice President (Education) continued

JOE O'NEILL



- Feels the department rep system needs better leadership

- Committed to making Wednesday afternoons free for students to get involved in activities

Joe O'Neill wants to bring leadership back to Lancaster University Students' Union. Throughout his three years here, and since becoming more involved in the Students' Union he has found a "campus-wide deficit of leadership for students on things that matter to them".

He explains: "Far too often I've heard 'well what's the point? What has LUSU ever done for us?' and to a certain degree it's true. We need to become an organisation that creates change that members can see. That's my real motivation [for running]."

Where O'Neill would like to see a big improvement in the

leadership qualities of LUSU is the, often maligned, department representative system. He cites a lack of engagement with department and faculty representatives this year as one of the reasons why students do not understand or engage with the system, and claims that the representatives he has spoken to have "felt that there has been a lack of leadership from within LUSU, from the currently sitting Vice President (Academic)".

Though quick to point out a lack of leadership in current Vice President (Academic), O'Neill feels consultation would be the best way to decide what changes to make to the system. "I think that

at the moment it would be best for me to sit down with all of the reps, ask them how they think the system works," he says. "Most of them I've spoken to think it isn't working at all and something needs to change. I would have to sit down and speak with them and come up with a more long term plan, alongside both the reps and LUSU staff."

Leadership features in the other big issue for the incoming Vice President (Education): the refurbishment of the library. O'Neill has spoken with some students who sit on the Library Refurbishment Committee, and feels "there needs to be some actual student driven leadership on that".

O'Neill feels he has benefitted from seeing how two completely different departments operate at Lancaster, "much to my mother's annoyance". Having started as a biochemistry student, he is now studying politics. He is the current Cross Campus Officer for Democracy, and chair of the Lancaster University Labour Club, and one of his top priorities is to make

Wednesday afternoons free so others can get involved in activities.

He wants to build on the benefits to students' employment prospects these extracurricular activities can bring by following the example set in recent years by the Make It in the Media events, offering students more general Make It in Work days, featuring CV workshops and speakers from industry. Events like this are important for helping students to better understand their career options he says, as the University often falls short: "People in LICA as being told well you can be a curator or a teacher or stay on and do a masters, [otherwise] there's not a lot of options available."

He is concerned by the current changes to FASS subjects, and the impact they will have on both students and Lancaster University: "I wouldn't ever argue that we should get rid of arts, because otherwise we will just end up with a university that focuses entirely on STEM subjects. It's not good enough: we're a top ten university and we should be looking to have a balanced education."

Vice President (Activities)

Interviews by Steff Brawn | Bailrigg FM interviews Wednesday Week 7 6pm

CATRIONA HAY



- Good events management will be key to making the "biggest home Roses ever"

- Reviewing the Carter Shield will be a key issue for her

Active sportswoman and former female sports representative for Grizedale College Catriona Hay has "been thinking about running for this position since first year". She told SCAN she would like to build upon the experiences she has gained within sport and societies by having this larger responsibility in how clubs are managed and showcased.

Hay feels she has much experience under her belt to prove that she is able to handle leading activities including social positions such as freshers rep for women's rugby and rugby social secretary along with an award for being an

intra-college sports officer.

She has a lot of ideas for societies increasing their members and is very keen on giving people every opportunity to join them by putting things such as lowering membership fees for sport into action as some of these societies charge high membership fees for the use of courts and space to play in.

As aforementioned, Hay feels she has a huge amount of experience in organising social events for the sports teams and this is something she would very much like to bring to Roses for 2014. For its 50th anniversary she would like to have a ball for both Lancas-

ter and York sports teams so that teams can get to know each other better and have a fun time after competing. Having a more social side to Roses is important to Hay because she feels it is a very special historical event to Lancaster and York that we should value and celebrate as much as possible in its 50th year. She stated: "With the biggest home Roses ever, events management will be key so that we can perform well but also that everyone is going to enjoy themselves and have almost a party atmosphere."

As Vice-Captain of the women's rugby team, Hay thinks that she has gained sufficient organisational skills that will help her succeed in carrying out affairs at Campus Festival and the Christmas markets. She told SCAN: "While I was female sports rep for Grizedale, I helped organise Legends Shield 2012 and in my role as vice captain of women's rugby, I've organised our club trip for the Easter break and I've realised that I really enjoy the planning and organising of events and would

like to improve the skills required for it."

"While I was female sports rep for Grizedale, I helped organise Legends Shield 2012 and in my role as vice captain of women's rugby, I've organised our club trip"

Hay feels that the Carter Shield will be a key issue for her: "As inter-college sports officers, Lexi and myself will be having a meeting with the college sport reps to review how the past two terms have gone and whether or not [the Carter Shield] should continue. If it were to continue, then the way it is organised will have to change because the inter-college CCO position is getting scrapped and the Activities CCO will not be in charge of it."

Vice President (Activities) continued

DANIEL KATRI



- Organising Lancaster Bombers' Super Bowl social will help him organise LUSU events

- Wants to establish relations with local clubs outside the University

Daniel Katri believes that he has something to “give back to LUSU after three of the best years of my life here in Lancaster.” Having been both Social Secretary, and President of the Lancaster Bombers, Katri has a clear understanding of the relationship between LUSU and societies, and this past experience has allowed him to step back and consider potential improvements he would like to implement, were he to become next year's VP for Activities. In particular, Katri was eager to express his desire to assist new society execs. “I understand that for new execs the processes they have to go through can be diffi-

cult, and getting to grips with the ins and outs of the system can be tricky,” explains Katri. One idea voiced by Daniel, is the implementing of more accessible training for a society's new exec members. “The training and guidance given to execs is a bit lacking. Most of what I learnt as President, I learnt from the previous exec. Communication between LUSU and societies could be better.”

Katri believes that his previous experiences on a sports team's exec would allow him to successfully make the transition to organising LUSU events such as Campus Fest and the Christmas Market. As social secretary, he was the main organ-

isers for the well-known Lancaster Bombers' Super Bowl social; one of several experiences that Daniel believes will aid him if he were to become Activities VP. “I have a lot of experience organising events, albeit not on this scale,” Katri admits, but went on to reiterate that his dealings with LUSU have given him an insight into the Union, alongside enough outside perspective to bring his own experiences to the fore. “I think that not being part of the inner workings of it, but getting to see it from the other side as President of the American Football team has given me good experience, and has shown me where things could be better.”

On the subject of the 2014 Roses tournament, Katri had a very clear view of what the expectations would be.

“With next year's Roses being the 50th anniversary, it really needs to be something special,” he insists, “I know that it's one of, if not the biggest events that I'd be organising. I want it to be a weekend to remember both on and off of the playing fields.” Katri has had experi-

ence of both home and away Roses, and made it quite clear which he preferred.

“I had a better time last year at home Roses than I did away at York, probably due to not having to sleep in a lecture theatre.”

“The training and guidance given to execs is a bit lacking. Most of what I learnt as President, I learnt from the previous exec”

Katri has also expressed interest in establishing further relations with local club teams outside of the university, such as recent organised trips to watch Aviva Premiership side, Sale Sharks, which Katri attended.

“The Sale game was really good. It was a good experience, and for £6 return you can't really complain. It was a great night, and Sale benefited from it as well.”

DAVID NELSON



- Aims to allocate training slots to teams who have key fixtures coming up

- Would like to incorporate fixtures and results into iLancaster

As a keen sportsman and committed member of the Ultimate Frisbee team, David Nelson believes he would come into the role of VP Activities with a strong and organised perspective on how societies and activity events should be run at Lancaster University. He told SCAN: “Many of the best moments of my time at university have been with my sports team. The experiences I've had, places I visited and friends I've made. I want more people to experience this and be part of a society.” He added that £9000 fees places extra importance on this.

David has not just been part of the Ultimate Frisbee team, but has

also had two years' experience in actively running it. With experience in being captain and treasurer of the society, he feels he has gained many transferrable skills he can bring to the role and affectively use in the organisation of big campus events such as Campus Festival. Nelson has organised both internal and external competitions for the team and so has sound knowledge of the time and effort that goes into effectively carrying out and publicising these events.

He told SCAN about his time spent on an internship in Singapore organising “high level conferences”, about which he said: “I constantly found myself interact-

ing with large multinationals and governments mostly in SE Asia but also in Australia, North America and Europe.” He would like to bring a lot more British culture into the Christmas markets as this is an attractive factor for international students and would be a he feels this would be a good way to bring the university community together.

“I want to use this post to facilitate a higher quality university experience”

A key issue for Nelson would be the way BUCS works at the University. He said: “I'd like some training slots available to give out to sports teams who have up and coming key tournaments or fixtures. Teams can apply for these slots and they will then be allocated on a needs basis. This will help teams to prepare for important matches.” He would also like to look into having close gym time for sports members.

As Roses enters its 50th year

when Lancaster hosts the event next year, Nelson has some big publicity ideas that he feels will help make it the best Roses yet. Nelson would like to incorporate fixtures and results into the iLancaster app; he stated “I think it's important to broadcast more achievements of our sports teams and societies, using methods such as social media to encourage students to not only participate, but watch fixtures.” Additionally, he would like to start publicising sports involvement early in the year.

Nelson stated that he has “passion, experience and approachability. I have thought about being VP actives for a few years now, as I want to use this post to facilitate a higher quality university experience to as many students as possible.” If granted the position, he says he will do everything he can to ensure that clubs and societies have and maintain a strong relationship with LUSU and that as many people become involved as possible to make campus life more exciting and active than it has ever been before.

LUSU Full Time Officer Elections 2013: The Candidate Interviews

Vice President (Activities) continued

EMILY POLLITT



- Experience as Activities CCO has helped her “see first-hand the work done by the Activities office”

- Keen to work on inter-college sport with ideas to restructure it

After leading LUDans through a hugely successful year, President Emily Pollitt believes that she has the necessary abilities and skills to become a successful Activities VP. Having been a society President, as well as Furness Netball B's captain, Pollitt believes that “sports teams, societies, and big events are integral to a fantastic student experience.” She sees the VP for Activities role as integral to that experience, and described herself as “determined to make the positive changes needed to ensure that we [LUSU] give students the greatest possible time at university.”

Pollitt draws upon her experi-

ences with sport and dance, as well as being an Activities CCO, saying that these have allowed her to “see first-hand the work done by the Activities office.” This experience has allowed Pollitt to step back and approach the VP position with her own goals in mind; “I have experienced both positive and negative aspects of sports and societies at Lancaster, and understand the changes that need to be made to help all of our sports clubs and societies.”

With Roses being the key event in any Activities VP calendar, Pollitt once again draws upon experience, particularly her role as CCO, which she claims has allowed her to

“work closely with the current VP Activities on a number of projects.” This has also seen her sit as a member of the Roses Executive, which has given her insight into the organisation that goes into the tournament, which she emphasises again as “a cherished part of our student life.” Pollitt believes that her past experiences in organising society events will aid her in the potential planning of this massive event. She also expressed desire to make the planning of the next home Roses a far more integrated affair, with input from various societies as well as sports teams.

“[I] understand the changes that need to be made to help all of our sports clubs and societies”

When asked about the expanded remit for Activities, to include the organising and running of events such as Campus fest and the Christmas Market, Pollitt was eager to point out her enthusiasm for the

roles new responsibilities. “rather than feel daunted by the larger remit,” she told SCAN, “I can see how the various aspects can work together to create events that have more student input, and clubs and societies that feel equally valued.”

One aspect of the Lancaster experience that Pollitt is especially keen to work on is inter-college sport, especially the Carter Shield. Although an eager fan of what the Carter Shield represents, Pollitt believes that it “doesn’t achieve what it should.”

In response to this, Pollitt went on to outline various restructures, which if elected, she would like to implement upon the campus wide competition. These included the integration of better funding, bigger events in the calendar, as well as the possibility of moving a large portion of the competition to the summer term, with the purpose of providing, as Pollitt says, “a respite from revision and exams whilst maintaining the friendly college rivalry that can inspire people to take part in inter college sport.”

ELLIE SUTHERLAND



- Wants a large publicity drive for 50th Roses, hosting an event with student media input

- Aims to reduce the difficulties in starting a new society

After being involved in both LUSU and the Women's Rugby Union club as captain, Ellie Sutherland says that she wants to “give something back.” She has a desire to continue to make sure societies and clubs remain happy and successful and believes she can confidently deal with any problems people may have within them. She is excited about working with people in the activities office to make events like Campus Festival and Christmas markets “as successful as they have been in recent years” and also wants to gain more student opinion about what should happen in these events and students desire for things like Graduation Ball.

Sutherland has a notable involvement in sport and she feels this is a unique selling point for her especially when it comes to organising Roses. She has developed both her teamwork and organisation skills through being Sports Secretary at her college and feels she has been successful in raising awareness of the Carter Shield competition. Additionally her role in the Carter Shield involved her being an Inter College Sports Officer which she thinks has given her very good negotiation skills.

Of this experience, she said: “I feel this demonstrates my ability to work with many different people, a quality that I see as being impor-

tant for this job role. I also show great commitment to anything I become involved in, and again, I feel this is essential to the job role. I have also demonstrated the ability to work under pressure and to time manage very well with commitments I have had over the last year. I am known to many groups already within the university and feel that I have developed good working relationships with them.”

Sutherland is determined to give Roses a “large publicity drive” for the 50th anniversary of Roses next year, with the method of using big posters like last year and getting as much coverage as possible within the university. She would also like to host a large event “with input from SCAN, Bailrigg FM and LA1:TV,” adding: “I would like to see interviews with players, members and supporters throughout the lead up to the weekend and the weekend itself.”

The key issues for Sutherland if elected will be communication between clubs and societies, which can be “improved upon”. Additionally, she wants to reduce the

“difficulty sometimes experienced by students when trying to set up new societies”, as well as placing increased focus on the big events.

“I am known to many groups already within the university and feel that I have developed good working relationships with them”

One of the most challenging things Sutherland sees about the role is the amount of pressure and organisation that comes into job, but she feels that she has gained sufficient skills to deal with these pressures calmly and effectively.

As for what she aims to get out of the position overall, Sutherland stated that she “hopes to be involved with setting up new societies and helping others thrive and meet their full potential.”

Vice President (Welfare & Community)

Interviews by Catherine Chorley | Bailrigg FM interviews Monday Week 7 6pm

BECKY COOK



- Wants to create an anonymous messaging service online

- Aims to promote the ethos of community within the individual colleges

Current Pendle College Vice President (Welfare and Community) and former JCR Women's Welfare Officer Becky Cook is passionate and enthusiastic about working within the remit of Welfare and Community to help her fellow students and encourage them to help others.

"I love doing welfare, and I love helping people. I can't imagine working in a job without supporting people or helping people," Cook explained.

Cook's approach is multi-faceted: she aims to promote the ethos of community within the individual colleges, across the university as a whole, and in such a

way as to reach out to Lancaster locals and improve their perception of Lancaster University students.

In advocating a shared responsibility for welfare and community, Cook hopes that students will experience a greater sense of belonging and feel less isolated should they experience any problems whilst away from home. She has specific ideas regarding the difficulties individuals face in asking for help, and suggests that one possible solution, about which she has already begun consulting and canvassing student opinion, would be to establish an anonymous online contact form for students wishing to seek help and advice without seeing a Stu-

dents' Union officer face-to-face:

"One thing that I really want to do is engage those students who aren't engaged - help those who don't want to be found, who are sitting alone dealing with their problems without anyone to talk to.

"Welfare should be the foundation of everything we do at Lancaster"

"They're very hard to contact... they're not the people who reply to emails asking, 'Are you OK?'" What I really want to do is create a properly anonymous messaging service online so they can make contact and be signposted to services such as the Counselling Service, or get information about what they can do."

Cook aspires to motivate other students to engage with the local community by volunteering and becoming more involved with local charities. Having worked for the British Heart Foundation and Barnardo's herself, Cook believes that

encountering other people's adverse situations motivates an individual to become involved in helping others and promotes a higher welfare standard across a community. She believes that connecting with individual students on a personal level as a Union officer would be "difficult, yet achievable", and well worth the effort.

Determination and tenacity are qualities that Cook believes will serve her well in tackling the University about issues that may prove difficult or controversial. She also advocates the notion of "positive welfare," which emphasises the benefits of looking out for yourself and your fellow students rather than simply proscribing certain inevitable behaviours.

Cook encapsulated this idea with the following: "Welfare should be the foundation of everything we do at Lancaster, and should enable students to get the most out of their life here. Welfare should be the first consideration for everything LUSU does, but it should enable amazing things to happen, not restrict creativity."

TOM FOX



- Personal experience has motivated him to be involved with improving student welfare

- Primary concern is access to communication networks

As the current Publicity Officer for Lancaster Nightline and Cross Campus Officer (CCO) Welfare, Tom Fox believes that he has a wealth of experience to use in the capacity of the Vice President (Welfare and Community).

Speaking about his own time at university, Fox cited a difficult first year as one of the main reasons why he is keen to deal with issues of student welfare. He related how his personal experiences motivated him towards his current involvement with student welfare, saying, "I didn't have a great first year...and I think that definitely helped me decide that I don't want people to have to expe-

rience that when they go to university." He also explained that his service as CCO Welfare opened his eyes to many issues that otherwise he might not have encountered:

"When I became CCO Welfare there were a lot of issues that were opened up to me...especially while I was campaigning [...] As a student, you can't always see every issue. People have to open up to you, and I think that's a benefit of becoming a CCO."

Fox's work for Nightline also spurred him on to become involved with student welfare as a CCO, and he now looks to a LUSU sabbatical position to immerse himself further still in the work to better students'

Lancaster experiences. He would like to work closely with other LUSU officers to address the integration of International students, which is an issue he feels has benefitted from the positive work of previous officers and can be better still addressed now that the remit of each officer's role has been altered for the forthcoming year.

Students' access to communication networks is a primary concern for Fox. The recent issue with the removal of internal telephones from student bedrooms is one Fox believes represents the inefficacy of limited student consultation on issues that readily impact upon the student experience.

By working with the University, Fox would aim to "ensure that [its] recent proposal to remove phones is done in a manner that does not affect the welfare or safety of any student on campus."

This is just one area of University policy that Fox highlights to illustrate how he would go about approaching the University in such a way as to represent student concerns and ensure that stu-

dents' opinions are not overlooked in the implementation of new policies and procedures.

He is committed to making sure that "any changes [the University] says [it] will make are actually implemented."

"It's about making sure that we speak out and are heard, and we don't just let [the University] do things [...] It's also about letting them know that we are not just individual students"

Fox adds, "It's about making sure that we speak out and are heard, and we don't just let [the University] do things [...] It's also about letting them know that we are not just individual students, but are representatives of the entire student body, who deserve to be heard."

LUSU Full Time Officer Elections 2013: The Candidate Interviews

Vice President (Welfare & Community) continued

TAPI NXELE



- Particularly keen on internationalisation as he is an international student

- Wants to launch a campaign focused on responsible drinking

An established record of welfare-oriented roles is a core basis upon which Tapi Nxele is building his campaign to be elected as the next Vice President (Welfare and Community).

Nxele believes that, with the name and remit of the Students' Union officer changing from Equality, Welfare and Diversity to Welfare and Community for 2013, there will be an even greater capacity for collaborative efforts between officers whose remits overlap. In particular, he is keen to work closely with the Vice President (Union Development) and make internationalisation a key objective of the Union. In outlining his previous experience

in the areas of both student welfare and internationalisation, Nxele expressed his belief that his engagement with the Union's representation system has systematically led him to run for the role of a full-time officer this year.

Nxele stated: "Internationalisation is something I'm particularly keen on. I'm an international student and I've grown up in a very broad culture [...] I realise that...a lot of people may have just grown up in the same village or the same town or the same city, and...may not have necessarily been exposed to people from different cultures, so that's something that I've always been quite interested in."

In order to encourage students to become better integrated within the wider Lancaster community, Nxele expressed a wish to work closely with the Vice President (Education) in order to encourage greater student involvement in local school, as well as other community activities. He emphasised that not only is this good for a student's curriculum vitae, it is also a good way to "get in touch with a community."

"I hope to get another year of meeting people and helping them out"

He also committed himself to continuing the efforts of his predecessor, whom he said has done a "fantastic job" this year both in sustaining campaigns that extend beyond the term of any single officer – such as the 'Easy Tiger' safe-drinking campaign – and in raising awareness of new concerns such as the Counselling Service. Nxele reports that he has many campaign ideas that he hopes will continue

these efforts as well as highlighting other aspects about which he has concerns.

Responsible drinking is something about which Nxele is clearly very passionate. His attitude is simple: "It's good to be able to remember your night." Nxele hopes to launch a campaign entitled 'Stay classy; stay safe' in order to promote the need for awareness when it comes to watching how much you drink and remaining in contact with friends whilst on a night out. Specifically, Nxele hopes to facilitate students' free Wi-Fi access in The Sugarhouse so that party-goers can contact their friends via social media should they become separated and be unable to get a network signal to call or text.

Nxele anticipates a year of positive experiences if he were to be elected. He summarises his hopes with the following: "I hope to get another year of meeting people and helping them out as best I can. [...] If I can channel my personality and character into doing some good for the student body then that is all for the better."

JOSIE O'GORMAN



- Wants to improve LUSU Living in areas such as response times

- Believes in better student integration and interaction with the wider public

Josie O'Gorman has a clear strategy in mind for establishing what she would like to achieve if given the chance to have a year in office as Vice President (Welfare and Community).

She believes that the changes in the remit of the role allow a focused, methodical approach to issues affecting students' welfare, cohesion as a campus community, and integration with the wider local community.

With this in mind, O'Gorman has a clearly-defined agenda encompassing aspects of welfare and community, and the issues that arise when the two overlap.

O'Gorman identifies student

housing as the area she would be most keen to tackle in the forthcoming year were she to be elected. Describing LUSU Living as a "great resource", O'Gorman explained that she would hope to improve the service for off-campus students further, for example by addressing the length of response times to students' housing problems.

The areas identified by O'Gorman as most pertinent to students' accommodation welfare are based on her awareness of the experiences of her peers throughout their time at Lancaster. She explained: "You hear a lot of stories from students across campus about how their Internet access has been cut off for

several weeks, [or experiencing] problems with electric and gas [...] If students don't have the right living conditions at home then it's ultimately going to impact on their overall academic performance."

One initiative O'Gorman proposes to tackle the issues faced by off-campus students is to have a dedicated office hour each week, during which students could come to her specifically for advice on housing issues and for access to appropriate resources. She believes that a crucial area of student support that is currently being overlooked is the information students are given to prepare them for the experience of moving off-campus.

She links this idea with her belief in better student integration, both in terms of on- and off-campus residents, and with regard to interaction with the wider public. In this way, O'Gorman hopes to bring the areas of welfare and community together under the new remit of the officer role. She identifies events run in the past that have been applicable to students and members of the public alike, and references

the recent Vagina Monologues production, in which she was heavily involved, as an example of how hosting events in the City Centre can increase the prominence of the work undertaken by students within the wider local community.

"Taking student campaigns from strength to strength"

Josie O'Gorman has a great many ideas about "taking student campaigns from strength to strength in 2013 and 2014." She believes that it is important to rely not only on social media but also on an active presence, such as in Alexandra Square, where students can see "visual displays of campaigns" and talk to their officers face-to-face. Her intention is to carry on the important work implemented through the Counselling Service and Easy Tiger campaigns, as well as "challenging perceptions about mental health" and addressing "overarching student welfare issues."

CAROLYNNE

CULTURE FASHION FEATURES LIFESTYLE

THE STATE OF THE ARTS

CAROLYNNE

CULTURE

DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR SOPHIE BARRETT REPORTS FROM THE SUGARHOUSE'S V-DAY CELEBRATIONS – P. 20

SIMON JAMES REVIEWS THE MASSIVE UNI-BRASS EVENT, ONE OF THE BIGGEST EVENTS ON THE MUSICAL CALENDAR – P. 26

DEPUTY CULTURE EDITOR LUCY SMALLEY IS IMPRESSED BY UWE WITTMER'S SHOW AT ABBOT HALL IN KENDAL – P. 23

FEATURES

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HAYLEY SCHUBERT FALLS HEAD OVER HEELS FOR A HANDSOME ITALIAN DISH NAMED MARCO – P. 35

ALICE YOUNG TALKS TO OPEN EYES, OPEN MIND, CAMPUS' NEWEST MENTAL HEALTH SOCIETY – P. 35

FASHION

SARAH WARSAW WONDER'S WHY THERE'S SO MUCH FUSS OVER TREND-SETTING FASHION BLOGS – P. 36

PUNS AHOY IN OUR FIFTY TRENDS OF GRAY MEN'S FASHION COLUMN – P. 38

FASHION EDITOR LAURA DEMPSTER IS BITTEN BY THE DISCO BUG AND THE ONLY CURE IS SHINY PANTS – P. 39

WELCOME TO CAROLYNNE

This week's SCAN is ostensibly about the upcoming LUSU elections. And rightly so. Read the news section this week. It's big. Thousands of SCAN members spent millions of hours compiling interviews with the candidates this week, sending the poor volunteers into pure democracy-induced madness. The bodies of comatose SCAN journalists lie scattered across campus, pumped full of energy drinks, mumbling LUSU bye-laws in the sleep. All to bring you the good stuff, so you can make an informed decision who you want to represent you, and who you want to make the decisions that matter.

But there's another thing that's grabbed everyone's attention this week – music. And that's mainly because it hasn't involved any of the above themes – democracy. Representation. Consultation about decisions that matter. The music department is closing, the University didn't ask anyone about it, and they couldn't care less that music students have those go-damned-9k-fees to study in a ghost of a department for three years. Music doesn't matter. Move along.

Annie Gouk's article on the closure of the departments (see page 31) sees the closure as part of a wider cultural problem, and she's right. There's an assumption that the arts are unnecessary in times of economic strife, as if they were luxuries that we can just afford to dispose of when we're struggling.

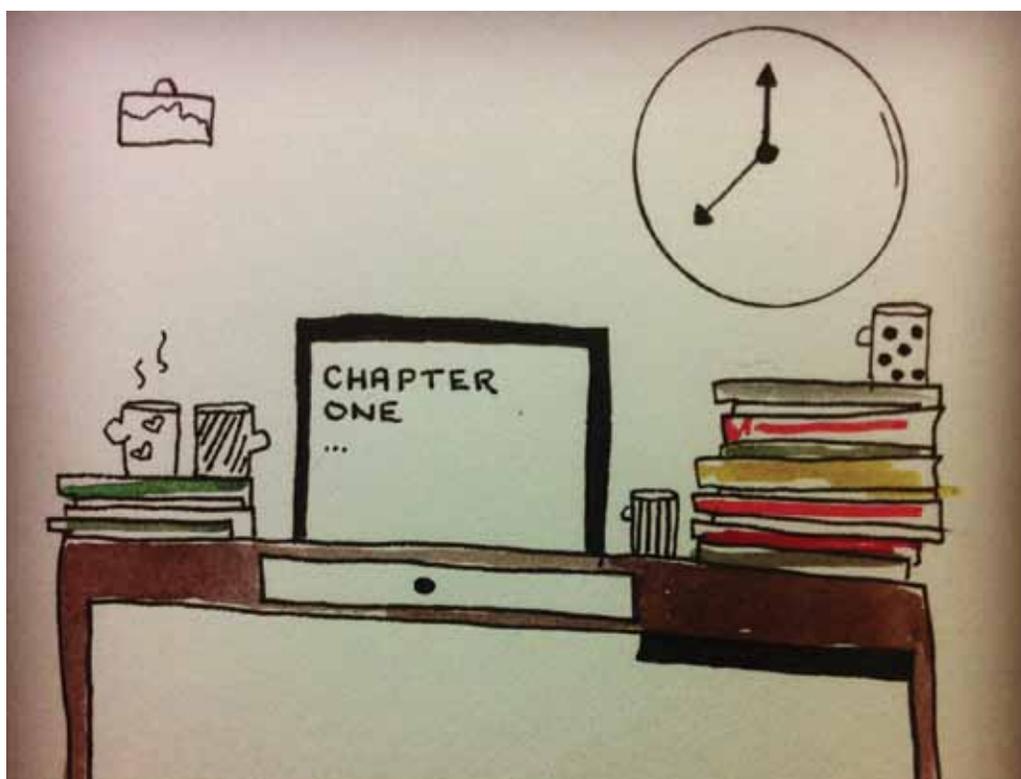
But that's clearly not true – music is nothing short of a necessity. Because what are we without it? Music does things. It works in weird ways, and it's that that makes it so powerful, because only people who spent years studying it actually grasp its true power. This culture is dominated by the visual, and so something as conceptual as music just seems so... impossible. I mean, really, what is music? It's just a load of bizarrely shaped bits of brass making weird farty sounds. But put lots of those weird bits of metal together, have some people scrape a bow on some cat cuts, and get a bloke to stand around and thump bits of metal, and it does things! Small things, like making the hair on your neck stand up, like putting an inexplicable lump in your throat. Big things, like leading people to war. Huge things, like starting revolutions!

And ultimately it's this that's probably resulted in the department's closure. Rather than make the effort to fix what was a slowly deteriorating degree scheme (by looking at teaching, tuition, module choices, A-Level requirements and the like), the University has seen it as a department that it can't understand (because it doesn't deal with, like, numbers). And something that it can't understand has the potential to be subversive.

So if you care (you should), stand up, get involved, play some music, and start a revolution.

JESS OLIVER'S ILLUSTRATED TWEET OF THE WEEK

#DISSERTATIONWOES



LIVE AT LICA - THE BEATS AND PIECES BAND



STEFF BRAWN
DEPUTY CULTURE EDITOR

No matter how many genres and styles of music you've been lucky enough to experience, there is nothing quite like the sound of a live big band. The power, the impact, the colourful orchestration and perhaps most importantly, the infectious smiles and finger clicking that spreads across the room. Although variations on the big band setup such as jazz ensembles and saxophone groups have made their way into the Live at LICA programme at Lancaster University, the treat of a professional big band has been a rarity, but that as all about to change as the Beats and Pieces Big Band graced the Great Hall stage to kick off a February full of tasty musical flavours.

With many prizes to their name including the Jazz FM award for Best Newcomer of 2013, there were high expectations within the audience and from note one the team of fourteen did not disappoint. The band kicked things off extremely energetically and what was most notable from the off was the amount of enthusiasm that was on display; which is of course what truly makes a great performance. From flugelhorn solos to Radiohead covers, it was clear that Beats and Pieces were not afraid to be experimental and were far from being one of those typical big bands who play an endless series of swing and rat pack hits. They flawlessly pulled off an array of styles and filled the first half with a bunch of surprises. The most outstand-

ing pieces included "Anymore" which was the moment in the spotlight for the unique sound of the flugelhorn and the phenomenal "Tone" which included a screaming soprano saxophone solo from the talented and expressive Sam Healey and some excellent interweaving parts from the brass.

The interval came far too soon after a stunning first half but during the break I was lucky enough to speak to band leader Ben Cottrell and saxophonist Sam Healy who both chatted to me about the band's experience since they got together in 2008. They were both extremely happy about receiving the Jazz FM award and are now keen to spread their fan base across Europe now that they are on tour. Based on the contagious energy that had reached the audience here in Lancaster, that will undoubtedly happen for them and I hope to hear more news on their successes when they return to Lancaster for the jazz festival in September.

There was lots of excitement and adrenaline pumping for the second half and once again a stack of fantastic original tunes given to an audience who were left catching flies. Some of the highlights of this set were the interesting use of electronic equipment which had briefly been used in the first half but to much more effect later on and the tune "Broken" which from start to finish was a complexly arranged piece full of colour and richness that included an awesome solo from saxophonist Anthony Brown who was more into soothing and calmer solos in comparison to some of the other players. This piece ended the concert

before a much needed and wanted encore but it's safe to say that we'd happily welcome this superb team of musicians back to our stage again and again after a performance that left you tingling with joy.

'THERE WAS LOTS OF EXCITEMENT AND ADRENALINE PUMPING FOR THE SECOND HALF AND ONCE AGAIN A STACK OF FANTASTIC ORIGINAL TUNES'

During the interval, a comment from ULMS President Chris Langford was put forward to me and is perhaps the best way to describe what truly stood out about this group and that was that "they're a big band but they play like a small group".

At the same time as having the powerful sound that every big band should have they were able to show that it's not all about that. Beats and Pieces equally had so much control and composure and everything was orchestrated to fit specific players so well that they were able to conquer unimaginable styles for this sort of instrumental set up. A huge spark had been lit by this wonderful band in the Great Hall and they're sure to be the talk of Live at LICA for weeks to come.

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

SOPHIE BARRETT REVIEWS ONE OF THE SUGARHOUSE'S MORE UNUSUAL EVENTS

The Vagina Monologues is an episodic play written by Eve Ensler; a corner-stone of the V-Day project, which works to benefit rape and domestic abuse crisis centres for women. The global campaign against violence towards women is, this year, branded and conceptualized as 'One Billion Rising.' This concept is inspired by dance; an art form which enables women to use their bodies freely and take up space. This is a metaphor for women's demand to take a stand against abuse.

'THE HILARIOUS MONOLOGUES UN-REPRESSIVELY CELEBRATED THE DESIROUS NATURE OF WOMEN'

Head Director, Sam Aldridge, informed me that two hundred and three countries are rising towards a future in which the female sex will not be subject to abuse; ranging from violence and domestic abuse to circumcision. One in three women are physically or sexually abused within their lifetime. The monologues provide interview accounts of women's harrowing experiences, but also positive and humorous appeals to women's sexuality. This encourages an un-repressed and liberating attitude towards women's sexuality and, parallel to this, an explicit anger towards the miss-treatment of this sexuality. The money raised by Lancaster University's campaign will be split, so that ninety percent benefits the Lancaster District's Women's Aid, with the other ten percent aiding the V-Day campaign.

The monologues were inspirational, humbling and brutal. The entire female cast provided an outlet for the suppressed and concerned; amalgamating into a performance which was angry, screaming, and desirous of positive change.



'THE CONSTANT FLITTING BETWEEN HORROR AND HUMOUR DID NOT TRIVIALISE THE EXTREMITY OF THE ABUSIVE CASE-STUDIES, BUT RATHER JUXTAPOSED WHAT WOMEN'S SEXUALITY OUGHT TO BE'

Empowering and, most importantly, legitimizing of female pleasure and expressed sexuality, the performance focused on allowing and encouraging sexual freedom – one that is not abused or horrified by mistreatment. Gender-equal, and, as Sam Aldridge insisted, not at all 'men-hating', the performance focuses on homosexual, transgender and heterosexual relationships. This inclusivity and political correctness pleads for a modernized and 21st century outlook towards the status of women, and abhors those who abuse the idea of gender-equality. When asked if the campaign had received support, Sam Aldridge replied that the Feminist Society, Lancaster University's library and the Sugar House had been extremely accommodating, but that they had been met with some sexist attitudes. I would like to stress, alongside the director, that the Vagina Monologues are expressive of gender-equality, and are attacking of events in which this equality has been compromised.

Performed in Lancaster's Sugarhouse, a small stage did not appear restrictive, but instead emphasized the close-ness as well as intensity of all the woman involved, who were striving as a community to support and inspire change. My Vagina Was My Village, a monologue compiled from the testimonies of Bosnian women subjected to rape camps, was intensely powerful, explicit and horrifying – a testimony to the damage of female sexual organs, which are essentially defining and representative of female freedom, pleasure and uniqueness. By stripping away the essence of femininity, and leaving a horror (described a black fishing wire sewn around a dead animal) behind, women are left without a sexual future, nor-be-it any normal or unscarred emotional future.

Women's rights to be sexually liberated, to not have to apologize for female sexuality and be punished by abuse, was emphasized by the hilarity of monologues which un-repressively celebrated the desirous nature of women. The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy told

of a sex-worker who pleased women; allowing both an outlet for self-pleasure as well as the opportunity to encourage women to be sexually selfish, and not shy away from desire.

The range of orgasms celebrated at the end included the 'Harry Potter Orgasm', and 'Gavin and Stacy Orgasm', both of which inspired peals of laughter, especially Nessa's infamous 'OH. OH. OH.'

The constant flitting between horror and humour did not trivialise the extremity of the abusive case-studies, but rather juxtaposed what women's sexuality ought to be, with what it is not allowed to be. The horror was intensified when contextualised against the pleasure and liberalisation that women ought to feel.

As well as the monologue performances, the cast took the One Billion Rising campaign literally, and began with a dance performance which presented the beauty and tranquillity of innocence unscarred by abuse, and also a flash mob. This embraced a sense of community and standing, which inspired the audience to partake in the performance further. The extremely intrapersonal monologues inspired an empathy that is not usually so penetrating, and therefore affected the audience acutely. The success that the performance had in releasing audience and cast emotion was startlingly celebratory – the evening was an opportunity for release of anger and victimisation, and an encouragement of almost a revolt or revolution of the female sex against abuse.

'THE MONOLOGUES WERE INSPIRATIONAL, HUMBLING AND BRUTAL. THE ENTIRE FEMALE CAST PROVIDED AN OUTLET FOR THE SUPPRESSED AND CONCERNED.'

As the cast repeated, 'the violence ends now.' The positive, explicit and revolutionary outlook towards female sexuality and the want for female self-expression challenged any negative or condescending stereotypes of feminism, and instead was charged with empowerment and a demand for equality.

For further information about how to make a difference, please see <http://www.vday.org/>. Many thanks to the entire cast, as well as the Head Director, the charity, and of course, Eve Ensler.



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CULTURE CLASH: SOCIAL NETWORKING

HANNAH RALPH AND SARAH DUTTON BATTLE OVER OUR SOCIAL NETWORKING ADDICTIONS

SARAH DUTTON

I get up in the morning and log onto Facebook. I am what could be described as a Facebook addict, although I don't leave it logged in because of the high population of "frapists" in my house. Immediately I can see that there are two messages, one friend request, an invite to a college event and a close friend's birthday. These are just some of the notifications that make social media, particularly Facebook, increasingly useful devices. The easy messaging service makes it simple to keep in touch with people, especially now that a lot of us are at universities miles from home, and statuses and Twitter updates can give you an idea of how your friends are getting on in their new universities or jobs. On Facebook it is nice that even a simple 'poke' can remind an old friend of your existence. How else can you keep in touch with your best friend on a gap year in Canada without racking up a huge mobile phone bill? And yes, her constant tweets about how many cute bear cubs she's seen and how she swam in the sea before breakfast might make you a bit jealous, but it's good to know she's having a great time!

As I am the typical bad friend with an equally bad memory I often forget my friends' birthdays, and Facebook has saved me many a time. It also allows you to network with people you have just met, with practical and not just social benefits. Many, if not all of our university courses require group work, and Facebook allows me to share ideas about a presentation with others in my seminars, and discuss topics and problems that we might face. Wouldn't it get annoying to have to text the four other people in your group every time you have an idea? Facebook has become more and more widely used allowing colleges and even departments to communicate important information to us. Yes, we do receive emails about upcoming events, but I think I am right in suggesting that, on the whole, it's Facebook we check most. Any events you're invited to are also synced straight to your Facebook calendar, and this gives you helpful reminders. Who ever remembers the contents of an email and all the events publicized in it?

Another key function is the large storage of photographs on Facebook. Although the notification that so-and-so has added fifty photographs of you that night you thought it would be a good idea to volunteer for the gunge pool in Hustle isn't always appreciated, I still think it is mostly nice to have an album of university memories all in one place. I like the idea that in twenty years' time not only will I be able to look back on student life, I will also be able to stalk out my old friends (and even fleeting acquaintances) and find out what they're doing with their lives. Does it not make you feel secure knowing that you have all your friends on Facebook or Twitter, and with the click of a button know that you will easily be able to get back in touch with any one of them?



HANNAH RALPH

I spend the majority of my spare time on social networking sites such as Twitter, Tumblr and Facebook, which I literally click between for hours despite no new or vaguely exciting changes to either. Despite the lack of space I put between myself and these sites, I can note my own somewhat unhealthy behaviours and those of others are often inextricably fuelled by the sites themselves.

The social networking cons exist because we as humans are prone to obsessive, addictive behaviours. The addictive factor of these sites can lead to isolation, diminished 'real life' social skills, and in a more general view can overtake lives in a swamp of procrastination. A study by 'HomeNet' concluded that greater Internet use was directly related to depression and loneliness while two thirds of teachers believe social media does more to distract students than help academically.

Of course, there is cyber-bullying. I was once a victim of cyber-bullying myself and saw first hand how the absence of face-to-face communication instilled a newfound, vicious bravery in the bullies. The faceless identity of people in the online world only heightens this feeling of an anonymous culture that can get away with saying whatever they like to whomever they like despite the harm they are causing. Cyber-bullying can often make the victim feel especially isolated – in public we are almost constantly surrounded, but behind our computers we are usually very much alone.

There are much more subtle con's to the world of social networking regarding its complete access and observation. Stories of men and woman losing their jobs over a status that criticises their company or boss are plentiful. The familiarity of what we feel is a personal world, there for our personal expression, dominates our thinking and often makes us ignore the public nature of the sites. Most dangerously perhaps, it also helps to facilitate student/teacher and other inappropriate relationships. In my hometown for instance, a PE teacher of one of the local high schools was found to be 'messaging' the girls of his class on Facebook, leading to various, unsupervised meet ups. It shows just how easily the sites can often be a platform for escalating behaviours. Lastly I'd like to take the one of the major positives of social networking – the sense of community. This however, has massively harmful consequences, such as on the blogging site Tumblr, where 'underground' networks of bulimic, anorexic users have progressively banded together in a kind of after-school club. They are most definitely a supportive community, but not one of the positive kind. Social networking sites prove to have caused much damage to individual lives across the world, and as it stands they are irreversibly continuing.

UWE WITTWER AT ABBOT HALL

LUCY SMALLEY
DEPUTY CULTURE EDITOR

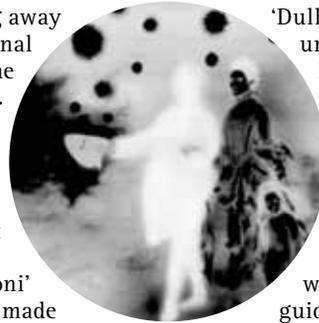
Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal seems a very unlikely place to play host to some of the most recognised contemporary artists of our time. In an area so infatuated with pretty crafts and old master's paintings, it is a brave move to shove such ambiguous work into the faces of those who have recently retired to the Lake District in an attempt to get away from all this modern art muck. And yet time and time again Abbot Hall pulls it off. From Bridget Riley to Hughie O'Donoghue, Richard Long to Francis Bacon, Abbot Hall has showcased some truly 'difficult' art over the past few decades; illustrated most poignantly in their current temporary exhibition by Swiss artist Uwe Wittwer, 'In The Middle Distance'.

A great deal of Wittwer's work is based on the reproduction of old masters paintings, however his work is seemingly controversial as his attitude towards these older paintings is not entirely one of reverence. Using memories from years spent in museums and galleries, and a digital image of the work itself as merely source material, Wittwer treats these paintings almost like fading family portraits. Drawing on themes of ageing and decay, his reproductions are far removed from the originals aesthetically. He often choses to paint the image strangely

cropped and in negative, blurring the edges with hazy brush strokes and adding what I can only describe as supernatural orbs to the scene, accentuating a ghostly, almost sinister atmosphere.

'Doppelgänger after Van Belcamp' (2012) is a stand out piece from the exhibition. Not only is the original (1646) displayed downstairs as one of Abbot Hall's most prized pieces from the collection, but it is also Wittwer's largest painting to date; stripping away the superficialities of the original and reconstructing it to reveal the truth about the family depicted. Wittwer completely subverts our perception of the original paintings, focusing on aspects that would not usually be picked up on and blacking out areas that would traditionally be the focus.

'Black Sun after Antonioni' (2012) was my favourite piece, made up of 78 stills extracted from the cult British film *Blow Up* by Michaelangelo Antonioni. The film itself deals with the ability of the image to mislead the viewer, as the plot follows a photographer who when developing his pictures realises he has inadvertently witnessed a murder. This notion of a seemingly insignificant background resonates deeply within Wittwer's work. He paints the



stills in hazy watercolour, removing them from their original context and recreating the film as randomly displayed fragments of a narrative; crucial pictorial information becomes lost and unimportant glimpses take centre stage.

What I actually found most interesting in the exhibition was the comments book. One entry from the day before, despite the author taking the time to write down their entire address and further contact details, simply stated 'Dull.' Another wrote 'No. I don't really understand the point of these at all.'

Not only does it completely escape me how anyone could describe Wittwer's work as dull (I mean, yes the colours he uses aren't exactly vibrant, but really?) but what bothers me more is that apparently if a piece of work can't be fully understood it's not worth seeing. Even with the detailed guidebook provided I still have an awful lot of questions about his work, but if I had left the exhibition knowing all the answers it'd be a complete waste of time.

WITTWER'S TEMPORARY EXHIBITION 'IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE' IS DISPLAYED AT ABBOT HALL GALLERY, KENDAL UNTIL THE 16TH MARCH 2013.

IMITATING THE DOG: THE ZERO HOUR

JENSEN TUDTUD

Take this production as a revelation. If ever ambiguity is invited to dismantle the concrete, then the theatre company *Imitating the Dog* will pioneer a work such as *The Zero Hour* to enthrall contemporary audiences into grappling with previously sure concepts of history and memory. Opening its national tour last Wednesday at Live at LICA, the multi-media show promised a great spectacle which was very nearly achieved to perfection.

Few would have comprehensively understood the narrative in its entirety after the seamless jolts of scenes presented different versions of the lives of three couples 'framed' within a single historical event from the second world war. Better yet, there was the pervasive entity in the form of the Chinese lecturer and film director frequently interrupting the scenes by shouting "cut!" prompting the actors' transition into the next version of the scene, all of which is captured on camera linked to simultaneous projection on screen. As pictured, the film and the theatrical performance are in sync, both of which fight over the viewer's attention. Hovering over this realm is the magnificently haunting soundtrack by Jeremy Peyton Jones featuring all the elements of a remarkable cinematography friendly force. This is the show in a snapshot and remains like this throughout which on the aesthetic

level is a viewing that struggles to develop after the first twenty minutes

In a post-show discussion with Andrew Quick, who wrote and directed the show with Pete Brooks, he revealed the shows premise is to catch the actors within what is called 'the machine', whether it be the script, the narrative or the audio-visual techniques. He explains that "we wanted to explore how many narratives can be built from one single historical event" after introducing the original intention of setting the story in a train right at the beginning of this impressive two-year project. Critics ought to be sensitive to what 'the machine' meant not only to the spectators but to the artists who were unashamedly committed to the meticulous writing.

Theatre craft really did take the usually larger proportion of the spotlight away from the actors this time and distributed it to the technicians, directors and designers to achieve what I thought to be a smoothly paced action pushed to its very limit of speed which the actors also recognised as the reason as to why they "did not do what actors are usually allowed to do" and that is to develop one single dramatic journey. With that in mind, their performances were excellently sustained and coped with the demands of the script which somewhat reflected of the human capacity to adapt in such extreme situations.

Rarely does a piece of theatre instigate deep thought through the originality of the convergence of the mimetic and the synthetic

which refers back to the philosophy of art and philosophy itself as the search for the truth. Reality is the concern of film and theatre which *The Zero Hour* paradoxically relates and negates by having the actors wear microphones, which otherwise would not be seen in film. Furthermore are the moments in which the invisible wall cracked between the realities of filming and of performing upon the moment when the actors shift their gaze from the present in reaction to the director's cuts. Memory is recurrent in all art forms especially when riddled with themes of violence and history such as the case here where the core genre is the murder mystery. Dramatic tension served to be the voice of collective sub-consciousness which allowed the observers of the artificial scenes to absorb the frequent whims of ideology in rebranded phrases with which we are already familiar. Were the Russians over sentimental? Are the British too polite? And the Germans calculating? Finally, are we close to discovering the true purpose of history?

What strikes me about reviewing the *Zero Hour* is that from now on, if any other work could inspire such an intellectual impact, then they must be doing something worth watching, for it cannot be emphasised enough that no amount of description can equate to the experience of watching this performance. I must address my concern that this new form of film and theatre obtain a term, thus allow me to coin the word 'cineathrical' to refer to the future works of whomever might attempt at *Imitating the Dog*.

SIX OF THE BEST - FILM SEQUELS OF 2013

SUPERMAN- MAN OF STEEL



KIRSTY LEE

Although having a positive critical reception from film critics, I believe that Superman Returns (2006) was possibly the worst Superman film that I've seen and it seemed that I was not alone. There appeared to be no real action until the last half an hour of the film and even then I found that what was happening on screen was pretty boring. No wonder I was tempted to leave the cinema. That's why I am on the fence about the latest installment from the Superman franchise, Man Of Steel. I feel the film could go either way- along the same lines of the last film or it could be as successful as the new Batman films. The trailer has potential; it doesn't give much away, but gives you just enough to wet your appetite. Director Zach Snyder is teaming up with

producer Christopher Nolan to create a new and improved version of Superman. There are even going to be some changes to the Superman costume! The storyline has been kept tightly under wraps but expect plenty of action as the world is in peril. I hope it is impossible for Christopher Nolan to work on a bad film, but I still have my doubts- doubts that won't cease until after the release of the film on the 14th June. It has been seven years since Superman was on the big screen and I can only pray that time is a healer and that Superman fans are ready to forgive and forget Superman Returns and embrace Man Of Steel as if they have never seen a Superman film before. Also, if this film is successful, then the chances of a Justice League film will most certainly be on the cards.

THE WOLVERINE



SIMON JAMES

Hugh Jackman will return to his roots and the role which made him famous: Logan, otherwise known as "the Wolverine", in a movie named just that. Wolverine is a mutant whose accelerated healing ability and retractable knife-like claws have made him a popular anti-hero for nearly forty years.

Spinning out of the success of five X-Men movies, The Wolverine will be the first in seven years set in the present day. The film will see everyone's favourite X-Man travel to Japan to "find himself" after the events of 2006's X-Men: The Last Stand in which half of the team were killed and Logan was forced to murder the woman he loved. There he will confront Yakuza crime bosses, samurai warriors and, as is usually the case with a character who hardly ages, demons from his past.

Despite the last Wolverine film receiving

mixed reviews, X-Men fans are remaining hopeful for this solo effort. Based on a fan-favourite four-issue comic book, directed by acclaimed filmmaker James Mangold and with Hugh-Jackman-fever at an all-time high after his singing successes in Les Misérables, the film is set to be a hit.

Whatever its successes, The Wolverine may also be the start of something bigger. Next year, X-Men: Days of Future Past will be released, which will see the return of both the present day characters and the original team from the 60s in a time-travelling adventure. After last year's The Avengers, superhero films are more respected than ever before, and Days of Future Past could prove to be the next big thing. The Wolverine, whilst no doubt acting as an excellent film in its own right, is likely to be essential viewing for this, considering the "post-credits" continuations that are expected now of any Marvel movie.

THE HUNGER GAMES- CATCHING FIRE



KIRSTY LEE

This is my favourite book of the three and I am definitely counting down the days until it arrives in the cinema. The count down is fairly long though as this film won't be making an appearance until the 22nd November 2013. I guess I will just have to wear out my copy of the book before then. If you haven't seen The Hunger Games, or even read the books before, then there are some spoilers ahead and actually shame on you if you haven't seen it as The Hunger Games was one of the top grossing films of 2012, a film that should most definitely be worth a watch. There is a slight alteration to this film as director Gary Ross has stepped down and replacing him is Francis Lawrence, but the main cast still remains the same mostly. The story

picks up where we left off in the final sequence of the last film. The victors Katniss and Peeta have now got to adjust to life in the Victors Village of District 12, which would be difficult enough anyway without the added pressure of the Quarter Quell. The Quarter Quell is an event that takes place every 25 years and is a more violent version of The Hunger Games.

This year's Quarter Quell throws up an interesting twist, the tributes that will face the Quarter Quell will be previous victors, meaning that Katniss and Peeta are forced to enter the arena once more.

As you can imagine chaos unfolds and there are many more hidden twists along the way that you will just have to look out for. This film is set to be action packed and will be well worth the wait.

MONSTER UNIVERSITY

KIRSTY LEE

You are never too old to enjoy Disney and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. I am extremely looking forward to the prequel to *Monsters Inc.*, *Monsters University*. This genius concept is set 10 years before *Monsters Inc.* and catapults us back to when Mike Wazowski first met James P. "Sulley" Sullivan at Monstropolis University Of Fear- a place where monsters train to become scarers. The tale unfolds of how these two roommates go from mortal enemies to best of friends, with the usual University pranks along the way. Whether you have experienced University or not, I assure you that this film will have some-

thing for everyone as it looks like it is going to be hilarious. Forgotten the story of Mike and Sulley? Then don't panic. There is plenty of time to grab a copy of the DVD and re-watch it before the prequel hits our screens on the 19th July 2013. The exact details of the plot are being kept firmly under lock and key with nothing to huge being given away in the new trailer that has just been released. Looks like you are just going to have to head to the cinema yourself to watch this film and see if it lives up to the Disney-Pixar expectations. I have high hopes for the film in terms of box office success, but I don't know if any Disney sequel/prequel can be as good as the *Toy Story* franchise.



THE HOBBIT - THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG

AMANDA MASON

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug has a lot to live up to as *An Unexpected Journey* was not as successful as it should have been. Peter Jackson did not introduce the story line of *The Hobbit* well enough, definitely not as well as the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. The film was very well made, with everything from the fantastic casting to the scenery and special effects, but the whole storyline felt like going through a maze without getting anywhere. Thus with *An Unexpected Journey* being a slight disappointment, there will be great anticipation for *The Desolation of Smaug* to be fantastic and I am sure Peter Jackson will certainly not disappoint. *The Desolation of Smaug* continues the adventures that the dwarves, Bilbo and Gandalf go through to the Lonely Mountain to retrieve their gold from Smaug, the fearsome Dragon (played by Benedict Cumberbatch). After successfully passing through the Misty Mountains they will

encounter many challenges and meet new people in order to help them on their quest. Sir Ian McKellen's performance as Gandalf will undoubtedly not disappoint and Richard Armitage's performance as Thorin Oakenshield commands authority in the film and commands the audience's attention. Some old faces return to Peter Jackson's films as Ian Serkis and Elijah Wood.

Other new additions to the film include Evangeline Lilly playing the part of Tauriel the elf and Luke Evans as Bard the Bowman. The integration of the original and new cast will definitely bring an effective juxtaposition of excitement from the new and nostalgia from the old. This film is definitely one of, if not the most anticipated film of the year. It is difficult for audiences to find great reception for this film when comparing it the fantastic *Lord of the Rings*, but it will certainly be another amazing trilogy from Peter Jackson.



DESPICABLE ME 2

CONOR SCRIVENER

Despicable Me tore up any rules on a conventional children's film and laughed along the way. Pitching evil scientists against one another, a trio of orphaned sisters and little yellow minions together in a film must have got plenty of funny looks from the executives at Universal.

But it worked and very well at that. I don't think I can even put my finger on why the first film was so good. I spent the first 30 minutes questioning why I was watching it and looking back I don't know why. The film has everything that a family animation film needs but it adds

the side story of the minions which gives greater depth to the film, quite literally in the case of watching the film in 3D.

This June sees the follow up *Despicable Me 2* return under the promise of many more laughs and presumably even crazier characters to line up against Steve Carell's Gru, with Al Pacino and Steve Coogan set to star in the sequel as yet un-named characters. The trailer, which focuses entirely on the minions doesn't give anything away as to a story but I am sure that the follow up will be just as great a film. After all, it will be so fluffy I think we're all going to die!



CULTURE

LANCASTER BLOW THEIR OWN TRUMPET

SIMON JAMES REPORTS FROM THE ANNUAL UNIBRASS COMPETITION



Last weekend boasted the return of the UniBrass competition in which 14 Universities fought to see who really does deserve to blow their own trumpet. Lancaster hosted the third annual contest in the Great Hall and this year ranked in seventh place according to prestigious adjudicators David Childs and David Horsfield. UniBrass was hosted by student Max Stannard, broadcast by LA1:TV and streamed with a live Twitter feed between pieces in County Bar.

After a Lancaster quintet performed the national anthem, Oxford opened the contest with a lively set consisting of music from James Bond, Chicken Run and Hootenanny. But it was their concluding song choice “Gangnam Style” and the conductor’s corresponding dance moves which turned the most heads to see the judges’ reaction. Oxford perhaps showed overconfidence in their set list, with the conductor claiming “we could have done no better” before walking off the wrong way and the University ended up in twelfth place.

Keele were second to play. With the inclusion of a guitar, the band created a very full sound with their contemporary interpretation of Beethoven and original piece “5th Avenue”. Southampton won the unofficial “early start” contest, but still had enough energy for a lively set in which the conductor “dragged” players from side to side with his baton. Newcomers to the competition the University of Manchester performed a set of three well-rehearsed pieces. They came second and won the prize for best march.

After a short break, Lancaster saw their historic rivals stroll into the hall whilst playing “Just a Closer Walk”. York’s final piece, taken from “the Last of the Mohicans”, was accompanied by a stop-motion video of Lego Indians in battle which was created by their 2nd cornet player using only photographs. Despite

Leo Conroy only having conducted the band since January, York’s set was extremely polished and granted them third place.

Warwick do not have a music department and yet nearly 50 players turned out for their first attempt at a UniBrass victory which included a cornet solo “Children of Sanchez” in which several Mexican hats were thrown into the audience. Let’s hope they enjoyed themselves because they will host the contest when it moves from Lancaster next year. This reporter cannot remember much about Durham who were next, which probably says a lot as they came last.

After a lunch break, Huddersfield took to the stage in pink polo shirts (or “salmon” as was debated on Twitter). A xylophone duet won the “best solo/feature” award and due to its hilarious slapstick nature probably helped them win the “most entertaining performance” award too. The entire set was outstanding and deservedly, Huddersfield were named winners of the competition.

Then it was time to cheer the home team. Conducted by Christopher Osborn, Lancaster opened their programme with an arrangement of Queen’s “I Want it All” which involved a Mexican wave around the band whilst playing. Another highlight was the “Stardust” trombone solo by James Campion. Lancaster seemed happy with how they had performed, which made seventh place somewhat disappointing compared to last year’s third place.

The music department at Birmingham is over 100 years old, and yet apparently they still do not know the “rules” of brass bands. There was a large uproar from their competitors in the County Bar when it became apparent that Birmingham had brought a French horn player. A Twitter debate ensued with some people expressing outrage at the presence of the instru-

ment, while others noted that most of the bands had at least one trumpet which is also not a traditional brass band instrument. However, it was stated in the rules that trumpets were allowed in UniBrass.

Despite introducing themselves in Welsh and breaking the percussion equipment before they started, Bangor’s performance was well received. Opening with the upbeat swing tune “Sing Sing Sing”, their set was dedicated to Dr. David Evans, a music teacher from the University. “Without him, our band wouldn’t exist” said Meurig Jenkins, the conductor.

A second Welsh band followed Bangor but had something even more patriotic to offer than introducing themselves in their mother tongue: Cardiff’s entire performance was based on the theme of Welsh postcards. How apparent this would have been had they not pointed it out is debatable at best, but it didn’t matter – for the most part their challenging set sounded effortless. The judges seemed to think so too, granting them a respectable fourth place and their conductor Martin Humphries the “best student conductor” award.

Hull, the newest of the bands, performed “The Smile” which contains a unique and intriguing passage in Morse code. However some of the cornet players split several important notes throughout the set (including the first note of one of their pieces), which could have been what stopped them ranking a high position.

LANCASTER OPENED THEIR PROGRAMME WITH AN ARRANGEMENT OF QUEEN’S “I WANT IT ALL”

Oxbridge provided the book ends for UniBrass, with Cambridge closing the contest. Perhaps the random allocation of slots wasn’t for the best in this instance, as Cambridge’s performance was not the grand finale one might have expected. Maybe they knew it, as when compere Max asked a member before the performance “are we going to go on a journey?” the response was “I don’t think so.” Their attempts at being entertaining only stretched to a cuddly “owl” mascot, which did not save them from coming second to last.

After a short break, the results were announced. “Gracious” is not the word to describe Huddersfield’s victory, but their chants could be put down to the fact they were in the bar since 2:30 enjoying the custom made “Bit O’Brass” beer. This continued that night when all the bands got together for a large social featuring music from Betrunknen Würst Bavarian Band and Lancaster’s very own Trombone Players’ Gentlemen’s Club.

The following day, Lancaster and any of the bands who stayed in the lecture theatres overnight took part in free workshops throughout the day from four industry professionals.

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**NORTHERN UNIVERSITY DANCE COMPETITION
AT BLACKPOOL TOWER IN WEEK 5**

PHOTO BY JAY THEIS

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A 90S KID IF....

ALEX WARLOW LOOKS AT THE NEW INTERNET EXPLORER ADD AND ASKS: WERE THE NINETIES EVEN THAT GREAT?

ALEX WARLOW

For some reason Internet Explorer had always seemed achingly un-cool to me. It has been sitting there alone and bereft of use on my desktop ever since I met sexy Google chrome, with its sexy name and sexy spelling abilities. If Internet Explorer were a person it would eat its lunch in the toilet whilst me and Google chrome Frenched behind the bike sheds.

'CALL ME CYNICAL, BUT FOR STARTERS I DISAGREE WITH THE BANAL SENTIMENTALITY.'

So in an attempt to regain some street cred, their advertising people have decided to let us know that they've 'grown up' by reminiscing about the good old days when little old us, the target market, were all not grown up and stuff.

I like the self deprecating thing – their website contains the title 'it's good now, no really' which is a great bit of intelligent advertising that shows they don't take us for fools – but is playing on our heartstrings with the television ad full of nineties images really just a bit naff? Whereas the online campaign is witty and self aware, the advert is the equivalent of Internet Explorer eating lunch in the toilets and brandishing his few new chin hairs at you.

For those who haven't seen it, the 'Child of the 90s' ad features a man with a very annoying and monotonous voice claims to be part of 'Generation Y', the horrible irony of that term I'll get on to later. Some pretty obvious nineties references (think Hungry Hungry Hippos and Tamagochis) are then played out in slow motion, which to be fair is the only way they were going to make someone spinning round their bum bag appear like a profound sign of the times.

Call me cynical, but for starters I disagree with banal sentimentality. It wasn't all a bed of roses and yo yos growing up, it was sitting in front of the Fresh Prince of Bel Air unable to open your eyes properly because of the fumes coming off the liberally applied nit lotion.

All of the references seem as obvious as space hoppers and platforms were to the 70's. Where are all the obscure little things only we would remember? Like the clog craze. I swear to God there was a clog renaissance circa 1996 and I would really like some back up on that one. Also those horrible things Extra made as a replacement to chewing gum, the small blue squares everyone used to pretend was acid at school.

I get the feeling though that we're all a bit

too young for looking back at our youth with a wistful sigh (we're only in our twenties, after all) flashing light up trainers are probably still cutting edge somewhere in the world. I suppose this on surge of nostalgia is a reaction to being part of a generation that has experienced more technological change than any other, and maybe we're a bit smug about that. In fact, I think the way we talk about floppy disks is a little disrespectful.

We are constantly reminiscing though, and maybe that's because we have new forums to do so. Instead of just having a brief moment in your day remembering how good Nigel Thornberry was, you can now create a page called 'YOU KNOW YOU'RE A NINETIES KID IF YOU JUST BLOODY LOVE NIGEL THORNBERRY' and make him your cover picture and buy an ironic t-shirt with his face on and make a YouTube video of him dancing to Shakira. So perhaps if I hadn't been exposed to so many nineties throwbacks on a daily basis, the advert itself wouldn't have seemed so saccharine.

'PEOPLE SEEM TO BE DESPERATE TO BE A PART OF THE NINETIES AS IF IT WAS SOME GOLDEN TIME'

But people seem to be desperate to be a part of the nineties as if it was some golden time, somehow the cameras they used for most clips sent into You've Been Framed must have had an enchanting effect. People born in the mid to late nineties absolutely revel in being a '90's kid' as if they were toddling around the Hacienda in their Pampers.

Arguably these are all symptoms living in a post-modern world where nothing is new, only recycled and insincere.

Douglas Coupland's seminal post-modern work 'Generation X' was written in 1991 about a trio living on the fringes of regular consumerist society, one of the chapter headings is 'I am Not a Target Market', obviously then it seemed appropriate – in the sick way only marketing men know how – to label us 'Generation Y'.

Now I don't really understand how Internet Explorer makes any money; it's all just LEDs and electrons, I didn't pay for the electrons, but somehow they do – so their attempt to make us drool and coo at the sight of a pile of pogs is ultimately for the end of financial gain, and there's something about that which sits a little uneasily with me.



FEATURES

THE STATE OF THE ARTS

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT CLOSURE IS JUST THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF ATTACKS ON THE ARTS, WRITES FEATURES EDITOR ANNIE GOUK.

The recent news that Lancaster University's music department faces closure has had students up in arms about the effect it will have on the current course, not to mention those facing redundancy. While undoubtedly the downsizing that is planned to "teach out" the course is a kick in a teeth for those remaining (especially those paying £9,000 a year), the move also seems part of a wider issue of culture cuts within the country.

It's true that the department was floundering, being under-subscribed and low on resources. However, closing the department isn't exactly a desirable alternative – rather than improving the current course the university will no longer provide a subject that most people expect from a quality university. This is symptomatic of a UK wide issue that seems to be an attempt to destroy the arts from the top down.

In times of austerity such as these, it's often the arts that suffer – the first to have budget cuts or, as in this case, to be got rid of completely. The humanities in general are seen as somewhat superfluous, unlike solid, reliable courses such as business or marketing (which, I might point

out, also tend to bring in more high-paying international students). Many other universities have also had to close their music departments, for example the University of East Anglia, and this is something Andrew Lloyd-Webber has put down directly to the government cuts to arts funding.

Of course, the arts cuts extend beyond universities, affecting everything from museums to ballet, art galleries to local concerts. In plans for GCSE reforms, music and other creative subjects would have been eliminated from the new qualifications (though thankfully this decision has been revoked).

It seems that art and culture is perceived as secondary, at least by our government, rather than as something necessary to a well-rounded education or a country's cultural identity. It is, apparently, a luxury we can do without.

Never mind that Lancaster's arts sector annually generates £50m for the local economy, or that access to music and art at an early age is linked to brain development. Never mind that the arts, an uplifting and moving source

of happiness and a vital form of expression and outreach, would either cease to exist or become elitist and limited without the help of funding.

It's true that Britain is seen as one of the cultural capitals of the world, partly thanks to our history of telling everyone how great we were during the years of empire and cultural colonialism. But while Britain prides itself on being at the forefront of artistic endeavors, this reputation is sure to descend into reminiscing about the 'old greats' if new and innovative musicians and artists are not supported.

Already we're falling behind other parts of Europe, with Berlin being seen as a Mecca for trendy young artists, and countries like

Sweden continuing to provide ample arts funding. If we keep cutting arts funding as heavily as we have, and worse still, gradually stop providing arts courses such as our dearly departed music degree, we stand little chance of cultivating new generations of artist and musicians to continue the cultural tradition of Britain.

87.7 Bailrigg FM Schedule

MON TUES WED THURS FRI SAT SUN

GML 8am	GML 8am	GML 8am	GML 8am	GML 8am	Holley's History 12pm	News on Sunday political discussion with special guests and debates 10am
Down with Music 11am	Charlie and Lewis Have Brunch 10am	Radio Nowhere 12pm	NML 1pm	NML 1pm	Ron and Arthur present Anything Goes 1pm	Talk of the Devil 1pm
Red Cups 12pm	Genre 61 Revisited 12pm	NML every weekday we bring to you the best, new music 1pm	The Adam Bond Show 2pm	Loose Blokes 2pm	The Saturday Hangover 2pm	Unlimited Enthusiasm 2pm
NML 1pm	NML 1pm	The Phil and Dan Show 2pm	Taking the Michael 4pm	Thank F it's Friday 3pm	The Saturday Sports Show 3pm	An Idiot's Guide to Video Games 3pm
Sophie Marshall Show 2pm	Screen Team 3pm	The Vinyl Hour 5pm	Have you heard the news? 5pm	Man Feelings 4pm	Chart Show the week's chart countdown: who will get the number one spot? 7pm	Film Spiel 4pm
De-stress, Re-chill 3pm	TransEurope Express 4pm	Campus Correspondent 6pm	HMS Ron and Friends 6pm	Bailrigg Football Weekly 5pm	AKIN8 sessions get ready for Sugar with Aktiv8: a live DJ set on air every week 7pm	Sunday Night Mosh 5pm
Humble Sam's Invisible Friends 4pm	Bez and Tom's Late Afternoon Tea 5pm	Highlights, Pebbles and Palms 7pm	Live Sessions live music and chat with your favourite campus acts 7pm	Newspeak 6pm	Trycolour 10pm	Jiggle Me In 6pm
Tell Me Why 5pm	Curtis and Rachel Show 6pm	Nostalgia Hour 8pm	A Thousand Apologies 9pm	AKIN8 7pm	Bangin' & Mash 11pm	Cringe 7pm
Newspeak our bi-weekly debate show on current affairs 6pm	Tuesday Night Sport Show stay update on the week's sport news 7pm			Cool Beans 9pm		Late Night Literature 8pm
Now for Something Completely Awesome 7pm						Driven by Steam 9pm
The Ska Show 8pm	There's no F in Ekoku 10pm					
Acceptable in the 90s 10pm	Brooksy and Townsend 11pm					

FILM VIOLENCE UNCHAINED

JULIET STEPHENSON

The world of cinema has repeatedly come under fire for the use of violence over the decades, but the recent contribution from Quentin Tarantino has once again pushed the debate to the forefront of the public spectrum.

There are certain discrepancies between genres, but if we take the main contributors - horror and action - already this year we've seen the success of films such as *Texas Chainsaw 3D*, *Gangster Squad* and *Zero Dark Thirty*. The question as to whether violence in motion pictures is really necessary has created much debate in the media about audience reception and relevance to viewing experience, but these popular titles suggest that we as a general audience have been desensitized by years of viewing titles such as the *Saw* franchise. Arguably, the twisted psychopath at the heart of *Saw* is much more disturbing than the backdrop of slavery portrayed in *Django Unchained* - so why has such a media storm been created by this particular offering?

The way *Django* (and many other films, especially Tarantino's other works) shows violence and death in such a gory and over-the-top fashion is, whilst being a cinematic technique used by many, a strong example of the aestheticisation of violence typically found in horror and action movies. In a recent interview with Channel 4 news Tarantino was asked about the link between movie violence and real-life violence; his response, "Don't ask me a question like that. I'm not biting," shows his frustration - there is no confirmed correlation between screen and actual violence, despite a reasonably vocal negative public reaction to certain scenes or actions.

A common rebuttal to the suggested influence on the audience is that some events require the depiction of violence and/or death to give the situation weight within a plot. The argument that the violence and death are necessary is perhaps more than tangible in this case, given that the backdrop of the storyline is the issue of slavery - historically a brutal and violent period of history. Surely to do the topic justice there needs to be an acknowledgement of this?

Whether it is a good or bad thing, no-one who has seen the film can deny the violence included is a defining characteristic of the film. To suggest that Tarantino pushed this too far is to confuse the issue, however; it's whether it was a valid technique or not. Given critical reviews, it most definitely provoked a response from the viewers, surely the desired effect from the cinematic presentation of such an issue - should we the audience be protected from the violence of slavery through the cinematic medium when it is taught in classrooms?

Yes, there is a definite difference between describing and viewing it, but that's what age ratings on movies are for. Giving the film an 18 rating is definitely necessary, but if the amount of violence portrayed in *Django Unchained* is more offensive to the viewer than the slavery it is highlighting, I think that says more about the viewer than the film.

SKELETONS IN THE CAR PARK

RACHEL QUIN
DEPUTY FEATURES EDITOR

With Richard III recently found, conveniently buried in an 'R' marks the spot scenario in a Leicester car park, historians all over the world are triumphantly throwing their hats into the air and celebrating the miraculous discovery of the stereotypically evil Plantagenet king.

'THERE WERE CLEARLY NO OTHER NAMES AVAILABLE IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY OTHER THAN EDWARD, HENRY AND RICHARD'

Famously known as the hobbling hunchback who snatched the English crown in the final years of the Wars of the Roses, threw his belated brother's kids in a tower for safekeeping and proceeded to suffocate them in the night - Richard gets a bad rep. It might be confusing to some of you as to why us historians are so bothered about some old brown bones and a dead monarch's wonky spine, so here's your dose of historical knowledge about the Wars of the Roses in a rather large and oversimplified nutshell.

Seven hundred years ago, there was a king and queen who had too many heirs, which led to squabbling. The first son never got his paws on the throne and upon his death, the crown passed to his son, Richard II. Richard was a bit of a tyrant and took the throne too young, and was later overthrown and left to die in a tower by his cousin, Henry IV, the Duke of Lancaster (and thus, a Lancastrian).

Henry's decision to kill off his cousin mafia-style meant that the crown passed over the York line of the family, who were technically the rightful owners of the crown. This was fine until, a couple of generations later, a man by the name of Henry VI ascended to the throne and had no clue what he was doing.

His Yorkist cousin Richard decided to rebel and become the king himself. Sadly, Richard lost his head (literally) and the task was passed on to his eldest son, Edward. Edward managed to

usurp Henry and reigned relatively peacefully as Edward IV for a good twenty-two years or so, producing two boys for the throne who went by the rather irregular names, Edward and Richard.

After older-brother Edward inherited the crown, big bad Richard marched down from York, seized the throne and chucked his unsuspecting nephews in the Tower of London. Just when it seemed like the Lancastrians were down and out, Henry Tudor, a man with heavily diluted royal blood and a questionable birth, swooped into England, slaughtered nasty old Richard in battle, married a Yorkist cousin of his to unite the dukedoms of York and Lancaster; and ruled happily ever after.

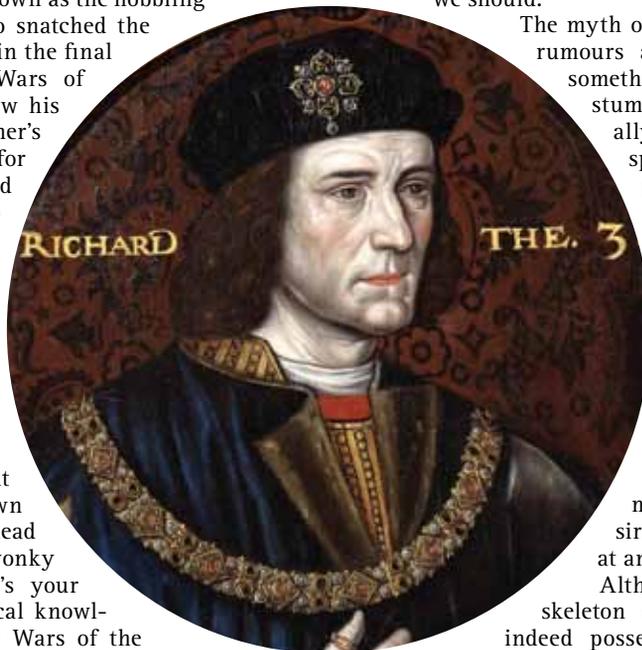
So as you can see, there were clearly no other names available in the fifteenth century other than Edward, Henry and Richard. And Richard III got his just desserts. This all explains how the Tudor's came into power and why Lancaster are destined to kick York's butt every year at the Roses tournament - simply because history says we should.

The myth of Richard III and the rumours about his person is something that has long stumped historians globally. Sir William Shakespeare is the most popular of the Tudor favourites, who portrayed York's most evil son in his play, 'Richard III'. A fine piece of Tudor propaganda, Shakespeare created the stereotypical Richard III; a croaky hunchback with mischief on his mind and a dark desire to seize the throne at any cost.

Although the supposed skeleton of Richard III does indeed possess a curved spine, much to the bonkers Ricardian Philippa Langley's dismay, finding his body can put to bed some of the suggestions about his person. Of course, we'll never truly know whether Richard really did kill off his nephews, but that's the fun of history - we can speculate as much as we like. And obviously, events like this simply cannot occur without a series of jokes appearing alongside them.

The Queen Elizabeth Twitter parody account stated: "If they'd have just asked, one could have told them Richard III was under that car park. One knows where all the Royal skeletons are." Whereas other jokes tend to go along the lines of the monumental fines Richard racked up living in a car park for almost six hundred years.

Unfortunately for dear old Richard, in the Shakespearean account of his death on the battlefield, he cries "A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!" - little did he know there's probably a Tesco Express round the corner.



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PRESENTATION PERIL?

HALYEY SCHUBERT

Oh, those dreaded words: “you will be doing a presentation.” You suddenly zone out as an invasion of butterflies take residence in your stomach and your hands become clammy. Public speaking is never easy and often the thought of standing up and talking, no matter how large or small the group, is terrifying. But fear not! With some simple tips you will be well on the road to giving a speech worthy of a president and (almost) nerve free.

Visual aids - Hand-outs, PowerPoint slides and pictures will draw the attention away from you. Instead, your audience will focus on the media you have produced rather than staring directly at your face.

Talk slowly - It is inevitable that nerves may make you want to ramble on at about 80 miles per hour as this will naturally mean you talk for less time. However, it will also lead to a confused audience who lose concentration, cue the array of questions being asked at the end.

Practice makes perfect - Perform your speech or presentation in front of a friend beforehand to iron out any hiccups and receive positive criticism. If you are safe in the knowledge that you have nailed it once, the real deal will seem less daunting.

Plough on - It has been proven that anxiety when performing a speech peaks within the first two minutes of your presentation. With this in mind, concentrate on getting past the initial nerves, knowing that it will only get easier. And Don't apologise if you slip up a few times. Mistakes are bound to happen, and stuttering on that hard to articulate word will only be made worse if you shyly look to the ground and mumble an apology whilst your cheeks flare an unwelcoming shade of beetroot.

Interact! - Asking questions which require them to put their hands up will get them involved and put you at ease. It will also aid eye contact so you can directly address people rather than looking wildly around the room in an attempt to ignore the face watching you.

If none of the above appeals to you, there are always the old wives tales to fall back on. Imagining your audience are babies or that they are actually invisible may work; however, personally, I know that would only give me the giggles! Whatever techniques you choose to adopt, stand confident and revel in the fact that your speech or presentation will not go on forever. It's a few minutes of your life, so give it your best shot. Good luck!

COOKING WITH CLAIRE KELLY



CHOCOLATE BROWNIES MELTING DROPS

250g dark chocolate
100g milk chocolate
250g brown sugar
250g butter
3 eggs
85g plain flour
1tsp baking powder
50g pecan nuts, slightly crushed

1. Melt all the chocolate and leave to cool slightly.
2. While the chocolate is cooling, whisk the eggs with an electric whisk (it is possible with a hand whisk but will take twice the time!) until thick and pale. Then gradually whisk in the sugar until thick, creamy and shiny. The mixture should have doubled in size.
3. Fold the melted chocolate, flour, baking powder and pecan nuts into the egg and sugar mixture - gradually combine it altogether until is all mixed (do not beat as this will remove the air!).
4. Place in the prepared tin and bake in a preheated 160 degree oven for 30-35 minutes. It will be soft in the middle but have a cracked cake texture on top.
5. Leave to cool on a wired rack, dust with icing sugar and enjoy!

225g butter (for a healthier alternative use sunflower spread)
50g caster sugar
225g plain flour
115g cornflour
OPTIONAL: 1tsp cinnamon
Icing sugar for dusting

1. Beat the butter (or sunflower spread) together with the sugar until light in colour and well mixed. Sift the flour, cornflour and spice (if using) into the bowl with the butter and sugar mixture, and gradually mix until it is all combined and resembles a soft dough.
2. To form the drops, lightly flour your fingers and roll heaped teaspoons of the mixture into round balls. Place on a baking tray lined with non-stick baking parchment. Alternatively, grease the tray and dust lightly with flour. You will need 2 baking trays and each will hold 12 shaped drops.
3. Bake in a preheated 160 degree oven for 40-45 minutes until lightly golden. (After 20 minutes swap the trays around to ensure an even bake!).
4. When they are ready transfer to a wired rack to cool and dust with the icing sugar. Chew. Taste. Happiness.

OPEN EYES, OPEN MIND

ALICE YOUNG WANTS TO KNOW HOW YOU'RE REALLY FEELING

How are you? People ask us this question almost every day. If we're not feeling our best we wouldn't think twice about answering with 'I've got a rotten cold', 'my asthma is flaring up again', or maybe 'my back is killing me'. But anything related to the mind is a different story. 'I've got an eating disorder', 'my depression is flaring up again', 'my bipolar disorder is killing me'; you wouldn't expect to hear these replies because stigma surrounding mental health problems makes some things harder to say.

This perspective needs to be challenged, and ready to rise to that challenge is the new student society Open Eyes, Open Mind. Set up by second year student Becky Joyce, the society aims to increase awareness and break down the stigma associated with mental illness. Open Eyes, Open Mind are organising a variety of awareness campaigns and events, such as Stand Up, Speak Out nights. 'These nights are an opportunity for students and staff to share their experiences with mental health issues in a supportive and non-judgemental environment', explains Becky.

Open Eyes, Open Mind also want to highlight the positive side of managing and recovering from mental health issues by organising fun events, including comedy nights, open mic

nights and trips with other affiliated student societies. The future looks exciting for the society; Becky shares her hopes to 'bring high profile speakers to the university and lead Lancaster as a frontier in changing people's conceptions of mental illness'. If you want to be part of this amazing opportunity to really make a difference then Open Eyes, Open Mind welcomes you with open arms. The simplest way to sign up is to find the society's page on Facebook.

1 IN 4 PEOPLE EXPERIENCE A MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM IN ANY GIVEN YEAR.

If you feel you don't just want to raise awareness, you also need support and advice- you're not alone. Many of us have heard this statistic: 1 in 4 people experience a mental health problem in any given year. People between the ages of 18 to 22 have been proven to be at higher risk. Factor in the additional stressors of university life- financial worries, coursework deadlines, new experiences- and the whispered and invisible mental health issues suddenly be-

come very real and very common. Just as Stephen Fry, president of the mental health charity Mind says: 'student life is not always the party people think it is'. But luckily the university has many different ways in which you can gain advice and support.

The first port of call is often a GP who can help lead people in the right direction: this might involve medication, a talking treatment or a combination of both. Here at Lancaster there is a dedicated Counselling and Mental Health Service (that can be contacted via The Base) which offers appointments and workshops to talk through any issues that are preventing you from enjoying your university life to the fullest. Additionally, if you would simply like an anonymous and empathetic person to share your concerns with, Lancaster Nightline run a confidential service every night of term from 10pm to 8am. Alternative therapy has also been known to work wonders on symptoms involved in mental health issues - why not enjoy some acupuncture, aromatherapy or body massages in the Chaplaincy Centre.

Let's not be afraid to seek support when needed - together let's eradicate stigma for good. How are you?

THE RESTAURANT REVIEW: MARCO'S

HAYLEY SCHUBERT

Hidden amongst the clubs and cobbled side streets of Lancaster lies a little Italian gem by the name of Marcos. Whilst its exterior does little to depict the restaurant's authenticity, once inside, the leather-seated bar and cosy log fire ooze rustic Italian charm. This is continued through to the dining area, where the traditional background music adds to the friendly atmosphere.

Suitable for students, families and couples alike, Marco's caters for those who love Italian food - from standard dishes such as garlic bread, lasagne and pizza to more diverse dishes such as lamb, duck and liver. With the majority of the menu at student friendly prices too, even the fussiest of eaters won't be stuck for choice. For those who may not be restricted by budget, if you purchase two of the more expensive dishes, you receive a complimentary bottle of wine - ideal for celebrations.

During your meal, you will almost certainly be subjected to the traditional 'Happy Birthday' chant; however, at Marco's they incorporate their Italian heritage by singing it in their native language (after the third time I was even able to recite some of the lyrics).

As for portion sizes, this could not be faulted; some may even see it as a challenge to clear their plates! Do try and make room for dessert though,

those of you with a sweet tooth will not be disappointed. Whether you are a chocolate lover or not, the dessert menu is a sure fire winner. The open-plan kitchen allows you to watch the chefs as they cook your food; enhancing the restaurant's appeal, as the food's aroma teases your senses. For those of you with minimal patience this may however have a detrimental effect, as you eagerly pray that every completed dish will be yours -only for it to be served to another table.

EVEN THE FUSSIEST OF EATERS WON'T BE STUCK FOR CHOICE

This brings me onto the (few) negative points. Whilst the staff were very polite, they did lack slightly in efficiency. Flagging a waiter down to order a drink can be a lengthy experience, as can the time period between each of your courses.

Whilst the delicious flavours infused in the meals do make up for this, some may become agitated at the rather laid back service. Apart from this, there was little room to criticise Marco's - the food was beautiful, the atmosphere inviting and the menu affordable. I definitely recommend it. Don't forget to take your purple card either - everyone loves a good discount!

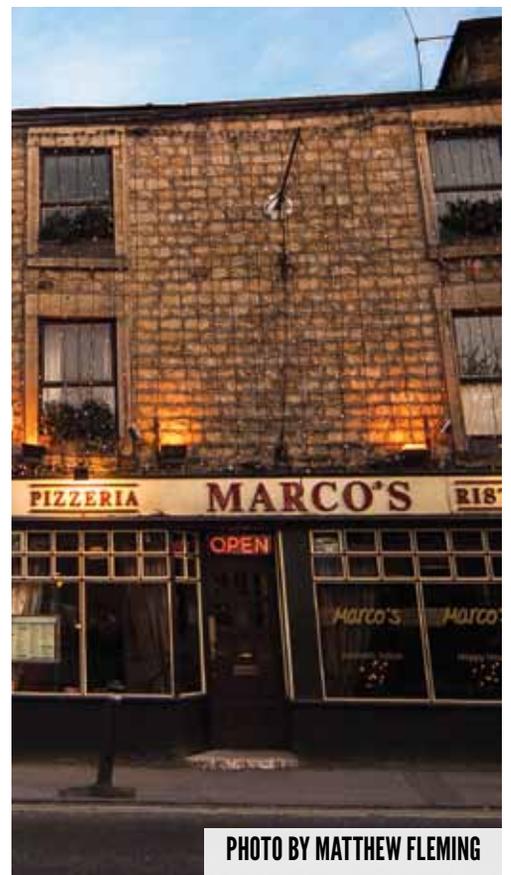


PHOTO BY MATTHEW FLEMING

BLOGS: SUPERFICIAL OR INSPIRATIONAL?

SARAH WARSAW

Since writing for the fashion section, I have become increasingly interested in reading fashion blogs, and seeing what other fashionistas across the country have to say about the latest fashion and beauty trends. In fact I had actually set up my own blog with the intention of blogging about fashion and beauty bargains, a topic that is always relevant for students today. However recently I've been put off by these blogs as I've been debating whether or not the girls that have hundreds of lipsticks, shoes and blushers are actually just very materialistic, and is this really 'me'?

It is great to see girls making a living by channelling all their efforts into their passion. By creating a blog or YouTube channel, fashion and beauty enthusiasts can connect, converse and engage with other fanatics across the country. Once they've got a loyal following, companies often approach them for advertising and sometimes they are even get paid by YouTube to create videos about their latest shopping trip for example. So many followers enthusiastically post their own link in their comments, yet only a small handful of these bloggers become successful and can create a living from blogging. Two personal favourites of mine are Lily Pebbles - <http://www.whatihearthoday.com/> and Rosie T - <http://www.thelondoner.me/>. These girls in particular have managed to create an impressive following and get paid for their online work- inspirational role models for those keen bloggers out there.

'BEING INTERESTED IN FASHION IS ALL VERY WELL, BUT DO THESE GIRLS SEEM A LITTLE SHALLOW?'

However, another point of view towards these blogs is their materialistic nature. Being interested in fashion and beauty is all very well, but on the other hand, do these girls seem a little shallow, as they have devoted their careers to photographing and videoing themselves and their shopping purchases. Lily Pebbles filmed herself and the contents of her handbag in a 10 minute video, which personally I found slightly unnecessary and self-indulgent. I know what an iPad looks like and I can see that your umbrella is flowery; you don't need to tell me. Does anyone even care? Apparently people do, as that particular video has over 23,000 views!

I genuinely find it interesting to read what these bloggers have to say, and clearly many others feel the same way, based on the views and success that some of the bloggers have. Blogs are a great way to read product reviews and even take inspiration for outfits. I admire those who are making money thanks to their blogs, as it does take a lot of hard work and time to be that successful. However, are these bloggers a bit egotistical? I'll let you decide.

NINETIES NOSTALGIA

ALICE YOUNG

Despite our differences there's one experience that unites every single one of us university students: we've all lived through the 90s. For better or worse, each one of us has championed (and fallen victim to) some of the decade's many crazes. The fashion world is eternally nostalgic and has fallen back in love with all things 90s; so join me on a trip down memory lane as we explore the trends that are back with a vengeance.

MOOD RINGS-Back in the 90s we didn't need to stalk people's Facebook page to find out how they were feeling- we could simply take a look at their mystical, body temperature sensitive mood ring. If my old and much-loved mood ring is anything to go by, I'm in a constant state of anxiety. Call me a sceptic but I'm starting to think it has more to do with the freezing temperatures of Lancaster than my emotional disposition. Accuracy aside, these blasts from the past have recently been seen gracing Topshop jewellery stands.

SCRUNCHIES-No self-respecting girl in the nineties would leave the house with a scrunchie-less ponytail. But being the fickle fashionistas that we are, we later shunned the hair accessory. The scrunchie was cursed to live a half-life, only wrapped around the hair of gymnasts and Vicky Pollard. However, after designer duo Laura Fraser and Eu Simo Grijalbo founded their label My Crazy Scrunchie, the neglected hair accessory has been resurrected. After all, it's an accepted rule: if model of the moment Cara Delevingne wears it, it's cool.

BODY GLITTER-If you didn't spend the 90s coated head to toe in glitter then you were doing something wrong. As I sparkled incessantly whilst dancing to 'Teenage Dirtbag' at the school disco, I can personally vouch for the body glitter craze surviving into the new millennium. This trend was resistant- partly because it was so bloody difficult to clean off. It would be applied to collar bones, shoulders, stomachs, hair. If you didn't accent your best features by dousing them with glitter, well, what was the point in having them at all? Now, thanks to countless make up brands like MAC and Urban Decay, reflecting light has never looked cooler.

GRUNGE-True, it's pretty ironic that the aesthetic qualities of an anti-consumerist movement from the early 90s are being featured in a fashion article. King of Grunge, Kurt Cobain would be turning in his grave. But despite its anti-fashion origins, the fashion world is currently going gaga for grunge. According to the House of Holland Spring/Summer 2013 show, 'the House of Holland girl has developed an attitude problem'. Jewelled beanie hats, tie-dye prints, spaghetti strap dresses and lace up boots meant the catwalk is infused with dirty, grungy vibes. The great thing about grunge is that it can be interpreted in so many different ways, as long as your outfit has an 'I just woke up, threw this on and I don't give a damn' attitude, then you're on the right track.



A WALK INTO WONDERLAND

THIS SEASON IS INSPIRED BY THE FANTASTIC DREAM-LIKE HAZE OF 'ALICE IN WONDERLAND' FASHION

SOPHIE GRACE BARRETT
DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR

Wonderland is arguably constructed as an outlet for the repressed or suppressed to reign supreme. It is fantastical, but not a product of the imagination, as it retains a sense of independence from the mind— Alice is very much a victim of circumstance within Wonderland. Dreams are misleading and chaotic but these labyrinths can be sinister, sublime and joyous.

'THE TALKING FLOWERS HAVE PERMEATED INTO SPRING FASHION THROUGH THE ROMANTIC PETAL-STREWN GOWNS AGAINST A LANDSCAPE OF FORESTRY WITHIN THE 'CHANNEL AT PARIS COUTURE WEEK.'

Wonderland therefore, is a dream-like kaleidoscopic and hyper-real world which challenges and deconstructs the binaries of the illogic and the logic. Sense and the nonsensical are juxtaposed to explore the limitations between the binaries. Perhaps both terms are interchangeable and neither can exist without the other (some critics have interpreted Carroll's construction as a critique of a limiting sense of reason).

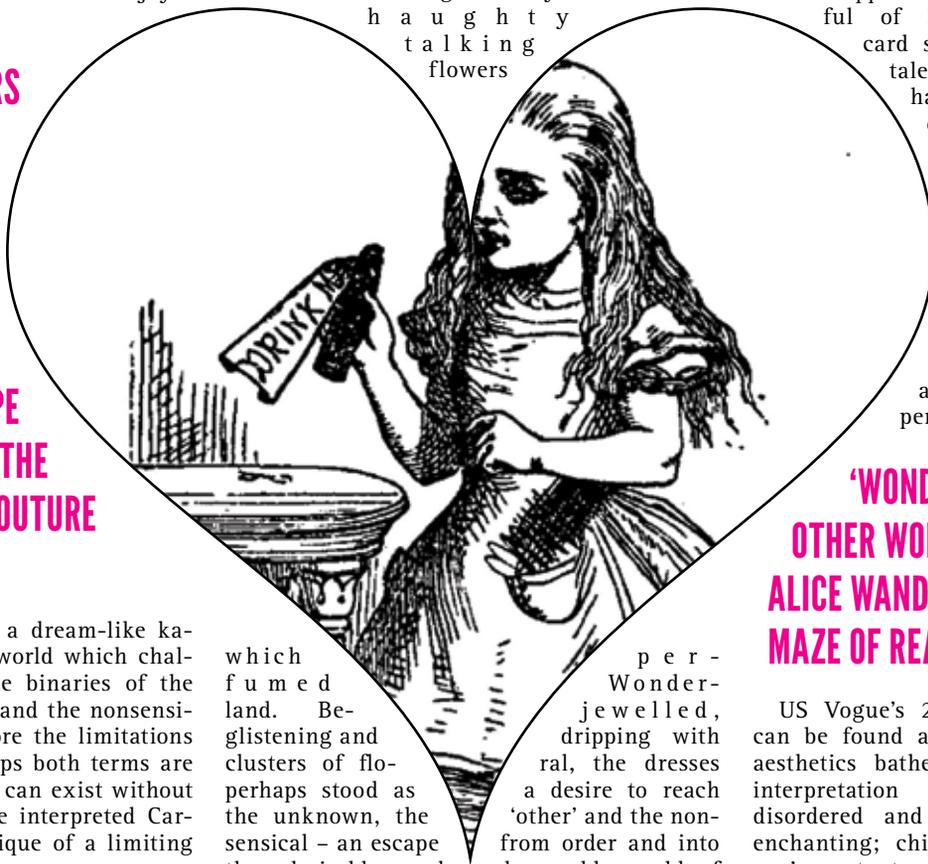
This juxtaposition between the chaotic and the 'normal' has been reflected within the fashion of the coming season. Contemporary society arguably holds a similar fascination to the 'other' as the Victorians, whose morbid curiosity and interest in child-like utopia (and perhaps a Lacanian return to the 'real') amalgamated into dreamy literary fiction. This dreaminess is so realist that it is rendered hyper-real, and Carroll perhaps satirizes this realism through his creation of talking flowers, whose abnormality contradicts and therefore questions our interpretation of reality.

The talking flowers have permeated into spring fashion through the romantic petal-strewn gowns against

a landscape of forestry within the 'Channel at Paris Couture Week.'

Dior's outfits emerged from the catwalk seemingly repressed (perhaps representing normality in contradiction to nonsense) and gradually grew from restrained into full-bloom. Silk petals and embroideries questioned the boundaries between the supernatural and the naturalistic. The models dressed as flower gardens personified the flowers, which reminds me significantly of the

h a u g h t y
t a l k i n g
f l o w e r s



which fumed land. Be-glistening and clusters of flower perhaps stood as the unknown, the sensical – an escape the desirable and chaos.

Wonderland is playfully other worldly and weird- Alice wanders through the maze of reason and illogic. She clashes between being hedonistic and also the victim to circumstance, flitting between control and the atypical and challenging. This chaotic juxtaposition has translated to the high street. Urban Outfitters are currently relishing in an obsession over saturated and intensified floral patterns. They have created a range of dresses, skirts and trousers with printed panoramic-style floral clusters. By taking the natural to the material, the normal is re-appropriated and confused, hence the reference to the Wonderland hyper-real.

per-jewelled, dripping with ral, the dresses a desire to reach 'other' and the non-pleasurable world of

'A DREAM-LIKE KALEIDOSCOPIC AND HYPER-REAL WORLD WHICH CHALLENGES AND DECONSTRUCTS LOGIC'

Glamour Magazine have taken a more literal approach, and selected a handful of heart-shaped and playing-card styles which reflect Carroll's tale. The clothes represent the haughty and luxurious Queen of Hearts, who, decked out in passionate and empowering reds and lustful hearts within the several film versions, takes the inner-corporeal to the outer-corporeal. The heart is taken from the inside, and projected outside onto the material, which again, is abnormal and therefore challenges the perception of reality.

'WONDERLAND IS PLAYFULLY OTHER WORLDLY AND WEIRD- ALICE WANDERS THROUGH THE MAZE OF REASON AND ILLOGIC.'

US Vogue's 2003 December issue (which can be found at trendland.com) boasts rich aesthetics bathed in romance, a fairy-tale interpretation of Wonderland. Though disordered and strange, this absurdity is enchanting; child development and finding one's context within the world is strangely endearing.

The transition from child to adult is absurd, but totally normal – there is conflict within coming-of-age. This emotional and romantic interpretation of the novel has been countless translated into fashion. Silks, ruffles and collars which reflect Victorian nostalgia, melancholia and a Tennysonesque return to the medieval, can be found within High-street outlets.

Topshop's lace and jewelled collars are decadent and therefore unusual, thus further reflecting the hyper-reality of Wonderland and the age of Victorian nostalgia.

FIFTY TRENDS OF GRAY

TEN DOMINANT MENSWEAR TRENDS BOUND TO HELP THE FASHION SUBMISSIVE

DAMIAN GRAY

Enough with the gags – they are never a strong look. Throughout the next issues of SCAN I'll be looking at 50 trends in men's fashion ranging from the latest in independent labels to the next vintage look to reappear in the high-street.

1. SHOES: NIKE BLAZERS

With the rise of the trainer as day-and-night wear Nike are on fire with this iconic shoe. I'm not saying that all other trainers pale in comparison but there's something about the Nike Swoosh and suede combo that makes them miles ahead of the rest. No need to search high or low for them either as they're found in most high-street footwear shops.

2. VINTAGE: DENIM

You may find that your family are a great resource when it comes to vintage, especially denim as it lasts forever (this is scientifically proven, right?). You're not spending a penny and you can pretty much guarantee no one will have exactly the same. Get them to dig out their jeans, shorts and jackets. Wear your Granddad's. You will look incredible.

3. FIT: OVERSIZED TEES

Long gone are the days of wearing t-shirts that show whether you've an "innie" or an "outie". Buy your going out tops bigger than usual for a more laid back look that allows you to go large on your post-club Big Mac.

4. ACCESSORIES: CHAINS

A simple gold or silver chain can be an effortless style choice and fit with almost any outfit. If you're going to wear it now and again head to ASOS. If it's going to become part of you then go to your local jewellers but barter; they will be overpriced.

5. HEADWEAR: BEANIES

The latest must-have. They keep you warm, you can skip styling your hair and they look pretty fly too. Check out any high street store for the cheapest ones or independent designer labels such as NO EMOTION for a beanie that's ahead of the game.

6. PRINT: GALAXY

There are certain prints that will forever look cool and the galaxy print is the star example. After a summer in womenswear it's good to see that we finally have lift off with digital printed tees by GARMS CLOTHING and BIZARRE TEES. You'll look out of this world.

7. OUTERWEAR: BOMBER

Jacket trends come and go but the Bomber comes out to play every spring and with brands such as RECLAIMED VINTAGE, creating lightweight

bombers with on-trend sleeves/panels such as leopard/floral print, it seems that this time they'll be sticking around for summer too.

8. OFF THE SHELF: HIGH ROLL TEES

If like me, you're fed up of rolling up your sleeves when fall down every couple of minutes then get yourself to TOPMAN. They have an abundance of high roll tees with stitched sleeves meaning you can worry about more important things – like dancing.

9. GOING OUT: SHITE SHIRTS

Finally, the hideous can look hot, as shirts with blindingly ugly prints are the envy of the dance-floor. Thanks to Macklemore it is all about the thrift shop look so get yourself to the charity shops and see if you can beat my £6 find of a surfing kitten printed shirt.

10. OUT THERE: GRAPHIC SWEATSHIRTS

I recently uncovered a Polish company that prints your high quality pictures digitally onto sweat-shirts. They also have pre-made prints such as galaxy, Egyptian pharaoh and jellybeans. If you want to stand out from the crowd and don't mind the 21-day delivery time then check out MR GUGU & MISS GO. Remember, good things come to those who wait (or live in Poland).



SPRING/SUMMER 2013

KELLY WALDEN

NOT SO GIRLY FLORALS

Florals have had an attitude makeover this season. Gone are the girly, ditzzy pastel prints of yesteryear; instead think bold, in-your-face flowers that make a statement. Whether they're appliqué or in an array of bold colours, you certainly won't be a wallflower if you follow this trend. Moschino particularly stood out, infusing eye-popping colours and unusual large graphics.

THE SHOE

I've fallen in love with Michael Kors' take on the white leather pointed toe court shoe. With a small elegant heel they scream high fashion and instantly glamorize any outfit. What's more, it's a real throwback shoe that doesn't take itself too seriously. You don't have to wait until summer as they look great in the colder weather with a trouser and blazer.

A SKIRT FOR EVERYONE

Skirts are back with a vengeance this season. They are feminine and empowering- there's a style to suit everybody. The pencil skirt made a big impression, appearing for Oscar De La Renta and Giambattista Vallia's lines, alongside knee length pleated styles and Victoria Beckham's A-Line skirts. The skirt is perfect for any occasion from casual drinks with friends, to a night out or special occasion. You can experiment with prints and splits for a skirt that really will see you through summer.

A TASTE OF THE ORIENT

An oriental theme graced the catwalks of Etro and Emilio Pucci to name but a few, influencing both shapes and prints for this season. In the coming months you're likely to see many kimono inspired jackets, with the obligatory obi belt, and an array of various prints. You can have a lot of fun with this trend blending key pieces seamlessly into your wardrobe.

BLACK IS THE NEW BLACK

I'm not sure how I feel about this trend, but the SS13 runways were awash with the colour black. Black is always a safe bet, and whatever purchase you make can see you right through the season and onwards into autumn and winter. However summer is about being daring with colours and prints that you would shy away from in winter; for me, black just doesn't say 'summer.'

THE FORMAL SLOUCH

We've thankfully seen the back of bodycon dresses so tight you daren't eat. This loose slouchy trend is great for feeling stylish, fashionable, and most importantly comfortable. I love the suit separates, billowing blouses, and loose dresses at Hermes and Jil Sander.

GEOMETRIC PRINT

Geometric print has already popped onto the high street, with Topshop leading the pack, taking inspiration from Marni and Louis Vuitton. Be sure to bag yourself some geometry, whether it be a staple top, or for the more adventurous among you, how about trying some block printed cigarette pants?

GRADUATE'S DREAMS COME TRUE IN A SPECTACULAR FASHION

RACHEL JANE MCHUGH

Every budding fashionista has at some point dreamt of running their own company. For Poppy Waters, this dream has come true in a spectacular fashion (pardon the pun!).

At the end of last term I had the privilege of spending an afternoon with Poppy, owner of fashion boutique Mary and Milly. I helped with her pop-up shop at Lancaster University's Market and discovered vital tips for making it in such a competitive industry.

Launched just over a year ago, Mary and Milly specialises in vintage and classic style clothing, jewellery and accessories, holding pop up shops at a number of venues across the North West. However, the road to success wasn't without an enormous amount of hard work. After achieving a degree in Marketing and Fashion, Poppy worked in buying for a short time before deciding to "just go for it and set up my fashion business." Although the rewards are hugely worthwhile, establishing your own business is not to be undertaken lightly. "A lot of preparation went into setting up Mary and Milly. I am very fortunate and have had lots of help from my family and friends so I managed to do this in a

couple of months. A lot goes on behind the scenes getting everything just right for all the customers!"

After months of planning and years of dreaming, in December 2011 Mary and Milly was launched as a pop up shop at UCLan. To add a personal touch the boutique was named after Poppy's two wonderful grandmas; Mary and Milly.

Following the overwhelming success in Preston, Mary and Milly has gone on to attend regular events at several other universities in the North West, including here at Lancaster in Alexandra Square every Thursday. The boutique has also become available to book for home parties, where hosts and guests can spend an evening browsing and shopping the brand's unique, individual pieces.

As with any new business, the internet can prove to be a vital tool in terms of networking and promotion. After weekly buying trips, Poppy uses social media spaces to keep followers up to date with the latest products by uploading pictures and offering the chance to order online - a system which

has proved essential with the growing popularity of the company. As well as establishing Facebook and Twitter pages, Mary and Milly now run their own space on ASOS Marketplace where customers can buy online. This has proved extremely beneficial in expanding the company's already impressive fan base. Poppy adds, "selling on ASOS Marketplace has taken Mary and Milly global. Sales have been coming from all over; Sweden, Denmark and France to name a few, even Australia!" Nevertheless, with the growth of the company, Poppy has remained faithful to the "idea of selling items that are different to the mass high street products and that are affordable for students," giving university students 10% discount on all products.



Poppy gave me some important career advice for those interested in setting up their own business or working in the fashion industry in general. She highlights four main points:-

1. Networking - Attend events and mix with people who have similar interests and aspirations. Remember, it's not what you know but who you know!

2. Work Experience

- It'll look good on your CV and can help build contacts. Even if it's only for a week, that's how I gained my first job in buying.

3. Be cheeky! - If you don't ask, you don't get so don't be afraid to approach professionals for jobs, work experience or even just advice.

4. Do something you enjoy - In order to stand out from the crowd, your passion to work in the industry MUST BE OBVIOUS. Chances are you will be working in your chosen profession for many years to come therefore the importance of carefully considering your options can't be stressed enough!

So what does the future hold? With interest increasing at a staggering rate, it surely comes as no surprise that there are significant plans for the year ahead. Poppy says "there are some exciting plans in the pipeline for Mary and Milly including starting a menswear range. Just watch this space!" With a brand as fresh and original as Mary and Milly right on our doorstep, we will!

To check out the new Spring/Summer collection, or for more information head to www.maryandmilly.co.uk

IS DISCO FEVER A FEVER TO CATCH?

LAURA DEMPSTER
FASHION EDITOR

"Those are the trousers I want!" I whispered to a friend as I nodded towards a girl stood near us at the underpass. "Those?!" I'd been wittering on about disco pants for months so when I pointed them out she couldn't believe that I wanted to cover my limbs with a shiny, spandex second-skin, and to be honest I can't quite believe it either. These synthetic tubes of material bounced onto the scene back in, you guessed it, the 80s when Olivia Newton-John wore them in the film 'Grease.' Legend has it that she had to be sewn into them because they were so tight!

If this legend is true, I can imagine that they are quite literally a death trap- being cut in half after a particularly large meal or a heavy pre-drinks session being two afflictions associated with them. Not to mention casting the bloody things off, I have been caught in a twenty minute changing room trouser struggle in the past and it's just not pretty- think Ross' leather trousers situation from 'Friends.'

'JUST THINK ROSS' LEATHER TROUSERS SITUATION FROM 'FRIENDS.'

So is there a frame that these trousers could flatter? If you are carrying junk in the trunk, yes, they will suck you in but the love handles will find a way to escape somehow. Muffin tops will certainly make an appearance on the slimmest of wearers.

I wouldn't be surprised if cankles came out to say hello either, not to mention the inevitable camel toe. If you have a smaller posterior you will most definitely get ironing board bum, a flat board-like arse that you could bounce a tennis ball off. However, they do claim to lift and shape you with their 'hip hugging' cut, perhaps I'm being too harsh on the little devils? After all, I am the one who wants to buy a pair.

So what is still attracting me to these vixens? Is it the shiny fabric luring me in like a magpie or is it the fact that they are so darn versatile? If you're wondering how to style them, listen up. For an 'off duty' daytime style around campus wear them with a denim shirt, hoodie and converse (don't forget to add collar clips to your shirt for something different!)

Feel free to exchange a denim shirt for a Breton, pocket or patterned tee.

However at night channel your inner Newton-John and go with a low or backless top, accessorised with a statement necklace and a bright lipstick. Be aware of wearing a bodysuit though- I doubt even a thong would be safe from VPL underneath these lecherous beasts of legwear.

Call it curiosity or call it madness, but I'd quite like to see the look on my future daughter's face when I whip them out of the loft in twenty years, much like my own mother has done with some of her wardrobe malfunctions.

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COMMENT

scan.lusu.co.uk/comment

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The day the music died

Steff Brawn voices her disgust at the removal of the Music degree



Steff Brawn
Culture Editor

Through all the twists and turns of life, you need something that consistently and unquestionably brings you back to the surface when you've been pushed into the darkest waters. For me, this force has always been music. It's an art that goes beyond the most powerful novels and the most breath-taking speeches because it speaks when words fail. Music has guided me through the hardest times and given me strength when I thought all hope had gone. How it has continued to do this I cannot quite explain, but I always hoped that my choice to study it would help me to understand its power and influence and pass that appreciation on to other people. I chose the thriving arts department LICA at Lancaster University that seemed like an environment with a spark of creativity and a flashy new building with a music department that offered a huge spectrum of topics to study. Who'd have thought that by the middle of my degree that that image would be completely destroyed? For those of you that have heard about the travesty Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts have put on our plate, allow me to take you deeper into a pit of gradual failings.

My musical journey, however powerful it may have been for me emotionally, has always been tainted. At high school promises had been broken regarding new facilities and increased space

and there was general feeling that music was constantly pushed aside. It seems that this curse has followed me, for LICA have not only not given us the 3rd floor space of the LICA building because they didn't have the planning permission to finish it but they have also pushed us around expecting us to get what we are given. Modules such as Studio Technique, Performance and LICA 100 and 200 have caused problems for many students. Studio Technique is a core module for Music Technology students as is Performance for straight music students and both of these have been threatened. Performance no longer exists due to cuts in instrumental tuition and Studio Technique survived by the skin of its teeth thanks to the brave protest of students. LICA 100 and 200 are modules that all arts students have been forced to take which cover the power of the arts as a united force which despite being enjoyable to some extent have angered many students by being a waste of credits which could have been used to study their own field more intensely. We have constantly been living on the edge not knowing the next direction our education was going to take.

'We were practically forced to take modules we didn't want to just to fill up space'

The biggest change that is definitely a huge contributing factor to Music falling apart is the fact that a decision was made last year to fuse the three separate degree schemes – Music, Music Technology and Popular Music Studies – into one degree simply known as Music. This was done because there weren't enough



THE LICA BUILDING
Photo by Jay Theis

students studying each separate degree and it had to be done in order for the subject to survive. However, because students are now unable to specialise in this broad subject, this has surely been a huge reason behind why there are now hardly any applicants for the course at all. One might think that fusing three degrees together would give a student a vast amount of module choices and we'd be fighting for more credit space. I know that myself and many others however spent days wrestling with the module choices because we were practically forced to take modules we didn't want to just to fill up space. A degree at a top ten university should be beyond satisfactory and we can hardly say that when we don't even get to study the topics we'd like to after paying between £3000 and £9000 a year.

To top all this off we are now faced with redundancies for each and every one of our fantastic lecturers which means of course the end of the music degree beyond its current students. Not only that, but the current students will be affected with what could potentially be very bleak module

choices with only three promised teaching positions next year. As if this wasn't bad enough, a face to face meeting about the future of our degree wasn't promised until week six and we received this vital information through insensitive emails. In addition, the lecturers were apparently not even present at the discussion that decided their fate and now both they and students are faced with uncomfortable uncertainty without even being in the driving seat.

From the start of this situation that could have been dealt with much more fairly we have been mistreated, pushed aside and undervalued, but it does not have to be this way. I hope that however strong your passions are for the subject, you will join me in voicing your disgust for what has unjustly happened to the high standard of education we have a right to receive. I do not and will never understand how LICA can call itself an arts institution without the dominant creative force of music – let's speak up, stand up and wake them up to the beauty and power of this dying art form at Lancaster and give it back the life it deserves.

It is important that you vote in the FTO elections

Rosalia O'Reilly
LUSU VP (EWD)

You are paying us to run your union. I'll not be the first FTO to say that you probably don't pay us enough given that it's a Friday and the last time I left work before 10pm was when I got signed off with ligament damage, but regardless, I am essentially your employee.

"So please take the 10 minutes to log on, skim the manifestos, and vote"

When I ran for this role I made it very clear what my key priorities were at Lancaster, and given how virtually unknown and un-involved I was with LUSU beforehand I like to think that the reason I won was because the people who voted agreed with what I had to say. The feeling that people were on my side and willing me to achieve the things I had set down on my manifesto gave me a lot of motivation, it also gave me an advantage when making my case to the university: 'this isn't just my opinion, this is also the opinion of the 1,039 students who chose me as their first preference candidate'.

It's our job, as students, to provide our new officer team strong mandates. We need to show our support for them based on the aims and goals they set for the union in their election manifestos.

Only with support will we give these officers the confidence and backing essential to doing a good job.

Also, sympathise with us. The campaign to get people out voting has taken a team of people months to prepare, and they will be going sleepless over the next few weeks.

All the candidates and their campaigning teams will spend the two weeks frantically running around campus trying to talk to people and engage them in the student movement... Why? Because they want to improve the student experience for you.

So please take the 10 minutes to log on, skim the manifestos, and vote for the candidates you feel best represent your opinions.

Education

GCSEs need reform, not scrapping

Rachel Quin
Deputy Features Editor

It was recently announced that the government Secretary of Education Michael Gove has opted to scrap his plans to abolish the current GCSE system used in secondary schools, after facing opposition from the coalition Liberal Democrats, as well as protests from exam regulators and teachers. The original plans for reform were leaked in 2012, and the Guardian claimed that Gove planned to replace GCSEs with a system similar to O-levels. Gove's abandonment of his brainchild is a sure sign that the coalition government is failing to make any real changes to Britain.

One of the media's favourite claims every single year, when students' grades improve, is that exams are getting easier. Perhaps Gove shared this sentiment, which is why he wanted to return to an archaic form of testing which allow the privileged, intelligent classes of society to move up the social scale; whilst abandoning those who perhaps need more assistance when it comes to reaching the top marks. Mary Bousted, leader of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, was quoted in 2012 as saying that the decision to scrap GCSEs was "ludicrous" and would be harmful in that O-levels were designed for "20% of the population" who could benefit from the O-levels. O-levels were scrapped in 1988, and were wholly exam-based, undoubtedly giving advantage to those students who performs well under exam conditions and isolating those who would benefit from showing the extent of their work over a longer period of time, like the GCSE coursework offers students.

It was even suggested that O-levels were statistically more beneficial for males. Madsen Pirie claimed that males thrived under exam conditions; thus introducing coursework as part of the high school qualification system, despite disadvantaging males to some extent, has assisted in reversing the gender gap in education – feminists all over Britain can rest assured that girls are getting a decent education. In addition, critics of Gove's reform argued that the O-level system did little to address social mobility, due to the fact that pupils judged to be more able were



Cartoon by Jordan David

assigned to sit O-levels, whereas the rests sat CSEs, which employers deemed to be inferior. She claimed that "the aim should be to get as many people as possible to the best standard they can achieve... you do not do that by dividing everyone as sheep and goats at 14", which is certainly true; but then it's no secret that the Conservatives enjoy branding education as a luxury for the privileged few.

However, it is questionable as to whether giving up on a reform of GCSEs is the right way to go. Although I agree with the idea that returning to O-levels would be a foolish error in an increasingly divided Britain, I also believe that perhaps GCSEs aren't exactly the best way of encouraging kids to work hard and do well. Without meaning to sound boastful, me and my friends did next to no revision in preparation for our GCSE exams (although admittedly I worked hard on the coursework and had to revise for my Maths GCSE unless I wanted to completely flunk out or

squint across the space between me and the desk next to me). Either way, I remember my GCSEs as a time of playing the newly released Sims 3 and occasionally reading a page or two in a revision textbook. Whilst still acquiring very good grades and doing well, it led to me believing that I could get through exams with barely any revision – which, once you've moved onto higher education, you very quickly discover that you can't.

At the same time, there were also many people at my school that had to work hard to achieve a passing grade, and it is these people that would have paid the price if Gove's reforms had been successful. At the end of the day, although Gove being forced to abandon his plans for reform is a relief to students and teachers alike, it is also a sign of the Conservative party's inability to reform the country the way they desire and the failings of the coalition government. Is there really any point in a government which can't seem to agree?

Welfare

Welfare-to-Work is a failure



Alex Littleboy
Comment Editor

Recently, Welfare-to-Work schemes have been the site of a major battle between the government and citizens. There have been major court cases that have brought the legality of the schemes into question, and Ian Duncan Smith appeared on the Andrew Marr show criticizing people who he labelled as thinking that they are too good for work schemes.

The government has done a reasonable job of marketing these welfare-to-work schemes as a fight between 'scroungers' and 'strivers', arguing that those receiving benefits such as job seekers allowance are simply parasites, preying on the system without incentive to get into work. To the government, the idea of

people being required to work for their benefits is ideologically in line with the Conservative party's history of dismantling and stripping back the welfare state.

However, these schemes are a poor idea on paper. The idea of forcing benefits recipients to work is unacceptable to me, although I refrain from using the exaggerated and melodramatic term of 'Slavery'. Ian Duncan Smith has claimed that recipients aren't forced to work without pay, as the benefits themselves constitute financial reimbursement for services. But why should Poundland pay wages for employees if they can take on free labour from one of these schemes, and receive money from the government for doing so? In essence, the scheme, while designed to get people on benefits into paid work, is actively contributing to an environment in which this paid work is unavailable.

The case of Cait Reilly clearly demonstrates a failure to consider individual needs and situations by these programs. Reilly, a Geology graduate, was receiving Job Seekers Allowance while working voluntarily for a

museum, something that was providing her with valuable experience for a possible future career using her degree. However, she was required to leave this voluntary position in order to take part in the 'Sector-based work academy' scheme, which constituted two weeks unpaid work at Poundland, which failed to give her any valuable experience, and which she should not have been told was compulsory. This complete failure to adapt to individual situations means that the schemes fail more often than not, as it takes them away from previous attempts to improve themselves that would help them in the exact way that the government scheme fails to do.

Ian Duncan Smith continued to argue against the rulings, attempting to demonise those on benefits as thinking themselves "above shelf stacking". He made the argument that, when people go into a supermarket, "when they can't find the food on the shelves, who is more important: them, the geologist or the person who's stacked the shelves?". Not only is this completely irrelevant to

the argument, it appears to be making the argument that smart people should forget getting careers in the subjects that they choose to study, and instead everyone should get jobs stacking shelves. The idea that the scheme is just under attack from those who see themselves as being 'too good' for this work is laughable. What people do want is relevant work experience, and to be paid if they are required to work.

I am not going to argue that these work experience schemes are flawed by nature. However, requiring people to work in order to keep their benefits raises all sorts of questions about the legitimacy of said schemes. Ian Duncan Smith's arguments in favour of the schemes are full of holes and rhetoric, and refuse to deal with their issues and failings.

Really, a work experience scheme for those on Job Seekers Allowance could be considered a positive thing – provided that it is not used to provide unpaid labour to businesses that could instead be hiring, and that it is targeted to individual needs instead of being blanketed over recipients under the guise of helping them to get a job.

Gun Control

Will America ever change its attitude to guns?

Marcus Johnson

Since Obama was voted in for his second term in office, America has gone through quite a turbulent few months. However, as the celebrations went on, who was to know that only a month later Obama's second term would begin with such a tragic yet pivotal event for US politics? The tragedy that took place at Sandy Hook elementary school evoked a huge reaction within the media. The almost unanimous response of the British was for Americans to put down their guns and put an end to the all too frequent massacres. Yet even though many share the view that America had to at least limit its gun ownership, just as many saw it as a reason to increase the level of arms owned. Although Obama is attempting to push through legislation that controls gun ownership, it seems like he is facing an uphill battle. Now the question that needs to be considered is not whether limiting gun ownership is right, as many

Americans have already made their mind up on this. What does need questioning is whether it is actually possible to limit gun ownership in the USA.

'The right to bear arms as a means of self defence is cited in pretty much every argument about gun control'

America and Britain have long shared many similarities in our culture. However one thing that does divide our societies is our politics. Within the UK there will be a few people who agree that more guns are needed to defend American citizens and that armed guards should be put in schools. However, in America gun advocates are by no means a

small minority. Obama has a problem. He can't turn a blind eye to the masses of Americans who are demanding change. However, any changes he does make are likely to be met with a backlash from the influential pro-gun campaigners, many of which fund the campaigns of US senators. Therefore Obama has no choice but to walk straight into a battle with these influential campaigners and risk polarising American politics even further.

The main reference point in this argument continuously seems to be the second amendment to the US constitution. "The right to bear arms" as a means of self defence is cited in pretty much every argument about gun control. Yet the fact that many Americans are campaigning so fiercely to keep their guns just as a means of "self defence" against criminals seems to suggest an underlying cultural belief influencing their view. And there is the fear of the government. This first came to my attention in an old Louis Theroux documentary filmed in the late 90's. He visited a

group in America who were aiming to live outside the control of the US government as they feared a "new world order" was forming to create a world government. More recently there was Piers Morgan's interview with a former US marine about the gun issue. The marine stated that the second amendment was put in place to "prevent things from happening that we don't want with our government." This underlying fear of being defenceless against the government continues to crop up. And this is why Obama will have an endless struggle to impose gun control. The more he increases gun control the more this fear increases. Obama isn't just fighting hardened political beliefs, but ingrained cultural beliefs as well.

So whether you agree with gun control or not, the fact that people across the world are aware of American gun death statistics means that Obama has to act. But as head of Cure Violence, Gary Slutkin pointed out, America needs to "change people's thinking" if they wish to solve the issue.

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RONNIE ROWLANDS
Postscript

Here's the thing with Faculties

Hello you. I caught you looking, didn't I? Casting your glance across my podgy face trying to find my eyes, finding them, and deciding that looking at the big orange letters and walls of text might be a less traumatic experience for you. But that's perfectly fine, you can look - you might just learn something.

Readers of SCAN, Music students and those with a general inclination towards talking to people occasionally will no doubt be aware that the management committee of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has taken the decision to lay down the study of Music at the University. Staff will be made redundant, students will be left with a nine grand compromise, and the presence of UniBrass, the Jack Hylton Music Rooms and the arse-breakingly expensive Steinway piano in the Great Hall will feel almost hypocritical.

But principled blubberings of nostalgia, anti-philistinism and a valuable education lie only on the surface of this academic butchery - a much graver concern is to be held over the democratic structures of our university, which seem to be designed to allow for procedural goalpost shifting and 'qualified' consultation.

If you've read this issue of SCAN from cover to cover, you'll have encountered a load of ambitious young bucks vying for your vote in some election that's taking place right now. You will also have read the two-page spread in the News section which explains how

FASS management failed to follow the correct procedure in hacking LICA's organ off.

Before you decide that a 500 word exposition on the failings of University governance is boring and not related to you, please consider hearing out your much desired author on this. These democratic failings affect your education on a regular basis. Senseless mergers, degree mangling and funding cuts can all be traced back to one top table or another, and an awareness of the university's committee system is a helpful tool in pointing your ire in the right direction.

Like when Faculty Management got their hands on ASS, the consultation on the closure of Music has been deemed insufficient by all involved except... Faculty Management. The processes didn't go to the Senate, because the Senate, in their infinite wisdom, trusted the Faculties with making decisions of huge import without bringing it to their attention. This managerial independence has made FASS into a train. A train without a regulatory body to prevent it from dislodging itself from the tracks and heading straight for the town centre.

If the immediate bludgeoning to death of a struggling department or area of study is the precedent being set (it very much is), then what wonders can we expect in the current climate?

Like FASS, the university is hurtling towards a crowd at a worrying speed; all thanks to

basic standard of good taste, your author can only assume that The Tab has been somewhat checkmated by the negative comments on their Facebook page receiving more likes than the page itself. The numbers don't lie.

- Do you like 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' by Edward Albee? Do you want to go and see a performance of 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' by Edward Albee? Then get your-

our well regarded University strategy. In hiking up its entry grades, it would appear that Lancaster is quite laughably trying to compete with the likes of Oxford, Cambridge and LSE for top students. In the past, lower entry grade requirements served the university well in establishing it as an elite university that isn't elitist. Now we're perceived as the Hyacinth Bucket of the 1994 Group.

And it's not just national humiliation that our over-ambitious entry requirements are subjecting us to. As an emergency bulletin circulated by the University and Colleges Union helpfully informed us - our applications appear to be down on a cross departmental scale. History is 49% short, 33% decided they wanted to do European Languages and Cultures somewhere else, and Physics has a 30% shaped hole in its cohort.

'These democratic failings affect your education on a regular basis. Senseless mergers, degree mangling and funding cuts can all be traced back to one top table or another'

If this University wants to manage itself well, it should probably observe and learn from some Whelk stalls first. At the moment, departments are shaking with fear over which will be the next for the swat, the University is still trying to solve this 'great mystery', and students are stuck in the middle of it all wondering where the cashier is.

In the words of any ranting moron you'd care to find on BBC Question Time; Come on Senate, sort it out. Reclaim your delegations, and let's put these catastrophic decisions under some real scrutiny for once.

self down to Lancaster University Theatre Group's production of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" by Edward Albee at the Gregson Centre on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of March.

A long time ago, before the accident (being elected to LUSU Council and undertaking a regular SCAN column), your beloved author would dedicate 600 words to a glowing preview and review of Theatre Group productions. Sadly, no more, but

LUSU wins freedom of speech battle

Since its formation, LUSU has been subjected to a constitutional oppression of free speech. Its bye-laws state that, during its elections, existing officers may not endorse or actively campaign on behalf of candidates. This despotic, authoritarian decree has rendered the Union voiceless, powerless. Amnesty International have expressed grave concerns for voiceless officers, and some have claimed that this oppression has plagued LUSU with excesses worse than those of Communist China.

This was until the last meeting of Union Council, when a small cabal of dissenting rebels rose against the oppression and proposed a reversal of the aforementioned bye-law, to allow officers to help their friends win elections.

Well, isn't that argument just a load of old red herring arse? It would appear that those who voted in favour of changing the relevant bye-law cannot tell the difference between 'censorship' and 'being a professional and keeping your mouth shut.'

Other turds mistaken for gems in the 'debate' included the insinuation from those pushing the amendment that anybody who believes student voters are 'easily swayed' must, by extension, consider them 'stupid'. This is all absolutely true, of course, of every electorate student or otherwise - that's why governments secure votes through celebrity endorsements. If you don't give a tinker's cuss about the LUSU elections (which most of you don't) and you haven't any friends standing for a position, you're probably going to go with whatever another officer says.

But no. LUSU trusts your judgement so much that they're desperate to be able to influence your judgement... eh?

you should still go. They're good.

- A proposal to hold an elections night in the Sugarhouse was voted down at the last meeting of LUSU Council. Despite the loss, the bravery in considering an event that would almost certainly have reduced the venue's takings by 90% was nevertheless a victory for democracy over capitalism.

- Oh yeah, there's an election happening.

AND ANOTHER THING..

- Whatever happened to The Tab, then? Readers of RRCode, Postscript's online ugly sister, will know that the franchise of independent (I know, I know) online tabloid student newspapers was supposed to have rocked Lancaster by now. Given their belief that high readership figures are more important than journalistic quality and a

Students should be the most important factor in the changes to Criminology



Julia Molloy
Deputy Comment Editor

As reported in the last issue of SCAN, the Department of Applied Social Sciences (ASS) is to undergo changes by the start of the next academic year, meaning that the Criminology department will no longer be part of ASS, but instead be a part of the Law school. The movement of the department has caused anger amongst academic staff, due to the issue of whether they were properly consulted or not. Students were not consulted as to whether they agreed with the changes. But is this really such a big deal?

It seems that the staff involved cannot agree on the truth concerning how academic staff within the Criminology department were consulted about the proposed

changes. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), Professor Tony McEnery, argues that “nobody has been forced to do anything,” openly stating in the previous edition of SCAN that he made himself transparently available for consultation to the Criminology department. McEnery has been backed up by the Head of ASS, Dr Paul Iganski, who said: “I look back in my diary over the Autumn Term, [there was a] whole series of extraordinary meetings of consultation where these matters were raised and minuted – there were two circulars from me about them.” So what’s all the fuss about? But some academic staff have stated that they have had little, if any, consultation, and were only made aware of the changes in mid-January. At first glance, it’s difficult to know who to believe – which is rather ironic when the subject concerns Criminology.

What the staff involved seem to have forgotten amidst the ‘whether I was notified or not’ debate is the people who these changes will primarily affect: students. The impact that these changes will have is far from negative. A quick

Google search reveals that many of the top universities, including Oxford, Manchester and Sheffield, already have their Criminology department within the Law school. Even the university league table on the Guardian website groups together Criminology and Law, so much so that you cannot search for Criminology on its own. Lancaster is in the minority to have Criminology as part of FASS and the decision to move Criminology can only be a case of bringing Lancaster in line with other universities, and thus improving the student experience by consequently allowing more module choices.

‘The reality is that the changes are far more positive than negative’

Staff cannot argue over the fact that students were sent an email outlining the proposed changes. Although students may not have had a say in whether the changes should actually occur or not, surely if students were so opposed there would have been far more of an

outray than what there has been so far. The reality is that the changes are far more positive than negative, and the dispute concerning the amount of consultation has detracted from what should be something very positive.

Students will only complain about things that they feel should be properly democratically decided, issues that have split opinions. The ASS issue follows the heated debates over the changes to the college bar system earlier in the year, where a lack of consultation was again brought to the fore. Concerning the ASS, though, the benefits that will result from the changes mean that any argument debating the process of consultation is, I feel, refuted. Yes, maybe the academic staff should have had more input and consultation, and yes, maybe students should have been consulted. But, when changes are implemented for the good of students, what does it matter whether every member of the Criminology department was informed at every single step of the way? Nobody is disputing the fact that students will benefit, and at the end of the day, that’s all that really matters.

Art is a real degree... honest!



Lucy Smalley
Deputy Culture Editor

As a Furness fresher last year I, of course, was eager (forced) to participate in the twice-annual challenge that is the 15-hour bar crawl. Like all college events I returned home with obscene things written all over my clothes, arms and face, including one particular comment which stuck with me for a while – ‘Art is a real degree... honest!’ Of course, like any good Art student I laughed it off, fully aware that my degree is essentially completely useless.

Now and again, however, I do question whether spending over £3,000 a year on tuition fees for a

seemingly pointless degree is really a sensible use of money, especially faced with the alarming statistic that most of Fine Art graduates manage to land themselves jobs in what the Guardian describes as ‘Retail/Catering’ work (probably code name for Poundland).

This particularly hits home when talking to elderly relatives or friends of elderly relatives – an experience that many Arts students can probably sympathise with – the disappointed-yet-trying-to-still-seem-interested ‘Ohh...’ that follows you explaining what you’re doing with your life. To make it worse, I try to make myself sound more esteemed by adding in the ‘Fine’ to ‘Art’... unfortunately on more than one occasion aforementioned elderly relatives have confused this with ‘Finance’ – a misinterpretation that I’ve often ran with to avoid embarrassment on both parts.

To be honest, though, I’m very glad I’m not studying Finance. Or Law, or Geography, or Medicine (even though I’m sure my Gran

would love me more if I did). After all, I’m learning about some of the most influential and interesting people that ever existed, and the nature of the Arts at the moment means that I’m practically doing a degree in Philosophy too. In fact, getting a good degree in an Arts subject unfortunately requires you to be super clever as well as super talented, and pretty much encourages you to challenge the nature of everything; it’s mind-hurting stuff that is not to be taken lightly.

“All art is useless’. And that may sound as if that means it’s something not worth supporting. But if you actually think about it, the things that matter in life are useless’ - Oscar Wilde

So, okay, maybe we are learning and thinking about some important things that perhaps deem us just a tad more worthy of academic respect, but at the end of the day does Art really make that much impact?

I didn’t think so until I stumbled upon this little gem from the living legend Stephen Fry:

“Oscar Wilde quite rightly said, ‘All art is useless’. And that may sound as if that means it’s something not worth supporting. But if you actually think about it, the things that matter in life are useless.

Love is useless. Wine is useless. Art is the love and wine of life. It is the extra, without which life is not worth living.”

So don’t be disheartened, Arties. Maybe we’ll save lives with sculptures, music, films and plays by reducing suicide cases.

And as for you medics and statisticians, I know you’re secretly jealous that you can’t spend all day flinging paint at a wall...

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Head to Head

Is an on-campus Subway a good thing?

YES

Erik Apter

The recent news regarding a Subway being built on campus has generated a certain amount of negative feedback in some quarters of the University, but I for one strongly support the idea that a Subway would be a positive thing. I suppose to support my reasoning I need more than just the fact "it tastes nice" as my housemate so delicately put it.

Although it may seem that Subway means only bad news for other food outlets, I disagree. A Subway on campus will undoubtedly gather a lot of attention which means one thing, queues. Large queues outside Greggs have many a time diverted my attention to the likes of County Diner, just to avoid the semi-torturous experience that is queuing. Logically then, with the inevitable multitude of people that Subway will attract, could Bowland Bar not benefit in the same way?

Subway has a good record of hiring young people to work at their stores and I cannot foresee anything else than them employing an almost entirely student staff. Add to the fact that many students at the University have been "Sandwich Artists" previously and are yet to find a job in Lancaster, this would give them a chance to get back into employment.

It is the University's responsibility to listen to the student voice and in SCAN's poll, below, over four times as many people thought opening a Subway on campus would be a good idea at the time of writing. Surely with the wider majority of students being pro-Subway then

the University is doing the right thing in ensuring that the student's wishes are built upon? The University should at all times be craving to create a better relationship with its students and this is just one way in which it can do so.

The location of the franchise opposite to Bowland Bar has also been a somewhat controversial decision, but once again I fail to see the problem. Located centrally, it is in a convenient location for students after coming out of a lecture and close to those who find themselves in Alexandra Square. I pass Bowland Bar every day in my travels to lectures and yet due to its location, the only time I get reminded of its existence is when I see a sign reminding me of their specials under the spine. Its tucked away location means students do not pass it regularly and so a Subway would definitely attract people to its location.

I understand that students are worried about big corporations on campus and that as a Subway it could be the start of allowing more huge companies to muscle out the University run outlets. However to this I would say that student pockets are thin and value is key. I'm sure many people who live on campus lament some of the prices of so called "value meals" found across the various shops and diners on campus. For £3 in Subway you get a six inch sub and a drink: simple, cheap-ish and you know what you're getting.

Whilst I accept there are a few potential flaws to the idea of a Subway on campus, I feel that overall it is a positive addition to our University and will provide a safe alternative for anybody looking to grab some food between lectures.

NO

Dan Bowen

So it's true. For weeks now I've been hearing odd whispers and faint rumours of a new food outlet opening on campus and it's finally happening. Yes that's right, the university, in what can only be described as a ludicrous and explicit display of double standards, have decided that throwing up a Subway just off Alexandra square is the best idea since sliced hearty Italian bread. Now I know what most of you are thinking - Come on, everyone loves Subway! Now that might be true and I for one am loathed to disagree, our campus is long overdue a major fast food chain and Subway seems a perfectly fitting candidate. However, given the recent controversy over the instability of the college bars and the subsequent reaction to this I see this as nothing more than a money grabbing insult and an epic display of idiocy.

In recent times concerns over the profitability of the university's bars has led to a huge push on bar food, with colossal efforts from various colleges our campus bars have almost become financially viable and have prevented their extinction (at least for now). I for one am a huge fan of the recent college bar-food venture, bars such as Fylde, County and particularly Bowland are incredibly popular places to eat, drink and relax in a familiar environment, safe in the knowledge that your money being put to decent use. There is now a greater range of food on campus than there has ever been before, the inclusion of decent lunch-time meals has shocked the col-

lege bars back to life and given a sorely missed buzz back to the uni, but more importantly has taken our much beloved watering holes out of the red and into the black. So why, for the love of God, why would you put a chain on campus that's going to mop up trade like a footlong wholemeal on not enough marinara sauce? Well there are two reasons; either the university believes that we aren't all going to pile in there when it first opens and gorge ourselves on sandwiches and refillable drinks and that the chain will add a further element of diversity to the campus food scene, or, they have been paid a monumental sum of money and they couldn't care less about the state of the bars. Call me a cynic but I think that maybe, just maybe, it could be the latter.

The build is planned to go ahead just above Alexandra square backing onto Bowland quad, all but killing the college's pie empire and throwing Bowland bar back to the dark ages of grumpy bar staff and a lack of punters and it would be naïve to think that other bars won't suffer the same fate. It was the decision of the university management that the bars should push for this profit or face closure and it happens to be the very same number crunching monkeys in suits that have decided put this gigantic obstacle in the way of the small but steady progress our mini gastro pubs were making. This move is nothing more than another profit driven nail into the coffin of the crowning glory of what is, Lancaster's collegiate system. (But that's a rant for another day...) It honestly pains me to have seen the effort that Bowland's staff and JCR have put into their bar.

THE FACEBOOK VIEW

Join the debate at <http://facebook.com/SCANonline>

YES

84%

NO

16%

LETTERS

Please send any letters to scan.assistanteditor@lusu.co.uk, along with your name and college. If you would like your letter to be printed anonymously, let us know. SCAN reserves the right to edit letters for publication.

Dear SCAN,

Sorry to be a pain, but I felt this really needed to be pointed out: the standard of proof reading at SCAN seems to have dropped quite dramatically in recent times. So much so, in fact, that the newspaper fails to meet what I'd imagine are the most basic standards of accuracy.

To illustrate my point, take the last issue (Week 2 - Lent Term; I can't be any more specific than that as, strangely, I can't seem to find a date). The second word of the front page article is incorrect, unless of course Grad Ball is now to be known as the 'Graduation' Ball. According to the editorial, 'There is always something worht fighting for', which would have been a mi-

nor mistake, had it not been repeated in the pull-quote. I would hardly have thought that the editor of a newspaper should need reminding that sentences conventionally end with a full stop, but apparently, they do. On page 4, 'Maximo Park, pictured right' is actually pictured left, and it would appear that the assistant editor needs reminding of the use of full stops too. I could go on - for some length - but I feel the point has been made. One would expect a number of mistakes in any student newspaper, but not on the front page, and certainly not in the editorial!

It should be said however that this most recent issue represents an improvement upon the last few, which have been quite frankly dire - typos in headlines, headlines that

don't match the article underneath, photographs in entirely the wrong place, pages printed twice... you get the picture.

Please do let this improvement continue, and let's hope the next edition of SCAN contains only slightly more typos than a badly written erotic internet fanfic.

Jack Filmore
County College

Dear SCAN,

I am in complete agreement with Claudia McAndrews (Letters, Scan Week 4) in her proposal for a Lonely Hearts column in SCAN. As she says, there are many single students who don't feel that they will meet someone through clubbing and this would be an excellent way to remedy this without putting people out of pocket.

Richard Molyneux
Furness College

Dear SCAN,

I would just like to thank you and the SCAN team for your last edition's coverage of LGBTQ history month. I was really touched to see you making the effort to support the LGBTQ community at Lancaster University!

Thank you,
Craig Pritchard
Graduate College

Dear Acting Editor,

This is a love letter to you. Please find it full of love and admiration, and rest assured that I will be marrying you. This is not just because I know you have earning potential, it is also because you gave me booze. Also, I know that you have fantastic moustache growing abilities that I feel are entirely necessary in a spouse.

Cheers,
Rosalia - all colleges, and none.

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CORRECTIONS

SCAN endeavours to be accurate at all times. However, sometimes mistakes do slip through the net. If you notice one, please contact the Editor or Assistant Editors and we will aim to rectify the issue as soon as possible.

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Lancaster Alumnus handed Lifetime Achievement Award

Laurence Pullan
Sports Editor

Lancaster University alumnus and legendary Paralympian David Clarke has been recognised for his commitment to disability sport by being given a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Football Association Awards.

Clarke, who captained his country in Blind football, was hailed by global star and legendary footballer David Beckham, who had previously trained with the blind football team, at a ceremony at St George's Park. Clarke has been a pioneer in getting suitable provisions for athletes with disabili-

ties and has witnessed a rise in popularity of blind football and indeed appeared alongside Anfield favourite Robbie Fowler at a previous Liverpool match to raise awareness about Blind football.

'Clarke has been a pioneer in getting suitable provisions for athletes with disabilities'

During his career, Clarke scored

128 goals in 144 international appearances, playing in five World Cups and six European Championships. He also captained team GB in last year's Paralympics. He is also England's longest serving blind footballer. Indeed, due to his prolific scoring record, some have hailed Clarke as England's most successful goal-scorer.

Clarke, a thrice crowned European Championship Golden Boot winner, was chosen as a stadium torch bearer at last summer's

Paralympics and is an ambassador for the sport. Despite retiring

after last year's Paralympics, he remains a key icon for disabled and able-bodied sportsmen alike and still remains heavily involved in blind football. He is currently coaching at Under 17 level as he enjoys his retirement.



Sport Comment

Legends of the Fall

The rise and fall of the modern athlete

Erik Apter
Deputy Sports Editor

Less than six months ago, they were two bastions of sporting invincibility, breaking down huge sporting barriers and providing inspiration to millions across the globe. Now, it's their own walls that are crumbling down, and their legacies that are in tatters.

Lance Armstrong and Oscar Pistorius seemed to be two of the finest role models in sport, each a classic case of triumph over adversity that warmed the hearts of millions.

Armstrong beat cancer and managed to win one of the most gruelling competitions in sport seven times, etching himself in the history books as one of the most dominant athletes to grace his sport.

Pistorius was born without a fibula in both legs and had a double leg amputation at just 11 months old. Learning to run with racing blades, he became an icon for disabled sport and became the first man ever to compete in both Olympic and Paralympic games, earning his nickname, the "Blade Runner".

Now posters will be torn down,

sponsorships will be dropped and hearts will be broken. Armstrong fought doping allegations his entire career, but never did anyone expect he would come clean and soil his almost perfect reputation. Pistorius' plight is even worse, fighting a murder charge after shooting his girlfriend dead on Valentine's day.

This all now begs the question, is there such thing as a role model in sport anymore? Each time a sportsman comes into the limelight the only thing more impressive than their glorious rise is their catastrophic fall from grace. After a summer of sport in London that made the nation proud, these incidents once again call into question the ethics of the modern athlete.

As a Brit, there were plenty of reasons to shed a tear of patriotism this summer with the likes of Bradley Wiggins, Jessica Ennis and Mo Farah all becoming national treasures. Ennis especially had the added pressure of being the poster girl of London 2012, and with the weight of the nation on her back delivered gold with aplomb. Yet with more sporting names being rubbed into the dirt, can we ever

truly believe in these apparently squeaky clean personalities?

Modern sport at the highest level produces a huge amount of pressure on athletes to be the best, and money now leeches into every sport like a blood-sucking parasite. Fame, fortune and pressure to succeed now distract every top level athlete, and it is a sad fact that as humans, not everybody can handle it.

Are we as a generation partly responsible for the expectations and hype given to athletes that see them crash and burn? It is definitely a point to consider; after his defeat in the 200m Pistorius ranted about the unfairness of his defeat and portrayed an arrogant demeanour. The public forgave him in a heartbeat, why? To put it bluntly, because the idea of criticizing somebody without legs makes us feel uncomfortable.

Nike began an advertising campaign enlisting the prime athletes of their respective sports to wear and promote their brand; amongst these were Armstrong, Pistorius and the adulterous Tiger Woods. At this rate surely it can only be a matter of time before Rodger Federer is

found to be a master jewel thief?

Football has already become a touchy subject regarding role models, due to the constant bad publicity battles it faces week in week out. Players like Ryan Giggs who supposedly had clean reputations were found to be having affairs. John Terry has battled allegations of racism and adultery, both whilst being the incumbent England captain. The public are wising up to footballers being bad role models, how long before it's the same for other sports?

Just for the record, I do think there are still positive role models in sport, definitely. Welsh rugby legend Gareth Thomas risked martyrdom in announcing himself as gay, doing more than anybody to ensure homosexuality should not be an issue. Bradley Wiggins is almost single-handedly promoting doping free cycling, by being as successful as possible whilst speaking out against the cheats. I still feel however, that until the public are no longer let down by the ones they used to idolise, this cancerous air of doubt will, sadly, still exist around most sporting achievements.

Owen Farrell: The Ice-Man

Will Taylor on the importance of England's new catalyst

Will Taylor
Sports Editor

The number ten shirt of England. One of the most coveted jerseys in British sport. With it comes expectation, pressure, and the hopes of the red rose faithful. Many sporting greats have worn this talismanic shirt, but no one bought as much respect or glory as Jonny Wilkinson. Winner of the 2003 Rugby World Cup, and second highest points scorer in international history behind New Zealand's Dan Carter, he was the poster boy of England's golden generation of the early 2000s. Since his retirement, England have tried numerous combinations at fly half, some with moderate success, most with dismal disappointment.

Now, as England move forward in their Six Nations campaign, they seem to have found their catalyst. Owen Farrell has been England's

first choice fly half for just over a year now, and has shown maturity and growth beyond his 21 years. His steadfast tackling, and ruthless efficiency with the boot, has been at the centre of England's steady rise in form of recent months, and he was instrumental in their now famous 38-21 victory over World Champions New Zealand back in November.

His performances so far in the opening two rounds of the RBS Six Nations 2013 have been solid, and perhaps some would argue inspiring, and for different reasons. Against Scotland, he showed vision and accuracy, both with his goal kicking and passing, which included a torpedo ball out to second row Geoff Parling right on the Scottish five metre line, which led to an English try. In Dublin a week later, there was little in the way of flair, but in torrential Irish rain, there never was going

to be the scintillating style we had seen from England or Ireland in the previous round. What we did see however, was an example of how mature Farrell's game management and perception has become. Keeping the game tight and forward orientated, Farrell allowed England to gain field position, earn the penalties, and slot the three points.

The importance of a reliable goal kicker at international level rugby is unquestionable. New Zealand's Dan Carter is the prime example, along with Leigh Halfpenny of Wales. And Farrell is not far off from being counted amongst those legends of the modern game. He, like the rest of Stuart Lancaster's team, has taken criticism and built upon it, moulding himself into a true game changer. The great Jonny Wilkinson was the past. England has a new iceman.

Lancaster dances to success

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

be competing. Whilst excited about the competition it is hard to picture anything matching the splendor of NUDC that was a truly memorable day. The competition received a huge amount of publicity, even making it onto the BBC regional news. LA1: TV streamed the whole event and saw people across the world watching the competition; with high commendations to Josh Dean and his team for ceaseless effort to cover the entire event.

The event could not have happened without Lancaster's Pickup, who organized the event. With the help of the NUDC Exec, made up of Becky Clark, Sally Naylor, Emily-Jayne Nicholls and Rebecca Wilson, Pickup pioneered the event from day one, ensuring every detail was thought through and there is no doubt that the event will be remembered for a very long time.

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Cheltenham Festival Preview

Ben Ingham and George Turner give their tips for jump racing's biggest event

Set over four days, the Cheltenham Festival will see over 230,000 spectators come through the gates, over £600 million wagered on the festival, and a staggering £3.8 million worth of prize money handed out. The majority of the races will be broadcast on Channel 4, and even if you don't really want to bet, just watch some of the finest specimens that horse racing has produced

over the year. National Hunt Racing is one of the greatest and most traditional sports that Great Britain and Ireland has produced: simply look at how the Grand National captures the nations imagination year upon year.

George and I have highlighted the stand-out races from each day of the festival, and given you a preview of the race, followed by our tips for the day.



THE 2010 CROSS COUNTY CHASE
Photo by Carine06

THE CHAMPION HURDLE

The Champion Hurdle is easily the stand out race on the opening day of the festival. The third race of the day, with a prize fund of £400,000, it stands out as the second biggest race of the festival. With the race being two miles, the Champion Hurdle is one of the fastest races across the four days. The narrow favourite going into the festival is the 2011 winner Hurricane Fly, just ahead of last year's winner Rock On Ruby. Willie Mullins' Hurricane Fly was tipped by the majority of the racing world last year to win the Champion Hurdle, and it was a shock to everyone when the Harry Fry trained Rock On Ruby cruised across the line at 11/1. The odds for the race really reflect how close the bookmakers think the race could be: with three previous winners in Rock On Ruby (2012), Hurricane Fly (2011) and Binocular (2010) all in with good chances, along with the Paul Nicholls trained Zakandar improving steadily. I personally think that Hurricane Fly and Rock On Ruby will battle it out this year. Rock On Ruby continues to put in strong performances in big races, and with the sad death of Darlan in the Champion Hurdle Trial at Doncaster earlier this month, could once again ruin the party for Willie Mullins' Hurricane Fly.

Ben's Pick: Rock On Ruby

George's Pick: Hurricane Fly

Ben's one to watch: Balthazar King (Cross Country Champion Chase).

George's one to watch: My Tent Or Yours (Supreme Novices Hurdle).

THE QUEEN MOTHER'S CHASE

The Queen Mother is the definite highlight of Ladies day at Cheltenham. Though the race sees fewer entrants than the other Grade One races, that does not mean the race lacks star quality. In Sprinter Sacre, the race has one of the brightest stars in horse racing. After winning the Arkle last year, the horse has been moved up to the Queen Mother. All of the ante-post betting and tipping has been about Sprinter Sacre, but Sizing Europe should not be forgotten. This horse won the race in 2011 and has been in good form recently, with the betting market making the horse second favorite in this race. Finnian's Rainbow won last year but was very disappointing when losing to Cue Card in the Grade One Ascot Betfair Chase this month. Another to watch out for is Mail De Bievre. The French horse hadn't ran for almost two years when raced against Gold Cup prospect Silviniaco Conti at Newbury in early February and looked a very interesting chaser. The betting market is pointing towards a comfortable win for Sprinter Sacre, but I think Sizing Europe and potentially Cue Card (if Colin Tizzard decides to race the horse in this race) could cause an upset.

Ben's Pick: Sprinter Sacre

George's Pick: Sprinter Sacre

Ben's One To Watch: Boston Bob (RSA Chase)

George's One To Watch: The New One (Neptune Investment Hurdle)

THE WORLD HURDLE

The World Hurdle, the feature race of the third day of the festival, is raced over the distance of three miles. In previous years, the world has been dominated by one horse: the majestic Big Bucks, who this year would've been gunning for a fifth consecutive World Hurdle. However, injury has ruled this world-beater out, so the race is much more open than we're used to. Quevega is a horse that knows Cheltenham all too well as she has won four consecutive David Nicholson Mares races and is a leading player in the betting of the world hurdle. However, Oscar Whiskey is the favourite in the ante post betting and based on its most recent run I believe he justifies that place. I don't believe the race was run to suit Oscar Whiskey and the fact he appeared to be staying on would suggest he will relish the extra distance, and will take some beating, provided he shows himself to full effect on the day.

George's Pick: Oscar Whiskey

Ben's Pick: Reve De Sivola

George's One To Watch: Hunt Ball (Byrne Group Plate)

Ben's One To Watch: Cue Card (Ryanair Chase)

THE CHELTNEHAM GOLD CUP

The Cheltenham Gold Cup; the week has been building up to this day. The field for this year is going to be a thriller for spectators to watch. All horses running in a race of this standard deserve huge amounts of respect; however the likely winner will come from one of these four. Previous champions Long Run and Imperial Commander have to be respected in the chance of a repeat bid. Bobs Worth was an emphatic winner in December but there has to be a question mark placed on the amount of improvement he has got in him. Silviniaco Conti is my tip for the Gold Cup, having already beaten Long Run this season, and looks likely to claim this prestigious prize for trainer Paul Nicholls.

George's Pick: Silviniaco Conti

Ben's Pick: Long Run

George's One To Watch: Swnymor (JCB Triumph Hurdle)

Ben's One To Watch: Far West (JCB Triumph Hurdle)

Rowing

Comeback for LU Boat Club at BUCS Head in Boston



Jenson Tudtud

Astounded by the jovial weather, university rowing teams enjoyed an uncharacteristically good day at the races. Traditionally held in Peterborough, last year's event was struck by tempestuous weather and the River Nene again proved unsuitable to host this year's BUCS 4's and 8's Head which was relocated to Boston Rowing Club in Lincolnshire only five days before the race. Lancaster University Boat Club has been tempered over the years by adversities and not even insufficient minibus seats prevented us from going at the last minute.

Exceptional performances by the novice Men's Coxed Fours secured the weekend's unrivaled accomplishment of a crew finishing 10 seconds shy of first place putting Lancaster in the league with Durham in the top ten. George Manning took the stroke seat and behind him Joe Wood, Will Downes, Joe Carthy and myself coxing this crew who clocked an impressive 10:16 minutes at 7th out of 33 crews, which also featured the other half of the Men's Eight A crew both coxed by Jane Hammond. Once again exceeding target of 30th and 36th place of 38 crews from the past two years, Thorge Hiebner's boat displayed brilliance to complete 3,000 metres in 11:02 minutes at 19th beating the third

Durham crew in this division. With Birmingham winning this division and Cardiff at the earlier eights, the oligopoly of Warwick and Durham at the top has ended.

'University rowing teams enjoyed an uncharacteristically good day at the races'

Never did the depleted senior squad imagine sending more than one men's novice eight after ranking in the lower half the past two years, which this year's A crew surpassed by placing 19/41. Having entered another two men's novice eights, Lancaster finally had the most entries at this division. Their humble aim was not to come last but the C crew nearly overtook the B crew by 15 seconds neatly placing themselves consecutively at 38th and 39th places, beating Brunel and Leeds. The middle crew's cox, Annabel Isherwood reported a seamless row and whilst the oarsmen ought to persevere for better results they should also be proud at having improved the club's overall ranking target.

Right from the start of last term, tenacity during training was evident from the women's squad meaning that despite injuries and departures, they would still boat

a novice women's eight which last entered in 2006. Their cox, Alex Jones pushed for a respectable result of 11:36 minutes placing them at a worthy 26th place out of 38, considering the six-year hiatus. He motivated them to the finish when the girls grew weary after failing to pace themselves at the start of the 3k course and having to wait all day to race in the afternoon. Still, they have set a brilliant standard for next year when we hope to send more eights. Due to inadequate water time, the women's B crew scratched from entering the event altogether but will confidently compete at the coming Run-corn Eights Head in Week 17 and in North of England Head in Chester come Week 19.

Promising results for the team are attributed to the coaching of former Club Captain, final year County student Stuart Lyons who devised a five-year plan to end the two-year spate of frustration and disillusionment in the club that was responsible for starting the annual Lancaster v York Roses tournament. Men's Captain, Maks Kaniuka called it a "truly enjoyable" experience and Novice Captain, Kirsty Ross looks forward to the next two races before she and the rest of the executive committee hand over to the officers elect, the future of Lancaster University's first and oldest sporting team.

College Sport

Patriots Cup Preview

Joel Pullan

The weekend of Week 7 brings with it the largest inter-college sporting competition of the Lent Term: The Patriots' Cup. This is the fun-filled, semi-competitive event between Furness and Cartmel College, encompassing a wide range of sports and activities from A team football to chilli eating. The 5th Patriots' Cup is just as hotly contested as the first, and for both colleges, there's all to play for.

"This year the Patriots' Cup is going to be very interesting. Cartmelians have licked their wounds from the defeat to Furness last year"

In the history of Patriots' Cartmel have won twice, Furness once, and one year in which nobody was crowned victorious (we don't go there!). The 2013 Patriots' Cup brings a target for both Colleges. For Furness, they have the chance to equalise the standings making it two victories each; whilst Cartmel will be fighting to get their hands back on the cup. Both Colleges are sure to fight harder than ever for a 2013 victory.

Presidents and sports secs have been working hard to ensure that this Patriots' has something for everybody, with signup sheets taking pride of place in College bars, the focus is on widening participation within the college. Kayleigh Toft, Cartmel's Female Sports Sec, noted that "This year The Patriots' Cup is going to be very interesting. Cartmelians have licked their wounds from the defeat to Furness last year. Cartmel teams are performing impressively in the leagues, especially netball A and B teams. We are the college with nothing to lose and the Patriot's Cup to win. I predict success for the griffin but then again I am slight biased."

Whatever the outcome the weekend will promise many highs and lows for each college. It will showcase the incredible sporting talent at our University, and I encourage every Cartmelian or Furnessian to get involved, and every other college member to come along for a weekend of brilliant entertainment.

Women's Rugby Union

Women's Rugby Union storm to emphatic victory

LANCS 107- 0 MMET

Laurence Pullan
Abie Epstein

The Lancaster University Women's Rugby Union team made a rousing start to their BUCS League season with an emphatic victory over Manchester Metropolitan University.

The game started quickly with Lancaster kicking off. The rest of the game that followed was filled with powerful and organised play. The forwards and backs worked together to move the ball quickly and purposely, creating gaps in Manchester's defensive line.

"We didn't really know what to expect from Manchester when we started the game, but we handled whatever came our way with complete confidence on the pitch," said vice captain Catriona Hay.

Taking the lead early, Lancas-

ter scored the first try inside ten minutes. Most of the first half was played in Manchester's territory, with the wingers gaining yardage through powerful runs down the fringes, and possession being retained through strong rucking at the breakdown. Tries were scored by various players, demonstrating the strength and depth of the squad and highlighting their phenomenal ability to score from all over the park. There was a constant rotation of old and new players kicking conversions, as well as both forwards and backs scoring tries from all areas of the pitch.

"I am really proud of the whole team after their performance this week. It was really amazing to watch everyone playing so well, even the new players that haven't played before," said team captain, and coach of Wednesdays match, Ellie Sutherland.

Going into the second half Lancaster were 50 points ahead but kept their discipline as they con-

tinued playing with purpose. With Manchester close to scoring their first try of the match Lancaster's defence strengthened.

"The girls worked really well together, even under stressful circumstances, and hopefully we can carry on playing like that throughout the season. This win really was a massive thing for team moral," said club president Charlotte Neal.

Lancaster had suffered a close defeat the week before in a match against Teesside University, as part of the BUCS Conference Cup, but the game on Wednesday demonstrated that defeat is not something Lancaster are planning on allowing to happen again. Lancaster walked away from the game with the satisfaction of a job well done, but also knowing that mistakes were made.

"Just as we did the week beforehand, we will use that knowledge to continue working hard and playing even better in the next match", Epstein explained.

Throughout the match there was

constant support from players both on the sidelines as well as on the pitch. "That immense amount of teamwork and closeness definitely played a role in achieving Wednesdays success," said captain Ellie Sutherland.

Epstein eloquently summarized her philosophy between Lancaster's phenomenal victory: "True rugby girls play rugby not for their bodies, but for their hearts and their souls and the Lancaster team is filled with true rugby girls. Since the start of the season the Lancaster Women's Rugby team has become a close-knit group of players, both old and new, both with rugby experience and without and the game on Wednesday demonstrated how willing every single one of the girls was to putting their hearts into the game and leaving everything they had on the pitch."

This emphatic victory will hopefully spur the Lancaster ladies onto more convincing wins in the near future.

BATTLE
of the
BANDS
2013

FINAL

TUESDAY WEEK 8

8PM

BARKER HOUSE FARM,
CARTMEL COLLEGE

WHO WILL BE THE BEST BAND
ON CAMPUS THIS YEAR?

**CAMPUS
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SPORT

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Sports Editors: Laurence Pullan & Will Taylor
Meet Monday 7pm in Pendle Bar

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Victory at the Tower

Lancaster Ballroom Dance Society impress in Blackpool

Laurence Pullan
Emily-Jayne Nicolls

Blackpool Tower was the setting for the Northern University Dance-sport Competition, which was hosted by the Lancaster University Ballroom Dancing Society (LUBDS) on the 10th February.

The venue boasts its majestic golden décor, sweeping red carpet and twinkling chandeliers hanging from ceilings decorated with intricately beautiful scenes of cherubs and angels.

Lancaster beat the likes of Edinburgh, Nottingham and Sheffield to host the prestigious event, and the ballroom dancing society has meticulously prepared since October to ensure the event ran smoothly.

For those unfamiliar with the structure of the competitions, all couples dance in heats given the sheer volume of participants, and are either selected for a call-back or knocked out until six remain in the final, which are then decided upon in a final heat. At the Northern Universities Dance-sport Competition there were several categories that could be entered: Beginners, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced Ballroom and Latin for current students. The Open 5 Dance is open to present and past students as is the Mayfair Quickstep and Rock and Roll. There are also Team Matches and Team Knockouts that see two couples go head to head which is usually a crowd favourite.

The first heats featured the Mayfair Quickstep, a long standing favourite and a dance which Lancaster had a good track record in, taking five of the six top slots in Roses 2012. With almost 100 couples entering ranging from beginners to advanced, Lancaster certainly held their own, with seven couples, including four of Novice level making the top 30. The high-



THE EVENT
WAS HOSTED
BY LUBDS
Photo by Jay Theis

light of the competition was Lancaster taking the top two positions with Phil Rawcliffe and Hannah Roberts taking 1st place and Andrew Pickup and Sally Naylor being awarded 2nd. Both couples continued their winning streak with Pickup and Naylor placing 4th in Intermediate Waltz and Tango and Roberts and Rawcliffe securing 3rd in Open Dance Ballroom and 2nd in Advanced Waltz and Tango. The latter achievement is especially significant given they came 2nd to Liverpool's Kyle Taylor and Polina Shkylaeva, who are the reigning British Ballroom Champions and the current United Kingdom 10 Dance Champions.

The Lancaster victory was especially poignant for Roberts and Rawcliffe, who having retained

their title as British Modern Sequence Champions last year, retired from competing; and as Roberts is graduating this year, NUDC marks one of their last ever competitions together.

Lancaster deserved huge congratulations for their fantastic results in both the Team Match and Team Knockout. Division A, consisting of Pickup and Naylor, Rawcliffe and Roberts, Amber Small and Eleanor Partridge, Tim Mueller and Alice Burrow came 3rd in their league; and Division B consisting of Luke Owen-Jones and Emily-Jayne Nicholls, Joe Reed and Chloe Wellington, Andrew Smith and Ann-Katrin Reusch, Jack Birkinshaw and Hannah Metcalfe came 2nd in their leagues.

Generally ranked on ability,

both teams beat the likes of Warwick and Nottingham to claim the victory. Team Knockout is always a pressurized but thoroughly entertaining competition; two couples dance head to head with the dance style selected seconds before they must take to the floor.

Lancaster fought hard, and ended up coming 2nd overall, a higher position than rivals Liverpool. Lancaster had fewer Latin couples entering but the majority got callbacks across the board with Pickup and Reusch taking 5th place in Novice Cha and Jive, Lancaster's only Latin couple to place.

LUBDS are now preparing for IVDC on the 2nd March where Universities across the country will

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