



## University reveals hundreds of academic staff are employed on controversial zero-hour contracts

- Freedom of Information request indicates there are 747 academic and non-academic staff employed by the university on these contracts, which offers uncertain work hours
- Student staff are also affected, with approximately 353 postgraduate students employed

**Dan Allen**

It has been revealed that Lancaster University are currently employing a number of its staff using controversial zero-hours contracts. This follows the recent strike action by the University and College Union (UCU) on October 21st.

University figures, in response to a freedom of information request from UCU, indicate that there are 747 academic and academic-related staff on such contracts, of whom 352 are postgraduate students.

The use of contracts like these is a contentious issue due to the uncertainty of workers' schedules who are employed using them. This uncertainty means that employees may not know the amount of money they will earn on a month-to-month basis.

Also referred to as "variable

hours contracts", the terms of employment given in them create an "on call" relationship between an employer and employee. They stipulate that the employer is not obliged to provide work for the employee, nor is the employee obliged to work for the employer.

Research released in August estimated that around one million people may be employed using these contracts nationally.

The University told SCAN that the contracts were not common for its staff, stating: "variable hours contracts are not widely used by the university and only account for 3% of overall work."

The University was also keen to stress the positives of such contracts for students: "Around half of Lancaster's variable hours contracts are held by students who rely on fitting flexible and convenient paid work around their studies. They value these

contracts as they provide both work experience and income without tying them to fixed hours of work."

However, the statement also revealed a variety of other personnel, not just students, are employed using the contracts as it went on to say: "Different kinds of teaching-related staff are also issued with variable hours contracts including visiting lecturers from other universities, PhD students, examiners, teaching assistants and specialists who might be brought in to help out with specific research projects."

The views expressed in the University's statement differed markedly from those expressed to SCAN by Joseph Thornberry, Vice-President of Lancaster UCU, who said of the number of staff the university employ on zero-hours contracts: "Even taking account of the fact that some postgraduate students engage

in teaching as part of their own development, this is a very high figure, higher than most other universities. This is what university management means when it talks about 'flexibility' – the establishment of a disposable reserve of casual academic labour."

Many Higher Education employers see the contracts as useful because they allow flexibility in areas where it is difficult to predict demand. Some see this as particularly important following rule changes that allow universities to recruit an unlimited amount of students who receive grades ABB or better in their A levels.

Thornberry's comments demonstrate that the use of zero-hours contracts by universities is a national issue for UCU, who found that universities are twice as likely as other employers to use the...

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### FLASHBACK: DOCTOR WHO

With the 50th Anniversary episode looming, Culture takes a look at its history

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SCAN Photography team document the UCU Strike which took place in Week 4

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### THE STUDENT COOKBOOK

Lifestyle writer Rowan Simpson is on hand to spice up your student food

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## Stagecoach struggling to take the strain?



**Steve Start**  
News Editor

There are fears that Lancaster's bus service is rapidly becoming insufficient for the town's booming student population. Students and lecturers alike have been affected by the overcrowding, which has disrupted the bus timetable and caused large queues, lateness and other

inconveniences.

Lancaster University student Caitlin Hunter told SCAN that she had waited on Bowerham Road for "half an hour while six full double decker buses passed by." She said that this caused her to be late for her 9am seminar, continuing "my lecturers have also been late since they rely on the service too. I feel sympathy for the locals who are late to work because of the strain the students put on the buses."

Upon witnessing the growing frustration felt by...

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Photo by Mae Reddaway



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## EDITORIAL



Rachel May Quin  
Editor

Hello again,  
Noteworthy things to take into account this issue include the glorious work of the SCAN Photography team, led by Mae Reddaway, in capturing some of the UCU strike's most thought-provoking moments. Also, the UCU aftermath article which is borne out of a huge collaboration of both the SCAN news editors and their team of fledgeling writers, is not only a thorough overview of the event but includes quotes from

key figures involved with the strike. The Comment section has also stepped up to the plate this issue, by taking to Alexandra Square to find out what fellow Lancaster students think about important topics. SCAN so far this year, in my opinion, is really shaping up to be what its acronym stands for: student comment and news.

With this in mind, I feel like it's becoming increasingly necessary to clarify exactly what SCAN exists to do. Myself and my Editorial team work incredibly hard.

We spend a lot of time and effort (that should probably be spent actually doing our degrees) on various things: gathering together writers, providing training, hosting meetings, putting together copy reports full of content that we really believe will entertain and inform the student body, scouting around to take gorgeous photos and slaving over our design programme to try and make each issue perfect. Every member of SCAN is dedicated to doing the absolute best they can, and continuing to

improve as they learn. Whilst we aim to represent students, it must be pointed out that we are not a tool to be used to promote societies, simply because they want to advertise themselves and cannot think of a better, more original way, to do it.

The sentence most often uttered during elections, "I will use SCAN to better promote this that and the other", is a complete misconception. We are not here to be "used", we are not here to write endless articles which say nothing more than "Have you seen this group of people this year? You should join them because they are planning to do this...". If you have an interesting event that benefits other students, or are doing something amazing that should be big news across campus, we are there. My point is, expect any email sent enquiring about promotion to automatically receive a reply with grumpy cat's face plastered across it – if any reply at all.

Last but not least, I received a handwritten letter in response to Week 2's Editorial animal. I feel the need to address it

by saying that I, and SCAN certainly, does not endorse or glamourise any endeavour which harms animals. I just love all animals. So this week, I'm playing it safe with a picture of a fuzzy ducking, inspired by the infamous County ducks and their Twitter account which I recently stumbled across. Who knew ducks could tweet as well?

On a more positive note, the first SCAN members social will be taking place this Saturday (16th November). Make sure you come along and introduce yourself, maybe suggest a less controversial animal for my final editorial of the term. Join the event on Facebook.



Rachel. x

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# News

News Editors: Jack Perry & Steve Start ✉ scan.news@lusu.co.uk

## Fire in Cartmel College after firework was thrown into a sleeping student's bedroom

- The night before November 5th, a fire was started in Cartmel residences due to a firework being thrown into a sleeping student's bedroom; after attempting to extinguish the flames, the student was forced to flee
- SCAN spoke to the victim immediately after the incident, who said: "My passport, my bank card, my library card... everything that confirms my identity is in my room... It happened so suddenly".



Jack Perry  
News Editor

A fire was started in a Carmel College flat after a firework was thrown into a student's bedroom. The firework was believed to have been thrown into the bedroom at approximately 11pm on Monday, Week 5. The student was sleeping in the room at the time. Firefighters are believed to have arrived at the building between 11:05pm and 11:15pm. No suspects have yet been found.

The student, a first-year international, told SCAN that

she was sleeping when the firework was thrown into her bedroom. She said she jumped out of bed and then tried to put out the fire. When this proved unsuccessful, she grabbed her duvet and ran out of the room. She alerted the other members of her flat, who all vacated the building before going next door to phone the porters and the fire brigade. All witnesses say that they did not see anyone outside the flat when they left.

The firework could be heard throughout the building. Residents on the top floor of Block 55 said that they heard a long and sustained banging sound – one resident saying they thought it was just someone banging on the wall. "It sounded like it was just below my window" another resident told SCAN. They all vacated once the alarm was



Photo by Salman Rukhsar

raised. The residents of Block 55



Photo by Salman Rukhsar

were all relocated to Barker House Farm, where they had to await further instructions. They were told that while the College would do its best to house the students for the night, it was recommended that if students have friends on campus they should try to sleep in their rooms for the night.

While smoke was seen coming out of several ground floor and first floor rooms, it is believed the fire itself was kept within the confines of the room the firework was thrown into.

A police officer who arrived at the scene described the room as "a mess."

SCAN has been informed that while the majority of Block 55 will be able to move back in, the residents of the bottom floor may have to be relocated permanently.

Speaking to SCAN shortly after the incident, the student said that she was worried because a lot of important things were left in her room when the firework went off.

"My passport, my bank card, my library card... everything that confirms my identity is in my room. It happened so suddenly."

SCAN will provide further updates to this story on our website as soon as more information becomes available. You can find out more via scan.lusu.co.uk.



# Annual Jailbreak competition aims to help Enactus projects

Nathalie Farrugia

On Friday, Week 5, 39 teams of Lancaster students took part in the annual Jailbreak competition. The competition was run by Enactus, a worldwide organisation which raises money through entrepreneurial projects, combining the talents of both students and businesses.

The candidates, who set off from Alexandra Square at 6pm, equipped with crazy fancy dress, had 36 hours to travel as far away from Lancaster as they could.

**With no money, the groups relied on help from train lines, airlines, businesses and general members of the public.**

This year's competition became even more exciting with the contestants being able to travel worldwide, rather

than being simply confined to Europe, like they have been in previous years.

The money raised through this year's event will be divided up between Enactus Lancaster's international and local projects. One project, The Brazil project, aims to help ordinary businesses in Brazil make the most of the investment following the Olympic Games and the Zimbabwe Educational Development project focuses on helping young residents of a children's home get into permanent employment. The money will also go to their local project "Difference: Enabled" which works in engaging with autism in the local area, helping to broaden the employment prospects for people with autism.

Jail Break 2012 raised just

over £4,000 but unlike previous years, this year Enactus have joined forces with 'Raise2Give' which the event organiser Da-



Photo by Mae Reddaway

vid Williamson hopes will increase the donations and enable candidates to raise more than ever before. Through Raise2Give, the candidates

were tracked throughout their thirty six hours and could be located on a map on the Raise2Give website, making the competition more interactive for friends and family and increasing the likelihood of donations. As well as this, Williamson also said it has meant that people who have helped contestants along the way can also more easily donate, which has been difficult for them to do in the past.

Speaking to some of this year's contestants before they set off, third year Sam Ogden - who is competing with her partner Georgina Harrison - said they wanted to get involved with Jail Break 2013 "to do something different: it's an adventure and it's a good way to raise money".

However, the girls haven't received much support, Ogden

says "people seem to think it's a terrible idea, all my friends and family think it's really dangerous". Vice President of Enactus Chelsea Quayle also says people have been "quite stingy so far" though both groups have said that they hope the support will build up throughout their weekend of travelling, especially as Quayle's team were aiming to "get out of the country" and to somewhere they've "never been before."

One of last year's winners, Mathew Gillings managed to travel as far as Tenerife with his partner Dean McDermott, with the help of Northern Rail, Monarch Airlines and Thompson. The key to their success was organisation says Gillings, "you've got to be organised if you want to get far and want to take it seriously, but it's going to be just as fun even if you've got no organisation".

Fortunately for the winning pair, their plans came together in the last half an hour before they were due to set off last November. Gillings and McDermott returned to the competition again this year with the hopes of getting even further than last time.

## Stagecoach services appear to be crumbling under the weight of additional student usage

Continued from front page

... customers of the service, SCAN decided to contact Fraser Smith, Stagecoach's Cumbria and North Lancashire Commercial Manager about the problems. In a lengthy email, Smith ensured SCAN that "Stagecoach work closely with Lancaster University, in particular with the Estates and Transport team and with LUSU to ensure that the services we are supplying continue to be relevant to the number of passengers using our buses."

"Each year demand is particularly high from October to December as students settle into their new schedule and

we experience some very pronounced peaks and troughs in travel patterns throughout the day. In order to cope with the increased demand at certain times of day in the early part of the academic year Stagecoach run a number of duplicate services during this period where additional buses and staff are provided at the times of day that are most affected."

Last year Stagecoach invested in 18 new Double Deckers for service 2/2A in an effort to improve the vehicle quality and capacity of their services to Lancaster University. 12 single deck vehicles were also purchased

in 2009 for the 3/4 services. In total these investments represent in excess of £4.5 million and is according to Smith "in line with our commitment to the University services and the need to keep adding to the number of available seats."

There has been some anger amongst locals who believe that whilst the University is lifeblood to their community, Stagecoach could be doing more for local people.

Sarah Howells, a shop assistant in the St. Nicolas Arcade told SCAN that she thinks the "bus service is good and pretty regular but I'm not always guaranteed a seat and

for the length of the journey, it's quite expensive."

For students the cost of an annual pass comes in at £340, working out at just less than a pound a day for unlimited bus travel around the local area.

For non-students the price is significantly more expensive at £616 a year. The savings made from buying this annual ticket aren't particularly high - a customer making one return journey per day, five days a week saves a meagre £8 a year.

For students however, the price is a lot more reasonable. Smith commented that "our UniRider tickets offer a large discount on the standard cost of

travel and we set our UniRider prices for each academic year in advance. This means that not only does the purchase of a UniRider offer great value for money but it also protects you against any increase in the normal commercial fares for the duration of your academic year."

Whilst most students may take solace in the UniRider price freeze and Smith's assurances of decreasing demand as we progress through the academic year, some may still have questions about the future of the service in light of the Vice-Chancellor's year-on-year push for an increase in student numbers.

# It has been revealed that many university staff are on zero-hours work contracts

Continued from front page

... arrangement.

His assertion that the use of the contracts is higher at Lancaster than other institutions is reflected in official figures. Although over half of the Universities in the UK are currently operating zero-hours contracts, less than half (46%) of those that do use them to employ over 200 staff.

This data, revealed by several freedom of information requests by UCU, shows that Lancaster has the 10th highest number of staff on zero-hours contracts nationally.

Thornberry went on to explain that UCU are attempting to reduce the number of zero-hours used in

higher education: "Nationally, UCU has been trying to engage the university employers in negotiation to reduce the number of zero-hour contracts in HE but the employers have refused to talk unless the union first accepts the wage-cutting 1% pay offer."

Joe O'Neill, LUSU Vice President (Education) echoed Thornberry's sentiment: "There are major issues surrounding the use of zero-hours contracts at this university. Currently there are over 700 staff on zero-hours contracts and given that universities are meant to be progressive institutions, questions have to be asked."

However, O'Neill also admitted that LUSU currently use zero hours contracts, although the policy is under

review: "The Students' Union is currently reviewing its own practices with regards to our student-staff who are employed on zero-hours contracts, weighing up the benefit of flexibility for our student-staff and assessing how best to allocate reliable hours when and where our staff want them."

That said, O'Neill was also earnest in expressing the distinction between university and union staff on zero hours contracts stating: "the university staff on zero-hours are generally in a completely different situation to the students employed by the Students' Union and I'd take the view that Lancaster should be following the example set by the University of Edinburgh and agreeing to end the use of

zero hours contracts on our campus."

Nationally, the University of Edinburgh was found to be the biggest user of zero-hours contracts but has pledged to stop using them entirely by the end of this year. Lancaster University have made no commitment to reduce its use of the contracts as they maintain that their use is positive for both employer and employee.

UCU disagree and have labelled the use of the contracts "haphazard". However, Lancaster University believe that zero-hours contracts are beneficial to postgraduate students and to other kinds of staff where it is difficult to predict exactly how much they will be needed to work.

UCU say they have no

issue with these contracts being used when visiting lecturers teach at a university infrequently. However, they do not think the contracts should be used by universities, such as Lancaster, for regular employment. This is due to employees being uncertain of what their earnings will be over a given period.

It is unclear at this point if any change will be made to the policy of using flexible hours contracts at Lancaster. This is due to negotiations between UCU and higher education employers breaking down over the proposed 1% pay increase, resulting in the recent strike action.

**Read more about zero-hours contracts in the Comment section, page 48.**

## Statistics revealed for department rep elections

Henry Saker-Clark

This year's departmental rep elections, which took place at the start of term, have been commended as a "huge improvement" on last year's process by VP for Education Joe O'Neill. Numerous changes in the election process, and department rep system overall, have contributed to "very encouraging signs this year" to improving academic representation at Lancaster.

Statistics for the piloted online system during the department rep elections show 18 nominations made in the history department and 27 in Marketing, with 18% of the Third year History cohort voting. Across the two departments that took part in the pilot, the results were described as a success by O'Neill; the figures "might not sound a lot, but for a pilot it is actually very successful, and trumps turnout in some previous cross-campus and college elections."

Speaking to SCAN, O'Neill and LUSU Education and Representation advisor Su Hall stated that the students union will be looking further into the possibility of continuing

with and expanding the piloted system. O'Neill also stated that the success of the piloted system was largely caused by "history and marketing [being] excellent in helping the education and representation team." Hall and O'Neill did however agree that "teething problems with different departments" could mean that expanding the piloted system and gaining continuity in department representation will be a lengthy process.

**Improved training is an area in which LUSU is focusing their actions in ensuring high quality academic representation.**

A "well-structured faculty-based system of training" has been put in place to counter last year's lack of sufficient department rep training; this year's reps are to take 16 training sessions throughout the year to "ensure that the same support will be given to department reps as are given

highlight the boundaries of their role."

Already this year, at least 165 department reps have started training, with around 100 registered to take part in the training. According to Hall, "these numbers of very encouraging compared to last year", stressing that turn out has been much more successful than last year, where a lot of effort was focused on the department rep conference, which only 27 department reps attended. Despite the appearance of influential higher education figures such as an NUS Vice President and University Pro-Vice-Chancellors, O'Neill considered the low student turnout to have been "largely disappointing."

Despite this, O'Neill and Hall see the department rep conference to be a useful tool, which will "most likely take place again," as an opportunity in the middle of the year "to tie up loose ends, give support to those who need it and improve networking", according to O'Neill. Su Hall developed on this point, stating the need for meetings to provide "faculty-based best practice sharing" to allow department reps to develop and share skills within their departments.



Photo by Nick Lound

to full-time officers."

The faculty-based training initially largely consists of, as stated by Su Hall, "looking at the expectations of their role, skills development, seeing how they fit into the department structure and giving additional support. It will prepare them for meetings, how to react to scenarios, how to react to student problems and

**Improvements in communication has been highlighted as a key area by O'Neill and Hall in order to provide good quality academic representation.**

O'Neill stated that the education and support department have been "working hard to get contacts in all departments, as this should make easier to gain important feedback." Feedback was also described by Hall as a key aspect of Lancaster's academic representation policy, "talking in depth to students and developing from that." All reps have been provided with important communication and networking channels according to Hall, speaking about a new "academic update newsletter provided to all reps and necessary staff."

As with the majority of the changes surrounding education and support, O'Neill stated that a greater online presence "might not engage straight away", but is part of the department's attempts to steadily improve academic representation.



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## Report: Aftermath of UCU Strike

**Steve Start, Jack Perry, Sam Smallridge, Nathalie Farrugia, Nathan Marsh and Markéta Lapácková**

Members of the University and College Union (UCU), Unite and Unison mounted a strike on the Thursday, Week 4 of this Michaelmas term, in the light of the UCEA's (University and Colleges Employers Association) offer of a 1% pay rise after a 13% decline in real time wages since 2008.

UCU, Unison and Unite organizers and their representatives on campus took to the picket lines along the university entrances to demonstrate against the lack of satisfactory pay rises and to the educate students about their cause.

Haydn Morris, Branch Chair of Unite on Campus and Chair of trade unions in the national region, spoke to SCAN, saying it was "the first time in many years that we have had full support from all staff on campus, lecturers and support staff". Though SCAN was unable to acquire the exact figures for total union participation amongst Lancaster University staff, of the 2,500 staff on campus 120 are members of Unison, which together with Unite represents the lowest paid University workers. The organization voted on the October 14th to take strike action where the motion was passed by 28% of its electorate with a 64% majority.

Morris went on to justify the strike by claiming that "we've reluctantly had to take industrial action" because "they've very complacently offered a low offer because they think they can get away with it". For the University to keep "the best staff they need to keep the salaries paid at a competitive level" because "the students have a right to expect a delivery of service." This "right to expect a delivery of service" was the most prevalent reason for many non-union staff to abstain from the strike. Professor Greg Myers, a lecturer in the English Language department stated that "if I'd come and the students say they are supporting it and don't want to come then that's fine, but if they turned up then I think I should be there."

It was this same feeling of duty that appealed to Professor Jonathan Culpeper who concurred that "when I think of people who pay £9000 to come here, I don't want to let them down" and when asked if it was choice between the strike or his students he answered that "it was, and not an easy one. I chose my students."

Due to the proximity of the strike to the start of term there were valid worries that material rescheduled or cancelled may have a damaging effect on student's fundamental understanding of certain topics. Culpeper's justification came from the fact that if he had decided to strike he would have had to reschedule or cancel entirely an important lecture for his students, one which "many other lectures across the English Language course and the Linguistic course build up on."

Haydn Morris, Branch Chair of Unite on Campus and Chair of trade unions in the national region, spoke to SCAN, saying it was "the first time in many years that we have had full support from all staff on campus, lecturers and support staff". Though SCAN was unable to acquire the exact figures for total union participation amongst Lancaster University staff, of the 2,500 staff on campus 120 are members of Unison, which together with Unite represents the lowest paid University workers. The organization voted on the October 14th to take strike action where the motion was passed by 28% of its electorate with a 64% majority.

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When asked about his personal motivations for striking, Groves answered, "the main reason is pay... but there are a lot of other related issues." Amongst other things, Groves believed that the pension schemes offered by the university were unfair and that their rights "were extremely low". He also called attention to the fact that the university had "suspended me from membership to my pension scheme for today along with everyone else that's striking. So if I drop dead I lose my pension rights." Groves qualified this right exercised by the university as "vicious" and "vindictive".

Nevertheless, Groves was optimistic that the strikes would achieve their purpose and that they had been effective in broadcasting their message to students. "There's only been about 12 or 13 of us today, but we are one of the smaller picketing locations (Alexandra Park)... and probably the majority, but not all, have found the students being at least sympathetic. There have been a few that have been snotty but the majority have at least respected us."

Whilst the strikers and union supporters are keen to gain the support of their student body, there have been reports that some relationships between staff members have been compromised by the strike. One anonymous source told SCAN that he felt "discriminated against" for not joining in the strike because he did not want to "disadvantage one of [his] seminar groups." The decline of 13% in real time pay is a damaging statistic, however it is something not altogether foreign from the situation encountered throughout the public and private sector since 2008. According to research done by The Times, pay for academic salaries between 2006 and 2008 rose by 12.6%, but froze upon entering the financial recession.

As well as agreeing to the strike, Union members will also be exercising their right to 'work to contract' from November 1st. According to James Groves, a lecturer in Math's and Statistics, this means "lack of cover" and "free time" volunteered to students. He went on to state that that if

these problems aren't resolved by Christmas their strikes may extend to "marking and exam boycotts."

When asked about his personal motivations for striking, Groves answered, "the main reason is pay... but there are a lot of other related issues." Amongst other things, Groves believed that the pension schemes offered by the university were unfair and that their rights "were extremely low". He also called attention to the fact that the university had "suspended me from membership to my pension scheme for today along with everyone else that's striking. So if I drop dead I lose my pension rights." Groves qualified this right exercised by the university as "vicious" and "vindictive".

Nevertheless, Groves was optimistic that the strikes would achieve their purpose and that they had been effective in broadcasting their message to students. "There's only been about 12 or 13 of us today, but we are one of the smaller picketing locations (Alexandra Park)... and probably the majority, but not all, have found the students being at least sympathetic. There have been a few that have been snotty but the majority have at least respected us."

Whilst the strikers and union supporters are keen to gain the support of their student body, there have been reports that some relationships between staff members have been compromised by the strike.

One anonymous source told SCAN that he felt "discriminated against" for not joining in the strike because he did not want to "disadvantage one of [his] seminar groups." The decline of 13% in real time pay is a damaging statistic, however it is something not altogether foreign from the situation encountered throughout the public and private sector since 2008. According to research done by The Times, pay for academic salaries between 2006 and 2008 rose by 12.6%, but froze upon entering the financial recession.

Sam Clark, a Philosophy lecturer, who whilst not personally present along the picket lines with the other demonstrators, offered a compelling argument to SCAN. Clark wrote that: "Although I

certainly feel the effect of my declining pay – the main issue is that the UK is increasingly moving away from the idea of university education as a public good run by and for democratic communities, towards something much more like the US's disastrous system of poorly-funded public education." Clarke described these systems as "low-quality for-profit 'universities' with commercially-focused managers, crushing student debt, and the majority of teaching delivered by poorly-paid, benefit-less, precariously-employed 'adjuncts'. This is bad for people who work in universities, bad for students, and bad for British culture and economy."

This proliferation of what Clark calls "low-quality for-profit 'universities'" was also highlighted by second-year student, Toby Atkinson, who called the use of PhD students as a teaching resource "rank exploitation" and the lack of pay rise the "complete destruction and devastation of people's living standards", finally concluding that the whole practice was "barbaric". Atkinson went on to state the importance of student/lecturer solidarity and that as students, "supporting strikes is one of the key things we have to do. University's put fees up and they introduce pay cuts... students should be fighting on all fronts."

**The Unions were aware that the strike might come up against student opposition.**

Rory Daly, a member of UCU and an employee of LUMS, was keen to put forward that "it's not because we don't want to teach students and it's not because we want the day off" but rather that "We've had the longest cut back in real terms in our salaries in the last ten years of any sector... eroding pay is not that way to encourage the next generation to come through."

Jack Perry interviewed Staff Development Officer and UCU member Joe Thornberry to get his perspective on the strikes. Thornberry began

by affirming, "We [the UCU members] are always very reluctant to take strike action because we are very committed to the University and to public education". Yet Thornberry believed that strike action was necessary, as after "four years of declining wages" the unions felt it had been "pushed too far." When asked about the 'work to contract' measure that will be taken by the union members, Thornberry believed that it would make "the University realize just how much it depends on the goodwill of staff... and the students certainly aren't going to benefit from a workforce which is totally demoralized and where the attitude is "I'll do what I'm paid for and no more".

Thornberry expressed hopes that the University would appeal to the UCEA to sit down and reach a reasonable and fair settlement with the unions, as according to him this first strike is "only the start" and if fresh discussions are not opened it "will escalate." Students at the picket lines raised similar concerns about the pay cuts to academic staff. However not everybody was campaigning for an increase in wages across the board. 2nd Year student Abbie Grant raised concerns about "the gender pay gap" which she went on to call "ridiculous".

The reasons for the pay gap are complex and often high court fees and fears over job security wrongly deter women from pursuing equal pay cases. Harvey went on to say that, "Until the unions accept the 1% pay increase, employers won't even discuss gender equal pay". Harvey hoped that the demonstration would "educate people – especially students" about these issues faced in the employment sector. The strikes' immediate impacts of campus life have seemed, for the moment, minimal.

However the long-term effects of acute disruption to lectures and eroding cooperation from lecturers and support staff may become more apparent in the coming weeks. Their decisions to take more industrial action may come about if the UCEA refuses to grant further concessions. They may also face growing opposition within the student population if they down tools and strike again.



# NEWS IN PICTURES

## UCU Strike: Thursday 31st October, 2013

Photographs courtesy of Mae Reddaway, Sammie Caine and Matthew Fleming.





# Students engage with potential future employers at Careers Fair

Lorna Holden

Lancaster University played host to their annual Career Opportunities Fair on Wednesday, Week 4, held in the Great Hall and Nuffield Theatre. There were 87 different employers, postgraduate schemes, and work experience opportunities in attendance. The University's Careers service was also present, with stands including Jobshop and the Lancaster Award. The Fair enabled students to network with potential future employers, educators or learn more about the opportunities that Lancaster offers to help make students more employable. The employers included well-known names such as Amazon, Matalan and the BBC as well as big supermarket chains such as Aldi and ASDA. Further education stands included institutions such as Lancaster itself, the University of Cumbria and Edge Hill. The Careers Fair also had a section where students could speak to Alumni of Lancaster, which allowed students to discover what is best to put in a CV, to

gain potential contacts and to discover how to get a job in a particular field. Several students attended the Fair because they were unsure of what career they would like to follow. Third year student Charlotte Ellis said: "I don't know what I want to do with my life! I'm looking at my options; I know I want to go into business, marketing, HR and stuff like that. The best stand I have seen so far is Explore Learning; you learn how to run a business but also teach after school, supporting kids with maths and English." Emily Bradley, also a third year student, said she wasn't sure what she wanted to do and that's why she attended the Careers Fair. She said: "I'm just looking at options and working towards an informed decision." When asked what area she would like to go into, she replied: "I'm not looking at finance; I know what I can't do. I'm not going to be an accountant, lawyer or IT consultant!" The Career Opportunities Fair was organised by Angela Bywater, who works in the Careers Department of the University. She said:



Photo by Mae Reddaway

"Preparations start from about February or March and go right through to the day." Bywater emphasised that the Fair was not just for next year's graduates. "This was relevant for all students; you need to research what career you want to go into and at the Careers Fair you get to talk to employers and see the

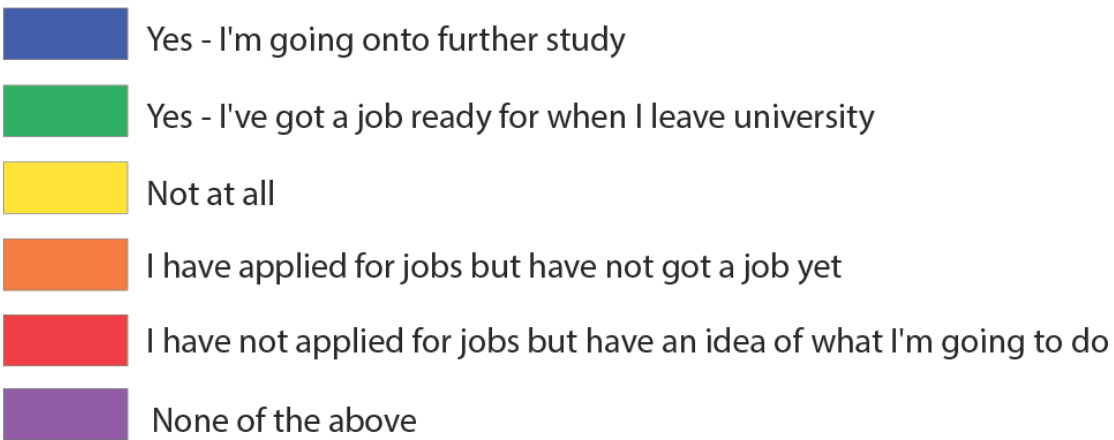
opportunities available" she told SCAN. "There were also work experience positions available." To help make the Fair relevant to the students attending, the companies were chosen based on whom students wanted to see, as well as those companies who wanted to attend the Careers

Fair due to Lancaster being a high profile University. The Career Opportunities Fair comes at a time when deadlines are passing for soon-to-be-graduates to obtain a job to start next year. Bywater told SCAN: "The Careers Fair was advertising opportunities that were still available for people to apply for this year."

## Our scan survey says:

Find our live polls and cast your vote: [scan.lusu.co.uk](http://scan.lusu.co.uk)

### Do you know what you are going to do when you leave university?



105 voters

# Lancaster University's Student Charter: "I don't even remember signing it"

Rachel May Quin  
Editor



about the student experience at Lancaster and have worked in partnership with LUSU to set out clear and simply in the Student Charter what students can expect from the University and LUSU and what we expect from them".

VP Education Joe O'Neill (#FTjOe), who deals with matters such as this to ensure that students get the most from their educational experience, told SCAN that "We [LUSU] have the ability to change the charter every year when it is reviewed". However, according to a survey conducted by Comment editors Sam Smallridge and Julia Molloy, it seems that students are unaware the charter exists at all, let alone that the opportunity for change is there. Students were asked if they knew what the student charter is, with the general consensus being that they were either completely unaware, or that they hadn't even read it.

Amelia Federico, a 2nd year English Literature student, said "I've heard of it. I don't think I've read it. I couldn't tell you what's on it. It should

be more widely publicised, but for feedback issues then I'd probably just go and talk to my JCR rather than reading the Student Charter on how to do it properly", whereas a pair of students, also in their 2nd year replied, "We have no idea what this is. I don't even remember signing it. It's good to have but it's mostly ignored."

For example, the Student Charter – a full version of which can be found online at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/current-students/student-charter](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/current-students/student-charter) – contains things such as: "You can expect encouragement to develop academically and personally through learning, teaching and assessment activities which are informed by research, taught by leading researchers and which allow you to explore the current research in your chosen subject(s)", "an assessment

system which is fair, transparent and based on academic merit", and "access to a wide range of learning resources and facilities appropriate to your programme of study"

However, it appears that this is not always the case. Recently in the History department, there has been complaints from students, after a lecturer refused to allow students to use electronic equipment in lectures or seminars to take notes.

One student, who wished to remain anonymous, told SCAN that after consulting the Student Charter, they felt that this would be "detrimental" to their learning and therefore does not reflect the values represented in the Charter.

Another student who was approached in Alexandra Square during our survey, Laura Noon told SCAN that she had no idea what the Student Charter was, but she felt that "it would be a good thing to have if people actually know about it".

Professor Chetwynd told SCAN: "Student engagement is key to student success", and that "if students know what we offer and what we expect then they will have a successful and enjoyable time studying and living at Lancaster".

It seems that the matter of the Student Charter is increasingly becoming more important with regards to maintaining academic standards and well-being at Lancaster, but in order to achieve student satisfaction, students need to take the time to actively engage with documentation that clearly details their rights – so that if for some reason these rights are being ignored, something can be done about it.



Photo by Marie Sophie Klingenbrunner





# English Literature professor gives annual Chaplaincy Centre lecture

Calvin Judd

Lancaster's Professor of English Literature, Terry Eagleton, presented his controversial 'Jesus the Red?' lecture at the Chaplaincy Centre on October 28th. The lecture, which is part of the Annual Chaplaincy Centre Lectures, opened debate on the subject of Jesus as a historical figure as well as the politics of Christianity.

Eagleton, who is an internationally celebrated literary scholar and cultural theorist, was invited by the chaplain to give the talk partly due to his book concerning the God debate entitled 'Reason, Faith and Revolution: Reflections on the God Debate'.

Speaking on the subject of the lecture, Eagleton told SCAN: "lots of Christians in particular don't know this sort stuff... they get fed certain images and stereotypes of Jesus, which largely ignore the historical facts." He went to explain that he "give[s] talks a lot in cathedrals and churches... dealing with the

politics of Christianity and the Gospel which is often missed out" and that the talk given at the Chaplaincy Centre was "not what you would find in a typical sermon."

**The idea of Jesus as a "political rebel" extended throughout the talk, with Eagleton considering him as a "nationalist revolutionary" as well as a "martyr," comparing him to such figures as Martin Luther King and Che Guevara.**

When speaking to SCAN, Eagleton also insisted on the importance of the question mark that follows in the title "Jesus the Red?" having been dropped in the posters around

campus. He felt the lecture would provide more of an answer toward the question rather than just targeting the specific statement.

**Disputing such figures as Richard Dawkins, Terry Eagleton is a prominent figure in the God debate and his lecture at the chaplaincy provided an insight into his many thoughts on the subject.**

With over 40 books to his name relating to Literature, Theory and Criticism, Eagleton is one of the most widely regarded theorists of our time.

Eagleton's talk was part of the Annual Chaplaincy Lectures and the Chaplain also explained that "the purpose of these lectures...

is to provide a link between the chaplaincy and the university's departments." Having already given lectures relating to Politics and Religious Studies at the Chaplaincy, the department of English Literature and Creative Writing were approached for this event.

**The talk, which was open to all students and staff, received a healthy turnout from both parties with the chaplaincy rear walls having to be opened to provide extra space for the overflow of spectators.**

Eagleton praised the "lively audience" who actively participated in debate after the lecture and explained he was "lucky nobody threw

anything at [him]" due to the contentious subject of his talk. The literary critic, who once sparked outrage on radio for suggesting "Jesus was in a way lucky to die and spend such short time on the cross," said that "the audience to, much to [his] surprise, was more positive."

Literature student Thomas Haynes said the talk was "incredibly engaging. Terry had me hooked from his first sentence and left me with some real food for thought... I thought that hosting the lecture in the Chaplaincy Centre was a great idea - it's definitely something the university should start doing more in the future."

Whilst visiting campus, Eagleton also gave a his lecture on 'Psychoanalysis' for second and third year students on October 29th as well as giving a seminar and reading on 'The Idea of Culture' for postgraduates.

Terry Eagleton's book 'Reason, Faith and Revolution: Reflections on the God Debate' can be found in the University Library.



Photo by Lauren Hollowday



# “Education, Employability, Empowerment”: Lancaster summit welcomes high-profile speakers

**Josh Walker**

Lancaster University hosted an ‘Education, Employability, Empowerment’ (EEE) summit on November 8th to November 10th. A number of high-profile speakers, including the former Prime Minister of Poland, were in attendance, addressing issues around the importance of education while discussing what can be achieved through it.

The three-day summit involved a mix of talks, presentations, workshops and a careers fair, as well as an extensive entertainment programme including an official party.

The agenda addressed the political process of education reform, the role of government, comparisons across Europe, student’s employability prospects, building a civil society through education and how schools may reinforce the gender divide in performance

and participation. The opening integration event took place on the evening of November 8th, and the summit got fully underway on the Saturday with a complete day of events and an official banquet and party in the evening. Sunday saw further talks in the morning before workshops and a closing entertainment event. Around 200 students from Universities across the UK, including University of Oxford, LSE, UCL, University of St Andrews and Lancaster University attended the EEE summit, as well as a number of academic staff. Their ticket guaranteed entry to all events, giving them a chance to see a mix of politicians, social activists, business-people and economists coming together to discuss their ideas and engage with students across two days. A number of high-profile, influential speakers were in attendance. Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, former Prime Minister of Poland and caretaker President of Warsaw, addressed the complexities of the political reform. Professor Zbigniew Pelczynski, emeritus fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford who includes Bill Clinton in his list of students and has also advised the European Economic Union and the OECD on government reforms, asked how education can create leaders for the twenty-first century. Furthermore, Professor Edward Truch, Professor of Management Science at Lancaster University, founder of the Henley Knowledge Management Research Institute and former political advisor to UK and Polish governments, including Tony Blair’s, discussed the future of work and the implications for education. Other speakers included the Vice-Minister for Labour and Social Policy in Poland, women’s rights activists, a columnist for the leading Polish newspaper, Chancellor of Kozminski University in Warsaw, an Oxford University Professor and co-founder and President of the King’s Foundation, a charity offering services to young people. The main organiser is Ksawery Lisinski, President

of the Lancaster University Polish Society, who says he was inspired by similar events elsewhere: “I was attending a similar conference at LSE done by their Polish Society and I just wanted to follow their example” Lisinski said. Speaking to SCAN, Lisinski was very clear about the importance of the summit. “It shows that Lancaster University thinks globally – the summit will be attended by politicians and activists from Eastern Europe but it will also include workshops and speeches about self-development and leadership. It shows Lancaster is serious about helping students reach their higher potential and help them get experience that will improve their student experience. I think that meeting the former Prime Minister of Poland is of great importance for anyone studying politics. “Since we have many students coming from outside Lancaster [i.e. from other universities] I hope we will make new bonds, friends and contacts. On top of that this summit is a co-operated project of several societies across our campus. Therefore I hope we will learn how to cooperate in the future and make more joint-events.” Lisinski also noted the importance of LUSU in bringing the summit about. “I am very grateful to LUSU Involve and Joe Bourne [Innovation and Development Manager at LUSU] for giving us full support, help and motivation to do this project. He gave us advice, shared his experiences [and] pointed out what needed to be done. He was sort of a guide. He also negotiated on our behalf with the University to get the funding, helped us promote the event, put us in touch with useful people”. The idea for a summit was first conceived by Lisinski back in April, with the hardest part of the process getting the speakers in.

Read more online at [scan.lusu.co.uk/news](http://scan.lusu.co.uk/news)

# Undergraduate publishes first philosophy journal

- Lancaster student has set up the University’s first philosophy journal for students to submit essays and work
- The publication is applauded by various members of FASS and contributions are welcome for the next issue

**Katie Smith**

Lancaster Journal of Philosophy has been set up by undergraduate Tom Randall this October with the purpose of providing a space for students to submit essays on philosophy. The journal is now available online and is currently accepting entries for their next issue due out in Spring. The plan was to make hard copies of the current issue available around campus by the end of October. Printing costs will hopefully be aided by the enterprise office in the FASS centre, though currently individual copy costs are unknown. According to Randall, the idea for the journal came “as a response to the seeming lack of opportunities for students within the study of philosophy to present their ideas, work, or even fleeting general interest in a forum of discussion and debate within the university.” The Journal should be way for students to “submit [and promote] their work – that they have done for an assignment or otherwise – and provide an opportunity to get their foot in the door for publishing their essays.” The journal is not just focused on philosophy students, with entries open for anyone to submit. Randell claimed that “The Journal’s audience is aimed at anyone interested in philosophy; and those that are not interested, the journal aims to persuade them otherwise”. Though initially the journal is aimed just at students within

the university, there are hopes that once past the start-up stage the journal’s audience will widen further. The journal is currently peer-reviewed and organised by a team of editors. Randall went on to say that “while this project started off as an individual venture, I quickly met many others that supported the aim of the journal, and within a short time – span the journal had a sizeable committee of committed and enthusiastic editors”. Joseph Buglass, Faculty Enterprise Officer, said that the “FASS Enterprise Centre was set up to encourage and assist exactly this type of activity. We’re very impressed with Tom and the group he has formed to read and edit submissions. It’s a massive achievement and we will continue to work with him. We hope other students are encouraged by his example to seek ways in which they can gain more from their time at university.” Randall has been pleased with the response to the journal so far: “The Journal has far surpassed all expectations. I did not expect such a fantastic response from the students in their submissions, from the editors, and the enterprise office in the FASS building. While this began as an individual idea, it certainly isn’t anymore; in that sense, the journal is already achieving its aims, and, with an exciting future ahead, will hopefully continue to keep doing so”. When asked about the project, Joe O’Neill, VP Education, said “I’m very pleased to see that Lancaster students are taking an initiative when it comes to academic projects – I look forward to seeing the results of this particular one when the journal is published at the end of the month... These are exactly the sorts of achievements that we should be both encouraging and celebrating. The Students’ Union aims to help wherever we can, be that financially via our Enterprise fund or by offering support and guidance on a number of levels.” Further plans include a response section in the next issue, so students have an opportunity not only to submit original papers, but also respond to those in a previous issue. Information about submitting papers or ordering a copy can be found on The Journal website, or by directly contacting the editorial team on [jop@gmail.com](mailto:jop@gmail.com).

# VP Union Development sets record straight after Sugarhouse motion is voted down by Union Council

**Jack Perry**

LUSU Vice President (Union Development) Laurence Pullan sought to reassure students about the perceived price rises in the Sugarhouse. His comments come after a motion to lobby the Sugarhouse to lower its prices was voted down by Union Council on Monday, Week 5. The motion, which was intended to mandate the LUSU full-time officers to lobby the Sugarhouse to “lower their prices to a reasonable yet profitable level”, was asked not to be put to Council following an intervention from LUSU President Joel Pullan. The Council voted in favour of the motion not being put and therefore the cease of discussion on that topic. However, the decision came with the caveat that the LUSU full-time officer team would look into the issue further. The events at Union Council follow a series of complaints to LUSU about the rise in Sugarhouse pricing. While on the surface the changes appear to affect very few – the higher prices affect students who buy on the door, arrive after

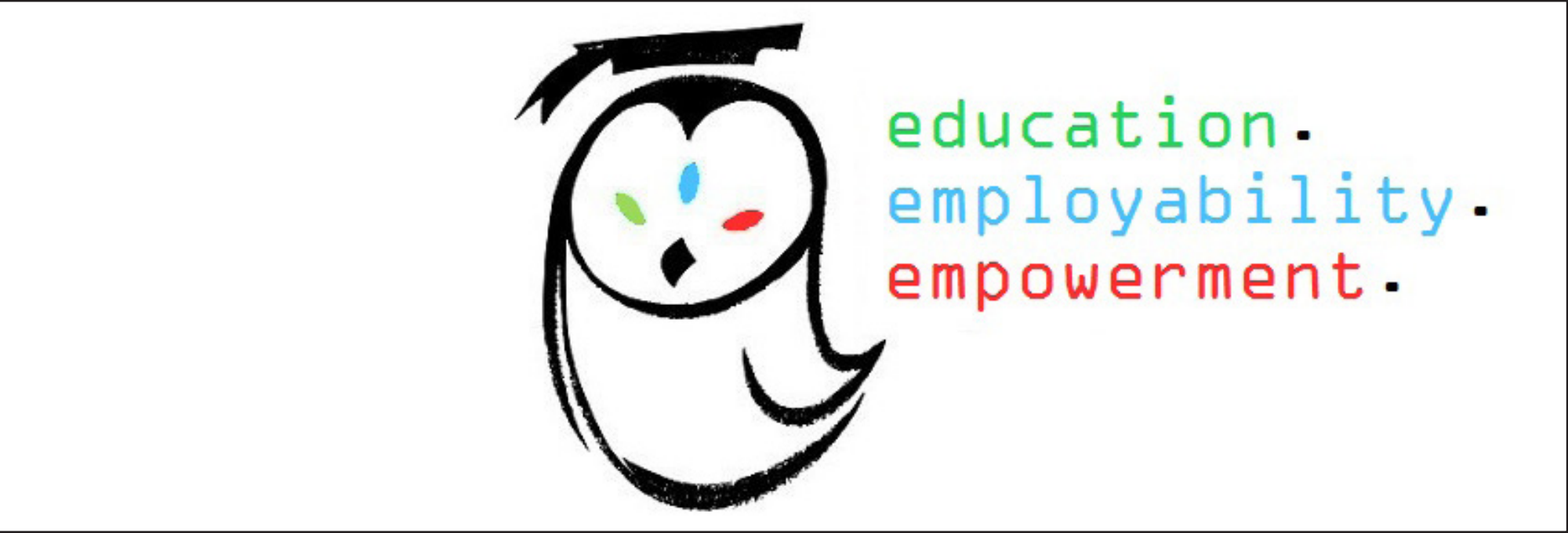
11:30pm and do not have a purple card – there has been an outcry from the student body, not least the “#boycottsugar” campaign on Twitter. Speaking to SCAN, Laurence Pullan said that he was not surprised a motion was brought to Council regarding Sugarhouse prices. price lower than they would get on the door. Lonsdale College President Charlie Edwards, who seconded the motion to Union Council, said that he thought that the new system penalised those students who did not plan their night in advance. “There has been a new e-ticketing system which benefits a certain number of students,” Edwards told Bailrigg FM’s Nathan Marsh. “However, there are those who decide on the night at around half ten or eleven and think ‘yeah let’s go and have a night out.’ I think the system penalises those students who just want a random night out.” On the subject of the motion being voted down, Edwards said he was not disappointed. “The whole point was to try and get across both to the officers of the Union and the Sugarhouse management that we as a student body feel that the prices at the Sugarhouse are just too much.” Pullan, however, stressed that the Union had been working on trying to bring the price down before the Union Council meeting. “I have discussed [Sugarhouse prices] with the Sugarhouse management already, and I feel a solution can be reached in the next few weeks.” When asked what he thought the outcome of the talks with the management would be, he said that he expected prices would come down. already offer a free cloakroom service on certain nights, depending on the weather. During his intervention in Union Council, Joel Pullan said that the Union is working towards what students want, naming better events and solving the smell as two cited by students as points of complaint that have been acted upon. The Week 4 Union Council was postponed to Monday, Week 5, to show solidarity with the Unions striking on October 31st. The next Union Council is scheduled for Thursday, Week 7.

The motion put to Council also suggested the implementation of a free cloakroom service at the Sugarhouse.

Pullan said that staff do



Photo by Amie Slater





# 500 users register for University TV service

Jessica Wallace

Vision TV – a platform for staff and students to watch live TV and on-demand services – has been re-launched for this academic year, with around 500 users registering since the start of October. Vision TV contains around 20,000 pieces of video content available for members of Lancaster University through both live TV and on demand services. It began in 2005 as a solution to deliver high-quality TV 24/7 around campus and is available across various devices, including laptops, tablets, and mobile devices, via Wi-Fi or Resnet. The service offers 30 TV channels and 20 Radio channels. However, Lancaster University's student network LA1:TV is not currently available on the service. The lecturer behind the service, Dr Nicholas Race told SCAN: "our reward is if people

Anyone wishing to use Vision TV must be a University member, whether staff or student. It is currently not available for non-University members due to ERA licensing rules, and copyright issues.

like it, use it, and feedback on it". If something is not working as satisfactorily as it should, the Vision TV team ask to be alerted to this through responsive feedback. Dr. Race said that the system progresses quickly, as it is being coded all the time, and any issues should be fixed within a few days of being reported.

However, students living off campus can still access Vision TV through their Lancaster University log in. Users may log in to Vision TV by entering their University cosine log-in once, and browse their dashboard where they are free to roam the dashboard showing recommended viewings, their history, and content that is currently trending with other users. It is possible to search for content both on demand, and that which is to be broadcast soon, with the option to record. Users may also select content that is not blacklisted as being usually recorded, and store it in their personal library for later viewing. No TV license is required for on demand viewing, although users are advised to check TV licensing information themselves concerning live viewing. Vision TV is tied to a European research project, partnered with companies such as the BBC. Various trials have been conducted with



Photo by Mae Reddaway

Vision TV testing out new features, and if they receive satisfactory feedback, are then used with other online TV services such as iPlayer. It is hoped that Vision TV will gain more members throughout the year, as this will increase the validity of the research gathered from the service. The Vision TV team have spoken at various talks on how the unique research service was constructed, and allowed several research papers published over a number of years, documenting the information gathered from participating students and their feedback.

Vision TV is available online at [vision.lancs.ac.uk](http://vision.lancs.ac.uk)

# NOTICE OF YOUR JCR ELECTIONS



2013  
NOVEMBER

18-22

**NOMINATIONS**  
**WHEN:** Week 7  
Monday 18th November 09:00 -  
Friday 22nd November 17:00  
**HOW DO I NOMINATE MYSELF?**  
[nominations.lusu.co.uk](http://nominations.lusu.co.uk)

2013  
NOVEMBER

27-29

**VOTING**  
**WHEN:** Week 8  
Wednesday 27th November 09:00 -  
Friday 29th November 16:00  
**HOW DO I VOTE?**  
check your email for your  
voter code

# Spot us during Freshers 'Week?

## Want to know how you can get involved?



Photo by Marie-Sophie Klingebrunner

## It's never too late to be a part of it...

Freshers' week was an exciting, and hectic, time for everybody involved, and you might have spotted us flitting around campus in our delightful purple t-shirts, or attended the Media Summit. You may not have found the time to sign up to SCAN, or maybe you're not sure where to get started. Well, there's certainly never been a better time to be a part of it. With 50th Roses coming up, the biggest inter-varsity sports tournament in Europe, our brand spanking new newspaper, our sleek new website and our online-exclusive section Spine, there's so much going on that you'd be a fool to miss out. Have a flick through the paper, take the time to browse our website, and find your niche in SCAN. Are you the next savvy news journalist, searching for that big story? Have you got a dry sense of humour or an interesting scope on the latest political/campus hype? Do you know how to assemble seemingly ordinary items of clothing into a stunning everyday ensemble? You don't need to send in an application, you don't need to have the writing style of a modern Shakespeare; all we want from you is some great ideas and enthusiasm. SCAN is the perfect place to test your journalism skills, hone your writing/photography/design and meet some amazing people along the way. Contact one of our friendly section editors, submit an article via the website, or just pop by one of our writers meetings for a chat, it could well be the best thing you do during your time here at Lancaster.





# The scan archives

Taking a look back into Lancaster's history

18th January 2011

No. 1 this week: Bruno Mars - Grenade

## No point in ‘protest for the sake of protest’

Just weeks after two University of London institutions – Birkbeck College and the School of oriental and african Studies – held a vote of no confidence in him, President of the National Union of Students, Aaron Porter, said that he felt he was still capable of leading the student movement in this diffi cult time for the Higher Education sector.

On a rare visit to Lancaster, as part of the Winter officer Conference 2011, Porter spoke of how the fight over the changes to education as we know it is not yet lost, and how he intends to lead the student movement in the remainder of his time in office. “In my mind, the NUS has been on the front foot [with its campaign]. The important part of any successful campaign is that it has a range of activity. In my mind, there shouldn’t be protest for the sake of protest; protests should be organised when you have a clear objective and goal in mind, and that’s certainly what we had on November 10.” Porter has faced criticism of

late for the perceived slowing in the NUS’ campaign efforts, most notably felt on December 9, when MPs voted on the fees raise; the more radical, but unofficial student protest took place in Parliament Square, causing a great deal of damage, whilst the official NUS glowstick vigil went virtually unnoticed.

Porter defended his position on forms of protest using direct action: “We haven’t signed up to every single protest that’s out there, because for some of them, we don’t believe that they have been properly organised or that they’re safe for the participants or the general public. I think it’s right for the NUS to be distant from some protests that we believe to be organised by a violent minority, but we have supported the vast majority of them.”

This position has, however, resulted in a backlash against the NUS President. With a campaign being started to call an emergency national conference through 25 students’ unions holding successful votes of no confidence

against him, Facebook pages have sprung up against Porter. “Aaron Porter does not represent me – Campaign to sack NUS ‘President’”, speaks out against the way Porter dealt with the media on November 10, in response to the violence at Millbank.

“What I said on the day is what needed to be said. I took a responsibility: when you are responsible for something you take the credit when it goes well, and I think you need to say what needs to be said if something goes wrong. Unfortunately, some of the scenes of the violence that we saw were too far, and were undermining our cause,” he explained.

He went on: “I have no problem with forms of direct action, but it has to be lawful and if it’s not it needs to be called out. I think, under very difficult circumstances – under what, in truth, was an exceptional amount of pressure – I said what I needed to do, and I hope that I did it in a way that enhanced our cause and meant that we weren’t opened up to much worse consequences.”

## Government announces new fees scholarship for military families

The government has announced new scholarship schemes to help fund higher education for children of servicemen and women who have been killed whilst on active duty. The scheme will provide £3,200 for tuition fees and £5,000 towards maintenance per year for prospective students whose parents have been killed in active duty since 1990. The first students to be eligible will be those beginning further

studies in 2011. University Minister David Willetts, who spoke about plans for the scheme in October, has assured that the payments will go ahead despite the funding cuts. He said: “It is surely right that we go out of our way to support the families of these brave servicemen and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep the nation safe. The scholarships scheme will ensure that children who have lost a parent on active duty are not disadvantaged

if they decide to study at university.”

**The government has estimated that the scheme will cost £800,000 a year and could benefit as many as 100 students at any one time.**

Read more online at [scan.lusu.co.uk/news](http://scan.lusu.co.uk/news)

### scan

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

Week One - Lent Term - Tuesday January 18

## It's all about meme

Carolynne looks at the best online distractions of the past decade



**Carolynne McGilgan**  
Assistant Editor

### No point in ‘protest for the sake of protest’

• National president rallies against opponents during Lancaster visit

forms of protest using direct action. “We haven’t signed up to every single protest that’s out there, because for some of them, we don’t believe that they have been properly organised or that they’re safe for the participants or the general public. I think it’s right for the NUS to be distant from some protests that we believe to be organised by a violent minority, but we have supported the vast majority of them.”

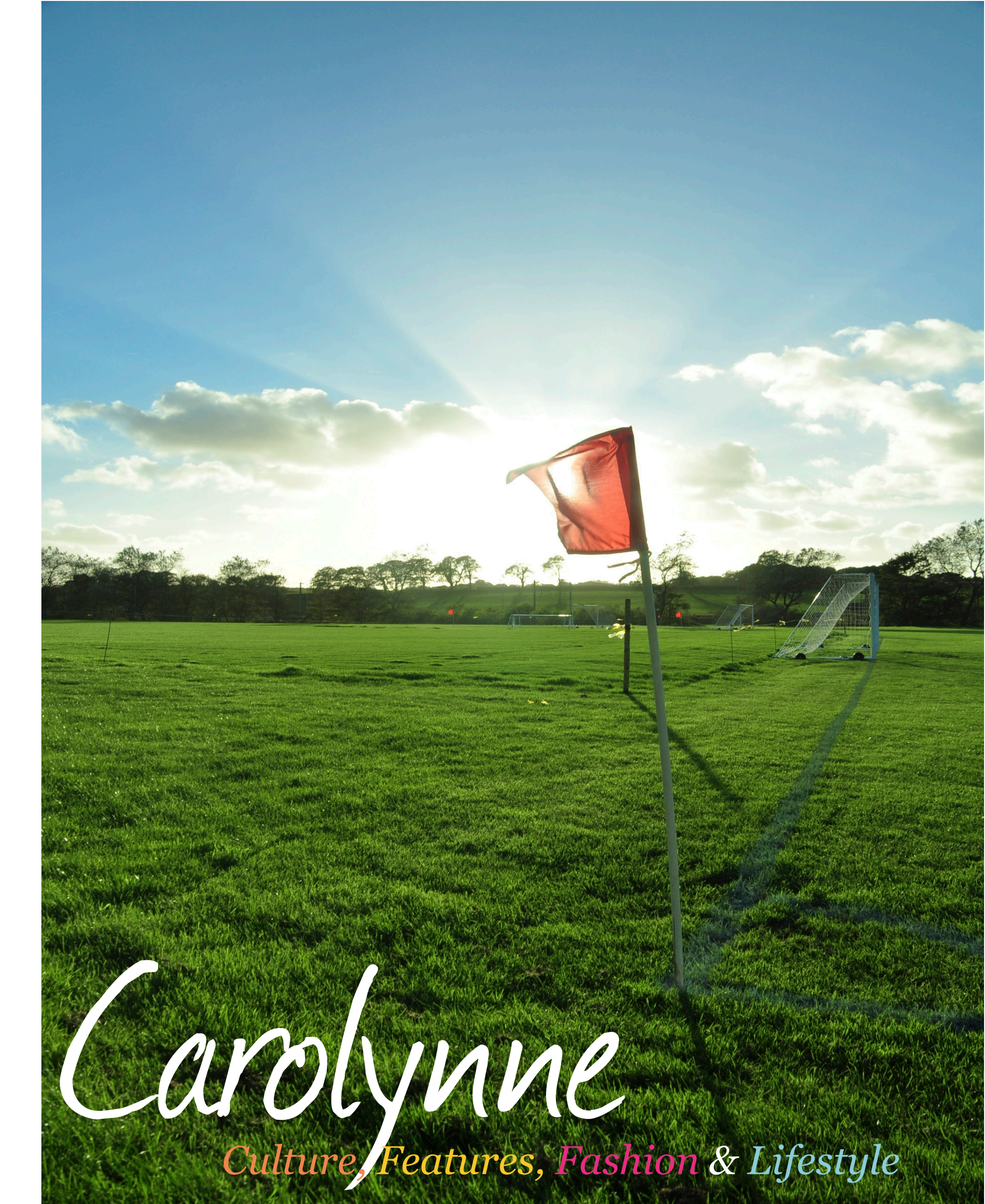
The position has, however, resulted in a backlash against the NUS President. With a campaign being started to call an emergency national conference through 25 students’ unions holding successful votes of no confidence against him, Facebook pages have sprung up against Porter. “Aaron Porter does not represent me – Campaign to sack NUS ‘President’”, speaks out against the way Porter dealt with the media on November 10, in response to the violence at Millbank.

“What I said on the day is what needed to be said. I took a responsibility: when you are responsible for something you take the credit when it goes well, and I think you need to say what needs to be said if something goes wrong. Unfortunately, some of the scenes of the violence that we saw were too far, and were undermining our cause,” he explained.

He went on: “I have no problem with forms of direct action, but it has to be lawful and if it’s not it needs to be called out. I think, under very difficult circumstances – under what, in truth, was an exceptional amount of pressure – I said what I needed to do, and I hope that I did it in a way that enhanced our cause and meant that we weren’t opened up to much worse consequences.”

## Lancaster castle closes as a prison

The prison in Lancaster Castle is set to close by the end of March, due to being “outdated and expensive”. The prison, which has capacity for 238 people, is formed from a large part of Lancaster Castle, leased from Lancashire County Council with the land being owned by the Duchy of Lancaster. The plans to close the prison come as part of Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke’s plans to reduce inmate numbers by 3,000 over the next four years. Since December, the number of inmates has decreased by around 2,000 inmates. Other prison closures have been announced: Ashwell Prison in Rutland is a former army camp and has a capacity of 214. It will close with Lancaster at the end of March. Morton Hall, a former RAF base in Lincolnshire will change to an immigration removal centre some time next year, taking its capacity of 392





# Carolynne



Laura Dempster  
Carolynne Editor

‘A Mo Sista is essentially a woman who loves a Mo. An individual that is dedicated to supporting the Mo Bros in her life through their moustache growing journey.’ So there’s no excuse, Mo love all round.

Unfortunately an increased amount of facial hair around campus can only cheer us up so much. With November comes the ever closer week ten deadline dates and the inevitable feeling of glumness. Does staring out of the library window absentmindedly chewing on Fruit Pastels whilst Alex Square gets darker and darker, discovering you’ve only written 200 words in the past hour sound familiar? (Please say it’s not just me; I swear time passes in double time in that place).

If so, check out ‘The Pursuit of Happiness’ article in the Lifestyle section, where you are advised to spend some time hugging it out to relieve the pressures of essay stress-it works, a good hug fixes most maladies I promise you.

Aside from lots of cuddles here is a small list of a few other things which might also cheer you up whilst



Photo by Karis Gardiner

you stare at the grey skies, grey buildings and (arguably) grey chicken-on-tap pasties from a popular food outlet on campus: cat videos, a phone call with your mum, a new pair of pants, acoustic versions of your favourite songs, a Wispa Gold, flatmates telling you funny stories (one of mine weed in a plastic cup in her room the other day because she couldn’t be arsed to walk five steps to the bathroom).

But the thing that will cheer you up most?! A clue- you’re already reading it! (I know, I know, I’m hilarious). So while we wait for Christmas (not that we have to wait too long, Sugarhouse- what on earth are you doing playing Christmas songs in October?) and for winter to truly set in, just keep on trucking with your Wispa, your new pair of pants and some beautiful music in your headphones until that word count reaches its three thousand word mark.

Good luck!



Photo by Mae Reddaway



Photo by Holly Catherall



Photo by Mae Reddaway



Photo by Haowen Yang

## Photo of the Week

This week: Haowen Yang

SCAN values creativity and not just that of the verbal sort, which is why we are giving the photographers amongst you a fantastic chance to showcase your talent; every two weeks, we will be choosing the best photographic submission to feature as our Carolynne cover.

All you need to do is attach your photo(s) in an email to [scan.photography@lusu.co.uk](mailto:scan.photography@lusu.co.uk), along with your name and a few words about the image(s) you’ve chosen. Make sure you send us the best quality version of your work so it looks superb on the front page, and good luck!

# Flashback: Doctor Who

Anna Meng

It’s almost November 23rd and that means one thing: it’s time for the Doctor Who 50th Anniversary Special! Celebrating the Time Lord’s half century and entitled ‘The Day of the Doctor’ the special will be aired on BBC One in at least 75 countries and also in selected cinemas worldwide. It will feature Matt Smith as the 11th Doctor, David Tennant as the 10th Doctor and Jemma Louise-Coleman and Billie Piper in their respective

roles as companions. John Hurt will also make an appearance as an unknown incarnation of the Doctor.

Possibly one of the most iconic British TV shows of all time, Doctor Who had a major influence on the science fiction genre of television. Starting out with a low budget, the imaginative scripts and creative ways to make special effects went on to influence cult shows like Red Dwarf and The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy. Originally created as a children’s show, Doctor Who’s gripping plots and concepts were

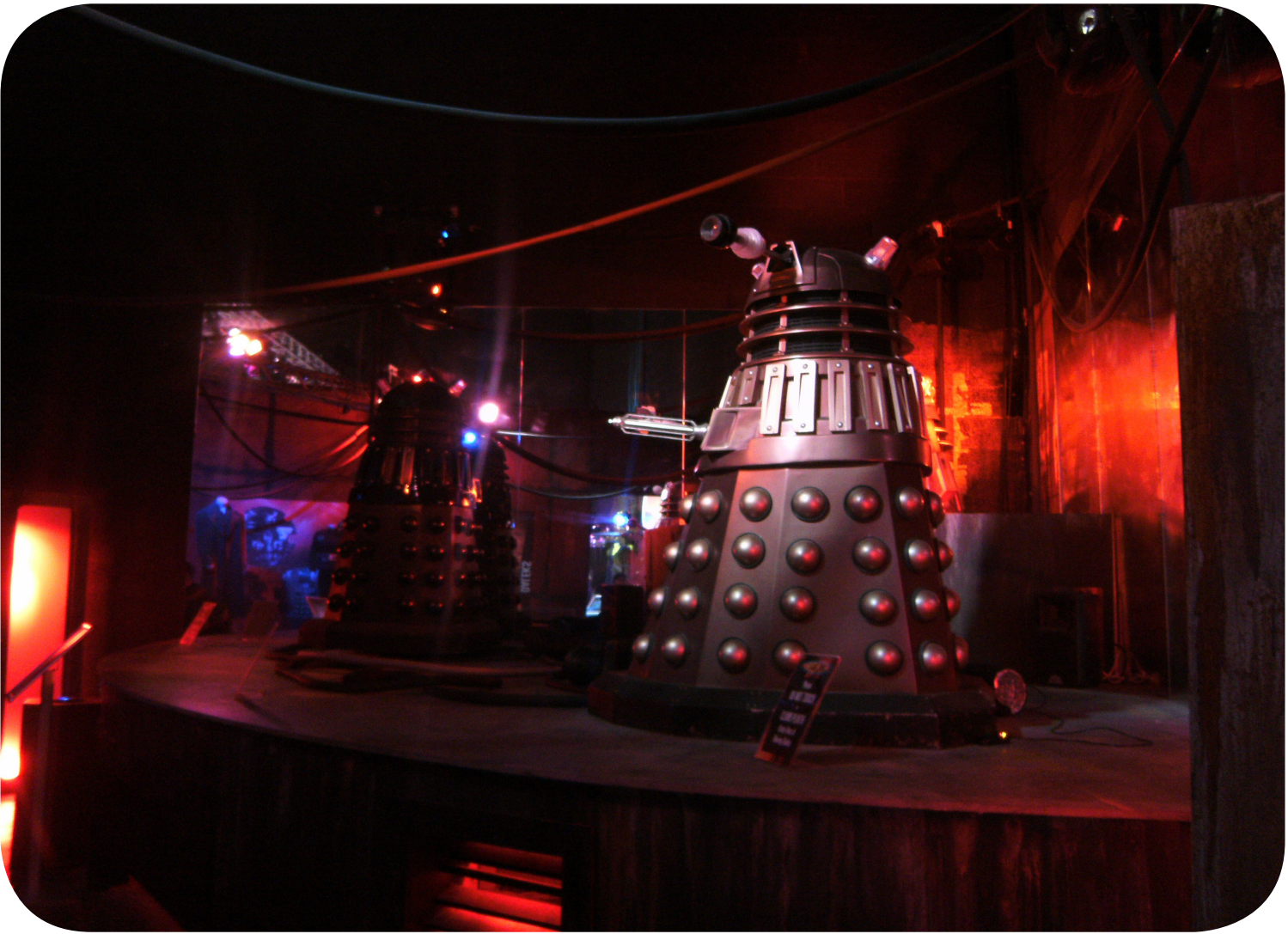
quick win it a following amongst adults as well, prompting a shift towards more adult themes. Though often criticized as being too frightening for children, it is and has long been a staple of family entertainment on a Saturday night.

The Doctor’s ability to regenerate, first introduced after William Hartnell’s departure in 1966 is one of the main reasons for the show’s long running success- giving both creators and actors scope to reinvent the character in concurrence with the changing times. Created as

surrogates with which the audience can identify, the role of companion has belonged to more than 35 actors and actresses since 1963. The first Doctor’s companions were his granddaughter and her two teachers, Since the 2005 revival, however, the Doctor generally only has a single companion- for the 9th and 10th Doctors, these were Rose, Martha and Donna. The eleventh travelled with Amy and Rory before Clara Oswald, the current companion, replaced them.

Fifty fantastic years have seen the Doctor battling a large and diverse number of monsters and villains. The oldest and most iconic of all his adversaries are the Daleks. Created by Terry Nation for the show’s second serial, they have not only appeared on postage stamps but also become a word in the Oxford English dictionary. Other famous villains include the Cybermen, Silurians and Sontarans. Of the new series, perhaps the most frightening of all are the Weeping Angels. Also known as The Lonely Assassins, they appear as winged humanoid statues that appear still only when your eyes are open, but attack as soon as you blink. Matt Smith’s 11th Doctor loses both of his companions to them. The show has generated numerous spin-offs, the most successful ones in recent times being The Sarah Jane Adventures starring Elizabeth Sladen and Torchwood, starring John Barrowman as Jack Harkness.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary, many other shows will mark the day. Written by Mark Gatiss, An Adventure in Space and Time will tell the story of the origins of Doctor Who. BBC Three will be having a Monster and Villains Weekend as well as showing an Ultimate Guide to Doctor Who for new viewers. BBC Radio 2 will also be commemorating the occasion by doing a special broadcast.



## Culture Update: What’s been going on?

– American singer/songwriter and member of The Velvet Underground Lou Reed died on the 27th October at the age of 71. Born and raised in New York Reed went on to dramatically influence the music world; despite not achieving commercial success at the time of its release The Velvet Underground and Nico is now widely regarded as one of the most influential rock albums of all time. After breaking from the band Reed decided to pursue a solo career that spanned several decades, and will no doubt leave a lasting impression on the music world for years to come.

– James Blake has won the Mercury Prize with his second album Overgrown. Despite close competition from bookie’s favourite Laura Mulva and musical legend David Bowie, Blake came out tops with what the judges called an “inventive, poetic and poignant” record. “Jubilant and confused”, Blake was somewhat stunned by the result, saying “This is the first award I’ve ever won, except for a tennis trophy I won when I was 12.”

– On Tuesday, Week 7, Bailrigg are hosting a Meet & Greet event in County Bar to celebrate Lancaster University’s vibrant mix of bands and artists on campus. All kinds of music are welcome, further information can be found on their Facebook page.

– For a sneak preview of what’s lined up at the Dukes next year go along to their Spring season launch event on the 21st November. The evening will include live music and will divulge the name of the play set to be shown in Williamson Park in 2014. Tickets are free and include a complimentary drink but must be reserved in advance through the Dukes box office.



# The truth in the Turner Prize

Lucy Smalley  
Culture Editor



I'm afraid if you haven't heard of the Turner Prize I'd probably have to assume you've been living under an exceptionally uncultured rock for the entirety of your existence.

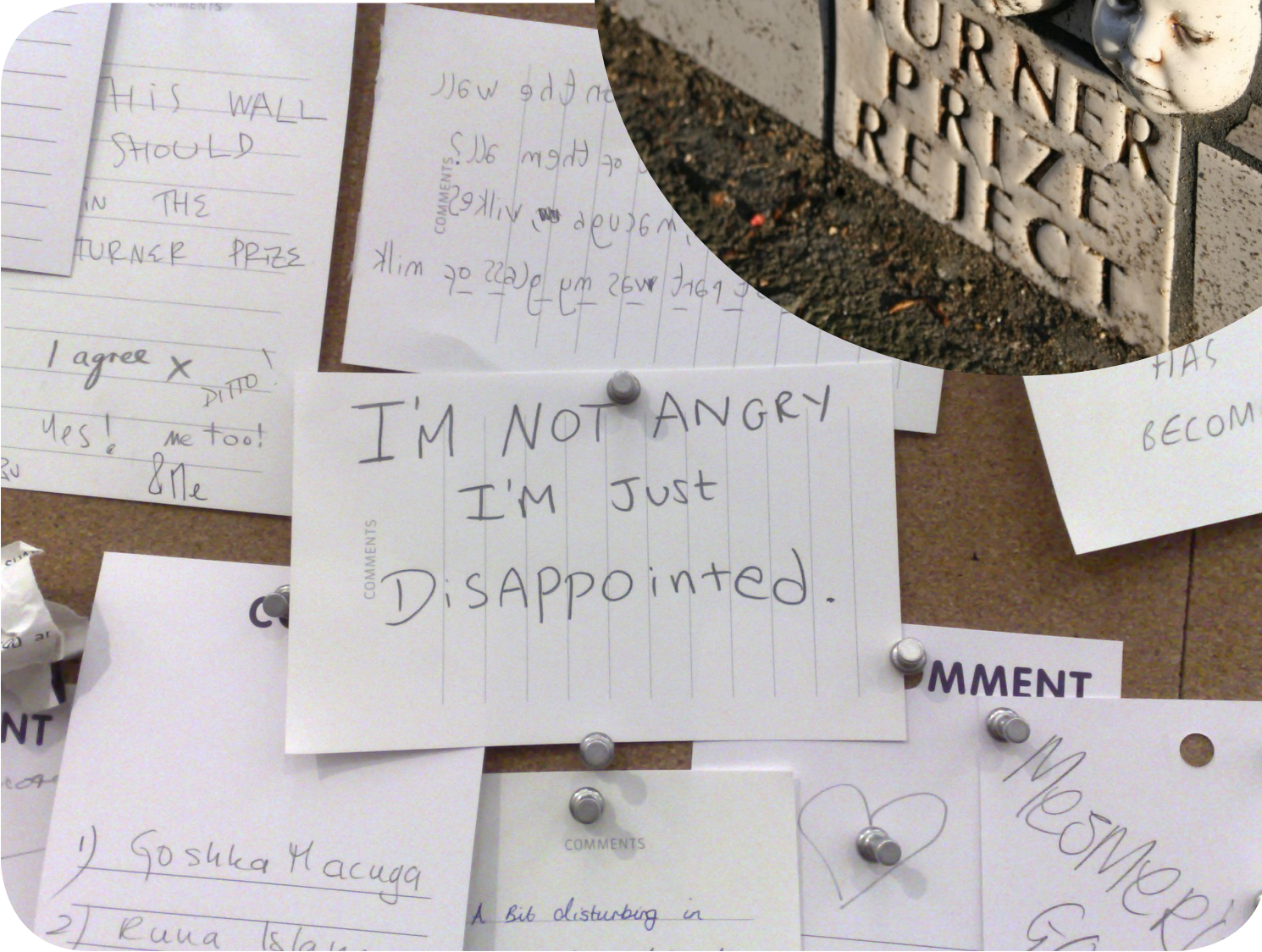
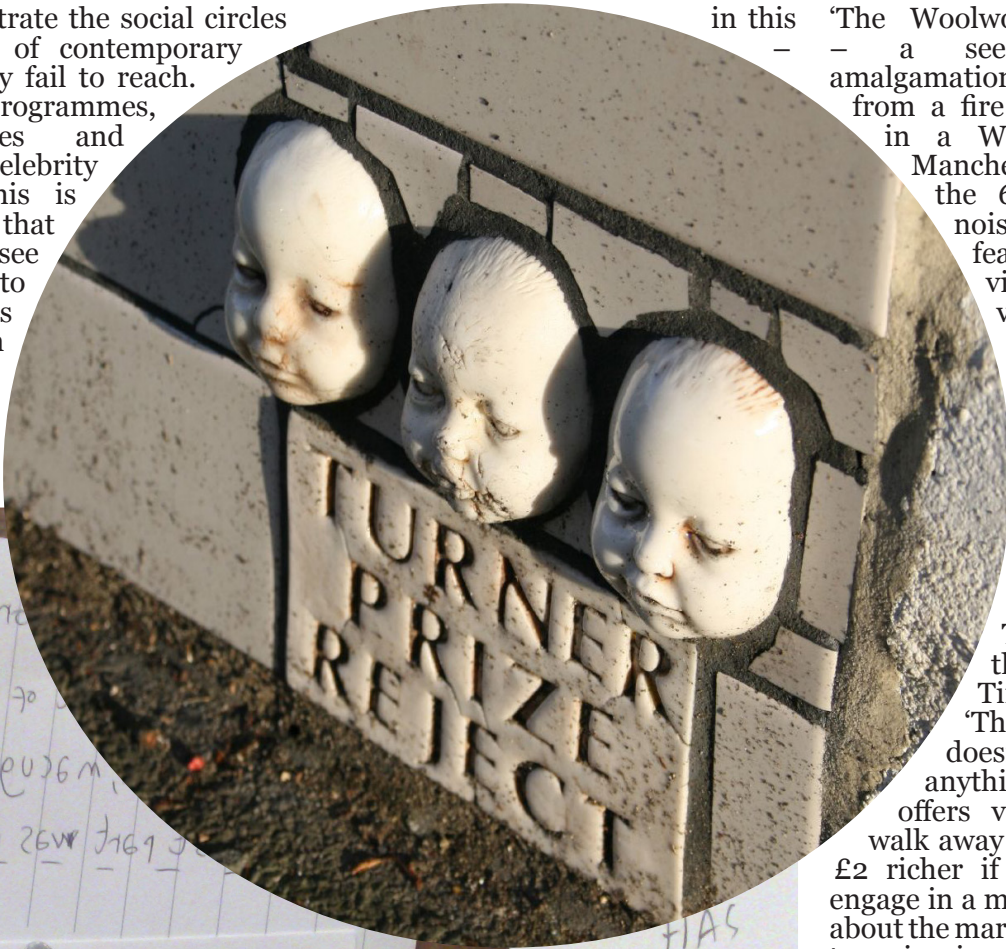
For those of you feeling embarrassed, it is an annual prize presented to a British visual artist under the age of 50. It began in 1984 and quickly grew to become one of the UK's most prestigious art awards; previous winners include the likes of Anish Kapoor (1991), Rachel Whiteread (1993) and of course Damien Hirst (1995), and the exhibition for this year's nominees recently opened a few weeks ago –

the winner is announced on the 2nd December.

The Turner Prize annually draws thousands upon thousands of visitors to the exhibition, and for this very reason it is an extremely important event in the British art calendar. In exhibiting the work of these supposedly outstanding British artists it attempts to open up the eyes of the public as to what constitutes 'good art' in the here and the now, what the role of art truly is in contemporary culture, how we're meant to view it, interact with it, and draw any sense of conclusion from it. It's of utmost value to the art world as the sheer publicity and spectacle of the event over all possible medias means that news of the Turner Prize will infiltrate the social circles that the rest of contemporary art will usually fail to reach. Expect TV programmes, press articles and considerable celebrity backing – this is the face of art that millions will see and it needs to be as good as it possibly can be.

It is said that the Turner Prize

represents all artistic medias but in recent years has become mostly associated with conceptual art, and has unsurprisingly received quite a bit of criticism due to this association. In 2002 Culture Minister Kim Howell condemned the prize to "cold, mechanical, conceptual bullshit", and Prince Charles wrote a letter supporting his view, stating that the prize had "contaminated the art establishment for so long". The Stuckists art group gave out leaflets in 2008 declaring "The Turner Prize is crap" as a protest against the lack of figurative painters amongst the nominees, and Evening Standard critic Brian Sewell described it as an "annual farce". I do believe that there is some sense in this –



after all, with such a controversial air surrounding the prize for so long, to what extent are the nominations staged simply to provoke and build on this expectation that art can be whatever it wants to be? Is this really the best quality art that Britain has produced over the last year, or is it just the art that the organisers want us to see? Interestingly, is there a difference? The Turner Prize prompts questions as to what 'successful' art really is, and in recent years the nominations have been on the whole really quite obscure and challenging, especially to the mass audience that it is advertised to.

Last year Elizabeth Price was declared the winner with her 20 minute video installation 'The Woolworths Choir of 1975' – a seemingly mismatched amalgamation of text, footage from a fire that killed 10 people in a Woolworths branch in Manchester, a pop video from the 60's and some white noise (which seems to feature in most successful video works). While the video unsurprisingly encouraged a degree of scepticism, it would be entirely futile to criticise the judging panel for awarding the prize to a challenging video piece, given video's definite place within the history of the Turner Prize. This year, the nominations include Tino Sehgal's piece 'This is Exchange', which doesn't actually consist of anything physical but instead offers visitors the chance to walk away from the blank gallery £2 richer if they can successfully engage in a meaningful conversation about the market economy. Favourite to win is Glasgow-based artists David Shrigley; his entry 'Life Model' features a naked male robot that occasionally urinates. Of course, the main focus of the artwork is the seats and easels around the model that encourage viewers to draw pictures themselves; this year's Turner Prize clearly has an emphasis on the interactive audience experience.

The Turner Prize rightly shows that the face of contemporary art is rooted in the conceptual, and its controversy within circles of 'high art' enthusiasts and haters of 'that modern art junk' is certainly amusing. Of course it will attract criticism and ridiculously grandiose publicity, and maybe this isn't necessarily something to be proud of, but at the end of the day the job of ruffling feathers has always been art's and quite frankly should continue to be so.

# The Staves - review



James Benson

The Staves' Autumn tour saw them perform at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester on Saturday 2nd of November 2013. Whilst the venue is perhaps more familiar amongst classical musicians, the sisterly trio from Watford proved that they were more than at home in their North Western surroundings.

The sell-out crowd, representing a plethora of age groups, bore witness to a truly mesmerising performance from the folk collective, who were joined by a live drummer and electric guitarist. From the moment they sprung onto stage the Staveley-Taylor sisters exhibited their wealth of talent that has seen them progress from open-mic night regulars to being capable of filling venues such as London's iconic Shepherd's Bush Empire.

One of the advantages of having three singers rather than a soloist is the ability to explore a vocal range that, when combined, gives the group's songs harmonic depth that is only matched by their poignant lyrics. It will have been clear to every-

one that has seen The Staves perform over the course of this tour that they have a real engagement with their own songs, especially when compared to most of what's churned out in the charts these days.

As well as songs that the band have been performing for some time (which went down a treat), the trio treated the assembled spectators to a glimpse of future releases. 'Steady' once again exhibited the sisters' ability to create a masterpiece, with vocal layering playing a huge part. As the group face the prospect of developing the so-called 'difficult second album', they look in good stead to not only smash it, but assert themselves on the wider UK music scene.

The ovation that met The Staves as they signalled their exit from the stage went to show the crowd's adoration for the trio's music and performance that night. They will surely only go from strength to strength based on their current development and evidence of future releases.

James also managed to speak to Jess, one of the triplets. The interview can be found on our website.

# Get It Loud in Libraries: Dreng

Arun Takhar

Local band Sun Giant, Dreng's support act, opened the night with a well-meaning but unimaginative set. Their main influence seemed to be 70's era guitar music, with outdated songs and a boyish attempt at masculinity audible throughout. The band's lead singer played intricate guitar lines whilst singing and showed an impressive technical ability. But the music was bland and uninspiring; a little more simplicity would have created more interesting music. The vocal melodies were

clichéd, not to mention the lyrics, leaving the audience feeling dulled before the main act.

The mild-mannered moshing at the front of the crowd, mainly between excitable tweens, was the closest the gig got to feeling like a rock concert. Despite the quaint surroundings, Dreng did their best to put on a lively show. Cymbal crashes merged with open chord guitar thrashing at a throbbing volume, and when, at one point, guitarist Eoin 'Loveless' held the guitar in various unlikely positions over his head while singing, the crowd seemed enthused with the somewhat shambolic spectacle.

# You need to know... BEAR'S DEN

Andrew Sharp

Welcome to my first ever indie pick of the week in SCAN, a feature where you may just find your new favourite artist sooner rather than later. This week I want to shout about three gentlemen that won over my heart a long time ago after I saw them supporting my favourite band, Of Monsters & Men, back in July 2012. Andrew Davie, Kev Jones and Joey Haynes make up Bear's Den, a band that fits right into the ever-popular folk scene, a genre undisputedly reigned over by Mumford & Sons with whom the trio have also toured with. Other notable support slots include the haunting Daughter and a trip down under to play dates with Aussie singer-songwriter Matt Corby. All three members were previously part of the band Cherbourg but had a rethink, sharpened up their sound and lost the violin. The result was shown in their official debut EP Agape which dropped in March of this year. The five tracks focus around stories of family, commitment, love and heartbreak. From note one of opener Agape you know what you're

getting. It builds slowly, introducing you to the strings, percussion and finally the emotive tones of Andrew Davie. Although not the cheeriest of songs you'll no doubt be bobbing your head and singing along to the chorus in no time. Also grappling for the title of best song on that EP is Isaac, a fairly chilling tale of devotion with the steady banjo and harmonising vocals calmly pushing the song through. NME said "it's nothing to fall in love with"; well up yours NME, I fell in love with it and so should everyone else with ears! They triumphantly returned at the end of October with a sophomore EP, Without/Within. It was more of the same delicately crafted tales of despair and perseverance. The stand out for me had to be the triumphant Sahara. However, their best track to date is by far and away Pompeii, which hasn't had any official release but featured on their self-released unofficial debut EP, a copy of which I bought for a bargain fiver after their show. Safe to say they are true understated masters of their trade who have now begun to get the recognition they deserve.



Promotional photo supplied by the band

Both bands played music that was derivative of a by-gone age of rock and guitar-based music. Whilst the vibe seemed cutting-edge the real dominant force was nostalgia, with, sadly, no space for originality. Attempts at thoughtful lyrics by Dreng, such as the limp lines 'I don't hate people in love/ They just make me... give up', came off sounding like weak, adolescent yearnings best kept in the sanctity of a teenager's bedroom.

Despite the disappointment we felt at the gig, the audience responded enthusiastically. Dreng are currently receiving attention from NME, not to

mention praise given from recently resigned shadow cabinet MP Tom Watson. Tom Watson, though, is clearly no music guru. Dreng's newfound popularity seems to be a product of the hype machine, where newness is considered a commodity. We have no feelings of malice towards Dreng, only a disappointment in the band's music – ultimately, the songs just don't cut it. Right on, brother!

For more information about the Get It Loud In Libraries initiative and to book tickets for future gigs in Lancaster Library, visit their website: <http://www.getitloudinlibraries.com>.



# SCAN INTERVIEWS: Editors

Established in 2002, English alternative rock band Editors have recently released their fourth album, *The Weight of Your Love*, which has made it to the top ten in the UK. The band consists of frontman Tom Smith, bassist Russell Leetch, drummer Ed Lay and two new members Elliott Williams and Justin Lockey. Comment Editor **Julia Molloy** caught up with Elliott Williams to talk about the band’s new album and tour.

**You released your fourth studio album, ‘The Weight of Your Love’, in July. What can fans expect from the new album?**

I think it’s grander than anything the band has done before really. There’s a lot more orchestra, more dynamics in it, including stuff like strings and horns which may have been used before but not really to the same effect I guess. It has a lot bigger sound than previous albums.

**You’ve already released two singles, ‘A Ton of Love’ and ‘Formaldehyde’, and are set to release ‘Honesty’ as the third in November. Can you tell me a little bit about why you chose these songs as the singles?**

The first track is called ‘A Ton of Love’, and I think when we started playing that one in the rehearsal room, it just felt straight away like ‘this is the first single’ I guess. That one definitely felt like it had the feeling of what we were looking for. The last record came out quite a few years ago, so we were looking for a bit of snap. ‘Formaldehyde’ seemed like the right way to go after that. It’s quite an up-tempo, poppy little number. The next one is ‘Honesty’, which was quite an overblown moment in the studio. It’s a bit like a rock opera!

**Yes, ‘Honesty’ is one of my favourites on the album! You’re**

**currently on tour as well – how are fans receiving the new album?**

They’ve been great. You’re never sure how it’s going to go down really, but they’ve been very supportive so far. There’s definitely a new fan-base which is coming up as well, which is amazing for a band. A lot of other bands are coming on board as well which is great.

**You also did four big festivals over the summer, including Glastonbury. Why did you decide to do this?**

You never really turn it down when you get offered it, that’s for sure. It was amazing. It has such a heritage and it’s always such a privilege to play there. Even just to be able to go, not just as a band but for the show itself. For me, out of all the British gigs, it feels like the biggest moment. You always want to play Glastonbury!

**The band has gone through a lot of change over the past couple of years, with Chris (Urbanowicz, lead guitarist) leaving and yourself and Justin becoming new members. Do you think this has affected the direction the band has taken?**

I think inevitably yes. It’s always going to have an impact, especially when there are two people coming

into a band. I think the initial way they were trying to do this record before with Chris was very much in the same vein. They wanted to go back to guitar as well as adding in the bigger sounds, but I don’t think they could make it work with Chris really. I think me and Justin have definitely come in and put our own spin on stuff, but I think the motivation for the sound of the album was there in the beginning anyway.

**Can you tell me a little about how you came to be a part of Editors?**

I’ve known the guys for a while actually. I was in a band before called Airship and we used to tour with these guys. They rang me out of the blue, and initially they said it was one big show they were doing in Belgium. I said I’d do it, and we went through it in rehearsal room together. It kind of grew organically from there I guess which is the best way, and yeah, here I am.

**Was it nerve-racking at all to be asked to do such a big show?**

The initial thing was very daunting because it was a massive festival for them and I’ve never done anything like that before. It definitely was intimidating, but when we got into the rehearsal room together, it was just five guys in a room making music and that’s what I do. It’s been great.

**What inspired you to play music for a living? Is it always something you’ve wanted to do?**

Yeah, ever since I was a kid really. I used to listen to Michael Jackson, since I was about seven, and from that point I just fell in love with all aspects of music. When I was twelve or thirteen I started playing guitar, and that was it from there really.

**Is there any advice you’d like to give to budding musicians?**

The best advice I can give is work hard; you have to perfect your craft. Music is a gift and a talent, but 90% of that is hard work. You have to keep trying, so if you’re a songwriter you have to keep writing songs constantly. That’s what I’d say to all bands – just keep writing songs!

**What’s next for the band after the tour?**

We’re going to tour for a while, a bit more next year. I think we’ve all had such a great experience putting this record together that we’d like to get back into the studio as quickly as possible really, and hopefully we can keep the vibe going.

*The Weight of Your Love is out now.*

# Deaf Havana @ Manchester Academy

**Holly Catherall**

Picture the scene; it’s nine fifteen, the dim lights cease along with the pre-gig banter, plunging us into darkness. The low ceiling and black walls seem to be contracting, pushing and pulling the zealous crowd closer. Seconds of anticipatory silence linger until the lights raise once again, met with howls of excitement from revved up fans. Feet scuffle, smiles widen, breath is held. That’s when Elvis Presley’s Teddy Bear kicks in.

**These guys know how to make an entrance because everyone loves a teddy bear!**

The six Norfolk-born lads saunter onstage modestly waving and smiling at the uncontrollably eager fan-girls and boys who make up the crowd, cheers of excitement bounce from the walls of the packed Academy and the six still look cool as cucumbers. There is no need to for these fellas to introduce themselves. Anyone interested in British rock will know this band.

**Ladies and gentleman, meet Deaf Havana.**

Since 2005, when Deaf Havana formed with the original members meeting on King’s Lynn campus of the College of West Anglia, they have self-produced a number of EP’s and have just released their third studio album, *Old Souls*. The band, consisting of James Veck-Gilodi (vocals and guitar), brother Matthew Veck-Gilodi (backing vocals and guitar), Chris Pennels (guitar), Lee Wilson (bass), Tom Ogden (drums) and Max Britton (keys), have been grafting away in the underground rock scene for countless years, met with little critical recognition and disappointing show turnouts. Despite this disappointment, spirits were never broken, only tested at times. Their determination and valour was finally met with truly deserved success when they finally broke into the mainstream with their single Friends Like These in 2009. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Each album presents a fresh collection of songs, lyrically, vocally and instrumentally, as since *Meet Me*

*Halfway, At Least* much has changed for the band. Then-frontman Ryan Mellor (who provided screamed vocals) departed leaving James to lead, if somewhat involuntarily. However shocking Mellor’s departure was to fans, for the band it was inevitable. The identity struggle was palpable with the lads feeling they needed to retain the scuzzed-up, punk rock sound to accommodate Mellor’s vocal style. Post-Mellor, however soul-crushed fans felt, Deaf Havana’s sound adopted a decidedly more melodic approach which has

the emotionally resonant lyrics and rip-roaring sound renders this an instant classic. Safe to say, everyone goes mental likely to have heard this before when Zane Lowe premiered it in May 2013. The lads ooze cool and their humbleness is profound. James sincerely thanks everything for coming (“it means more than you will ever know”) and in true Deaf Havana style shouts “cheers!” proceeding to down a can of cider. The set-list presents a delectable combination of songs from their newest album and second album *Fools and Worthless*

promote good, honest music”. They recognise the dominant band image culture of the 21st century music scene, where often image is given prominence over instrumental and lyrical style, but allow their music to speak for itself. Their utterly sincere bouts of appreciation towards the fans reiterate the emphasis on honest, inspirational music:

**“We are a band who appreciate it so much and I think so many bands these days are too f\*\*\*\*\* cool...to show their fans appreciation. And obviously the lead singer is a fat bloke with long hair, to my right [gestures to Matthew] we’ve got Long John Silver here and Tom Ogden looks like a cheese string with arms and legs so...we ‘aint cool whether we like it or not so we have to say thank you!”**

This easy-going manner is positively refreshing. The confidence in their music means they are able to play popular rock numbers such as The World Or Nothing with an acoustic edge; slower tempo and exotic drumbeat from Matthew included. Alternating the deliverance of popular numbers seemingly adds another string to the bow. Attending this gig has cemented for me how comfortable and confident Deaf Havana have become, flourishing in their rightful place. I finally feel they are delivering the message they’ve been relentlessly in search of. Their exuberance only indulges fans who chant and stamp for an encore after the band exit stage. As gig-tradition allows, they re-enter performing three additional songs including recent single Mildred. A final ‘thanks’ is given, reminding me of James’s answer to the most rewarding part:

“One hundred per cent when people come up to you (and genuinely mean it) saying ‘this song helped me through this’...it’s the only reason I write music.”

This absolutely demonstrates the wonderful and genuine give-and-take mentality between audience and artist that is so unique with Deaf Havana. You’ve thoroughly impressed me, well done lads.



completely flourished and matured with *Old Souls* presenting influence from artists like The Smiths and Bruce Springsteen. When I asked James in my interview what the dream was for Deaf Havana, he simply replied:

“Nothing really. Back then I just wanted to do a good cover of a Fall Out Boy song...I had no expectations whatsoever! We literally started it because we were so bored and had nothing else to do!”

**And man, all the people here are absolutely glad there was nothing to do in Hunstanton!**

Boston Square kicks things off;



# Review: Thor - The Dark World

Jane Hodgkiss

[Warning: minor spoilers ahead]

After the success of Iron Man 3 (it's currently the highest grossing film of 2013), there isn't much Marvel can do wrong when it comes to films starring the Avengers. So when the much anticipated second instalment of Thor was announced, fans like myself were excited to see what the Norse Demi-God and his brother Loki (the villain from 2012's Avengers Assemble) had been up to since the events of New York.

And fans were not disappointed.

For those of you who haven't seen the first Thor movie, I would recommend watching it first just because it is a great movie. For those of you who don't have the time, all you need to know is that it's based on Norse mythology and mainly set in the kingdom of Asgard. We are introduced to Thor as an arrogant – but extremely good looking – Demi-God who defied his father in order to go into battle with the monstrous frost giants. This, of course, goes horribly wrong

and he is banished to Earth until he is worthy to possess the mythical Mjöl-nir (his hammer). There he meets Jane Foster (Natalie Portman), an astrophysicist investigating mysterious patterns in New Mexico (which are being caused by Mjöl-nir's arrival), her mentor, Erik Selvig (Stellan Skarsgård) and her intern, Darcy Lewis (Kat Dennings). The government organisation S.H.I.E.L.D then get involved and Thor's (adopted) brother Loki plots to get rid of Thor once and for all.

Thor 2 kicks off with a quick history in Norse mythology, introducing the new characters and weapons seamlessly and allowing anyone who hadn't seen the previous Avengers films to become comfortable in a matter of minutes. Then follows an update on Jane Foster (Natalie Portman) and her life since the first Thor film, where she was introduced as a love interest to the main character. You can't help but be awed by her badass scientist character who is now based in London and is desperately trying to find Thor after their separation in the last film. We then switch to the kingdom of Asgard, and find Thor (Chris Hemsworth) is also pin-ing over his lost love and ignoring Odin's wishes for him to forget about

Jane and move on. Enter the Dark Elves, led by the evil Malekith (Christopher Eccles-ton) who seeks revenge on Asgard after they defeated his army and hid the mysterious Aether (similar to the Tesseract from the previous Thor film) where the Dark Elves would not be able to find it. Until now, of course. From thereon, the audience are treated to amazing special effects, astounding acting and awesome action scenes.

One thing that really makes Thor 2 great is the humour involved.

There is a particularly endearing scene where Thor arrives at Jane's apartment in London and hangs Mjöl-nir up on the clothes hook. There's also hilarious cameos and a lot of sassy banter between Loki and Thor, which really captures bickering siblings quite well. Another high point of the film is the look of it. By that I mean the visual effects are stunning, particularly for the Aether and Asgard. The make-up and costumes are also incredible, especially for the Dark Elves. Christopher Eccleston is almost unrecognisable with his elfish

ears and icy blue eyes. The Asgard-ian clothes are also spectacular, and definitely draw you into the fantasti-cal kingdom.

Overall, I would definitely recom-mend you watch this film as it's suit-able for many different tastes; you could take your significant other or your parents and both would enjoy it.



# Banksy: The US invasion

Anna Meng

This past October, pseudonymous British artist Banksy took to the streets of NYC. Every day, locals and tourists scoured the streets to discover everything from stencilled graffiti to larger than life statues and moving installations. The often dark and characteristically satirical works received mixed reactions. Created right under the noses of the NYPD who remained none-the-wiser, Banksy continued to use his art to criticize the government's labelling of graffiti as vandalism.

On October 13th, Banksy set up a stall in Central Park. Advertised simply as 'spray art,' authentic signed Banksy pieces were sold for \$60 each. In a video posted on the artist's blog, an older man is shown making his first sale to a woman who negoti-ates a 50% discount when buying two small pictures for her children. A tourist from New Zealand buys two additional canvasses and a man from Chicago who has just moved houses buys four.

What made Banksy \$420 in a day collectively made these unsuspecting people an estimated \$160,000 richer. Perhaps ironically, artists selling similar graffiti art with a 'certificate of inauthenticity' in the same spot a few days later sold out in less than an

hour. When a replica of the Sphinx of Giza appeared in Queens on Octo-ber 22nd and was confirmed to be authentic, the man who found it sold

residents of the area were demand-ing pay-per-view. In the Bronx, own-ers of the building featuring Banksy's 'Ghetto 4 Life' piece have seen it pro-ected by a sheet of glass and a roll-



Image courtesy of CC

individual bricks for \$100 each be-fore claiming it as his own and tak-ing it. In East New York, graffiti art aficionados found the little beaver they were attempting to view covered by a piece of cardboard. The poorer

down gate. In yet another exhibit, stuffed ani-mals in a slaughterhouse delivery truck toured the meatpacking dis-trict. Entitled 'Sirens of the Lambs,' the piece was accompanied by an au-

dio guide. In an attempt to follow it, one hopeful person attached a track-ing device. Unfortunately this was discovered and the artist attached the tracker to a car service in Queens. A second delivery truck, grimy and covered in graffiti had its interior transformed into an unnatural mo-bile garden, including a rainbow, wa-terfall and butterflies.

The most controversial work of all was arguably his rejected op-ed piece for the New York Times. Paired with graffiti in Greenpoint reading 'this site contains blocked messag-es,' Banksy writes that 'the biggest eyesore in New York is not the graffi-ti, it's under construction at ground zero.' This has caused outrage espe-cially amongst the American press.

Yet what makes Banksy's residency in NYC so significant is more than just the often wry and more important-ly, apt message of his works. With something as public as street art, it is the interactions with and reac-tions of the people that contribute to making the meaning complete. From tourists venturing onto obscure, un-familiar terrain for a glimpse, locals seizing opportunities to make profit, those that disregard it completely to the NYPD reviewing security camera footage: Banksy manages to make a caricature of the personality of an en-tire city.

# A very British Bake-Off

Jane Hodgkiss

The nation's obsession with all things baked and all things British has reached a new high. The Great British Bake Off final was aired on the 22nd of October and a whopping eight million viewers tuned in to see if Ruby, Frances or Kimberly would take the baking crown. Being the current eleventh most viewed show on BBC iPlayer only confirms its popularity with the British public, and the show has just announced its return next summer for a fifth season - this cooking show does not have a soggy bottom.

But what is it about The Great British Bake Off that attracts such a wide audience? As a nation we are good at baking. Witness the Bakewell tart, the Victoria sponge, the apple pie or even the great pork pie. We are British, and we love our British food.

Tears flowed and teeth flashed as competitors were 'Hollywood-ed', arguably the equivalent of being 'Cowell-ed' in the X Factor. His piercing blue eyes fixed the

contestants and they waited with baited breath to discover whether it was a thumbs up or a thumbs down. Contrast his approach with that

of the lovely Mary Berry, the nation's baking fairy Grandmother, and you have the perfect ingredients for a deliciously addictive show.

The element of competition and the scope for supporting the underdog sits well with the British psyche. We are a nation which adorns houses and pubs with flags and banners when the world cup comes around, and actually gets excited about the Eurovision Song Contest, despite the likelihood of achieving zero. This

outlook may therefore be the reason why almost seven million viewers tuned in every Tuesday to watch the Bake Off and why it was the

most watched show on BBC two for eleven weeks.

Every episode, the contestants knelt, as if in worship, before their ovens, gazing intently through the doors as if willing their bakes to achieve perfection.

Each week, they baked to a theme for three rounds which were the signature bake, the technical challenge and the showstopper round. The signature bake round required contestants to use a specific skill based around



a theme, for example, biscuits. But these weren't just any old biscuits! Contestants fought for a place in the next round with millionaire banoffee buns, apricot and pistachio tiffin and chocolate, cherry and hazelnut brownies. In the feared technical challenge, a basic recipe of Paul or Mary's was provided, giving the participants limited instructions for a usually complex bake with no cooking times and no pictures or indication of what the finished product would look like. The showstopper gave the contestants free rein to demonstrate their skills and creativity. Final products included a Dalek made of biscuits (from biscuit week), a Paul the psychic octopus tribute loaf (from bread week), and a sheet music mille-feuille (from pastry week). The final last Tuesday saw the remaining three contestants making three-tier wedding cakes from scratch in six hours, a challenge that would be daunting even for highly skilled, full time bakers. Forget the Olympics, this competition has it all, from tray bakes to tears and Victoria sponge to victory.

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# Put down the razor, it's **MOVEMBER**

Erik Apter  
Sport Editor



As Autumn comes to an end and the nights become longer for the winter period, men around the world count down the final days of October in preparation for the manliest of all months, Movember.

**Beards will be shaved, money will be raised and girlfriends will be just a little bit pissed off.**

For anybody who doesn't know, Movember is a charity set up to raise money for testicular and prostate cancer awareness, by promoting participants to grow their finest moustache throughout November. Men gain sponsorship through grooming and tending to their facial artwork, encouraging friends and family to donate money throughout the month in honour of their masculine endeavour.

Moustaches of all shapes and sizes are encouraged, whether it be the gentlemanly handlebar or the well-groomed bat-wing; the main aim is raising money for a worthwhile cause. The success of Movember stems from man's intrinsic need to be better than everyone else; invaluable

but ultimately irredeemable "man points" are awarded from fellow men to those seen to have facial hair worthy of accolade. Growing a full moustache from nothing in just a month personifies all that is manly, combining two of men's three favourite things: competition and being manlier than your mates.

For some (like me) however, Movember can be a month of frustration. Whilst others around you grow majestic constructions of masculinity, above your lips is a pathetic, wispy assortment of curly hairs.

**Alas, the genetic pool cannot be so kind to everyone, as my current moustache-growing potential is around that of a pre-pubescent fourteen year old boy.**

I, however, remain hopeful that one day my Movember will come.

The origins of Movember are obscure; it started as far back as 2003 in Australia when two mates had the idea of growing moustaches for charity. According to the official site: "The two friends decided to talk their mates into growing a Mo. Inspired by a friend's mother who was fundraising for breast cancer, they decided to make the campaign about men's health and prostate

cancer. They designed rules and guidelines for Movember (which are still in place today) and agreed to charge ten dollars to grow a Mo."

The success of the charity continues to grow dramatically from the 30 men that participated in 2003; the 10-year anniversary will see Movember aim to top the massive £92million it raised in 2012. Since the addition of a strong online presence, Movember has added further dimensions to its cause. It now allows people to become heavily involved via the website, letting interested parties browse through "Mo Space" and find worthy moustaches they might like to donate to.

The further expansion of the website and its promotion is what has allowed Movember to become huge. Although it was just a novel idea at first, the exposure to social media means the cause becomes drastically bigger each year. The charity now encourages schools and campuses to sign up and get people within both to compete against each other in raising the most money possible, by growing the finest moustache possible.

The huge impact of Movember has also seen the charity expand its reach beyond just testicular and prostate cancer.



**The site now actively promotes the fight against mental health issues (especially among men) as well as being one of the few leading lights in men's health charities.**

Long may the success of Movember continue; the promotion of facial hair for a worthwhile cause is a fantastic way of enthusing millions of people to not only raise and give money to charity, but to take men's health problems seriously.

**The fact it allows men to champion their own masculinity in a positive way is an added bonus, and until somebody invents "Cocktober", Movember will be the ultimate way to prove you're a man for a good cause.**



Photo courtesy of analoxotl



# Is there a hierarchy between degrees?

By Philippa Hawley

University is the place to go to further your education in a particular field and become a specialist in that certain subject. Yet more and more universities around the country are offering this specialist education for, let's say, quite untraditional subjects.

It's gone from studying Maths or Politics to the recent 'David Beckham studies'.

After doing some research, I found some hilarious courses that universities were offering, including New York's Alfred University module: "Maple Syrup-The Real Thing", which looks into the production process of syrup and how it hasn't changed throughout the years.

What degree this counts towards I do not know, but I dread to think.

Yet I did happen to find one course which was particularly amusing, that is New Jersey Rutger's degree in "Politicizing Beyonce". The intention of this is that it "will allow fans and pop-culture vultures to explore the 30-year-old Single Ladies singer's alter ego Sasha Fierce, and debate the extent of control she has over her own image". When it's put like that it does sound quite fancy and kind of intelligent, yet we all know that - however much you know about Beyonce and her empowering routines - it is hardly going to put you at the top of the employer's list (that is unless an improbability occurs and Beyonce herself is your boss). Such degrees have earned themselves the title of 'Mickey Mouse' degrees, rendering them trivial and amateurish.

However, does this attitude lend itself to other degrees as well?

Stereotypically, people tend to view artsy subjects in this way, believing that Theatre, Music, and Fine Art should also belong in this category.

And, of course, if you tell anyone that you're doing a History, Geography, or Philosophy degree you tend to be greeted with "So what's that going to get you then?" As a History and Philosophy student myself, this can be very frustrating at times. Whilst management school students will have a wider choice of careers to go into, this should not take away from any art student's hard work. After all, we all had to put a vast amount of effort into actually get into this university, we all went through the same process and we all worked hard to get the same grades. So where did this communal feeling of a degree hierarchy generate?

A degree in the arts is definitely not lesser than any other

degree, but perhaps people view it in a pejorative manner because (and I'm not saying this is certain) they seem to be subjects everyone always enjoyed throughout secondary education. But whilst some continued this enjoyment, bravely opting for a degree in a field that may not have a promising future, others went for degrees that are generally seen as more employable. Yet I for one would much rather learn about WWI than fight my way through an accounting and finance test. However, different people enjoy different things, so who are we to say that one is more difficult than another. Arts students may find it harder to find a job, as it is such a competitive career to get into, but everyone has to start somewhere and somebody has to make it, so surely the logical thing to start with is a degree in that field. Business and scientific students have to do that exact thing too, and without your degree it's going to take a whole lot longer to get onto that first step of the

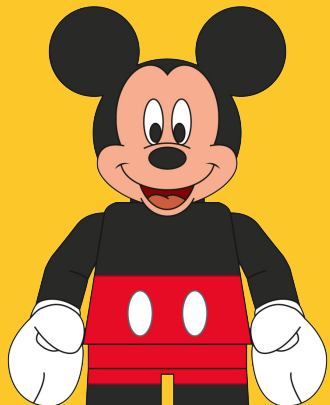
metaphorical career ladder.

Let's face it, whilst engineering and business students will land jobs in big firms and no doubt earn lots of cash, it cannot be forgotten that people who study some form of art or humanity degree will be a crucial part of your life.

Writing what you read in the newspaper, teaching your children and even designing the very chair you're sitting on. By this, I am not at all doubting the purpose of traditional subjects either; all of these traditional degrees are needed otherwise they wouldn't have been offered for so long. But the creative subjects are an equal necessity to life, just as much as the traditional ones. Granted, a good essay can't exactly save someone from a critical injury, just as a wonderful piece of music can't exactly build a plane or sort out your finances. But a life without all things imaginative, in my opinion, would be a dull place to be.

To quote ABBA "what would life be, without a song or a dance, what are we?"

So please, let's end the prejudices and lay off the arts and humanities students. University degrees can and do complement each other as well-established courses and, no matter what they are, deserve credit. It is better to call a course a 'Mickey mouse' course when it actually is one. After all, there probably is a 'Disney Studies' on offer somewhere.



# The great food throwaway

Bryony Seager

Last week Tesco revealed that, in the first six months of this year, they'd thrown away up to thirty-thousand tonnes of food.

In my mind this is a huge and extravagant waste; it's not just the food from the shelves that gets binned, but think about all the resources that went into getting the food that far, that have also gone to waste. An interesting thing to remember as well is that by the time fresh produce has reached the supermarket shelves, up to a quarter of it has already been discarded because it didn't "look right"; yes apparently there is now a beauty standard for potatoes.

So what can be done to cut down on such waste? Clearly we can't tackle the big supermarkets and their issues, but we can do little things once we've purchased our food to ensure that the minimum goes in the bin. Supposedly one third of everything we put in our fridge ends up in the rubbish; here are some tips to help you cut down on that waste of food, and, of course, money.

First off - and this is a very obvious one - use your senses.

Smell it, touch it and even taste a tiny bit of whatever you think might be passed its sell by date. If it doesn't smell mouldy, look mouldy or taste bad then it's probably okay. If it's fresh produce and it's started to look a bit bad you can probably cut the bad bits off and still get away with it. A tip for getting fresh fruit and veg to last a bit longer is to take it out of the plastic packaging it inevitably comes swathed in when you buy it. This allows for moisture to escape from the produce, which means it's likely to stay fresh for

longer. If, however, your fresh things have been rolling around in your fridge for a bit too long and you have no idea what to do with them, a good idea is to make home-made vegetable soup! It's getting colder in Lancaster now, so if you throw your veg in a pot with some stock and make soup, you can freeze it in zip lock bags for when winter really sets in.

Another tip to bear in mind is to test your eggs if they have gone past their use-by date.

Get a glass and fill it with water, and gently place the egg into it; if the egg sinks it's fine, if it floats then it's gone off and you'll need to chuck it. It is worth testing all the eggs in the box and not just assuming that because one is bad then they all will be. One more good trick to remember is that you can make bread that might be slightly on the stale side more edible by putting a little bit of water over the top of the bread - so it soaks past the crust - and then baking it at a high temperature for about ten minutes; it should then be okay to eat. Just remember if you do utilise the bread trick then it must be eaten there and then; you can't really store it any-more otherwise it really will go off.

It's also worth remembering that most dates on packaging, especially 'display-until' dates are there to cover the supermarkets to the nth degree.



Most of them are totally irrelevant to whether the food is actually bad or not, so it's important that you don't just chuck stuff the second the date has gone past. Remember to check it and you'll ultimately save yourself a lot of time schlepping around the shops and probably quite a bit of money additionally.

# HOW TO: Cope with the death of a pet

Jessica Kadel  
Features Editor



Whether you want to do this or not, it will be inevitable. Everything you come across will remind you of said pet, as if strategically placed there by some sadistic force. Stop trying to be a tough nut and just allow the tears to flow, blame it on onions, shampoo in the eye, or even the Lancastrian wind.

Once it is all out of your system, use it to your advantage.

Is this morally wrong? Perhaps. Did it help me? Definitely.

It's ridiculous the amount of times I used the "dead cat card" to get out of doing the dishes, to get free drinks at Spoons, and to eat the last muffin. As horrible as the situation may be, every cloud has its silver lining, and this



is yours. Use it to your advantage. Allow yourself the time to relax; have naps, postpone the diet, and watch so much Breaking Bad you forget where you are. You're allowed at least a week to be as lethargic and repellent as you want, without judgement from your fellow flatmates.

Last but not least, embrace the acceptance stage, as you cannot continue self-pitying forever. Make a proud mini memorial in your room for your four-legged friend with no fear of looking like a cat spinster, and appreciate the fact they are (hopefully) in "a better place", with their other pet pals.

Finally, just try to get on with your tedious daily chores without sobbing every time an O2 advert comes on.

Cry like a baby.



# My studying abroad experience

Mathew Gillings

It seems to be an opportunity too good to miss, doesn't it?

You're taking the plunge, going outside your comfort zone, forming hundreds of new relationships, and truly finding yourself in a world of independence and responsibility. For the very first time, you have the opportunity to fully immerse yourself in a whole new culture, learn the local practices, and make life-long friends on this once-in-a-lifetime trip. Studying abroad really does look pretty awesome, but then again, I turned down the opportunity this summer, and feel no regrets in the slightest.

Lancaster University appealed to me because of its study abroad curriculum, which allowed you to integrate the year abroad into the three-year programme, meaning you had the best of both worlds. Lancaster University's International Office really is something to be commended.

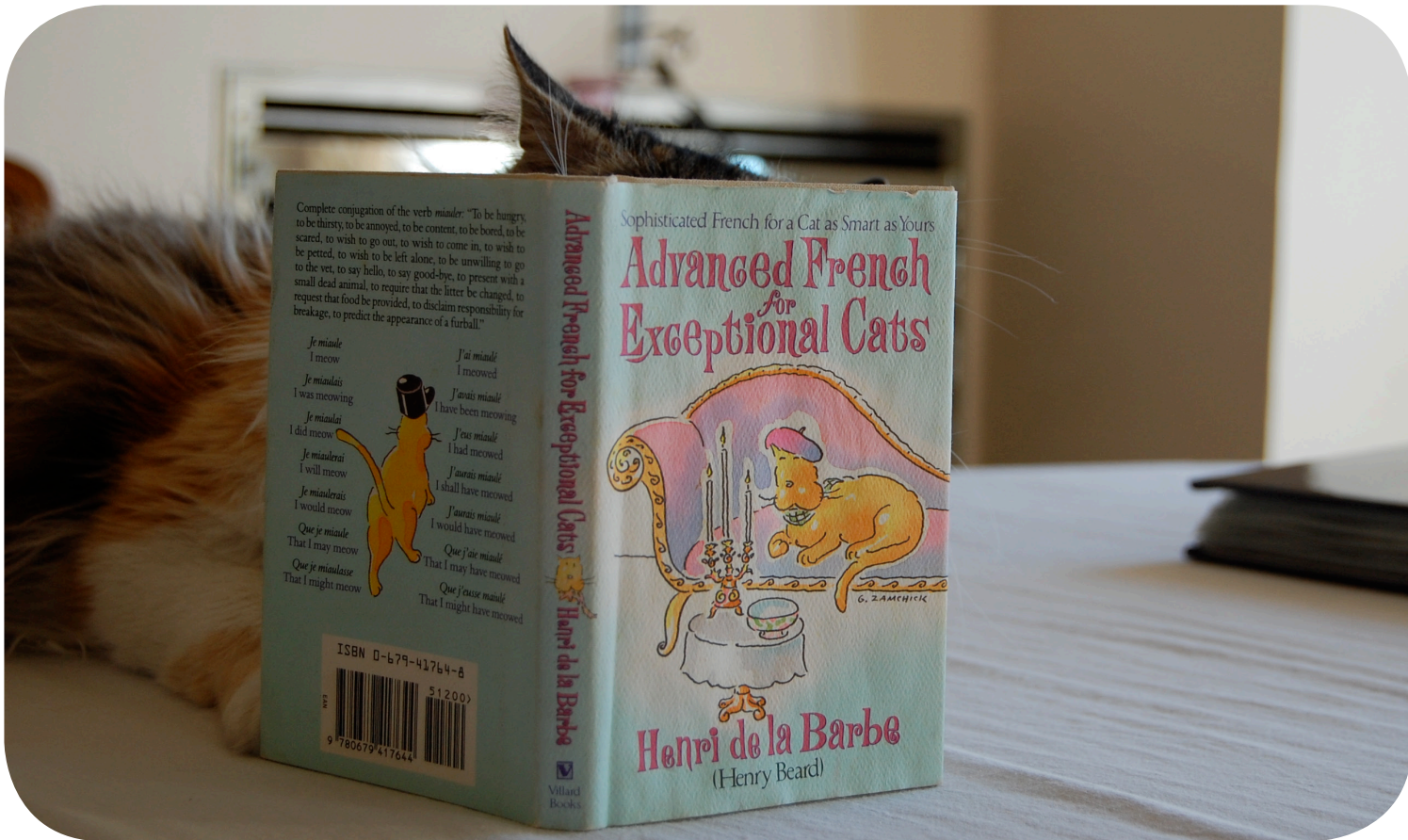
The wide majority of students at Lancaster have the opportunity to study abroad. The university works on an exchange programme, whereby they simply swap students with host universities overseas. Once the International Office knows how many students will be visiting Lancaster, the places are allocated to the different departments here. Some people will have enrolled at the university on a study abroad scheme, which means they are given automatic priority over anyone else. Others can simply sign up once here, although competition is fierce; last year's intake was the highest ever.

Logistically, it's a feasible opportunity for everyone.

Those studying in Europe on the Erasmus scheme will be eligible for grants and bursaries to cover the wide majority of costs. Those wanting to go further afield, however, will generally find themselves paying slightly more. Whilst tuition fees are halved (you only pay £4,500 to Lancaster), students must consider the cost of flights, books, visas, health insurance, etc. Naturally, the International Office makes you aware of absolutely everything.

Anyone who has spent the year overseas will inevitably vouch that it's a huge confidence booster.

Having the ability to pack up and place yourself in an unknown envi-



ronment (with completely new people) takes an incredible amount of gut. Plus, not only does having two universities on your CV look awesome, but people going abroad will develop a more sophisticated outlook on the world, and will therefore understand cultural values a lot deeper. Employers are looking for things that make you stand out, and having the knowledge and experience of other cultures can demonstrate flexibility and willingness.

But then again, it's certainly not something to rush in to. In my case, I found myself flying out to the University of New Hampshire in the USA this summer, intending to spend the year enjoying the sights and smells of New England. In the end, I ultimately decided that the experience really wasn't for me. Of course, this is by no means a bad reflection on my host university or Lancaster's International Office; it was a personal decision influenced by a wide array of reasons. In that respect, it's probably quite appropriate to offer a few tips, and attempt to point out some interesting differences between studying in the two cultures.

Firstly, upon arriving at your host university, you will undoubtedly experience culture shock.

This is something I never expected; I've been to the United States dozens of times, and I assumed these visits would put me in relatively good stead. Unfortunately, this wasn't the case - I was four-thousand miles

away from home, and I felt ill each and every day.

Most people tend to recover from culture shock relatively quickly, but I just seemed to have more issues. Once classes started, I was surprised by the intensity. One of my courses was much more advanced than my advisor and I were expecting. I was thrust into a classroom with seniors who had been studying the subject for four years - my introductory module at Lancaster didn't quite cut it. Another class wasn't really appropriate for my degree scheme - I was looking to explore child language acquisition, but instead it was more focused on childcare.

The structure of teaching as a whole is very different in a US university; in fact, it reminded me of sixth form.

In the first class of term, students are issued a syllabus, containing absolutely everything listed side-by-side. Students had to submit drafts for essays that weren't due until December. There were chapter summaries due each week, along with assignments, quizzes, mid-terms, and finals. This immense structure was a polar opposite to the independence we receive back here in the UK - it was no longer my preferred style of study, I much prefer to manage my own time.

As for living conditions, I was living in university halls, and sadly the corridors resembled some kind of prison block, complete with large black doors down each side, acting as the entrance to our cells.

Don't get me wrong, my room felt very homely after I'd unpacked my

suitcase and done a spot of decorating, but the first impression was downright depressing. I also had a shared bathroom, which was used by around twenty freshmen on my floor; it consisted of two toilets and two shower cubicles. There's no ensuite in the US.

Essentially, what I'm trying to say is that students potentially wanting to study abroad should expect huge changes.

I've wanted to do it for absolutely years, but in the end, it turns out that I wasn't suited to the lifestyle. Potential students should research their courses in depth (even if it means emailing professors each day), pay that little bit extra for the best accommodation (we've been spoilt in Lancaster), and then truly get involved with absolutely everything that comes your way. Surround yourself with new people, and have the time of your life.

Despite heading home after a matter of weeks, I don't regret the experience in the slightest.

Studying abroad does offer a wealth of benefits, but you need to enjoy the whole package to truly make it work.

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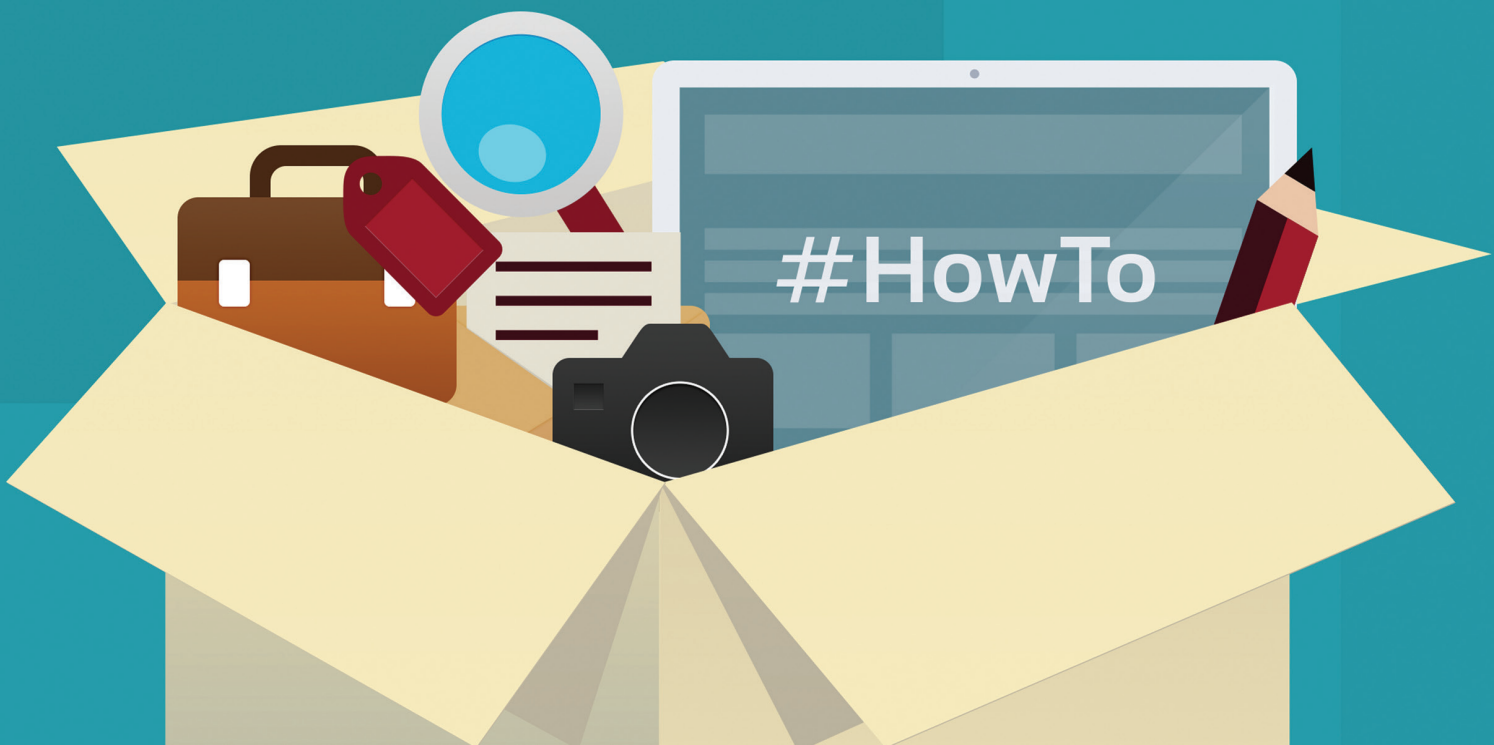


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# The fashion industry & the ‘perfect’ figure

Bryony Seager

What does it mean to be beautiful? This is a question that the world of fashion seems to have been trying to answer for us since time began – whether we go back fifty years or five hundred years – there has always been something that is in vogue. People spend millions trying to attain these supposed images of perfection, and it isn’t just money that gets spent; some people forfeit their health as well.

*Fashion is a beautiful thing*

- whether it be the sumptuous couture dresses you see from Dior, or the faces that grace the covers of various magazines every month; but at what cost do others try to attain this? By the time a girl is eighteen she will have seen, consciously or not, millions and millions of images pertaining to tell her how she should look. Whether it’s in an overt way, such as an article declaring a size 12 celebrity has been called overweight, or whether it’s more subtle such as the gorgeous ad campaigns for Ralph Lauren showing ladies with waists so tiny you could put your hands around them; there is always some image of perfection.

This ideal of perfection affects both women inside and outside of the industry. Inside, models supposedly have a shelf life of about five years – they’re considered old if they’re over twenty-five. Some do make it further, such as Kate Moss or Naomi Campbell, but they are a rarity – it seems that youth is everything. As well as age being a factor, of course the other major issue is weight, with sample sizes from designers being in UK sizes 2,4, and 6, there is little room for anything close to a curvaceous model. There have been plenty of stories fly about of models who are already scarily thin, being told to lose weight otherwise they would be dropped from their management label. It’s almost terrifying that it’s gotten to that stage – at what point does one step back, within the industry and say; that’s too thin/unhealthy?

Of course outside the industry it’s different but we are obviously influenced by what happens; the ideals of perfection trickle down the adverts,

catwalk shows, clothing sizes (which never seem to be the same from month to month). When do we draw the line and realize that not only is it impossible to look perfect all the time, but that the pursuit of it can lead to an unhealthy and stressful lifestyle?

Don’t get me wrong, I’m not trying to make fashion into some kind of demon that should be avoided at all costs; as I mentioned before, the beauty of it is something I love. I have an intense appreciation of the designs and the hard work that goes into them; the way I feel when I’ve saved up for a designer jacket and knowing that it’s going to last me years; or even just looking at photographs of shoots done in far off regions. Fashion is a unique industry and it does have a lot of perils and pitfalls. To a certain extent the industry should have a sense of social responsibility – for example, lots of modeling agencies won’t hire anybody under the age of sixteen for adult clothing shoots, - but also we, as consumers of fashion, should be aware of what is trying to be sold; it isn’t called an industry for nothing. Fashion can change people’s sense of perspective on the world; so much so that we are now delighted and equally horrified when a magazine pertains to show celebrities ‘sans make-up’.

Maybe we should take a step back and wonder why we are so drawn in by this, why it is necessary to hanker after perfection, and at what point we are going to draw our own line on what is healthy and right for ourselves as individuals.



Danté Szafranski

What does it mean to be desirable? This is a question that the fashion industry raises not only for women but men also. The female side of the industry is the one that steals the headlines and the public’s imagination who regard the industry’s image as being negative upon the minds of women, but what about the impact on men?

In this century we live in the age of the metrosexual; a time where men are just as concerned with their appearance than women are. The male fashion industry has grown exponentially in the past decade; a little research illuminating the fact that male beauty products have leapt 30 percent in this time frame.

With such a leap comes more exposure and advertising ‘dictating’ what the modern man should look like and with this, the inevitable side effects that haunt the female fashion industry.

For women, the main issues at hand are the idealised weight and body image the fashion industry demands and the airbrushing, both of which provide a portrayal of a near unattainable modern woman.

Both of these issues can also be found in the male industry. Whoever reads this, picture a recent fragrance campaign featuring a man. The most ubiquitous is Dolce & Gabbana’s Light Blue starring David Gandy. It is not difficult to see in your mind’s eye his long, lean, perfectly muscular body which looks like it has been carved out of marble by a Roman sculptor as an offering to the Gods. Its apparent flawlessness is burned into our memories.

Now, think of how many men you know who look like that. Hardly any. This is just one example amongst many and an example of what men the world over are subjected to. I, being a slender male with a high metabolism will most likely never achieve this

‘physical pinnacle’ and such a realization could be a daunting one. If this is what men look like and what is desirable for women, where does that leave me?

It is not difficult to pre-empt the backlash that will come with this comparison and the struggles that women have, but it is an issue that needs to be brought to attention. In the fashion industry, the truth of it is, males are just as objectified as women. In Versace’s 2013 Autumn/Winter campaign, the men in the image are all scantily clad to showcase their impeccably chiselled torsos; their faces are beautiful in their softness and symmetry. This is hardly an accurate representation of men today, yet the numbers show that men are trying desperately to emulate it; whether it be through creams and lotions or plastic surgery (roughly a twenty percent increase in the past decade). Males too suffer from anxiety and low self-esteem; issues and illnesses that dare I say can be worsened by the images that come before their eyes daily from a number of different sources.

In many ways, it is almost worse for men. We all live in world where men are still perceived to be out of touch with their emotions and feelings than women are. Maybe this is why there is such focus on the female industry; women are more open with how the industry makes them feel, whilst men suffer in silence with fear of being marginalised and mocked. I for one do not think that issues for one sex should be championed over another but rather dealt with equally. Both sexes can feel wholly inadequate by the world of images around them, not just women. Advertising for any industry preys on the insecurities of us all in order to sell us a lifestyle we believe we want.

At the end of the day, the fashion industry is what each individual perceives it to be. Personally, I see great beauty in it. I don’t allow it to make me feel inadequate or emasculated because I see it as another person’s manifestation of their imagination. It comes in many forms; the Herculean, the androgynous, the rebel. So when you buy into it as an industry, you should allow your imagination to personally tailor that vision rather than be a slave to it. One shouldn’t take the image as the sole interpretation, but one of many. Create your own interpretation. Fashion has the capacity to transform and make you feel special if you allow it to, or it can cripple your self-esteem.

# How to wear *tricky trends*: Neon

Steph Massheder

Neon fever is back in vogue! Appetising to look at – most definitely! But when my thoughts turn to actually clothing my body in the highlighter hues, I can’t help but feel an overwhelming sense of anxiety! You too? If you haven’t already, been well and truly put off the neon furor – (I wouldn’t blame you if you had!) – then I shall now show you how you can stand out from the crowd, and rock those richly pigmented colours without losing your modesty ... (yes, it is achievable!)

If this article ain’t floating your boat – and, you know, let’s face it, that heap of unfinished seminar



prep isn’t going to complete itself! – then be sure to remember the idiomatic phrase pop of colour! For this is the key to cracking A/W’s trickiest trend. Indeed, you don’t have to look like a banana to be neon’s most distinguished avant-garde artiste! Yes, that’s right! Next time you reach for that classic go-to outfit – mid-wash skinny jeans with a plain-coloured cami – why not spice things up lil’ bit, and accent your look with a brightly coloured, gunmental statement necklace? If your academic perfectionism extends to the realm of student style, then be sure to match your nail paint to the wow-colour of your pendant. Looking colourful has never been so easy! Oh, and you know your time-honoured smock dress, whether it be vintage print or classic black? Well, it won’t be sorry for the addition of a bold, slim waist belt. Neon makes a contemporary cutting-edge upgrade a piece-of-cake!

Of course, you can tackle this tricky trend in even more subtle and unique ways! Instead of your classic silver studs, why not opt for a pair of canary yellow stone drop earrings?

Just sling your hair into a fluffy, loose top knot, and this effortless, I-don’t-care do will instantly reduce the colour impact of your funky ear adornment. As if by magic...

Ever thought of incorporating neon lights into your partaay make-up regime? Well, the next time you pop on your bondage midi skirt, why not dabble with a bright pink or bold orange lipstick to add the icing to that 70s-inspired, glamorous look? Tip: if you apply a moist lip balm beforehand, this will instantly reduce the pigmentation of your lip colour.

If you like to follow the style motto go big or go home, then not to worry, because help is still at hand! Try and think of the neon trend as a bit of a balancing act! So when it comes to rockin’ a flashy cover-up – whether you choose the cable knit or hooded zip form – team your wow-factor piece with an understated

pair of jeans, not forgetting that all-important muted blue or black scarf! Nothing says all-eyes-on-me like an oversized handbag; but if you

you’re a bit of an impulsive trend pioneer, then, please, whatever you do, don’t go and buy the biggest and most blinding coloured bag you can find! Instead, seek out one where the design is infused with a neon thread ... funky but classy!

Of course, if you’re like me, and cannot part with your trusty black or tan tote, then why not accessorise your bag with a neon-inspired charm? Subtle but oh-so-effective!

There you have it, folks! Prized top neon tips that will guarantee to have you looking more angelic and less psychedelic! Okay, I know this one is getting a little bit trite now, but I feel it apt to put it out there as a final instruction to the neon trend: less is definitely more!



# What does your bag say about you?

Georgia Shephard

## 1. The Oversized Bag

It might look like your average shoulder bag but items have been known to go missing in there. You can find books, magazines, make-up, headphones, mints, tissues, pens, but try to find your phone? That’s just near on impossible. If you have one of these you’ll be familiar with the daily internal debate between whether you actually need to take that scarf or if you’re only packing it because it would

be rude not too with so much room.

## 2. The Cambridge Satchel

Trendy and preppy, the perfectly rectangular Cambridge Satchel fits all your books and notepads effortlessly. Hence, why you thought this would be the perfect bag for campus. However, after trying to pack your lunch inside, you quickly discovered the disappointment of squished sandwiches and broken biscuits, making way for your Subway and Gregg’s addiction.

## 3. The Canvas Bag



You care about the earth, not fashion. And if it’s not the earth you care about then you probably just got your canvas bag free at some event during Fresher’s week. Canvas bags are multifunctional and can be used to hold anything, lecture notes and books, Sainsbury’s shopping and even washing on the way to the laundrette. Be warned, you can’t close a canvas bag, so don’t be surprised when you leave a trail of your underwear behind you.

## 4. The Designer Bag

The spine is your runway dahlings. You won’t leave your flat without your beautiful leather bag which you consider your trustiest companion – even your iPhone has a matching designer case. Despite Lancaster’s infamous weather, you have kept your designer bag in mint condition, preferring to shelter in the Library than expose it to the elements.

## 5. The Sports Bag

Bigger than most average sized people, amongst your pens and notepad there is always a spare pair of trainers, a protein shake and a copy of Men’s Health which you read religiously. In between lectures you can be found at the gym in the weights room, your second home.

## 6. The Rucksack

The rucksack, an epidemic spreading fast, is all about practicality. What’s in it? Anything and everything, like a turtle, wearers carry their lives on their back, prepared for whatever Lancaster throws at them. Chances are you have had the same rucksack for years, hence the mystery stains, rips and various badges that cover it.

## 7. The Man Bag

Unlike rucksack wearers, you care a little bit more about style so the man bag (also commonly known as a ‘satchel’) is perfect for you. Your style inspiration is Indiana Jones who taught you how to rock this hands free, relaxed look whilst simultaneously providing you with space to store all your notes.

## 8. The Briefcase

You take university seriously; spending the majority of your time in the Management building you like to consider seminars ‘networking opportunities’. Easy to distinguish by the suit and tie combo you rep daily, you drink your coffee black, have the perfect LinkedIn profile and call your mother each and every night.



# Flashing Flesh: A Fashion Faux Pas?

**Georgina Jones**

Take for a moment the phrase “flashing the flesh”. I have seen it so many times in different magazines and online articles, and although I understand its meaning, I’m always lost by the negative stigma that is attached to it. I have pondered this question many times, because I am honestly not offended by nudity or near-nudity in the fashion industry, and to paint a larger picture, in the music industry either.

As a fashion devotee, I will pour over numerous fashion magazines a month and use internet search engines to satisfy my craving of ‘when this celebrity wore that and where’. There is no denying that showing more and more of one’s skin has become a big part of both the fashion and music industries, and whether you like fashion or music or neither, you will have heard about Miley Cyrus at the VMAs or Rihanna’s

most recent music video for “Pour it up”. They’ve both been labelled “classless”, “tasteless” and ‘trashy’.

Now, I’m not writing this article to ponder over whether it’s trashy or tasteless to dance on Robin Thicke with a foam finger, or dance on a stripper’s pole. I couldn’t care less about that. I do want to talk about the near-nudity, though. The lack of clothing that so fascinates (and disgusts, it seems) many of the more conservative writers and viewers out there.

**Katy Perry has been recently quoted as stating “everyone is getting naked... put it away”.**

It’s generally a known fact of the music, film and fashion industries that ‘sex sells’, and this is something that generally more conservative individuals cling to as a serious

downside. Take, for example, Sinead O’Connor’s open letter to Miley Cyrus, chastising Miley’s management for “prostituting” her to make money. The stigma attached to the naked body is deafening, and it’s something that needs justifying before I can accept it quietly.

Miley was very quick to defend her personal choice to, in no uncertain terms, wear very little clothing. A lot of judgement has passed over Miley for not being a suitable role model for girls anymore and that is something I completely agree with. We should not be teaching young girls that they need to be over-sexualised, but we also shouldn’t be teaching them to hide their body away once they’re older, lest they be called a dreaded s-word.

So why is it that ‘flashing the flesh’ is considered such a risqué term in our society today? Especially when most of the time it’s only when women are exposing some skin. Granted, women spent a long time

required to be covered up, their flesh revealed only to their husbands. However, I am still surprised by a visible need to condemn women who show ‘too much’ skin, even when they work in the fashion industry and it is their job to advertise clothes whether they be limited or not. Take, for instance, the very recent low-cut trend dubbed ‘extreme cleavage’ by the media. Miranda Kerr did it, Cara Delevigne did it, and the majority of people said “that’s too much” and “that’s not classy”. Explain to me, what is classy? Does the amount of flesh you reveal signify you have little money or status, that you belong in a lower class?

Have you ever changed an outfit because you thought you might be judged for its revealing nature? It all comes down to personal choice. We have the choice to cover our bodies in public, and we have the choice to reveal a certain amount of them too. It’s our judgement of other people that we need to re-examine.



# Campus beauty: Concealers

*Mae Reddaway*

Last year there was a girl in my seminar group with the most amazing eyelashes but I never dared ask her what mascara she used, for fear of sounding exceedingly creepy. My guess is that a few of you have been in a similar situation, and that is why Campus Beauty was born. Campus Beauty is a website that captures ‘normal’ people’s make-up; the faces of fellow Lancaster students, as they are much more relatable than the photos of celebrities who we see all the time and end up aspiring to look like. As well as taking students’ portraits, we ask them more about themselves, such as what they’re studying, what things they like, what their favourite make-up items are and why. We then pick out reviews from other bloggers of the products mentioned, so you can easily go and find out more about them. In every edition of SCAN, we’ll be showing you a round-up of our photos, focusing on particular cosmetic categories.



*Natalie*

Natalie is a 22 year old History student with a love for tea, chocolate and cats. Her favourite make-up item is her **Soap & Glory Kick Ass Concealer** because it works really well and makes her look like she’s had great nights sleep. We’ve heard good things about this product and for a 3-in-1 under-eye brightening concealer, complexion concealer and transparent setting powder, £10 is

a bargain!



*Giulia*

Giulia is 20 years old, and a second year Advertising and Marketing Student. We were drawn to her because of her glowing skin, and were amazed to discover that she doesn’t wear foundation.



All she wears is a dusting of **Clinique’s Stay-Matte sheer pressed powder**.

Her favourite product however, is **Yves Saint Laurent’s Touche Éclat** concealer, which she says brightens up her face and makes her look awake and refreshed.

Although pricey at around £25, a little goes a long way and it’s brilliant for even the most stubborn dark circles, which makes it a cult favourite amongst beauty lovers.

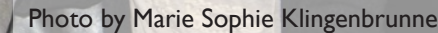




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Put down that bag of crisps and pick up an orange instead. High in Vitamin C, eating an orange lowers both stress levels and blood pressure. Bananas are high in magnesium and potassium, which have been found to reduce anxiety and improve nerve function. Foods high in folic acid like spinach are also perfect for alleviating lethargy and improving your mood.



# How to handle grad job rejection

**Amy Coote**

**Rejected? Again? Don't worry!**

We go through our lives seemingly getting an endless stream of rejections, and unfortunately this does not stop at university. From the big rejections of your dream graduate job to the boy that rejected you as you made a drunken pass in Sugar, this article will help you to learn from the experience, mistakes or not.

Getting head first into my final year at Lancaster, I seem to be fearing rejection more than ever now that the time has come to apply for graduate schemes, teacher training, and even postgraduate study. Everywhere you turn the odds are stacked against you; but first of all it is important to not let the fear of rejection keep you from applying and living life. Rejection, after all, is better than a lifetime of regret.

**Ask for feedback.**

If you have been rejected from a job, interview, or any kind of professional rejection, don't be afraid to inquire as to why. They must have a reason for rejecting you and so use this feedback, take it as constructive criticism, build on it, and get back in the game. If you never know what you're doing wrong you will never know how to fix it; by knowing your strengths and weaknesses you can become better at what you do, meaning you are less likely to get rejected again.

**Do not take rejection personally!**

Sometimes it is simply a case of the huge number of applicants that go for a position, be it career wise or study wise, and they have no choice but to let some capable people down. Many people find the act of rejecting someone very difficult indeed and so will be able to understand how you are feeling. This is never personal, and, if it is, then maybe that particular position isn't for you.

**Talk, talk, talk.**

Talk to someone about how you are feeling; a problem shared is a problem halved as they say, and this is very true. Talking it over with friends and family will help you realise how amazing you really are, and that it is in fact 'their loss' that they are going ahead without you. These conversations will not only boost your self esteem but get you back on track to keep going. If you are feeling particularly upset about being unsuccessful whether this be with university work, job applications, or something more personal, then please do seek support that Lancaster has to offer; particularly NightLine, a student run, anonymous support phone line available every night during the week.

Finally, even if you do get rejected, try again – you never know what curve balls life will throw at you.

Unfortunately, after careful consideration, we will not be progressing your application any further. I am sorry not to be able to give you more positive news, but we have received a very large number of applications for the positions available, and competition has therefore been intense. I would like to thank you for the interest you have shown and wish you every success in your future career.

Photo by Mae Reddaway

# The 'Dos' and 'Don'ts' of Breaking Up

**Hayley Schubert**

Technically, I have never had a break up. 'So why are you writing this article?' some may ask. Because I have, however, been the agony aunt many a time, there to pick up the pieces for both female and male friends when their love life has turned sour. In doing so I have collected some essential dos and don'ts along the way, and wish to share them with you, should you ever need to remain dignified in a break up situation.

**Dos:**

Try to end on good terms.

**Breaking up while amidst what feels like the beginning of World War 3 might seem appropriate at the time, but it will only make it harder in the long run.**

Bumping into your ex in town will be much less awkward if the last words you said to them did not involve screaming and profanities.

Bite your tongue. It is so easy to erupt like a volcano and deliver some nasty home truths (or lies) when relationships take a turn for the worst. Keeping your integrity will make you the better person, and means you won't verbalise anything you may regret in the future.

Break up face to face. Hiding behind your phone, laptop or, even worse, sending a friend as the messenger, will only result in you being nicknamed 'Chicken' for the rest of your life. Be mature about the situation; your ex deserves an explanation.

Let yourself feel bad for a while; faking a smile isn't going to fool anyone. Replace denial with duvet days consisting of what you love best – whether that be chocolate, DVDs or your Xbox – to aid the healing process.

**Don'ts:**

**The words 'It's not you, it's me' should never, I repeat, never pass your lips.**

Drunken texts might feel right at the time, but cringing as you wake up the next morning is not going to feel so great.

Post break up does not mean you have to plaster hatred for you ex over every social media platform available. Save the details for your closest friends; break ups are bad enough without the whole world and its wife watching.

**Talking of social media, avoid E-stalking.**

Pouring over an ex's Twitter or Facebook account to prey on their potential new partners is going to drive you insane. Not only will refreshing their page every five seconds result in a counter productive use of your time, you will also over analyse every word or photo when they eventually do post something.

Rebounds. Wanting attention to make you feel better about yourself is inevitable, but it doesn't need to be in the form of you flirting like it's going out of fashion.

**Have fun being single, but wait a month or two before moving on to ensure you are ready.**

# Typical student food: *with a twist*

**Rowan Simpson**

Getting bored of having the same old beans on toast? Feel like you need to spice up your cooking a little? Well, it's a good job SCAN is on hand to help you improve your evening meals. Believe it or not, you don't have to spend a small fortune to have something delicious to eat. Even the simplest of ingredients can be made tasty when you know how. For example, baked beans. Yes, you read it correctly – beans. Beans are not only cheap (25p for one can from ASDA) but they can be surprisingly tasty when combined with the right ingredients. Below I have gathered some recipes that are perfect for when you have spare cans of baked beans lying around. Try them out just for yourself, or treat your housemates to a delicious meal one weekend, letting them in on the secret of just how good baked beans can be!



## Easy sausage and bean casserole

The classic mixture of sausage and beans comes to the forefront of this recipe, as they are combined in a casserole. A personal favourite of mine, this recipe promises to not only be full of flavour, but also to be substantial enough to fill you up for the rest of the evening.

### Ingredients:

- 4-5 cooked sausages
- 15-20cm length chorizo sausage
- 2-3 cloves garlic
- 1 red or green pepper
- 1 tin of baked beans
- 1-2 teaspoons of tomato puree
- 1-2 teaspoons of paprika

- salt and pepper

- fresh parsley or coriander to garnish

### Method:

1. Cook the sausages in a pan and set aside
2. Fry garlic for 1-2 minutes over a low heat and then add in the sliced chorizo and pepper, continuing to cook for 5 minutes or until pepper begins to soften.
3. Add the cooked sausage, can of beans, tomato puree and paprika, and simmer gently for about 5 minutes, making sure not to let the beans turn mushy.
4. Season to taste and garnish with fresh parsley or coriander.
5. Serve immediately with baked potatoes, rice or crusty bread.

## Baked bean chilli nachos

Nachos are always a favourite, and with this recipe you can make them tastier than ever. This recipe is perfect for sharing in front of the TV one cold and wet evening, as it will definitely warm you up. If you're not a fan of spice there is no reason why you can't get rid of the chilli and just have the nachos with mince, beans and cheese.

### Ingredients:

- Mince (optional)
- Baked beans
- Chilli powder (packet is easier, around 30p value brand)
- A packet of cheap nachos (value brand 60p)
- Peppers
- Cheese sauce (packet 30p)
- Grated cheese

### Method:

1. Line an oven-proof dish with nachos scattered on the bottom.
2. Cook all your other ingredients in a pan. Add your chilli packet and a little water – allow to thicken.
3. Make the cheese sauce in a jug with water and a little milk.
4. Add your chilli mix on top of the nachos in the dish, scatter more nachos on top. Pour over cheese sauce. Sprinkle cheese.
5. If your chilli is already hot just grill the dish. If not then oven-bake.

Note: you could even add some jalapeño to the top for extra taste.

## Italian Baked Bean Bake

This is a quick and easy recipe that is perfect for students as there are not many ingredients involved. You can throw this together within fifteen minutes, and then all you have to do is put it in the oven and wait for it to cook. This recipe guarantees a scrumptious meal and is something slightly different from your standard pasta bake.

### Ingredients:

- 1 can baked beans
- 1 onion
- Italian herbs - basil, parsley and rosemary etc
- 50g pasta
- Any type of cheese

### Method:

1. Put the pasta in a pan with some water and cook on the hob. Turn the oven on.
2. Chop onion into small pieces, grate cheese, open can of beans.
3. Put beans in a microwavable container, add onion, herbs and drained pasta. Microwave for 2 mins.
4. Pour the ingredients into an oven-proof dish and top with cheese. Place in oven for 10-15 mins so the cheese melts.
5. Eat!

Note: If you wanted to make it more substantial you could slice some potato and boil it, then place it on top of the bean mixture, then add the cheese.



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# Comment

Comment Editors: Julia Molloy & Sam Smallridge ✉ scan.comment@lusu.co.uk

## Are we still making time to remember Remembrance Day?

Danny Gallagher

By the time you read this it will be November 11th, a day in which the whole nation remembers, at the eleventh hour, the end of conflict and hostilities of the great wars in which this country has been very much a part of. The day traditionally has held the utmost respect upon the yearly calendar, but today's society very much begs the question: have we forgotten the importance of Remembrance Day?

Present day media are endlessly publicising stories regarding Remembrance Day and its ever-changing appearance in the eyes of the general public. Some news sources choose to show the unwavering dedication to the act of Remembrance,

with affectionate displays of respect from mass gatherings of people at ceremonies up and down the country. In the same breath, however, much of today's headlines surrounding Remembrance Day are dominated by tales of individuals and organisations taking a political stance regarding remembrance and choosing to distance themselves from it.

A London student online newspaper recently ran a story documenting how the Senate of London University had "passed a motion prohibiting its officers and staff from attending the University's remembrance service if they claimed to be representing the University as an organisation." Such steadfast decisions like these clearly open up a controversial divide between the organisation's prerogative and what, generally speaking,

would be perceived to be "morally right." It would be difficult to argue against the point that in a modern day society where political and religious stance can be controversial, Remembrance Day is now looked upon with much more vigour than simply paying respect to war veterans of the past.

Further evidence of this can be seen when looking into the sporting world and the English premier league. At this time of the year, the majority of top-flight English football teams choose to emblazon the synonymous Remembrance Day red poppy upon their shirts for the fixtures surrounding November 11th. However, much controversy was caused in recent seasons when certain high profile clubs, namely Manchester United, decided they would go against this generally collaborative

gesture and ensured that their shirts remained poppy-free. The flames of this fire were again stoked, as recently as November 2012, when Sunderland's Republic of Ireland international midfielder James McClean publicly expressed his desire against wearing a poppy despite being the only player on the field not to do so.

Events like these make it very hard to observe Remembrance Day for what it really is: a gathering of all walks of society coming together to remember those who have lost their lives in service to their country. In the cases of sporting teams' and individuals' defiance to support the cause, one can't help but sense the dramatisation placed upon the subject, particularly by the media, using the social status of others along with the negative connotations that

comes with Remembrance Day in order to stir up a frenzy.

Turning attention to the student population, one intriguing question often posed is how many younger people in fact feel the importance of Remembrance Day itself. In answering this, it also draws upon the notion of whether Remembrance Day is suffering as a result of the generations it directly concerned, those during wartime England, coming to the end of their days. In the next decade, a sound estimation dictates that an increasingly lesser number of surviving war veterans will remain. Without these direct links back to the main events that fundamentally structure Remembrance Day itself, it can be confidently assumed that some form of transition in how remembrance is perceived must occur. In conjunction with this, the fact that a large majority of Remembrance Day services are held in church may also be a bearing factor. WhyChurch.org recently conducted a survey revealing a decline in church-goers over the past five years, noting a particular drop in those of student age. These two combining factors, a generation that cannot directly associate with Remembrance Day and a decline in attendance to Church ceremonies, could neatly go hand-in-hand to see an overall changing attitude.

Only time will tell when it comes to truly judging whether the importance of Remembrance Day is still appreciated. Yet with constant negative media stories and individuals distancing themselves from the event, it doesn't bode well for what has historically been seen as one of the most important days of the yearly calendar. It would be a travesty for the values of November 11th to be lost.



Photo by Lauren Turner



# We should not condemn the university for looking after its students

Eleanor Newton

This October, the Guardian published the results of an investigation by HMIE on university-based student support services in the form of a league table.

Second only to the University of Glasgow was Lancaster - with a staggering 127% increase in the number of students seeking counselling and support services since 2008.

This figure stands out against the average increase of 33%, but should not be taken as a

sign that something is amiss. Instead, I feel these figures should be interpreted as a sign that Lancaster is getting it right when it comes to student support. An NUS report found that 20% of university students consider themselves to have a mental health problem however statistics show only 2% of students are engaged in university-led counselling schemes. This statistic should be receiving far more coverage.

We are all studying at university at a much more stressful time than ever before. We are expected to work harder, to achieve higher degree classifications, to engage in work experience and increase our 'personal marketability'. This can clearly come into conflict with the contrasting view of university life as a chance to socialise, drink, party and in general have as much fun

as possible before descending into the now uncertain and weighty world of post-graduation employment. All of these issues alongside non-university related problems such as relationships, family breakdowns and mental illness in general create a problem for universities and their students.

The interpretation of these results is up for debate. It all seems to come down to a question of perspective. Lancaster is not unique in the problems its students face, raising the question of why we almost top this 'league table'. In this case it seems clear to me that the increase in demand for counselling at Lancaster is a reflection of the university's approach to tackling a problem in a more effective way. The availability of services and the awareness of them amongst students is high - services such as the Nightline scheme are adver-

tised heavily across campus (seemingly on the back of every toilet door). These factors, alongside a general, if slow moving, reduction in the stigma associated with mental illness and seeking out help, exemplify the increase.

The Disability Service and the creation of student support plans are effective ways of pre-empting and reducing the likelihood of issues amongst students facing difficulties prior to their arrival. However, the university cannot be expected to eliminate students' problems before they arise - their response to these problems is the thing that the university should be accountable for, and Lancaster seems to take this responsibility seriously. The figures are a welcome demonstration of a wide and accessible support network within the university.

The initial Guardian article

and results of the investigation should therefore be taken with a pinch of salt. I would even go as far as to question the value of publishing the results in the form of a leaderboard - one in which you may not want to come out on top. The lack of clarity concerning the figures and their implied connection create a sense of negativity around the results; they could be mistakenly interpreted as a sign that Lancaster is somehow lacking support or is an overly stressful university to attend. This would be an inaccurate and dangerous assumption to make about our institution. The results should be seen as a sign that we are going in the right direction, and provide further reassurance to students in need of support that it is available without any stigma or judgement, and to all who seek it.

# Fight for your money's worth when it comes to accommodation

Mary Balogun

At the £87 per week offer, LUSU Living remains as one of the more popular options amongst students. No doubt that their offer of all-inclusive bills, free Wi-fi and the cleaners (who are nothing more than God sends) are attractive selling points. But is this price worthwhile when the services provided, sometimes, can be nothing short of piss poor? Bad publicity is almost certainly the last thing LUSU Living has to deal with but with the housing talks currently underway, first year students should be aware of what they are buying into. There are plenty of options for second year accommodation, whether on campus, with LUSU Living or in town with private letting agents, so there are plenty of options to go for with all budget types.

No student, however, should be subject to the turmoil I faced after the boiler broke down during the cold snap earlier on

this year. With frequent calls to LUSU Living, who later failed to declare it as an emergency, my housemates and myself were left to fix the boiler ourselves. Due to our lack of boiler knowledge though, this was limited to switching it on every 10 minutes and heating buckets of water before having a shower. Yet this turned out to be a minor issue when gas started seeping into my room whenever we kick-started the boiler. Dreadfully waking up to the smell of gas had alerted LUSU Living to take action but by this time, my mum had already called British Gas to inspect the boiler.

Having heard other boiler-related stories from students, it is truly a sad state of affairs but it is reassuring to discover that LUSU Living has posted a number for emer-

gency boiler cover in each of the houses they let. A broken boiler emitting gas should not go duly unnoticed; LUSU Living has a responsibility of care to the students and their pleas should not be ignored. Though the boiler emitting gas inci-

dent was a one off situation, THANK GOD this problem has been acknowledged. I now look back on my first year on campus with nostalgia. This probably has a lot to do with being a fresher back then, but I must iterate

years running. If you're a first year who is desperate to live on campus again next year, don't be hassled into thinking that there is no room for second years - the University currently has around 700 second year students on campus.



Photo by Mae Reddaway

# Comic Relief: A ‘Red Nose’ or a red face?

Annie Underwood

Among these firms is British American Tobacco, which was found in 2008 to be breaching guidelines to get children in Africa hooked on smoking, and has been branded by some as the “unacceptable face of British business”.

The Mirror newspaper reported at the end of October that BBC's Panorama was investigating potentially embarrassing claims about the charity Comic Relief. The charity has supposedly invested £150m of its donated funds for up to eight years before passing the money on to the causes for which it had been raised. This in itself is not uncommon for many charities, as by investing their money they can ensure every pound donated will go towards the schemes for which it was donated, and any profits made from investment can be used to cover the running costs and salaries at the charities.

However, Panorama allegedly has evidence that £14 million of this was invested in a fund providing investment to firms accused of unethical behaviour, and behaviour that contradicts the Comic Relief mission - to eradicate poverty and social injustice.

Also included in the investment are BAE systems, renowned for their arms deals with Chile, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Qatar and others, and forced to pay almost £300m in criminal fines after being accused of corrupt and fraudulent deals around the globe. Other firms in which Comic Relief is alleged to have invested include the pharmaceutical companies AstraZeneca and GlaxoSmithKline, who are accused of exploiting people in poverty in India, a nation

where nine Comic Relief projects are in progress.

In response, Comic Relief has issued a statement claiming the investment “approach met with the charity's legal and ethical requirements and contributed to its running costs.” Indeed, the issue isn't so much that donations were invested, but more that some of the funds were invested, albeit indirectly, in firms whose practices compromise the Comic Relief ethics and mission. The information was also only leaked after the BBC had shelved the investigation.

While the approach may (or may not) meet with the charity's ethical requirements, it is distinctly at odds with the Comic Relief aims to “bring about positive and lasting change in the lives of poor and disadvantaged people... tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice.” A sustainable investment campaign group argues that there are benefits to aligning your investments with your core values - the aims of a charity do not have to be sacrificed to receive returns on

investment. In light of these accusations, Comic Relief has stated that it never directly invests the money itself, but uses the aforementioned fund to invest on its behalf, claiming the charity “can't control who the funds invest in” - but surely it can influence the funds to invest in more appropriate companies, and if that is unsuccessful, use a different fund with investment interests with a greater affinity to the charity's own mission.

The Mirror's source also referred to the axing of the six-month investigation, claiming the show has been delayed once already and “the worry is this investigation will never see the light of day.” Parallels have been drawn between this axing of a Panorama investigation and the axing of Newsnight's investigation into Jimmy Savile in 2011. The BBC's Director General Tony Hall has refuted any such parallels, saying that the Panorama Comic Relief investigation “is a much clearer story”, and that he “very much hopes this programme will be transmitted” after the

appropriate legal checks, which are ongoing, are completed. He made sure to stress that he wasn't yet fully aware of the substance of all the allegations being made, and whether they are correct.

While seemingly another scandal that may well be forgotten in a year, the ripples emanating from this issue could have far greater consequences - the Culture Secretary Maria Miller suggested that ongoing BBC scandals, such as this and the Jimmy Savile scandal, not only shake public confidence in the corporation, but also have the ability to tarnish the UK's reputation around the world, as the BBC is “synonymous with Britain.”

Perhaps both the BBC and Comic Relief need to have another look at their policies before demanding more public money to fund their causes.





# Britain’s energy crisis needs a solution

Liam Stott

Since the Labour Party Conference in September, the issue of increasing energy prices has been the main subject of political debate. In his Conference Speech, Ed Miliband announced that a future Labour government would freeze en-



Image courtesy of the Departent of Energy

ergy prices for 20 months in an effort to restructure what he considers to be a broken competitive system. Even former Prime Minister John Major has called on the government to consider introducing a ‘windfall tax’, at a time when the Conservative Party is seeking to review the cost of green levies on consumer bills. So, are these price rises necessary, in order for energy companies to re-invest? Should the issue be tackled in this manner? Or is Ed Miliband’s freeze, as David Cameron described it, a ‘con’.

In the last few weeks, four out of the big six energy companies have announced rises in their electricity and gas bills. Recently British Gas has raised their prices by an average of 9.2%, SSE by 8.2% and npower announced an increase of 10.4%. These increases are at first glance astonishing, par-

ticularly at a time when some families are already struggling to pay their energy bills. Nevertheless, this hasn’t stopped these companies from justifying their actions as a consequence of rising wholesale prices, which makes up 46% of the consumer energy bill.

At a recent meeting with the Energy and Climate Change Committee, William Morris, the managing director of SSE, claimed that his company had seen a 4% increase in wholesale costs over the last year, and that the cost of transporting energy to homes had risen by 10%. These figures however were not recognised by the regulator ‘Ofgem’, who argued that the wholesale price of electricity and gas have on average only increased by 1.7%, which would add only £10 to the average £600 consumer bill. This apparent difference in figures is yet another setback for the big six.

Since Ed Miliband’s announcement the energy companies have continually attacked the proposal. Their main argument against any prize freeze stems from the fact that the market for energy is global, meaning that the government is unable to

control certain costs, such as the cost of global supply and any foreign levies imposed on the energy companies. However, the recent price hikes are not linked to any rise in these costs, and as Ofgem has stated, wholesale prices have only slightly risen in the last year, whereas the profit margins made by the energy firms have doubled in the past year, from £45 to £95 per customer.

Ed Miliband’s proposal is therefore a very appealing concept to the ordinary voter, though it has sparked criticism from the coalition. David Cameron has therefore proposed that the government should review the green levies that make up only 9% (£112) of consumer energy bills. However, green levies are needed in order for there to be investment in new forms of energy for the future, thus creating thousands of new jobs in the renewable sector. Furthermore, these levies are used to provide deductions on bills for low income individuals and families, as well as free loft insulation, thus reducing the amount of energy households require. In short, neither proposal is sufficient enough in order to address the issues

Read more online at [scan.lusu.co.uk/comment](http://scan.lusu.co.uk/comment)

**What is most definitely needed is a complete reform of the structure of the energy market.**

The problem at present is that the big six energy companies control the entire supply chain, from the generation, to the trading, and then finally the retail, creating a fully integrated system that is bad for competition. Labour’s idea of ring fencing the energy companies’ generators from their supply side is certainly more credible than their price freeze proposal. Furthermore, there is need for a tough new watchdog that has the power to penalise energy companies who raise their prices when there is a reduction in wholesale costs. It is possible that a mixed economy in the energy market will reproduce the much needed competition and transparency, but first our energy market needs restructuring before any huge policy shift can take place.

# We need consistent enforcement of laws to end the phenomenon of Internet Trolls

Alasdair Bruce

Anyone who watched the latest series of the Great British Bake Off will be aware of contestant Ruby Tandoh and most likely have an opinion on her, be it positive or negative.

However, many online have been far more vocal in their opinions of Ruby, some in particular being incredibly insulting and personal. Many accused her of flirting with judge Paul Hollywood, whilst others claimed she only cried on the program in order to gain sympathy.

The criticism only got worse as the series progressed, giving the rather tame Bake Off program a much darker aspect. Ruby herself wrote recently in the Guardian about the hatred she seemed to generate online, angrily replying that she would “rather eat her own foot” than seduce her way to victory

and was furious at the people criticising her for crying, as her main focus was to try to not appear smug throughout the process. She also said that there was an air of misogyny with the criticism; having three woman in the final only fuelled this misogyny in her opinion. This incident surrounding Ruby has brought the problem of ‘Internet Trolls’ back into the limelight and begs the question as to whether the huge potential for free speech that the internet gives to people, is actually a good thing.

Internet Trolls have been a presence in the UK for years now, even making their way into law. The Communications Act of 2003 states that sending messages which are “grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character” is an offense whether they are received by the intended recipient or not. This law has been used on

multiple occasions, notably with the case of Sean Duffy who was sentenced to eighteen weeks in prison and banned from social networking sites for five years after he was found guilty of mocking the testimonial page of a dead teenager.

In addition Jamie Counsel was sentenced to four years for trying to incite riots online during the summer riots in 2011. These cases are worth mentioning because they show the UK legal system actively fighting against these ‘Trolls’.

However there are issues with this, namely how do you define an internet troll? What changes a post online from being someone’s opinion into something offensive or obscene? Forums on the internet are full of anonymous people posting obscenities, insults and even threats and yet to find and prosecute every single one of them is practically impossible. The safety of

sitting behind a laptop screen gives people the confidence, or perhaps arrogance, to type whatever they want, regardless of consequences. You only need to take a brief look at comments on websites such as Youtube or Twitter to see a wide variety of offensive comments being made, so why was an effort made to charge Sean Duffy whilst thousands of other trolls are still able to post these offensive remarks? The website ‘The Register’ addressed this point when they argued that the police appear to target ‘Internet Trolls’ at random, usually as a response to public pressure. If the phenomenon of internet trolling is to be stopped, surely something more drastic has to be done.

That is far easier said than done of course, as it has been argued before that the only way to stop internet trolling is to limit the free speech. The internet is a great device

for allowing people from all over the world to share and debate their views, however greater action must be taken. Websites such as Youtube have moderators employed to actively search for offensive posts from trolls and then delete them and even ban the user if necessary. Many websites now have a function for their users to flag certain posts for moderation as well, encouraging people to stop these sort of posts from appearing online.

Greater action from the Government could surely be taken however. Since more and more people are using the internet on a regular basis, it is necessary to have even stronger deterrents against trolling, a combination of more enforced bans from the internet but also stricter definitions of what constitutes trolling, so there can be no confusion of what makes someone an Internet Troll.

# HEAD TO HEAD: Should societies be allowed to pose for naked calendars?

**YES: Sam Smallridge**

The opposition to Warwick’s Rowing Calendar isn’t crazy. It’s not some form of fascist-feminism. Instead, it’s a thoughtful reaction to the growing pornification and sexualisation of both women and men in society. It’s a genuine problem in Britain; the ‘ideal’ body is romanticised and fetishized. Sexual magnetism is made out to be the pinnacle of attraction, resulting in a damaging lack of self-esteem and confidence in people’s own bodies. When OK! puts an unflattering picture of a celebrity asking if they’ve put on weight in their magazine they are contributing to the erosion of thousands of people’s confidence in their own bodies. However, unprofessional naked calendars which are cropping up across campuses and other unlikely places in Britain are, I feel, a different kettle of fish completely. They’re fun, humorous, and often for a very worthy cause.

The Warwick Rowing Club, which has been embroiled in the controversy, raised £600 for the Macmillan Cancer Charity last year. If similar sums were re-created at universities across Britain then this would be a fantastic thing. The charity element of this is something that must not be forgotten. This isn’t the product of some sleazy old man yelling from behind a camera lens as he prays on the emotional and financial insecurities of young women. It simply appears to be some pretty close friends, who get a hell of a lot closer, having a nice time and doing a good deed. There may be some narcissism involved, but who can blame them? If I had the work rate, diet and genetics to resemble the Men’s Rowing team, I’d probably be whipping my top off at the sign of any temperature near 10°C.

There is an alternative school of thought as well though. In response to lads mags being banned from the Co-op in the summer, Jodie Marsh, not renowned for her thought-provoking philosophy it has to be said, made some interesting points. She claimed: “I earn money from lads mags. I’m in control. I’m holding the power” and said that she’d “rather my daughter see naked women celebrated in lads

mags than being called too fat or too skinny in women’s mags”. And they’re principles that could well apply for naked calendars too. Posing in the buff is not just the preserve of the ultra-confident; it can for many people be a way of establishing comfort in their own body and celebrating it. Once you’ve stood stark naked around your peers in front of a camera with little to cover you but an oar other body issues may soon begin to disappear as well. It does need to be ensured that people aren’t peer-pressured into it and I can imagine that if everyone in your sports team is doing it the pressure to put on a brave face and do what everyone else is doing would be immense. However, for those who take the daring plunge, like most forays into the unknown, it could be a rewarding and confidence-building experience.

The pragmatic fact is that for many students seeking to raise money for a good cause, naked calendars can be one of the simplest and most effective ways of raising money for a charity. It’s easy to forget but raising money for charity, while studying for a degree, is an extremely difficult thing to do and a laudable one. Calendars have an organised format and can be done relatively quickly. It can create a buzz-effect around campus, which can generate lots of money for the charity, as their peers buy the calendars that contain fellow students covering their modesty in a number of creative ways. It may not be approved by everyone (you’ll always struggle to find something that is) but it’s far better to be affecting change and helping raise money for charity rather than carping on the side-lines.

Objectification of all genders is a genuine problem, but when it comes to societies’ naked calendars, in my eyes, they’re kind of exempt from the sleazy backstory of some ‘glamour’ shoots and pornography. Instead, in the form of a calendar, we’re presented with good-natured philanthropy and these students should be applauded for their efforts. Instead of lambasting them for pornification and sexualisation, we should be encouraged to do something for charity ourselves.

**NO: Julia Molloy**

Warwick University has been at the centre of a naked calendar row in recent weeks. Its two rowing clubs, one for female rowers and one for male rowers, have both decided to pose for naked calendars in order to raise money for Macmillan. However, following comments that the female naked calendar is ‘tacky’, questions have been raised as to whether posing for a naked calendar is actually contributing to an objectifying culture. Layla Haidrani, a feminist student from Kent University, argued that: “groups of women posing seminaked on a field with sticks doesn’t sound like a fundraising initiative for charity, it just sounds tacky.”

Whilst it’s clear that these naked calendars have been done professionally, the point remains that both the men and women featured are selling their bodies for profit, whether that profit goes to charity or not. The initiator of the female naked calendar at Warwick, Hettie Reed, commented that “what really is the harm in them?”, arguing that it wasn’t about “some kind of watered down pornography.”

Yet can she really say this for sure? Let’s not forget that every single member of the naked calendars at Warwick University just happens to have a perfectly carved, muscular body captured in an almost air-brushed appearing black and white shot. How can the makers defend the decision when it is clear that they are promoting an aesthetically pleasing version of the human body? You can be sure that should the calendar be done by people with the average body, it wouldn’t be nearly so popular.

The issue is that both the men and women doing these naked calendars are, whether intentionally or not, contributing to a society that continues to distort the human body. There is no doubt that naked calendars display the human body as a commodity that can be photocopied, sold and redistributed across the country. What is commonly described as a joke or just a bit of harmless fun actually subconsciously reiterates that we live in a capitalist world where even our own bodies just

become another commodity to be sold. Rather than being respected, the human body is more often than not a space for people to fantasise. Surely naked calendars encourage comments that are basically people drooling over the pictures – which is arguably the kind of “watered down pornography” that Hettie Reed set out to avoid. And it’s not long before the masses lambast feminism for complaining at anything remotely out of the ordinary for a cause that supposedly criticises everything, whilst actually forgetting that feminism is about gender equality.

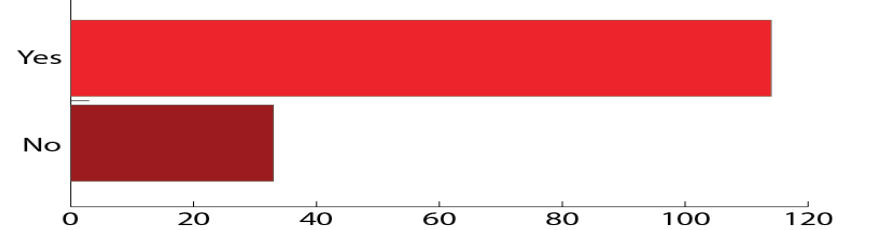
Call me prudish, but I’d much rather see other ways of raising money for charity. Surely there are plenty of other methods to raise money that do not involve objectification. Some have congratulated the participants on their bravery and self-confidence to strip in front of a camera, but why not complete a sponsored ‘Row-a-thon’ instead? A naked calendar is only entertaining for the people participating and for that split second when you decide to give to charity and buy the thing. After that the people posing are simply forgotten about and tossed aside until the latest fad takes over their brains.

Lancaster is not exempt from this either. Last year, Furness footballers put together a naked calendar, and even SCAN did one in 2010. Are we really happy with having naked calendars made on our doorstep? Is this not representative of the culture that Full Time Officer for Welfare and Community Tom Fox is trying to root out?

The only way that we’ll ever be able to escape this ideological nightmare is through conscious thought when it comes to something like naked calendars. We need to think about our actions and consider whether they are likely to provoke objectification and a culture that uses and disrespects the naked body, whether male or female. Naked calendars shouldn’t be considered a bit of harmless fun when they can be seen to endorse controversial behaviour. Let’s find other ways of raising money for charity and stop this objectification.

## Our scan survey says:

Find our live polls and cast your vote: [scan.lusu.co.uk](http://scan.lusu.co.uk)





# Answers from Alexandra Square

## Thank you!

We just want to say a big thank you to everyone who kindly let us disturb their lunch/fag break/personal reflection time. We are very grateful for your openness and articulacy.

Photos by Marie Sophie  
Klingenbrunner

## Do you think **lad culture** is a problem on campus?

**Emma Spencer**, 2nd year:  
Environmental Science

It's not something I've experienced myself but I've heard of people who have. To be honest I've never had any problems myself. I know there are people who go round like that, who act like that. That is a problem.

**Avnesh Modhvadia**, MA:  
History

There's not as much as there used to be. I think two years ago you'd get a lot of that sort of thing but it seems like people have just grown up really.

**Perseus**, MA:  
Project Management

No, I can't say I've really have seen any evidence of it.

**Amelia Federico**, 2nd year:  
English Literature

I think it's been made into a bigger deal than it actually is. I think it's there as an undercurrent. The way it's reported on can be exaggerated. There's a lot of campaigns that are unnecessary, like banning Robin Thicke's Blurred Lines.

**Lauren Noon**, 2nd year:  
Economics and Finance

Slightly maybe. I don't think it's as much of a problem on this campus as it is on other campuses, like in big cities.

**Annabel Atger**, 2nd year:  
European BBA  
& **Karolina Ladyn**, 2nd year:  
International Law

Annabel: I don't think it's a problem on campus, but maybe in nightclubs, like The Sugarhouse.  
Karolina: I think British girls tend to wear less than other cultures which might be an example of it.

**Chris Walker**, 2nd Year:  
Computers  
& **Abbey Salter**, 2nd year:  
French and Spanish

Chris: Maybe it's just certain groups as opposed to every single boy on campus. I think they tend to keep it within their group.  
Abbey: I think people have been fine on campus I haven't noticed any problems myself.

**Simonetta Scheeidt** &  
**Alice Sauer**, 2nd Year,  
Marketing and Psychology

Alice: I think it's a part of English culture really, so I don't really mind I think it's quite funny. Can create quite a good atmosphere.  
Simonetta: Sometimes it can go too far though especially when you see people having sex anywhere and puking on the floor. I think it could be toned down a bit.

**Busim Basheer** (**Big Bird**),  
2nd year: Business Studies

I wouldn't think so because I've not experienced it first hand and I don't think any of my friends have.

**Matt Stokes**, 2nd year:  
Advertising and Marketing

I can't say I've really noticed it to be honest.

## Should societies be allowed to pose for **naked calendars**?

I guess if they all agree with it. You can imagine that some people might get pressured into it though and it's a bit of an awkward situation. Probably not to be honest, I don't think they should.

Yes, of course. Who am I to object to it? Especially if it's for a good cause.

I think it depends on the theme of the photos and the calendar but most of the time I think it's acceptable.

If people are comfortable with doing it then that's what they want to do. If you look at Gok Wan's How to Look Good Naked then that was all about empowerment. You can argue it's sexualising a charity, but I don't have a problem with. Men do it as much as women.

If it's for charity yes.

Karolina: If it's for charity then yes. It's fun.

Abbey: If participants are willing. I don't think everyone should be subjected to it though.  
Chris: Yeah, same really.

Alice: As long as they cover it up in a funny way and it doesn't look like porn then I don't see why not, it can be amusing.  
Simonetta: If it's a society and they all agree to do it then I don't see a problem.

Yeah I think so because most of them are for a good cause. My cricket team did a naked calendar last year and we raised a good sum of money. And it's also really fun!

I think it's peoples own choice, if they want to then they can go for it.

## Are **accommodation talks** done too early?

Yes definitely. It feels like I've only just moved into my house this year and already I'm having to think about next year and it happened last year. You've only just met those people!

The talks are far too early, first years deciding who to live with and where after 4 weeks of being here is a bit crazy.

I think it might need to be early otherwise people might miss out on all the applications available.

Yes, it's ridiculously too early; I've got friends at York University who didn't start looking for accommodation until February. I found mine way before anyone else. My landlord is telling me I need to decide by the end of the week if I want to continue living there, but students are shoe-horned into contracts they shouldn't be. The rush was exaggerated by the university. There were still rooms available in September for this year.

Yes, I thought it was very early last year because you don't really know people. It forces people to live with people you don't really know.

Annabel: I think it's too early because you haven't even made any friends yet and then all of a sudden you have to move in with them. Students should be given time to get to know their flatmates, maybe wait until second term.

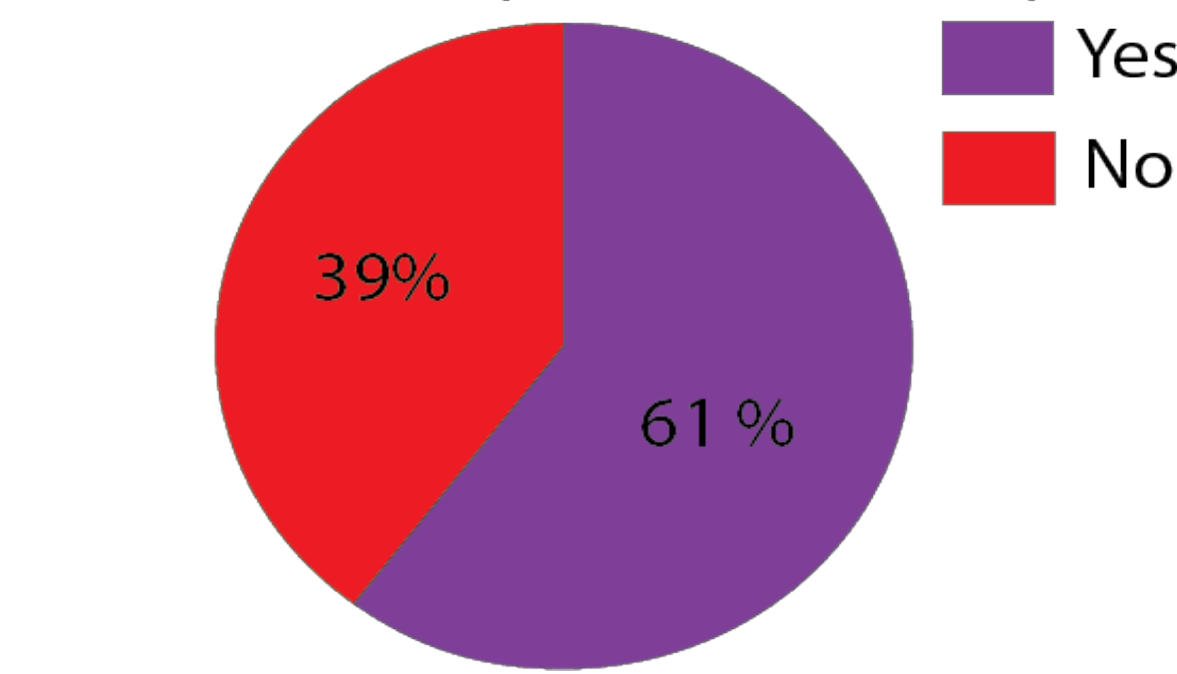
Chris: Yes definitely, a lot can happen over a year; people drift apart, which would make it awkward for people moving in next year.  
Abbey: Exactly the same, it's very stressful having to think about that before Christmas especially.

Alice: Yes. I'm happy with my house but I know lots of people who would rather live with friends they met with through the year and not just in Freshers week.  
Simonetta: It's too early. Especially for Freshers you only really know people who live in your block and often they're not your real friends.

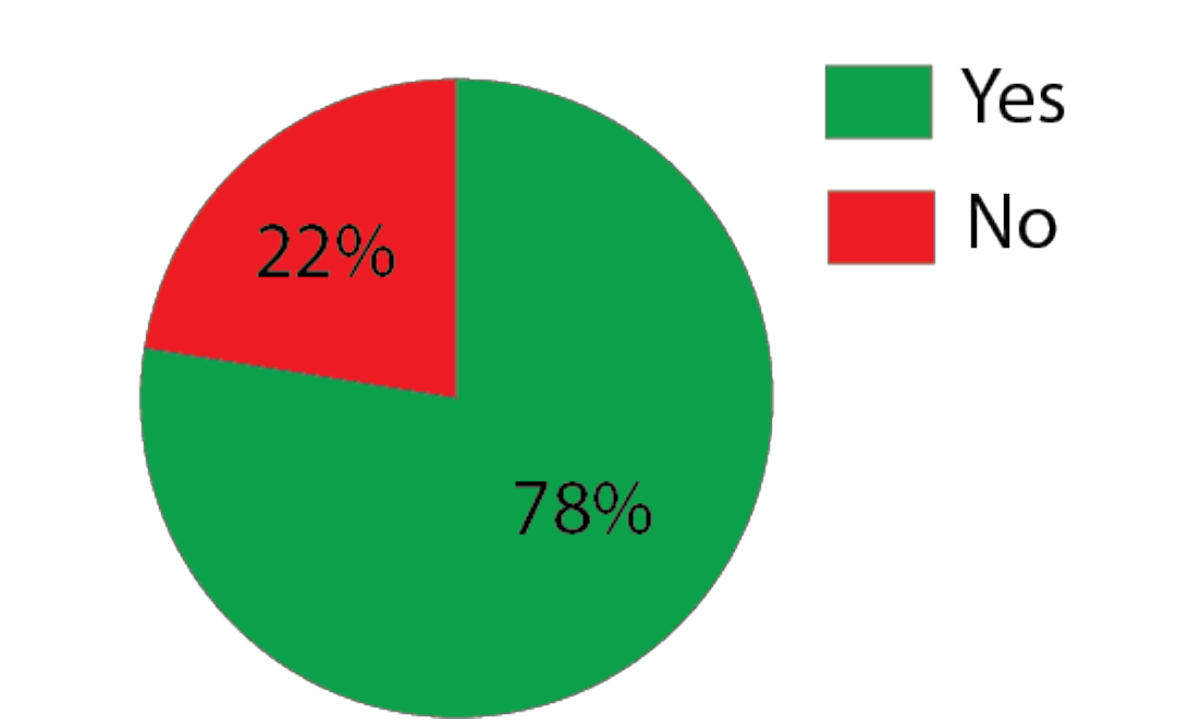
I don't know about from personal experience but I think my friends found them very helpful.

Yeah I think the whole accommodation organizing is too early, living with people you've only known for a few weeks isn't always going to end well.

## Is Lad Culture a problem on campus?



## Should naked calendars be allowed?





# Books are a timeless classic

Bryony Seager

Reading is an activity that affects people and societies to a huge extent, but in totally different ways. Personally I find reading to be an intensely enjoyable experience, especially reading fiction. The idea that someone wouldn't like to curl up with a cup of tea and their favourite book is anathema to me. Reading was introduced to me at a very young age; and



Photo by Katie Hiscock

it's instilled in me the belief that getting children to read books as soon as possible is vital.

Neil Gaiman recently gave a lecture at the annual Reading Agency conference about the importance of fiction books, libraries and enjoyment in a good book. He discussed many ideas in his talk, some controversial, some of them less so. One of the more controversial ideas was that he linked the literacy level of a society to its crime rate. He describes that

this must be something of a no brainer that the less educated a society is then the higher the crime rate will be. He discusses how in the US the builders of private prisons look at literacy levels in the current generation of eleven and twelve year olds in order to extrapolate how many prison cells they might need for the future.

It seems a rather dark and sinister way to guess the number of cells but it remains to be seen if it is in any way accurate: Gaiman doesn't elaborate on statistics but suggests that it seems to be a formula that has worked so far.

It is a scary thought that in the UK by the time 11 year old children leave primary school, one in five of them will not be able to read and write adequately in order to cope with the work required of them in high school. According to the education minister, we as a nation are lagging behind other European countries in this respect.

The question remains what can actually be done to fix this issue. It is a well known fact that as we move more and

more into the age of technology, the way that we digest information is changing. It is becoming more of a struggle to maintain an attention span that is required to read a novel. Why read the whole thing when you can either read the synopsis or just simply watch the film?

I confess that it's been a long time since a novel completely removed me from my surroundings and let me get lost in its pages. In fact the last novels that did that were The Hunger Games trilogy in the Christmas break of last year. I know they're supposedly teen novels, but upon approaching them for the first time I did get drawn into this fictitious, futuristic world and I read all three in the same number of days. I have, of course, read other novels since then but have not found myself turning to them in lieu of other activities as much as I did then.

There is something incredible about the feeling you get

when you discover a book or an author you love.

It is almost a given that you will feel a lot more satisfaction from picking up a book and reading it than you will from surfing nameless internet websites for a couple of hours. As Neil Gaiman mentioned in his lecture, books are about freedom; "freedom of ideas, freedom of communication [...] about entertainment, about safe spaces, and about access to information", and I think it's very important that we take advantage of all of those things from time to time.

So step back from your busy day, the articles and books you're being forced to read for your course, and remind yourself what it is to love reading.

Find your favourite book from childhood or your teenage years, pair it with a comfy spot to sit in, a little bit of peace and quiet and your favourite hot drink and you've got the recipe for an intensely enjoyable few hours.

## A league table Lancaster does not want to top

Sam Smallridge  
Comment Editor

There is in this country a crisis of employment. When the Government talk about more people being employed in this country it's a rather deceptive fact that contorts the real situation many people face. They ignore the fact that it's not that people are registered as having a job, but it's rather the quality and security of the job that matter. One of the roots of this fallacy is Zero Hour Contracts. They allow people to remain registered to a company, sometimes prohibited from seeking work anywhere else, without the guarantee of any hours and consequently any pay. They are as Unite Leader Len McCluskey described "creating a sub-class of insecure and low-paid employment".

Half of universities and two thirds of further education colleges use zero hour contracts.

Lancaster's 10th place finish in the Zero Hour Contract League Table should be a huge wake up call for the people handing these out.

In September this year the Unite union published their research and found that 36% of people on Zero Hour contracts received no holiday pay and furthermore 76% received no sick pay either. When you consider this, it's hard to see Zero Hour contracts as little more than an excuse to dodge both of these hard-won workers' rights. These contracts are regular practice at companies like Sports Direct, Burger King and Boots and we should ask ourselves, do we want our universities run like profit-making

companies or should their first priority be looking after both staff and students? Many postgraduate staff, particularly unfunded students, on Zero Hour Contracts rely heavily on the money they receive from their employment, which can be their only source of income while studying themselves. Instead they are offered insecurity and unpredictability with their income while they provide an invaluable service for us throughout the year.

There are examples when Zero Hour Contracts can be a good thing. Students who work in LUSU are on Zero Hour contracts. This gives them the flexibility to bend their work around their studies and the ability to choose to work even less hours during times when work is piling up, without the fear of repercussions from their employers. However, as Simon Renton, President of the University and College Union says, "Flexibility for a few is no defence against the exploitation of many

other workers". The rest of the people on Zero Hour Contracts can be postgraduate students, visiting staff and anyone else desperate enough for work experience and money that they sign a contract which doesn't guarantee them any hours but can also prohibit them from taking on any other paid work, which Zero Hour contracts have been known to do.

At the end of the last academic year the university said that all its staff were going to be paid at least the Living Wage and it was a commendable decision. It meant that cleaners, porters and any others workers in campus were going to be paid a wage that would give them security and comfort which is the least they deserve from this university. Now the university should act to give similar security to the young academic staff, without whom our essays would go unmarked, seminars untaught and general university experienced

worsened.

Edinburgh University came in for heavy criticism this summer for topping the table of Zero Hour contracts and the fact that they so quickly banned them suggests that universities can too show the flexibility that they demand from their employees.

Lancaster should follow suit and help some of it's 747 staff suffering from economic uncertainty.

It's a simple choice, between whether the University want to be a benevolent employer or whether it wants be in the same ranks as some of the most manipulative companies in the country. Lancaster University should begin to disassociate itself with this exploitative practice and take steps to ban the use of Zero Hour contracts.

# It's time for an ethical investment policy

Daniel Snape

Far to the Southeast, in a coastal town named Hastings, the borough council is maintaining a top-secret military facility. The workers are sworn to silence. The building is kept rusty and overgrown. The tandem helicopters do their testing closer to France than England. And yet, the council members have no problem boasting about the site in public. I now find there is much the same problem here, in Lancaster.

For those first-year students who, like me, have no idea where local interests lie, Lancashire County Council is working with the weapons manufacturer BAE Systems, through Lancaster University. The match was made back in 2004, when BAE showed up to a corporate venturing conference in George Fox Lecture Theatre. Half a dozen students were taken to court for crashing the talks in protests. Since the Quaker

Society (after whose pacifist founder the building is named) also discovered that BAE was present, not a single recruitment fair has taken place there.

Things picked up again several months ago, when Lancaster joined the GAMMA program.

Now, researchers in our C&C department are helping to develop 'autonomous systems' for BAE platforms that can replace the human element in dangerous jobs. Primarily, the software is designed for UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), or drones, to sense, track, and remove "threats". Despite the obvious military relevance here, working scenarios released by GAMMA show smiley stickmen using the high-tech UAVs for gardening. No corporation is prepared to openly defend the drones. Even

the partner company Suave UAV Enterprises trades under "Suave Arial Photography".

In return for our work, the whole project can only promise job creation "indirectly". What's more, although the project is being marketed for local companies, GAMMA held their third worldwide customer webinar recently. Using these forums, BAE may be starting to anticipate deals. Now is the time for our resident activists, LUAAT (Lancaster University Against the Arms Trade) –

whose national equivalent was reportedly hacked by BAE – to make their stand. They won't be alone: Amnesty International has championed several cases where drone strikes could constitute war crimes, while the United Nations have criticised the obscure decision-making behind Drone operations which have been used excessively by the Obama administration against sovereign countries where they believe there are terrorists. Modest estimates say that just one in ten Drone casualties was a targeted

individual whereas David Killcullen former US Army adviser claims that Drones have had a 2% success rate at actually killing criminals. The collateral damage has been huge, including a grandmother who was killed in front of her nine year-old granddaughter this year in Pakistan.

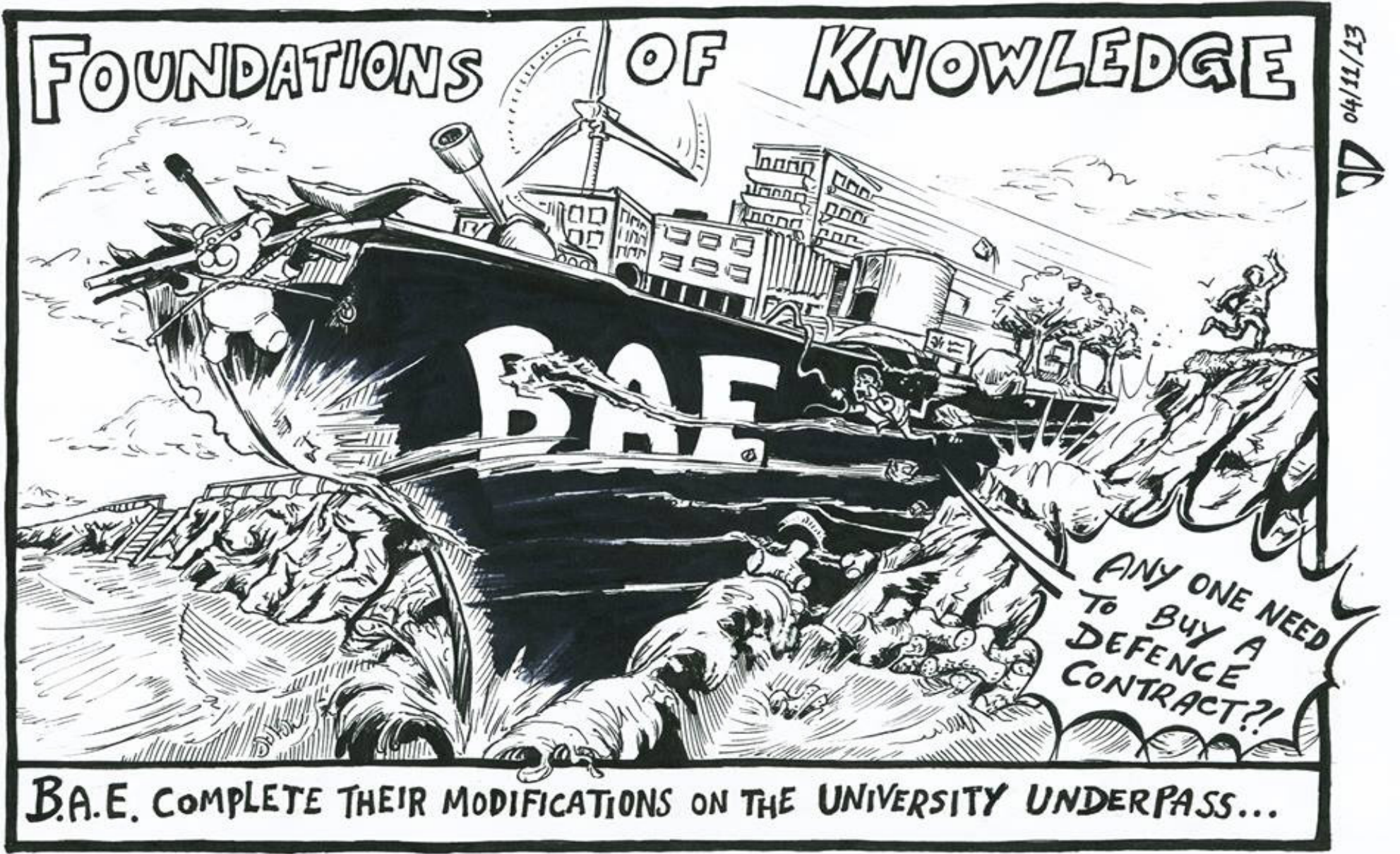
So far, only Western democracies have faced questioning. Corporations like BAE, however, specialise in proliferating this technology. They have already made deals with regimes in Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, and Libya, where human rights are rarely felt. Perhaps technology from Lancaster ends up in the drones marked 'Made in China' circling over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands.

To prevent another GAMMA project, the university must sever any other investments in BAE. Undoubtedly, every university has a price. Ours, to my frustration, is less than one percent of our total investment portfolio. Clearly, abandoning BAE would not bankrupt Lancaster. Moreover,

the university has to come up with an ethical investment policy. What credibility is there in an organisation that informs students and advises governments but can't write down one moral principle?

So many research-based universities have taken the step and found themselves with a responsible income.

And the idea is more than popular. LUSU Council has already proposed, and resolved, to have the university devise an ethical investment policy. That was last year. This is not an issue that can fall by the wayside; the need for an ethical investment policy is more urgent than ever. Lancaster University should follow the lead of others and make morality a permanent fixture in its investments.







# Ronnie Rowlands

## Postscript

### GD GOENKA: a Lancaster ‘TRIUMPH’

Hello you. What are you wearing? A coat, I hope – the Lancaster weather has gone into its phase of multiple–personality disorder, alternating between cold, very cold, bloody cold and bloody. Welcome back to Postscript, the bit you all skip while you’re flicking around for the Sport section. There’s a fair amount in this issue, so in less than 500 words we’re going to learn everything about Lancaster’s international campuses and the endless educational and reputational potholes which are beginning to cause major problems.

There’s the GD Goenka World Institute in India, founded and managed by Lancaster under the aegis of (of course) GD Goenka, a global capitalist enterprise. This institution has, according (as ever) to rumour and snippets of minutes, found itself fraught with poor teaching quality. External reviewers are being brought in to supervise dissertations, the rigour of marking has been brought into question, and Lancaster University are having to send senior management to deal with these issues on a regular basis.

There have also been concerns surrounding a general no-no attitude to whistleblowing among staff. Allegedly.

After all, these initiatives cost Lancaster a FORTUNE, for far less return!

Most worryingly, GD Goenka has recently set up its own University in the same region, and one has to wonder if they Saw Lancaster Coming and set out to use us for our resources and money.

There’s our newly opened campus in Ghana, which has taken on 58 students for a foundation course. The fees are about double the average Ghanaian annual wage, but this isn’t an issue since the institute seems aimed at the African elites anyway – a true British value which Lancaster

is gracefully introducing to other cultures. Allegedly.

COMSTATS in Pakistan has no Students’ Union, and students were offered so little support in setting one up that Lancaster based LUSU officers had to promise them representation from LUSU staff.

And meanwhile, Lancas–ter and the South of China continue to engage in their ‘will–they–won’t–they?’ af–fair, as negotiations to set up a campus in a district rife with aggressive land seizures and a government which has expressed intent to academic censorship continue to trun–dle through a sea of scattered loves–me–loves–me–not daisy petals.

Are the Lancaster international setups encouraging academic aims and values of engagement and criticism, or are they being swept under the carpet with the sole aim of inflating Lancaster’s much sought ‘world ranking’, reputation and ego?

Down with this sort of thing. Careful now.

## LS, LLLLLLLLLSU

If you haven’t watched Loughborough University Students’ Union’s Youtube music video, then this bit isn’t for you. Go find it. Essentially, it’s members of the LSLLLLLLLSUExecaddressing the camera whilst walking backwards and uttering out of sync lyrics urging the viewer to acknowledge their greatness, join their societies and vist them in the office. A couple of observations: it’s reassuring to know that

the Lancaster University Management School produced music video we’re all trying to forget is perhaps not the most sectionable initiative in the history of marketing. It’s also nice to learn that the Mount Lebanon Shakers (a fringe sect of Protestantism whose worship practices involve shaking and lurching on church floors while speaking in tongues) has seen a resurgence in its membership.

## VC RE:PVC

‘you know, the strangest thing happened at Senate (Lancaster’s highest governing academic body) the other week. I was, as usual, playing Backgammon on my phone while the Vice–Chancellor delivered his update. All of a sudden, Professor Smith asked Senate to vote on something which wasn’t on the agenda. The Senate voted in favour.

His proposal, which I must stress was NOT ON THE AGENDA and came COMPLETELY OUT OF THE BLUE, was to advertise the role of Pro–Vice Chancellor for Research to replace outgoing incumbent Trevor MacMillan internally, rather than externally. Just as a one off. As an ‘experiment’. This proposal also included a drastic restructuring of the job requirements.

In principle, one can only

support an endeavour to bring people to Senior Management posts from our own highly qualified and knowledgeable pool. Indeed, in days gone by, such postholders were democratically elected.

But the fact that the Vice–Chancellor blindsided Senate with this proposal, with no accompanying, constitutionally legitimated, written proposal with which he can be held to account, gives him free reign to take as many liberties with the authority as he wishes. The fact that it’s a ‘one–off’ (with, I stress, potential to be implemented as a standard in future) makes one wonder if the Vice–Chancellor has someone in mind for the role.

I could be completely right, I could be completely wrong, but I’ve no doubt that departments will be placing bets at this stage.

Keep you posted.

# Letters to the Editor & Puzzles

If you have any comments on our content or would like to write a letter to SCAN, please contact **Rachel May Quin** at the following address: . ✉ [scan.editor@lusu.co.uk](mailto:scan.editor@lusu.co.uk)

## Fancy yourself a master of puzzles?

Don’t forget to tweet us @SCANLU and let us know if you managed to beat our SCAN puzzles. Also, if you have any suggestions for puzzles or ideas for crosswords, we’d love to hear more about it.



### Sudoku

#### Easy

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

#### Medium

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

#### Hard

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

## POSTSCRIPT COMPETITION: Prizes to be won!

There is a LUSU run nightclub in the city called ‘The Sugarhouse’, and I’m told it is a very popular venue. The LUSU financial report I have in front of me, which indicates a 2013 net profit of £172,744, adds a lot of clout to what I’ve heard.

As is to be expected from a popular nightclub such as ‘The Sugarhouse’, the sheer volume of patrons they admit on a regular basis results in long queue–ing times. Your author can confirm this, having once joined the back of a ‘The Sugarhouse’ queue whilst completely drunk and feeling hungover by the time it had depleted by a sixteenth.

An E–Ticket initiative which allows for faster entry into ‘The Sugarhouse’ has recently been introduced. The tickets cost £3 with a ‘Purple Card’, while entry on the door has shot up to £6. This is, according to publicity, an effort to reduce cold, wet student margins. Arse–me–arse, as Granny used to say.

While it will indeed reduce queueing times, this is profiteering which isn’t as naked as it is a slow striptease with dazzling lights and a saucy big–band soundtrack. You’d think it obvious – and that’s why I believe those responsible know full well – that a lot of people who attend ‘The Sugarhouse’ do so on the fly, and that this willingness is predicated on a certain level of alcohol–induced cognitive impairment. Put simply, people aren’t really going to think twice about shelling out that much money. It’s exploitation in my ‘umble opinings.

Personally I’d pay £6 **not** to have to stand in a force nine gale with my coat flapping about the place, only to come in from the cold and endure a living night–mare of shoulder barging and the latest Banging Beats From Ibiza. But, I am an elected representative of the students. This places it within my gift not only to help students where I can, but also to get onto the Sugarhouse guestlist with free entry for myself and a +1.

I’m offering the latter – I of course will go straight in and straight out, leaving you to chunder the night away however you please. If you’d be interested in this truly fantastic prize, simply complete the following sentence: “I think the floor in ‘The Sugarhouse’ is sticky because…” and send it to me however you wish.

The funniest entrant will win, while runners up will be printed in the next edition of Postscript.

Perhaps other Union Officers would like to join me in this fightback?







# Sport

Sports Editors: Erik Apter & Iain Beddow ✉ scan.sports@lusu.co.uk

## Volleyball 1sts victorious over Manchester: Score 3-1 to Lancaster

Iain Beddow  
Sport Editor



Lancaster women's volleyball 1sts continued their perfect start to the season by coming from behind in a close encounter to beat Manchester 1sts comfortably 3-1. Although dropping the first set by two points Lancaster's ladies deservedly recovered in superb fashion to show their opponents just why they're in the highest division of BUCS and that they mean to stay there.

At the Sports Centre, the game began with neither side really grabbing control of the match. The score line teetered between both teams throughout the set, until Manchester delivered a sucker punch at the death. Despite Lancaster earning a set point, they were not able to land the all important decisive blow – which Manchester gladly did, taking the set 25-27. 1-0 to the visitors but positive signs from Lancaster's women meant this game was in no way over.

**The second set saw Lancaster's underlying dominance prevail.**

The set was comfortably secured 25-11 in under 15 minutes, draining any confidence Manchester's women in purple had gained from the previous set. Through

great serving from Chiara Miele and Alex Buttol, Lancaster started greatly, taking a 11-1 advantage. This undoubtedly deflated their rivals as they continued their success to easily take the second set. Lancaster were now on top and the games momentum had shifted completely, as we headed into the final sets. Once Lancaster had established their dominance, the third and fourth sets were wrapped up in a similar manner, only with less ease than the previous set. Both teams struggled to grab a tight hold in either of the final sets, until Lancaster gained a slim advantage which they built on convincingly as they sensed victory.

**The third set was secured 21-25 giving the home side a substantial cushion to take into what would be the final set.**

Initially being a set down, the atmosphere around the court

had now become less nervy due to the set buffer Lancaster now had. This gave the ladies on court the confidence to put the accelerator down, not giving Manchester any chance of a resurgence. Ultimately the fourth and final set was won

number 10 jersey also became one of Lancaster's star achievers. Playing as the playmaker, Louca consistently set the ball for her taller team members with perfect accuracy. From the sideline, Lancaster always looked for different



Photo by Ricardo Tsui

25-19, assuring Lancaster of their second league win of the campaign. One of Lancaster's key players was their no 11 Buttol, who spiked her way into Manchester nightmares. Time after time, when given the opportunity, Buttol would deliver power-laden smashes, securing points quickly and efficiently. The captain Louca, who wore the

options in attack to win points, whether that be utilising clever reverse sets, tantalising drop shots or killer serves – Manchester couldn't deal with Lancaster's attack or even know what was coming next. This all came through captain Louca who dictated the play convincingly, making Lancaster look an entertaining, well rigged side. After the game Louca told SCAN: "We are very pleased with the result. We were a bit nervous in the beginning which cost us the first set. Afterwards we pulled ourselves together, we were communicating better with each other and working better as a team. We will try to do our best and keep the team in the first league and we are looking forward to our next games."

**Lancaster's unity was clear, showing**

**just why they've established themselves as one of the best volleyball teams in the BUCS leagues.**

Each player was prepared to jump, slide or dive to save any ball, by any means. Angelika Kroner wearing the number 9 shirt particularly stood out on multiple occasions, diving miraculously to keep the ball alive. The team's willingness to never give up quite possibly gave them the decisive edge over a competent Manchester side.

**After a very promising start for Lancaster Women's Volleyball 1sts, perhaps the tougher tests will come from the two North-Easterly based teams of the division, in Northumbria and Durham's 1sts.**

They will both prove a stern test having not dropped a set this season and being winners/runners-up of the league and cup last year; Lancaster will need to cause a great upset to knock the Women's Volleyball titans off their perch. Lancaster's next game will be away to Liverpool this Wednesday (13th) before playing their next home game against Sheffield at the end of the month (27th).



# Another year of successful tennis stars

Hoi Chung Law

The female tennis season came to an end after Italy won their fourth Fed Cup after beating Russia in the final. It may not be one of the most competitive or controversial seasons in tennis history, but it definitely can be considered as one of the most entertaining. Despite Serena Williams having a less than perfect start in the earlier part of the season, her performances in the latter part of the year, (including two grand slam titles and the WTA championship trophy) won her the top place in the season-ending singles ranking – the first time she’s done so since 2009. Her performances this year have one again proven her to be one of the true legends of tennis. Now with 17 grand slams

titles to her name, she needs only one more grand slam trophy to be in the company of Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova – who hold the most Grand Slam titles in the Open Era. Despite Serena’s success, it was not the ideal season Victoria Azarenaka had hoped for. The Belarusian blonde, clinched the Aussie Open in January but found herself on the wrong end of Williams for the majority of the year. Not only was she defeated in the US open final, but she also had her No.1 ranking grasped away from her by the American too. The difference between Williams and her closest competitor can be seen by her nearly doubling the amount of ranking points they each amassed this year. Poster girl Maria Sharapova’s strong form was unfortunately interrupted by injuries this year. She was forced to

withdraw from the US open and WTA championship after getting into the semi-final and final of the Australian and French Open respectively. Despite injury, it’s a big pity for the player and fans to see her form diminish after leaving Roland Garros as a finalist. Questions could also be raised regarding her growing presence off the court, with new products emblazoned with her name and her acquired celebrity status, as both could be seen as a distraction from her professional tennis career. Concurrently, Li Na, who is the only Asian female to win a grand slam title, managed to return to top form after a disappointing 2012 season. Reaching the finals of the Australian Open and WTA championship have shown tennis fans around the world that she is back to her French Open-winning best. This year also witnessed the

breakthrough of many young female tennis players including Sabine Lisicki and particularly the American Sloane Stephens. Lisicki, who is currently 24, became the finalist of Wimbledon after defeating Williams and Agnieszka Radwanska in the 4th round and semi-final respectively. 20 year old Stephens shocked everyone at the Australian Open by defeating Williams in the quarter-final of the tournament. At such a young age, significantly she is on the brink of breaking into the top 10 of women’s tennis, critically the first American to do so since Williams in 1999. Other shocks throughout the year included Marion Bartoli’s decision to retire 40 days after winning her first grand slam title in London at the slender age of 28 due to recurring injuries. Bartoli believed her body could not support her career

Read more online at [scan.lusu.co.uk/sports](http://scan.lusu.co.uk/sports)

# Bar Sport: Michaelmas Round-Up



As the first term of Lancaster University enters it’s sixth week, sports teams of all varieties are well under way in competitive fixtures. Bar sports in particular have been hotly contested since week 1 with both inter-college pool and darts leagues being in full swing. With carter shield points at stake as well as collegiate and team pride, here’s a round-up of the state of play so far.

pack is last year’s champions Fylde, who despite losing two of their first 3 games, lie in an ominous third. In contrast to this bottom of the table sees Grad rooted with two loses in their first two, with County and Cartmel also struggling above them after losing their first three. Still early in the competitive season, each team will be optimistic of high averages, good checkouts and most importantly, climbing up the league table. County in particular will be buoyed by their support from comedian Paul Foot, who after meeting a few of the team on a night out, regularly tweets his encouragement.

the standard of women’s darts continues to grow alongside its popularity, new faces are spotted each week around the colleges participating in high quality matches. Behind Fylde, the rest of the league is incredibly tight, setting up an exciting season as the other team’s look to find their form. Incredibly, the 7 point gap from Fyde to Pendle is the same as Pendle to bottom placed Lonsdale, meaning any team who regularly hits their doubles will see themselves as the leading title challengers to Fylde.

bottom of the table is County, who’ve managed to pocket just 3 points from their first 3 games after heavy defeats. Grizedale are also adrift at the bottom on 5 points, but have a game in hand over most other teams and a much better score difference than County. All teams however will feel confident in moving up the league table once form is found, the mid-table teams in particular will see the 6 point gap from Furness in 3rd to Lonsdale in 7th as an opportunity to climb higher.

to break the 20 point barrier, (with a game in hand too) in what is shaping up as a three horse race for the title. Bowland have had a disappointing start to the season, losing 2 of their first three games after being victorious in the competition last season. County’s bar sports struggles continue as they hold up the rest of the table once again from three games.

## Men’s Darts

A competitive start to the darts league has seen some eye-catching results alongside some high quality “arrows”. After three games in, it is the boys of Pendle topping the league table, one point ahead of second placed Lonsdale who remain hot on their heels. Both sides have had strong starts to the season, winning each of their opening three league fixtures. Leading the chasing

## Women’s Darts

In the Women’s darts, a well supported Fylde side sit top after three matches, with a 7 point gap over nearest competitors Pendle and County. The defending champions have made a terrific start to the season, winning their first three matches to build the perfect platform for a title defence. The girls from Pendle will be eager to chase down the points of the rampant Fylde side after narrowly missing out on top honours last season by just 5 points. As

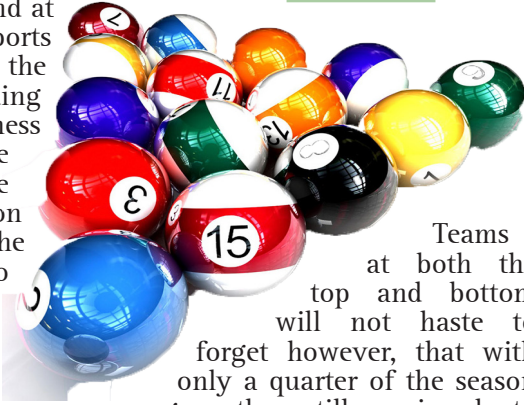
## Pool Men’s Firsts

From darts to pool now, as the men’s pool season is also well under way. Once again it is resident bar sport behemoths Fylde and Pendle who lead the table after three sets of matches. Both sides have 100% win records from their three games and are separated by just one point, setting up a mouth watering clash when the two colleges draw cues. Reigning champions Pendle won the league comfortably last season and will welcome the surprise challenge of Fylde, who were previously considered a mid-table outfit. Rooted to the

## Pool Women’s

It seems to be a theme of this review to mention Pendle as title contenders but yet again the witches are found at the top of the bar sports table, this time in the women’s pool. Leading second placed Furness by an impressive 7 points, Pendle sit comfortably on top after being the only side so far to maintain an 100% record through four fixtures. Also unbeaten are Fylde, who unsurprisingly round out the top 3 as the only other side

Overall, the bar sport season is in full flow this term as the tables begin to shape after the first four rounds of fixtures.



Teams at both the top and bottom will not haste to forget however, that with only a quarter of the season gone, there still remains plenty of opportunity for movement up or down the table.

# Can Vettel be considered an F1 great?

Henry Saker-Clark

By winning the Indian Grand Prix in impressive fashion, Sebastian Vettel completed a magnificent sporting achievement, winning his fourth consecutive Formula 1 World title. Four world titles is an immense feat in any sport, let alone completing these all back to back and even more impressively, by someone only 26 years of age. Like any sporting achievement this has lead to much debate, many questioning whether Vettel should be considered an all-time great and also whether there is anyone who’ll be able to stop him from clinching a fifth consecutive championship next season. Four back-to-back titles in what is clearly an extremely technical and physically demanding sport is obviously an achievement of the highest calibre, but the technologically dependant side of the sport has raised many questions over how great Vettel himself has been throughout his dominance in Formula 1.

exhaust gases have been used to provide downforce, and this is something which Vettel has used to perfection.

Vettel’s dominance over his team-mate Mark Webber is in theory, proof that the quality of the car does not simply formulate the leaderboard; during Vettel’s four title wins Webber has never achieved higher than third and has consistently struggled compared to his partner.



Photo by Ryan Bayona

Does he consistently better his opponents because of his skill as a driver, or because his car is significantly better?

Unsurprisingly there’s an element of both, as there ought be in order to attain such an achievement, but recognition of Vettel’s quality is unanimous around those involved in the sport. Also, the technological aspect of the sport does not decrease the need for skill from the driver, but acquires the use of somewhat different skills.

Strategy and tactics are becoming an ever more complicated area of the sport, with much pre-race analysis being dedicated to which drivers and teams will deploy the most successful tyre and pit-stop strategies. One of Red Bull’s technical successes over other teams this year has been the way in which

seasons. Not only this, but these are all drivers who were significantly older than Vettel when doing so, and unlike Vettel have no further opportunity to extend their records. Perhaps the best reason not to declare Vettel a legend now, is due to the possibility of him partaking in even greater achievements further along in his career. It is very possible that four consecutive title wins will become five or six, but are there any major threats to stop Vettel from doing so? Many have accused the sport of being boring in recent years due to the predictability of results, such has been Vettel’s form and the lack of a fierce enough rival.

Prost, Fangio and Schumacher have all won four titles, and only the latter pair have done it consecutive

Maybe the quality of Vettel and his car is too great to allow for close competition, but not necessarily.

The constant changing of team line-ups could provide Vettel with new challenges and a genuine contender. The quality of the Red Bull

is undoubted, hence threat could come from within his own team due to the arrival of Torro Rosso’s promising Daniel Ricciardo. A challenge could even possibly come from previous champion Kimi Raikkonen, who has excelled at Lotus, but will start next year with a more developed team at Ferarri. The other likely threat to Vettel’s hopes next year is Lewis Hamilton, who surprised many with the form he has gained so quickly in a new car at Mercedes. Atstillonly26,inmagnificent form and supported by Red Bull who look likely to win the constructors championship again, Sebastian Vettel looks unlikely to stop winning any time soon.



# Russian racism row reaches tipping point

Sam Carney

The desperate protestations of a clearly distraught Yaya Toure said it all: Not again. No strangers to accusations of racism, Russian fans, this time those of CSKA Moscow, have again come under scrutiny for allegedly directing ‘monkey chants’ at the Ivorian midfielder, mid-way through the second half of the Champions League group match between CSKA and Premier League side Manchester City.

Toure, to his credit, got on with the game and helped City to a priceless away win, yet has since spoken of his inevitable disappointment at the behaviour of the home fans, going as far as saying that black players like himself may boycott the 2018 World Cup, due to be held in Russia, if attitudes don’t change.

‘I think something has to be done to try and stop it’, said Toure in his post-match interview.

Many personalities in the media have commented on the

subject, speaking I’m sure, for many, in saying that a World Cup devoid of black players, would be much weaker, and perhaps not even worth watching. Aficionados of sport may cast their eyes back to a similar situation when, the United States and various other Western allies boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics in protest of the USSR’s invasion of Afghanistan. The result was an Olympiad dominated by the hosts, and one which lacked the colourful presence of the Americans in the sprints.

Yet what if Toure and team-mates such as Fernandinho really do hold the game’s governing body to ransom? How likely is it that, in the short space of five years, black players can be given the guarantee that a significant effort has been made to tackle racism in Russia? What if FIFA are faced with a large, 1980-style boycott?

The issue of xenophobia in football is not a novelty in Russia, nor indeed in any other country, yet with the growing influence of money in the game, and the influx of well-paid foreigners

this inevitably attracts, any racist incidents are bound to receive increasing media scrutiny. Take, for example, the largest supporters club of Zenit St. Petersburg, who last year insisted that their club exclude black players from the squad; announcing that they’d ‘had enough of having dark-skinned players [such as recent record-signing Hulk] shoved down their throat’. Often, examples of racism are blamed on a minority, yet, when one of the biggest and best-supported clubs in the country is faced with these kinds of demands from a large amount of supporters, can one really ignore the problem much longer?

When confronted with evidence such as this, surely FIFA and UEFA can no longer continue to dole out futile fines and stadium bans. So what can they do? Ban Russia from holding the World Cup altogether? Award the tournament to a more tolerant nation? A nation, such as England?

We are often told to look to the past, look to the fact that England invented the

glorious game and helped to disseminate it round the globe, as the missionaries did with Christianity. We have long dined at the world’s top table, winning the World Cup in ‘66, enjoying the best the world has to offer plying their trade on our shores, and of course, our fabulous stadia – second perhaps only to Germany in their state-of-the-art, purpose-built magnificence.

Look back again to the past; to thirty years ago, when Jamaican-born John Barnes was terrorizing defences as a speedy winger for Liverpool. Look upon the famous picture of Barnes, standing on one leg, the other indifferently flicking away a banana that had landed at his feet. Look upon this picture and realise that, even in our own, seemingly tolerant game, it has taken years upon years of integration and multiculturalism to banish the casual racism which once haunted the sport.

More recently, two years ago, think of the infamous clip of John Terry and Anton Ferdinand. England’s glorious captain, caught on camera, calling the QPR defender an

unspeakable name. Look back at this television coverage and realise that, even now, poisonous attitudes which should have been remedied decades ago still, occasionally, bubble to the surface.

No country is perfect. No-one has a squeaky clean record of human rights and certainly our government and media, along with those of other Western powerhouses such as the US, have no right to take a ‘holier-than-thou’ attitude when it comes to social issues such as these, whilst still feigning a sense of innocence and lack of responsibility for wars in other areas of the world – but that’s another story.

For now, talk about moving the World Cup in 2018 should stop, and instead, media focus should descend on the likes of Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini, who, alone in the footballing world, have the power to give players, such as Yaya Toure, the basic assurances they deserve.

How they do it? Well that’s completely up to them. They’ve got to earn that multi-million pound salary some way.

From the outset, the Bombers lack of discipline highlighted the team’s woes, as the Bombers conceded 6 penalties in the game allowing Liverpool easy yards.

Strong runs from Liverpool’s wide receivers and pinpoint passes from the oppositions quarterback all proved too much for the home team – who were always chasing the game from the beginning. Bombers quarterback Ryan Jardine, recognised the teams weakness simply telling SCAN “penalties killed the offence.”

The mere 12 training sessions in the build up to their opener, wasn’t the best preparation time needed for the team to be able to gel succinctly.

However to credit the team, the display was a commendable performance, although disappointment will inevitably be felt hard.

Despite victory becoming unattainable, you can’t argue with the teams ‘never say die’ attitude, fighting hard to the bitter end, giving the crowd something to cheer about.

which represents the 50th Anniversary of this prestigious event. Each team’s target has to be promotion, which will put us in good stead to what is sure to be a colossal match up against York.

To keep up to date on all LURFC teams visit our website page at [www.lurufc.com](http://www.lurufc.com) or our Twitter account @Lancaster\_Cats and make sure you come down and support us!

Team: 1. Tomás Moreira 2. Niall Swazi Parkhill 3. Salvador Torres 4. Jake Hawkins 5. Dave Ainslie 6. Jonathan Preston 7. Sam Ackers 8. Luke Dilley 9. Tobias Holder-Williams 10. Sam Maynard 11. Jonny Murray 12. Ollie Vidgeon 13. Elliot Burton 14. Chris Weeks 15. Simon Blake

Subs: 16. Joshua Miller 17. James Gamble 18. Martim Megre 19. A.J Clancy 20. Jacob Henchcliffe 21. Elliot Foster

MoTM: Luke Dilley and Simon Blake

# Liverpool Fury vs. Lancaster Bombers

- American football team Lancaster Bombers are defeated 6-48 by Liverpool Fury
- Matthew Berrington claims: “Playoffs still remain a distinct possibility if we step up and perform at the level we know we can.”

Vikesh Gosai

Although the score line shows a rather comfortable win for Liverpool Fury, the Lancaster Bombers can take great heart from a passionate performance. Despite the energy and enthusiasm, the first game of the season was sadly not going to follow script.

The constant roars bellowing from the Bombers filled the spectators with great pride and showed promise for the season ahead – this defeat wasn’t the end.

Although Liverpool scored fairly freely through the duration of the game, the Bombers D-line was simply fantastic in limiting Liverpool’s running game. The affectionately known ‘Oppy’ in particular, had a strong debut with 3 solo and 4 assisted tackles, cementing his stand out performance with the games only sack – arousing roars from the on looking offensive line watching from the side-lines.

Team cohesion still remains a problem, but this will develop with time, and if the Bombers continue to produce similar levels of raw intensity then I truly believe this season could be a very strong one, with Matthew Berrington outlining to SCAN “the “playoffs still remain a distinct possibility if we step up and perform at the level we know we can.” Granted they have every

chance, but there needs to be more work done on the training field to turn the squads undoubted potential and talent into results.

Looking towards the offence, although quarterback Jardine’s pass completion didn’t quite hit the dizzying heights he’s used to – throwing a pick 6 on one occasion – his running game proved more effective, gaining on average 3.5 yards per carry. One exceptional scramble where he evaded a potential 3 man sack, somehow managing to dart his way through, to gain around 5 yards, lived long in the memory.

Captained by second year Ben Grainger, the O-line was reasonably solid. Just a few errors resulted in slowing down the teams drive. Centre Mark Stevens told SCAN: “The team has clear potential but there was a lack of execution across the entire team, this will only improve with time.”

One of the Bombers more effective men on the field was Dimeji ‘Reggie’ Ademiju. He

ran the Liverpool defensive line ragged all game, ending up with a mightily impressive 88 yards in 16 rushes, averaging out at 5.5 yards a run. His hard work deserved at least a couple of touchdowns as he proved to be one of Lancaster’s greatest threats. The lone Lancaster Bomber who did touchdown was scored by Chris ‘Legs’ Franklin on what was a bitter-sweet debut for the young rookie.

While Lancaster will rue this performance, it will act as a great learning curve for the team.

This loss will be the best medicine to take in order to understand the harsh realities of what this North West conference will be all about this year. Although the Bombers would have loved to have been on the right side of

the score line, this division is no walk in the park, and this loss will help them grow and build as a team. The defeat to Liverpool will hopefully be the catalyst to spur the Bombers into future success, in doing so they will have to become a far more disciplined team and look to eradicate sloppy play from their game.

American Football is that kind of sport that sends shivers down the spine for supporters. It really does, no matter if you understand what’s going on, the raw stripped back emotion of men throwing themselves at each other, putting their bodies on the line, for the pride of their university is in itself a truly great spectacle. With the teams next home game against Staffordshire Stallions (24th Nov), Lancaster will need to settle quickly and start the game at a high pace.

So why not head down to the Astroturf pitches, to see for yourself, Lancaster’s only American Football team as their pursuit of the playoffs continues.

# Lancaster First XVs remain undefeated

- Lancaster first VX overcome a strong Liverpool 2’s XV away to put them top of the Northern 2a division
- Final score 22-10

Sam Maynard

After a promising start to the season with two convincing victories against Bangor University and Edge Hill, Lancaster Men’s rugby first XV went into this pivotal game brimming with confidence. Last season’s encounter with the Liverpool 2s XV had been a close affair and hopes were high that we could repeat that win again, this year.

The contest exploded into action early with ferocious hits from both sides, which was to be a recurring theme throughout the game. Great carries from the front five, especially Jake Hawkins and Dave Ainslie, led to the first opportunity for points for Lancaster through the award of a penalty, which fly half Sam Maynard duly converted. However, discipline let Lancaster down with Liverpool gaining vital territory with persistent penalties. The Liverpool 9 capitalized on this

through an instinctive quick tap penalty that resulted in him scoring under the posts, putting Liverpool into a 7-3 lead. The rest of the half was a cagey affair with both teams focusing on defence and unwilling to give too much away.

After a strong team talk during the half time interval from captain Ollie Vidgeon, the Lancaster first XV started the second half with the ‘bit between their teeth’. The forwards dominated every aspect of play with the scrums growing from strength to strength, mainly due to the powerhouse props, Thomas Moréira and Salvador Torres. The lineouts were also impeccable due to the combination of hooker Niall Swazi Parkhill and lineout jumper Jonathan Preston. The first breakthrough of the half, scored by Sam Ackers, was the outcome of Lancaster’s set-piece dominance and the try was expertly converted to put Lancaster Cats back into the lead, 10-7. With

the momentum now clearly in favour of Lancaster, their skilled and talented backs began slicing open the Liverpool defence with a number of clever moves that demonstrated the hard work that had clearly been done on the training ground.

The pressure was too much for the Liverpool team with Sam Ackers putting his head to good use charging down the Liverpoollian fly half. The loose ball was picked up cleverly by centre Elliot Burton who ran in for a converted try making the score 17-10 to the men in red. With 15 minutes left on the clock, lung bursting runs from Chris Weeks and debutante Simon Blake created an opening for speed merchant Jonny Murray who clinically finished in the corner. With the score 22-10, Liverpool threw caution to the wind as they tried to get something from the game but great collective team defence with the influential Luke Dilley and Tobias Holder-Williams to the fore kept the opposition at bay

until the final whistle.

Captain Ollie Vidgeon was very pleased with the team’s performance and said after the match:

“This win against Liverpool has not only shown how far we have come, but where we are heading as a team. We are growing week on week and this performance is just a small representation of all our hard work”.

Looking ahead, the squad, as a whole, has put in a huge amount of work in the pre-season and this is now paying dividends on the pitch with Lancaster 2nd XV maintaining their good form with a victory against MMU Cheshire, and Lancaster 3rd XV drawing against a strong Keele 2nd XV.

The new coach, Fergus Owens, has definitely had an impact bringing plenty of new ideas to the squad including detailed game plans, advice on nutrition and specific fitness training. It is important that all teams are performing to the best of their ability as we move towards Roses 2014,



Photo by Jay Theis





# Sport

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## The 68th Ashes series preview

**Lawrence Cook**

The 21st of November will see the first day of the 68th Ashes series between England and Australia and it promises to be one of the closest contests in recent years.

On the back of a flattering 3-0 score line in summer, England have questions to answer, the first of which is top order batting; on numerous occasions England lost 3 wickets for less than 100 runs. Joe Root looked inexperienced against the new ball and if it weren't for his 180 at Lords, his run tally would have been lean. Captain Alistair Cook's high score in the series was 62, disappointing after he scored 766 runs in the previous series in Australia and Jonathan Trott displayed technical issues as he gave his wicket away cheaply. However England's batting was stabilised on several occasions by Ian Bell. In the form of his life, he scored 562 at an average of 62.44 as his vital middle order runs gave England the opportunities to win.

The second question is which player will bat at number 6. Yorkshire's Jonny Bairstow is the favourite to start the 1st test but he faces tough competition from county teammate Gary Ballance and Durham all-rounder Ben Stokes. Ballance scored 995 championship runs this year as Yorkshire challenged for the title, and has been duly rewarded with a ticket to Australia. Ben

Stokes made some good contributions in the One-Day series and is handy with the ball but all three of these players lack experience at cricket's top level.

While Ballance and Stokes' selections were relatively surprising, it was less surprising that Graham Onions was left out of the England Squad again. Arguably the best bowler on the county circuit, he has been overlooked by selectors who favour taller bowlers who may get more out of fast, bouncy Australian pitches, so despite taking 70 wickets at 18.46 and with Chris Rushworth winning the championship for Durham, he doesn't get a place in the squad.

Instead selectors opted for Tremlett, Finn, Rankin and Stokes, all tall bowlers to complement the stalwarts of Anderson, Broad and Swann. The much loved Monty Panesar has been picked as a second spinner to support Swann even after he had an amusing altercation involving a night-club bouncer and got released by his county.

Looking ahead, games will likely be won and lost by the bowlers.

Australian pitches can be flat and movement can be hard to find. It will be down to James Anderson, now England 2nd highest wicket taker of all time, to have a good series – last time down-under, he took an impressive 24 wickets to help England's cause. Graeme Swann is a vital cog in Eng-

land's attack and his ability to destroy left-handed batsmen is a great asset to the team, however Australia will probably prepare pitches that don't turn due to their lack of a world-class spinner to fill the void that Shane Warne left.

After the Summer Ashes Series, Australia have found a lot of positives. The majority of their playing eleven has been finalised though questions over batting remain. Michael Clarke is by far the stand-out batsman, but Chris Rogers has a lot of experience and Shane Watson's technical issues were improving in the last test.

If Ryan Harris stays fit, he

will play a major part in the upcoming series, as will Australia's workhorse bowler Peter Siddle. The pair bowled very well and often troubled the English top three.

Mitchell Johnson may well find a way back into the Australian team after exemplary performances in the One-Day Team against India and for Mumbai Indians in the IPL. His ability to control movement at an uncomfortable pace and sharp bouncers even on slow Indian pitches means he deserves another chance in the Test side, especially given Alistair Cook's weakness when batting against left arm quick

bowlers. Australia had promising performances in England this year and will look to build on them; whilst on home territory, England's faults can be exposed but Australia need to learn to win.

Rain and Ian Bell saved England some embarrassment in the summer, but England's killer instinct shone through in the games they did win, with each of Broad, Anderson and Swann bowling brilliantly to close out a match. This series promises to be a closely fought battle and England's dominance of late could be upset if the Australians put up a fight.



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