

## Controversy at Lancaster's international campuses

**Nathalie Farrugia**

On Thursday, Week 5, Lancaster University's Academic Standards and Quality Committee discussed reports revealing the poor quality of the programmes delivered at the University's international teaching partners. Reports found that at the G D Goenka World Institute in New Delhi, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology in Lahore and Sunway in Kuala Lumpur the quality delivered in teaching, examinations and marking was not in line with Lancaster standards. Problems included exams designed to test students' memories rather than their understanding; the use of open-ended questions in exams; high failure rates and poor attendance.

While the feedback from G D Goenka showed that

Photo by Sam Smallridge



the majority of examiners thought that the standard of programmes being delivered were largely satisfactory and appropriately challenging, two examiners had different views. They believed there was evidence to show that

the examinations were in fact too easy and felt that the learning outcomes were too low when compared to the level of assessment. The student performance was also questioned and was not felt to be at a level which

was comparable to other institutions, a view supported by an internal moderator. One examiner also noted a poor level of student engagement on a particular module, which..

**Continued on page 4**

## Students return to Cartmel accommodation after fire

- Cartmel college members return to their accommodation shortly after the fire, which began after a lit firework was thrown into a sleeping student's first floor bedroom
- Residences manager reveals the University and the police are investigating the incident

**Henry Saker-Clark**

All but one of the members of the Cartmel flat which experienced a fire on Monday, Week 5, have been returned to their rooms, the University Residence Manager has told SCAN. Cartmel residents were evacuated from the building after a firework was thrown into a student's bedroom and caught fire.

The firework caused

significant fire and smoke damage to the student's room, who had been sleeping in there at the time of the incident. The student, a first year international, spoke to SCAN shortly after the incident – she stated that she had been sleeping, then jumped out of bed and attempted to put out the fire. After these attempts were unsuccessful she grabbed her duvet and ran out of the room, fortunately physically unharmed. 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. The student told News editor Jack Perry, who was on the scene moments after the incident, that she was concerned as she had left many of her important belongings in the bedroom when fleeing: "My passport, my bank card, my library card... everything that confirms my identity is in my room. It happened so suddenly." All witnesses said that they did not see anyone

outside the flat when they left.

SCAN is now able to confirm that the fire itself involved fire and smoke damage to the student's room. While smoke had been witnessed coming out of several ground floor and first floor rooms, the fire was contained within the room the firework had been thrown into. The fire door between the bedroom and the corridor meant the fire did not affect any other aspect of the flat...

**Continued on page 5**



### THE LION DEBATE: SOCIAL MEDIA FURY

Editor Rachel May Quin talks about the actions of an American TV presenter

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### THE BODY DEBATE

Comment and Fashion weigh in on the size 16 mannequins recently introduced at Debenhams

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### FEELING FESTIVE?

Our Carolynne sections are embracing their Christmas spirit this issue

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## EDITORIAL



Rachel May Quin  
Editor

It is official everybody, we have reached the final SCAN of Michaelmas term. Shortly after sending the final issue off to print, I'll be kicking back and relaxing... with the masses of coursework and dissertation reading that have been piling up and gathering a fine layer of dust during the last seven weeks of neglect. We've had an extremely successful term, not just in terms of the newspaper. Our website is looking snazzier each and every day, we're doing some

amazing live-blogging during the Week 8 JCR elections and we're looking to the future to find ways of interacting better with you all.

The big news this issue is centred largely (no pun intended) around the new size 16 models unveiled at Debenhams and the problems that the international campuses are facing. It seems at the moment that the media is obsessed with body image and appearances. It's become a somewhat pressing concern in Lancaster recently thanks to a certain publication that enjoys getting right on everybody's last nerve. One of our writers, Bryony Seager, put together a fantastic piece which you can find on our website blasting the Daily Mail for their article claiming that students at Lancaster are the vainest in the UK, spending over £1,000 on beauty products a year. I completely agree with her, and also feel the need to ask – where the hell are these people apparently getting the money from?

I'm one of those students whom the government deems too well-off to receive any more than the minimum loan per term. Which is great, if your parents are in a financial position – and are feeling

generous enough – to help you out. If I were to spend £1,000 on beauty products, that would be an entire term's worth of student loan gone – I'm pretty certain that has never happened. It's not just about the blatant exaggeration either. The Daily Mail deciding to single out students and trying to paint them as stupid, fanciful and completely self-obsessed is the exact type of harmful stereotypes that we students simply do not need, or deserve. Personally, I'm already sick of hearing about how lazy and corrupt we all are – due to all the sex we're allegedly having and the booze we're all allegedly guzzling 24/7 – I do not also need to hear that we're vain now too.

Anyway, rant over. The most important thing about this issue of SCAN is that it's the final one before Christmas. So, with that in mind, I hope you all have a wonderful last couple of weeks of term and an even better Christmas and New Year. Anyway, rant over. The most important thing about this issue of SCAN is that it's the final one before Christmas. So, with that in mind, I hope you all have a wonderful last couple of weeks of term and an even better Christmas and New Year. Myself and the

SCAN Editorial team will see you all back here in 2014 for Full Time Officer elections, the run-up to Roses, and many other exciting things that I am currently unable to predict. Also, even though there's no paper now until next year – that feels great to say – keep your eyes peeled for online content which we'll inevitably be writing and publishing throughout the Christmas period. Including our JCR live blogs, which kicked off yesterday with Bowland and will continue until Tuesday evening.

Whatever you're doing, make the most of your time at home relaxing with your family. Here's a picture of a chilled out kitten to get you in the spirit of things.



Rachel. x

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# News

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

## LUSU strive to improve representation of disabled students here at Lancaster

- Laurence Pullan speaks exclusively to SCAN about the problem of disabled students being underrepresented by the Union due to a lack of officer representation; claiming few, if any, run for positions within the Union
- Claims the idea of stigma is wrong, and one way to counter it would be “to ensure... guaranteed representation”

**Emma Vickery**

LUSU VP Union Development, Laurence Pullan, has spoken about how underrepresented students with disabilities are in LUSU. Repeated elections indicate that few, if any, disabled students run for positions within the Union, and there is currently no LUSU officer mandated to provide representation to students with disabilities. Pullan thinks that part of the problem is that there have been no previous

campaigns for disability awareness by previous Full Time Officers.

When asked how many students have disabilities on campus, Pullan said “it's very difficult to actually give an accurate figure or percentage on how many students have disabilities, as although the university has a record of those who declare having a disability, there are many that don't, and it's these students – as well as those that identify as being disabled – that we need to help as best we can.”

A study by the University of

Essex suggested that declaring yourself disabled to your university could be seen as stigmatising, and that some students were uncertain as to whether the category of 'disabled' included people with their condition. Pullan stated that he disagrees with the ethics presented in the Essex study, and that representation is the way to change that. “I was saying that the suggestion of there being a stigma attached to disability in itself is wrong and that one way to work toward countering that would be, I think, to ensure there is guaranteed representation of disabled students. I went to the NUS Liberation Activism Conference and Hannah Paterson, NUS Disabled Students seat, described disability as society's failing in not accommodating, and in fact excluding, people in everyday participation.”

However, confusion over the term 'disability' may be a reason as to why students at Lancaster are not registering themselves as disabled. A former Lancaster student did not register that he was a Type 1 Diabetic with the university. He said, “I was not sure of the conditions classification, and was worried that I might be stopped from taking part in certain activities.” Although diabetes is covered under the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act, it is still a condition that causes confusion as to whether or not it is a disability. Pullan said, “We need to look at ways of showing support to those students who, in the case of disability, have no record with the university, but still require on-going help and advice.”

He extended this to say that the way students see themselves may also be a contributing factor. “I think

disability can be something you self-define too. Do you need to be on a university record of disability to class yourself as disabled? Could being dyslexic for example also be seen as a disability? I don't see there being stringent rules on which disabled students can run and which can't.”

**This raises the question as to why LUSU currently have no officer which represents these students.**

Pullan thinks that this is due to the previous administration's decisions about representation. “Last year Steve Smith – the president – underwent a CCO change where he cut down the number of Cross Campus Officers... Liberation groups slowly disappeared, and actually I think we made the wrong decision.

“We've cut seats for liberation groups on [Union] Council and actually that's something I'm desperate to bring back... It might be at that point that we realise we can do better, by collaborating with activities groups and the students' disabled services for example. One of the ways I think is best for doing it is by having a seat on Council for disabled students.”

One of the reasons that LUSU is keen to change this situation is the statistics. Pullan told SCAN: “if you look at surveys and things like that, disabled students on average leave Lancaster around twenty percent less satisfied than other students and that's quite

a shocking statistic. It needs addressing. Whether it is by introducing CCOs, a seat on Council, or by looking at other ways we can approach disabled students. Clearly the figures show that there's a definite need for some sort of better representation for disabled students.”

In regards to the lack of representation that disabled students have within LUSU, the next Union Council meeting will include discussion of a document that addresses the topic of liberation groups. The meeting will take place on the Thursday, Week 7, and will open up discussions about reintroducing seats on Council for a BME Student (Black Minority Ethnic), Women's Officer, and Disabled Student. At the moment the only Cross Campus Officer that directly represents a liberation group is the LGBTQ\* Cross Campus Officer. The document also raises the potential for wider representation for mature students and parents.

Pullan was keen to stress that support for disabled students is available. “At the moment our Aid and Support Team are great and work on very specific disability issues. But we do also work with the university's Student Based Services and the Disabled Services in particular, because they do have dedicated staff that work with disabled students.”

Although students with disabilities are currently underrepresented in LUSU, the Full Time Officers are clearly aware of this and are therefore undertaking measures to try and rectify the situation. In relation to these measures, Laurence Pullan stated, “It's our responsibility to make sure that we represent all students.”



# Report states the international campuses are struggling to achieve Lancaster’s high standards

- Reports of poor attendance, high failure rates and modules of low standards being taught at associated international campuses suggest that efforts are not being made to provide high quality degrees
- It has been noted that whilst standards of teaching were “satisfactory”, assessments were deemed “inappropriate and appeared to be designed to test student memories, rather than their understanding [of the subject]”

### Continued from front page

... had high failure rates and poor attendance.

With regard to the postgraduate programmes at Goenka, one external examiner felt that the programmes were inappropriate for the student entry profile. They believed that the poor results in the first year module were a consequence of the mismatch in the entry qualifications on the course. The coursework marks however, were reasonable but there were doubts surrounding the use of group assignments at level 7. These assessments were not believed to be entirely appropriate in satisfying the learning outcomes of the individual students.

Likewise at COMSATS, by the end of the first semester external examiners for the Business Studies degree voiced their concerns about the standard of some Level 5 modules, especially when compared to similar degrees at Lancaster and other Higher Education institutions in the UK. While the standard of teaching was generally seen as satisfactory, one examiner observed that there was no evidence of this high standard when looking at student assessments. They commented on the nature of the assessments, saying they were inappropriate and appeared to be designed to test students’ memories, rather than their understanding. Module outlines were described as ‘very weak with little instruction given’ and it was felt that the mark schemes did not allow for the depth of response expected. Some examiners also felt that some modules did not allow for evaluation, critique and the application of theory to practice.

Within examinations, examiners found a lack of consistency as well as some clustering of marks. One examiner drew particular attention to a number of spelling and grammatical errors in the final exam paper as well as the use of open ended questions. With regard the

quantitative and qualitative questions, examiners believed questions should be used to test a broader range of skills.

Regarding the assessment regulations at COMSATS, while the external examiner for the degrees in Engineering, Computing and Communication Systems felt they were mostly consistent and appropriate, they commented that in some programmes there were “many failures.” In spite of achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, many still failed. However, by the end of the second semester, external examiners reported they were satisfied by the actions taken by the University to resolve all of the issues mentioned in the report. They also expressed satisfaction with the assessment methods and procedures in place by the second semester.

While Sunway does not appear to have caused as much of a concern as Goenka or COMSATS one examiner was particularly worried by some students’ examination results, with the examiner also commenting on the inconsistency in students’ use of referencing, as well as the

need for further improvements in critical thinking.

There have been issues for many years in ensuring partner universities deliver a course that matches the standards of Lancaster University, with some noting the lack of discussion of the risks involved in setting up partner universities across the world. University Senate – the academic authority of the University – has had very little debate as to the value of these international partnerships and the risks they entail.

In the University’s strategic plan for 2020, the University management pledge to “raise the profile and recognition of the University nationally and internationally” and to ensure “accountability, integrity and professionalism in how we operate, both in the UK and overseas.” Some members of the University have suggested that a failure to fulfil the latter pledge could endanger the former, raising questions as to the extent problems in teaching and examination could dent the University’s reputation on the international stage.

The partnership between

Lancaster and The G D Goenka World Institute in New Delhi, India, was established in 2009 and combines the academic experience of staff from both institutions. It currently has over 450 students studying for a Lancaster University degree, offered in Mechanical Engineering, Electronic and Electrical Engineering as well as Computer Systems Engineering. If students are successful they will graduate with a Lancaster University degree. Goenka also offers a two year Postgraduate Diploma in Business Management (PGDBM) and a one-year taught Master’s programme in Management, which is taught by both Goenka and Lancaster staff.

**GD Goenka, the company which co-founded the Institute with Lancaster, has recently set up its own independent university.**

In 2010, Lancaster set up a similar partnership called the Dual Degree Programme with COMSATS Institution of Information Technology in Lahore, Pakistan. There are currently over 1800 students enrolled in the different dual degree programs which offer the chance to study Computer Science, Software Engineering, Business Administration, Electrical Engineering and Chemical Engineering. All programmes here include teaching staff from Lancaster as well as Lahore and after completing the four year course at Lahore, successful students graduate with degrees from both universities.

Since 2006, Lancaster has been in partnership with Sunway University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Students are able to study for degrees in Business Studies, Business Management, Accounting and finance, Computer Technology, Communications, Hospitality, Psychology and Life Science. Upon successfully graduating students are awarded certificates from both Sunway and Lancaster University, making them graduates of both institutions.



Photo by Sam Smallridge

# Residences manager confirms that no students were harmed in the fire

### Continued from front page

... there was no damage to the corridor, kitchen or other rooms, though there was a strong smell of smoke throughout the flat.

Soon after the incident,

all eight students from the affected flat were relocated, many of whom spent the night in friends’ rooms on campus, and were given full free use of the Barker House food court for meals until they were able to return to their original flat.

Candace Davies, the

Lancaster University Residence Manager, told SCAN that seven of the eight students were able to return to their accommodation properly in the afternoon of Tuesday, Week 5, after the area had been deodorised and cleaned. Davies said that the remaining

room will be ready for re-occupation “very shortly.”

The students from the ground floor flat involved have all been given academic and welfare support since the fire took place, according to Davies. “The academic departments of all eight students were sent an email to advise them of the situation with their particular students. As well as College staff being on hand to provide help, Student Based Services support staff were also alerted in case further support was required.”

Davies was keen to highlight the support that had been given to students and the spirited response of those within the college. “The residents of the whole block where the fire occurred were emailed after the event to thank them for their co-operation at the time and to reassure them that no injury had been caused to fellow students.” It was also recognised that “no major damage had been caused to the building” and all sufficient actions had taken place to ensure the safety of students in the early aftermath of the

incident, helping them to return to the building as soon as possible and cause as little disturbance as possible.

It was also made clear by Davies that fire safety advice had been given to students on numerous occasions. “Cartmel student attendance at the Intro Week Safety talks was good and prior to bonfire night the Cartmel College Dean emailed all students to remind them about fire safety particularly during Halloween and bonfire night.”

She went further on to say, “students were also reminded by email on 24th October about appropriate use of fire alarms as we have experienced an increase in the number of malicious fire alarm activations across campus at the start of this term.”

“I cannot provide any further information surrounding the incident itself as the police are still involved in investigating this.” Davies said, “I personally would like to commend the swift and calm actions of all the staff and students involved at the time and in the days immediately afterwards.”

# 1994 Group officially closes its doors

- The 1994 Group was a coalition group which brought together 11 world-class research intensive universities
- The website boasts that 88% of its academic research was internationally recognised and its members ranked in the top 2% of institutions worldwide, originally founded to defend the interests of smaller research universities

### Emily Clayton

After 19 years the 1994 Group, which Lancaster University was a member of, has ended. The 1994 Group was a prestigious group of universities, and a powerful collective voice of the 11 research intensive universities involved, which also include the University of East Anglia, the University of Leicester and Loughborough University. Its main aim was to represent the views of its members on the future of higher education through discussions with the government, funding bodies, and other higher education interest groups.

In the past, the 1994 Group has ensured a high quality student experience for its members’ students

and helped graduates get on in life; research undertaken by the group found that that graduates of 1994 Group universities can expect to earn £200,000 on average more over a lifetime than graduates from other universities. The group has also offered its students a number of other benefits, including the overseas program ERASMUS, contact with experts undertaking ground-breaking research and a range of extracurricular activities.

Not only has the group provided for students, it has provided research on higher education to the government to help implement new schemes and improve the higher education system.

Lancaster University said “The Group was founded at a time of real change within the sector and so it comes to end

at another point of significant change. Collectively, we have taken the decision to bring the 1994 Group to an end, because as institutions we have expanded and changed over time to the point where the need for the Group as originally constituted no longer exists.

“We leave the group as friends and colleagues as convinced as ever that the universities we represent – committed to traditional academic rigour and excellence in research, determined to make a global mark and to deliver a high quality student experience – will continue to prosper.”

The 1994 Group was often equated to the Russell Group, another prestigious group of universities committed to maintaining a high standard of research and an outstanding teaching and learning

experience. Over the past 19 years the 1994 Group lost a number of its members to the Russell Group but also gained a few along the way.

**Despite its competition with the Russell Group, the 1994 Group remained a respected and successful establishment until its end.**

Joel Pullan, LUSU President, said “Lancaster, being part of this mission group, has been party to big decisions affecting not just our own

institutions, but across the country”. The 1994 Group has helped Lancaster University have its most outstanding and successful research recognised as well as increased its appeal to many prospective students.

Although the group has ended, there are plans for Lancaster University to continue to extend the achievements of the group. The Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, Professor Mark E Smith said “Lancaster values the strong relationships and collaborations that it has developed with fellow members of the 1994 Group and continues to be a member of other active networks of universities. We continue to seek new opportunities to develop new, mutually beneficial relationships with other leading UK and global academic institutions.”



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## Lancaster's green fingers get the thumbs up



Marketa Lapackova

The Green environment initiative at Lancaster University celebrated a double success at the "It's Your Neighbourhood" ceremony held by the Royal Horticultural Society in week 5. The Lancaster University grounds entry, which is in its third year, achieved the second highest Level "Thriving". The second entry, The 'Campus Eco-Hub', developed for growing food sustainably, was acknowledged as "Establishing".

SCAN asked Landscape Manager Ian Sturzaker what he thought of the awards, who replied that: "it is good for my staff to have recognition and accreditation for what we do and that we work to a national standard. For the students who went to the award it is definitely good to be publically rewarded by the RHS. It is an ideal experience to put on your CV if you are interested in horticulture and the environment" added the Green Lancaster coordinator, Darren Axe.

The success resulted from

cooperative work done by LUSU staff with volunteering students, Landscape and Grounds Maintenance, and local horticultural organization LESS (Local and Effective Sustainable Solutions). The judge's highlights were the wildflower bank, welcoming arrivals at the western approach to the underpass, and the ornamental beds in front of the University House.

Sturzaker believed that the grounds were especially important to students, commenting that "it is important to make the students aware of the campus and the facilities it has got, but also about giving them a sense of ownership. If they are residents on campus, this is their home, they should get the chance to take care of it."

**The Eco-Hub has been a project that has come about following student demand and volunteer commitment.**

The judges were impressed by the two hectare site on campus being devoted to environmental education activities.

Axe described the establishment as a "good combination of students' desire and the NUS fund being placed". A team represented by volunteer executives from 2011-12 developed the idea for a space on campus used for the Organic Garden and Chicken project. The voluntary team presented the case along with LUSU staff to Facilities Management in 2012. The project was agreed in early autumn 2012 and Green Lancaster commenced work on the new site at Brandrigg Barn soon after. This summer, the Eco-Hub gave the first successful crop of vegetables.

"Food and environment sustainability is definitely an issue that needs to be exposed" said Axe. "There is an argument that once you are at university, you are trying to save money. One of the goals of Eco Hub is to bring to at least some of the students affordable, yet healthy food instead of ready meals embodying carbons."

Sturzaker went on to mention the commercial

potential the Eco Hub has by provide fruit, vegetables and herbs for the catering facilities on campus. However, as a much more important aspect of the Eco Hub, he pointed out the "education of life skills" and that: "The campaign is not just to get the students out to dig in the ground, but it is mainly to make them aware of the food and environment sustainability. Some people may not have been exposed to it, and they may not even know where their food comes from."

The Eco-Hub was brought to reality by a larger food and sustainability project "Student Eats", funded by NUS Student Green Fund. Over a hundred students have signed up already to participate in the weekly Wednesday sessions. LUSU was selected as one of around 25 Students' Unions nationally to receive funding for food growing on their university's campuses.

**The two year funding covers the 2012-2014 academic period.**

Further plans for the future include additional fruit orchards on the campus; installing college-based growing facilities and growing tubes outside catering venues. LUSU will also be running a series of food themed events during the funded period, the first of which was the 'Green Lancaster Goes Pumpkin Crazy' event on Tuesday, Week 4. These events will focus on local and seasonal food and will encourage students to 'cut their food carbon' through buying local and developing a passion for cooking with raw ingredients rather than ready meals.

"There will be an opportunity for the students to take part in wider-scale horticultural and food growing projects," said Axe, adding that the experience is important for students as it an opportunity to "learn new skills and boost their job prospects."

If students wish to get involved in the Green Lancaster initiative they can do that by signing to the LUSU volunteering online database at [volunteering.lusu.co.uk/signup](http://volunteering.lusu.co.uk/signup).



# Twins Appeal mother says thank you

**Dan Allen**

In 2012 an appeal was launched for teenagers Katie and Emily Sutcliffe, both Lancaster residents, to fly to America for surgery that would help them realise their dream of walking unaided.

The then 15 year olds both suffer from a condition known as spastic diplegic cerebral palsy. The condition causes severe stiffness and pain in their legs, rendering them wheelchair bound.

For most of their lives, Katie and Emily did not think they would be able to receive much help for their condition

However a new operation called selective dorsal rhizotomy recently became available at St Louis Children’s Hospital in the American state of Missouri.

While the surgery offered hope to the twins, it is an extremely expensive procedure.

This led to the launch of the appeal in order to raise the £85,000 needed to send Katie and Emily to the United States and pay for the operation.

Lancaster University and its students were involved in supporting the appeal with several money raising events. These included a Bowland college JCR auction where university JCR members sold themselves off as servants. Cartmel College held a Cinderella Christmas Pantomime and a ‘zumbathon’ held at the Lancaster Sports centre. Others held their own events,

In order to thank people for the efforts made in support of her daughters, their mother, Caroline Sutcliffe, has written a thank you letter to Lancaster University students for their support. SCAN has published it below.

“Well folks this has been a great weekend for Emma and her progress. She can now manage to get up from sitting by just pushing through her legs to standing and has managed to take 12 independent steps, something she has never done in her 16 years on this earth,

“Her balance is getting better and better and she is able to take more controlled steps now. This is massive progress for Emma, as she is much weaker than her sister... who incidentally hasn’t used her wheelchair for four weeks. Katie is using short canes all the time when at school, and walks around the house independently most of the time, which again is absolutely amazing and a joy for me to see. To say we are only 4 months post-op, this is brilliant news for both girls.

We were told it would take up to two years for them to reach their goal of walking independently, so we are making great progress, although I am very aware we still have a long way to go!

Thanks to all of you for your continued support.. I am one very happy Mum! xxxxx”

# Campus WiFi signal on the mend

**Dan Allen**

ISS (Information Systems Services) have been working to fix Wi-Fi signal problems on campus previously reported in SCAN. Attempts have been made to determine the extent and cause of the issues of these issues.

Previously, campus residents were told to report any issues to the ISS Service Desk. In a statement given to SCAN, Andrew Gibson, Accommodation Publicity Officer and Furness Residence Officer, said that information received by ISS had proved useful. He stated: “the 45 reports received to date have helped focus their investigations. A number of potential causes were examined, including interference from the use of personal wireless access points.”

Previously, ISS had told campus residents to turn off these personal access points. This would determine if they were the cause of the issues and hopefully resolve them.

Gibson also explained the on-going Wi-Fi installation project and the problems ISS encountered. “The University is aiming to provide Wi-Fi in all buildings across campus, including all the residences (approximately 7,500 rooms), and work to install equipment for the residences was completed over the summer. Shortly after the start of term, ISS became aware of difficulties with the Wi-Fi signal in some areas and have since been working to establish the cause and extent of these issues.”

The statement went on to disclose that ISS are currently attempting to narrow their focus to particular areas where issues are thought to be most present. These areas are “mainly in Alexandra Park, though some rooms in some blocks in Fylde, Furness and County South may also be experiencing weak signals.”

He also revealed that students living on campus are being asked help with the problems, saying: “ISS are asking students who are in these rooms to complete a very short survey which will help to pinpoint problems, design and implement solutions, and more quickly make improvements to the Wi-Fi signal.”

Joel Pullan, LUSU President, echoed Gibson in highlighting the efforts made by ISS to improve the campus W-Fi experience and lessen issues. He told SCAN that “ISS have been proactive in trying to solve any issues students are having with Wi-Fi in their residences; and students are encouraged to get in touch with ISS if any problems should arise.”

He went on to state that attempts are now being made by LUSU to encourage examination of other issues with technology on campus: “Our attention is now turning to mobile phone coverage, exploring ways in which reception can be improved in areas of campus. There are many difficulties to this but we shall continue to lobby for options to be explored. “

Any students still experiencing signal problems on campus by students should reported them to the ISS Service Desk (ss-service-desk@lancaster.ac.uk). ISS say this should help them identify potential ‘blackspots’, these are areas with very weak or no signal.



Photo by Sammie Caine

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

# Lancaster innovators feature at JISC’s first annual technology exhibition

**Steve Start**  
News Editor

On Tuesday, Week 6, Imperial College London hosted the JISCs first annual ‘summer of student innovation’ technology showcase event.

The event consisted of 21 applicants showcasing their technological innovations to help students receive a better overall experience at university.

The projects varied in their approaches. Some concentrated on the social spheres of productivity whilst others put more of an emphasis on aiding students to achieve a greater understanding of complex information through the use of software tools.

One of these software aides was Progress, a program created by Lancaster University students Connor Atherton and Jordan Kirby. Progress is a software product that allows students to track their progress throughout their degree and forecast results.

The tool takes the information directly from the student’s transcript on moodle and maps it into an interactive graph. The visualization of test and coursework scores enables students to tailor their work schedule accordingly, devoting more time to weaker areas of their discipline whilst also making tactical decisions concerning the likelihood of grade attainment.

When SCAN spoke to Atherton and Kirby they were enthusiastic about the reception of their product. “We’ve tested it with students and their first reaction is that they love it. The biggest thing that we have taken away from this is that what we have created can actually make a difference to students.”

Concerning the rest of the projects on show at the exhibition, SCAN spoke to Jisc representative Andrew McGregor who explained the process. He reasoned that overall student satisfaction was becoming increasingly dependent on the online experience that a particular institution offers. He went on to joke that during a creative meeting with his colleagues at Jisc, it suddenly occurred to them that they “were probably not the best people come up with the ideas.”

The concept of a student based innovation competition was born.

With internal funding Jisc set about creating a competition that would reach out to a national audience, asking for a short two minute video pitch in return for £5,000 prize money for each winning idea. At the close of the one-month application period, Jisc had received 36 applicants and quickly set about putting them into an open online voting format to gauge the opinion of their future users.

After 14,500 video hits and 6,500 votes Jisc provided 21 of the original 36 ideas with £5,000 funding and an invitation to the exhibition at Imperial College in week 6. During the exhibition the successful innovators were given a stall and the opportunity to pitch their ideas to a group of academics and potential third-party investors.

SCAN asked McGregor what the next stages of the process would be and whether Jisc would have any further involvement in the projects on show at the exhibition. To this McGregor responded that Jisc had independently selected five projects for potential collaboration. After investigations into the sustainability of the project’s business models Jisc would look into promoting them throughout the university networks:



“We would like to trial particular projects at other universities and if it shows promise again then we are committed to supporting them through to the wider student population.”

When asked about any plans Jisc had to make the competition more accessible in the future, McGregor answered positively, saying

this years event was more of a “trial” and next year they hoped to allow for a “much greater time period to promote it more thoroughly and get people involved”. He went to add that they would also consider adding another dimension to the process by “match[ing] people who have the ideas but not the technical expertise to put the project together.”

The essence of Jisc as an organization based on technological innovation has paved the way for projects and ideas that operate much in the same. Using Internet based software the door has been opened for developments that allow greater ease for networking and group collaboration.

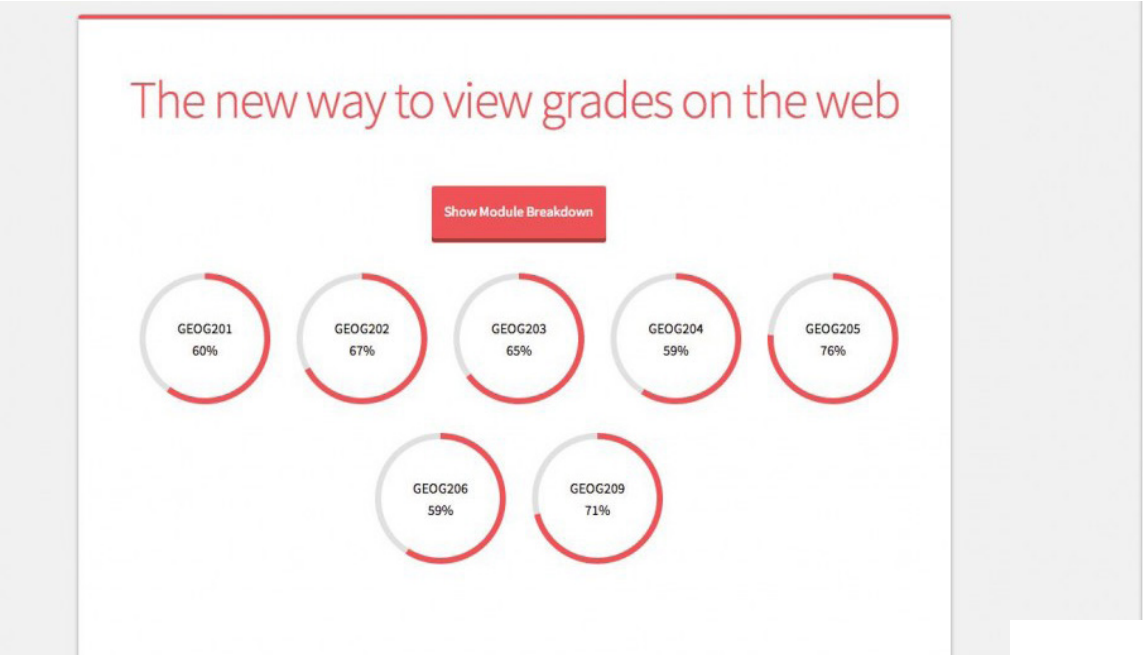
McGregor agreed with this observation, concluding that the “more people involved the greater diversity of ideas, and the greater diversity of ideas the greater the chance for a better university experience.”

PitchPatch – An online platform for students with projects to connect with others who may have the skills to help achieve success.

Progress – Web software that allows students to forecast their marks and view their progress throughout the year.

GoNCode – A program that develops applications through the aid of graphical representation of your code as you progress.

UniSocs – A website for students to receive help and advice from other members of their subject department.





# SPINE by scan

This summer, we've been working on a **NEW** way for you to interact with your *oldest* student media.

Have you ever picked up a copy of SCAN and thought about writing for us, then realised that you write enough essays and coursework for your subject as it is?

Do you run your own blog, or spend a lot of time browsing around websites that give you short, snappy content: like BuzzFeed, Reddit or Huffington Post?

We've invested a lot of time and effort this summer, working hard not just to redesign the paper you're holding in your hands right now, but also to redesign our website.

Find out more online.

2013  
is the  
year  
that  
**scan**  
goes  
viral.



Photo sourced from Uncyclopedia



JCR ELECTIONS

Who are you voting for to...

ORGANISE

YOUR  
CHRISTMAS  
BALL?

RUN YOUR

EXTRAV?

REPRESENT

YOU?

HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY

**VOTING OPENS**

Wednesday week 8 - 10am

**VOTING CLOSES**

Friday week 8 - 5pm

[lusu.co.uk/elections](http://lusu.co.uk/elections)

LUSU



# UCU announce next strike date



Jack Perry  
News Editor

Lancaster University will walk out for a second day of strike action on Tuesday, Week 9, trade union officials have announced.

The three unions which represent staff on campus, the University and College Union (UCU), UNISON, and Unite took strike action on Thursday, Week 4. It has now been confirmed that their members will walk out again four and a half weeks after the initial strike.

The strikes arise due to a dispute with UCEA (the body which represents university employers) over pay. The unions are angry at a 1% pay offer, which has seen their pay fall in real-terms by 13%.

Speaking to SCAN on the day of the first strike, UCU member

and Staff Development Officer Joe Thornberry said: ““We [the UCU members] took a decision to go on strike with Unite and Unison because we felt we had to make a stand. We were faced – after four years of declining wages – with another year of a wage cut.

“Our wages have fallen by 13% over the last four years and I think the feeling was enough is enough – it’s time we made a stand. I might add that we are always very reluctant to take strike action because we are very committed to the University and to public education, but we think we have just been pushed too far.”

LUSU have said they will support strike action until another motion is brought to Union Council which argues the contrary.

**The dispute is a national one and the strikes affect several universities.**



Photo by Matthew Fleming

UCU head of higher education, Michael MacNeil, said: “Staff have suffered year-on-year cuts in the value of their pay and have made it clear that enough is enough. We remain committed to trying to resolve this dispute and the employers now have until 3 December to sit down and positively engage with the unions. If they don’t,

then our members and those from our sister unions will be out on strike again, as well as continuing to work to contract.”

Unite national officer for education, Mike McCartney, said: “The employers have refused to budge from their hard line in refusing to recognise the contribution that the workforce makes to

the excellent global reputation that Britain’s universities currently enjoy.

“We hope that this latest strike will drive home the determination of our members to achieve a fair pay deal and focus the minds of the employers that they need to get around the table promptly to negotiate in a constructive and positive manner.”

# Spot us during Freshers 'Week?

## Want to know how you can get involved?



Photo by Marie-Sophie Klingenbrunner

## 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-iversity 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;



FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER

week 9

ALEXANDRA SQUARE

12PM-9PM

HOHOHO

lusu.co.uk



# ‘How To’ Week aims to help student development

Jasmine Chiu

In Week 7, LUSU organized the ‘How To’ Week. During the week, the Union held 25 sessions of workshops from Monday to Friday, ranging from self-development to setting up enterprises and starting community projects. Guest speakers were also invited, ranging from students in the university to authors of entrepreneurship books. The week was organized for both students and staff to build ideas and skills.

On Monday and Tuesday, workshops based on development of personal skills, and the utilization of your own skills for future employment, were held. The workshops on Monday focused on the development of skills such as leadership and creativity. Workshops on generating good ideas, channelling personal traits into assets for future employment, were conducted, as well as a workshop on how to generate income from blogging by a professional blogger. On Tuesday, clubs and societies in the university held a range of sessions in aiding students to make a good impression to future employers through extra-curricular activities. Workshops of getting funding from societies, managing clubs

and expanding your activities beyond the university were also held. Graduates of the university also came back to tip students and staff off in turning hobbies into careers.

**Wednesday and Thursday were information days on initiation of projects, like community service projects and enterprises.**

On Wednesday LUSU members, enterprise champions and a sales consultant came to advise students on how to channel their creativity into generating ideas, turning business ideas into actions and the rules of the market. Joe Buglass, the author of ‘Brilliant Business Ideas’, attended the workshop to advise students on avoiding major pitfalls of setting businesses. Workshops on Thursday delved into the idea of making an impact to the community, through social entrepreneurship and using the digital media to spread ideas.

LUSU VP Activities, Emily Pollitt told SCAN that ‘How To’ Week is held “to celebrate

entrepreneurship and to raise the profile of the opportunities for innovative students on campus. Whether it’s an idea for a global enterprise, a community project or a club or society innovation, there are events for all to help develop yourself and your ideas”.

Pollitt also explained how the name ‘How To’ Week was generated. “‘How To’ originally came about because of Global Entrepreneurship week but that title isn’t necessarily clear to students and doesn’t really mean anything, so the title of ‘How To’ came about in order to promote practical and informative sessions for students in the hope that students become aware of the opportunities they have to develop themselves, whether that be through starting a business or a project or working with a club or society.”

When asked about the preparation that it took to organize a whole week of workshops, Pollitt said “Our Innovation Team have put in hours of work in order to develop the week, hoping to make it exciting and informative for a wide range of students. Other staff members and full time officers are presenting sessions throughout the week”.

LUSU supports students, staff and graduates with their ideas for new businesses,

social enterprises or variety of different services that the Union provides and 91 101 students engaged with a new businesses were created.



Photo by Jay Theis & Nick Lound

# Bailrigg FM complete 24 hour broadcast

Emma Vickery

From 12pm on Friday, Week 6, until 12pm on Saturday, Week 6, Bailrigg FM hosted a 24 hour broadcast in order to

raise funds for the Children In Need appeal. In total the team raised £711.

As part of the event, several volunteers from Bailrigg FM joined together to get out and about on campus, raising money and awareness of

the broadcast. They conducted both a bake sale and raffle in Alexandra Square, with raffle tickets being sold for a pound. The featured prize being given away was two tickets to see Frank Turner perform live at Manchester Arena, and was won by Bethany Vagg. Other prizes included the latest albums by Katy Perry, Kings Of Leon, Deaf Havana, and The Fratellis.

The programme comprised of a large assortment of features. These incorporated prank phone calls, competitions, and a series of challenges for the presenters of the show. The challenges included truth or dare, a murder mystery, and joke forfeits for mentioning certain words or failing to complete certain tasks.

The broadcast also involved guest appearances from several societies. The Doctor Who, Harry Potter and Magic soci-

eties all featured on the programme at various points. 20 Minute Society was another group that got involved with the event. The society’s function is to send a text message containing a place name on campus, and the members are given twenty minutes to congregate at that particular place. For this event, the given location was the Bailrigg FM station, a challenge that saw a mass of costumed members of the society turn up.

The whole event was organised by the students that make up Bailrigg FM, with some students actively participating in the event for the entire duration of the broadcast. Presenters Callum Barnes and Michael Hunter, both Bailrigg members, hosted the 24 hour long programme. When asked about their feelings on completing the 24 hours Barnes said, “It’s absolutely shattering, but at the same time

I wouldn’t have it any other way. At the end of the day I’m raising money for Children in Need and I get to be stupid in the early hours of the morning”.

Hunter agreed: “I got involved for the main reason that I’m never going to get the opportunity to do anything like this again. I’m raising money for a great cause. Like Callum said, it’s been tiring, but a lot of fun.”

The presenters were not only on the radio for the full 24 hours, but were also able to be seen via the live stream webcam that was set up in the studio.

In the week leading up to the broadcast, other events were organised in order to promote the Children in Need show. On Tuesday, Week 6, there was a precursor to the event that involved laying as many one pound coins around campus was held.



Photo by Marie Sophie Klingenbrunner

# living

## How much could you save with LUSU living?

Provider	LUSU Living	LPNM	Yellow Door	Cable Street
Accommodation type	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Weekly rent	£87	£80	£95	£100
Utilities	Included	£9 *	Included	Included
Lease length	45 weeks	48 weeks	42 full/10 half	50 weeks
Deposit	£0	£150	£150	£150
Includes TV Licence	✓		✓	✓
Includes Contents insurance	✓			
Includes cleaning service	✓			
Includes broadband	✓		✓	✓
Annual Total	£3,915	£4,272	£4,465	£5,000
Saving with LUSU Living		£357	£550	£1,085

### Book your viewing today!

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**JANXED** EVERY WEDNESDAY

LANCASTER'S BEST INDIE NIGHT *with a twist!*

CLUB ROOM:  
**DJ MELO**  
(INDIE, ALTERNATIVE, BRITPOP)

FRONT ROOM:  
**SOUNDSLAVES**  
(COMMERCIAL HOUSE, TRAP, MASHUP)

**THE sugarhouse**

# Friends of Palestine invade Alex Square

Henry Saker-Clark

Members of the 'Lancaster University Friends of Palestine Society' took part in a demonstration in Alexandra Square on Friday of Week 7, to increase public awareness of human rights violations in Palestine. The demonstration featured a theatrical performance of the treatment of Palestinian students by Israeli soldiers. The event was part of the society's wider 'Right to Education Week', itself part of a national scheme. Student's involved in the demonstration were armed and dressed in Israeli soldier camouflage. They dramatised attacks upon Palestinian students by tying up and pretending to harm other members of the society. The mocked up soldiers also stopped other university students, taking their ID's and questioning them. This commotion was accompanied by blindfolded students handing out leaflets to promote the 'Right To Education Week'.

Members of the society described the action as an opportunity to build awareness around international issues, discussing them with students and inviting them to sign a petition supporting the right to education in Palestine.



Photo by Mae Reddaway

Speaking to SCAN, President of the 'Friends of Palestine Society', Jasmine Owens, considered the demonstration a success – "we were only in Alexandra Square for an hour but gained 61 signatures on the petition, it really helped increase awareness for the Right To Education Week." She went on to say that the most important part of the campaign was the interaction with other students. "People finding out about the society and what we

do was an important aspect of it" and this "worked as numerous people who saw us spoke to us to find out how to get involved in the society." When contacted by SCAN the society's publicity officer, Asma Hanslod, emphasised that the purpose of the 'Right To Education Week' was to "make as many people as possible aware of how Palestinians are treated." She went on to add that "children are arrested and detained in the West Bank and this is one of the ways we attempt to gain support against these atrocities. We need to support their cause as activism is suppressed in Palestine by arresting children and denying them education."

Alongside the 'Right To Education Week' campaign, the society has started campaigning outside Sainsbury's in Lancaster on the first Saturday of each month.

Their efforts are aimed at gaining signed petitions and supporting boycotts of Israeli products in supermarkets. Members of the societies' exec have expressed plans for numerous other campaigns in the near future. These will include a play, a photo exhibition and an 'Israeli Apartheid Week'. More information will be available on the Society's Facebook page in the coming weeks.

# PPR students get the Ghan-ahead

Josh Walker

Six students will have the opportunity to visit Lancaster University's recently opened campus in Ghana this coming April. The Lancaster-Ghana Undergraduate Ambassadors scheme will allow selected students from the Politics, Philosophy and Religion (PPR) department to visit the campus, which gained accreditation in October, during the Easter vacation. According to information released on an email sent to PPR students the scheme will "foster regular meaningful interaction between Lancaster-based and Ghana-based students and staff", and will "be academically stimulating and provide the chosen students with the opportunity to develop skills and add an international dimension to their learning". A number of activities have been considered for the visit. It is envisaged that the chosen students will take part in local classes at the Accra-based campus. There may also be an international debate day where a mix of LU-Lancaster and LU-Ghana students debate relevant international issues, with academics from both campuses taking part in judging. Furthermore, the students may get an opportunity to interview a number of Ghanaian organisations such as NGOs, local government and legal institutions during a research day. There could also be an organised tour of Accra, Ghana's capital, where LU-Ghana students and academics may act as guides. Students will also be encouraged to suggest, develop and plan relevant activities in a meeting for the selected students in

December.

The weeklong visit is available to second and third year students who will be selected on the basis of their overall track record at University. This will include merits of attendance and attainment, as well as a 500 word submission concerning why they believe they are suitable for the scheme. Expenses including immunisations, visas, insurance, travel and all board and lodgings will be covered by the university.

One PPR student SCAN spoke to was excited by the opportunity:

"I think it will be a great way to experience and learn about another country, develop my own thinking and

see what effect the campus is having over there".

According to Lancaster University's website, similar opportunities will also be available to students from the Ghana branch campus. They will be invited spend either a semester or a full academic

year at Lancaster University as well as take part in the university's summer schools.

Teaching at the Ghana campus is collaborated between Lancaster University and TNE Ghana and began on 7 October. The disciplines taught will expand to include a wide range of subjects including management, law, international relations, computing and psychology.



Photo courtesy of Ghana News Agency



## No. 1 this week: Iyaz - Replay

Lancaster University is awaiting a decision on its plans to build two wind turbines to significantly reduce its carbon footprint. A public consultation has been held and the plans have been submitted to the local council.

The creation of the turbines would reduce the university's energy consumption by one third – equivalent to a cut

This development would give Lancaster the accolade of being the first university to install a wind energy source and give another boost towards meeting the targets set by the UK government in the Climate Change Act, which includes an 80% cut in greenhouse gases by 2050.

Lancaster is currently waiting on the City Council's approval of the scoping request. With an approval, the university will submit their planning application and, following the completion and positive assessment of the community consultation process, construction is projected to begin in 2010.

The project has met with mixed feedback from local residents and other

environmental groups. Between 14th and 18th December, the official consultation period for the project, members of the public came to University house to submit their thoughts. Many praised the proposal and spoke of their support for the project. "I think it is an excellent idea and will be an example to Lancaster" was one resident's comment. However, the negative viewpoints were very much in line with common criticisms. Concerns were raised that the two wind turbines would be 'unsightly' and 'too imposing'.

Modifications have been made to the original plan, including a decrease in the power of the turbines from 2.3MW to 2.1MW.

"This is a smaller scale wind turbine development proposal and taking into account its size and the detailed assessment of the impacts we have prepared we are hopeful that it will be successful," said Jonathan Mills, Environment and Sustainability Manager.

member, Ben Wallace.

Eric Ollerenshaw, the Conservative candidate who will be standing for the seat this year has yet to sign the pledge. Streeting added: "I think if the Conservatives want to get into power at the next election, and if they want students to vote they are going to have to be a lot more forthcoming about what there student offer is and they are going to have to give us some better assurances and safeguards."

One of the few Conservative MPs to have signed the pledge is Lancaster and Fleetwood's outgoing parliament

**Staying stylishly warm**  
Lancaster students wrap up to show us their snuggest looks  
Student Life, page 18


**STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS**  
 Read more at [scan.lsu.edu/uk](http://scan.lsu.edu/uk)
Week 1, Lent Term, Tuesday 12th January, 2010

## Wind turbine project receives mixed reception from general public

- **University receives** *Agm grant*
- **Energy**
- **consumption to**
- **reduce by a third**
- **Work to begin this**
- **year if planning**
- **permission**
- **approved**

[illegible]

## Political parties cannot treat students as last resort says Streeting

**Lizette Houghton**  
*Assistant Editor*

**POLITICAL PARTISAN** Galt may be kept on the loose at the forthcoming general elections according to the plans of the National Union of Students, New Zealand.

*Speaking in P.O.W. shirt* after the

Lansdown last week, Stowling referenced the USFS's campaign to get 80% and party candidates to pledge to vote against any increase in fees in the event of a referendum. He said that we are going to attempt the parties, in terms of signs at the entrance, is a lot of Labour parliamentarians, and they are supported by a lot of Liberal Democrat candidates who will be standing for the next year but not to the surprise

very few Conservatives and that really worries me. The Conservatives are rising high into opposition."

One of the few Conservative MPs to have been invited to speak at Lansdown and P.O.W.'s opening speaker, member, Ben Wallace, Labour parliamentarian, said that he was not sure if he was going to be a candidate who will be standing for the next year but not to the surprise

pleasure. Stowling said: "I think if the Conservatives want to get into power the next election, and if they want to make a vote on the agenda to have a referendum, they are going to have to make a decision on whether they want to have a referendum or whether they are going to have a referendum and whether they are going to have a referendum."

The USFS President, acknowledged that the USFS has a great deal of

shared with David Williams, Galt's deputy as P.O.W. for Immigration, Unemployment and Skills, but warned: "I won't be wearing any shirt at the forthcoming general elections, but when I think they have fallen short. Each of the three parties are expected to be on the agenda."

*continued on page 3...*

# International students left short changed by foundation course

A joint programme between the university and a private company has been described as 'questionable' by Lancaster staff.

The International Foundation Year is offered to overseas students whose school-leaving qualifications are not seen as equivalent to A-levels. It is operated from Bailrigg house by Study group, a private company specialising in university preparation courses.

Although the prospectus describes it as ‘rigorous and academically demanding,’ staff aren’t convinced.

"Whether [students] need to learn some of the stuff in these courses is really an overseas profile and places it firmly on the global map."

quite questionable," said one academic. "There is an issue of whether the academic tuition they get is necessary."

Students agreed; one current participant told SCAN: “The Foundation year is just a waste of money. They charge almost the same fee as for the normal year and the syllabus is the same as we have studied in our school.”

Running the Foundation Year allows the university to recruit international students who pay almost four times as much in tuition fees as UK students – at a fraction of the usual cost. As well as the Foundation Year Lancaster has been developing stronger links with universities overseas in the last five years, which has provided a further source of student recruitment. Not only does this provide financial benefit, it raises the university's overseas profile and places it firmly on the global map.





# Carolynne

**Rachel Harvey**  
VP Campaigns & Communications  
Guest Editorial

And so it is week eight and what have we done?

Survived through fresher's week and had great fun,  
Written essays, worked long hours, missed a lecture or two?  
Well it will soon be Christmas and the time will belong to you.  
But for now, one last time before the New Year,  
We bring you one last Carolynne with some Christmas cheer.  
Culture has in its stocking some films for you,  
And just as an extra treat and interview with Lau.  
Fashion knows what to wear to keep you nice and toasty,  
Some handy tips on colourful clothing to stop you looking ghostly.  
And with Lifestyle try new things with some day trips out and about,  
And some handy tips for saving up and stop your money running out.  
There's a running theme of survival tips not just for Christmas time,

Useful things that help keep you on the right line.

Body image and media influence, which is mentioned quiet a lot,  
Size 16 mannequins the topic is still hot.

So that is what we have got for you in this last Carolynne of term,

Do not worry we will be back soon that we can confirm.

So for now enjoy this issue and all the comfort Christmas brings

We hope Santa brings you lots of lovely things.

It is still a few weeks away the adverts begun,

The antic-builds and ex-starts to come.

Whether you celebrate Christmas or not there is still reason to rejoice

You have a holiday of four weeks, take a trip go home, enjoy it its your choice.

So enjoy the rest of term and have a safe trip home,

Put up the Christmas tree, the tin-

will

festive

few

ipitation

citement

sel

the

Eat well,

stay warm,

make

sure get some rest,

This term has been a busy one and some of you may be stressed,

But you will miss it over Christmas and we will miss you,

We will see you next term when you are refreshed, re fed and feeling new.

So a Merry Christmas, happy holidays and much festive cheer,

This topical poem has taken it out of me so I will be off some Christmas beer.



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



Photo by Lauren Hollowday



Photo by Marie-Sophie Klingenbrunner



Photo by Lauren Hollowday

## Photo of the Week

This week: Lucy Lamb

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!



Photo by Lucy Lamb

# Los Angeles: *The City of Angels*

Dessita Petrova

You are standing on a hill. Up above you see thick smog clouding the city, suffocating its inhabitants, and you fix your gaze on nine white letters spelling out 'Hollywood.' These letters have become a symbol for fame and success; so many dreams are embodied in this sign. How much have these people sacrificed or what have they been willing to let go of? Is it all about fame or is it more than that? At this very moment, Los Angeles' story is being written by all of the brave dreamers daring to cross borders and step out of their ordinary lives.

Ninety years ago, a nineteen-year-old boy named Walt Disney came to Los Angeles with hardly any money in his pockets and together with his brother went on to start their Disney adventure. His creative genius brought Mickey Mouse, Goofy and Donald Duck to life, and the city itself gave him inspiration for the concept of Disneyland. His influence has left a profound imprint in the animation industry and today the world worships him for all of his works that render him immortal.

"Think, Believe, Dream, and Dare."  
(Walt Disney)

In 1926, a girl named Norma Jeane Mortenson was born in a charity ward of the Los Angeles hospital, and later became one of the world's greatest icons. Known by the name of Marilyn Monroe, she was admired for her captivating beauty and brilliant acting talent - challenging conventions of the female actor and becoming an inspiration for women around the world. Whether it was depression or fame taking its toll on her, she was found dead in her

Photo by Vlasta Juricek



bedroom with her hand still grasping the phone and an empty bottle of pills on the side. But even fifty years later she still 'belongs to the world', a source of inspiration for many artists and a symbol of timeless beauty.

"I knew I belonged to the public and to the world, not because I was talented or even beautiful, but because I had never belonged to anything or anyone else."  
(Marilyn Monroe)

Coming from a poor family background, Michael Jackson was the eighth out of ten children, gifted with an exceptional talent. Often referred to as The King of Pop, he

suffered a lot on his way to the top. His childhood was not the happiest time in his life as he was abused by his father, while later Jackson himself was accused of child abuse. His health condition was deteriorating rapidly resulting in a tragic end at his home in Los Angeles in 2009. For all of his contributions to the world of pop, he will certainly never be forgotten, his name deservedly adorning the Hollywood walk of fame.

"Look beyond yourself."  
(Michael Jackson)

These are a few of the many 'angels' of Los Angeles; irrespective of whether they were born there or not the city is part of their story.

Many artists consider Los Angeles

to be a paradox- a place where dreams come true, but also nightmares.

It has offered many artists a chance to redeem or lose themselves somewhere along the way, for dreams can be so easily broken, dreams are fragile and where the city will "rise a certain individual to glory, it will destroy another" (Roman Payne). How many of these 'angels' find their personal heaven, I don't know. But there is always something tragically beautiful when one pours the divine beauty of their soul into what they are doing, turning it into an exception and something that lives forever.

Every city has a story, and Los Angeles certainly has a very special one - rooted in the lives of those who have dared to spread their wings towards the heights of glory.

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

– Open auditions for the seventh episode of Star Wars started on November 10th. Thousands of hopeful members of the public queued up outside the Arnolfini arts centre in Bristol for the chance of starring in the first Disney episode of the franchise, due for release in 2015. Following the take over from Lucasfilm in 2012, Disney plan to make a further three Star Wars films and are looking for two young actors, one male and one female, to add to the cast. The auditions are still ongoing.

– The 'biggest advertising event of the year', the eagerly-awaited John Lewis Christmas commercial, made its debut on the 9th November in an X Factor ad break. The animation epic has become a universal sign of the build up to the festival season, and this year stars vocals by Lily Allen covering Keane's 'Somewhere Only We Know'.

– Robbie Williams has returned to the swing genre in his latest album Swings Both Ways, the sequel to the acclaimed Swing When You're Winning. Simon James's track by track review of the album is available on the SCAN website.

– Stef Coburn, the son of the late Tony Coburn, creator of Doctor who's Tardis, is challenging the BBC for the rights of the time machine. Fans of the show are suspicious that Coburn has waited years until the month of the the 50th anniversary episode to gain the most media attention, and many are in agreement that as the Tardis was created under a BBC contract, that Coburn's claims will be unsuccessful. The episode was released last Saturday – did you see it?

– It has been announced that the Marvel comics character Daredevil is set to star in a 13 episode TV series exclusive to Netflix, followed by three more series of the same length for lesser-known characters Luke Cage, Jessica Jones and Iron Fist. All four series will culminate in a 'Defenders' miniseries, in a similar vein to last year's Avengers movie.



# Six of the best: Festive films

## Love Actually



Jane Hodgkiss

I love ‘Love Actually’. What’s not to like? Amazing cast, amazing humour, amazing pathos, and, those inextricably linked stories. This is why it’s the ultimate Christmas film.

First, let’s look at the cast: Hugh Grant as an improbable, unmarried Prime Minister, Bill Nighy as an aging rockstar, Alan Rickman as a potential Lothario, Emma Thompson as a faithful wife, and Liam Neeson as a recent widower in search of Claudia Schiffer, to name but a few. It’s basically the crème de la crème of the British acting fraternity.

The humour is also very British. Who can forget Rowan Atkinson’s effeminate salesman wrapping an illicitly bought present, Hugh Grant dancing alone around 10 Downing Street, or the mundane conversations between Martin Freeman and Joanna Page while filming a sex scene? Throw in Colin Firth’s Portuguese marriage proposal, and you’ve got the perfect festive film.

Will Sarah and Karl will get together despite Sarah’s devotion to her brother? Will Harry will give his wife the locket instead of his tramp of a secretary? Will Juliet will repay Mark’s devotion after his touching doorstep declaration? Cue tissues for these scenes.

I’m sure many of the British public will agree that this film deserves the title of the best Christmas film. After all, love – I mean Christmas – is all around.

## The Snowman



Joanna Gresty

This sensationally whimsical adaptation Raymond Brigg’s classic story book is perhaps one of the most underrated Christmas films of all time.

The hauntingly beautiful use of sound and animation makes the animated drawings literally come to life. The angelic and now infamous voice of St Paul’s Cathedral choir boy Peter Auty steals the show as the Snowman and his creator, a nameless but relatable young boy, fly over the breathtaking English landscapes to reach the North Pole. ‘Walking In The Air’, the beguiling piece by the Sinfornia of London orchestra, is guaranteed to stay in your mind throughout the film in spite of the consistency of an incredible score overall, ranging from the jovial to the heart breaking. The soundtrack sends a shiver down my spine every time I hear it.

A melancholy ending to The Snowman introduces the young to the inevitability of death through natural causes. I am usually still in tears long after the haunting and bittersweet piano melody and the end credits finish. This timeless classic encompasses the underlying philosophy: All good things must come to an end.

## The Family Stone



Anna Meng

Still the quintessential feel-good movie you’re looking for on that cold winter night, ‘The Family Stone’ is a Christmas film with just that little bit more substance. Lacking the overt cheesiness of fellow seasonal film favourites like ‘The Holiday’, this is the somewhat- dare I say it- more realistic addition to the annual December must watch list.

The comedic drama is centered around the family of Everett (Dermot Mulroney- let’s be honest, that face alone is enough reason to watch this film) and the tensions that arise when he brings his uptight, conservative girlfriend Meredith (Sarah Jessica Parker) home for the holidays.

The plot follows various members of the Stone family as they struggle with some refreshingly relevant problems of their own whilst collectively trying to accept Everett’s intention to propose to the increasingly uncomfortable Meredith with a treasured heirloom ring. Tensions escalate to the point that her sister has to come visit.

With a stellar cast of rom-com veterans including Diane Keaton, Luke Wilson, Claire Danes and Rachel McAdams, this is a movie you can’t go wrong with. It will make you laugh, it will make you cry, and you’ll definitely be able to guess how it ends - but in this case, that’s satisfying.



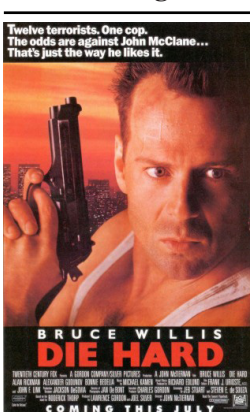
## Black Christmas

Rory Mellon

What’s more Christmassy than a group of college students being hunted by a ruthless killer? Generally considered to be one of the first slasher films Black Christmas deserves a spot in any Christmas movie marathon, perhaps towards the end of the night though once the more squeamish have gone to bed. It should go without saying but we are of course talking about the 1974 original, the 2006 remake is awful.

Think John Carpenter’s Halloween but with more snow and Christmas lights and you’d be on the right track, in actual fact Carpenter cited Black Christmas as an inspiration when making his iconic Halloween. It’s not hard to see why; tension is expertly built and the scares don’t rely heavily on cheap shock value as many modern horror films do. Perhaps the film’s greatest aspect is the way it keeps you guessing as to who exactly is the killer.

For the genre the acting isn’t half bad, it’s not Oscar quality but it’s a cut above the typical horror movie acting. Black Christmas basically started an entirely new genre which is a huge accomplishment in itself; the fact that few films in the genre have bettered it is even more impressive.



## Die Hard

Danté Szafranski

So it’s nearly Christmas time and so it’s time to start indulging in our back catalogues of Christmas films. Elf, The Grinch, It’s A Wonderful Life and Home Alone are all favourites but there is one Christmas film that doesn’t get enough love this time of year: DIE HARD.

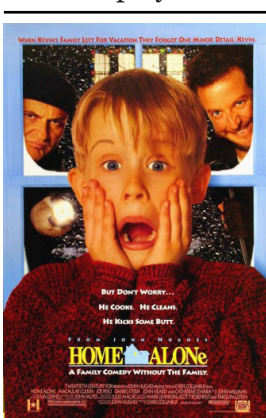
Many reading this will be sceptical and cry bloody murder for Die Hard to be included in a list of favourite Christmas films, but when you break it down it fits the very simple Christmas formula.

Take our hero John McClane. He is simply a man lost in the world, much like George Bailey in It’s A Wonderful Life. His marriage to Holly is on the rocks and his life is in a downward spin. Step in a Guardian Angel (of sorts) in Hans Gruber and so begins McClane’s Christmas journey.

So the body count is high and the violence visceral, but it is only a step away from the slapstick of Home Alone. What’s important is the reasoning behind the violence: only through the threat of losing Holly does John McClane realize how lucky he is to have her in the first place.

Isn’t that what Christmas films are all about? Family? The Grinch’s heart did grow two sizes bigger upon being included in the community of Whoville; Buddy The Elf brought a fractured family together and so did Hans Gruber (albeit inadvertently).

Plus the film is set on Christmas Eve. There is snow, decorations and ‘Let It Snow’ is played. That should be justification enough!



## Home Alone

Laura Dempster

...The first one! It would seem that Hollywood director Chris Columbus took advantage of Macaulay Culkin’s Peter Pan Syndrome and cast the baby faced actor in as many sequels of the film as possible, but I would recommend the first. Shown on television screens throughout December every year, this classic Christmas film takes you right back to the nineties and truly brings back some of that special Christmas magic.

Every eight year old’s dream is to have the entire house to yourself for a few hours or so, and Kevin indulges this fantasy when he eats all the chocolate in the house... but what about when your family go away to Paris and accidentally leave you behind for days over Christmas?! When The Wet Bandits attempt to break into the McCallister family home, Kevin saves the day with elaborate booby traps that children around the country have always tried to copy ever since. A trip wire connected to a table covered with feathers and a fan? Genius! Home Alone is the perfect film to watch with your flat mates as week ten draws to a close (great for prank ideas) or with your family on the run up to Christmas Eve to make you feel like a kid again.

# Company Chameleon: Double Bill

Eleanor Lang

Formed of two dancing and choreographing men with limitless energy and strength, Company Chameleon began in 2007 after the two had trained in contemporary dance together. The two women in the dance also studied alongside them at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

## They began with a piece called 'Eden.'

Placing themselves in a mysterious interior world that isn’t clearly explained any further, an abstract and bare space. Upon a smokey stage the two men walked toward the audience, and intimate solitary lighting came from the flame of a match, lit in front of a face.

A duet followed that played with perfect unison and strong contact work. It created images that shifted and slid across different levels to a pre-recorded music score of strings, keyboard and electronic sounds. Two women joined, however we perhaps were to think of the dance as two people rather than four, as both men wore identical costumes and so did the women. A thin shard of light crossed the stage and acted effectively as an interesting divider of the space, performers and at one point suggesting a mirror.

Imagery and movement much like that of a clock and its workings came



Photo provided by LICA

from circular motion, each dancer taking up the others negative space and the cause and effect relationships between them.

Exaggerated stretched out facial expressions and slightly lighter music came as a humorous highlight to the serious faces of the rest of the piece that did not look fully justified. Despite the interlude 'Eden' does not

have a clear feeling of story, resolve or growth and the ending left me with nothing new.

## The second in the double bill is a piece called ‘Pictures We Make’ exploring the past relationship dynamics



Photo provided by LICA

## of members in the company.

Imaginative contact work pulled and pushed each dancer around the stage from all parts of their body. Interrogative square spotlights of cold colour were cast down on to the stage which now bore four chairs. Dancers tumbled and were caught and dragged through the life of the dance to music similar to that of Eden’s with suggestions of clockwork and time but with a more sinister tone. The quartet intertwined complete synchronicity and canon sometimes indistinguishably, and this was a strength throughout both of the works in the double-bill. Their awareness of each other was astounding; timing, strength and agility is clearly prided in this company. It is interesting to note that the rehearsal director began her career training in Shaolin Kung Fu which I think is apparent in the performers execution.

Unfortunately only in brief moments did I feel empathy or that I could follow the stories being told.

The plots were not clear but themes of independence and dependance in the choreography ran throughout. The work did not take on much of a shape as a whole, the timing dynamics were very repetitive and unexciting. I did not feel scared for them or shocked, despite so much technical movement. This is a shame because the standard of the dancers and the choreography should have had me leaving the theatre with my heart beating faster than when I entered, but it unfortunately did not.



# SCAN INTERVIEWS: Lau

**J**oanna Gresty caught up with the three-piece contemporary folk band Lau ahead of their gig in Lancaster at St. John’s Church on November 24th. After releasing their first album in 2007, Lau have snatched up the award for ‘Best Group’ at the BBC Folk Awards in 2008, 2009 and 2010, and since then have continued to be a storming success. The band is composed of Kris Drever (guitar & vocals), Martin Green (accordion & piano) and Aidan O’Rourke (fiddle).

**Joanna Gresty**

**How did you all meet?**

*Martin:* We all grew up playing folk music and met on that scene. It's quite a small friendly scene so we met at jam sessions and parties before we started the band.

**Did you all have plans to be musicians at this stage?**

*Martin:* We were all playing full time when we met each other, so yes.

**‘Race the Loser’ is an interesting album name. How did you think it up?**

*Martin:* It just seems to make more sense, why would you want to race the winner?

**Who are your biggest heroes?**

*Kris:* We cannot speak as one voice for we are three separate people. We love loads of music, Tom Waits, The Dirty Three, Bartok, The Beatles, Dick Gaughan, Sufjan Stevens. The list is endless.

**If you could do a collaboration with anyone, dead or alive, who would it be and why?**

*Kris:* Buddy Ritch, incredible drummer and by all accounts a lovely guy. Mostly the drumming, we love a good drummer.

**If you had to describe your genre as something other than folk, what would it be?**

*Kris:* Progiddle? Contempofiddle? I don't know, it's all music we hope!

**Who are your favourite band?**

*Aidan:* Such a difficult question. I have favourites from so many genres. Planxty from the folk world. The Beatles. Sigur Ros. Miles Davies. Endless...

**Is there a desired theme for the next album?**

*Aidan:* We don't have a theme as such but we're developing a way of writing which could become a theme itself. We're currently discussing who the producer will be and that shapes things a lot. There's a good chance we'll go for Tucker Martine again. Hopefully.

**Do you write any time of the**



**week, day or night, whenever the songs come to you? Or do you put time aside each week/month to discuss ideas?**

*Aidan:* Occasionally a tune comes to me almost fully written but mostly I sit down and write. And usually there's a deadline which tends to increase productivity! I'm on the road a lot and have been trying to get into the 'I can write anywhere' way of thinking, though a beautiful cottage in the Highlands is a more relaxing way of meeting writing deadlines

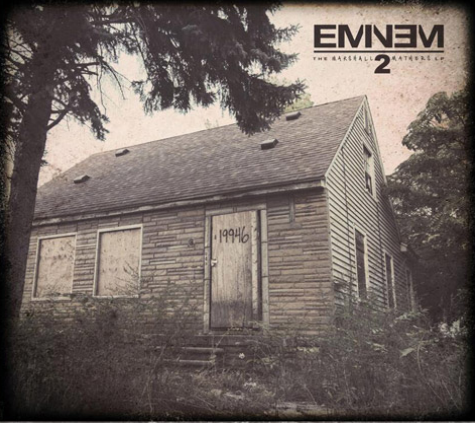
than a Travelodge off the M6. When at home I've been trying to follow Ai Wei Wei's way of working which is to get up super early and begin work while the world is still. It can be great. Get a bit of air and exercise around midday and then go back to it in the afternoon.

**Where is your favourite place to tour ?**

*Aidan:* It was Japan until a recent tour of India. Now it's a dead heat between them!

# Review: The Marshall Mathers LP 2

**Danté Szafranski**



It has been thirteen years since I managed to persuade my mum to buy the Marshall Mathers LP (before it was subsequently taken away from me after ten seconds of playing). Ever since that moment, my love for Eminem's music has evolved from forbidden pleasure to full blown admiration. The first MMLP is one of the few albums I revisit over and

over, so when the news broke about a sequel, my reaction was akin to the one my eleven year old self had all those years ago.

**It exceeded expectations.**

Yet this is not a rehash or an attempt to cash in on a sense of nostalgia from people such as myself. This is the culmination of nearly two decades worth of trials and tribulations and battling both demons inside and out. His past two albums (Relapse and Recovery) introduced the world to a tortured and unsure character compared to the angry, bitter and aggressive Eminem of before. This album manages to merge both of these incantations and the result is his best work since the first MMLP.

**In this album the listener gets the sense that Eminem is back.**

It is self-assured, confident and defiant. The track ‘Rap God’ echoes similar opinions that Kanye West articulated in ‘I am a God’ on Yeezus (the closing line being ‘Why be a King, when you can be a God’). Both these artists have clearly transcended the industry, and while Kanye created a commercially difficult album with his freedom, Eminem stuck to what he does best: showing the world that he is THE master lyricist.

The best track on the entire album may just be the first track ‘Bad Guy’. This is a direct sequel to Stan from the first MMLP. Whilst the support from Skylar Grey isn’t as haunting as Dido, Eminem elevates the track and maintains the horrifying violence whilst simultaneously denouncing his own use of homophobic and misogynistic language in the past. You can’t help but put this track on repeat; it is so layered and complex that one listen isn’t enough.

The album is co-produced by the best in the business: Dr. Dre and

Rick Rubin. They both know how to capitalise on Eminem’s strength and do so by providing beats that aren’t overbearing.

On the whole I think they seem a little shallow compared to the punchier beats on the first MMLP, but this only illuminates Eminem’s skill further as he maintains the listener’s attentions all by himself. There are of course some exceptions, such as the incredibly catchy ‘Love Game’ featuring Kendrick Lamar (where a sixties inspired backing is a real toe tapper) and ‘Survival’ (which is just as rousing as ‘Till I Collapse’).

There are so many examples of masterful wordplay and anecdotes to reference them all, but I will finish with one thought; that the gunshot heard at the end of the skit ‘Parking Lot’ may just have been the killing off of the old Slim Shady. In its place is an Eminem who has matured into a whole different monster.

**A better one.**

# 3 gigs in 3 days

Simon James reports on the bands he saw in his three-day gig spree...

**Stereophonics**

Phones 4u Arena

The best live rock vocal I have ever heard. Genuinely. All night, Kelly Jones’s voice sounded as if it had been lifted straight from the records. His delivery was passionate and powerful, he didn’t get a note wrong and he held the attention of the whole stadium for the whole hour and a half. The setlist itself was perfect: all the classics, all the best songs off the new album, and even some of the great lesser-known tunes from their 16 year discography. It really did act as an unnecessary reminder for how many brilliant tracks they’ve had. One thing that was missing was the iconic clarinet from Handbags and Gladrags (how hard could it have been to mic one up, really?), but other than that, the music was absolutely phenomenal.

An unexpected turning point in the night was when Tom Jones turned up and sang Mama Told Me Not To Come with the band. Now I’m not a huge Tom Jones fan, but it was hard not to appreciate this fleeting performance. Just as it was hard not to appreciate the support act, an acoustic duet called the Wind and the Wave, probably the best “unknown” support I’ve ever seen. I will definitely be checking out their album when it comes out next year.

The Phones 4u (previously the much-less tacky “MEN”) arena is huge. As I got my ticket late, I was seated in the top tier, so switching between watching a miniscule Kelly Jones and the screen was inevitable. Instead of the screen just showing the one shot all the time, there were artistic angles, image layering and even short films, so it was enjoyable to watch. I probably would have enjoyed the gig even more if I’d been nearer the front, but at least my legs weren’t aching. The sound quality did deteriorate towards the end of the night, with a bit too much humming and audio feedback, but sometimes this is expected at massive venues as it’s hard to maintain a good level of sound over such a huge space.

What I couldn’t believe was how many people, just in the “civilised” seated section, were getting drunk. One lad behind us was stood on someone’s shoulders before he fell off, several rows below and landed on a woman. Bearing in mind we were on the top tier and only three rows from the front, if he was one row further forward he would have fallen to his death. Maybe I’m being an old man.



Photos by Simon James

## Scouting For Girls

O2 Apollo

A pop music break to split up the rock bands? Kind of. Scouting For Girls’ bassist Greg Churchouse told me that he actually considers them to be a rock band when they’re playing live, and I can see what he means. No track, no over-dubbings, all playing their own instruments – the kinds of things we would expect from a live rock band. But their catchy, up-beat songs are so slick and typifying of pop music that I felt the performance could have done with a bit of polishing up a bit to compliment them: The backing vocals often sounded louder than the lead and the set was quite guitar heavy (despite the keys being the most prominent instrument in many of their songs).

This poor levelling was made up for by the energy Roy Stride put into the performance. Of the three bands, this frontman knew best how to work a crowd. Even when playing his multiple instruments he was dancing round the stage, doing everything he could to get every-



one having a good time... including joining the audience in the circle! I was three rows from the front in a venue that’s much smaller than the Phones 4U Arena (the Apollo is actually an old theatre), so felt a lot more involved than when I was watching Stereophonics from the clouds.

The staging of the gig was strange. Greg (bass and backing vocals) was usually the furthest forward and the most central on stage, especially when “front”man Roy was sat further back on the piano. The other founding member, drummer Pete, was pushed to the side a bit, with more attention on touring guitarist Jamie O’Gorman and the horn section (which of course was a nice addition).

As critical as it may sound like I am being, I must stress that I still really enjoyed myself. Their music is hard not to enjoy, and they were the most visually entertaining of the three bands. I was just expecting a slightly more polished performance as we get on their records.

The support act, Loveable Rogues, were anything but. Known for being on Britain’s Got Talent, they spent the whole of their set trying to flog t-shirts and their “new EP thing” to the audience.

**Simon also interviewed Greg from Scouting For Girls. The interview can be found on the SCAN website: scan.lusu.co.uk**



## Beady Eye

Manchester Academy

I don’t want to brag about how close to the front I was, but Liam Gallagher was able to show approval of my T-Shirt (as our sports editor Erik can vouch for). It did have his own face on it to be fair, but it’s this self-belief (some might say arrogance) that makes Liam Gallagher so appealing – he is so sure of himself, it makes for an extremely powerful performance when done right.

So did he get it right? Liam’s band have had a lot of stick since they crawled from the wreckage of the Oasis fallout: his songs have been called weak when compared to the high flying musical pursuits of older brother (and Oasis’s primary song writer) Noel, and a disappointing performance at last year’s Olympic closing ceremony in front the whole country was a missed opportunity in winning people over.

At the Academy though, they nailed it. Everyone was enjoying the music that, let’s face it, is no way near as well-known as it would have been had it fallen under the “Oasis” banner, and Liam could be heard quite clearly above the multiple guitars and chanting. The highlight of the night was my all-time favourite Oasis song (one of the few they sung): Live Forever, which Bonehead, one of the founding Oasis members, made a guest appearance for. It sounded great and went down a storm.

The atmosphere in the Academy (the smallest of the three venues) can only be described as mental. Whereas I seemed to be one of the younger members of the Stereophonics audience and one of the older ones at Scouting For Girls, here everyone seemed to be around my age, full of energy and out for a good night. Apparently many people’s idea of a good night is throwing beer around, crowd-surfing so they could might get acknowledged by Liam when they were dragged over the barrier, and just general rowdiness to the extent that there were actually a few fights started. It’s all a bit much really, and my girlfriend was crushed against the barrier for most of the night due to the miniature riot behind us, but we should have expected nothing else.

The support act, if we can call it that, was the third Gallagher brother, Paul, DJ’ing. It was not clear when his set started, what he was doing other than pressing play, or why he was there (other than perhaps a bit of sympathy from his younger brother for getting the raw deal in the family’s talent deviation.) We then went to the official aftershow party... which was him again.

I have to say that the Beady Eye gig finished my Manchester tour with a bang, and I enjoyed it the most out of the three. They didn’t sound as amazing as Stereophonics, but being in the front row of a mental gig starring the remainder of my favourite band was something I won’t forget in a long time.



# Have we forgotten the true meaning of Christmas?



Philippa Hawley

Giant snowmen, baubles of every colour and size, chocolate reindeers (especially the Lindt ones) and presents in every direction you look.

Christmas is that special time of year which is full of festivities and family time, yet nowadays it has become far more commercialised and you feel obliged to spend, spend, and spend. So is it true that people have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas? The cost of Christmas can be astronomical and in 2010, it was reported that Britons spent a staggering £16.7 billion in high street shops and online, buying thousands

of gifts for their loved ones. Granted, buying presents is a huge part of Christmas, however this shouldn't eclipse everything else. More and more money is spent on buying gifts for children and it is true to say that they are not always suitable. I've known of cases where even four year olds have been given a laptop, but what I want to know is since when did a little girl want to swap a doll for a computer? Surely at four years old kids don't want to sit glued to a screen? From buying extravagant presents like this, parents are forcing their children to grow up too quickly and managing to put themselves hugely out of pocket at the same time. Comparing the average quality laptop, priced around £350-£500 and the average cost of a girl's interactive doll, around £35 - the numbers just do not add up. Families end up buying too many presents that are just wasted, you all know those presents that you get every year that you didn't use once. As a result people are splashing their cash far more than they need to, and just think if they spend this much on a four year old, what are they going to do when she turns eighteen? Christmas is about spending time with your family and purchasing

gifts that you know will put a smile on the faces of your loved ones, but that smile doesn't have to break the bank just so you can buy your way into their hearts with elaborate gifts. If we turn Christmas into a purely materialistic holiday, it's fair to say that as each year passes people's expectations will grow. That means more presents, more decorations and more food, until Christmas becomes not the magical time of year, but the daunting period which everyone dreads because they simply cannot afford it. Instead of spending staggering amounts in high street shops, you can easily find just as thoughtful presents for a fraction of the cost in the local shops, why not help others this Christmas and spread a little festivity around? As well as costing ridiculous amounts, some think that because so much goes into the build-up of Christmas, it means the actual day is a bit of a disappointment. There's nothing better than a festive Christmas display, but when they're out before Halloween has come around, it's not surprising that people can feel (although it pains me to say) sick of Christmas before they've even opened the first window of their advent calendar. High

expectations are built since October that just cannot be met on the day. Furthermore, introducing the festive season so early makes it lose all tradition. After all, it can be easily forgotten that Christmas is a religious holiday about the birth of Jesus, and I can't think of anyone who starts celebrating their birthday at least two months in advance. (It wouldn't make much sense and you'd soon grow sick of someone going on about it all the time!) A recent survey stated that less than three-quarters of children knew Christmas was to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and 11 percent genuinely believed it was the birthday of Father Christmas. That is quite shocking. Christmas should be about celebrating this religious festival and having quality time with your family and friends, it's not about which house can have the tackiest lights. The true meaning of Christmas has to be remembered and people have to stop making it so materialistic. I'm confident that if we take away the extravagancies and remembered why we are celebrating in the first place, everyone would still have a wonderful time and be full of Christmas spirit. So, are you hanging up your stocking on the wall yet?



Photo by Dave Catchpole

# HOW TO: Survive those deadly deadlines

Sara Davenport

Week eight?! Already? Yes, and week ten will soon be upon us. In a fantasy world, week ten sounds like a pretty amazing week; it is the end of Michaelmas, end of term Sugar is only around the corner and, of course, it is nearly Christmas. It's basically a week filled with alcohol, flat Christmas dinners, Sugarhouse, secret Santa, end of term socials, the Christmas markets, and winter balls. In reality, week ten is deadline week (yes, I knew you had not forgotten). But how to meet/survive those evil, demanding and somewhat exhausting essay deadlines is the question we all need answering.

## Get prepared.

Although this may be too late for most of you, when it comes to essays, there is no such thing as 'starting too early'. The earlier you start, the better. Pick your question and gather the books you need, after all, it is unbelievably annoying when you go to collect books from the library and realise everyone else has already grabbed them. Don't be late and lazy.

## Get lots of sleep.

An early night means an early start. Try to avoid all-nighters, which will not only mess up your body clock but also mentally drain you. Get an early night, yes this means avoiding the red bull or Sugarhouse bribes from your flatmates. You are more likely to produce good quality work when you've caught up on your eight hours of sleep and you aren't walking round like a zombie. Wake up early and well rested, then plan your day. It makes it so much easier when you break your day down into small chunks, for example, 300 words in the morning and 300 words in the afternoon. Make your work load bite size and make lists.



Photo by SLU Madrid



Photo by Julie McNam

## No procrastination.

You probably are a perfectionist in procrastination (we're not here to judge). But let's be honest, while procrastination might seem like the easiest thing to do, it only steals

your time. Try to stay focused on the task in hand and amazing things will happen. Remove any items around you that will allow you to drift and just power through your work load until your next allocated break.

## Go to the library.

Sick of working in that room where your bed is constantly calling to you? Mix up your working space; try the library, the learning zone, the kitchen, or even the park (impossible in Lancaster weather, I know). But try and find a place where the distractions are minimal, a place where you can relax and be productive.

## Time management.

Utilise your time as it is precious! But

also, try your best to finish your essay as soon as possible, this way you have plenty of time to proof read. What is more, leave enough time to submit your essay on Moodle, the worst thing that could happen is a technical error (something highly rare) in the very last minute. The time management is worth it if it means your essay won't be handed in late.

## Eat healthily.

Try to stay away from the junk food, it only makes you feel tired. Eat fruit, it is honestly the best course of action, not only does it keep your mind active but it's healthy at the same time. Although, I cannot deny a good chocolate bar would not go a miss.

## Finally, don't stress.

This is the most important tip of all. Do not over stress; this will only lead to panic and thus, a very public break down in the library. Just breathe, make a cup of tea and think about what you need to get done. Remember... one bad piece of coursework is not the end of world.



# Secret Santa ideas for a student budget

Abigail Davies

It is that time of the year again; we can almost smell the eggnogg, taste the sizzling turkey, see the couple under the mistletoe and hear the sleigh bells on the roof. It's time to start decorating the tree, eating more chocolate than you can easily stomach and buying Christmas presents. But with the last comes problems, especially when you draw the name of the person you haven't spoken to since Freshers' week in a harmless game of Secret Santa. Then what? You're trapped in the predicament of trying to tell them that you do know something about them, but at the same time you don't want them to think that your gift was someone else's idea. You're trying to show that you put thought into it, but not too much thought in case they don't like it (although let's hope they do). Well don't worry, because I've compiled a list of our top five Secret Santa ideas that will leave everyone wishing you had drawn their name.

## 1. Film Night Hamper



Photo by Lauren Hollowday

Who doesn't love a night in with a good film? Even if you don't know the recipient of the gift that well they're sure to love it. All you have to do is get a box (you can get decorative ones of all sizes from your nearest gift shop) and fill it with all the things you need for a perfect night on the sofa. I'd start with hot chocolate sachet and maybe a packet of mini marshmallows to go on top. Combine this with some popcorn or a box of chocolates and the food side is sorted. Next, depending on who you're buying for and how much you want to spend, pop in a face mask, some nail varnish (for the feminine types) and maybe even a pair of lovely warm slippers. The only thing you need to decide then is the film, which may require some background research into their favourite genre, but otherwise you're sorted.

## 2. Get Personal

If you want it seem like you have put a lot of thought in then this is perfect! Choose from a huge assortment of personalised pretty much anything online. If you have enough photos with the person (or just have them on Facebook) then you could make

a photobook or a personalised calendar. If they have a nickname within your circle of friends why not get them a T-Shirt with it printed on? Depending on the recipient you could also get a personalised kindle cover, iPhone cover, cushion, or my favourite: personalised baubles.

## 3. Posters

Admittedly getting someone a poster for Christmas is kind of lame, but they're not that hard to jazz up with a frame so that it looks like a sophisticated piece of art. Around Christmas time there are usually posters being sold pretty cheap at Alexandra Square. Choose one you like, get a frame (it is probably easiest to get one that fits online), and you have framed artwork which will give any typical student bedroom a cultured edge.

## 4. Sweetie Vodka

It's hard to come across a student who doesn't love sweets, and even harder to come across a student who isn't partial to vodka, which is why this gift is flawless. Simply choose

your sweets - most people go with skittles but why not experiment and use something like pear drops? - pop them in the vodka, seal the lid and leave for a few days, shaking the mix every day. When the colour changes and you feel like you've left the sweets in for long enough, use a coffee filter and funnel to remove the sweets and any little bits that may be left in the vodka. There is no specific formula for making this, just experiment! If it tastes alright pour it into a nice bottle and add a tag for the quintessential student Christmas gift.

## 5. Festive Jumpers

This is the obvious one for Christmas, and how could anyone dislike a novelty Christmas jumper? At this time of year you can get them just about anywhere for just about any price. If you fancy something cute with a polar bear or snowflake try New Look, or if you're after something a bit more humiliating, like a red knit with a Christmas tree on the front, try ebay. And if you're feeling especially wintery why not throw in some toasty winter woolies too?

# Hot off the Press: The media's influence on body image

Emily Clayton

Year after the year the public are bombarded with images of 'the perfect body'.

Every day we see young slim female models with a flawless complexion and a bright white smile on our television screens, often accompanied by tall tanned sculpted men, with not a receding hairline or beer belly in sight.

Unsurprisingly, the constant bombardment of these images has led to a large portion of society, younger people in particular, to have a less than healthy body image. We only have the media to blame; magazines have features such as 'Torso Of The Week' and articles exclusively dedicated to slating the celebrity who's gained the most weight this month, along with crash-diet plans and advertisements with the sole aim of making their audience feel less adequate with their product. Videos rarely feature a woman more than 100lbs, and there are now even websites dedicated to girls develop eating disorders. So how is this affecting us?

Firstly, it seems more people are feeling dissatisfied with how they look, and for this reason people are becoming addicted to the photo editing software 'Photoshop'. Photoshop is a program used to edit pictures of models and celebrities before they are published in magazines or advertisements, for instance, to cover a spot or two, or

ing addicted. It's now rare to stumble across a profile picture without it having been edited or at least free from an Instagram filter. However, the media's obsession with body image has far more serious consequences, including illnesses such as depression and eating disorders. The media's insistence of the perfect body



Photo by Marie-Sophie Klingenbrunner

to take a couple of inches from a waist line. This phenomenon, however, has spread to every day civilians, who of course want to look their best in their profile pictures and cover any physical insecurities they may have, and for this reason Photoshop is utilised nearly as often as the widespread website Facebook. As the media continues to promote the image of 'the perfect body' through Photoshopping, people are becoming more and more reliant on such programs and are even becoming

causes some people, particularly teenagers and young adults, to feel inadequate. Often, people with a poor perception of body image develop low self-esteem, which in extreme cases can lead to anxiety and depression. The stress caused by the feeling of inadequacy can also lead to eating disorders such as bulimia and anorexia, both of which have had an increased number of cases in recent years. Body image related stress can also have the opposite effect, such as over eating; people eating large amounts of

bood on a fast and regular basis. Therefore this shows that how the media's emphasis on the perfect body can have a negative effect on health as well as confidence.

As serious issues like these continue to grow, and after years of campaigns and criticism, the media has begun to make efforts to tackle this problem of body image. The mission to improve perception of the ideal body began with more realistic models; Dove's 'Real Beauty' campaign uses models for their advertisements who aren't overly skinny with flawless skin and teeth. The company aimed to show realistic images of women and inspire them to be comfortable and confident in themselves. This campaign has inspired other companies to embrace 'real beauty' over fakeness, and recently Debenhams have decided to use size 16 mannequins in their store to model clothes, opposed to the standard size 10 mannequins. Most surprisingly, even some plus size models have taken to the catwalk in many high-fashion shows.

Efforts are being made by society to tackle poor body image perception in a younger generation as well. A new type of Barbie has been released in time for Christmas that is more true to the female body shape; the 'Average Barbie' is modelled off the measurements of an average 19 year old girl, with a wider waist, thicker neck and shorter legs. It is argued that the original Barbie has an unrealistic body shape and presents young girls with an unattainable standard of beauty. The aim of the new doll is to create a healthier perception of the ideal body image in young girls. The maker of the Average Barbie is also considering releasing a make-up free Barbie to take his campaign further.



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## THE MANNEQUIN DEBACLE:

*The cold, hard, size 16 truth*



Heidi Nagaitis  
Fashion Editor

Last week it was announced that Debenhams would be introducing size 16 mannequins to stores across the UK, a move which was initially met with praise. The store was seen as promoting the progression of changing attitudes towards body image within the fashion world. 'Progress' is a big word in my book, thrown around like Carrie Bradshaw's Louboutins, and personally I saw this move as an attempt to pacify the public, rather than challenge the fashion houses.

The average British woman is size 16; she has curves and a bum and yes, this should be represented by the clothing displays in shops and in advertising campaigns. Funny thing is that these mannequins don't resemble the women they hope to appeal to. Cold, hard plastic can never mimic skin or flesh and pert bums and boobs are not owned by us all, so why try to sell this image of plus-size beauty which isn't a realistic representation of a size 16 woman?

These flat-stomached mannequins

look like a stretched version of their size 8 counterparts; totally unrealistic and a little strange to look at. What's more, this abnormal shape does not help the thousands of 'Miss and Mrs Average' buy clothes to suit their body shape. Hourglass curves aren't enhanced by frozen, flat stomachs and most of us wouldn't dream of buying new leggings without checking how much bum wobble was on show, so how can these mannequins be representative?

However, the most pressing question for me is why Debenhams? Granted, its customer base is of the more womanly variety, but body image and confidence issues define many girls' teenage years and the department store is hardly a Mecca of young, alternative fashion (sorry Debenhams). Why haven't we seen a similar move by Topshop? A store with sizes so small, jumping up a dress size is the norm, or River Island, whose skintight midi skirts leave those of us without Spanx short of breath? Head into any high street store today and you're faced with tall, lean women resembling Cara Delevigne on a diet. Shopping almost makes me hungry, or at least keen to feed the tiny cropped top assistants and models.

Yes, some women are born willowy and athletic. Lucky them. I'm not saying rip the photos down of Suki Waterhouse looking lush



in an ad campaign and please don't attempt to burn the size 6 bralets and pinafore dresses. All I'm asking for is a little representation for the more voluptuous gal, with stores using mannequins actually designed to look like a size 16 or above and magazine spreads which include a more realistic figure of modern society.

As a side note I'd just like to point out to Debenhams, or any other stores attempting to 'wave the white flag' in regards to a positive body image, women, believe it or not, aren't stupid. When we spend money those 'skin-saving' creams, it's only as an excuse to buy sparkly nail varnish

in Boots, or we try that fad diet so we can go and buy lentils from the dreamboat in the health food shop. We don't actually BELIEVE these methods will work. It's the same principle with mannequins. Show us a heavily doctored mannequin, supposed to represent a size 16 woman, which has a flat stomach and we won't automatically buy your wares.

So Debenhams, well done for trying, but don't treat us woman like imbeciles. Use a real body shape to promote a better body image, rather than an over-sized Barbie and your message may get somewhere. In the meantime I'm off to buy a Mars Bar.

## scan Fashion-O-Meter

Because somebody needs to keep things stylish around here...

Damian Gray

### *The New Black*

• Clothes: It's cold out there. Who cares whether they are trendy or not. Wear them. Otherwise you will get hypothermia and die.

• Knitwear: Available at Christmas ANYWHERE. For a cheaper option hold an OAP's Werther's Originals ransom until they knit you one.

• Natural Hair: Sitting at the hairdressers is boring. Let's all forget about dying our hair. It's expensive. You could use that extra money on more beer at your town centre's German Christmas market. Anyway, your natural colour is great. You were born this way etc.

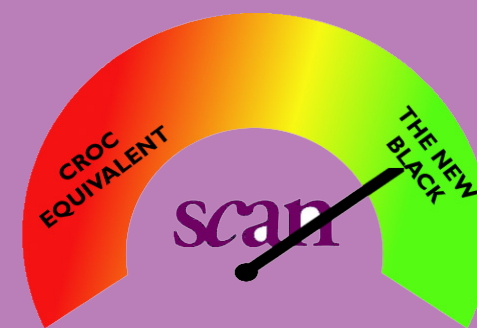
• Accidental Fashionistas: That person who always looks amazing and has no idea they are doing it. That top compliments those shoes BY CHANCE! We hate them but their Facebook tagged photos are basically our Vogue.

### *Croc Equivalent*

• Shorts: Anyone wearing them at this time of year is a w\*\*\*\*. Or going swimming.

• The Capitols fashion: Yes this is a Hunger Games reference. Have they all taken acid? They maybe rich but are they also blind?! (Side note: #teamgale)

• Claustrophobia: Retail outlets are too busy. We're staying away. No presents for anyone this year. No scarf for your cat lady Auntie Shirley. Soz Shirley.





# 10 tips on how to be a **savvy** charity shopper

Rhea Cairns

Most people are aware of the unfortunate stereotypes surrounding charity shops. Okay, so they might smell like a combination of old peppermint and dust, and yes, I admit, around 80% of the time that I go into a charity shop I don't actually find anything.

But that's what's misunderstood about shopping in charity shops: it's not about finding something every time, it's about the hunt. Students are notorious for running out of money quicker than you can say "loan", and charity shops beat the prices of Topshop and even New Look hands down - and even better they're original. What's more, shopping in charity shops means your money actually goes to a good cause, so not only are you grabbing yourself something unique, you're also doing your bit to help others. If you're a newbie to the charity shop scene, don't worry - here's ten top tips to prepare you for your first charity shop hunt!

## 1. Take your time

Shopping in charity shops isn't the same as running into River Island to find a dress to wear to Sugar on a

Friday night - it takes time. If you're in a rush it's unlikely that you'll find anything, so set aside at least an hour to browse through the rails and see what you can find.

## 2. Don't expect miracles

Shopping in charity shops is a continuous process: it's about seeking out that one-of-a-kind velvet jumper and the tweed granddad jacket that you've imagined wearing for ages, not buying a new top every time you shop. Don't be disappointed if you don't find something every time.

## 3. Use your imagination

You might be lucky and see something that instantly grabs your eye... or you might not. But don't panic, just use your imagination. Yes, the boldly patterned men's shirt might help you out for a "shite shirt" fancy dress theme in the future, but instead imagine it draped over skinny jeans and teamed with converse and a leather jacket for the day, or even tucked into those adorable velvet shorts you own and worn with heaps of gold jewellery for a night out. That sounds better, doesn't it? Ladies - don't be afraid to venture into the men's section to bag a bargain: it works, trust me.

## 4. Try things on

Most charity shops have changing rooms and it's for a reason: they don't accept returns. If you're hesitant just try it on, it might take an extra two minutes but you'll thank yourself when you realise that the top you just picked up leaves less to the imagination than you may have hoped for.

## 5. Explore them all

Lancaster has over ten charity shops so make sure that you find them all and have a browse. If you're not successful in the first one that you find then don't panic, simply move on to the next one!

## 6. Look at the label

Unless you're after something specific (which really defeats the point), avoid high-street labels. When shopping in charity shops it's actually a good thing if you've never heard of the designer on the label - the more authentic and unique the better.

## 7. Have a wash

Please remember to throw your

new purchases in the washing machine before wearing them! Unless you have an odd fetish for the distinctive musky smell, remember that other people have worn the clothes before you so give them a wash before making them your own.

## 8. Remember the cash

Another useful tip: most charity shops don't accept card payments under £5.00, so have a bit of cash handy before you start your search.

## 9. Be daring

Try something new! If you're used to wearing plain or dark colours or you're currently obsessed with cream knitwear then step away; avoid what you're comfortable with, step outside the box and pick up the red dress that 'you couldn't possible wear because...' - yes, you can.

## 10. Have fun!

Lastly, remember to have fun! Enjoy yourself, have a browse and see what you can find! If you bear these top tips in mind there's no doubt that you'll be addicted to shopping in charity shops in no time.

# Tricky trends: Tartan, *friend or foe?*

Chelsea Eddy

When it comes to tartan, Alicia Silverstone a la Clueless dominates pattern potential, although I am aware that not everyone wants to prep-up in pleats and checks. I have tried repeatedly, but the looks I got this weekend in Mint have definitely reassured me that I've failed. So if you want to rock this trend with the best of them, this is how to actually do it.

**In terms of trousers**, if you prefer the more tailored look, let the tailoring be the focus and go for a more muted print. Zara feature more subtle hues of purples and greens. These are much more versatile to co-ordinate. Wear them with this season's navy blue tee, a cream wool knit jumper, or little camisole top for an evening. Or if you want to look more grungey, then go for the amazing bold tartan prints seen on a whole host of Topshop leggings. These look great with oversized grey t-shirts, roll up the sleeves and accessorise with a knuckle duster of silver rings.

As for skirts, there are two styles: **pencil and short, school-girl** (reminiscent of Britney Spears 'Hit Me Baby One More Time'). The debate in the changing room

as I tried to navigate the tartan pencil skirt was how to make it more casual. I think I have kind-of succeeded - I've teamed my Topshop tartan print pencil skirt with an oversized grey knit. For the bolder pencil skirts, grey and black pieces keep the outfit on the right side of granny chic. You can, however, get a variety of different materials like denim and more structured styles than jersey if you want to breathe out as some point during the day. This skirt can easily be dressed up as well, I plan on wearing mine with a v-neck body from American Apparel and some strappy sandals.

The shorter styles are a bit more difficult to wear seeing as many are a little similar to Matalan's 'back to school' range. Try layering softer garments, like white chiffon shirts under navy jumpers to soften the print, add some loafers to finish the look.

If you're looking for something to really top of the style and keep you warm, without swamping your tartan ensemble in a duffel coat, **a blazer is probably the best way to go**.

My favourite style of blazer at the moment are the tweed heritage long-line beauties with suede elbow patches. In my blazer, I go all-out herit-

age style with white silk shirt, high waisted jeans, brown belt and long brown riding style boots. Try to go for more fitted clothing underneath you blazer like jeans or a pencil skirt to avoid looking like a farmer's wife. If in doubt, buy burgundy, a colour which looks great with tweed and is different from the traditional heritage style.

All in all, I would recommend that you keep your tartan simple. Flashes

of tartan can be a subtle nod to the trend. Layer a tartan shirt under a white mohair knit jumper and black skinny jeans. **A check scarf goes with anything, leather, trenches, denim, and low-key outfits that don't have a bold print to them.**

My tip? Find the best scarves on eBay, or scour the local garden centre for a good quality cashmere!



Photo by Jimmy MacDonald

# INTERVIEW STYLE: Dressing to impress the boss

*How to look great for an interview (by the man in the monkey hat)*

Danté Szafranski

For third years like myself, the daunting prospect of 'adulthood' is hurtling towards us at a bewildering pace. There seems like an inordinate amount of obstacles to outmanoeuvre on the way to landing a coveted (or financially rewarding) grad job and if you're one of the lucky few to navigate these successfully and receive a call for an interview, you inevitably get caught up in the Grinchian conundrum of 'but what should I wear?'

Not since the era of non-school uniform days at secondary school have we felt such pressure; simply put, it can make or break you.

Firstly, you need to do your research whether or not the company has a more relaxed state or not. If so, don't take liberties. Don't turn up wearing Chuck Taylor's and showing off your combination of piercings and/or tattoos. This is an opportunity to go smart casual, meaning a smart trouser and a shirt (no band tees). Count yourself lucky if you're in this situation, you might still feel like you're not completely surrendering yourself to the corporate devil!

For the more formal interview, there is no need to go all Patrick Bateman in this situation. There is no to spend an exorbitant amount of money on suits by Armani and ties by Agnes B; in fact, if you were to dress like Bateman, the bigger fit of the early nineties suits would most likely garner uncontrollable laughter from your interviewer! With this, my first recommendation is to find a suit THAT FITS. Do not get a suit that is too big or too small - be aware of the very small fitting of Topman suits- as this comes across as unprofessional. Do you think a client wants to take on a graduate who can't find clothes to fit?

As for the colour of the suit, try avoid to black. It is the most common choice by most men (not just graduates) and many graduate employers complain of their reception area looking like a wake on interview day. There are plenty of dark-coloured suits to choose from and my recommendation would be a dark blue, navy or grey suit. These are versatile as they allow for a wide range of shirt, tie and shoe combinations.

The same goes for shirts as it does

for suits. There may be a temptation to try show off muscles by walking in to an interview with a medium shirt when you should have a large. Don't. Make sure the shirt fits well but is not restrictive (allows for passionate gesticulation in the interview!) and that the collar doesn't make your face turn purple or flap in the wind. As for the shirt colour, don't be audacious. Don't think a bright colour against your dark suit or a crazy pattern will make you stand out. Well, it may do, but for all the wrong reasons. White usually works best but if you're especially daring, a light pastel colour might tickle your fancy.

The tie is where the splash of colour comes in. This small piece of material is maybe where you represent your personality with colour. Don't pick a skinny tie (this isn't prom), you're becoming a man now! Be willing to spend on a tie as it is one of the focal points of your outfit and can distract away from an average shirt.

Finally, the shoes. With a dark suit, rock some tan or dark brown leather brogues (nice and polished) and make sure your belt matches (no bling or Bat signals guys).

Don't forget to shower and shave and be well kept; no client wants a man channelling his inner Gimli from day one.

Best of luck to all the third years with interviews (insert motivational cliché here).

Georgie Jones

The hardest stage of getting a job is usually the first application: getting them to take you out of a very large pile and put you into a relatively smaller one. However, you're still in a pile, and chances are those other applicants are just as qualified as you are for the job.

Here comes the interview. It's likely that you're feeling pretty nervous about it. Interviews are nerve-racking, that's a given, but turn up in the perfect outfit and at least you're removing the stress from one area. It's an important area. As much as we'd all like to believe that it's about what you say, not how you look, an

employer will make a judgement of you before you've even opened your mouth or put your hand out for a handshake. It's something we humans can't help. If you walk in confidently, at ease and in the perfect outfit, then you're making it a lot easier for them to judge you positively.

Appearance isn't everything, let me stress this, but when it comes to an interview you can't take any chances. Show up looking your best and then work your magic.

Depending on the type of job you're going for, your outfit is going to vary. If you're heading into a corporate interview then your keywords for yourself should be 'simplistic' and 'smart', but the idea is also to be memorable. It's likely that 90% of the people there will show up in all monochrome,

but don't be afraid to mix in a few colours, even if it's something as little as a grey or navy blue shirt instead of white. In colour psychology, grey suggests affluence and practicality, whilst blue reflects a sense of trustworthiness and dependability. This is something businesses want from their employees, so take that into consideration.

With interviews where you have a little more flexibility in what you could wear, such as advertising companies, fashion houses, writing and editing jobs, you need to display your creativity and originality as much in what you wear, as you do in the words you speak. It must be hard for an interviewer to sit and listen to you say you're innovative in all areas of your life when you're wearing a black skirt and plain shirt.

My newest favourite formal item has to be the cigarette pant. Wearing a different style of trouser than the norm (the straight, bootcut black pant) suggests that you're more aware of your appearance, and that you can dress as formally as required but you can still add a little flare at the same time. On the subject of flare, there's also no rule that you can't wear a pattern. For instance, a muted tartan check trouser in a dark green or navy and black. The idea is to wear complimentary but toned down colours. You want your outfit to speak, but you don't want it to speak louder than you.

The best advice that you can take towards any interview is that you look prepared and polished. Sleek hair, soft make up, plain jewellery and wear obviously the most important thing, a smile.



Photo by Dorothy Perkins

Photo by Burtons



# Finding your *perfect* pair of jeans

Steph Massheder

Imagine a world where you didn't spend desperate minutes frantically de-tagging unsightly snaps of yourself on social media. Imagine a world where you could browse through a portfolio of pouting, posing, standard university antics and think 'profile pic potential' for nearly every single image. Well, this is the \*cue poor pun effort\* picture-perfect utopia that I'm dreaming of. With that in mind and some top trouser tips, I will show you how you can ameliorate your body hang-ups without shunning your favourite style of jeans.

The **high-waisted skinny jean**, with its backward nod to urban chic, can exude instant 'I'm with the band' vibes perfectly for petite girls, especially those with short (but sweet) legs. Indeed, this trusty trouser will elongate your pins, helping to bring your frame into proportion whilst creating a longer, taller silhouette. Do you have short legs and a long body, but are not a tuck-in-top, look at my 'nipped-in-shape' kinda gal? Then simply opt for a tee that hits just below waist length. This will maintain the illusion of a more in-proportion physique, and the extra material from the jeans will make sure you freeze this - hopefully white - winter. **Tip:** grab a pair that has been crafted from a stretchy cotton-rich denim, as this will ease any pressure on your tum, and

warrant maximum comfort for those all-day, all-night library sessions. The **leg-hugging skinny jean** and **cutting-edge super-skinny**, is - let's face it - a hard trouser type to



master. Ladies and gents: if you have straight up-and-down pins, with minimal muscle definition, then find a pair with pocket and knee detailing and contrasting stitching to add depth to your slim-line physique. If luscious, long legs are your problem - I wish this was an issue for me - then opt for the ankle-grazer ... cue "breakthrough technology making

legs appear shorter and slicker!" No matter what shape or size you are, everybody can wear denim well with the perennial **straight-legged jean**, or the 'liminal' jean as I like to call it.

Of course, if you want a denim miracle, then **body-sculpting spanx jeans** are your new secret weapon! With a wide waistband, and front/rear pockets designed to smooth any wobble-bobbles, you can say good-riddance to those ghastly control pants, and rock whatever trouser type you want. Top tip: if you want to conceal those few extra 'essay' pounds that have crept on recently then a darker rinse is your denim BFF.

If you want major comfort factor, a pair of jeans that will see you through those 9 till ... er, 9 university days, then the **boyfriend jean** is the way forward. For the último tip: seek out a pair with a tapered style because, well, to the fashion figureheads who tried to make 'Mom' jeans cool... they're not. Those solid light-blue jeans that hide your shape and flatten your curves belong to the 90s, and only the 90s, discarded in photo albums smothered in dust under in a neglected guest bedroom wardrobe.

frames. **Tip numero dos:** why not spice up this simple jean by adding a flavour of this Autumn/Winter's punk trend? Simply grab a pair with a tartan-print lining, roll up the hems, and team with a pair of studded sneakers. Boom!

Indeed, this clean-line piece is neither the post-university, flare-on-bottom trouser nor is it the second-skin skinny! This extra-leg room jean has the power to balance out curvy curves - or for the male gym bunnies among my readers: strapping, athletic quads. Plus, when made from a mid-wash, distressed material, this trouser will soften super slender

**Now you know the ultimate trouser tricks**, it's time to get snap happy, and capture those all important university memories.

## *Working the faux fur*

Georgia Shephard

When it comes to fur it is often a question of what do you put first: fashion or ethics? Either way, fur is a controversial topic in Fashion for all the obvious reasons. However, at winter it often features in the top 10 trends. Combine this with Lancaster's notoriously cold and windy weather and there you have a good enough reason, if any, to embrace the faux fur filling our high street this season.

Most people assume the only way to conquer the fur trend is with a fur coat but we all know there is a fine line between looking chic and resembling a cuddly bear. However, there are in fact several ways you can make a statement with Fur this season. From fur collars to gilets, mittens to scarves, there is an option for everyone's budget.

If you're down to the last few

pounds of your student loan or just don't want to attract too much attention at gam on the Spine, then why not opt for faux fur gloves, earmuffs or even a hat? These are affordable, require little effort and yet are both on trend and practical, except for earmuffs, which whilst they do keep your ears toasty, also make you temporarily deaf.

For effortless cool choose the faux fur headband/hat, available in a multitude of colours and sizes it would be impossible not to find one you love. If you're still unsure about channeling a Russian Aristocrat then just consider their ability to conceal a bad hair day.

For a fur novice one of the easiest items to rock is the fur stole. Easy to incorporate into your wardrobe, the stole is perfect for keeping you warm. Wear with your favourite leather jacket to give it an entirely new look or even with a chunky car-

digan to add a different texture to the mix. Whilst a fur coat can be overwhelming on a small frame, a stole won't add much bulk to your figure making it an easy addition to any winter outfit. Look to Topshop for a simple and elegant one to keep you warm this winter.

Another way to get around looking bulky in a fur coat is by investing in a fur gilet instead. The gilet is much more versatile than a coat and can be layered over your current clothes to add a whole new texture to your outfits. Layered over your existing wardrobe, you can add warmth to a lighter jacket that might



not otherwise leave its hanger during the winter months in Lancaster.

If even an entirely fur gilet is too much for you then you can always tone it down once more and go for a coat with a fur trim around the hood, collar or cuffs. As it is such a subtle nod to the fur trend it means that you can still sport your favourite style of coat, the parka perhaps, but remain on trend by opting for one which features a fur hood too. If this sounds like you, look to Zara and Miss Selfridge who have both taken the ordinary but nice parka and made it just a little bit more extraordinary.

Whatever you opt for this winter just keep in mind that a little can go a long way with fur; one item is enough for any outfit so pick your piece and dress around it. Unless you wanted to look like a bear that is!

# Campus beauty: Mascara

*Mae Reddaway*

My dear readers, at long last the time has come for your second dose of Campus Beauty; or as I like to call it 'time-to-be-nosy-about-what-make-up-other-people-wear'. This week we bring to you a selection of mascaras which Lancaster students have been loving, ranging in price from a budget friendly £4 to an eye-watering £19.50. Personally, I've always been a drugstore mascara kind of girl, favouring L'oreal's 'Telescopic' and Maybel-line's 'The Falsies' mascara. Recently however, the beauty blogosphere has been in a frenzy about high-end brand Santhilea's £25 'Magnetic Lash' mascara, which may well be making an appearance on my Christmas list.



Photo by Mae Reddaway

*Simonetta*

Simonetta who is a 20-year-old Marketing and Psychology student.

Her mascara of choice is **Max Factor's '2000 Calorie'** variety, because it thickens her lashes and doesn't tend to clump or smudge throughout the day. I haven't heard much about this particular mascara before, however with it's smudge proof claims and at only £4 from Amazon, you can't really go wrong.



*Olivia*

Olivia, a 19-year-old Italian and French student with a love of French Bulldog puppies, summer sun and knitwear. Since trying **Benefit's 'They're Real' mascara**, she has become a convert, and puts this down to the wand, which is amazing at lengthening and separating her lashes. This product has won a whole host of awards and claims to be the UK's bestselling mascara, but is it really worth the £19.50 price tag?



Photo by Mae Reddaway



# Who are the Humans of Lancaster?

Anna Meng & Vivian Hansen

Do you ever look at the person sitting opposite you on the bus and wonder what's going through their mind?

Perhaps it's the barista at your local coffee shop or the interesting looking stranger you passed on your way to University this morning? Whoever it is, you can't help but wonder what their story is. What makes these people full of hopes and fears, what are the interesting experiences that shaped them?

How often do we seize the opportunity to speak to someone new?

To hear a little about what is bothering them, something they've always wanted to do or even just something that made them happy in the past week? More often than not, the answer is a disappointing 'never.' Chances are missed and meaningful connections that could have been made are instead rendered void.

That's what Humans of Lancaster is about.

Inspired by the now New York Times bestselling Humans of New York, it's a project aimed at giving daily glimpses into the lives of ordinary people around us. By taking a portrait of a stranger and asking them a few questions that are later



posted online, the intention is to show that everyone has a story to tell. Ultimately, it's about encouraging people to start valuing the small conversations in life – the ones we so often overlook.

In a digital age where social media platforms facilitate instant communication on a global scale, we have lost the ability to communicate. Never have we been as connected as we are now, yet with everyone's noses buried in smartphones and iPods plugged in, this connectivity so often becomes a means of isolation instead. And that makes the re-humanising aspect of projects like Humans of Lancaster more important than ever.

Started as an assignment by second and third year digital marketing students, the purpose is to give a voice and a face to the many interesting people who walk these streets. By showcasing the diversity in Lancaster the website aims to share these everyday discoveries and hopefully motivate each and every one of us to initiate our own encounters. A social media campaign involving Facebook and Twitter has also been started to spread awareness and to make it easier for people to get involved.

Unlike Humans of New York creator Brandon Stanton's difficulties starting out in New York, the response to the project in Lancaster

has so far been overwhelmingly positive. A surprising few refuse to be photographed or featured on the website and everyone is happy to answer the questions or share a little about their lives. The stories range from people's highest aspirations and successes to their deepest regrets; from the excitable kid in the sweet shop to the old gentleman observing the city's changes over the last forty years.

Though Lancaster is certainly no bustling, cosmopolitan New York, its unique character and diversity are reflected in every interview and in terms of kindness and openness, the city's inhabitants are unparalleled.

# Home away from home: How to personalise your university bedroom

Sophie Barrett  
Carolynne Editor



You have been living in your campus cell for over half a term now, and the glaring white walls and pile of pizza boxes are making you feel existential. Perhaps, if you are anything like I was in first year, your room has become a "getting-ready-for-a-night-out" station, and your desk is juggling functions as a work space, make-up table and bar. It is time that you play a game of 60-minute-makeover and transform the hellish clinical prison into a home.

As pretentious as it sounds, your bedroom articulates your personality – it is the only private and personal space that you are given at university. It houses your possessions, acts as a work space, but perhaps most importantly, it is a blank canvas

upon which you can metaphorically paint your personality. You need to be comfortable and at home in this box, and the way in which you personalise it allows your friends to gage an impression of your interests and nature. My flat mate Ryan, a total OCD clean freak, has measured the distance between the picture rail and his posters, and lined them up with a right-angle measurer from B&Q. Jade, who is loud, bubbly and obsessed with Disney, has transformed her bedroom into a kaleidoscopic den of fluorescent fuzzy cushions and stuffed toys. Anybody could match these two to their bedrooms from a line-up.

*The rules of university bedroom décor:*

### Wall art

Tearing pages from your favourite magazines or sticking up movie posters is an affordable way to transform your blank walls. I have covered mine in clips from Vogue and LOVE magazine – Tim Walker photographic spreads that resonate Gothic ro-

mance. I have also put up a couple of Breakfast at Tiffany's film posters, and cover art from my two favourite novels – The Great Gatsby and The Catcher in the Rye. This is cheap, easy, and reflective of my cultural influences. If you love a particular band, or are inspired by a work of art, then pay homage to them, by fixing them to your walls.

### Photographs of university memories brighten the bedroom

Studentbeans tend to have offers on multiple prints. Do be prepared to walk into a flatmate's room to find some horrific pictorial evidence of some of your night out antics though!

### Furniture

When I moved into my house in town, I invested in a few pieces of furniture. I found a floral Lloyd Loom chair at a car boot sale, and a bedside table with James Dean's face on it on sale in Lancaster's interior shop. Furniture that isn't from IKEA

can individualise your bedroom, and it doesn't have to be expensive. At Lancaster Leisure Park is an Antiques Centre that houses bargains.

### Home Made

This is massively pathetic to admit, but I actually have Beano bunting in my bedroom (yes, the comic book we all remember in our 90s childhood). Why? I like the Beano, and I like bunting, and I thought the two would marry well. You don't have to spend money to exhibit your interests and aesthetic passions in your bedroom. If you want a romantic ambiance, throw some netting over the window to mock soft lighting. If you want to brighten your wardrobe, cover it with a few floral or paisley material free samples from an interior shop. Pretty gift-wrap works well too.

### Noticeboard

Invest in a noticeboard. You can pin up family photographs, Freshers' week and festival memories, gallery and plane tickets etc.



Photo by Jade Podmore

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# Perfect student day trips - *The Lake District*

Hayley Schubert

Do picturesque walks, beautiful scenery and cute cafes sound like your cup of tea (excuse the pun)? After a recent trip to Bowness, situated in the heart of the Lake District, it seemed only right to compose an article on the charm that this attractive part of the county has to offer. For those of you who have never been to The Lakes, then welcome aboard, as I highlight some of the rustic charisma located just down the road (ish). For those of you have previously visited, I hope you feel I do this review justice as I give you a trip down memory lane.

Autumn in the Lake District is like a scene out of a fairy-tale, boasting the largest natural lake in England and home to the renowned William Wordsworth - if poetry is your forte. Basically there is something to satisfy everyone's tastes. Bowness in particular is a little gem amid the newly crisp foliage and plethora of tempting chocolate shops. Its cobbled streets are fully equipped to fuel the avid shopaholic's desires, as you are enticed by the freshly made soups, old fashioned ice cream parlours and handbags available in every range of colours and styles possible. Not wanting to spoil the pretty picture I am painting, I did still managed to

stumble across a Bargain Booze, a hint of commercialisation perhaps, but ideal for restocking up on your back to university essentials!

If you are wanting to go further afield, boat trips and cruises across Lake Windermere offer you the opportunity to visit Ambleside, a beautiful neighbouring town, oozing old-fashioned pubs, art galleries and being heralded as the country's most popular upland walking area. I definitely felt my thighs were more toned after my weekend away! If the thought of Christmas excites you as much as me, Hayes Garden World is also a must see; its festive display is magnificent and offered me the opportunity to make a start on my Christmas shopping.

Returning to Bowness, it would be sinful not to take a rural walk, enabling your inner photographer to capture some picture perfect memories, as you discover some of The Lakes breath-taking scenic views. Just make sure you come equipped with an umbrella; no trip to Cumbria is complete without some precipitation! If your legs begin to tire from all the hiking, there is always the famous open top buses, offering regular trips along a formidable route that is sure to leave you 'oohing' and 'aahing'. You will feel a million miles away from student life as essay deadlines and group projects



Photo by Matthew Fleming



Photo by Anna Meng

are left somewhere along the M6 and are instead replaced with real ale and hearty pub grub. Of course, I could not leave out The World of Beatrix Potter either. A childhood favourite, this award-winning attraction brings the literary classics to life, adding a tinge of nostalgia to your visit.

## *Getting to the Lake District*

- By Bus:** the 555 bus from Lancaster bus station goes directly to Windermere. This will take approximately an hour and a half.
- By Train:** there is a direct train from Lancaster to Windermere. This takes approximately thirty five minutes and costs around £13.
- By Car:** take the M6 then the A591. This will take approximately forty minutes.

# How to be a *not-so* skint student

Philippa Hawley

**Money problems are the worst when you're at university, you've got all these things you want to do.**

You're desperate to go on the big night out at the weekend, and you've been dying to buy that new outfit. But as we all know, you have got to be saving-savvy when it comes to university life.

So you're doing your weekly food 'big shop' and you are determined to stick to a pre-planned shopping list. But as hard as it is you can't get too attached to this, while it's great to have an idea of what you want so you don't have a buying overload, supermarkets always have special offers on so be prepared to spend a little extra cash. Using these deals and buying in bulk is the way to save the extra pennies, although it may not feel like it, spending more money now will definitely pay off in

the future.

When it comes to socialising with your friends don't let money become the barrier that stops you seeing people. If your friends suggest a meal out and your purse strings just can't stretch that far, either do your research and find a deliciously cheap place to go to or suggest a cooking night in. Take it in turns to cook for everyone, all pitch in a couple pounds and your night is sorted! And you can't exactly go to a restaurant in your joggers and comfy clothes - another bonus. Eat what you like and wear whatever's the comfiest. Perfect night in.

**One thing that will save you loads of money is planning everything in advance, although it will require excellent organisation.**

If you know you're going somewhere or staying at a mate's for a weekend then book your train as early as possible. You can book online up to

three months in advance of actually going so remember to book it quickly. If I wanted to get from Manchester Piccadilly to London Euston today it would cost me £76.30 for a single, but if I booked the same journey for January right now, almost all trains for that month cost £12.50. What's the point in leaving things until last minute, it's shocking how much you save by planning everything and not just turning up on the day.

So there are a few general money saving tips but there are also a few local ways to protect your pennies too. Lancaster has a great transport system and they even put on free buses to and from Sainsbury's every Wednesday, so you can still do your weekly big shop but you can get there for free. Why wouldn't you use it? It's the same with the Sugar buses, get free rides to and from campus with a night out in between. At least this way you don't have to worry about getting home

or having enough money at the end of the night, just make sure you've got a stamp.

**One final thing is don't turn your nose up at cheap shops in favour of Sainsbury's.**

Sainsbury's is great for everything you need, but you can get exactly the same branded products much cheaper at Home Bargains or B and M Bargains. Have a look here and you'll be amazed at how little everything costs. So budget, plan and be creative and your purse will be bursting in no time.

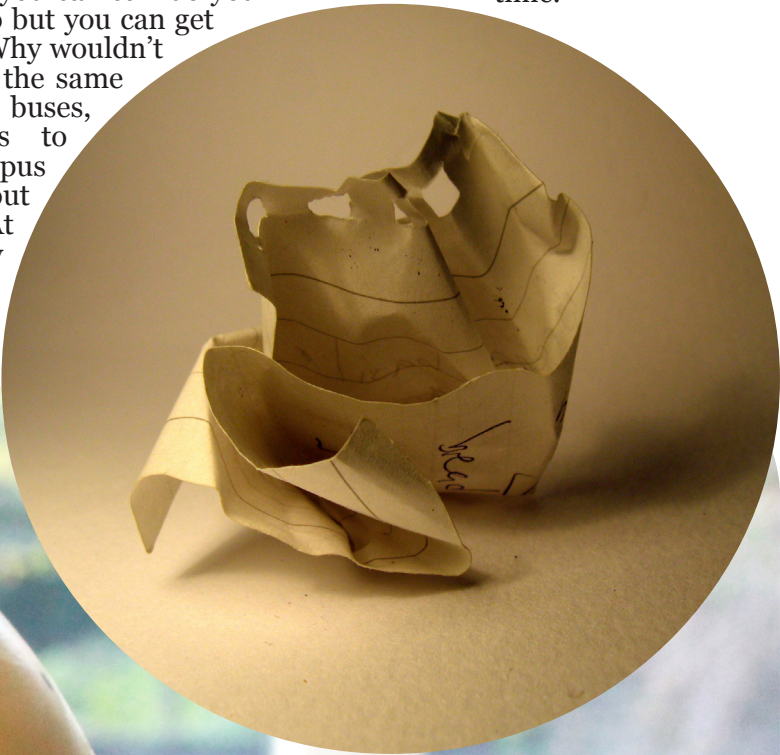


Photo by Marie-Sophie Klingenbrunner



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# Comment

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

## Why having a disability makes no difference to being a student

Melissa Parker

“We think in generalities, but we live in detail”, it is the detail which defines our experience. Most people live with a general knowledge of words such as ‘disability’ and ‘accessibility’ whereas others, such as myself, live in the detail. We live with an awareness that the detail is disregarded or tainted with ignorance because we have the knowledge that others lack. As a Fresher the details are all the more important.

The generalities are always considered, for example having automatic doors into accommodation. However, the fact that the other two doors into the accommodation are exceedingly heavy is not considered. The doors are, of course, heavy with good reason but it seems to lack common sense to construct a generally well accessible building. The University has not thought of every detail because it cannot. Therefore, in writing this piece, I am arguing that we who live there ought to state our case where we feel it is necessary.

Where there have been problems, the University has always attempted to remedy them. Despite having a different perspective it should not stop people with disabilities having the normal university experience. Regardless of certain obstacles I can earnestly say that thus far university has been the time of my life and that has a great deal to do with the people who have comprised a sometimes makeshift support system. I have been at university for a number of weeks now and the place already has enough good memories, of studying and socialising, to feel like home.

Before my arrival I had

Photo by Mae Reddaway



severe reservations that university would have that sentiment. Friends with disabilities would share stories of loneliness and isolation which only served to make the experience all the more overwhelming. There is, it turns out, a completely irrational fear that people will want to take away independence and self-sufficiency. I have been left to my own devices just like any other student which is, if feasible and appropriate, just the way it ought to be. There have been a number of logistical nightmares along the way and I understand this is part of the experience, such as the fact that it took me ten minutes to get into the law school on a first attempt both as a consequence of lacking the required upper body strength for that door and the fact that I am notoriously directionally challenged.

There are moments when I have to wonder “Why?” such as entering a lift, realising my wheels were wet, and the moment of mingled disgust and comprehension when it dawned on me that a previous occupant had urinated in there. There will never be enough hand sanitiser in this world.

I am exceedingly grateful to the people who organise disability support and who are always there in an emergency if required, but who also allow me to be fully independent at all other times. No one should tell you how to cope with a disability at university. Everyone is different although personally, now and in the past, I have been incredibly fortunate to have people around me who allow me to be normal – whatever that is. I have friends who want to enter me into ‘The Disabled Drinking

Paralympics’ who give me nicknames such as Ironside and who do not seem to mind too much when I ask them to paint luminous yellow swirls on my skin for Halloween so I can be ‘Oracle’ (although there was some debate over whether ‘Professor X’ was the better choice).

For my part, I wanted the university experience to be inclusive and for me to feel – away from the people who know me – understood as a person.

The past few weeks have completely exceeded all of my expectations and although the transition and organisation has not always been seamless or unbroken, there is always someone who wants to help even if the task is just to get a book off the top shelf or ensure that I am not run over by a bus in Freshers’ Week.

It saddens me that a number of my friends with disabilities have not had such positive experiences of university. It should not define who you are as a person, or your experiences.

Ultimately, you have not lived until you have tried to get a wheelchair down the really non-wheelchair accessible route into Sugar. It will be one of my, eccentrically exclusive, Fresher’s stories.



# Welcome to Lancaster University: Be sure to pack your hard hat

Annie Underwood

As a student who started at Lancaster in October 2010, just as the underpass building works were starting, and who was then away on study abroad last year in the first year of underpass operation, I was looking forward to returning to Lancaster and using the underpass for the first time.

To be honest, I'm a bit disappointed.

It gets overcrowded at peak times, every noise reverberates like a pneumatic drill (in particular Loud Bus Guy and those 'cool' people revving their engines as they drive through), and one can't help but wonder at the health impacts of spending any amount of time in a relatively enclosed area with all those petrol fumes and diesel particles wafting around. With all these negatives, one could

be excused for questioning whether the time and money invested in refurbishment of the underpass can be justified – yes, it protects you from the rain (although it has flooded in the past), and saves the grass in front of the chaplaincy centre – but were the two years of construction worth it?

Even now the work on the underpass is completed, the refurbishment of Bowland Tower and construction of a new Engineering building are causing further headaches for students and staff alike. With rumours about the history of Bowland Tower still alive in student minds, is it wise to be refurbishing the tower for student accommodation?

The myth that Bowland Tower was decommissioned after a series of students committed suicide by jumping from the roof was debunked in SCAN in 2012, with reports of only one case of a fall from the tower. As Daniel Hall reported, the tower was closed as it has not been refurbished since it was first constructed in 1968, and was therefore unfit for purpose.

It is now being refurbished to provide accommodation for students from January 2014 – accommodation which is sorely needed after the embarrassment at the start of this academic year when almost 100 first year students were forced to live off campus as a result of misallocation of accommodation.

The new accommodation in Bowland Tower is also expected to be more affordable for a student budget, with students saving almost £700 compared to the equivalent accommodation in other colleges – a huge benefit to students when rental costs continue to rise year on year.

Similarly, construction of the new state-of-the-art Engineering building on the site of the old sports centre may be inconvenient and disruptive (particularly when trying to access parts of the Lancaster Environment Centre), but it suits a purpose – the engineering department has grown considerably in reputation, student and staff numbers have increased in recent years, and the

original engineering building, dating from the 1960s, is incapable of supporting any further expansion. Hence the £12.25million development. The new building – a centre of excellence – will provide areas for future growth in nuclear, energy and chemical engineering, attracting both more students and more funding to the University. The head of the Engineering department,

Professor Malcolm Joyce, has been quoted as saying that students would really benefit from the new working and learning environment and facilities.

Indeed, this is surely the major benefit of the seemingly never-ending construction on campus – the investments are almost all for the benefit of the students and staff. An example of this is the sports centre – a £20 million development, at a university with no sports degree – evidence of investment in people. The erection of a wind turbine on campus also stresses the University's commitment to sustainable energy practices.



Read more online at  
scan.lusu.co.uk/comment

# Bachman needs to learn that killing defenceless animals is not big, clever or worthy of applause

Rachel May Quin  
Editor



In this day and age, it seems completely ridiculous that people still think it is okay to abuse animals. Modern society tends to concern itself with trying to reverse the negative effects that mankind

has wrought upon the planet during the brief sneeze of time that we decided we owned the rights to it. Up until the 21st century, when we became much more conscious of how idiotic we've been, we considered it acceptable to abuse our planet by draining it of its natural resources and pursue animals into extinction. I personally, am devastated that I will never meet an animal with a hilarious name like Dodo.

This is not an eco rant, I assure you. The furious banging

of my keyboard keys – which took place during the writing of this article and cannot be adequately expressed in the cool, calm, black and white of print – is directed at the absolute morons who still continue to treat animals with disrespect and downright cruelty. That's right, Melissa Bachman, I'm looking at you.

This truly American idiot TV presenter recently went on a hunt in Africa, killing animals for no other reason than she felt like massaging her own

ago and kill some defenceless wild animal for the fun of it. For that alone, I feel like punching her in the face. But, just to rub salt in the wound, this absolute genius decided to post photos of herself on social media, clutching her gun and smiling broadly as she towers over the corpses of various animals: lions, bears, zebras, and so on.

She captioned one photo of herself and her victim: "An incredible day hunting in South Africa! Stalked inside

60 yards on this beautiful male lion... what a hunt!" One blogger took to Buzzfeed, claiming that killing lions is cowardly and Bachman should be ashamed of herself. His point of view was that during a safari trip he once took, the lions were completely harmless. He claims that they used to calmly walk alongside his truck, waiting for it to stop so they could relax in the shade. Basically, lions are big, lazy cats – and I think it's pretty clear by now how much I adore cats.

The outrage at Bachman's insensitivity and cold-blooded kills has apparently prompted a petition by the people of South Africa to try and ban her from the country. But perhaps less time should be spent on keeping Bachman away from the border, and a petition should be put forward to ban this so-called 'legal' hunting. Bachman's behaviour is abhorrent and appalling, but the fact that it was deemed appropriate and perfectly legal for her to kill animals that were in no way a threat to her – or anyone – is unbelievable. How about we tackle the root of the problem first South Africa?

I think one of the worst things about this whole scenario is how Bachman behaved. I understand that she presents wildlife shows and such like – over in the United States where they regularly hunt and kill animals like alligators without batting an eyelid – but I truly am disgusted at how she thought it was appropriate to post photos of these poor, lifeless creatures who did nothing to desire the horrible fate they will likely have suffered. Because let's face it, I doubt Bachman was considerate enough to shoot a dart filled with chemicals that would give them a peaceful, delirious death.

Furthermore, what does she actually plan to do with these creatures? Because trophy rooms filled with the heads of prey are definitely a thing that should have been left in the seventeenth century. I guess this is just another example of how social media can be really destructive – I won't bother talking about all the recent decapitations.

All in all, if anybody feels like gathering together some pitchforks and torches, I'm there.

# the feed chain



# Russell Brand's awakening isn't helping anyone

Daniel Snape

Shortly before guest editing the New Statesman last month, flamboyant comedian Russell Brand claimed to have had a political epiphany. His leading article was a 4,754 word tirade against corporations, governments, profit, power, and anyone remotely involved in them. Since then, he consented to sit in an interview and was challenged to devise a global utopian system.

During the now famous Newsnight broadcast, though, the London-born Hollywood actor spent a long time complimenting Paxman's beard and not enough time devising this system.

I'm glad that someone is making the radical case, particularly when that someone represents the one in three Brits who don't vote. It is, however, a great shame that this someone had to be

Russell Brand. Proper activists like Naomi Klein were elbowed aside by the New Statesman marketing team so that PMI Publishing can, strangely enough, raise profits, which they have duly done. In fact, I'm starting to think that our editor-for-a-day simply nicked a revolutionary article by the eminent Will Self, whose name was instead printed above an article about why he'd "walk a c\*\*try mile" to avoid Jamie Oliver's lemon sole.

The worst part is his actual solution.

He tries to induce a "spiritual" change away from naked self-interest using civil disobedience. On the contrary a culture has never profoundly changed without some naked self-interest. Brand has no idea how right he was about "apathy" towards Westminster. But apathy is not something

you can turn into perpetual rage in a few thousand words, however charmingly complicated they are. Going by the families I know, the public only remembers to be livid when the ten o'clock news begins. In this country, the final straw is not going to come in print.

Perhaps worse, people aren't scared by the damage, violence and starvation that come with uprising; they're scared by the inconvenience of having to get one going. So many bystanders will hear about Brand's attempt to dismantle the system, in part by total abstinence from voting, and think "sure, I'd vote for that".

One name that comes up again and again is the futurist Buckminster Fuller, who also believed in an egalitarian evolution. Brand readily picked up on his broad vision for a society that benefits the "100 per cent" but forgets Fuller's most important point: "You never change things by fighting the existing reality.

To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."

Throughout history, one revolution isn't enough because, by the time they're inside government house, rebel mentors like him have never quite figured out precisely who is going to do what and how.

There also remains a more moderate audience who like their politics serious.

For them, not only do Brand's riches and fame harm the cause, but also blunts his rhetoric. Certainly, nobody minds the Time Lord jokes and everyone is partial to a "dick-licker" or two when talking about Cabinet, but some people are just alienated by the constant "arse-banjoing", the "white rhino cum soup",

and the instruction to smash some "f\*\*\*ing windows". Critics have given the EDL a fair few criticisms, but his description of "not enough fun" is a new one on me. This casual parody is a problem which he acknowledges, but his best defence is that, on the other hand, sensible politics "can't compete with the Premier League or Grand Theft Auto".

Quite directly, the enigmatic comedian manages to insult Old Spice, diehard conservationists, and Oliver Cromwell. Anyone feeling left out can probably find something in his stand-up. Clearly, then, the New Statesman's one-time editor has neither the style nor the substance to enlighten a single soul.

The most unfortunate thing is that he has, in his own words, "woken up". Political apathy is a very real problem, but until Brand truly comprehends the argument he has put forward, the people are just going to roll over and fall asleep again.



# Are we the ‘morally bankrupt’ generation?

Marketa Lapackova

Borders of what is considered morally right get pushed every year. 100 years ago, it would be highly inappropriate to dress and speak the way we do now. However, nowadays, it is perfectly fine to parade oneself on streets, in just leggings and a leather jacket. Sarcasm has become the jargon of 21st century and similarly, what is seen as unacceptable today, might be normal in fifty years.

Let's try to imagine possible changes that may occur. Legalising corruption, making prostitution an official business, and establishment of marriage infidelity are examples. Do you think that jokes about dying people could be funny? You probably don't, but your grandchildren might, they may well mock you in your last hour.

Indeed, humour, exaggeration and irony are the principles that makes the most

controversial behaviour legitimate. The basic idea is that as long as you mean no harm by it, it does not matter what you do. To demonstrate this, let's take two students from Chester who for Halloween dressed up as the burning twin towers from 9/11. Of course they meant no harm by it, it was just a joke, just a way to get attention. And indeed, attention they got it. They won the competition for the best costume. Their prank was by no means accepted by everybody. The owners of the nightclub themselves condemned the performance and the DJ's judgement of it. Nevertheless, discussion was aroused and there were people who found the student's idea original. In 99 cases out of 100, what is discussed is usually for some reason, accepted and normalised. Once we get used to certain behaviour, society seems to no longer view it as wrong.

Our perception is nothing static, nobody ever wants to do bad things, that doesn't

change. However, the word “bad” represents a very vague, variable term. My personal opinion is that no person's purpose is evil. Yet people do evil things, justifying them for good. Do phrases like “She was asking for it...” I was just too shattered to carry on... It was just a moment when I lost my mind... He was always bad to me...” sound somewhat familiar? Do they sound like something each and every one of us uses in certain situations?

Another aspect of what is occasionally referred to as “the decadence of 21st century” is the emergence of reverse ideologies. It has never been so hard to come up with something new, as it is now. Controversy seems to work as the best to catch attention. Celebrities use it on regular basis to maintain their declining fame. We see and hear about those popular figures every day, and even unconsciously, we get affected by them. Therefore, “controversial” is becoming a



Photo by Cazz

# HEAD TO HEAD: Should we use the Bechdel Test?

YES: Sam Smallridge

I think that the Bechdel test is a fantastic idea. It's not going to be a magical cure for the films industries problem with female representation. It may not immediately instigate the much needed changes. And to some it may sound like a petty, inconsequential, token gesture. But what the test has done is introduce a necessary debate about the use of actresses in films, particularly films from Hollywood.

There is a huge problem with the use of women in the film industry and this could possibly spell the beginning of the end.

In hundreds of films a year women are used as little more than padding to a male-dominated plot, frequently treated as vapid sexual objects or damsels in distress, as shown this summer when someone working on Star Trek Into Darkness decided it was important to have a scene where a female doctor was shown stripped to her underwear, as opposed to, you know, doing doctery stuff. Oscar-winning actress Jenifer Lawrence recently spoke of how she grew up without a female hero in the acting world and how girls grow up seeing bodies they can't imitate in real life everywhere and the power that the film industry has to subvert that image. However, when it comes to the role of women Hollywood and the cinema image, filmmakers are abjectly failing. The sexism in the film industry isn't overt but when you think of how many leading ladies, that aren't sexualised, there actually are then it comes becomes obvious there is a problem we need to talk about.

The Bechdel Test should be a test any film that seeks to represent a 21st century country should pass but if you apply the criteria to many famous films then they fail quite miserably. All three films from the original Star Wars trilogy are abject in their representation of women. In the trilogy there are three women with speaking roles and if you take Princess Leia away you may struggle to remember the other two. Similarly the Lord of the Rings trilogy, the most successful trilogy in recent memory, has one woman fighting in the battles for Middle Earth and then some window dressing. This does not undermine the quality of the film but we should ask whether films should be trying to break down gender barriers or supporting them.

It's no good dismissing works of fiction as irrelevant to the real world; the fact is they can be just as, if not more, influential than works based on real life. The Bridget Jones series does little but reinforce the stereotype that women , despite their careers and other achievements, seek no more than a man to keep them company and a bit of retail therapy in between. When you think about, that its popularity is slightly depressing.

It could too open up necessary debate on other sections of entertainment. There is for example huge inequality in the portrayal of women in video games. In a previous issue of SCAN, Erik Apter raised the important point that Grand Theft Auto V seldom portrays women in anything regarding a positive light which is true and it's the case for many video games. It is a salient fact that the most successful video game series in history is yet to produce a single positive female character. Finding games with a leading woman is hard. Lara Croft in the Tomb Raider series comes to mind, but the perfectly toned, well-endowed leading lady subject to numerous pervy camera angles in each game cannot necessarily be seen as a torchbearer for female equality.

There needs to be wholesale change in Hollywood as well as in other industries and it won't come easily, but the Bechdel Test is providing people with important information for choosing a film. It's not intrusive or forceful but just informative. And it helps cinema-goers to choose between a film that gives accurate portraits of women and one that treats women like a sub-species undeserving of a place at the same table as men. There's certainly nothing wrong with offering that choice.

NO: Julia Molloy

Recently, four cinema companies in Sweden announced their intention to use the Bechdel test to rate the films aired in their cinemas. The Bechdel test is a rating that means films are evaluated according to their gender bias. In order to be given an A rating, a film needs to have a conversation between two named female characters about a topic that does not concern men.

Now, I'm all for gender equality, but even for me this is a bit ridiculous. The Bechdel test rules out so many iconic films that to rate a movie based on gender bias is to alienate the Swedish audience from some of the best films created; Pulp Fiction, Avatar to name a couple. Take the Harry Potter films, for example. According to the Bechdel test, all bar one of these films would fail the test and would not be given an A rating. That's pretty much the equivalent of the Oscars refusing to honour the franchise with one of its awards – which was a scandal if ever there was one.

Do we really need to be told whether a film contains a conversation between two female characters that isn't about men?

I'm pretty sure the majority of us would argue that Harry Potter is fairly low on the scale of sexist films and on the scale of the under-representation of women in blockbuster movies, if it even gets onto the scale at all. Next we'll be receiving warnings telling

us 'this film contains gender bias' in conjunction with 'this film contains scenes of a sexual nature.'

The point is that we won't use the Bechdel test for a good reason – it's complete rubbish. We don't go to the cinema for the purpose of assessing whether a movie is purporting patriarchal relationships in society; we go to the cinema to have fun and to be entertained. Needless to say that not every single film we see will be brilliant, but nonetheless we're still paying money to have a good time. Would any but the staunch feminist be put off by a rating that indicates a film may be under-representative of women?

Even feminist films themselves may not actually pass the test. Donald Clarke pointed out that Chantal Ackerman's Jeanne Dielman, “one of the most important feminist pictures,” actually fails the Bechdel test. Even Gravity, a new film starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney, fails the test despite revolving around a headstrong young woman. It may be true that women are under-represented in Hollywood, but will a rating telling us this fact actually change anything in the industry? I would argue not. It's the same principle of films becoming ever more sexual and violent; just because a film carries a rating telling us this fact, it won't actually stop Hollywood directors filling their movies with such scenes.

It's almost as if the powers that be in Sweden have decided that we're suddenly incapable of spotting sexism and the under-representation of women when it's plonked in front of us with the million-dollar special effects that blockbusters have these days. Surely if a film really were that sexist, to the point where it becomes offensive, we're all gender-bias aware enough to be able to spot it ourselves and to raise the issue ourselves. Sexism in the Harry Potter films has never been a problem before the Bechdel test, so surely it can't be that much of an issue in the grand scheme of the fight for gender equality.

It's simply an issue of insignificance when it comes to the Bechdel test. A film shouldn't be advertised as poor or unworthy purely because of a lack of female conversation not about men. Films should be assessed on the merit of their plot and the actors' performances as opposed to the gender bias apparent in them. We're quite capable of realising sexism for ourselves, and if a film doesn't prioritise an all-female, man-excluding plot, then it's not the end of the world for gender equality.





# Answers from Alexandra Square

## Do you think that voting in JCR elections matters?

Yes, we had a big talk in freshers' week from the JCR and they seemed really friendly and helpful. They seem very approachable and I think they make a difference.  
- **Hannah Smith, 1st year**

I don't think they make as much of a difference as they should. I couldn't tell you who is on my JCR.  
- **Victoria Taylor, 2nd year: Physics**

Yes, I think we should vote for JCRs because it's our choice and different people will do different things within one particular role.  
- **Alice Austin, 2nd year**

No, I don't really see the difference between JCR members.  
- **Jake Rice, 2nd year**

Yea they're the people you go to if you need help with anything and they have the power to make a difference.  
- **Joel Smith, 1st year: English Language**

I've not really felt the difference while I've been here but I don't do much sport or anything so I might not be the best person to decide.  
- **Samantha Payne, 1st year: Ecology**

Yeah I think they do and some try really hard but I'm not sure it's always reciprocated.  
- **Marie-Sophie Klingenbrunner, 2nd year: Project Management**

Yes without leadership and good organisation the college system may be in trouble.  
- **Christopher Abayomi, 1st year: Chemistry**

I contested an election last year and I got the feeling it was more about per-sonality or popularity then policies. But that might be sour grapes.  
- **Michael Roach, 2nd year: European American Management**



## Is it alright for shops to use size 16 mannequins with flat stomachs?

No, it's clearly unrealistic and it might make you feel bad about yourself when you look at a size 16 mannequin with flat stomachs when it's not realistic.  
- **Rose Ulldemolns, 1st year**

Size 16 mannequins with flat stomachs don't make any sense. I can understand size 6 mannequins even though I don't agree with them because the companies are marketing their products aesthetically, but using something that people may deem a 'normal' size that looks unrealistic is just wrong.  
- **Victoria Taylor, 2nd year: Physics**

I think it's good that they're using actual sizes rather than size 6.  
- **Alice Austin, 2nd year**

I think you'd have to go all the way if you're going to use bigger sizes, you'd have to make the mannequins as realistic as possible.  
- **Jake Rice, 2nd year**

Yeah on the whole. I think it promotes a healthier body image.  
- **Charlotte Davis, 1st year: Law**

Yeah, I work at New Look and we have a separate section for larger sizes and it's really popular so shops using them universally would be a good thing.  
- **Joel Smith, 1st year: English Language**

It seems a bit unrealistic really to give them flat stomachs, I'm not sure how many bodies are like that.  
- **Samantha Payne, 1st year: Ecology**

I do support above average sizes but a size 16 and a flat stomach seems a very odd body type.  
- **Marie-Sophie Klingenbrunner, 2nd year: Project Management**

The whole fashion industry is pretty warped really. Like do you remember that one from Little Mix who kept on getting stick for being too fat when she wasn't even fat in the slightest?  
- **Michael Roach, 2nd year: European American Management**

## 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.



## Are lectures becoming redundant if they're filmed?

No, my economics lectures are filmed and it's really useful if the lecturer goes too quickly. Filming lectures allows you to go back over it when something is difficult to understand.  
- **Hannah Smith, 1st year**

I would still go to all my lectures. I don't really see any harm in filming them as it can be useful to look at later on Moodle.  
- **Victoria Taylor, 2nd year: Physics**

I think I'd still go, if you miss one it's useful but at the same time there are disadvantages as it doesn't encourage people to go to lectures.  
- **Alice Austin, 2nd year**

I think it's useful to go back over material, but inevitably some people will abuse it by not turning up to lectures.  
- **Jake Rice, 2nd year**

No you don't really have the same experience watching it on a screen as you do actually being there.  
- **Charlotte Davis, 1st year: Law**

We have the same in France and it's been like that for a while now. People don't always go but people don't always go here anyway. It's certainly helpful for catching upon things.  
- **Arnaud Dubois, Erasmus**

No it's good to get your own notes first-hand and it also gives you the opportunity to ask any questions should you need to.  
- **Samantha Payne, 1st year: Ecology**

For me being a foreign student they allow me to go back and rewind any words or phrases that I haven't understood.  
- **Marie-Sophie Klingenbrunner, 2nd year: Project Management**

Yea, why are we paying 9 grand? It just seems like it's to do tests and then get a piece of paper at the end of it.  
- **Christopher Abayomi, 1st year: Chemistry**

I go to every lecture I can regardless but I can see the value of having the recordings. If you drop and pick up new modules it'd help and also if you have a genuine reason for missing the classes.  
- **Michael Roach, 2nd year: European American Management**

## Does construction work on campus annoy you?

No not really, I live on campus and they don't do it late at night.  
- **Hannah Smith, 1st year**

Not really, it just becomes white noise after a while.  
- **Jake Rice, 2nd year**

It does bother me but I suppose if it's for a good cause then it is ok.  
- **Charlotte Davis, 1st year: Law**

Yes especially when I want to sleep but if it's for a good reason then I suppose it's for a good cause.  
- **Joel Smith, 1st year: English Language**

It seems limited really so when you're studying you can't hear much of it and it's not too distracting but when you're walking around campus it can get quite annoying.  
- **Arnaud Dubois, Erasmus**

Maybe but you get used to it and you can always block it out.  
- **Samantha Payne, 1st year: Ecology**

I'm not living here so I barely notice it any more.  
- **Marie-Sophie Klingenbrunner, 2nd year: Project Management**

We'll get the benefit of it, so no not at all.  
- **Christopher Abayomi, 1st year: Chemistry**

It doesn't really interfere with what I'm trying to do. And I suppose it's something we have to do for a better uni really.  
- **Michael Roach, 2nd year: European American Management**



Photos by Marie-Sophie Klingenbrunner



# Retailers declare ‘big is beautiful’ - as long as ‘big’ is perfectly proportioned

**Beth Evans**

We are all familiar with the debates and issues surrounding female (and male) body image in the last decade. Sights such as supermodels sporting eye-catching, seemingly hollow ribcages and news of rising numbers of young people being diagnosed with eating disorders are to be found on a daily basis. So Debenhams’s plans to combat negative and unrealistic body images through the introduction of size 16 mannequins to their Oxford Street store must surely be a positive step? I would argue not

The first issue is the mannequins themselves. Although larger than the tiny, seemingly delicate mannequins normally on display through department stores, these mannequins are still a wildly unrealistic

portrayal of female body type. This is evident in their flat stomachs, toned legs and arms, and perfectly proportioned breasts and hips. In fact, it is only possible to tell them apart from regular sized mannequins when placed next to one, when you can use the powers of perspective to differentiate. This begs the question: who could conceivably fit into this perfectly formed category of female body shape? How can these mannequins adequately display the size 16 clothes they are designed for in a realistic way? It seems we are to assume that body fat is not carried by any women of any size.

The move was backed by equalities minister Jo Swinson, who has a led a government campaign to improve body confidence in women. She stated that: “Nine in ten people say they would like to see a broader range of body shapes shown in advertising and the media.” It has to be questioned,

however, how Debenhams is following this goal when there is no change in the actual shape of the mannequins, the size being altered but the unrealistic proportions remaining the same. They are, as stated by the Guardian’s Harriet Walker, “as impossible a shape to achieve as their waif-ish acetate companions.” So much for representing the average British woman.

The example of Debenhams’s size 16 mannequins further highlights the problems women face in society to fit a male dictated body image—an image which relies on beautiful curves and a perfectly proportioned body. Such images are common in the media and across social media where figures such as Marilyn Monroe and Kelly Brook are used to demonstrate the idea that ‘big is beautiful’. This male orientated rhetoric is clearly completely nonsensical as two idolised sex symbols, both of a normal healthy weight, being

described as ‘big’ does nothing to address female insecurities. They are both undoubtedly beautiful, but big? It is clear from such arguments that in actual fact these women are not appreciated because of their normal body weight, but their curves, combined with flat stomachs and tiny waists, which most other women could only hope to attain through plastic surgery.

Yet there is another dimension widely ignored in the Debenhams’s campaign. Setting aside the issue of their impossibly flat stomachs, the mannequins are true to average public size, a size which falls into the category of overweight and thus increasing the likelihood of type two diabetes, a stroke, or a heart attack. Is it right that the UK, as the fattest country in Western Europe, with the average woman’s BMI falling into the overweight category, should promote UK average size as good body image? Just

as the modelling industry is discouraged from using size 0 models for fear of increasing rates of anorexia and bulimia, using size 16 mannequins normalises women being overweight. How is this a better alternative?

The rhetoric of female body image is caught between two poles: advocating healthy curves, and point blank ignoring the rising rates of obesity in the UK. Why is it seemingly impossible to show a healthy medium? Surely we should be seeing size 12 and 14 models and mannequins. Why can’t body image in advertising and media correspond with what a healthy woman’s body actually looks like? What the media and advertising should be promoting is healthy body image, and that doesn’t include the underweight models we have become accustomed to seeing, or the size 16 mannequins we are likely to be seeing more of in future.



Photo by Son of Groucho

# International campuses can still prosper

**Sam Smallridge**  
Comment Editor



good and rather than be used exclusively to make money or bolster the universities reputation they will leave an even greater legacy wherever they are.

**I can’t even begin to fathom the difficulty of setting up a new university, let alone in a foreign country, where in some cases the precedent for higher education is limited.**

The news on the recent failings at Lancaster Universities partners in India, Pakistan and Malaysia paints a dreary picture. There appears to be serious shortcomings at these universities and they need to be rooted out at the nearest possible opportunity. In this paper over the last year we have had a number of articles criticising the partner unis, and justifiably so. Excuses won’t solve the problems that the universities have had in their infancy and clearly there needs to be a long rethink and a change of strategy when it comes to preventing these problems in the future. However following the controversies that Lancaster universities partners have become embroiled in I don’t think we should automatically reach the conclusion that foreign university partnerships are by definition a bad thing. In fact in many ways I feel they can and will eventually turn out to be a force for

And not wishing to downplay the accusations of failed teaching and less than rigorous examinations, I do wonder, perhaps optimistically, whether they amount to teething problems? Deplorable all the same but perhaps this is something we should understand comes with the complications of setting up a new university in a new country. The likelihood of things running smoothly was pretty slim to begin with and

to many the possibility of some level of teaching problems may have been already foreseen. These problems should be sorted immediately, it goes without saying, but Lancaster has laid a platform for a university in India and others across the world that can be built on and help make positive change in developing countries. To detach itself from these campuses would be shirking responsibility and missing an opportunity to make a real difference.

I may be speaking from a biased point of view, I’ve been to Goenka, I spent three weeks there with about 40 other students from Lancaster and, even though I’m not a particularly hyperbolic person, I’d say it was one of the best times of my life.

This is an opportunity available each year because of Lancaster’s partnerships and it’s becoming phenomenally successful, expanding to more countries and taking increasing numbers of students. The trip gave me a perspective there which may be harder to comprehend if you haven’t been there and seen it for yourself.

Goenka had dozens of volunteer placements and we all had days teaching at schools in the slums or specialised

establishments for disabled students. Working with those kids and the students from Goenka showed that there is a real social conscience in the university and it is that which Lancaster must build on to make sure that the foreign partnerships succeed to their full potential. Practices like that can be expanded further.

Goenka, and the other partner institutions, don’t just need to offer volunteer help but they could expand to recruit children from these schools and offer a higher education which would seem almost incomprehensible to those who have grown up victim to extensive poverty. High Schools don’t have to be the limit when it comes to giving people from deprived backgrounds opportunities and they shouldn’t be.

**The basis of something special is there to build on and it could truly help the society as well as educating students.**

A recruitment strategy aimed at underprivileged students may be a sensible way of helping, at least partially, the inequality prevalent in some of the countries where the Lancaster name resides.

**Equally, further encouragement of the good work done in the volunteering sector would certainly be something to be proud of.**

If this were to happen then the university partnerships would prove to be a fantastic idea. The teaching is hugely important but the good work by the foreign universities outside the lecture theatres in underprivileged classrooms, I feel, shows that Lancaster are in it for more than money or an improved league table rating.

The only way to prove this is to continue and expand the volunteering and charity work. If this happens then they’ll achieve something far greater than breaking into the World Top 100.

# Why you should vote in your JCR elections

**Julia Molloy**  
Comment Editor



JCR elections are once again upon us, and with them comes the whole debate over whether anyone cares about Lancaster’s collegiate system. Then comes the mindless voting from the majority of students, who probably didn’t go to the hustings and as such have no idea who each candidate is, let alone what they stand for. I was guilty of this too.

It may have taken me a year and a change in college to realise it, but your JCR does actually matter. They are the people responsible for making Freshers’ and extrav week what it is, organising your weekly pub quiz as well as providing lots of support, be it academic or welfare support. They are often a team

of dedicated people who can make your time at Lancaster exactly what it is, amazing.

Why is it, then, that when it comes to JCR elections hardly anybody seems to vote let alone stand for candidacy? Unfortunately, perhaps the perception is that outside of Freshers’ week and Extrav which college you’re in doesn’t matter. Yet I would argue that this needs to be dispelled. Lancaster’s colleges give you the comforting feeling of home and a sense of community, even if that only extends to wearing your college T-shirt with pride.

My own experience at the beginning of this year has confirmed this. Last year I was in Bowland College, but my close friends were virtually all in Fylde. So, in order to live with them again on campus next year, I was fortunate enough to be able to switch colleges and already I’m feeling the benefit of having a college that knits together

all my friends. We’re already planning for the Fylde Winter Ball, and I can’t wait for Extrav.

The point is that colleges are more than just your accommodation. Being a part of a particular college unites people a lot more closely than you might think. I may have 12 hours a week of lectures, but I certainly don’t form as close a bond to my peers as I do to those in my college. They’re the people you socialise with and most likely the ones that you see constantly. So who can say that the collegiate system doesn’t matter?

Without the collegiate system we’d all be lost in a quagmire of 12,000 students. It’s an integral part of Lancaster University, not least when you meet someone new. No doubt after the questions ‘what’s your name’, ‘what do you study’ and ‘where do you come from’, the next question will almost certainly be ‘which college are you in’.

**That’s why it’s so vital to participate in the JCR elections – whether you’re standing for election or not.**

This is the point in the academic year where you have your say about how your college works. Don’t listen to Russell Brand; every vote does count and your vote could be the difference between having a valuable JCR team and an incompetent one.

In order for your vote to count going down to your college’s hustings is a must. They’re not as dull as you might think – they’re held in your college bar so you can have a drink and relax with your friends, and it’s your opportunity to quiz your potential JCR members on how they’re going to improve your college. This way you’ll

get a sense of exactly who is standing for election and what they’re standing for. Surely this is necessary in order for you to be able to cast a meaningful vote, rather than just voting for the candidate with the funniest picture.

Even if you’re a bit in the dark when it comes to JCR elections, particularly if you’re a fresher, going along to hustings and casting your vote makes you as a real part of your student body. You might have issues with the University or with your college that you rant about to your friends, but instead of just complaining why not actually try to change it yourself? Whether it’s by standing for election or voting with conscious thought, it’s time for every single student to stand up and be counted. Let’s improve our university experience, and the first step on that road to improvement is going to your college’s hustings and voting for the right people to do the job.





# Ronnie Rowlands

## Postscript

### GENDER LOADED GUNS A-BLAZING

Good morning, good afternoon, or if you're reading this during a period where time has ceased to exist: good luck. It's a cold Wednesday evening, and your author has just had another cigarette. As is invariable, this means that he has also had another thought – is there a single argument or ideology in this world that is immune to being ruined COMPLETELY by a fanatical cabal of leather-headed arse-wits who strip their ideological emperor of his clothes and make him out to be a raving hypocrite, thus depriving themselves of a leg to stand on?

The answer, of course, is no.

Take the English Defence League, for example. They will spout, until they are blue in the face, their insistence that they emphatically are not racist. This claim is usually undermined by the next sentence, whatever that may be. George Osborne, who is the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will proffer vague notions of compassion in one breath, and in the next can be found telling a man with no legs that his arms are functioning, and that he ought to get on his bike and find work as a hod-carrier.

The exact same goes, in my 'umble, for people who feel compelled to argue against feminist ideals, and take umbrage at what they consider to be a 'man-hating' approach. A previous issue of subtext (explained on another part of this page) published a letter by the inimitable Dr. Richard Austen-Baker, LLB, in which he expressed vociferous disagreement with the call to support the 'lose the mags' campaign, which is opposed to the promotion and sale of lad mags, issues with censorship, with some rather colourful dismissals along the way. In his usual style.

Regardless of whether or not you agree with those sentiments, one has the right to air them. Doing conducive to open and educational debate, as evidenced by

several rebuttals that appeared in the subsequent issue of subtext. Readers are learning something.

For this column at least, your author is going to remain neutral on this particular topic, as his humble corner isn't capacious enough to accommodate the debate and the sickening, abusive, anti-academic, inhumane and downright sad events that followed the debate in subtext, and subsequently proceeded to prove absolutely true a whole raft of arguments that feminists are making against lad culture.

I must first adopt a serious tone, just to make clear that I am in NO WAY implicating the subtext collective or Dr. Austen-Baker in the fallout that ensued – in my opinion there is no cause to.

Lancaster University's Centre for Gender and Womens' Studies (CGWS) Facebook page posted the letter and invited members to respond and engage with Dr. Austen-Baker's argument, and people did. All happy and healthy, debates and defences are brewing, to be printed within the pages of Lancaster's underground forum for debate – subtext.

At the same time, the aforementioned post on the CGWS page which contained Dr. Austen-Baker's letter picked up some attention and was shared by a few people on Facebook. Somehow, the link to the post found its way onto forum.bodybuilding.com.

Some rather unpleasant reading suggests that the discussion forum on bodybuilding.com is an online home for micro-penile frenzies of laddish abuse, delivered by individuals, with a worldview clearly induced by trauma from the confusion created when one is male and yet simultaneously suffers from penis-envy, who call themselves 'The Misc.'

There are more productive way to deal with roid-rage (indeed there are more productive ways to go about your life) than to direct hordes of idiots with fake Facebook accounts to places where feminism is 'happening' in order to heap abuse on people, while joking about it back in

the hub. Mind you, they are unlikely to get ahead in life so I suppose such men ought to use their privilege for something.

Your author saw the 100+ comments with his own eyes, although they've now been taken down, hopefully screenshotted.

It contained no engagement, no empathy, no questions, but the usual uber-lad refinements of direct rape endorsement, jokes about domestic abuse, one female student had her Facebook profile picture posted on the forum to be pelted with bile, etc, etc.

An inordinately childish, vicious and gleefully abusive way in which to behave.

People deserve the right to express views which might make others feel insecure in their beliefs and question their worldview without fear of such blatant bullying, aggression and abuse.

But why, you may ask, are the actions of a pack of dogs on some web forum the concern of Postscript, which deals with University matters?

Because the person directly responsible for instigating this releasing of the hounds is a student at this very University. Hiding behind a false name, someone at this University logged onto the site and invited his weird mates to 'raise hell'.

Well, if you're reading – I'm not hiding behind a false name. I'm not even hiding behind visual anonymity – my unsavoury appearance is on display right at the top of the page. Why don't you write in to this very paper, explain yourself, and respond to me? I'm a white male, so it may siphon off any kind of insult you might wish to throw at me and force you to be a little more articulate.

Seriously, screw these people.

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

### TA SICK PAY AT BAY

The last edition of subtext, an excellent email newsletter circulated by a small body of rebellious staff members went off on one about the sheer number of university staff (academic and non-academic) on zero-hour contracts. According to subtext, of the 747 people employed on such contracts at Lancaster, 515 of them are teaching staff, including 274 postgraduate teaching staff.

What subtext missed was an extra sting in the tale. While it is not known if this is universal, a large number of Teaching Associates have found a few omissions in their new contracts.

Most notably, while in previous years a TA's contract hinted at some level of entitlement to sick pay, they now offer no mention of any such entitlement whatsoever.

It is of course a historical truth across Higher Education

that Teaching Associates have been treated like grubby faced Baldricks as part of a learning curve on the way to a lectureship, but as a justification it's about as valid as saying "your grandmother didn't have a vote, why should YOU?"

Academia is no longer environment for young bachelors with years' worth of trust fund money to fall back on while they stumble up the ladder. The University of Edinburgh recently signed an agreement to abolish zero hour contracts. The University of Lancaster ought to pioneer a similar example, and take steps to ensure fair employment for young academics.

Anybody who supports this as an honourable concept will be most welcome to shout about it on the 3rd of December, when the second round of UCU / UNITE / UNISON industrial strike action will be ensuing.

### POSTSCRIPT COMPETITION

In the previous issue of Postscript, I took a stance against price hikes on entry to 'The Sugarhouse', which is a Students' Union run night club in the city, by holding a competition which would allow the winner free entry into 'The Sugarhouse' with me. The task was to complete the following sentence; "I think the floor in 'The Sugarhouse' is sticky because...", and I am pleased to announce that the winner is NO-ONE because not

ONE of you were in the least bit enticed, finding payment of the full £6 more enticing sweat-sodden shimmering sing-song soiree with me.

Nevertheless, it just so happened that the Students' Union were already kicking off some backpedalling due to plummeting attendance rates which have lately left 'The Sugarhouse' as well-frequented as an over 60's singles night at the Old Liberal Club.

### AND ANOTHER THING...

You'll find that elections for JCR Exec positions are ongoing. At a time where our Students' Union is sharpening a more defined political focus for the first time in years, it is vital that those elected make an effort to take their Colleges in the same direction. It's all very prim and proper to want to serve as a Butlin's Redcoat and throw a few parties in preparation for a career as an ents manager in some company, but if history is screaming anything, it's that the Colleges were a campaigning force to be reckoned with. You're all going to move in that general direction again, yes? Yes.

Minutes from University committees are a discourse analyst's wet nightmare, in that they utterly fail to represent (in most cases) the spirit of any discourse that takes place. The ghosts of Lenin and his most ardent fanatics could storm Senate and call for the immediate execution of anybody who agrees with capitalistic budgetary plans, and the minutes would refer merely to 'some disagreement in the room.' One line, in the minutes from the last meeting of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee, stood out to me recently: "For information, a note is made here of the report from the External Examiner for Music, who expressed his concerns over the closure of the Music and Music Technology degrees." What a concise way to obfuscate what could be the professional validation of the huge stink that was kicked up by the Students' Union last year over the closure of Music. Wouldn't it be lovely to see a little more of this report? Or any of it whatsoever? Fear not. This might be the last Postscript of term, but there's always online. As always – I'll 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)

Dear SCAN Editor,

I am writing in response to an article published in the last issue of SCAN (Week 6), entitled 'Study Abroad: My Experience'. For those who have not read it, it was an article about a student's experience of studying abroad, which as I gather, was cut short as he decided to return home shortly after beginning his first term in New Hampshire. In fairness, the article was provocative and enjoyable to read in the way I could relate to many of the issues he faced. I am sure he is not the first to return early and definitely not the last. I respect the decision he made, and I hope this year back at Lancaster treats him better.

It must first be said Study Abroad is not and never will be for everyone. I studied abroad in Oregon, America and had the best year of my life. If you enjoy stable English norms and social practices, you will undoubtedly be slightly displaced and possibly resistant to the differences, but lets not get carried away.

The reason I am compelled to

write about this is to assure anyone with doubts about study abroad, to read and listen to the honourable gentlemen's experience, but as with everything, take it with a pinch of salt. I could list all the things that made my year abroad so incredible. But that would be aside the point, and perhaps make this diametrical to the article I am responding to. This would be unhelpful, confusing and maybe just as dangerous.

The reality is, choosing to study abroad is a great opportunity, but do not expect to flown into a land similar to one of Katy Perry's music videos where the grass is green and everything good will simply happen to you. As my father used to tell me, "you get out, what you put in". This is the real world. I encourage you to relish bad situations such as when your accommodation may not be up to scratch. My journey to Oregon involved a train journey, stopping at glorious cities such as New York, Washington, Chicago, Denver and San Francisco. Imagine my despair when I arrived in a small farming town.

I allowed myself to moan for a

short while, but I soon got bored of moaning and set about enjoying it. Sharing a room with a random person will be what you make of it. You can worry about all the little things which you wouldn't accept if you were living on your own, or you learn to be flexible, sociable and actually establish a working relationship with your 'roomy' whether you like them or not. Failing this, you can always swap or live off campus. As for the shared bathrooms, is it really that much of an issue that it should stand in the way of your whole study abroad experience? If so, then I'm not sure you are studying abroad for the right reasons and may need a reality check.

The teaching style and structure will be different, arguably the whole point of going abroad. To compare US universities to our 6th form is totally incorrect and incredibly misleading. I found I had more freedom and independence in America. I could write an article about the pros and cons of each country's learning style, but needless to say, you have to adapt

and make the system work for you.

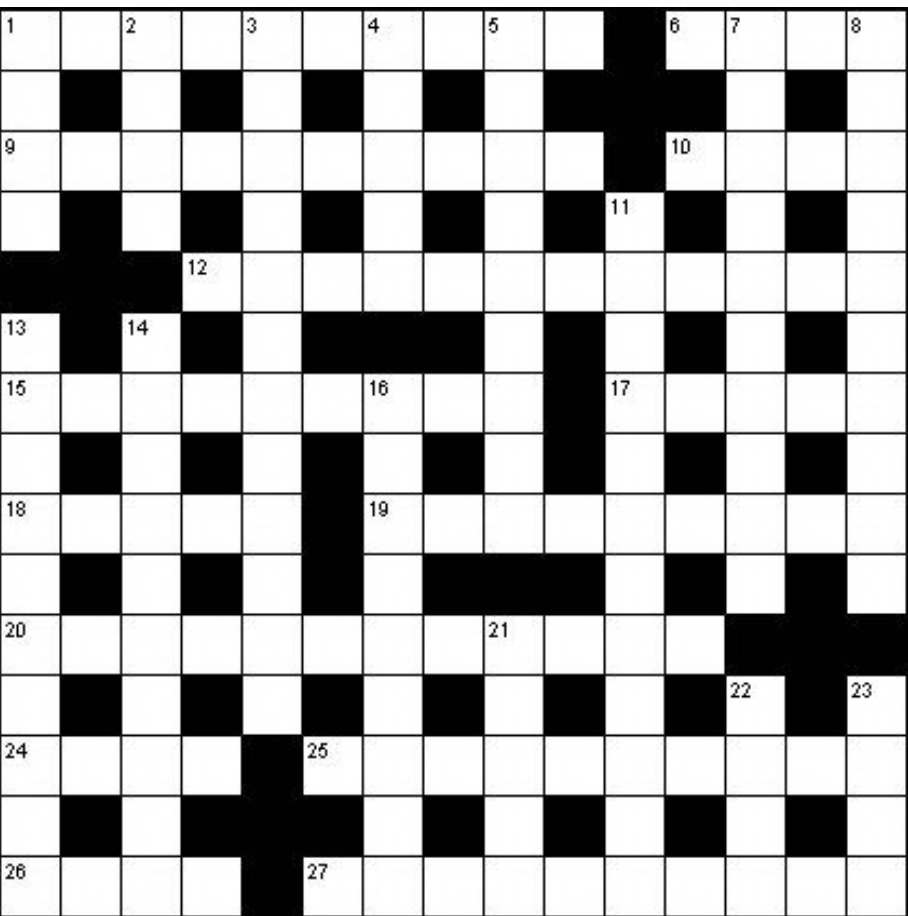
With so much to gain from Study Abroad all these niggly points pale into insignificance. The beauty and romance of being so far away from home but being so comfortable is amazing. I saw views that left me in disbelief, had exchanges that humbled me, and conversations that you could never sincerely have in the UK.

What I would like readers to take away from this letter is that you define your year abroad. Be enthusiastic, say yes to opportunities and enjoy the challenge and difference when things turn out, as you did not expect. I thank Mr. Gillings for sharing his experience, but please do not let this define your own. Stay patient and remember the people you meet, the generosity you may experience and the lifestyle you live will all be defined by your attitude towards the year.

James Lester.

**SCAN reserves the right to edit letters chosen for publication.**

**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.**



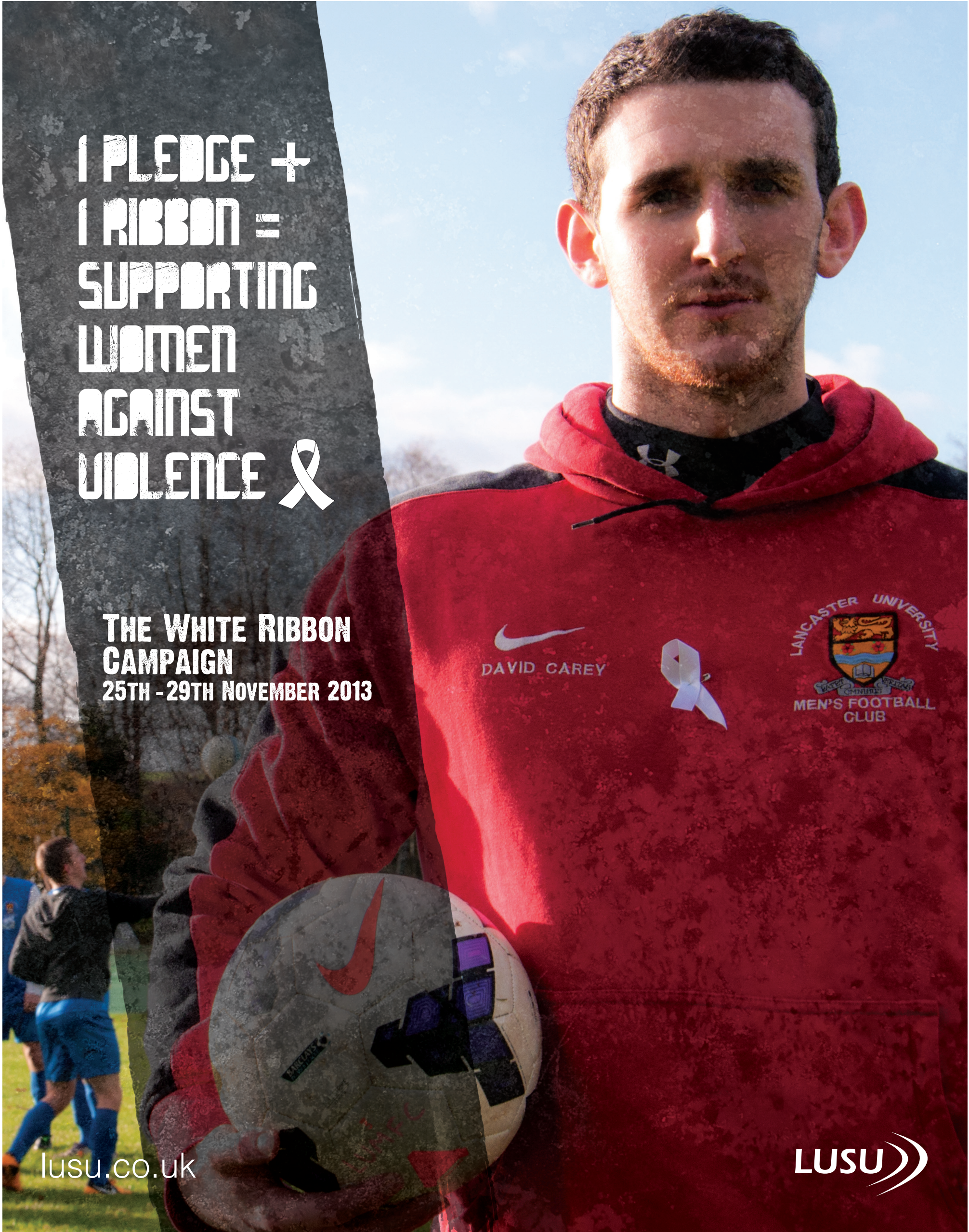
#### ACROSS

- 1 Came across a record concerning journalist (10)
- 6 Language of old city belonging to the French (4)
- 9 They'll get wrongly blamed for heading off escape by animals (10)
- 10 There's potato in Mum's pudding (4)
- 12 Style of cooking providing contrasts (5-3-4)
- 15 Country-loving Irishman in charge of containing disturbance (9)
- 17 Giving note to terrorists makes one angry (5)
- 18 One who latches on to another is a sucker (5)
- 19 Sailor's intent perhaps is to be self-restrained (9)
- 20 A comment sure upset in due proportion (12)
- 24 Man told to get on his knees? (4)
- 25 Boundary rope may produce such a decision (10)
- 26 E.g. dogs returning from walk (4)
- 27 Not quite one's best friend on the ship (6,4)

#### DOWN

- 1 Pretty girl gets some food (4)
- 2 Animal found in sea location (4)
- 3 Fat little Edward is biased (12)
- 4 The First Lady touring Oklahoma will awaken memories (5)
- 5 The thresholds of delights (9)
- 7 Heartless robbers go off with a pet. The villains! (10)
- 8 Below, below, below (10)
- 11 Managed to get clergyman in dead awkward situation (12)
- 13 They are seeking work after demolition of aspic plant (10)
- 14 Steam railway takes on head of Railtrack to improve efficiency (10)
- 16 To perform in a different key, one's parts must be arranged (9)
- 21 Went on horseback round cowboy show (5)
- 22 Junk mail from the capital (4)
- 23 Nothing but a lake (4)





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# Sport

Sports Editors: Erik Apter & Iain Beddow [scan.sports@lusu.co.uk](mailto:scan.sports@lusu.co.uk)

## Table tennis Michaelmas round-up

• Success for Lancaster University Table Tennis Club leaves them raring to go for 50th Roses in 2014

Henry Saker-Clark

As the end of the first term beckons, Lancaster University Table Tennis Club can look back on an already successful first couple of months. They find themselves top of their BUCS league following a 16-1 annihilation of York, putting them in an excellent position for the rest of the year.

Particularly giving them the early advantage over York in preparation for Roses.

Defeating York is always a revered achievement, but the team's impressive 16-1 victory will kindle hopes of a comfortable win when the two teams meet again for Roses, particularly on the varsity tournament's 50th anniversary. Speaking to SCAN, LUTTC President Rowan Campbell described the result as "a great indication for Roses, as this was their A team that we played against." The team however will still need to stay focused to ensure a repeat of this excellent result.

A team captain Alex Tyson made it clear however, that come Roses, victory is unlikely to be so comfortable, stressing that York's team "missed one or two of their better players, who'll be sure to test us more at Roses." He went on to say that such domination like what occurred on Wednesday can only be good looking forward, building confidence in the team as the season continues. The Lancaster first team are in a strong position in the BUCS Northern 2A league at the top, with equal points to UCLAN 1sts and York 1sts after 4 matches, although with significantly superior point difference.

The firsts only defeat this year so far came in October when they found themselves on the wrong side of 9-8 scoreline against UCLAN 1sts, and they'll be hoping these

close matches do not trip them up this year as it did last; a 9-8 defeat to Manchester 2nds in the final match of the season allowing Manchester to go above Lancaster to win the league. Coming so close last year has clearly spurred the team on this time around, as evident from such an impressive domination of York. Considering Roses, confidence must also come from Lancaster 2nds tightly-fought encounter with York 1sts losing 9-8, building hopes of Lancaster supremacy at Roses.

Rowan Campbell made it perfectly clear that the first team has not been the only team to develop recently.

Wednesday was a successful day all round as Lancaster 2nds won 10-7 in their match against Bangor 1sts, "taking them clearly out of the relegation zone" into fourth place overall.

This win followed a 9-8 victory in their previous fixture against Liverpool 2nds, meaning they already have more wins under their belt than during the entirety of last season.

Despite both teams making large strides in BUCS this year, Campbell stated that "in the local league we have been having mixed start to the season with some disappointing results, but we're on track to finish in the top three." Hopefully each team's continued success in BUCS will give them the confidence to repeat such form in the local leagues through the rest of the year.

One major development made by the table tennis

society this year has been the introduction of an inter-college table tennis league; nearly all the colleges are represented, many of which bought new tables to take part in the tournament.

"The college league has been going excellently with the colleges really getting into it and managing to get a lot of spectators."

This year the club seem to have focused on widespread improvement, through giving regular games to more people via the inter-college league and by "a professional coach coming every two weeks to help bring on people's abilities." County currently

lead the league after only four matches with Cartmel a close second.

The creation of college teams seems to have been a shrewd move, not only because there has been a clearly good reception with numerous colleges having busy trials, but also as a sort-of pooling system for those who did not attend the university team trials or just missed out, yet are still skilful players.

Already this year seems to have a positive trajectory, according to Campbell - "this year looks to be our biggest yet in terms of reaching a wider audience and catering for everyone's tastes and abilities, which was reflected in our record 200+ sign ups in freshers week." Although Roses is still along while ahead of us, early progression indicates likely success this year for Lancaster Table Tennis, and hopefully a repetition of their 16-1 triumph over York.





# As the race for the FIFA Ballon D’or intensifies, will 2013 be Cristiano’s year?

Danny Gallagher

There is something ever satisfying of being the height of your peers, a self-delineating expression of performing above and beyond the levels of everybody else. Soon, the sporting world will see one of the greatest examples of this, as it does annually every January, in the form of the FIFA Ballon D’or.

Rewinding approximately a month ago, a 23-man shortlist was compiled by the FIFA Football Committee and a supporting group of experts from Football France, announced to the world on October 29th. Earmarking those who the deciding powers had concluded were each, individually worthy of competing for the accolade of the FIFA Ballon D’or; Europe’s finest football player.

Common knowledge to football fans globally, the previous four years have been dominated by a certain 5 foot 6 Argentinian playmaker by the name of Lionel Messi, considered by most to perhaps be the greatest player to ever have graced the game. Amidst this, the ever imposing debate that divides a vast majority of football fans has been raging on; the unanswerable conundrum of the Lionel Messi vs Cristiano Ronaldo saga. Both players are evidently at the pinnacle of their careers right now, making their performances for their respective clubs a joy to behold. Nevertheless, the last four Ballon D’or award ceremonies have each consistently seen Ronaldo stand within the shadow of Messi, always within touching distance yet seemingly destined to remain trailing.

2013 however could finally be the year to see this all change.



Photo courtesy of RCuerda29

## 7 team managers and captains.

Unlike previous years, a plethora of factors have come into play meaning next January’s announcement could become one of the most eagerly anticipated Ballon D’or revealings of modern times. With the mesmerising form of Cristiano Ronaldo and his goal-drenched year of 62 in all competitions for both club and country, coupled with the untimely injury of Messi, cruelly side-lining him for the duration of the Christmas period, statistics point heavily towards the Portuguese winger claiming the plaudits.

Stats and figures cannot speak alone for those players in the revered Ballon D’or shortlist however, as the casting vote is determined by a mixed array of highly regarded sports journalists along with national

It is down to these individuals to collectively decide whether the remarkable calendar year of Cristiano Ronaldo rightly merits the conquering of his closest rival and the subsequent collection of one of footballs most prestigious individual accolades.

Despite being the two main candidates and the odds on favourites of many, it would be blinkered to suggest that a possible upset of the 2013 FIFA Ballon D’or award could be on the cards however, especially with the shortlist containing a steadfast list of multiple other exquisite talents. In assessing the potential usurpers, arguably the most successful European team of the entire year, Bayern Munich, have a considerably large portion of players upon the Ballon D’or shortlist, six in total. From goalkeeper Manuel Neuer through to defender Philip Lahm and vital midfielders Bastian Bastian Schweinsteiger and Franck

Ribery, the German outfit quite impressively, essentially have the core of their team pitted in and amongst the final 23-man shortlist. This does however beg the question of whether these players have made the cut as a result of majestic team displays, with the emphasis being placed upon the whole as opposed to certain individuals.

Whilst many fans will heartily agree that football is first and foremost a team game, the Ballon D’or it can be said, is predominantly an award for individual seasons of brilliance, thus perhaps in a fashion, discrediting the strength of claim put out by the Bayern Munich contenders. On this notion however, players who oppositely have played out fantastic solo-roles this year, particularly players such as the globally recognised Zlatan Ibrahimovic, surely must be within strong contention. With a reputation that precedes him around the world as a collaborative result of his performances of pure brilliance coupled with outlandish social behaviours

afore the media spotlight, 2013 has seen Ibrahimovic notch over 30 goals in his first season for new club Paris Saint Germain, becoming the first player to exceed the figure in top flight French football since Jean Pierre-Papin in 1990. Such exploits have put the Swedish hitman right amongst the dizzying heights of both, Ronaldo and Messi.

If one thing is for certain, the 2013 FIFA Ballon D’or is set up to be the closest one yet.

There are many arguments for each of the 23 players upon the final shortlist, yet amongst the crowd it appears increasingly difficult to disagree that a certain Portugal national stands out. With a record breaking year under his belt and an obvious passion to seize an accolade that has continuously eluded him, could this finally be the year for Cristiano Ronaldo?

# Major winners & falling stars: A review of the golfing year

The Race to Dubai, won by Swede Henrik Stenson a comfortable six strokes clear of Ian Poulter, marked the end of the 2013 European Tour season, and also, effectively, the golfing calendar year. After a thrilling 2012, with the ‘Miracle at Medinah’ and Adam Scott’s catastrophic collapse at the Open Championship, 2013 had a lot to live up to. Here, SCAN reviews the past twelve months, re-visiting the four Major tournaments and also detailing the big winners and losers on the Tour.

## Sam Carney

### The Majors

‘Redemption’ is a word often misused in sport, but one has to admit it is a fitting ‘buzzword’ to describe Adam Scott’s victory in the Masters at Augusta. After blowing a four-shot lead and handing the Open title to Ernie Els in July 2012, it seemed as if the Aussie was about to finally win his first Major championship after sinking a twenty-five footer for birdie at the 18th. However, Angel Cabrera had other ideas, and also birdied, taking the tournament to a nerve-rattling sudden-death playoff. After both golfers parred the first hole, Cabrera missed his putt, and left Scott with a difficult fifteen foot putt to become the first Australian to win the competition. Lesser men would have bottled it, but Scott came good, and finally laid the ghosts of Lytham St. Annes to rest.

Another metaphorical ‘weight’ was lifted off the shoulders at the second major of the year, the US Open at Merion in Pennsylvania. Since Nick Faldo’s victory at Augusta in 1996, no Englishman had won a Major, yet, in difficult conditions, Justin Rose emerged to put that damning statistic to bed, eventually finishing two strokes clear of perennial runner-up Phil Mickelson and the talented Australian Jason Day.

After victory had been confirmed, Rose dedicated his win to father Ken, who died from leukaemia in 2002.

Fittingly, the final round was

played on the 17th June – Father’s Day in the United Kingdom.

Phil Mickelson is, no doubt, one of the best golfers of the past two decades, yet, there has always been a lingering sense that his talent has gone unfulfilled, best exemplified by his astonishing six runner-up finishes in the US Open.

However, the three-time Masters winner rocked up at Muirfield and stunned the golfing world, carding a magnificent final round 66 to coast to the Open Championship title.

Mickelson had started the day in vague contention, yet the rest of the field couldn’t cope with the American’s masterful management of the famous links course, making Mickelson the third successive over-forty winner of the Claret Jug, following Darren Clarke and Ernie Els.

The final Major of the year, the PGA Championship, is often forgotten in this country, amidst the fervor surrounding the beginning of the football season, but the 95th edition of the tournament, played at Oak Hill in New York State, did not disappoint, throwing up a fourth ‘maiden winner’ in five years. This time, it was the American Jason Dufner’s turn to claim his first Major title, and he did so in style, holding his nerve to record a two stroke victory over seasoned pro Jim Furyk. Dufner was so delighted with his win that he slept with the huge Wanamaker trophy, to the delight of his Instagram

followers.

### Big Winners

At the beginning of last year, Henrik Stenson was effectively marooned in the golfing wilderness. The former Ryder Cup player had fallen to 230th in the rankings, a personal low, and it seemed as if he needed to take some time away from the game in order to rediscover some sort of form. Yet, after a formidable eighteen months, capped by his victory in Dubai, Stenson became the first winner of both the FedEx Cup and World Tour Championship titles in the same year, cashing in a substantial \$11,000,000 worth of prize money to enjoy in the process. However, the biggest winner of the year has to be Tiger Woods. The fourteen-time major winner returned to the number-one ranking he once monopolised, and also topped the PGA prize money list, something that has not occurred since 2009, before of course, revelations about Woods’ marital infidelity were publicised.

If Woods’ maintains his imperious form into the New Year, few would bet against him adding to that large, albeit dusty trophy cabinet.

### Big Losers

Presumably, Rory McIlroy did not want 2012 to end. His second major championship, the USPGA, was comfortably won at Kiawah Island, he was the leading prize-winner on the Tour, and the recipient of the prestigious PGA Tour Player of the Year accolade to boot. Fast forward a year, and the 24 year-old from County Down will presumably be wondering what happened.

After a year of disappointment on the course,

and struggles in his personal life, Rory has seen his number-one world ranking disappear, and his golfing achievements usurped by Stenson.

Lee Westwood would also love to see the back of 2013. More putting mishaps cost him his chance of finally claiming his first Major, at both Augusta and Muirfield, whilst a disappointing fifth place finish in Dubai meant failure to record a single win on the Tour for the first time since 2008.

2014 should be a stellar year – with Ryder Cup places to fight for, the world’s best will be eager to get back out on the courses and prove their worth to team captains Tom Watson and Paul McGinley as the tournament returns to Scottish shores.



Photo by Caren Firouz



# India without Sachin



Photo courtesy of Indian Cricket Team Updates

**Ollie Orton**

After 200 Test Matches over nearly 24 years, the 'Little Master', Sachin Tendulkar, has retired from cricket. This message was met with both a sense of sadness and a sense of awe across the cricketing world – never again, it is claimed, will we see another batsmen like him. His impact on cricket and on the nation of India as a whole should not be underestimated; indeed, it has left many asking the simple question of 'what will life after Sachin be like?' Although he can never be replaced, the future of Indian cricket is bright, and has come a long way from when Tendulkar first entered the fray over 20 years ago.

With Tendulkar now retired, it is possible to try and comprehend the incredible statistics that define his 20 years at the top.

**In 200 Test Matches, he amassed 15,921 runs at an average of 53.79.**

Put plainly, these are statistics that will surely never be beaten in world cricket. His nearest competitor, the also-retired Ricky Ponting sits over 2000 runs behind with an average of just under 52. In Test Cricket, an average of

50 is always the hallmark of a great player, but to sustain an average of 50 for 18 years, as Tendulkar has done, is something extraordinary. It is also worth remembering that when Tendulkar first came onto the international scene in 1989, India was not the cricketing superpower that it is today. He, along with other notable Indian batsmen such as VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid, have had to build India's status to where it is now, and to be able to sustain such an impressive record during a time of occasionally difficult progression is further testament to the incredible batting talent that Tendulkar obtained.

All what has been said; without even mentioning his most monumental achievement of 100 hundreds in international cricket. To have the drive and mental capacity to score that volume of runs is nearly impossible; to do it with the weight of Indian expectation pressing down on you is quite another matter. Tendulkar, put simply, was the master of his profession.

To truly appreciate Tendulkar, we have to look beyond statistics. As previously alluded to, Tendulkar achieved his greatness with the weight of over 1 billion Indian cricket fans watching on with huge anticipation. The fact that he thrived, let alone survived with this pressure, surely demonstrates a batsman eclipsing legendary status.

With the Little Master now gone for good, the irreplaceable

age of just 25, he has already accumulated 21 international centuries – on a par with Tendulkar at that age. He is surrounded by other young batting talents such as Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan creating the consensus in India that, with such a wealth of talent coming through, the past needn't be dwelled upon.

While the likes of Tendulkar, Dravid and Laxman brought India to the position they are in today, the new guard is believed to be capable of taking India to new heights in world cricket. It can be said that Tendulkar will never truly be replaced; however, the new order of Indian batsmen will allow the transition period to be as smooth as possible, and allow Indian cricket to build on the immense progress initiated by Tendulkar.

Clearly though, never again will there be a batsman like Tendulkar, who was adored by not only his fans, but also his fellow players. If his status as a true cricketing giant was ever in doubt, then the outpouring of emotion from the cricketing world over the last few weeks surely confirms this status. His former team-mate Sourav Ganguly described him simply as:

**'Fantastic, fantastic...the greatest player'**

Michael Vaughan, the former England cricket captain, stated that Tendulkar had 'been Indian cricket for the last 20 years'. Even the chief executive of the International Cricket Council, Dave Richardson, gave his view, suggesting that 'sporting geniuses like Sachin are rare phenomenons and we are privileged to have seen him in action'. These messages are only a small snapshot of the immense wave of congratulations and admiration that has been directed at Tendulkar – they only serve to demonstrate further that he really was a one of a kind.

And so, after over 20 years at the top of world cricket, Sachin Tendulkar has moved on. Never again will we see stadiums fill to see him bat, before emptying rapidly after he is dismissed. His impact on world cricket will never be forgotten, and for such an entertaining, mesmerising and at times statistics defying career I must echo all other cricket fans around the when I simply state: thank you Sachin.



Photo by Punit Paranjpe

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# Sport over the holidays

Erik Apter  
Sport Editor



As first term draws to its conclusion and students prepare to return home for the winter, the inevitable holiday boredom is bound to follow. Doing nothing but sitting on the couch watching re-runs of TV shows and ignoring piles of coursework is a staple of the student holiday lifestyle, but here at SCAN sport we’ve assembled a list of sporting spectacles to keep the boredom at bay!

## Football

Football is the reliable ever-constant for sports fans, even when the domestic leagues finish, International football is there to provide a dosage of sporting goodness throughout the summer. With the Premier league in full flow however, there are plenty of tasty fixtures to get your teeth into over winter, here’s a few we selected especially:

23rd December:  
Arsenal vs Chelsea

26th December:  
Manchester City vs  
Liverpool

29th December:  
Newcastle vs Arsenal  
(ft) Liverpool vs  
Chelsea

1st January:  
Manchester United vs  
Tottenham

Whilst football runs all through winter and into the new year, it is the festive period of fixtures that will determine which teams have the mettle to withstand the hardest part of the season. Chelsea and Liverpool in particular are presented with a run of very difficult games, but all challenging teams must negotiate the run-up to the



January window relatively unscathed if they are to be victorious come May.

## Cricket

It may seem odd that the most weather dependent of sports will be played in the winter, but all keen sports fans will recognise that the Ashes are almost upon us. Obviously played in the searing Australian summer, our victorious cricket team will once again lock horns with their bitter rivals in an attempt to retain that famous little urn. The series will commence on the 21st November (week 7) and run potentially all the way through Christmas until the 7th January, giving all sports fan some very late night entertainment through the holidays.

21st–25th November:  
First Test – Brisbane

5–9th December:

Second Test – Adelaide

13–17th December:  
Third Test – Perth

26th–30th December:  
Fourth Test– Melbourne

3rd–7th January: Fifth  
Test: Sydney

## Boxing

For anybody looking for something a bit different for late night entertainment, there is plenty of festive boxing bouts that are sure to be closely fought, competitive contests. Sky in particular offer some fascinating matches taking place over the holidays; a double header on the first of December sees the aptly named Adonis Stevenson fight Brit Tony Bellew for the WBC light-heavyweight title. That fight is to be followed by Sergey Kovalev’s match against Ismayl Sillakh for the

WBO title in the same weight division.

## Darts

Whilst other sports ease off or even stop during the winter, Christmas time sees the biggest event in darts come to the fore. The World Darts Championship at Alexandra Palace is not only the pinnacle of the sport for the competitors, but the crowds also. Packed out every night, the atmosphere inside “Ally Pally” is nothing short of electric for everyone from first time competitors to 16 time world champion Phil “The Power” Taylor.

The tournament runs from the 13th December all the way until new year’s day and will see all the world’s elite darts players compete for top honours. “The Power” will be looking to retain his title and make it number 17, but further competition from the likes of James Wade, Raymond Van Barneveld and Michael Van

Gerwen will see him pushed all the way, meaning it is sure to be compelling live sport.

## Golf

For those who are looking to use their holidays to relax and enjoy some leisurely television, the numerous golf tournaments taking place over the coming months could be the perfect viewing.

The 12th December sees the start of both the Nelson Mandela Championship, and the Thailand Golf Championship which will run for four days until the 15th. The Royal Trophy is the next to tee off, running from the 20th December until the 23rd and will provide a relaxing build up to the excitement of Christmas Eve. Last but not least sees the Hyundi Tournament of Champions event take place from the 3rd January to the 5th, ensuring this winter will be packed with top-quality sport.

# TV rights in sport spiralling out of control

Iain Beddow  
Sport Editor



For years British SKY Broadcasting (BSKYB) have exuded an overbearing arm over television broadcasting, profiting greatly from the big business certain sports have become through their premium Sky Sports packages. Many have tried and ultimately failed at breaking down the lion’s share portion that have continued to feed Rupert Murdoch’s consortium so handsomely – remember NTL Sport? Setanta Sport? Or more recently ESPN? Until now that is, the emergence of the BT Group’s Sport channels, have made BSKYB’s table at the top of televised sporting entertainment rather uneasy, as a credible challenger

surfaces.

Last summer BT Sport was born, invigorated with refreshing pundits plus an already, promising batch of exclusive TV rights including; Aviva Premiership, women’s tennis and a host of Premier League games. It wasn’t until November however, that the BT group’s ambition truly became apparent. Through winning the rights to the Champions League and Europa League football, running for three seasons from 2015/16, BT had gained a substantial advantage over their competitors. In doing so, becoming the first single UK broadcaster to win all live rights to all matches from both tournaments – for more than double the price, £898 million.

Through BT’s willingness to overpay, in tandem with their clear ambition, the reality of stopping, after their recent over-the-odds purchases, can be considered relatively slim. By no means are they willing

to settle for second fiddle like their predecessors before them.

With TV rights up for grabs annually, talk now suggests of a BT barrage upon BSKYB’s other notable possessions.

Be it F1 racing, Ryder Cup golf, Ashes cricket or crucially Premier League Football which will all at some point, in the next five years, become available to acquire.

So who really benefits from BT’s recent rise? Certainly not Rupert Murdoch, who saw BSKYB’s shares initially drop 11%, as they surrendered one of their most prized assets to their newly established rivals. Probably not the consumer either, the Champions League has been a staple diet for mid-week terrestrial television since the year dot; bringing the finest continental talent to

your living room, without the premium subscription price. Somehow by taking away this privilege from the large majority of the viewing public (30+million digital terrestrial viewers) a rather unsavoury feeling can be felt. Although BT has promised some select games to be shown free-to-air, this will be no real comparison of what ITV currently offer.

The ‘triple play’ is considered the holy grail of consumer telecommunication services whereby the company targets; TV, broadband and home phone product usage, as a complete package. The attraction of one company providing all three has led to BT, Virgin Media, TalkTalk and potentially, Vodafone to follow in BSKYB’s successful footsteps. It is therefore no wonder that TV rights have gained increasing demand over recent years as each provider strives to entice consumers into their package over their rivals. The bids and

battles for television rights have perversely developed into a sport of its own accord. To some extent detracting from the sports itself, the glass ceiling has been metaphorically broken as excessive bids are tabled to blow competitors out of the water.

With no clear sign of inflated prices dropping, it would seem that BSKYB and BT will be slugging out for the foreseeable future in an attempt to build on the position they currently find themselves in. For me, the game changer is the Premier League TV rights, without them the balance of power would be significantly shifted, but with them and BSKYB can be safe in the knowledge that their time at the top of sport broadcasting, is not over just yet. A year and a half ago BSKYB paid £2.28 billion for 3/4 of Premier League football on offer, and with that figure looking to rise accordingly, who knows what the eventual winning sum shall be.



Photo by Alex Van Knippenberg





# Sport

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# Dominant Lancaster brush aside lacklustre Liverpool

• Lancaster University Men's Hockey team beat the University of Liverpool team 4-0

**James Benson**

The Lancaster University Men's Hockey Club (LUMHC) 2nds overcame the challenge of the University of Liverpool's 3rd team on Wednesday the 13th of November in a game they dominated from start to finish.

**Going in to the game on the back of two losses and a postponed match in all competitions, the side were looking for a change in fortune to kick-start their season – though their eventual 4-0 victory was down to much more than luck.**

From the very beginning, the Lancaster side asserted itself upon the game, applying immense pressure to the opposition. Whilst clear-cut chances were few and far between, the 2nds maintained possession in their opponent's half for long periods and were able to keep the Liverpool

side at arm's length whenever it seemed they may have a chance of breaking.

One of the first chances of the match fell to the home side, though Gareth Case's powerful strike which was saved well by the opponent's goalkeeper. Following this opportunity, the Liverpool team broke forward, though Lancaster's own goalkeeper, David Callaghan, was alert to the danger and rushed from his area to divert the ball well clear of goal.

The breakthrough came for Lancaster after a series of short corners, with the final one resulting in an opener scored by the team's left back and captain, Alex Harding, who was quickest to react after the goalkeeper had saved from a Calum Boothroyd attempt which was deflected towards goal by Carlos Costa.

Going in to the break a goal ahead no doubt spurred on the Lancaster team and their confidence was borne out in their second half performance. Continuing the intensity of their first thirty five minutes' play, the side pushed on and forced a series of short corners, whilst creating chances from open play too.

Ten minutes in to the second period Alex Tam, a halftime substitute, got his name on

the score sheet, following up after the ball broke from a cross the Liverpool defence failed to deal with. The 2nds dominance continued and Costa capped another fine move, finishing via a cross from the left hand side taking Lancaster into an emphatic 3-0 lead. The advantage was very nearly added to almost straight from the push-back when Andy Cooling's cross fell just behind Will Crack, who'd seen another chance go awry minutes earlier after he was closed down by the Liverpool defence.

**Despite the result being beyond doubt, the Lancaster side were unrelenting in their determination to add to their tally.**

Cooling was once again involved, firing a shot wide on the turn, before one of Liverpool's defenders was sin-binned for dissent, clearly disgruntled by his team's below-par performance.

In the final few minutes of the game Costa secured himself a brace, making the score line 4-0 to the home-side; before the figure almost

became five but for a fine save from the Liverpool goalkeeper, as the ball seemed destined for the top corner of the goal.

Overall the Lancaster side can look back upon the match extremely positively, as they not only secured a deserved win but, in the process, exhibited attacking flair combined with a tenacious defensive performance that will stand them in good stead in future BUCS fixtures. After the game, Harding reflected on the early season loss in the cup to local rivals the University of Cumbria, as well as the improvement against Liverpool, stating, "The entire squad was bitterly disappointed by our performance against UCum last time out, we all had a point to prove. We showed our capabilities today, now it is time to keep improving".

**The 2nds victory followed a strong performance earlier in the day from the LUMHC 1st team, who ran out 3-1 winners against the University of Manchester's 2nd XI.**

Joe Purvis and Oliver

Koopman, with an impressive flick in to the top corner of the goal following a short corner, were on target for the Lancaster side, with an own goal capping off the win, as they extended their unbeaten start in BUCS fixtures this season. The side will be hoping to push on after last season's second place finish in the Northern 2A division, and following a run which has seen them score twenty four goals in four matches – they look well equipped to do so.

**The university's 3rd team have also started the league season well, with three wins in their opening three matches.**

However, they were unable to build on this in their match against the University of Bolton's 1sts, with Dexter Williamson scoring a consolation goal, following a goalmouth scramble, in a 6-1 away defeat. Despite this, the team remain well placed in the Northern 6A division going in to December and will be looking push on for honours in 2014.

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