

scan

EST. 1967

We're going on a march



Jack Smith
Assistant Editor

Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU) have announced their full support for the National Union of Students' (NUS) Demo 2012 protest, to be held in Central London on Wednesday Week 7. Ste Smith, LUSU President stated that he feels that it is "really important that collectively, as a group of unions across the country, we group together to fight for things we believe in."

A motion recommending that LUSU support the protest was heard at the first Union Council of the academic year, which is the lead policy making body of the Union. The motion was originally due to be heard at the inquorate

General Meeting in Week 1. Due to the fact that quoracy of 200 attendees was not met, all the motions and discussion points were instead heard at Union Council.

The NUS have announced that the march covers three subjects: education, employment and empowerment. They are calling for "a properly funded tertiary education system, accessible to all, in which all students are properly supported and encouraged - so that anyone with the ability and aspiration to study has the opportunity to do so."

Liz Ashworth, LUSU VP Activities had this to say about the impact for students, it is "really important that collectively, as a group of unions across the country, we group together to fight for

things we believe in."

The route for the march ignores the City of London and the West End. Instead, the march will begin at the Temple and head along Victoria Embankment. It will continue over Westminster Bridge, through Lambeth and Vauxhall, ultimately ending up in Kennington for a rally in the afternoon.

'We need to group together to fight for things that we believe in'

The demonstration comes two years after the NUS' Funding Our Future march in November 2010, which was marred by violent scenes at 30 Millbank, the building that housed the

Conservative's party campaign headquarters. Around 200 people occupied the building, leading to bonfires, smashed windows, and the arrest of 35 demonstrators.

When asked why Smith mandated the FTO officers to attend the demonstration he had this to say, "officers are elected to represent the views of students. We voted, collectively, to go on this demonstration. All the officers should also represent those views. People may say they're not the views of our students. If they're not, then why did the elected representatives vote for it? I can understand that people may have personal gripes with it, and that's fine."

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EDITORIAL

Rachel Harvey
Editor

So here we are in week 4 of term and doesn't the time just fly by? It's has been absolute madness and chaos, in the best possible way of course. Personal highlights of the last few weeks include the Bowland JCR auction, where we saw members of Bowland JCR, joined by individuals from a few other JCR's auction themselves off for charity and anther the student radio award Bailrigg FM has been nominated for. There are so many others I

could mention but then we could be here all day and I am sure there will be many more to come.

I don't know about you but this year I was determined to try something new. I found as an undergrad time moved so quickly I rarely had time to find something new and I will admit the new thing I have found has been completely unintentional and fairly unexpected. That something new is bar sports. Having never thrown a dart in my life I found myself being asked to play for county women's darts team and so instantly started practicing and found I actually quite enjoyed it even if I was shocked at badly my maths skills had plummeted since GCSE years. Pool too, I have

not been asked to join a pool team but I have started playing a lot more.

It isn't just the playing of bar sports. It's the watching and the atmosphere around them. The colleges that hold bar sports higher in their events calendar seem to be the closer knit colleges, the colleges that spend more time in their bars and know each other better. Maybe it's the relaxed nature of the sport, the casual drinks or the one on one nature that prompts convocations. What ever it is it defiantly helps college spirit.

Maybe you have found a similar thing in your college with another activity or sport but for me it was bar sports.

A strange thing to write

in an editorial you might think? But the last few issues of SCAN have been very focused on what's wrong with things, occasional lack of involvement and the change in the college bar system. In this issue we have been able to look more at things that have brought us together. Things like the JCR auction, sports happening all over campus, Furness bar opening, the feedback and student input on the FTO review and students letting the university know just what it is they expect.

I know I have done so in the past but I urge you once again, get involved and find your own bar sports. Time flies by.

Have a look around...

We in the upper echelons of the SCAN hierarchy spend an inordinate amount of time finding out what exactly is going on within the union and university house, before retreating to the warehouse and hammering our keyboards. While being privy to such information is a great deal of fun, we can't help but feel that we're hogging all of the fun from our student journalists.

Usually, our news editors will distribute stories to the section's Facebook group, with relevant information and quotes, and ask someone to 'write it up'. But, we appreciate that publishing in-depth news coverage is our purpose, and often there is more to a story than its public surface. We need to spread the duty of finding stories to our wider writer base, if not to give more people the chance to bring deep and interesting stories to our section, then at least to take some of the heft of sourcing news off our shoulders.

For that reason, we're

asking you to take a crack at it. Speak to students, officers, staff and whoever else you may overhear, and write us a news story. It could be college news, an unfair imposition on your academic department, criticisms of the student's union, or anything that is of relevance to the student body.

Many things happen on this campus outside the reach of SCAN editors, and it is about time we fostered a culture of students sharing their stories with SCAN, to improve not only the range of stories SCAN covers, but also the journalistic skills of our writers. We are always on hand to ease you into independence as a journalist. If you're interested, then contact our news editors at scan.news@lusu.co.uk with your story. And if you're not interested in writing, then don't forget that we're always around to speak to if you think something needs more attention than it is currently getting.

In this SCAN

NEWS

- University appoint new Chief Administrative Officer
- SCAN Investigations look into the bigger picture of campus accommodation
- LUSU hope to move to new premises in 2012

CAROLYNNE

- Jack Smith reviews Radiohead in Manchester
- Spine Spotting the best fashions
- Should you move off campus?

COMMENT

- LUSU President Ste Smith on the plans for changes to the FTOs
- Pendle President Laurence Pullan on laundry lunacy from the University
- Aimee Brown discusses freedom of speech

SPORT

- Full roundup of the opening Carter Shield and George Wyatt events
- Smash and grab as County A beat Fylde A in the football

NEWS

TUC demo struck by rail workers dispute

- Students forced to make contingency plans as travel plans fall through
- Protestors travelled to smaller demonstration in Glasgow
- Confusion over reasons for lack of travel for attendees

Ronnie Rowlands
Assistant Editor

The Trade Union Congress (TUC) demonstration, which took place on Saturday 20th of October, was struck by confusion when a rail workers dispute resulted in the cancellation of a subsidised train to London.

The presence of Lancaster students at the march, which was endorsed by LUSU after second year student Sam Hale's motion to Union Council, became ambivalent when two days before the demonstration, train company DB Schenker informed students that the train to London from Manchester had been cancelled, and that the train to Lancaster was 'in grave doubt'. DB Schenker officially announced that the TUC train was definitely cancelled on the morning of Friday 19th of October.

'A railworkers dispute resulted in the cancellation of a subsidised train'

Lancaster organisers were informed by DB Schenker that its workers were in dispute with the company through their union, The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF), and were therefore unable to provide drivers.

At such short notice, the National Union of Teachers (NUT), University and Colleges Union (UCU) and Lancaster University Against Cuts (LUAC) were unable to arrange for alternative transportation to London. A group of around 50 demonstrators, from LUAC, the NUT, Lancaster Occupy and others, instead traveled to Glasgow to join the Scottish TUC march.

The Lancaster contingent arrived in Glasgow at 9.45 and joined the Glasgow student feeder march, before assembling in George Square with 5000 more demonstrators.



Photo by Adam Harrison-Henshall

At 12PM, demonstrators set off on a march around the city of Glasgow, eventually assembling in Glasgow Green for speeches from the STUC. While the march was considered worthwhile by Lancaster attendees, they were less impressed by the aforementioned speeches.

Activist Chris Witter told SCAN, "LUAC is unanimously bored to death of standing in parks listening to union officials telling their members such banalities as 'sell your labour, not your souls'. Therefore, we fucked off pretty quick in several

directions."

Witter also passed on some sentiments from the few Lancaster students who were able to make it to the London march; "[there was] a strong presence of socialist political parties, and the call for a General Strike ASAP was very popular."

SCAN was also told that Ed Miliband, leader of the Labour Party, was "voiciferously booed throughout his speech" by trade unionists, for his plans to maintain public sector pay freezes and pursue further economic cuts.

Others stayed in Lancaster to

organise a solidarity demo with Lancaster Occupy.

SCAN has been informed that when TUC's North West office contacted ASLEF for an explanation as to why the trains had been cancelled, they were told that, whilst a dispute with DB Schenker was indeed taking place, no industrial action had been planned that would prevent the TUC trains from running as scheduled.

ASLEF then contacted DB Schenker on behalf of Lancaster organisers, but at this point, no explanation has been given.

Furness bar full to capacity for its

- Refurbishment opening struck by constant delays
- Receives positive reaction from students on opening night

Ronnie Rowlands
Rachel Stafford

After a year of building work, Furness Bar opened its doors to students at 5PM on Monday 22nd of October.

The refurbishment process has been subject to much attention from the student body, not only out of anticipation of the bar's new look, but also the delays and postponements that have plagued the project during this term.

Initially, the intention was that the bar would be open in time for freshers' week. However, rumours that this would not be the case began circulating in late September and were reported in SCAN. Furness College JCR then began to formulate provisional contingency plans for their freshers' week, before being informed that Trevor would indeed be open.

However, a few days later, the day before arrivals weekend, Head of Facilities Mark Swindlehurst announced via email that he had rejected the handover of the building, owing to a number of safety test failures. A new handover date of Friday 12th of October was announced, but this too was not met by the university, owing to incomplete work and yet more safety test failures.

'Initially, the intention was that the bar would be open in time for freshers' week. However, rumours that this would not be the case began circulating in late September and were reported in SCAN. Furness College JCR then began to formulate provisional contingency plans for their freshers' week.'

Facilities did not pass comment on this and no new date was announced, although rumours that the bar would open on the 17th and 19th of October were circulated. Both Mark Swindlehurst and Head of Commercial Services Jo Hardman came under criticism from the student body for a perceived lack of communication and clarity on the progress of the renovation, particularly during a question and answer session at the LUSU General Meeting in Week 1, when Furness College President Angus Wakefield expressed his frustration that the university had seemingly not made any effort to keep

his JCR up to date.

The redevelopment was part of a wider project to update the entire Furness College area. What was the Furness College foyer has been renamed to include the Faculty of Health and Medicine, and the area has been altered to resemble the majority of campus's departmental buildings. The layout of the bar's interior remains the same, and the back bar and Junior Common Room has been retained in the new design. The bar entrances and doors leading to the JCR and back bar resemble those found across all of the university's buildings, but SCAN has been informed that they will be replaced in the coming weeks.

'The bar was full on its first opening night with students turning out to see what the 'New Trev' looked like. Most of the comments from students were positive'

The bar was full on its first opening night with students turning out to see what the 'New Trev' looked like. Most of the comments from students were positive, with one student commenting to Bailrigg FM that, "furness bar has kept the originality of what it used to have in first year. Its kept the same look but at the same time has been made more often combines the working man's pub with the modern life." Some complaints were voiced, particularly concerning the move of the darts board, one student commented that, "I like what I've seen so far but I don't like where the darts board is now. Where the darts board used to be looks like a pisshole."

'The refurbishment process has been subject to much attention from the student body, not only out of anticipation of the bar's new look, but also the delays and postponements that have plagued the project'

For the foreseeable future, Furness Bar will open daily at 5PM, and earlier opening hours will not be implemented until it is able to offer food provision.



grand opening

Furness Bar: The Verdict SCAN was in Trevor for the opening night: here are our first impressions

The Feel

Ronnie Rowlands
Assistant Editor

Ignoring the endless stream of confusion over whether the building would ever stop failing its safety tests (although I have been reliably informed that the cellar no longer carries the risk of drowning / electrocution upon entry), some worries over the outcome of the refurbishment need quelling.

First of all, it is pleasing to see that the Junior Common Room has been retained, and despite the university's apparent desperation to design the colleges out of existence (you'll notice that the foyer's sign now reads 'Furness: School of Health and Medicine', not 'College'), colourful signs bearing both the name of the bar and the college are aplenty; admittedly an admirable move by Head of Commercial Services Jo Hardman.

Regarding the 'look' of the bar, readers will certainly be eager to know whether or not the place now resembles a mortuary.

As expected, Furness Foyer is the very model of self congratulatory glossy brochure ghastriness, and I predict that the Faculty of Health and Medicine will be

most displeased when the area continues to be a place where students sit around eating chips.

Trevor, in parts, still has its hallmark cosiness. The alcoves' bare brick walls and bare wooden bar holds a semblance of age, and there is, no trace of 'trendiness' to be found. It has none of the depressing hideousness of Grizedale Bar, or the film noir / lapdance hybridity of Pendle Bar.

But, no university refurbishment would be complete without some level of utter weirdness.

Its' understated pleasantness is often interrupted by areas that scream 'university building'. Parts of the walls are white. Not old stony white. A colour chart might describe it as 'prospectus white'. The doors leading into the bar, the back bar and the JCR are grey and bear the generic room labels found everywhere else on campus.

And the back bar? "Dr. Furness will see you now" springs to mind. It's also odd that it has a speaker playing music through from the main area, making the battered old piano, which is still there, redundant.

New Trevor is a totally disconcerting experience, and I cannot help but be reminded of the final scene in David Cronenberg's 'The Fly', when Brundlefly is fused with the telepod.

Perhaps Furnessting would be a more suitable name.

The Beer

Jack Smith
Assistant Editor

The surprising thing about the drink in New Trev is just how little it has changed. Despite all the talk of an emphasis on Real Ale, we still have the customary two heads from local Lancaster Brewery.

This is by no means a bad thing. Lancaster Blonde is on offer, and tastes just as good as it did in the slightly more grotty surroundings of Old Trev. It's light, refreshing, with a sweet aftertaste. It's not exactly challenging, but is a beer that definitely will appeal to lager fans, especially since there is absolutely no bitterness.

Lancaster Black is also here. While a great beer in its own right, there is perhaps less of a need for it to be a permanent beer now that Guinness is finally available. Furness Bar will, at last, be able to hold its own St Patrick's Day cel-

ebrations this year.

While the Lancaster beers are great, it would be good to see more variety in the ale department in the future.

Lager fans are well catered to. While, unfortunately, Carlsberg is still here, San Miguel is on tap. The most interesting and welcome addition is Erdinger, a delicious, cloudy and full bodied wheat beer also found in The Herdwick, Graduate College's bar. The standard bottled beers are available such as Tiger, Becks and Budweiser; Desperados will be perfect for pre-drinks. Cider on offer includes Gaymers Pear on tap, and a wide selection of Kopparberg in the fridge.

A whisky selection seems to be taking shape behind the bar, with Glenfiddich 12 and Glenmorangie as some of the scotches available. Other spirits are more standard, never getting any more interesting than Captain Morgan.

New Trev is not bad in terms of its alcohol selection, but it's not amazing either. The positive is that it has definitely not gone backwards. It would be a great bar in which to see some slightly more interesting bottled beers, and definitely has work to be done on the ale front.



New Furness Bar - Photo by Jack Smith

University puts up wind turbine

- University to reduce emissions by over 30% in the next three years
- The wind turbine should provide 11-17% of the University's energy requirements

Josh Walker

Lancaster University has begun installing its wind turbine, with the 100 metre turbine being erected on the east side of the M6 motorway.

Planning permission for the project was granted in April 2011 by Lancaster City Council, after a previous application for the construction of two turbines was rejected.

'An application for the construction of two turbines was rejected'

Once fully installed, the turbine will be tested for a number of weeks and it is expected to be fully functional by November 2012. It should provide 11-17% of the University's energy requirements. However that figure is dependent on long term average wind speed and site consumption.

Lancaster University's Vice Chancellor, Mark E. Smith, stressed the importance of the University adopting environmentally friendly measures, "the University takes it duty to be a responsible employer very seriously, and this includes treading as lightly as possible on the environment."

"The wind turbine is just one of a whole package of carbon saving and environmentally positive projects that we are introducing, the combined effect of which will be to improve energy efficiency and getting staff and students thinking about ways that they can contribute to carbon reduction."

Other carbon reducing measures include launching a Community Benefits package to support local community environmental projects. They are also looking to replace the University's main boilers with the installation a

biomass boiler.

The University is also expanding its carbon saving competitions for students, targeting staff in order to enable them to improve energy efficiency in their work areas as well as implementing dozens of small scale energy and water saving projects.

"A package of carbon saving and environmentally positive projects"

It is hoped that completion of all these projects over the next three years will reduce carbon emissions by over 30%. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has set a target for all Higher Education institutions to reduce their emissions by 43% by 2020.

A loan has been provid-

ed by the HEFCE Transformational Fund for the £5m wind turbine project. This fund is aimed at encouraging Higher Education institutions to transform their approach towards managing their energy consumption and reducing their emissions. Lancaster University is only one of three institutions to receive this support.

The Lancaster University Green Party described the installation of the wind turbine as "an excellent development", whilst Green Lancaster said, "the wind turbine is certainly a positive step forward with regards to reducing the University's reliance on electricity generated from finite fossil fuel sources. We look forward to hearing more about its impacts in terms of generating capacity and effect on equivalent CO2 output once it is up and running.

LUSU aiming to move to Bowland

Emma Nelson
News Editor

The LUSU Full Time Officers are hoping to relocate to Bowland West Wing A floor and B floor, this move may have taken place by Easter 2013.

The new plans for the new building show that it be predominantly open plan, as opposed to the separate office set-up currently in place. LUSU President, Ste Smith, told SCAN that the new building will provide a "more open and visual space."

As the building would be split into two floors, Smith stated that there had to be "a good deal of consideration of what we have on the ground floor and what will go upstairs, as I think that naturally students will be more likely to come to the ground floor and interact with us downstairs."

The four main areas downstairs would be the Info Desk, Education & Support, Activities and Involve, as these are the areas with the "most student engagement currently."

Regarding Education & Support, Smith stated that "the last thing you

want to do if you have a problem is walk around a building trying to find somebody. One of the main functions of a Student Union is to support our students so it is really imperative that they [Education & Support] are on the ground floor."

'The new building will provide "a more open and visual space"

On the subject of Activities, Smith also pointed out that as so many students would be coming in for different issues concerning sports teams, societies and other events, it is "important that there is a lot of space for them to come in and interact", which the open plan layout accommodates.

Smith also suggested that this open plan layout could "create a bit of a buzz around the Student Union, which is something we miss at the moment." He also said that they hope for it to be "colour coded and very visual" so that people will know exactly where they are going. This could also "breathe a bit of life into the space" he added, comparing it to the current 'bunker' which he

describes as quite dark and dingy, and highlighting his view that "a Student Union should be a vibrant space".

Although the layout would be open plan, there would also be some separate closed off spaces. Downstairs, there would be a closed off meeting room and two closed off pods, the latter of which students can go for more confidential discussions with student advisors.

As well as the informal meeting room downstairs, there would be more formal meeting rooms upstairs, including a board room where larger meetings can take place. Smith highlighted the importance of this, as currently having only one meeting room in the LUSU building can be difficult if more than one meeting is required at the same time.

Upstairs would also be home to the commercial services, media & communication, administration, the finance office and LUSU President's office, the last two of which would be more closed off from the open plan layout. There would also be one-on-one areas upstairs, which would also

be closed off spaces for more confidential discussions.

Overall, Smith stated that the building is "a big step forward. It's not perfect. It's supposed to be an interim solution", before a more purpose built alternative is available.

Nevertheless, he commented that the relocation "will make it easier for students to engage with us" and "improve the working environment of our staff", having a more positive impact on everyone.

"Make it easier for students to engage with us"

Mark Swindlehurst had this to say about the project, "we have been working with LUSU over the course of the last year, looking at space that is provided for both themselves and for the wider student spaces on campus. Specifically relating to the LUSU space, a preferred option has been identified in Bowland and the costings for the adaptations is currently being collated. Once received these will be discussed further with LUSU and if an agreement can be reached then works would commence in 2013."

LUSU to change FTO roles

Current FTO team consulting students on changes



Rachel Stafford
News Editor

In a referendum in Week 8, Ste Smith, LUSU President will propose a new Full Time Officer structure. The changes to the structure were first introduced at Union Council and will still consist of 6 FTOs, but some of the roles will be altered slightly. Smith has stated that “we’ve had times where the structure has been tinkered with, and that’s how I would class this also. Not so much a ‘restructure.’” He attributes this change to LUSU and the University having a “new strategic plan.”

One of the main changes to the current structure would be the addition of the VP Union Development position. This position would be responsible for things such as finance, alumni relations and JCR support. The position of VP Events and Democracy will be absorbed by

other positions, with VP Activities taking responsibility for events such as Grad Ball and Campus Fest and democracy being looked after by VP Media & Communications. There will also be an extra staff member to cover elections and democracy. With regards to some of the roles of the new VP Union Development position, Smith feels that the current structure does not do enough to support the JCRs, “there isn’t a named officer to support our JCRs properly and that is something that JCRs pick up on every year as something that should be improved.”

Rachel Harvey, VP Media & Communications had this to say about the proposed changes to the FTO structure, “overall they cover more areas but we need to get some feedback from students and the proposed structure still needs working on.”

Voting on the referendum will take place in Week 8 at the same time as the JCR Elections. Students’

will be able to vote on the changes online along with their votes for JCR representatives.

The new positions as proposed by Ste Smith can be seen in the column to the right hand side of this article along with their suggested responsibilities. LUSU will be taking consultations with students regarding these changes in order to create a more formal proposal to take to Union Council in Week 5. If this proposal is accepted then the official structure reform will be available to view and vote on during the Presidential Referendum of Week 8.

There is a discussion point on the yourvoice website entitled ‘Full Time Officer Restructure Consultation’ enabling students to have their say on the proposal.

FTO Review

President

- Trustee Board
- Liase with the Univeristy
- Liase with the NUS
- Finance
- Co-ordinate officers
- Lead the broad development of LUSU
- Lead on student & political affairs

VP (Activities)

- Sports
- Liase with sports centre
- Organise Roses
- Health & Fitness
- Societies
- Campus Events
- Grad Ball

VP (Education)

- Education Forum
- Employability
- Enterprise
- Student Led Teaching Awards
- Department Reps
- National education issues
- Senate
- Academic affairs

VP (Welfare & Community)

- Liberation
- Campaigns
- Welfare
- Charity
- Outreach
- Global Issues
- Environment & Ethics
- Welfare & Community Forum
- Equality
- Internationalism
- Advice & Support
- Community Issues
- Housing

VP (Democracy & Communications)

- Student media
- LA1:TV
- SCAN
- Bailrigg FM
- Campaigns
- Communication Policy
- Social media
- Your Voice
- Elections

VP (Union Development)

- Finance
- Alumni Relations
- Social Activity
- Services
- JCR Support
- PG Board Support
- Union Council
- Union Executive

Learning Zone, not eating zone

- Confusion over rules regarding food in the Learning Zone
- Student feedback raises concerns over litter
- Lack of communication is causing student unrest

Catherine Chorley
Investigations Editor

Opposition to the decision to restrict areas in which food consumption is permitted in the Learning Zone is based on a cultivated practice of students combining study with snacking, rather than any official permission, according to Library management.

Following the restriction of food-consumption to a small cordoned-off section at the north end of the building, a motion detailing the changes and the opposition to them was put forward by student Holley Goodban for discussion at the LUSU General Meeting on October 8th.

This motion demanded that the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Richard Clark, lobby the Library, which holds responsibility for the management of the Learning Zone, to revoke the policy and "return the Learning Zone to the environment it was designed to be". However, as the necessary number of students for quorate level was not reached, no motions could be discussed and the issue was duly deferred to be discussed at the Union Council in Week Two.

In a prior discussion with Head Librarian Clare Powne, it was made clear that the Learning Zone was never intended as an environment in which staff and students could simply bring and eat food, but rather as a more relaxed working environment in which collaborative and social study could more easily be facilitated.

During the discussion at Union Council, the JCR President of Cartmel College, Joel Pullan, argued that by moving the focus of the Learning Zone's function away from the provision of snacking-space, the Library was in fact returning the area to its intended purpose.

As far back as March, measures were implemented to discourage staff and students alike from eating in the Learning Zone. This followed a meeting of the Learning Zone Steering Group in which it was agreed that litter and mess had become a problem, and that with a dedicated eating area adjacent to the Learning Zone planned alongside the new Subway outlet, it would be appropriate to discourage all eating in the Learning Zone. Students are represented on

the Steering Group by the LUSU VP for Academic Affairs, a position held at the time by Alex Carlin.

On the Information Systems Service (ISS) web-pages, a 'Code of Use' dating back to September 2010 stipulates that "non-alcoholic cold drinks are permitted, however the consumption of food is not permitted". Though ISS have since ceased to manage the Learning Zone, the document remains accessible on the University's website.

However, there is another 'Code of Use' - identical to notices displayed throughout the building itself - which stipulates that cold food is permitted. This discrepancy may have been a contributing factor to the café-culture, in which students feel free to use the space solely for eating, and eating all types of hot and cold foods - that has developed unofficially and gradually to become ingrained within the learning space. Powne has now resolved to notify ISS of the on-line information error and have the erroneous document removed from the site.

As mentioned above, there is to be a dedicated area for students to take and eat their food on campus. This is scheduled for completion in conjunction with the opening of Subway. However, with this opening delayed until the beginning of next term, the provision of space for eating in the Learning Zone will remain in place until the alternative space is available.

The message from the Library is clear: students have provided feedback indicating that they do not wish to work in an environment in which litter and mess - most commonly caused by food consumption - are a problem. Therefore, the decision has been made to regulate the areas in which food may be eaten. Speaking in response to this assertion, third-year student and ISS-employee Helen Bull pointed out that during the time when the Learning Zone came under the remit of the Information Systems Service, part of employees' job-descriptions was to maintain the environment as litter-free and conducive to study. Students in attendance at the Council were left to draw their own conclusions as to why the litter-issue may have reared its head at this present time.

In an attempt to refute the allegation made in the motion to the Union Council which criticised the Library and its decision-making process for failing to consult the student body over the policy, Powne explained that the move to restrict the eating area was actually done in response to substantial student feedback which highlighted service users' wishes not to be surrounded by a canteen-style environment.

In response to this, students at the Union Council made clear the distinction between active and passive consultation, maintaining that the latter will not yield a fair representation of student opinion and that, in order to properly canvass students' wishes regarding their learning spaces, a period of active consultation should have been undertaken by those in charge of the Learning Zone before any decision was made and implemented. The motion proposed by Goodban was amended to make this distinction explicit, so that the Union's Vice President (Academic) Richard Clark, who is mandated to lobby the University on this issue, can now take this investigation forward.

It appears that, once again, a lack of communication and confusion around officially-sanctioned rules are key factors in causing student unrest and dissatisfaction. Whatever misinformation and whichever crossed purposes may have led to the café-culture hitherto prevalent in the Learning Zone, from now on there is a new strategy in place to maintain the facility as an environment conducive to study. Powne further added that this purpose is clear: "It is not a common room. Its name represents what it is for, and we hope to maintain it as the excellent learning facility students tell us they want it to be."

Assessing the wider picture, LUSU President Ste Smith stated that the real issue at hand was the need for 24-hour access to library facilities, which would ensure that provision for quiet study would always be in place. Smith maintained that the localised banning of food-consumption, apparently in response to students' study-needs, was a result of the larger problem of the need for extended library access.





Bar Watch

Ronnie Rowlands
Assistant Editor

- County Diner is seeing its fortunes drop somewhat. As well as losing custom from County Bar's closure during the daytime, the owners of County Diner had their rent increased by 40% this year, and even that steep hike is preferable to the 67% increase that the university originally tried to impose.

- Bowland Bar has recently introduced pies to its menu. On their first day of business, Bowland Bar was provided with a stand, some food, and no crockery on which to serve it, causing a mad rush for bar staff.

- Readers will, by now, have noticed that Fylde kitchen has been torn out of its foundations and relocated to a set of tables by the entrance. The sound of hammering and drilling from behind the temporary curtain creates a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere in which students can eat their breakfast.

- All bars now have a sign bearing the name of the establishment and its college. County students should be aware that their bar's sign sports a glaring error. Hint: There should be a 'The' somewhere in 'County College.'

- Furness Bar opened at last in Monday of week three, and such was its success that it drained the custom from almost all of the other campus bars. While it was nice to see Trevor so full on a Monday evening, we hope that bar usage will increase sufficiently so that all bars can enjoy the same level of custom on a regular basis. The opening came after three hand-over dates and a seemingly infinite number of safety test failures. This tour-de-force of communicative disasters arguably places Trevor in the same league as the construction work on Alexandra Square and the underpass.

- Part of the retail services 'masterplan' expressed the hope that all student staff could see a pay increase. As it stands, there is definitely a pay disparity across individual bar workers, and students would be best advised to check their wage slips closely and contact the University's HR Department if they notice anything amiss.

Investigations: Campus Accommodation

Accommodation: The bigger picture

- Students concerned about the eradication of affordable flats
- Objections to rent hike in refurbished accommodation
- Future accommodation tariffs to be set later in the academic year

Jonathan Dixon

In the past decade, Lancaster University has seen a lot of improvements made to its buildings, particularly the campus accommodation. With the choice of accommodation types now including the newly-coined 'upgraded' and 'superior' standards of room, there are eleven different classifications across the colleges for students, including family flats. Accommodation on campus has seen rent rises on a regular basis, claimed to be in line with inflation & utility costs. Comparing accommodation over a long range is not so easy as other factors are at play on top of inflation, including renovations & older methods e.g. there used to be a charge for network access in rooms, in 2006 this was £66/yr. Hilary Simmons, the Head of Colleges and Student Experience, said, "accommodation is not run on a profit making basis, any money made on the accommodation is invested back into it." Recent hikes are being blamed rises in energy prices & larger scale refurbishment.

In recent years the University has made greater distinctions between the types and conditions of accommodation on offer at Lancaster, as is evidenced by the findings of the Accommodation Cost Survey 2009-2010 by the National Union of Students (NUS) and Unipol, a nationwide charity for student accommodation. The study, which look at rents for both institutions and the private sector, reveals data indicative of higher-than-average increases in rent at Lancaster for some of the newer and more popular accommodation, whilst rents for older rooms, such as Basic Standard types, saw reductions. In 2010, Basic Standard accommodation rent dropped from £70.00 to £68.95 per week.

Though the University claims that the rents "change to that of other accommodation at that standard", there are some students who are concerned about

the potential risk of eradicating the affordable flats. Bowland College alone has retained any Basic Standard rooms at the lowest tariff. Many students accept the notion of and the rationale behind refurbishments taking place, but object to the resultant hike in their rent.

The University has worked with University Partnerships Programme (UPP) to facilitate the accommodation refurbishments and new-builds. To ensure the costs footed by UPP were covered after the campus townhouses were built, the deal was renegotiated to include an additional 1.5% to the rental increase for each academic year from 2008/09 to 2013/14 on top of inflation. UPP is responsible for maintaining and refurbishing all of its residence areas, and the University is responsible for its accommodation. The University has refurbished Graduate College, Bowland Main, Slaidburn House, Furness Perimeter, and Pendle/Grizedale Houses 2-15. During this time the University has been putting £2M a year into refurbishing residences. Rents have increased by an additional £5 to £7 per week for the rooms following refurbishment that the University is responsible for. But the real price increase can be significant when including the inflation rate.

Similar actions have caused dismay at other universities. At York University, for example, comparable UPP-accommodation has been criticised by students as it has a higher rent than university-managed accommodation. Here in Lancaster, the townhouses built and paid for by UPP are praised for following an eco-model, and have won crime-prevention awards. Under the contract with UPP, the University is obliged to meet the target-modelled rental income each year. UPP is responsible for maintaining and refurbishing the buildings and there is a monitoring regime to ensure that this is done to an adequate standard

throughout the life of the buildings. UPP has a rolling maintenance programme and each summer carries out major works such as the replacement of kitchens, carpets and mattresses.

The University has worked with University Partnerships Programme (UPP) to facilitate the accommodation refurbishments and new-builds.

However, within this partnership, one of the four objectives was to ensure affordability; whether this objective is being achieved is undeniably a major source of contention among residents. The previous vice-chancellor, Paul Wellings, was one of those keen to support collaboration with UPP and cited the partnership as a key step in Lancaster University's growth strategy. Although UPP rooms are more expensive, the ultimate reason why Lancaster works with UPP is outlined by Mark Swindlehurst, the Head of Facilities:

"It allows us to release our own financial resources to invest it into other academic facilities". When the agreement with UPP comes after 48 years, the buildings will revert to the University.

The National Student Housing Survey (NSHS) showed that condition and quality of rooms is very important to students, with 83% saying it was very important. 70% of students rated Lancaster University accommodation good value for money, compared to 54% nationally. The Survey's website shows the extent of Lancaster University's accommodation acclamation, with Fylde College Residences doing particularly well for 'Best Learning Environment' and 'Best Individual Accommodation'.

However, these successes do not present the full picture of students' views and reactions

to all the work put into bettering their residences. Pendle and Grizedale Colleges had some refurbishments completed over the summer and the student reaction from second and third years has been mixed. Kitchens in particular have been well-praised (except for the odd minor quibble, such as that the tables are too small), but the views on the bedroom improvements seem in general to be more negative.

Many students see them as having been "a rushed job", with patchy wall painting, wonky sockets and more of a homogenous feel with less individuality or college personality. Facilities that are missed by some students include wall-mirrors and padded chairs, whilst some are unhappy that the older-style wardrobes and desks remain in some rooms. The general consensus appears to be that renovation work is not worth doing if some parts have to be rushed to get it done in time.

From the University's side, assurances have been made that care is taken to monitor the rents of other providers to ensure that they remain competitive and provide the best value for money:

70%
of students rated Lancaster University accommodation as good value for money

83%
of students said condition and quality of rooms is very important



“We consistently monitor the rents of our peer institutions and the off-campus housing market to make sure we are not being unrealistic.”

The University and its students arguably have a mutual vested interest in its handling of campus rent tariffs, as competitive pricing reduces the likelihood of students flocking to the city centre, whereupon private landlords would be afforded a greater licence to charge over the odds with little consequence. There are certainly positives to be seen on a national scale, as the 2012 Student Value for Money Report, compiled by insurance company Simple Landlords Insurance, shows Lancaster was ranked fifth in the UK, although this does factor academic reputation, too.

Head of Colleges and Student Experience Hilary Simmons, when asked whether the University sees a potential problem for

the collegiate system – whether colleges are, as proposed by student Chris Witter at the recent LUSU General Meeting, moving towards reputations associated with social class based on accommodation affordability rather than an academic or a sporting ethos, or not – said the following:

“We do still offer a range of accommodation on campus and find that the demand broadly matches the supply. The colleges are an integral part of the Lancaster experience whose success and vibrancy can be directly attributed to the students and staff that get involved in college life.”

Students with disabilities, for whom adaptations or specific facilities may be difficult to acquire in off-campus properties, must often accept the costs associated with living in campus residences. The University has made assurances that all students are treated equally, and

specialist services are in place to provide help and advice for those in need of funding and disabilities services. The University also helps all students through the decision making process with the joint University-LUSU accommodation talks each November.

As for future accommodation tariffs: these will be set by a committee meeting further ahead in the academic year. Uniquely, this year saw a deficit in the number of students taking up residence in rooms on campus. But the long-term future for Lancaster is likely to see an increase in undergraduates and the University will either need more on-campus accommodation or more in town – or, realistically, more of both. This would suggest that the furore over accommodation style and affordability will not abate any time soon.

Case Study:

Pendle Heating

Catherine Chorley
Investigations Editor

It seems that a positive outcome has finally been secured for students of Pendle College who were severely inconvenienced by a breakdown in standard-accommodation heating during the 2011 Michaelmas Term.

Demonstrating that tenacity and perseverance do pay off, Pendle student Chris Bowman fought the cause on behalf of his fellow residents, having publicised his indignation over the issue via a poster-campaign around standard accommodation blocks and social media websites throughout the process last year. Bowman felt very strongly that such sub-standard service, warranted an explanation and some form of compensation to be given to students, who were left without heating during the coldest period of the year.

Bowman discovered that those in charge of the campus accommodation had known that, having been unable to get remedial works done on the heating facilities over the preceding summer of 2011, the heating in the standard blocks remained at risk of breaking down whilst students were in residence. The basis upon which the Pendle student fought for recompense was that University personnel “knowingly installed [students] into accommodation with defective heating with no intention of compensating or rectifying the situation.”

Although the University did not grant individual students with any refund of rent for the inconvenience, an agreement was reached by which a sum of money would be pledged to the College as a whole, to be spent according to a collective need or wish.

Laurence Pullan, President of Pendle College, revealed that the final stages of negotiation had taken place between himself, Vice President (Academic Affairs) Richard Clark, College Administrator Jill Harpley, and Pendle College Principle Roger Gould, following contact with the Deputy Director of Facilities, Mike Sheppard, over the past few weeks.

Pullan said, “We eventually came up with asking for a BBQ” hoping by spring that Pendle would “have a fully operational outdoor BBQ. All that Pendle College needs now is a good spell of hot, dry summer weather...”

Uni gets new Chief Admin Officer

Nicola Owen replaces Andrew Neal, who resigned last term

Chloe Bendorff
Katherine Bellamy



Nicola Owen
Photo by Lancaster University News

January 2013 will see the arrival of a new Chief Administrative Officer for Lancaster University.

Andrew Neal previously held the position of Chief Operating Officer, but resigned earlier this year, following the dismissal of the Business Process Review. The

position has now been renamed as Chief Administrative Officer, and will be taken up by Nicola Owen (currently Deputy Registrar at the University of Warwick) in time for the beginning of Lent term.

"a formidable and talented administrative colleague"

Warwick University's website details her past positions within the University. These included becoming a Senior Officer member in 2006 and holding the post of Academic Registrar before becoming Deputy Registrar in 2010. Her past experience in these roles included many planning and strategic responsibilities as well as performance management.

Despite the job title being changed to Chief Administrative Officer her role at Lancaster will reflect the responsibilities of the old Operating Officer position, overseeing various aspects of the Central

Services. This includes aspects of college and student life (such as accommodation and the student registry), financial planning and accounting, human resources, ISS and Marketing.

Lancaster University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Mark E. Smith stated that, "she is a formidable and talented administrative colleague. She couples this with a genuine empathy with the mission of Lancaster University and a real eye for strategy. As higher education moves at an ever more rapid pace and we refresh our strategy having such a person as the leader of our administration is really exciting."

'her role at Lancaster will reflect the responsibilities of the old Operating Officer'

Owen has said that she is "really looking forward to the prospect of joining the community of

distinguished staff [and] excellent students" at Lancaster, and believes that the "strong quality of Lancaster's research and education means that the University is well placed to pursue and achieve its ambitions and [she is] delighted to have the opportunity to make a contribution to that process."

"looking forward to joining a community of distinguished staff and excellent students"

Whilst reflecting on Andrew Neal's time at Lancaster, Vice Chancellor Professor Mark Smith, said that he "has been a key part of the successful strategic development of this University over the past decade, especially with regard to ensuring financial stability and the modernisation of the estate." Owen will take up the position in January of this academic year.

New Radio Series

Charlie Edwards

Following on from last year's series of radio plays Echoes from the Deep, Bailrigg FM, the Writer's Society and Theatre Group have come together for a new series of radio plays which will be recorded and produced to be broadcast throughout the Lent term.

'Bailrigg FM, the Writer's Society and Theatre Group have come together for a new series of radio plays'

The series is called The Case Files of Doctor DeMortrem and is split into ten episodes, each taking place with different people, at different points of time, in different locations, but all dealing with supernatural occurrences, with the tenth episode tying everything together.

'all dealing with supernatural occurrences'

Co-writer and producer James Varney had this to say about the project, "after Echoes, we

were all buzzing off of how awesome it was and it was suggested that a term-long radio series would be even better. Tim (Mackworth-Praed, the co-writer) and I agreed and Tim went away and wrote ten hour-long plays as a series. I jumped at the chance of being involved in a production role again and at the start of this term we got going on putting everything in motion. We've managed quite a bit but we're still on the lookout for anyone who wants to get involved."

"we've managed quite a bit but we're still on the lookout for anyone who wants to get involved"

The team are looking for actors, designers and technicians. The cast of Echoes enjoyed a unique and exciting experience, and this next project is even more ambitious. Budding vocal actors are invited to head down to Bowland Seminar Room 13 for an informal audition session on Friday 2nd, 6pm-10pm and Saturday 3rd of November, 2pm - 5pm.

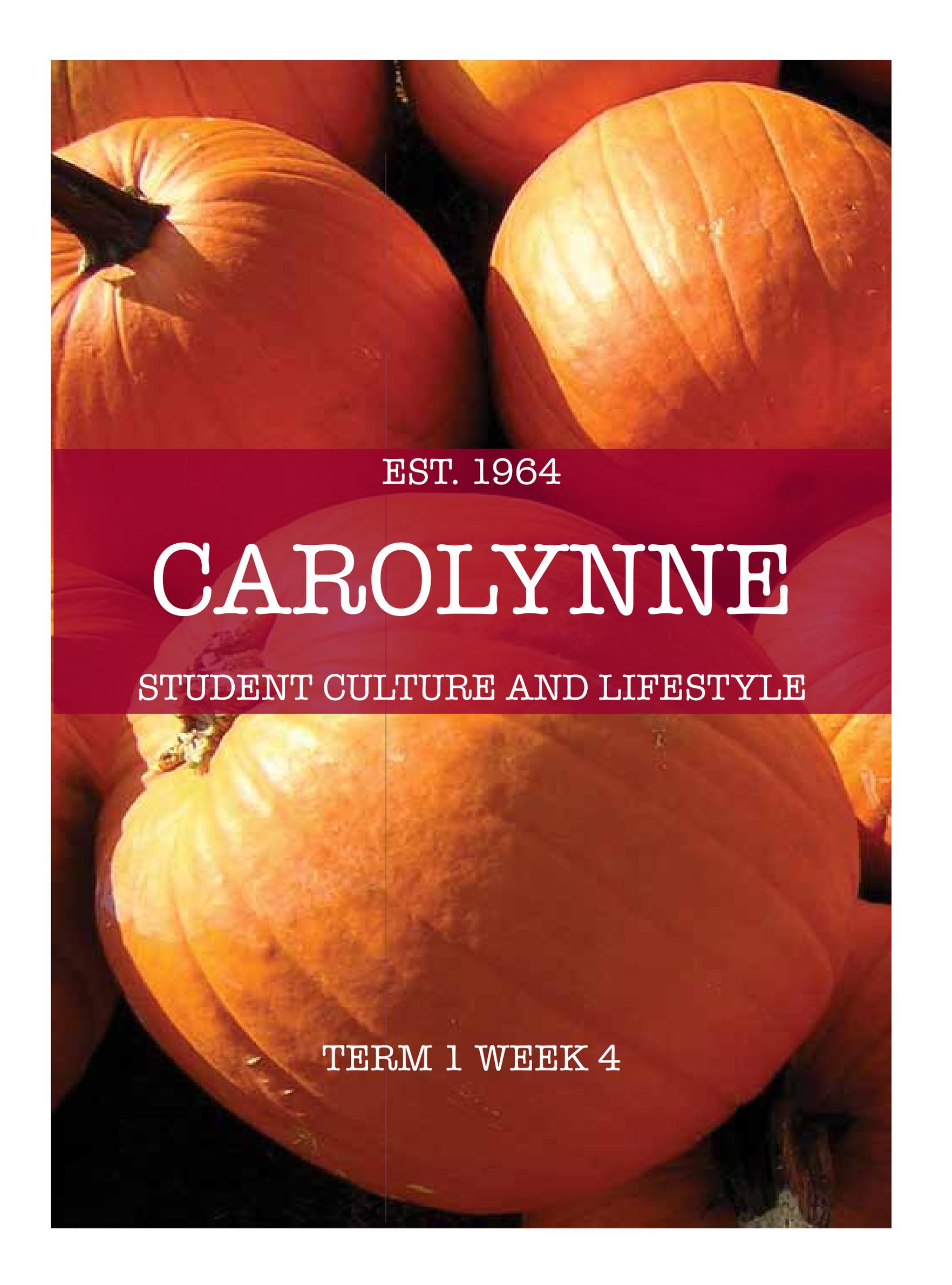


Use the portal to access your:

- ▶ Email
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- ▶ Modules
- ▶ Library
- ▶ Timetable
- ▶ Learning spaces and more...

Student portal

www.lancaster.ac.uk/portal



EST. 1964

CAROLYNNE

STUDENT CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

TERM 1 WEEK 4

, You'll have probably noticed the posters, or read the e-mails: Boost your CV with top-shot networking enterprise capitalism econo-banking!' 'Mercilessly manage your way to the top! Crush your enemies! Then crush your friends!

Or at least, you will if you've not been here for long. They quickly fade from view. They don't stop putting up the posters, or sending the e-mails, they just become so omnipresent that you stop noticing them (a bit like you eventually stop noticing how shit the weather is, or how ugly Bowland Tower looks). Everyone, everywhere, wants you to 'boost your CV!'. Don't do it for the love, they scream. Do it for the money (it will buy you that love, honest)!

I'll be frank here – although I have, like, philosophical objections, I might just hate the damn things simply because I'm incredibly bitter. Despite having a CV that's been liberally sprinkled in prizes and scholarships and then deep fried in gallons of 100% honest, natural work experience.

Personal grievances aside, I think there are bigger problems with the so-called real world's incurable CV fetish. Never mind that reducing a human being to a sheet of A4 is a depressing and essentially impossible task, never mind that it encourages people to do stuff – sit on JCRs, join societies, do a degree – with the intention of getting a job, rather than genuinely caring about the JCR, or the society, or the degree.

Write for SCAN because you want to print news and raise hell, not because you think a couple of published articles might put you in a retail giant's good books. SAnd most importantly, read as much as you can, for your course and for the hell of it, and do it because it'll make you a more interesting, understanding and engaged person – because, even though it is literally the best way to make yourself a better person, no employer ever seems to give a shit that you love Infinite Jest.

Burn your CV, and do things for the love of it! It'll make you a better person, promise. And in the end, as it turns out, you'll end up with a pretty decent CV anyway

Joe Henthorn
Carolynne Editor

SAD - Not to be Sniffed At!



Photo by Sarah Gilbert

Lifestyle

Lydia Warrender
Lifestyle Editor

Winter blues: we've all had them. Whether it's battling through four inches of snow, or coming home from lectures when it's already dark, everyone can get down when the days get shorter. However, some of us suffer more than others, and actually get diagnosed with Seasonal Affective Disorder. Those who suffer from SAD battle depression, anxiety, sleep problems and mood switches in winter months, and can be a crippling condition. Aromatherapy has long been used to help those with SAD, so how can simple scents help you?

Aromatherapy involves using essential oils to help the mind, body and soul stay at its happiest and healthiest. Scientific studies have shown marked improvements in SAD sufferers who use essential oils alongside a healthy diet and exercise. These oils can be purchased online, in health stores like Holland and Barrett, and in products from stores such as Boots and Lush. They can be used as room scents, popped on a tissue and inhaled, or even in massage. Here are some of the top SAD-busters.

Bergamot Oil. This is a traditional cure for stress and depression, with uplifting notes that ease tension.

Neroli Oil. From the blossoms of a bitter orange tree, this citrus smell is one of the essential oils scientifically proven to increase levels of serotonin in the brain, the chemical which promotes happiness.

Grapefruit. All citrus scents will help wake you up on a cold morning, but grapefruit is particularly effective. Helpful for those who suffer from lethargy and poor concentration in winter.

Lavender. Everyone knows lavender is soothing, so if you struggle to sleep when the seasons change, try incorporating some of this floral scent into your evening routine.

Clary sage. Known to combat mild depression, aggression and even PMS.

Pure essential oils are most potent, but products like these that contain them will also help pick you up as winter draws in. Never suffer in silence; consult your doctor if you are suffering, and they may even be able to talk to you about aromatherapy cures alongside conventional medicines. And then you can snuggle up with a hot chocolate, your favourite movie, and remember: at least you have Christmas to look forward to!

The Perks of The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Culture

Lauren Silvestri

Usually, when I hear a book is becoming a film adaptation, images of melodramatic Nicholas Spark book-based films infiltrate my mind, and I grow pessimistic about the quality of the upcoming feature. This became especially true when I heard one of favourite books, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky, was the latest to undergo the film treatment. However, I came out of the theatre feeling more than satisfied with the end product.

Too often film adaptations lose the vision of the author, but Chbosky prevented anything of the kind.

One of the reasons I feel the Perks film complemented the book so well is due to Chbosky taking on the role of

screenwriter and director. Too often film adaptations lose the vision of the author, but Chbosky prevented anything of the kind. Its simple style allows the characters to take centre stage, while still remaining aesthetically appealing to watch.

Logan Lerman plays the protagonist Charlie, a precocious high school freshman and self-described 'wallflower', who starts to come out of his shell with the help of seniors Patrick (played by Ezra Miller) and Sam (played by Harry Potter alum Emma Watson). Lerman plays Charlie with subtle grace, and Miller and Watson have dynamic chemistry as stepbrother and stepsister. Frankly, I was a little apprehensive about Watson in the role of Sam, since Sam exemplifies the offbeat, quirky American 90's girl. Yet Watson exceeded all my expectations by far, however, and even accomplished a believable American accent.

This is truly an ensemble film, with the entire cast exhibiting comfort in one another. Mae Whitman is hilarious as the eccentric Mary Elizabeth, who briefly dates Charlie, and *The Vampire Diaries* star Nina Dobrev stars as Charlie's environmentally conscious older sister. All the

main characters are extremely well developed; no one-dimensional stock characters invade this film. Chbosky excels at creating a film devoid of clichés, despite Perks being a 'coming-of-age' film. From the screenplay and performance of the actors, the viewer experiences a very realistic depiction of adolescence, and appeals to the inner wallflower in all of us. 'It's real high school, not Hollywood high school', comments Dobrev. Non-Americans should have no problem relating to the storyline either.

Lerman plays Charlie with subtle grace, and Miller and Watson have dynamic chemistry as stepbrother and stepsister.

Simply put, the film is effortless. It may not be as good as the book (how could it be?), but as near to perfection as a film could get to this timeless tale.

SCAN Meets... Japandroids

Culture

Joe Henthorn - Carolynne Editor

We get a lot of offers for e-mail Q+As with the cream of the pop world here at SCAN, but more often than not it's actually a bit of a con. We'll take our time thinking of deep, meaningful questions that reach right to the heart of an artist's body of work... and then the artist in question will get his/her/their unpaid interns to copy and paste lifeless PR fluff under every question.

But the indie rock duo Japandroids, in keeping with their general theme of 'being excellent at everything', found the time out of a busy, cross-continental tour schedule to give us some properly superb answers! And why, fair reader, should you be interested in what they have to say? Because they've got two critically acclaimed albums behind them (2009's *Post-Nothing* and this year's *Celebration Rock*), one of the most explosive/loudest live shows on the indie circuit, and they arrive in the UK on October 26th (their closest show to Lancaster is the Manchester date on the 27th).

How did your approach to songwriting change between *Post-Nothing* and *Celebration Rock*?

When writing *Post-Nothing*, the music was considered primary and the lyrics/vocals secondary. On *Celebration Rock*, both the music and the lyrics/vocals were considered to be equally primary. That was the single biggest difference in the songwriting.

You can definitely tell that's the case; your lyrics have got far more complex, was there a reason behind that change?

Generally speaking, I spent a lot more time on the lyrics to these songs; more than any we'd previously written. I felt that in the time since we had written and recorded *Post-Nothing*, my guitar playing had only marginally improved, whereas my imagination and confidence with respect to writing lyrics had improved drastically and I wanted to show off. Maybe by the time we write and record our next album, my guitar playing will have caught up and I can 'shred sick solos all over that bitch'. You never know...

Since a major theme of your songs is the vitality of youth, growing up and all that, what effect has growing up yourselves had on your songwriting?

I think 'growing up' has had less of an affect so much as the evolution of my music tastes as I've grown up. Relative to a few years ago, I'm now finding myself listening to a lot more lyric-centric artists, and that has no doubt had an effect on my songwriting. So, even if the themes have remained relatively constant, the expression and description of those themes has certainly expanded.

You guys are renowned for your relentless tour schedule. How do you find you're coping with the road two albums in?

Much better. We learned a lot of lessons touring on *Post-Nothing*, many of them the hard way, and have done our best to learn from those experiences and apply them to make our lives/lifestyle less chaotic and disastrous. It helps that touring is even more exciting now, as we actually have an audience to play for!

'Rock and Roll is dead' is obviously used so much by the music press nowadays that it is now almost beyond cliché, when it evidently isn't true. Or at least I don't think it is, what do you guys think?

I think you can definitely make the argument that rock and roll is dead in the UK, or at the very least, sleeping. It is pretty much impossible to make that argument in North America as there seems to be a never-ending tidal wave of vitality within the genre. In the last few days alone I have listened to brand new records from Thee Oh Sees, Metz, TySegall, The Men, Titus Andronicus, White Lung, Swearin', DIIV, Ladyhawk, Trash Talk, etc., and those are just a handful of the bands I happen to know about. Perhaps the music press in the UK needs to put down the NME, and head down to their local record store.

You've mentioned a couple of Canadian artists there, which brings me on to my next question. Canada. Why is it so good?

Poutine and Neil Young.

For me the Canadian music scene is one of the best in the world - but is this just me fetishising the Canadian music scene from a distance? On *Rockers East Vancouver* you seem to have a fairly negative impression of the Canadian music scene...

The local scene in Vancouver when we were starting out, and the Canadian music scene (both then and now) are two very different things. That song is specifically speaking to a certain time and place, and has little if anything to do with the rest of Canada, just like it has little if anything to do with Vancouver now. In fact, I don't know if our impression of the Canadian music scene has ever been more positive. White Lung, Nu Sensae, Ladyhawk in Vancouver; Grimes, Purity Ring, Cadence Weapon, Mac Demarco in Montreal; Metz, Crystal Castles in Toronto - some of the best records this year are coming from Canada. STAY POSITIVE!



Photo by Maoya Bassiouni

The Facebook Police

Our legal system can't keep up with the digital age

Features

Juliet Stephenson

The recent news headlines have been plagued with stories of online insolence and apparently terrorist tweets. The latest addition, in the case of Matthew Woods, 20, from Lancashire, has gone one step further this week – it has obtained him a 12 week prison sentence. His crime? A “grossly offensive” series of Facebook posts about the missing girl April Jones, a drunken attempt at a joke.

Coming dangerously close to becoming an obscenity conviction, the story has provoked a massive response from comedians across the country. If the courts can criminalise attempts to make people laugh, however unimaginative or in poor taste, then there is little hope for the comic profession. There has also been a flurry of conversation regarding free speech following the case, as many hold the view that he merely voiced his own opinions on his own page, as millions of users do every day. Should the fact that some people took offence to his comments make him a criminal? The line of acceptability is becoming fuzzier and fuzzier in regards to online traffic.

The “public outcry” referenced by the judge was never so clearly displayed as on the eve of his trial. Mr. Woods was arrested for his own safety after a 50-strong mob attempted to ambush him at his home in Chorley. Similar to the death threats one Twitter user received after sending abusive messages to diver Tom Daley (who then re-tweeted them to all his followers), it could be argued that calling these people out on their bad online behaviour causes more trouble than the original posts.

Woods was jailed under section 127 of the Communications Act of 2003, restricting what is deemed as “grossly offensive” content. The Chairman of the court that prosecuted Woods, Bill Hudson, explained the sentence; “The reason for the sentence is the seriousness of the offence, the public outrage that has been caused”. So, in essence, it is the public that decide what constitutes “offensive”. Given, then, that it was effectively the angry mob braying at his door that determined Woods’ conviction, does that make legal sense?

According to the legislation, the people who are grossly offended by the comment don't even need be the recipient. Comedians everywhere will undoubtedly be cowering under their duvets like children hiding from the bogey monster following the sentencing of Matthew Woods. Given what constitutes “offensive” under this legislation, most UK comedians should have been taken out by a heavily armed SWAT team to an underground bunker with a bag over their head.

Whilst there should clearly be some form of punishment for this man's crass and frankly stupid comments, does a statement posted on his own Facebook page really warrant 3 months in prison? It was even made public that the judge had intended to sentence him to 18 weeks, but cut a third off for his guilty plea. This legislation is a keen example of a ‘mickey mouse’ law that desperately needs to be altered. Brought into effect as a stop-gap for a legal loophole, the ambiguity and dangerously vague nature of this unjust law desperately needs to be remedied.

It is feared that the impact this conviction will have upon comedy in the UK will be hugely detrimental, costing the country some of its finest entertainment – people being too scared to do their jobs. A comic's role is to scratch the surface of bad taste; don't make them pay the price for one man's boozy late-night attempt at humour.

Review: *Argo*

Culture

Grace Copeland

It would seem that Ben Affleck is on a roll. Marking his third directorial feature and the second time he has starred in his own film, Affleck returns to our screens in *Argo* – the true story behind the CIA operation that rescued six American diplomats from Iran during the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979

Argo opens in Tehran on November 4th, 1979, as Iranian revolutionaries riot in the streets outside the US embassy, enraged that the United States has allowed the much-hated Shah to enter America. As the situation escalates out of control, we are introduced to six embassy workers who take their chance to escape and run into the streets of rioters and burning American flags. Looking back to see their embassy building sieged, the lucky few to escape run for their lives as the 52 Americans left behind are taken hostage

Finding refuge in the home of the Canadian Ambassador (Victor Garber – *Titanic*), the situation becomes increasingly desperate as the escapees' absence, and identities, are slowly being pieced together by the Iranian militants. Back in the US, the CIA are struggling to come up with a viable idea to rescue the six embassy workers... queue Tony Mendez (Ben Affleck), a CIA ‘exfiltration’ agent who specialises in getting people out of ‘tight situations’

Tenacious, creative and one of the best in the business, Mendez gets the CIA to approve *Argo*, a bogus film from a bogus film studio – ‘Studio Six’ – which Mendez manages to launch through tapping up his Hollywood contacts, prosthetics guru John Chambers (John Goodman – *The Big Lebowski*) and producer Lester Siegel (Alan Arkin – *Get Smart*). Set to be a ‘Star Wars rip-off’ and requiring a middle eastern backdrop for filming, Mendez heads to Iran posing as the associate producer, together with six false identities to give to the trapped escapees, his new fake film crew, who are still in hiding.

Sound ridiculous? Too farfetched to be true? Although you'd be forgiven for thinking such a storyline was the product of fiction, the most astonishing thing about *Argo* is that it's true. Mendez went to Iran, the six Americans were safely brought back to the US and the truth of the story remained secret until 1997, when the papers documenting the role that the CIA and Hollywood played in their rescue became declassified. Although *Argo* isn't claiming to be a documentary, the reality behind the film's plot is nothing short of mind-boggling genius!

Tense, captivating and sometimes terrifying, you don't need to understand the political backdrop to feel the full impact of *Argo* on your nerves! But fear not, the film isn't all nerve wracking as there are some great comedic moments from Goodwin and Arkin, providing much needed relief from the anxiety inducing ‘will they won't they’ escape sequences, and authentic performances from the ‘familiar faced’ cast.

Arguably one of the best films of the year, *Argo* is a white-knuckle ride from start to finish!. In Cinemas 7th November.



Photo by Jay Theis

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Radiohead - Live in Manchester

An odd setlist, maybe; but there were No Surprises in terms of quality.

Culture

Jack Smith - Assistant Editor

"Hello. I'm Lady Gaga," said Thom Yorke as his opening line at the Manchester Arena. Predictable it wasn't, but Radiohead have never been a band that you could describe as such.

Following the success of their more conventional - by their standards, considering most songs had a chorus and a discernable riff - *In Rainbows* in 2008, Radiohead took a significant step back to the left with *The King of Limbs*, a strange, meandering, rhythmic beast inspired by the likes of *Four Tet* and *Caribou*.

"The truth will mess you up" is a lyric so quintessentially Thom Yorke that it baffles the mind that he's never sung it before.

While the set was *King of Limbs* heavy, the fact that it is such a short album allowed the band to delve into their eclectic back catalogue. 2003's *The Gloaming* sounded as fresh as ever, with its pulsating bass and minimal, electronic beats almost foreshadowing what you can find in room two at clubs today.

The stage set was as electric as the music. The entire front wall of the arena was dominated by an awesome screen of colour changing light. Suspended above were moving, tilting square screens that would show nothing but close-ups of the instru-

ments being played and QR codes in-between songs.

The album's strangest moment, the glitchy, electro-carnival instrumental that is *Feral*, absolutely comes alive in this setting. The bass once again dominates in a very positive way, combined with the hypnotic light show demonstrating the clear club influence on Radiohead's most recent material.

Feral absolutely comes alive in this setting... the bass dominates in a very positive way, combined with the hypnotic light show, demonstrating the clear club influence on Radiohead's most recent material.

It's not all bass-infused rhythmic soundscapes, however. *The Daily Mail*, Yorke's inspired song about a very controversial newspaper, proved to be an incredible moment as the sell-out crowd watched the opening, piano led verses in silence. In a similar vein was the acoustic *Give Up the Ghost* and the beautiful *Pyramid Song* from 2001's under-rated *Amnesiac*. In *Rainbows*' lead single *Nude* was perfect, with Yorke's falsetto vocal hitting every single note.

In amongst the electronic, club-inspired brilliance and the nuanced, quieter cuts, it was easy to forget that Radiohead came to prominence as a straight-up guitar rock band; at least until Yorke announced: "This is an old song. A very old song", before the band launched into *Planet Telex* from 1995's *The Bends*. Along with the seminal *OK Computer*'s opener *Airbag*,

these proved to be rousing anthems. *Weird Fishes/Arpeggi*, from *In Rainbows*, was - perhaps surprisingly - one of the singalong moments of the night.

There There and *Paranoid Android*, two top five singles that pack in as many musical changes as Gaga does costumes, both enthralled the audience - and both erupted into an absolute wall of sound and light. As the band left the stage after the latter, the audience were desperate for more; which they got, in the shape of three encores.

New song *Full Stop* sounds like a single in waiting, its opening bass riff dominating proceedings until Yorke's droning keyboards and a mesmerising clash of primary colours on the screen take the track to another level. "The truth will mess you up" is a lyric so quintessentially Thom Yorke that it baffles the mind that he's never sung it before.

Radiohead have released eight albums in the last three decades, but are still as fresh and pioneering as ever.

The gig's closer, the anthemic, scatterbrained *Idiotique*, sounded like it could have come out last week. It was released 12 years ago. If any audience members came for *Creep*, *Street Spirit*, *Just* and *Karma Police*, they were always going to be disappointed. But, luckily, it seems the majority came here knowing what to expect. This was the sound of a band who have released eight albums in the last three decades, but are still sounding as fresh and pioneering as ever.



Photo by Jack Smith

Little Black Dress gets Spooky

The ever versatile LBD is even more adaptable than you think...

Fashion

Laura Dempster- Fashion Editor

How many years in a row have you stared into your wardrobe vacantly at about 6pm on the eve of Halloween searching for something (anything) slightly scary to wear that night. This Halloween the Little Black Dress is your best friend. An ideal style is something like this little number from Bank, incorporating paisley print to keep you on trend over the winter. However, any style of LBD can be transformed into a unique outfit. Here's how:

Hopefully these ideas give you some Halloween inspiration - most of these ideas can all be adapted to men too, just substitute the dress for black trousers and top!

Spider- You will need four pairs of black tights, eyeliner and a few pairs of socks for this one.

Start off by stuffing each of the legs of the tights with balled up pairs of socks and then tie around your waist to create eight legs, you can then go pretty heavy on the eyeliner to make yourself look a little scarier. You could even mix some black liquid eyeliner with some red lipstick for some real gothic glamour. Wednesday Addams- You will need a white shirt and a couple of hair ties. To channel your inner Wednesday all you need to do is wear a shirt underneath your little black dress-make sure you have the collar poking out. Then tie your hair into two plaits. Easy! You could also try rubbing some dark eye shadow under your eyes to give the appearance of dark circles and add some ankle socks to black brogues if you have them.

This Halloween the Little Black Dress is your best friend. An ideal style is something like this little number from Bank, incorporating paisley print to keep



Photos by

Photo by PR Shots

you on trend over the winter.

Skeleton- Black tights and white paper. This one requires a little more preparation but will cost you next to nothing. Draw out some bone shapes on the white paper (including pelvis and ribs) then cut them out and pin them to your dress and your tights. Frankenstein's Wife- Green face paint and talc. Firstly cover yourself head to toe in the green paint, wait for it to dry and then put on your dress. Add some dark makeup; why not try black or purple lipstick if you have it? Then carefully add some talc to a thick strip of hair at the side to give it more of a grey colour, this can be held in place with some (lots) of hairspray. If you wanted to go all out you could get some cheap netting from the haberdashery and pin this into your hair as a veil. Hopefully these ideas give you some Halloween inspiration, most of these ideas can all be adapted to men too, just substitute the dress for black trousers and top.

Goth Up Or Go Home

Goth fashion comes back from the dead

Yasmin Jaunbocus

Gothic fashion has had a revamp recently with slinky silhouettes, black lace and sheer chiffon more than lurking out of the shadows this season. With Halloween coming up, why not get into this season's spirits by buying some interchangeable items which blend seamlessly into costumes as well as looking drop dead gorgeous in your day-to-day wardrobe.

Topshop have pounced on the grungey goth look with more than a few items of clothing. Their adorable bat motif knitted jumpers by J.W Anderson for Topshop not only keep you nice and cosy for those dark winter nights but fit the theme perfectly.

Alternatively, why not invest in an elegant, sheer maxi skirt with a side split. This item channels your inner Morticia Addams, plus the design is ultra flattering and can be teamed with a multitude of items in your existing wardrobe.

Toughen up your everyday look with some leather. Not only will this rock up your usual wardrobe,



Photo by PR Shots

but this relatively cheap update brings out your dark side. Why not try the leather panelled leggings available at Primark for a bit of dark glamour?

For a subtle hint of Halloween, there is also a large array of gothic jewellery on sale on the high-street, just like this understated skull bracelet from asos. When browsing the jewellery sections you will also find cross earrings as well as eye catching body necklaces which make a little more of an impact.

If you want to keep things classy, the Urban Out-

fitters black lace skirted dress from Pins and Needles (£55) is just the ticket. Not only does the plunging neckline hint at your devilish side but this cute little black dress can be transformed easily into a corpse bride outfit with the addition of a veil.

Finally, buy a pair of brothel creepers. Not only are they super comfortable, but they are definitely gothic and kind of remind me of Beetlejuice. Now he was scary. River Island do metallic pair for just £15 in the sale at the moment but if midnight black is more your thing then ASOS do a suede pair for £35.



Photo by PR Shots

SPINE



Alex Warlow, an English Literature Student in final year said she takes inspiration from her boyfriend, because he's "really cool," she often steals his clothes. An item Alex couldn't go without are her Chelsea boots, a timeless pair of boots which go with everything. The jeans shown in this photo are from New Look, Alex's favourite item that she's wearing.

Katherine Ridley, a first year Psychology student rocked up in Alexandra Square with a Beatles top and bag. Although she wasn't wearing them, she said her wardrobe essential is a pair of boots. Katherine's Beatles top is her favourite item in this outfit, it was a present for her 17th birthday. Key pieces like this never go out of style.

Articles by Sarah Warsaw, photography by Jay Theis

SPOTTING



Robert Gibson is a first year Accounting and Finance with Maths student. I loved his denim jacket, which he said was his favourite part of his outfit, from Topman. Robert doesn't take style inspiration from anyone and can't go without his suede shoes.



I noticed Venetia Wright, a second year Marketing and Advertising student, wearing a hat just near Bowland. Venetia said she loves hats and has 7 or 8. Scott Bannister was with her, his Next trainers are his necessary item of clothing and he always has his backpack with him. Venetia commented that she loved her cardigan, and it used to belong to her Mum. This is a great idea; rifling through your Mum's old clothes can find you some real vintage gems!

Should I stay or should I go?

Marsha Dowie

Having spent one year living on campus and one year in town, it was a fairly difficult decision to make when it came to choosing where to live for my third and final year. However, after one of the best years of my life living in town during my second year, the solution to my dilemma seemed inevitable.

Second year was the best by far, and I think that living in town was a major contributing factor.

To be frank, my experience of campus accommodation in first year was actually pretty average. Although I had all the luxuries South West campus had to offer (and my bank account certainly suffered for that), there was something other than the ridiculous price that wasn't quite right about my experience living there.

For me personally, I felt rather isolated. I had an en-suite, and my bedroom was hidden away behind a small wall right at the end of a ridiculously long corridor. Being located in South West, the amount of people walking past my window every day was minimal, and the only call I got on my internal phone was from my flat mate four rooms down. The doors were heavy and slammed shut, and the only door that was open on a regular basis was, once again, my sociable internal-phone-buddy. To be honest it sucked – so when I was offered the chance to live with three lads in Cable Street I took it.

I felt like I was caught up in one big bubble, whereas living in town, I do have the luxury of being able to escape.

Second year was the best by far, and I think that living in town was a major contributing factor. We had a lounge, and our flat was small so we all had our doors open chatting to each other from our bedrooms. It all seemed much more sociable. Obviously, the only downside was the bathroom sharing, and being in my new house this year it still remains a slight inconvenience. Last year there were several toilet blockages and one flat mate (there's always one) spending that long in the shower that I sometimes had to use the one at the bus station.

I can honestly say, however, I have never experienced a dull moment in off-campus accommodation. The living space is the main selling point for me. But also there were moments in campus accommodation where I felt like I was caught up in one big bubble, whereas living in town, I do have the luxury of being able to escape.



Photo by Jay Theis



Photo by Alex Stewart

Jim Tracey

Who you live with is always going to be more important than where you live. To me, this is an obvious truth – I would rather live in ramshackle, squalid accommodation with a group of great friends than in a luxury flat with a complete 'see you next Tuesday'. It's a bit like a night out – it doesn't matter which club you go to or how many attractive girls (or boys) are out; the night will be determined by the people you're out with. Fun people = fun times. Thus, logically, living in town with a group of your best mates sounds like it would be the ideal place to be. I would argue that it is, in fact, not as good as living on campus, the more convenient, practical and sensible choice.

For those of us who actually want a semi-respectable degree, which I hope would be most people, then the proximity to the library really is the selling point of campus. For those who want to buckle down this access is essential – it has all the books you need, and while many books and journal articles are accessible online it is also an environment where you can work without disturbance. The library, unlike a shared house, also won't have anyone playing really crap 'Ministry of Sound' club anthems at irritatingly high volumes. Not only this but also the lecture theatres, seminar rooms and sports centre are all within touching distance.

For those of us who actually want a semi-respectable degree then the proximity to the library really is the selling point of campus.

On campus you will not only have the library and lecture theatres on your doorstep, you will also have a cleaner who will ensure that your kitchen and landing are kept in good order. It is easy to understate what a luxury this is, and especially after spending a long shift in the library it really can be depressing coming back to a kitchen which has smashed bottles, rotting eggs and an odour to rival that of a sewage tank.

In terms of shopping, whilst SPAR is one of the most disgracefully overpriced shops in Lancaster you can normally find some good deals in their reduced section. On top of this, ASDA delivery service means that you actually don't need to leave campus to stock up food, booze and other essentials.

On balance – I would go for campus. It IS more expensive, but hey, you're probably paying £9000

From Lancaster with Love

Culture Editor Stephanie Bell chats with two Lancaster alumni who have eschewed the usual post-graduation route for a more artistic lifestyle...

Culture

Stephanie Bell -Culture Editor

The creative partnership of Alex Carrington and Suzy Wimbourne show how it's done in making a dream become reality. A year on from its inception, Kinwah (Contemporary Cover Band) and Suzy Wimbourne Photography have built promising foundations and travelled the length and breadth of the UK with a successful busking tour. Check out their websites at <http://www.theadventuresofsuzyandalex.com/>

Tough competition indeed, so how long have you been making music together?

ALEX - Since 2011, when Suzy returned as a seasoned understudy, after shooting weddings in San Francisco and I had returned from having walked 500 miles in a soul searching escapade. Suzy was straight out of Lancaster University and I had only just quit my grad job, one year out of Lancaster. In Manchester I had been busking which led to the two of us performing throughout the Christmas period, come New Year after the success of a few further bookings, we decided to jump right in to officiating ourselves as Kinwah in January 2012.

Has working together musically led your private relationship to be stronger?

ALEX - Suzy initially came to Manchester to build up her wedding photography business, but as both revenue streams took off, music definitely brought us even closer together. We think if the relationship you're in is the right one; it can only go from strength to strength.

We are very humbled that we've got shared passions, and if you can look past any projected stereotypes such as the Von Trapp family, Eurythmics or Sonny and Cher, it's a pretty sweet deal making music together.

Do you write your own songs as well as performing covers ?

ALEX - During my time at Lancaster I was writing and performing with a few bands and performing solo at open mic nights in Manchester - it was a hard slog without the financial incentive provided with Kinwah. For now we focus on what we have, so that in the future I can pursue my ultimate goal of being a songwriter or singer/songwriter. As a side note, I've found another outlet for my song writing where I'm currently writing and performing on an album signed to dance/electronica label "Get Physical".

Any songs you're particularly proud of?

ALEX - I'm a perfectionist. My own songs come in batches of about five and for every new batch my old ones seem so out of fashion. Ask me this question again in five years - I hope to have something to talk about then.

How did you decide that you wanted to form an independent entertainment industry and was it easy to do so?

ALEX - We realised that together we have a niche and that we could earn handsomely if we managed to get gigs and refine our sound. Like anyone starting their own business: it will swallow the whole of your life, for an indefinite amount of time, and certainly

most of every day. The setting up is the easy part, but making it happen takes persistence - by no means have we "made it" but we are on the right track to making both our businesses a way of life. It's taken getting our product finely polished, finding good agents and practicing diligence.

Any tips for aspiring musicians?

ALEX - One secret to our growing success is undoubtedly busking. It may not work for everybody, but for us, whether we earn £30 or £130 in a day from busking, this self promotion tool is great for new opportunities because so few people who are professional actually do it.

Suzy - how do you balance your photography career with your musical one and do you find that they feed into each other?

SUZY -Music and Photography for us go hand in hand. We share the workload with photography, the difference being that I am the expert and Alex is the apprentice; although Alex is getting quite good, he is still no match for my editing! We work by advanced bookings so neither will ever clash and the best part of this summer has been that we have been able to combine the two via our blog: <http://www.theadventuresofsuzyandalex.com>

Do you have any plans for an album release?

SUZY - We were thinking about sending our friends a Christmas album this year, complete with this awkward couple photograph for an album sleeve.



Halloween's Hidden History

Rachel May Quin explores the history of All Hallows Eve

Features

Rachel May Quin

As the leaves begin to fall off the trees and the world develops that wonderful rosy glow, so begins autumn, along with the preparation for darker nights and wrapping up in as many layers as you can manage to brave the English cold.

Luckily for us, between summer and Christmas falls the spookiest of holidays, Halloween. For kids everywhere, this means one night of free chocolate and egging houses; for us big kids, it means dressing up in ridiculous and/or sexy costumes to go out drinking. However, we seem to forget where these holidays came from – are they a media stunt to encourage us to spend far too much money on treats and costumes, or is there a real meaning behind Halloween?

The difference between the pagan festival and the Christianised Halloween is that the pagans embrace the ideas of death, rather than fearing it.

Unsurprisingly, as with most traditional holidays, Halloween has its own religious context which dates right back to ancient times and, somewhat out-dated, beliefs. Halloween has its roots in an old pagan festival known as Samhain, which was once deemed to be an

important day on the pagan calendar, as it marks the Feast of the Dead. The idea of the Feast of the Dead was to make all the neighbourhood ghouls come a-visiting and to celebrate life.

In these times, old age was not something to give your seat up to on the bus; it was a gift of wisdom and a part of life as necessary and accepted as the birth of a new baby. It was believed to be a mystical, sacred time of the year – the dead could walk the earth again and share secrets of the afterlife and the future (which could be why so many people are fond of doing ghost walks and performing séances on Halloween). For an unlucky few, this event meant the loss of their lives, as pagans engaged in gory rituals to offer living sacrifices and appease the gods and any malicious spirits. In pagan life, occasionally you've got to take one for the team.

On a lighter note, the concept of trick or treating is also believed to originate in ancient Celtic tradition. According to chroniclers, in the 19th century people would bake sweet treats and on Halloween night, people would visit their neighbours begging for what was known as 'soul cakes'. The more cakes they received the more prayers they had to say in memory of the dead, as well as consuming far too many calories.

A similar tradition was noted in ancient Ireland – peasants would go door-to-door begging for bread, money, eggs and any other edible treats they could scrape together, in order to feed themselves over the winter. This could all be down to the fact that Samhain is derived from a Gaelic word meaning 'end of summer'. Therefore, another aim of this day of the year was to celebrate the end of harvest, the death of summer, and alert people that it was time to squirrel together their

nuts and prepare for winter. To get into the spirit of this, many people in the 21st century, from children to adults, enjoy going door to door collecting chocolate from people they barely know and stocking up on as much alcohol as their Sainsbury's bag can. Which is basically the same thing, right?

The introduction of what we now know as "Halloween" did not happen until almost centuries after Jesus walked the streets of Jerusalem. It was employed as a conversion tactic by Christians to appeal to the pagans, as Samhain tied in neatly with the celebrations of All Saints and All Souls day, which were moved into early November. And it is now widely accepted that the early church missionaries decided to stage their festivities at this time of year in order to piggy back on Pagan goodwill, and subsume Pagan practices into Christianity, smoothing the conversion process.

By combining old traditions with a new faith, it encouraged people to embrace the new rule and the latest form of worship. Halloween gave good Christians one night to thoroughly scare themselves half to death, and then spend the next few days repenting and worshipping the lives of saints.

The difference between the pagan festival and the Christianised Halloween is that the pagans embrace the ideas of death, rather than fearing it. In the Christianised version of Halloween, a common belief was that Halloween night was a special night in which the boundaries between life and death became blurred, and it was possible for evil spirits to break free and roam the earth for a while.

These ideas of the dead haunting the mortal world drove all seemingly-logical people into extinguishing all their lights and wearing masks and disguises, in order to ward off the dead and protect themselves from being possessed. The idea was to blend in as well as possible with any roaming ghosts, so that evil souls would pass by quietly. This could be why in modern times many people aim to look like something that just crawled out of a graveyard using enormous amounts of eyeliner. This has repercussions for the modern age: those of you who choose to dress up like cute bunnies and sexy pirates would be the first to be victimised by a passing evil spirit - the last thing you want on Halloween is to be mugged by the un-dead as you innocently stumble past a cemetery!

Overall, with the majority of people being so darn un-religious these days, the true meaning of Halloween has been overwritten by an array of beautiful, colourful, gothic outfits and the promise of free confectionary. In this modern age, we believe more in facts and figures, although I'm pretty sure my housemates and I aren't the only ones who enjoy watching trashy horror films and screaming at the idea of ghosts dragging you down the stairs. It might be important to understand our past, but why not embrace our modern Halloween? Because let's be honest, there are only two religious holidays which allow you to stuff your face with chocolate and other tooth-rotting goodies completely guilt-free.



Photo by .nate

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LUSU

A 2000 year old excuse to dress up

Fashion

Fia Spiropoulos

It's back. That time of year when Sainsbury's stocks fake blood by the gallon and no less than six horror films are released all at once. It's Halloween - the perfect excuse to dress up, with costumes ranging from the Grim Reaper to the Spice Girls, but how did it all begin?

It all started 2000 years ago with the Celts and their celebration of Samhain. To prevent the spirits from occupying their body, the Celts disguised themselves by making masks and costumes from animal skins and heads (and you thought dressing up as a zombie was gruesome). In Scotland, young men would wear white clothes and hide their faces with a veil or mask. These traditions carried on throughout the centuries with Roman and, later, Christian influences.

Dressing up at the end of October carried on throughout the centuries and other traditions closely linked to Halloween also developed (trick-or-treating can be linked back to the Samhain traditions of "guising", along with the Christian customs of "souling" around All Saints Day). During this period these customs began to spread throughout Europe before making their way to the United States in the 1840s when many of the Irish fled to America in the wake of The Potato Famine.

It wasn't until the early 1900s that the Halloween we know and recognise began. It started off as a practice for children as opposed to adults, with trick-or-treating and pranking taking the spotlight. Popular costumes for children included more sinister and supernatural themes, including witches, devils, skeletons and the like.

It wasn't until the 1920s and 1930s that Halloween became more commercialised and adults started to take on the custom of fancy dress for themselves. Although the traditional scary costumes were still popular at this time, the mass manufacturing that went hand-in-hand with the commercialisation of Halloween saw the rise of more pop culture centred costumes. It was around this time that the cocktail of princess, vampire, angel and ghoul costumes first began to mix.

With the 1950s and the baby boom, Halloween became more of a community event. The costume code set up in the 1930s continued under the influence of existing fashion and pop culture. The predominance of spandex in the 1980s influenced some more risqué Halloween outfits and the grunge fashion of the 1990s led to an uprising of black lipstick wearing witches. Horror movies also played a role in the influence of Halloween costumes, with the popular movie "Dawn of the Dead" inspiring a plethora of zombie costumes and the "Scream" movies creating the classic "Ghostface" mask.

Whatever you choose this Halloween, be it a supernatural character or an animal onesie, just be grateful you aren't beheading a fox to use as a mask this Halloween.

Remember Movember

Changing the face of men's health

Lifestyle

Sarah Warsaw

Calling all men on campus! It's nearly November, the month of the year also known as 'Movember'. This special month of the year gives guys the chance to become better men, grow a mo and help raise awareness about men's health.

Throughout November each year, men across the world grow moustaches in aid of Movember, a charity project which aims to raise awareness about prostate and testicular cancer. 2011 saw the most successful Movember yet, with over 854,000 'mo-bros' and 'mo-sistas' taking part and raising £79.3million.

'Mo sista?' you say. 'Girls should grow moustaches too?' Luckily, that isn't the role of a mo-sister; it's a woman who loves a mo, who wants to support mo-bros she knows during their growth period. She might be supporting friends, colleagues, brothers or her boyfriend, helping them along the way with an encouraging smile, a supportive wink or perhaps getting out there and helping to create a team of mo-bros to start the journey together!

There are loads of ways to get involved throughout Movember. Get involved in your workplace, your community or university. Younger potential mo-bros of the future, who are still yet to master the art of growing a mo, can encourage their teachers to get involved. There are also ways to raise money - why not have a registration party? Get people in your society or sports team together and sign up. Think of some creative plans to raise

money and awareness during November; perhaps plan a Movember launch party. You can even order Movember party packs from their website. Finally, once all the moustaches have grown, an end of Movember party is the perfect finale for comparing mo's and raising those last few pennies towards a great cause.

No doubt there will be a whole range of different shapes, sizes, styles and colours attached to the faces of our mo-bros. It's a fun yet worthwhile cause, and to get you interested, here is a sample of some moustaches you guys might want to try:

Natural - moustache may be styled without any aids.

Fu Manchu - long, downward pointing ends, generally beyond the chin.

Dali - narrow, long points bent or curved steeply upward; areas past the corner of the mouth must be shaved. Artificial styling aids needed. Named after Salvador Dali.

English moustache - narrow, beginning at the middle of the upper lip the whiskers are very long and pulled to the side, slightly curled; the ends are pointed slightly upward; areas past the corner of the mouth usually shaved. Artificial styling may be needed.

Imperial - whiskers growing from both the upper lip and cheeks, curled upward.

Freestyle - All moustaches that do not match other classes. The hairs are allowed to start growing from up to a maximum of 1.5 cm beyond the end of the upper lip.



Image by Blush Printables

Graffiti - Art or Crime?

Features

Katrina Edgecombe

The controversial subject of street art reared its head yet again recently in the most unlikely of places and due to the most unlikely of reasons. The place was Milton Keynes, the reason the 'world famous' concrete cows that inhabit the town. The cows, which have stood since 1978, were repainted overnight to look like skeletons. The general public consensus seems to be that this is an improvement over the originals, and one of the few interesting things to happen in Milton Keynes since their creation. However, Milton Keynes Council don't agree and are planning on spending £2000 on repainting it, and are only delaying in doing so until after Halloween because of public support of these skeletal bovines.

So, how have society's attitudes to graffiti like this changed over time? I admit I'm no expert (my only knowledge of the graffiti art movement comes from watching 'Exit Through the Gift Shop') but it seems to me that currently graffiti is in a weird limbo between criminal activity and genuine art form. Moreover, the way in which we decide which category a specific piece of graffiti falls into solely depends on how "good" or "artistic" it is.

But isn't that fairly illogical, when you really think about it? In literally every other form of art the prevailing view is that art is art no matter how good or bad it is. There is no logical reason why Banksy gets critical acclaim and a metric ton of money when he spray paints a wall, when your less talented graffiti 'artist' would get an ASBO (or whatever they're called nowadays) for his or her troubles. Sure, the Banksy piece would probably

be a powerful and insightful piece of art that captures the cultural zeitgeist and acts as a searing indictment of the current capitalist system, whereas most pieces of graffiti might just say 'JADE HAZ A SMELY MINGE' or something equally edifying; but as far as I know a lack of creative talent isn't yet a criminal offence.

It seems that general attitudes towards graffiti are inconsistent at best and hypocritical at worst. And if these attitudes are leading to inconsistent enforcement of the law, then I can't help finding that unjust and unfair. It seems that if the graffiti in question is deemed acceptable by the middle classes, it's art. Otherwise it's vandalism caused by feral youths, a product of Broken Britain who should be locked up (and they should bring back military service while they're at it!). Graffiti at its core is a form of self expression traditionally used by the poor and disadvantaged in society. By demonising and criminalising graffiti, society is carrying on its fine tradition of trying to silence and invalidate working class culture.

That being said, it is pretty difficult to appreciate someone tagging their name in white spray paint as "Art". There doesn't seem to be any obvious solutions to this tricky situation. One thing that could help is more designated communal areas in communities where people are free to express themselves via street art however they wish. Another idea is specific projects where local artists (street artists or otherwise) can create something together which could have the added benefit getting previously disenfranchised youths more involved in the community. But before we find a solution to the problem, we as a society should realize we can't have our cake and eat it too. Either graffiti is art or it is a criminal activity - it cannot be both, as much as we would like it to be.

Spooky sex appeal

Lifestyle

Leonie Chaudhry

For Halloween 2011 I was dressed as a sexy circus girl. Possibly a ringleader... but to be honest I didn't know what I was. I was just happy that I'd managed to find gloves and a hat in the exact same shade as my hot pants. I'll admit it wasn't my most well thought-out outfit, but rather than being judged for the fact I was clearly grasping at last minute fancy dress straws, I was being judged by how much leg I was showing.

So where is the line where sexy becomes slutty? Is it when both bum and cleavage are out? Or is it when the chaps that 'sexy Indiana Jones' is wearing are made out of real leather? Honestly, it's neither. Whatever anyone is wearing, boy or girl, it doesn't become slutty, offensive or 'over the top' until people decide to judge.

My sexy outfit was, in the eyes of some people, too 'slutty' and because I had so much skin out that made me 'easy', right? Wrong. On Halloween, or any night where we get dressed up, we're dressing up as something we aren't. So the chances are that if you bump into a slutty zombie in Sugar this Halloween, she's neither a slut nor a zombie in real life - who knew?

The way society usually views body and image prevents a lot of women from dressing sexily on a daily basis for fear of being judged. Halloween is one of the few occasions where people who wouldn't usually dare to get their skin out feel like they can.

"Halloween is the one night a year when a girl can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it." Possibly one of the most quoted Mean Girls lines ever, and I completely agree. How a girl dresses, whether she's a sexy super-hero in PVC or a zombie bride in a floor length skirt, is entirely her prerogative.

I'm not defending nights out which are themed in a way that encourage girls to go slutty or go home - Carnage being the prime example, but I am one hundred per cent defending a girl's right to judge herself and her own dress sense without having to care if a complete stranger approves. If you want to cover up, that's your choice, if you want to bare all then that's your choice as well. You are entitled to express your sexuality in any way you see fit, so this Halloween I urge you to throw caution to the wind and go all out. I for one will be dressed as a super sexy zombie accompanied by my zombie nun friends. Whether you're going scary or sexy this Halloween, let's make it one to remember!



Jess Oliver's Tweet of the Week
 9am's aren't getting any easier #firstworldproblems

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George Fox LT1

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LUSU 

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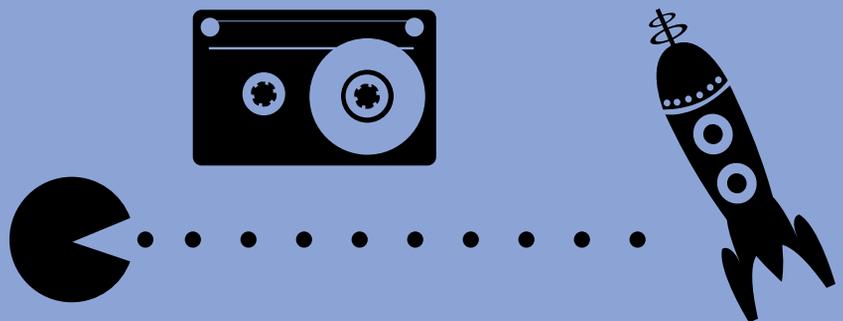
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COMMENT

Freedom of speech - the excuse on everyone's lips

Aimee Brown

Considered as a fundamental element of any constitution which expresses a link to democracy, freedom of speech has transformed from an unprotected positive right to an entity which now pervades daily life following the enactment of The European Convention on Human Rights 1950, in particular Article 10, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

Re-affirmed by the European Court of Human Rights in *Handyside v United Kingdom* (1976) 1 EHRR 737 'The Court's supervisory functions oblige it to pay the utmost attention to the principles characterising a 'democratic society.' Freedom of expression constitutes one of the essential foundations of such a society, one of the basic conditions for

its progress and for the development of every man'.

However, with a lack of a written constitution, the boundaries of this particular freedom are difficult to shape as the United Kingdom finds difficulty in the balancing of different interests such as freedom of speech on the one hand for example, and the protection of public order, on the other. The attempt to find such an equilibrium highlights that freedom of speech is unsurprisingly not an absolute right.

In the presence of global technical advancements, however, the situation seems more one-sided that it would first appear. With a wealth of social networking sites, the world becomes smaller as access to information is only as far away as you find yourself from your computer. As a platform for anything that you could wish to say and would want to know, the internet provides the rope with which it can easily hang itself.

The example of the London riots provides a sufficient example through which the extent of social networking sites are used in the exercise of this right. Used as a portal for the organisation of large groups of people in reaction to the death of Mark Duggan, sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Blackberry BBM became a hotbed through which emotions were fuelled and plans made to protest against the controversial shooting. The psychological influence of feeling part of 'a greater cause' only ensured that the movement grew and included those who may not have participated otherwise.

Professing freedom of speech as a sword through which justice could be sought, the violent result highlighted the shield like quality of freedom of speech behind which the protestors hid. Whilst such events would have occurred without the input of Facebook and other similar sites, the speed and access to the informa-

tion ensured it provided an accelerant to the fire which literally burned for over four days in the countries capital.

What appeared from the consequences of the events of August 2011 revealed the misconstruction of what people believed the exercise of freedom of speech to mean. The allusion that it allows a citizen to say or write what they wish, regardless of the incitement of violence it creates, is one which needs a taste of reality. In a system of checks and balances, freedom cannot be permitted without restraint; with rights comes responsibility.

However, where this control stems is one of controversy. In the search for a policing system the question arises as to who shall be the one to hold the retributive whip. The obvious candidate being the social networking sites themselves is one that could be easily but naively made. Holding no legitimate link to the justice system, the control as to what can and does constitute free-

dom of speech should not be made by those who are not qualified to make such decisions. The fine line between that which constitutes freedom of speech and that which would be damaging is one which is difficult to tread even by those who hold the legislative pen.

Unsurprisingly, the solution or the subject itself is not black or white and the potential for reform, which has been proved necessary, holds uncertain origins. Whilst freedom of speech is a subjective freedom and the grey area it occupies will remain, it is not to the extent that it should be limitless. The ability to express your opinion is a freedom worth defending but care must be taken in reaching its extreme. As a fundamental element to a democratic society, the controversy surrounding this area is unsurprising but its moderation is essential to ensure that democracy remains.

Laundry lunacy will cause problems for students

The Uni's decision to close laundrettes overnight is a poor one

Laurence Pullan

to be closed at 11pm every night and opened at 6am each morning in a bid to ensure there is no further disturbance, untidiness or misuse of the laundrettes.

I would love to be told what sort of data collection Facilities have gathered to put forward this case. Have they liaised with students? Have they liaised with staff such as the Porters and College Residence Officers who oversee college facilities? Oh course they haven't! They do what they are notorious

for, and take action without student consultation. It would be appropriate for the students to have been told about any issues that were arising in the laundrettes, rather than take the ludicrous step to deny us 24 hour access to them.

It must be stressed that the laundrette opening and closing times are for a trial period of one month. But it does make you wonder, how much more of a problem are the laundrettes going to be for us? We've already had

the outrageous card system introduced; that apparently costs in the region of £2 every-time you want to buy a new card because of maintenance costs, and you can't even top-up the amount of money that correlates to the cost of doing your laundry. It seems ridiculous, seeing as though the use of the laundrettes is a basic need for any student, and so to restrict the hours of use makes it increasingly difficult for us to have access to facilities that we are entitled to.

It all feels like another blow to the average student.

The increasing pressure on students (now paying £9000 fees, now paying close to the £100/ week mark for standard on campus accommodation) is becoming almost untenable. It's saddening that we have to fight for 24 hour access in our laundrettes, never-mind our library! I just hope that this extra restriction is not the straw that breaks the camel's back.

It seem to be on quite the "comment rant" at the moment but I feel a lot has to be said. It has recently come to light that the Facilities Department, once again, is trying to hinder our student experience. They have proposed that Pendle and Cartmel laundrettes are

Student officership is more than a badge of honour

Officers let students down by not attending the General Meeting

Laurence Pullan
Pendle President

I'm going to make a bold opening statement and say that the fact we didn't reach quoracy for the General Meeting held in week 1 is an embarrassment to our Union.

Ste Smith (LUSU President) had every right to call the General Meeting for the first day of term; indeed the main agenda points of the meeting were a matter of urgency and so needed to be acted on as soon as possible. I'm not just talking about the bar re-structure which anybody with an ounce of University and Union politics awareness would have known about. I'm talking about the other items that although not billed as highly were equally important. Things like the motion to mandate the University to look at improving its counselling service put forward by my ex-JCR Vice president Rosalia O'Reilly (VP Equality, Welfare & Diversity), for example.

How can our Union

make positive change or provide a voice with which to raise our concerns to the University if nobody contributes to this voice?

138 members came to the General Meeting, where quoracy (the number of attendees needed to be able to vote on the motions, i.e. get anything done!) was only 200 full members. Let me put this into perspective. If all elected Officers across campus attended the meeting, there would have already been upwards of 150 members there. Lancaster Uni has a student population of over 12,000. Do the maths, there's a minute percentage of student representation actually needed to MAKE THINGS HAPPEN.

'We should be here to represent you'

I'm a college JCR President and therefore am an elected vocal representative of Pendle College, something I take unfathomable pride in doing. My twin brother, Joel Pullan, is JCR President of Cartmel College, and there are a further six elected JCR Presidents that represent the Uni's undergradu-

ate colleges. We all lead our teams of officers that everyone knows as JCR's.

We are all unpaid student volunteers that largely want to better our colleges and support the students in our respective colleges. Of course, we aren't going to kid ourselves and say everyone in a JCR is in it for admirable and moral reasons, there are always going to be a few "CV boosters" in it to make themselves look good, or more to the point, make their CV's look good. But these people crop up in all walks of life, right? For the most part, JCR's work their fingers to the bone to provide a service to the students, and most of us love it.

"JCRs are a massive clique. They don't give a shit about the average student. They think they are better than the rest of us"

Yeah, yeah. We've heard it all before. Being on a JCR is a largely thankless job. You usually only hear from the student base if something goes wrong, or something isn't satisfactory enough for them. Very rarely do you get somebody going out of their way to praise a JCR member, or praise a scheme or initiative. You have to be

pretty thick skinned about it.

But, what we can't do, is use this as an excuse or a shield to hide behind the fact that officer representation at the latest General Meeting was humiliating.

'But, what we can't do, is use this as an excuse or a shield to hide behind the fact that officer representation at the latest General Meeting was humiliating'

Like I said, we are elected to provide a voice for our Union, it is one of the most important things we should be doing. By not turning up to the General Meeting in force, our student officers have inevitably left the Union red-faced. The votes of confidence we once received in our elections now seem a little misplaced.

Of course, what I'm NOT doing, is saying that us elected officers should solely carry the voice of the students in the University. I'm not saying "leave it to us; don't worry about being engaged in student politics, I mean after all,

it's SOOOO boring". What I'm saying is "we should be here to represent you, we should be here to help inspire you to get involved, we should be here to provide support to our students".

At the General Meeting, we didn't do that.

We can't afford to let down our students like we did in Week 1. Let's not give any pessimists out there more ammunition to fire at JCRs for underperforming. In the General Meeting we underperformed. We should have been there in force. Student officers are supposedly some of the more engaged students: how are we meant to engage with the wider student body if we can't even engage ourselves?

Let's remain positive. Rosalia's motion to improve the counselling service got passed in Union Council last week of which I was an attendee, as did other agenda items such as showing support to the NUS Demo later this year. The important things were dealt with. We just need to ensure that next time a General Meeting is called, our collective student officer "voice" is more than a painstakingly embarrassing whisper.

Moodle will be an improvement on LUVLE

Alex Littleboy
Comment Editor

Over the summer, Moodle has been implemented across campus, replacing the previously used LUVLE as a discussion space and area to download study materials from. There have been mixed reactions to the new service - some find it to be poorly implemented, with lecturers being unfamiliar with the service. Others, however, have found it to be reasonably well implemented, although with a few teething issues as lec-

turers adapted to the system.

But why was there any need to implement Moodle? Some might feel that the system doesn't have any additional features in comparison with the previous Virtual Learning Environment, and that there was no real need to move to a new system. However, there are also a few positive points to be taken from the implementation - I always found LUVLE to be a disorganised mess, which made finding learning materials almost impossible. The layout for the new Moodle system, at least in my department, is a lot easier to manage - with materials organised by week, in an accessible layout. It is much easier to navigate than LUVLE, and

you can view materials for all of your courses on a single page, making finding materials for each class quite simple. Furthermore, it includes your timetable, allowing you to check rooms at the same time as you are downloading materials.

However, was this the only logical route to take? Could it not have been possible to simply reorganise LUVLE along similar lines, with a greater emphasis on organisation? Surely it would have been easier to overhaul an existing system, instead of scrapping it and bringing in an entirely new system as a replacement. Lecturers already understood how to use LUVLE, whereas towards the beginning of this term

some lecturers had difficulty with Moodle. As one third year management school student complained, "many lecturers don't seem to know how to use Moodle, which has led to confusion in my classes about which work needs to be done". Surely this could have been implemented using the existing system, without the need for Moodle.

'The layout for the new Moodle system, at least in my department, is a lot easier to manage - with materials organised by week, in an accessible layout. It is much easier to navigate'

I don't feel that Moodle was a necessary move for the University, and in some cases, it doesn't appear to have been particularly well implemented so far. However, this would be the case for any new system, as teething issues need to be ironed out in the first few weeks of term. On the other hand, the service is much better organised and more accessible than LUVLE, and is, in my opinion, much easier to use. There will always be issues when a new technology system is implemented, and this will be no different. Hopefully these issues will be improved upon throughout the year, and Moodle will become a worthy successor to LUVLE.

FTO Review: The role of the SCAN Editor

The 'Big Three' media is a flawed concept

Equality does not mean making everything into a mirror image

Ronnie Rowlands
Assistant Editor

One day, it was decided that the role of SCAN Editor should be tacked on to the remit of the LUSU Vice President (Media and Communications).

And so was born the 'Big Media Three' - SCAN, LA1 TV and Bailrigg FM. Each has its own unique character, and the work of Bailrigg FM and LA1 TV has skyrocketed in terms of their capabilities and quality of output.

SCAN, as a result, has begun to stick out like a sore thumb. If the heads of LA1 TV and Bailrigg FM are students, then why does the SCAN Editor get to be a paid officer of the union? There needs to be 'Equal-

ity Between Medias', right?

Well, the affirmative comes on the basis that you think equality means making things a mirror image of one another.

Bailrigg FM and LA1 TV can afford to be - with Bailrigg FM, excluding event planning, you have all the equipment and all you need is for people to show up for the broadcasted content to be coherent. With SCAN, if the editor isn't in the office and constantly on call, accountable for every article and deadline, then we have a problem.

It was argued, at Union Council, that a VP Activities needn't watch every single sporting team they oversee, ergo, the Media and Comms head needn't spend their time trawling through every sentence in SCAN.

Suggesting a management structure on the basis that it works elsewhere is

stuffing square pegs into round holes, and I would respectfully posit that there are subtle differences between editing a forty page bi-weekly newspaper and managing campus clubs and societies.

Not coaching every sports team on campus doesn't put the department at risk of inconsistency, inaccuracy, overall coherence or lack of individual judgement. Or getting sued.

'With SCAN, if the editor isn't in the office and constantly on call, accountable for every article and deadline, then we have a problem.'

There is also the silly emphasis on 'increasing SCAN's independence', a flawed concept on many

levels. If someone is elected to run the newspaper of the students' union, then that editor is accountable to LUSU. Any semblance of independence is superficial if the plug can be pulled by LUSU at any point.

Even so, LUSU needs to ask itself if its best interests lie in pretending one of its most powerful assets is independent. SCAN, when used well, strikes the balance between remaining critical of its union whilst also promoting its campaigns and initiatives. If an 'independent' editor exercises their editorial right to tell LUSU to sod off, then what is the union left with? 'Squeak'?

All of this boils down to a Vice President having more time to focus on communications and 'The Big Three', but maybe SCAN has no place in this conglomerate.

Maybe our print media shouldn't be categorised in

the same way our broadcast media is. Primarily, Bailrigg FM and LA1 TV need creative minded, interesting individuals, and they are deployed wonderfully well. While interesting and creative writers are ideal for Carolynne, our pull-out magazine, SCAN is currently desperately short of student journalists, with a knowledge of university politics and the wherewithal to be left alone with a major story. In our last issue, we published 13 news articles. 11 of them were written by members of the editorial collective. Bailrigg FM and LA1 TV do not suffer from being marketed the way they are, but SCAN, in my humble opinion, does.

And maybe, just maybe, the role of SCAN editor wouldn't be far better suited elsewhere in our full time officer structure...

SCAN needs an independent editor

Charlie Edwards
Josh Dean

The station managers of Bailrigg FM and LA1:TV argue the case for SCAN Editor to be separated from the role of LUSU VP (Media & Comms)

Bailrigg FM and LA1:TV are expanding further than ever before into the daily lives of students, chronicling your experiences here at Lancaster, whether it's the post-match interview during Roses or that embarrassing footage of you dancing the Gangnam Style on Sugar TV. Composed entirely of volunteers, they are the only truly student-run media outlets on campus. What sets us apart from SCAN is that it is edited by a paid Full-Time Officer of the Union.

We receive a great deal of assistance from the Student's Union, especially from the Vice President for Media & Communications. However, the day to day running of our stations is undertaken by the Management structures. SCAN does have an editorial team of students, yet the physical job of editing the newspaper is taken by the Vice President. In comparison,

the roles of Station Manager at both Bailrigg and LA1 are not becoming any less demanding, but remain unpaid, internally elected positions, and as the workload has increased, the solution has been to expand the management teams, something SCAN will have to adapt to.

Editing a newspaper is an incredibly time-consuming enterprise and should not be an executive responsibility of a Full Time Officer. The Officer for Activities does not give every team talk before every sports match. The Officer for Democracy doesn't sit and count all of the votes. Available to them are full-time staff at LUSU or student officers who are fully capable of doing this job. So why should the Officer for Media be checking for spelling mistakes and adjusting the margins when we have perfectly capable student journalists who would benefit from this experience? The relationship

Bailrigg and LA1 enjoy with our VP is healthy and constructive, and SCAN would be on the same level and receive the same assistance.

'Why should the Officer for Media be checking for spelling mistakes when we have perfectly capable student journalists?'

It is a positive step to ensuring that the role of VP M&C is not pigeon holed into requiring candidates to have had a close connection with SCAN, rather than the skills and variety of experiences that better suits them to the broader role of media, communications, and if the reforms go ahead, democracy.

SCAN should become independent, funded by LUSU yet self-regulating, in a similar model to LA1

and Bailrigg, with the flexibility to positively promote the Union and University without becoming a mouthpiece. We are communication tools for the students, not the Student's Union. And if we can trust Bailrigg and LA1 with independence, why can't we trust SCAN?

We hope that it will have many positive implications to bring greater balance to Student Media at the Union. While LA1 and Bailrigg are increasingly supporting each other in terms of events, projects and coverage, SCAN have been largely separate and it would be good to bring them back into this fold. No one media format is any more influential or important than the other and the role of the Vice President for Media & Communications, or whatever it becomes, is to preserve the importance of all three as the prime sources of news and entertainment on campus.

The case of Andrew Mitchell shows Tory hypocrisy

The behaviour of the chief whip towards police was unacceptable

Julia Molloy

Imagine the scenario – a young adult, after being told to ride his bike elsewhere, swears at the police and calls them ‘plebs’. It becomes public knowledge. And what would the government brand this young adult as? A hooligan, maybe? A job? But swap the young adult for Andrew Mitchell MP, Chief Whip, and the government are all too happy to excuse his obscene language because he apologised to the police involved.

Mitchell’s battle with the police seems to have taken things to a new level. Mitchell has remained undisciplined so far after abusing police when they refused to allow him to ride through the security gates at Down-

ing Street. Whilst his job as Chief Whip includes disciplining members of the Conservative Party (in order to make sure that they are doing their jobs in Cabinet properly), Mitchell has refused to admit to what he specifically said to the police, and has not, ironically, been punished himself.

It thus seems unfair that Mitchell has so far been able to escape punishment over something that, in a young adult, would be described as “yobbish”. Prime Minister David Cameron has already declared that Mitchell’s apology is sufficient to allow him to carry on with his job, and defends Mitchell’s position within government.

Yet it begs the question: would a young adult, having done a similar thing, be able to placate the Prime Minister with an apology? I think not, Mr Cameron. The media would soon be raging about the declining standards of

behaviour amongst teenagers, with screams for ASBOs to be reintroduced and a crackdown on anti-social behaviour. So why aren’t we fighting for Mitchell to be punished in a similar way?

That certainly seems to be the police’s point of view. Ken Mackaill, the chairman of the West Mercia Police Federation, said that the police “appreciate[s] being able to talk to Mr Mitchell and put our concerns directly to him,” but that these concerns “haven’t been addressed.” The lack of punishment concerning Mitchell’s use of swearing and the rather offensive term ‘pleb’ is, apparently, almost being condoned as acceptable to say to police, so long as you apologise afterwards. This clearly shouldn’t be the case; politicians need to actively discourage such language use, whether it comes from a young adult or from an MP.

In addition, the use of the

word ‘pleb’ itself appears to be completely disproportionate to the Conservative Party’s so-called policy of ‘we’re all in this together’. Andrew Mitchell has managed to reinforce the traditional view of the Tory Party as being upper class and the political party for the rich in a single word. Just when you thought Mitchell’s hypocrisy couldn’t get any worse, the first offensive word that comes to his mind is ‘pleb’, a deliberate derogatory term for those of a lower class. Surely this isn’t demonstrative of ‘we’re all in this together’ – as far as Andrew Mitchell is concerned, the lower classes are still people to be scorned. As far as I’m concerned though, the only person who should be scorned in this situation is Mr Mitchell himself.

I’m sure many students would agree that such behaviour coming from an eminent MP, such as An-

drew Mitchell, is unacceptable, particularly at a time where relationships between young adults and politicians continue to be strained. It is indeed frustrating to see this abusive language over something so trivial from somebody in such a position of power, when many of us are struggling to make ends meet and would give anything to be earning a similar salary to him.

It is only right that an adult, doing something of a similar “yobbish” standard, is treated in a similar way. In an age where youths always seem to bear a lot of criticism from the government and the media alike, it is disappointing to see such hypocrisy from MPs who are supposed to be leading our country through these difficult economic times. We surely cannot allow any more of these ‘blips’, or our government will be turning into something of a farce.

The case of Andrew Mitchell shows Tory hypocrisy

Julia Molloy

Considered as a fundamental element of any constitution which expresses a link to democracy, freedom of speech has transformed from an unprotected positive right to an entity which now pervades daily life following the enactment of The European Convention on Human Rights 1950, in particular Article 10, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

Re-affirmed by the European Court of Human Rights in *Handyside v United Kingdom* (1976) 1 EHRR 737 ‘The Court’s supervisory functions oblige it to pay the utmost attention to the principles characterising a ‘democratic society’. Freedom of expression constitutes one of the essential foundations of such a society, one of the basic conditions for

its progress and for the development of every man.’

However, with a lack of a written constitution, the boundaries of this particular freedom are difficult to shape as the United Kingdom finds difficulty in the balancing of different interests such as freedom of speech on the one hand for example, and the protection of public order, on the other. The attempt to find such an equilibrium highlights that freedom of speech is unsurprisingly not an absolute right.

In the presence of global technical advancements, however, the situation seems more one-sided that it would first appear. With a wealth of social networking sites, the world becomes smaller as access to information is only as far away as you find yourself from your computer. As a platform for anything that you could wish to say and would want to know, the internet provides the rope with which it can easily hang itself.

The example of the London riots provides a sufficient example through which the extent of social networking sites are used in the exercise of this right. Used as a portal for the organisation of large groups of people in reaction to the death of Mark Duggan, sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Blackberry BBM became a hotbed through which emotions were fuelled and plans made to protest against the controversial shooting. The psychological influence of feeling part of ‘a greater cause’ only ensured that the movement grew and included those who may not have participated otherwise.

Professing freedom of speech as a sword through which justice could be sought, the violent result highlighted the shield like quality of freedom of speech behind which the protesters hid. Whilst such events would have occurred without the input of Facebook and other similar sites, the speed and access to the informa-

tion ensured it provided an accelerant to the fire which literally burned for over four days in the country’s capital.

What appeared from the consequences of the events of August 2011 revealed the misconstruction of what people believed the exercise of freedom of speech to mean. The illusion that it allows a citizen to say or write what they wish, regardless of the incitement of violence it creates, is one which needs a taste of reality. In a system of checks and balances, freedom cannot be permitted without restraint; with rights comes responsibility.

However, where this control stems is one of controversy. In the search for a policing system the question arises as to who shall be the one to hold the retributive whip. The obvious candidate being the social networking sites themselves is one that could be easily but naively made. Holding no legitimate link to the justice system, the control as to what can and does constitute free-

dom of speech should not be made by those who are not qualified to make such decisions. The fine line between that which constitutes freedom of speech and that which would be damaging is one which is difficult to tread even by those who hold the legislative pen.

Unsurprisingly, the solution or the subject itself is not black or white and the potential for reform, which has been proved necessary, holds uncertain origins. Whilst freedom of speech is a subjective freedom and the grey area it occupies will remain, it is not to the extent that it should be limitless. The ability to express your opinion is a freedom worth defending but care must be taken in reaching its extreme. As a fundamental element to a democratic society, the controversy surrounding this area is unsurprising but its moderation is essential to ensure that democracy remains.

The importance of Union Development

LUSU President Ste Smith on the new FTO proposals

Ste Smith
LUSU
President

In the world of student politics, we need to be aware that things change at a rapid pace. We must also change or else we risk becoming irrelevant. As a Union, we adopted a new strategic plan just over a year ago and the University is currently reviewing its own strategy. The wider Higher Education environment is completely different, with new students now paying premium fees and expecting more from their education and their Students' Union.

We need to develop our services, improve our activities and strengthen our Union.

So where am I going with this? As part of the ongoing Full Time Officer review, there is a proposal to change the structure to include a Vice President (Union Development) as one of our six Officers.

Part of the challenge of a review is to maintain positive things, change what we do poorly and consider what we need to do in the future. This new role aims to do all three of these things.

Year on year, we have complaints that we aren't good enough at supporting our Officers in each of our Colleges. Students also want a Full Time Officer to take responsibility for this and rightly so. Your Vice President (Union Development) would work closely with JCR teams to support them in the work they do, developing events, campaigns and initiatives that are student focused and successful. They would help with budgeting and finance issues, ensure that Officers have the training and support they need as well as lend a hand when it comes to socials and advise on governance issues. College Officers need more support from their Full Time Officers and we must always remember that they are volunteers and we should do everything within our power to alleviate

the stress placed upon them.

This Officer would also share responsibility for finance. It makes sense that the Officer supporting JCR teams with annual budgets, social requests and spending money will also be the same person who takes an overall view of the finances of the organisation. It's imperative that we have an Officer with this clearly stated within their remit to work with the President.

This also comes hand in hand with being a Director of LUSU Housing Ltd and LUSU Services Company Ltd. This Officer would therefore take on responsibility for these areas and ensure that they are student focused, providing a service that reacts to the needs of students. This covers areas such as LUSU Living, the Purple Card, the Sugarhouse and our on campus retail outlets. What do you like about them? What would you change about them? And more importantly, which Officer is going to listen to your views and take responsibility for making things happen?

Student engagement is at the heart of this new role. This Officer will have the time to go out and talk to you, gauging your opinion and taking your feedback to improve what we do. Development is key to our success and we need to start taking that seriously.

The Full Time Officer Review consultation period is slowly coming to an end. To date we have engaged in research and comparisons with other Unions, spoken to various committees and Officers as well as standing out in Alexandra Square each lunch time during week 3 to take feedback from you. There have also been various discussions on YourVoice and you can still contribute to this

The final proposals are then set to be discussed at Union Council on Thursday 8th November starting at 6pm in Management School Lecture Theatre 2. Once discussed and approved, these proposals will then be voted on in a referendum by you in week 8 of term.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please send any letters to the Editor at scan@lancaster.ac.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 all letters for publication.

Rent Rage

Dear Editor,

I am furious about the constant increases in rent and the level of deposit that is consistently taken away by the University each year. For the price I pay, I would expect to have a penthouse flat over the River Lune, not living 15 minutes out of town in something that resembles a prison camp. When will LUSU do the right thing and take a stand against this? Or at least buy me a nice new flat.

Yours,
Justin Holford, Lonsdale College

Driven round the bend

Dear Editor,

Do LUSU plan on sticking it to Stagecoach at any point? Only, I don't think that a £2 discount for a bus pass is on par with inflation.

Yours,
Hannah Sorsby, Cartmel College

Many thanks

Dear Editor,

Just some words of praise about your excellent newspaper. I was delighted to receive the informative mailout copy over the summer, and read it with great interest. I also approve of the new, cleaner, colourful and easy to read design. Keep up the good work.

Yours,
Brian Hayes, Grizedale College

The Wanton Menace

Dear Editor,

I won't be able to make the general meeting, but could someone please tell the university, on my behalf, that I'm paying a lot of money to be here. Whilst I don't expect a degree to be served to me on a silver platter, I would at least like to drink in a bar that isn't run by a pack of cronies who are only concerned about the hideous places looking good in a brochure.

Yours,
John Mayfield, Fylde College

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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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SPORT

Lancaster Lynx start season in style

League champions lose their opening game

Rugby League

Rhys Elias

Lancaster Lynx - 46
Bangor - 10

After last year's league success, the Lancaster Lynx looked to begin their new campaign with a return to winning ways. Despite a tough test in prospect against Bangor, the home side failed to disappoint. Tries from Martin Sutton, Danny Myers, Adam Lacey, Nathan O'Connor, Mike Gibson, Max Brown, Jon Foulds and Neil Kilgallon sealed victory for the home side in a game that always looked to be theirs for the taking.

Martin Sutton opened the scoring in the first five minutes of the game after a smart steal by Myers set him up for the try. Myers was rewarded with a try of his own shortly after

when a dummy sent the defenders the wrong way and allowed him to sneak through to the line.

Adam Lacey added another for the home side before some poor missed tackles resulted in Bangor's first try of the game to bring the score-line to a more modest 16-6.

Bangor's fight back was short-lived however when a monster break by Myers worked its way into the arms of Nathan O'Connor who crossed over for Lancaster's fourth try of the game shortly before half time. At the break, the score-line read 22-6 to the home side.

The home side were able to demonstrate their aggressive and far superior defence once more when a series of Bangor attacks near the Lynx try line came to nothing. This failure to capitalise on periods of pressure cost the away side dearly as Mike Gibson, Max Brown and Jon Foulds added further tries to increase the deficit.

A second Bangor try was not



Photo by Jay Theis

enough to revive the chances of the away side as Neil Kilgallon crossed over to hammer the final nail in Bangor's coffin. Kicker Gaz Houghton stepped up to finalise what had been an almost perfect kicking completion rate of seven conversions out of a possible eight. The final whistle blew for a final score-line of Lancaster 46-10

Bangor.

Captain Max Brown had this to say after the game: "I was very pleased with our performance; we showed some promising signs in attack and defence. Having only had one training session we were a bit rusty in areas but we laid a very promising platform for the rest of the season."

Bangor have work to do as weaknesses exposed

Rugby Union

Theodore Sheehy

Lancaster 1st XV - 20
Bangor - 3

Lancaster Rugby 1st XV faced off against Bangor University on Saturday 10th, with a convincing win of 20-3; as the referee quoted, they acted with "strength and guile".

Using their superior pack of forwards to dominate the scrums and line-outs, Lancaster repeatedly stole possession, forcing their opposition to be on the back-foot, clearly highlighting how much work Bangor have to do if they are to stay in their newly promoted league position.

Defensively, Lancaster were solid, countering several charges from

Bangor and instrumenting impressive hits, with number 13 thumping a Bangor player early on the game, setting the tone of for a physically tough defensive line.

The final outcome was three Bangor players being carried away, with one especially crunching hit from the Lancaster number 8, leaving the opposing player on the ground for a good five minutes. However, Lancaster's defence does have some room for improvement, with gaps being exploited by the opposition backs.

Offensively, Lancaster were very good, using a combination of set plays, quick ball from the ruck, and good passing, all of which quickly put Bangor under pressure.

However it wasn't all plain sailing, as Bangor gained the majority of possession in the first quarter, but once Lancaster gained the ball, they rapidly added points to the score-



Photo by Jay Theis

board. With the help of conceded penalties, Lancaster quickly took full use of them, with the number 6 scoring a try after several phases on the touchline.

This followed with another successive try 10 minutes later by a swift counterattack, where Lancaster swept the ball to the wing, finishing it with clinical precision by the number 13.

Two more successive tries were scored in the second half, the first being set up by the Bangor defence fumbling the ball when trying to

catch a sky rocketed kick by the Cats fullback. A swift turnover followed, which ended with a try by the Lancaster loosehead prop, and a fourth try finished off on the wing by one of the Lancaster's number four.

The one aspect that needed obvious improvement was Lancaster's kicking game, however if they keep on playing this standard of rugby, they will have high hopes of reaching the promotion spot they wish for.

Clinical County defeat Fylde Bs

League champions lose their opening game

Inter-college Football

Jack Stelling



County B v Fylde B

Last year's Champions of the B league, Fylde, started the new season with defeat at the hands of their biggest rival, County. A competitive game saw County come out the victors after a closely contested battle. Both sides will be pressing for the title this year and this result could hold heavy bearing towards the latter end of the season.

On the day it was County's clinical finishing that won them this match after both sides created a host of chances. Lethal finishes from Matt Aire, Tyler Milner and Alex Chadwick ensured that Thurwell's strike at the other end was cancelled out and County walked away with all three points.

The game was played in good spirit, burying the hatchet of last year's animosity. Both sides have introduced new blood into their squads this season and this showed in what proved to be a generally

cagey encounter.

County started the brighter of the two sides with Jamie Bell and Abder Usman displaying flashes of strength and pace to stretch Fylde's back line. The first clear cut chance presented itself to Bell who was quickly closed down well by Fylde's veteran goalkeeper Tom Belger, who narrowed the angles and blocked the strikers attempt from close range. The pressure continued to mount upon the Fylde goal as they struggled to spark their passing play into life. A mistake amongst the back four lead to another chance for Bell which required an alert Jack McCormick to desperately hack the ball off the line.

Arrund the quarter hour mark Fylde finally started to emerge into the game, but in spite of an increasing dominance in possession, the decisive final ball was found wanting on more than one occasion.

Despite being on the back foot, County pounced on the opportunity to counter attack playing the ball sharply through the channel onto the intelligent run of Usman. Leaving two Fylde defenders in his wake, Usman was only to be denied again by great defensive work from McCormick, who was enjoying a good early spell.

County pressed on to open the scoring after 35 minutes from a seemingly innocuous throw in po-

sitioned midway inside the Fylde half. Cal Eager's catapult long throw soared into the box, stunning the Fylde defence. Aire timed his run perfectly to arrive at the back post to tuck the ball away.

As the second half commenced, Fylde were no doubt rueing their failure to a series of promising opportunities into scoring chances and quickly sought to amend that flaw to their play. County's defence, who had been resilient throughout the first 45 minutes, were quickly put under pressure by the striving midfield runs of Aaron Bleakley and Jack Murgatroyd. Within 5 minutes of the restart, Fylde were awarded a free kick 30 yards from goal. A high lofted ball was sent into the box which was intelligently chested down by Bleakley into the path of the on-rushing Thurwell who calmly placed the ball into the bottom corner to level the scores.

This served as a cold wake-up call for County who had failed to get out of the starting blocks in the second half. After re-grouping, the smart combination play of Matt Aire and Tyler Milner in the County midfield forged a clear cut chance for Bell which required immediate intervention from the impressive Sam Carney, the full back provided vital cover to sweep the ball clear.

Fylde were undone again from

another set piece which they failed to clear. A high corner was delivered just upon the hour mark and caused havoc within the Fylde penalty area. A game of pinball ensued as bodies scrambled for the ball. Shouts for handball were made by both sides before the ball eventually landed at the feet of Chadwick on the edge of the six yard box to smash high into the corner. Despite the animated Fylde claims the referee stood firm and awarded the goal.

A tactical switch saw Fylde move to a more attacking 4-3-3 formation in an attempt to snatch victory. The move proved effective as Fylde grasped a strong hold on the game and pressed forward in numbers. With the County defence deep inside their own penalty area, Fylde worked the ball out wide to McCormick who's whipped cross was glanced inches over the bar by centre back Dan Gill.

As Fylde continued to squander chances in front of goal, County maintained a constant threat on the break. With 2 minutes to go, Milner dealt the final blow. A swift break down the right hand side found Milner darting towards the Fylde penalty area before a lofted left footed strike caught Belger off his line and sailed into the top corner, sparking jubilant celebrations from the County players and fans alike.

Carter Shield & George Wyatt under way

Inter-college roundup

Laurence Pullan

Sports Editor

The Carter Shield kicked off on Sunday, as coaches took six team members per college, three boys and three girls, to Preston for tenpin bowling. The victors from the first round were Pendle College as their team of six produced a solid display against the other competing colleges to take maximum points from the first round. Pendle, who were 7th last season and haven't won the Shield in over ten years, will be hoping that their positive start to the season can continue.

Elsewhere in the bar sports, week 1 saw Bowland men's darts team soundly beat County 9-0 to make an emphatic start to the season.

Bowland's ladies also won, beating County 7-2. This was a bright start for the Bowland darts teams, who will be looking to build on their positive first performance. The highlight of the second week's darts games was undoubtedly the close fought battle between Cartmel and Pendle, with Pendle eventually claiming victory 5-4 in the last game.

In the men's A pool league, Lonsdale made a blistering start against Fylde, beating them 8-1. Furness, Bowland and Cartmel also emerged victorious against Pendle, County and Grizedale respectively. The men's B league saw Fylde, Furness, County and Grizedale suffer defeat at the hands of Lonsdale, Pendle, Bowland, and Cartmel. Although early in the league, Cartmel's pool team looks a force to be reckoned with in the B league.

In the women's pool, Fylde and Furness started their season with im-

pressive performances against Lonsdale and Pendle. Pendle, winners of the George Wyatt cup last year, will hope that their early form will improve over the coming weeks, as Bowland, Cartmel and Furness are looking to cement themselves as title contenders early on in the season.

Elsewhere in the dominoes, the bar sport renowned for having luck play arguably a more important role than skill, has started well for Bowland and Lonsdale. Some upcoming and inevitably hard fought battles include Pendle vs. Graduate college, Lonsdale vs. Cartmel and Fylde vs. Bowland in the men's darts and pool on October 29 and October 30.

The final, but by no means least important, fixtures to comment on are the netball games. The first fixtures will see reigning and undefeated champions from last season, Fylde, face off against a stubborn County side that finished 2nd

last season; while mid-table sides Grizedale and Furness look to gain the advantage with a victory over one-another. League strugglers from last year but potential dark-horses this year, Pendle, have a tough opening game against a well organised Lonsdale side that finished 3rd in the league last season. Elsewhere Bowland look to improve on their last place finish in the league last year with a victory over Cartmel. The netball B league will see Pendle vs. Furness, Graduate vs Fylde, Grizedale vs Cartmel and County vs Bowland.

There is plenty of opportunity this year to go and support your college, so don't miss out. With bar sports looking as competitive as ever, and the football and netball leagues starting this week, each college will desperate for a fan-base to help drive them to success this year.

SPORT

Smash and grab victory for County in opening game of the season

Inter-college Football

Erik Apter
Laurence Pullan

County A v Fylde A



County earned an opportunistic win in the opening game of the season against, for the majority of the game, a dominant Fylde side.

County earned their first three points of the season through a late winner from Spanish striker Ignacio Diego. Fylde led for most of the game courtesy of a Sam Adamson penalty but two late goals from County snatched victory from within their grasp.

After last year's controversy between County B's and Fylde A which ended with unsavoury scenes, this was an eagerly anticipated fixture and the referee spoke with both teams before kick-off to ensure the game was played in a good spirit.

The game was a scrappy affair for the most part with neither side able to get into their passing game. County made the better start to the game with Skipper Jordan Gammie almost powering himself into the box after a nice one-two with striker Tom Candler.

The first real moment of quality came from County's French winger Thomas Meheut; after skipping inside two Fylde challenges he curled a left footed effort wide of the far post.

County then seemed to sit back as Fylde started to control the game, with both Billy Crow and Sam Adamson looking threatening in behind. Fylde looked like the more likely team to break the deadlock and their period of domination saw four chances fall to Sam Kay.

The first came from a huge throw in from defender Marcus Stevens,



the ball flicked off a County head to find Kay six yards out on a tight angle, but he could only fire his shot straight at the alert Liam Hartas. Kay was then involved in a huge goal-line scramble after a Josh Miller shot found him just yards from goal, before he impeded Hartas after two County defenders made desperate attempts to scramble the ball away.

The impressive Jack Stelling then did excellently to pirouette away from the County midfield and lay the ball on a plate for Kay's best chance of the match, but he shot straight at the keeper.

Fylde will rue their missed chances in this game, as Kay miscued a half volley from a corner before both Miller and Adam Senn missed guilt edge chances to put Fylde in front. Miller fired over from 10 yards out after the best move of the game saw Stelling and Briggs combine to pick him out, but he couldn't convert. Senn then missed the best chance of the match from 5 yards out with the goal at his mercy but totally miscued Miller's cross.

County offered little threat going forward and their only two noteworthy efforts both fell to

Duncan Beckwith with ambitious distance efforts.

The game finally kicked into life late in the first half, when Jack Stelling turned elegantly and threaded a lovely through ball for Billy Crow, who took the ball around the onrushing Hartas. Crow fell to ground, and the referee adjudged that there had been contact and Adamson made no mistake from the spot, putting his side in front with a well hit penalty.

In the second half the players were greeted by a swirling wind which made conditions even more difficult and again the start was scrappy with neither side carving out any clear cut chances.

However, two substitutions turned the game on its head with the introductions of Andrew Wells and Ignacio Diego. County had offered little threat going forward but the substitutions gave some much needed pace to the team.

Fylde still had chances to win the game, Crow having the chance to wrap the game up after a defensive lapse in the County back line, but he fired straight at Hartas.

County were then denied a penalty of their own after Wells

knocked the ball past Schofield and appeared to be taken out by the keeper as he did. They didn't have to wait long though and they soon had their penalty, when Wells used his pace to skip down the wing and his cross towards Greg Galloway saw the County players sandwiched by two Fylde defenders. Joel Watson stepped up to the spot and levelled the game, smashing in an emphatic penalty, sending Schofield the wrong way.

From then on it was one way traffic, Gammie fired a shot wide from a tight angle, then Wells fired a shot at the keeper's legs from the tightest of angles after some fine play from Ignacio Diego.

The Spaniard then snatched victory for County in the final minute of the match. A Fylde corner was cleared at the edge of the box by Andrew Wells whose clearance was latched onto by Diego on the halfway line. Touching the ball in to space, Diego left the two Fylde defenders in his wake as he flew past them before slotting the ball easily past the onrushing Schofield, completing a memorable smash and grab victory for County A's.