

# scan



## AS LANCASTER STUDENTS MARCH FOR FREE EDUCATION, THE UNIVERSITY PLANS TO RAISE TUITION FEES

- Postgraduate and international fees to rise by five percent. Rent fees to also rise - page 4
- Lancaster students join thousands of others in Free Education demo - page 5
- Toni Pearce: why the NUS did not support the demo - page 5





## GET INVOLVED

Stay up to date by joining the Facebook groups.

### NEWS

SCAN: News 2014 - 2015

### COMMENT

SCAN Comment 2014-2015

### LIFESTYLE

SCAN Lifestyle

### FEATURES

SCAN Features

### FASHION

SCAN Fashion 2014-2015

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SCAN Arts & Entertainment

### BUSINESS

SCAN Business

### SPORT

SCAN Sports Team 2014/2015

### SPINE

SCAN Spine

### PHOTOGRAPHY

SCAN Photography 2014-15

## EDITORIAL TEAM

### EDITOR

Jack Perry  
scan.editor@lusu.co.uk

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Erik Apter  
scan.assistanteditor@lusu.co.uk

### CAROLYNNE EDITOR

Ellie Vowles  
scan.carolynne@lusu.co.uk

### NEWS EDITORS

Henry Saker-Clark  
Nathalie Farrugia  
scan.news@lusu.co.uk

### COMMENT EDITORS

Daniel Snape  
Bryony Seager  
scan.comment@lusu.co.uk

### LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Anna Meng  
scan.lifestyle@lusu.co.uk

### FEATURES EDITOR

Abigail Davies  
scan.features@lusu.co.uk

### FASHION EDITORS

Jasmine Clarke  
GeorgiaShepherd(Deputy)  
scan.fashion@lusu.co.uk

### BUSINESS EDITOR

Steph Mitcalf  
scan.business@lusu.co.uk

### SPORT EDITORS

Ollie Orton  
Claire Starr  
scan.sport@lusu.co.uk

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Simon James  
scan.arts@lusu.co.uk

### SPINE EDITOR

Sian Bradley  
scan.spine@lusu.co.uk

### WEB & MOBILE

Ollie Barnard  
AnnaTrogstad(Deputy)  
scan.website@lusu.co.uk

### HEADS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Sammie Caine  
Jonathan Eldridge  
scan.photography@lusu.co.uk

### PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Rachel Hughes  
Anna Meng  
Julia Molloy  
scan.production@lusu.co.uk

Printed by Trinity Mirror

## IN THIS ISSUE



### NEWS

- 3 Cost of living on the GM agenda
- 4 Plans to raise tuition fees by 5%
- 5 Free Education demo
- 5 Interview with Toni Pearce
- 6 Divestment from unethical investments
- 8 Union address high cost of student living
- 9 Students welcome MEP to campus

### COMMENT

- 10 Editorial
- 10 Who won the Question Time debate?
- 11 Alienating immigration policy
- 12 The problem of poverty porn
- 12 O'Really, Daniel?
- 13 Answers from Alex Square
- 15 Should Assisted Dying Bill become law?
- 17 House of Lords reform
- 17 Putin: making a scene 101
- 18 Puzzles
- 19 Letters to the Editor



### BUSINESS

- 46 In conversation with Vegard Jormeland
- 47 In conversation with Matt Smith
- 48 Part-time work: making ends meet
- 48 A future for commercial spaceflights?
- 49 Event: Dinner with Industry
- 49 Event: Careers Fair 2014
- 49 Work shadowing with Santander



### SPORT

- 50 Lancaster's societies: Women's Basketball
- 50 Another success for the tennis team
- 51 Rugby League look to bounce back
- 51 Louis Van Gaal's extended rebuild
- 52 SCAN's golden boot league table
- 54 Is the 3G pitch just a novelty?
- 56 Women in sport: a focus on Lancaster



### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

- 22 Ockham's Razor - Not Until We are Lost
- 22 Stay Cultured
- 23 Interview: Coasts
- 23 75 years of The Grapes of Wrath
- 24 Interview: Embrace
- 25 Swimming against streaming
- 25 LUTG presents: 4:48 Psychosis
- 26 Review: The Imitation Game
- 26 Review: Afrovibes
- 27 Review: A Wing
- 27 Is the death of the iPod imminent?

### FEATURES

- 28 Interview: Sugarhouse door supervisors
- 29 What on Earth is food sustainability?
- 29 Veganism, vegetarianism, environment
- 30 Conspiracies unravelled
- 30 Gender, language and domestic abuse
- 31 Get to know your mo
- 31 Coppafeel!
- 32 Interview: Lee Dickson
- 34 When should we celebrate Christmas?
- 34 Thinking about the homeless this winter
- 35 Depression in students
- 35 The sober life chose me



### FASHION

- 36 Vintage and classic style
- 36 Beyonce for Topshop
- 36 Dressing for: Winter Ball
- 37 Spine Spotter
- 37 A fond farewell to 2014
- 38 Getting married the Bradshaw way
- 38 Beauty advent calendars
- 38 Making the most of the mo
- 39 Ins and outs of rave fashion
- 39 Burberry's new Christmas campaign

### LIFESTYLE

- 40 You can have your cake and (not) eat it
- 40 Student spotlight: history
- 41 Europe's best Christmas markets
- 42 Review: Revolution's cocktails
- 42 I don't celebrate Christmas
- 43 How to stop overpacking this winter
- 43 10 Secret Santa presents under £10
- 44 Around the town in 50 pubs





## Cost of living on the GM agenda

The LUSU General Meeting and elections will give students the opportunity to impact student policy throughout Week 8.

**HENRY SAKER-CLARK** NEWS EDITOR  
 @HENRYSAKERCLARK

The Students' Union are to hold the first general meeting of the academic year on Thursday Week 8, covering topics such as the college review, the cost of living and the plans to increase postgraduate and international students' tuition fees. The general meeting is the highest decision making forum in the Students' Union, so LUSU believe this will be an opportunity for the wider student body to engage with and impact upon student politics.

The meeting will see motions put forward regarding the cost of living, a campaign LUSU have been pushing in recent weeks, and the recently revealed University plans to raise tuition fees for postgraduate and international students. LUSU VP (Education) Damon Fairley told SCAN that the meeting would be an important opportunity for students to drive the direction of the Union on key issues.

He said, "a general meeting is the

highest policy making body of the Student's Union; it overrules decisions of LUSU council and takes precedence over those decisions, so the decisions students actually make in this meeting about various things on the agenda essentially set policy for the Students' Union which we can't ignore. We know there are going to be motions on the cost of living, fees, and a discussion around the colleges review, so the feedback people give us on those things is really important."

Fairley stressed that not only is it a policy making forum, but it is also an opportunity for students to hold their Union to account on the issues which matter to them. "It is worth pointing out that, at a general meeting, anyone who is a member of LUSU can attend. Any full members can vote. It's a way for students to tell the Students' Union what they think and hold all officers to account, because there is a section where they can question full-time officers as well, and ask what we are doing on certain things."

Moreover, he commented that the primary objective of the meeting is to make LUSU aware of students' feelings towards issues, and thus influence the direction the Union takes on trying to address these issues. He made it clear that the Union will make the concerns raised in the GM as a "priority" in the direction of the Union's policies on these topics thereafter. "For example the colleges review, when we bring forward a discussion around that, comments students make in that will be compiling and they will actually feed into the review itself." Fairley continued, "it will say 'students have said this' and there will be an immediate impact from there. And the motions of cost of livings and fees, if they pass at the GM that is then official policy by the students' union."

"If the quorate of the general meeting, more than 200 students, vote in favour of a motion, that gives us a really strong footing to go to the University and say this is what our membership believes. We can say, 'this is how we know they believe it, because they voted on policy

for it', so it gives us more tools to argue on behalf of students with. That's why it's important that people come, because obviously to pass anything at a general meeting we need at least 200 people in the room, and at least 200 hundred need to vote in favour for that."

This will not be the only opportunity for student democratic engagement in Week 8, as all week students will be running for College JCR positions, Cross-Campus Officer positions and NUS delegate candidacies. Fairley said it would be beneficial for those hoping to get involved in their JCRs to go down and see the students' democratic engagement and how big student issues are being addressed.

Furthermore, Fairley stated, "I think it's important people get involved in the JCR election process because, as everyone knows as members of colleges, the JCR exec's for each college basically organise the student experience for that college. Whether it's freshers week, summer extrav, all your

socials throughout the term. All these sort of things are organised by the JCR, but equally they lead welfare campaigns in the college, they represent the students of the college, the staff of the college and the University. They play a crucial function in LUSU in terms of feeding back to us what that particular college wants."

College JCR roles are not the only positions up for grabs, as students will also be able to decide who represents them as Cross-Campus Officers. "There's a range of Cross-Campus officer positions, from specific portfolios such as democracy and activities, and we also have twelve faculty representatives who are crucial in terms of representing students in each of those faculties. We also have LUSU councillors whose primary function is to engage students with LUSU council which is a really important policy making body. There's quite a variety of roles people can run for."



# Special report: University plans to increase tuition fees and rent prices

Postscript's Ronnie Rowlands returns with breaking news and comment on the University's plans to raise fees by five percent

**RONNIE ROWLANDS**

[@LUSUCOMMS](https://twitter.com/LUSUCOMMS)

The University's Finance and General Purposes Committee has approved a 2.5 percent increase in on campus rent, as well as an increase in tuition fees 'somewhere in the region' of five percent for Postgraduates and Overseas students. Evidence shows that dissent on this matter was expressed only by LUSU President in due course. A full report will be published in SCAN in due course, but presently the matter is too urgent not to circulate immediately.

When the merriment and hubbub of Freshers' Week dies down, many students invariably find themselves hit with a stark realisation: their maintenance loan doesn't cover the cost of their accommodation, that their fees don't go towards books, and that while 27 grand worth of debt is abstract enough to ignore, their day to day spending is a very present and looming reality.

Many will immediately capitalise on the interest-free student overdraft, which will saddle you with the task of plugging it before you do anything else with your first graduation pay-packet. Many begrudgingly enter into work alongside their study, which can have a deleterious effect on the unique social and extra-curricular life that university affords you. Meanwhile, the student finance maintenance loan remains stale and

incomparable to inflation, and the student experience becomes characterised by perpetual financial hardship.

And what, you may ask, was the rationale for increasing tuition fees by up to five percent? It can't be in line with inflation unless it has been predicted that wages are going to shoot up over the next two years; the academic experience isn't likely to rise by five percent, and seminars aren't likely to start coming with free sandwiches and a Cabaret band. No, the reason given was to bring Lancaster 'in line' with its competitors. This commentator is of the belief that the increase is yet another manifestation of Lancaster's spoilt child syndrome: Durham has a shield, we'll have a shield. Oxford asks for three As, we'll ask for three As. Johnny has an iPad, I want an iPad, etc. etc. etc.

Once again, a shallow and superficial facelift to the prospectus, with no obvious root changes to the provision on offer.

With such unattractive and disproportionate deals on the table, this University is witnessing applications drop at a startling rate. International applications, one of the pools they seek to increase fees in, have declined by nine percent this year.

Of particular worry is the plight of Postgraduate students, the major-

ity of whom haven't the loans or grants to make ends meet, the majority of whom have to pay their fees up front. How in God's name is increasing fees conducive to fulfilling one of the University's key strategic aims – to retain brightest and best, to nurture them into great academics, when they have to hollow out their overdrafts or take on low paid seminar tutoring just to keep themselves afloat?

This University also needs to consider just how much more attractive it will remain to international students as fees rise – perhaps they may begin considering looking into one of Lancaster's 'competing institutions' who rank higher in the league tables for an expensive education. After all, it would deftly follow the logic of Lancaster's obsession with league tables and its belief that it is such a positioning that attracts the students.

In spite of opting to impose yet higher fees and yet higher entry grades, University House will continue to scratch their heads and wonder what the hell is going on with our application figures. And in spite of putting ill-fated motions in place that they believe will bring applicants begging for a go, the University still finds itself desperately clawing at students; a year ago they handed out luxuries to potential clearing students like Smarties in a bid to win their hearts, this year they wrote to the increasingly desolate application

pool to inform them that they'd still be allowed in if they didn't quite make the grades. Many hold the belief that it is the rise in entry grades that has led to a drop in applicants – you only have to look at the plight of the music degree to see that a drop in applications leads to the sinking of a discipline; music lost applicants, was wound down by the faculty, and now the remaining students are studying a degree without the provision in place when they first arrived at Lancaster. Quite plainly, everybody from staff to students suffers as a result of this kind of decision-making.

So, who knows how badly fees increase for postgraduates and international students will damage our application rates. Who knows how severely every on-campus student will be hit by rent hikes.

This University will certainly have a lot to answer for if the answer to all of the above is "incredibly bloody severely", and many people to answer to. You only have to see what the city is like in the summer months to know just how much the student body bolsters the local economy; you only have to gauge the concern parents feel for the future financial wellbeing of their children, or their own if they're funding them through their Postgraduate study or contributing to their rent to know that it isn't just the students who feel the financial strain.

It was only a few days ago that Lancaster students followed thousands of others on the march in London to protest outside parliament. One thing was clear; tuition fees are at the forefront of many people's minds when they enter the polling booths come the General Election, and none of the main political parties are free from ire.

So, the student body needs to ask the following questions of the following people: to the local Labour candidate for Lancaster and Fleetwood Cat Smith; what will you do nationally to put an end to this suffocating charade? To Lancaster's Pro-Chancellor Roger Liddle (who represents the Labour Party in the House of Lords) and its incoming Chancellor Alan Milburn (who is a former Labour Party MP); what influence do you intend to use, if any, to set things straight locally by either increasing bursaries and other financial support or reneging on the proposals altogether, and have Lancaster lead other institutions by example?

But most importantly, the student body needs to say: NO MORE. The Students' Union is intent on actively campaigning against these increases, but we need as many voices as possible. For those reasons, I urge everyone reading this to attend the LUSU General Meeting, which takes place on Thursday 27th November at 6PM to vote in support of LUSU action against this.

## BREAKING: staff assessment boycott suspended until January

**HENRY SAKER-CLARK** NEWS EDITOR

[@HENRYSAKERCLARK](https://twitter.com/HENRYSAKERCLARK)

The University and College Union (UCU) have suspended the staff marking and assessment boycott which began on Thursday Week 5. The Union began the boycott in protest to radical pension changes proposed by the employers, Universities UK (UUK), but successful

talks between the two parties have led to its suspension.

It was announced on Thursday Week 7 that following successful talks the previous day that the boycott would be suspended until a joint negotiating committee on January 15. This will ease widespread fear from students that their Michaelmas exams would be

affected by the boycott, although the boycott is set to resume at the start of Lent Term if further negotiations are not fruitful. The boycott stopped students from being set coursework or receiving formal marks and feedback, as well as halting exams.

The boycott was taking place across 69 pre-1992 universities, in-

cluding Lancaster, in response to the proposed removal of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS); the pension scheme staff at these universities rely on. UUK had planned to remove the final salary element of the current scheme for all USS members and instead impose a career average (career revalued benefits, CRB) scheme. This proposal would limit

the CRB benefits received by staff members up to a salary threshold of £50,000. After they hit this threshold, employers would be set to pay only twelve percent of income into a defined contribution scheme, which shifts the risk to scheme members, and would rely on successful investments.



# Free Education: NO FEES, NO CUTS, NO DEBT.

NATHALIE FARRUGIA **NEWS EDITOR**  
 @NATFARRUGIA94

On Wednesday of Week 7, LUSU joined a coalition of other student groups and campaigns on a march through London as part of the Free Education Demonstration, which works under the banner Free Education: No fees, no cuts, no debt. Despite the NUS withdrawing from the demo in Week 5, LUSU maintained their support for the campaign, and took a group of students on coaches to join the 10,000 other marchers.

This move highlights the increasing opposition to the government fees and privatisation in education. Students from across the country are participating in this demonstration because they're clearly very unhappy with what they're getting. As LUSU said in a statement on their website: "The students of today are on the worst deal of any cohort in the history of UK higher education. The cur-

rent trajectory looks set to continue, set to worsen, and set to make today's deal pale in comparison to the deal of tomorrow." Their statement highlights the betrayal by the government; firstly by the Labour government who tripled tuition fees to £9,000 and then again by the Liberal Democrats who promised to scrap tuition fees but went back on this promise when joining a coalition with the Conservatives in 2010.

In their article, the Full Time Officer team highlight how important this demonstration is for students Lancaster University as the university are currently discussing increasing tuition fees for both post-graduate and international students. They said: "It would also appear that the University of Lancaster has no intention of leading by example. Currently, the University is in discussions to increase its own fees by 5%, the rationale being that it will bring the institution in line with its competitors. This,

it seems, is how Universities across the UK views its paying students – as cash cows recruited to facilitate marketisation and competition."

As well as attending the demonstration LUSU wrote the following letter to Lancaster and Fleetwood MP Eric Ollerenshaw, expressing their concerns and presented it to him on last week. They were hand delivered to Ollerenshaw on the day of the demonstration outside Parliament.

In the week building up to the demo, LUSU encouraged students to sign the letter as well as add their own 'fed ups'. The FTO team said "More than ever, the student body needs to lay down what it expects of its future leaders, before future generations of students suffer an even worse deal."

Eric Ollerenshaw MP  
 House of Commons  
 London  
 SW1A 0AA

19<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Dear Mr Ollerenshaw,

Today Lancaster students are demonstrating for a fairer deal in higher education.

Four years ago they did the same, alongside 100,000 other students. But despite this being the most active demonstration of political engagement from young people for almost a generation, your Coalition government completely ignored them. And people wonder why young people don't trust politicians.

Today you have the chance to gain that trust back. Young people are fed up:

**We're fed up of graduating with upwards of £50,000 worth of debt to be thrown into a graduate job market where demand far outweighs supply.**

**We're fed up of having to pass up on postgraduate study or un- and under-paid internships because we just can't afford to do them.**

**We're fed up of never thinking we'll be able to own our own houses, and forever be at the mercy of private landlords.**

**We're fed up of seeing our international friends demonised for daring to enter this country.**

**And we're fed up of seeing our planet decimated.**

Lancaster and Fleetwood is a constituency with a majority of just 333. We are not exaggerating when we say the student vote could make it or break it.

I will be encouraging fellow students to vote, and to vote not just for candidates who offer a fairer deal in higher education, but a fairer deal in life. I would like to know what you, as the Conservative parliamentary candidate, plan on doing to win our votes.

In eager anticipation,

Print:  
 Postal Address:

## Toni Pearce: *Why the NUS pulled out of the demo*

DANIEL SNAPE **COMMENT EDITOR**  
 @DTCSSNAPE

On Sunday Week 5, Toni Pearce, President of the National Union of Students (NUS), opened the final day of the Assembly for Change with a plea for students to stay engaged in politics. After the talk, Pearce spoke to SCAN about why she would continue to encourage student demonstrations despite withdrawing from the upcoming tuition fee protests, and would not begrudge lecturers the same right.

"Our policy and our view and our stance and our belief is that education should be free," Pearce said, "and in fact on Friday I went to give evidence to the Universities UK student funding review, where I sat in a room full of Vice Chancellors and told them that I think education – higher education, all education – is of public value, and that we should treat it with the same kind of esteem that we treat primary and secondary education and the NHS, and that, actually, making education free is about political ambition."

LUSU invited Pearce to speak in

George Fox building as part of the inaugural Assembly for Change, which VP (Education) Joe O'Neill had organised to increase political awareness on campus. However, five days before the Assembly, Pearce declared that the NUS had withdrawn its sponsorship of an upcoming march for free higher education in London.

Pearce pointed to personal safety risks as one reason for the change of policy. She said the organisers had promised 200 stewards to guide the march but, with a fortnight to go, had not delegated any. Pearce told SCAN: "They didn't have a named chief steward, they didn't have any first aid or ambulances booked for the day... [and] their lost child policy was completely unacceptable – it involved broadcasting the details of children over a megaphone."

Pearce also cited the particular threat this posed to student liberation groups. "The people who are most at risk at demonstrations tend to be black students, disabled students, LGBT students... You know, the impact it could have on international students if they were

arrested would be life-destroying. So that is why I think it's really important that we're a principled movement and that we're an inclusive movement and that we take everyone with us."

Many students' unions, including LUSU, had decided to continue the demonstration without the NUS. When asked why she was not trying to stop them, Pearce said: "I think that students' unions can make decisions themselves, and it's never NUS' role to tell students' unions what to do.

"I'm more than happy to speak to students' unions who still want to go about what they can do and how we can help them... If people get arrested then NUS will absolutely be there to support those people because they have a right to protest. It's just that I would have liked to have seen this protest be organised with liberation at the forefront."

Despite the withdrawal, Pearce said the NUS remained devoted to abolishing tuition fees. She maintained: "It wouldn't cost a huge amount of money to pay for free



Lucy Lamb

education... This system is costing as much as the other system used to, so £9,000 tuition fees isn't saving the government any money. It's costing students more money, it's costing the taxpayer more money, because the [Resource Accounting and Budgeting] fee is so high – the amount students don't pay back is so high."

When questioned as to whether low repayment was caused by high tuition fees or simply by the high rate of interest charged on student loans, Pearce said: "I think the fundamental thing here is it's about what kind of education system we

want to see, because I think that the education system we all want to see should be about collaborative institutions that deliver for the public and not just for individuals."

During her keynote speech, Pearce reminded students that demonstrating "has to be at the heart of our campaign" and encouraged them to vote, pointing out that although only 45% of 16 and 17-year-olds voted in the 2010 general election, students alone could swing the vote in 191 constituencies in the 2015 general election.



# Divestment from unethical investments

SCAN looks into the University's unethical investments and what is being done to tackle them.

JESSICA WALLACE

✉@JESSICABW\_

Whilst the University is becoming more concerned with achieving an ethical 'green' status, there have been issues regarding its close ties with unethical companies. In particular, the fossil fuel industry, which is recognised as being one of the most environmentally damaging industries in the modern world, supplies up to 14% of the University's investment funds totalling around £285,000 in shares, whilst supporting the arms trade totals 4% of investment shares.

Lancaster University has twice won the Carbon Reduction Awards, which recognises and rewards universities for 'exceptional sustainability initiatives', which Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark E Smith has previously acknowledged as being an "excellent symbol of our commitment to sus-

tainability". First awarded this in 2012 for the wind turbine initiative which generated around 15% of the University's energy consumption, the University has promoted its 'green' status through encouraging staff and students to cooperate with the improvement of environmental energy consumption and sustainability.

However Lancaster, amongst many other universities across England and Wales, supports unethical oil companies responsible for destroying the environment such as BP and Shell. Although difficult to determine exactly, due to outsourcing to a private third party fund manager, Lancaster currently holds £73,561.90 in Dutch Royal Shell alone, amongst investment shares in other such unethical companies. These organisations have raised nationwide outrage with regards to their most recent exploitative develop-

ments, notably fracking, which involves drilling and injecting fluids at high pressure deep beneath the Earth to release natural gases.

*"LUSU's CCO (Environment and Ethics) Polly Davis describes the overwhelming support for the campaign as positive and reports how people petitioning appear to be "surprised" and "shocked"*

Lancaster University Ethical Investments Group (LUEIG) argue that the university's involvement and support of the fossil fuel industry and arms trade through investment contradicts the widespread view of Lancaster as an 'ethical and environmentally friendly university'. They have been campaigning as part of a wider nationwide initiative, in a movement composed of staff and students calling for divestment from fossil fuels and the arms trade, and an

ethical investment policy.

LUEIG have received celebrity endorsement for their campaign as featured on their Facebook page, featuring various MPs, journalists and human right activists holding messages of support such as 'Invest in Weapons not War'. The campaign has swept through the University extending to alumni and the outside wider community, with more than 700 signatures via their online petition to support their policies and demands, which include adopting an ethical investment policy, with commitment to divestment from fossil fuels and the arms trade whereby at least 25% of investments in renewables; energy efficiency; and the university's own activities, like the mental health services" amongst others. Campaigners have also called for an elected committee (including an elected student position) where investments can be scruti-

nised and made public to provide a transparent and informed perspective for those interested.

LUSU's CCO (Environment and Ethics) Polly Davis describes the overwhelming support for the campaign as positive and reports how people petitioning appear to be "surprised" and "shocked" at discovering which investments the University holds, and are "keen" to support the group and spread awareness. Supporters of the online petition have voiced their opinions, citing their reasons for signing as "the university's investments belie both the university's climate change research and it's multicultural student population (some of whose countries are hurt by the out of control arms trade)", whilst pointing out that "reliance on oil, coal and gas causes a lot more problems than global warming".

## Assembly for Change Interview: *Natalie Bennett*

PATRICK WILSON

"The last big change in Westminster was women getting the vote," Natalie Bennett, leader of the Green Party tells SCAN following her speech at Assembly For Change. "Things desperately need to be shaken up." Bennett is calling for great change: to the voting system, to two party election races and to constitutions. Her views have been labelled as 'radical', yet throughout her keynote speech and Question Time panel at the conference, she receives more than a few rounds of applause. These views include "a working wage which is also the living wage," improving local rail and bus connections, not using more resources than the planet can sustain and devolving powers so that "people who are most affected by decisions are the ones who get to decide."

Bennett believes the desire for change is not just within her party, but throughout the country; not Russell Brand's 'revolutionary' change, but of people creating a new politics with greater interac-

tion. "If people ignore the training they've had of 'it's a two horse race, you've got to choose us otherwise you'll get the worse alternative'. If people all collectively say (and I find more and more people are saying this) 'we're not going to do that anymore, we're going to create a new politics with our votes, they can.'" She cites Scotland -- the Greens being the only party apart from the SNP to support independence -- as nearly achieving this: "the people of Scotland got very excited, very engaged and I think there's a real possibility we can do the same in the 2015 general election."

Recent polls suggest many consider UKIP in regard to an alternative vote from the established order, but Bennett disregards them swiftly: "the difference between us and UKIP: we're actually interested in, long term, seriously running things and changing the way society works. UKIP is a pure protest vote." Bennett wants to establish a "people's constitutional convention, to basically start again from scratch," as she believes the archaic House of Lords, the first-past-the-post voting system and cur-

rent Westminster apparatus are "too late to tinker with." Bennett insists that "multinationals have to pay their way - pay their workers a living wage," citing Amazon as an example of a company which gives their workers few rights and little pay. In her speech, Bennett proposes a 1 or 2 percent tax on the extremely wealthy, which would help, Bennett argues, to reduce the deficit and those at the bottom of society.

When the comparison of the Greens being watermelons is raised - Green on the outside, red in the centre - she smiles, at ease with the comparison. Policies such as taxes on the wealthy and re-nationalisation of the rail network reflects a streak of working-class red, but she stands firmly and proudly on Green. "Green political philosophy is the coming coherent political philosophy. Environmental justice and social justice are inextricably linked. A beautiful practical example of how these are linked is that we have some of the poorest quality housing in Western Europe here in the UK, so we desperately need energy efficiency measures: insulation for example.

We [the Green Party] back the energy bill revolution: a plan to take the money the government gets in carbon taxes and use it in insulating every home that needs it. Collectively, it creates up to 200,000 jobs, lifts nine out of ten households out of fuel poverty and cuts carbon emissions."

With one Green Party MP, Caroline Lucas, Bennett hopes to join her next year in the Holborn & St. Pancras seat. "This is the most unpredictable election since the Second World War," so she refuses to "put percentages or predict" her chances of securing the seat: "This is an election that is going to be based on local characters, policies and issues; there won't be a case of one national swing across the country."

With little media coverage in comparison to the other parties, however, is there much hope of Green success? "We have started to get more attention, membership is rising fast, but there are also huge opportunities to reach people one on one, in groups and through social media." In terms of the party's exclusion from televised debates,



Lucy Lamb

they are "in conversation with the broadcasters and also talking to the lawyers -- we don't want to go down that route, but we will if we have to."

"We're standing up for a society that works for the common good, not just for the few," Bennett argues, "we're saying we have to build, very fast, a society that delivers the resources for a decent quality of life, for everybody, within the environmental limits of one planet."





# CHRISTMAS MARKET

FRIDAY 5TH *week 9* DECEMBER

ALEXANDRA  
SQUARE

12PM-9PM



Lancaster  
University



upp

University Partnerships  
Programme



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

LUSU



# Union address high cost of student living

With LUSU's General Meeting looming, SCAN investigates the problems of the cost of living.

ALEXANDER PARMLEY

✉@AJPARMLEY

With LUSU's General Meeting looming, SCAN investigates the problems of the cost of living

At the upcoming General Meeting on Thursday Week 8, LUSU will address the issue of the high cost of living at the university – a topic very near and dear to the hearts, and wallets, of students everywhere.

A number of factors contribute to the high cost of living at university. From grocery shopping to leisure spending, student expenditures can quickly add up. However, according to Joe O'Neill, VP (Education), some fees associated with student living do more damage than others.

“Hidden course costs, accommodation rising well above inflation, a student loan that hasn't risen with inflation for years... There's a massive list of things that are hitting students hard.”

The discussion at the General Meeting will focus on what LUSU are doing to achieve the existing motion put forward in Union Council in Summer Term last year by former LUSU President Joel Pullan. This motion focuses specifically on three areas of cost of living: accommodation, bus passes and hidden course costs. However, the Full Time Officer team have also introduced some new ideas and ways of actively tackling the problem on campus.

On the topic of rent, LUSU has pointed to the contract between Lancaster and UPP, a private accommodation provider on campus, as one of the main contributors to the high cost of campus accommodation. O'Neill referred to it as a “completely unbalanced deal” in which students end up getting the short end of the stick – as UPP continues to increase its fees, students are faced with increasingly daunting rent prices.

Today, the university itself only owns approximately one-third of campus accommodation. Due to

the difficulty of combatting the university's contractual obligation to UPP, Bowland President Lee Dudding has said that LUSU will be “lobbying the university” to introduce changes to the accommodation it still owns. Such changes will include incentive schemes that would benefit both students and the university. For example, LUSU members have proposed to the university a scheme by which student renters would be charged the actual price of the utilities they use. Currently, student rental fees simply include the average cost of utilities as a part of their overall cost.

LUSU are also currently working closely with JCRs and conducting research within the colleges in order to help their cost of living campaign. Other areas LUSU are focusing on are how LUSU services contribute to the cost of living. In his role as VP (Union Development) Damon Fairley will be focusing on how students can make a cheap healthy meal with things from LUSU Central as well as looking into issues of cost of liv-

ing surrounding LUSU Living. Additionally, VP (Welfare and Community) Mia Scott will be working on ‘food is free’ and promoting Green Lancaster and the Eco Hub. Students will be encouraged to go and pick their own potatoes and get eggs from the chickens, for example.

*“Hidden course costs, accommodation rising well above inflation, a student loan that hasn't risen with inflation for years...”*

When it comes to living costs, O'Neill stresses that the issue of the cost of living should not be limited to discussion within the student community. “This isn't just an issue for students to be dealing with – this is a real community issue. We need to be engaging not with our own echo chamber but with our local community.” O'Neill points out that as students' budgets become strained by things like the high cost of student accommodation, their spending in other areas will decrease, resulting in the creation of economic

ripples in the community. “Local businesses rely on student spending power, and if that diminishes so do their livelihoods.”

O'Neill goes further to say that the rising cost of rent is not an isolated problem, but that it is instead tied in with the overall tendency towards students being “factored out”.

“As I've said countless times, students don't get because they don't vote.” O'Neill stresses the importance of establishing the cost of living issue as something that affects everyone, not just students. “We need a concerted effort to put this on the agenda, not just talk to ourselves. The General Meeting is a good place to...but the fight needs to be bigger than amongst our own members... We need to stop talking to ourselves and start talking to everyone this affects.”

The General Meeting will take place on Thursday Week 8. Students are welcome to attend, vote, and voice their opinions.

## Assembly for Change Interview: Owen Jones

JACK PERRY SCAN EDITOR

✉@JACKPERRY01

The George Fox lecture theatre was packed for Owen Jones' keynote speech at the Assembly for Change – the final one of the first day. SCAN was lucky enough to be granted an interview with Jones, and the interview and his subsequent speech at the Assembly both contained a recurring theme – that young people should fight injustice in society, and have the means to do so. Politics, Jones argues, is the way to fight that injustice.

“When I speak to young people, whether that's at university, sixth forms or schools, people are aware and quite angry about issues but there's a lack of hope and a lack of a sense that politics is a thing that can change your life,” Jones told SCAN. “It seems divorced from your life; for a lot of young people politics is something which kicks you when it trebles your tuition fees or scraps your EMAs. So

those kind of things have turned a lot of people off politics.”

Jones believes this is so frustrating at the moment, because five years ago the party which he believes did a lot to inspire young people were instrumental in the current disillusionment. “The LibDems did in fact inspire a lot of young people in 2010,” Jones said. “And they promised to scrap tuition fees and then trebled them.

“A lot of those young people will never trust a politician again – and that was their first taste of democracy. I think that's unforgivable [of the Liberal Democrats] – not just because they trebled tuition fees but also the damage they did to people's faith in democracy.”

Given how disenfranchised a lot of young people feel when it comes to politics, how does Jones feel any interest in politics can be reignited? “It's about giving young people hope. That sense that politics is something that can change

things,” Jones told SCAN. “Those young people who organised as UKUncut against tax avoidance – they put tax avoidance on the agenda. People who got involved in campaigns against the bedroom tax – because of that they got the Labour leadership to commit to repealing it, and in Scotland they have scrapped the bedroom tax altogether.

“That shows people are actually being active in campaigning and winning things, so we need to show that these things are possible and that politics isn't just about voting every five years – it's also about you putting pressure on politicians,” Jones argued, placing the emphasis on the political activity students can get involved in outside of election time. However, he did add: “If a lot more young people voted, politicians would be a lot more fearful in attacking them in the way they attack them at the moment.”

This loss of hope in politics and



the current system is not a characteristic Jones believes is endemic purely to students and young people. “The biggest party in this country is the yelling-at-the-TV party, and there is lots of frustration and discontent out there. It's often people feeling quite isolated and not being able to know how we can change how our society is.”

Equally, for Jones the list of problems British society is facing is an

extensive one. “The wealth of the top 1000 has doubled in the past five years while those at the bottom have had the biggest fall in living standards since Benjamin Disraeli's government in the 1880s,” Jones said. “Zero-hour contracts, housing crisis, lack of secure jobs: there are so many things to be angry about, and people feel completely isolated and fragmented.”



# Students welcome MEP to campus

North West MEP Afzal Khan gave a speech, in Week 6, informing students about the role played by the European Union in modern society



Lora Stoyanova

HENRY SAKER-CLARK **NEWS EDITOR**  
 @HENRYSAKERCLARK

Labour MEP for the north west Afzal Khan came to the University for an event by the Lancaster University European Culture Society, delivering a speech on what it means to be European and the challenges that currently face the European Union. On Friday of Week 6 Khan, Vice Chair of the European Parliament Security and Defence Committee, spoke

to students on issues such as the EU's role in immigration, the rise of UKIP and the possibility of a referendum on Britain's staying in the EU.

Khan clearly felt that it was important to educate and engage young people with politics, and particularly to educate them in the role the European Union plays. He stated that he had spent that morning to speaking to students at a school who revealed to him a political apathy felt by many young people. "It worries me that young people already seem to have quite a negative view of politics."

Moreover he believed that many people were unaware of the large role played by the European Union, and thus the MEPs who represent people within it. He stressed that being "the biggest economy in the world" the role played by the EU is far-reaching and of vital importance, creating jobs and trade links that a lot of people might not immediately appreciate. Further, he stressed that the changing

structure of international politics reflects the changing world we live in with greater connectivity globally. "We have increased opportunity to travel around the world, but also our technology allows use to communicate. The means to travel and communicate has made a huge impact on our lives."

Khan stressed the benefits provided by Great Britain's involvement in the European Union, saying that it provided the country with "3.5 million jobs and gives us a global bargaining power." He added that were Great Britain to isolate itself from the EU it would make it far harder for it to compete internationally - "If we are not positioning ourselves in the right place we can't compete with China, India and Brazil." The role the EU plays in expanding opportunities for Britain's industry was also a key topic raised by the MEP. "£80 billion has been given to us by the EU towards technological development. Without that money where would we be?"

On key issue for many voters ahead of the 2015 general election will be immigration, something which Afzal Khan feels should be looked at in a positive, rather than negative, light. "In the Cheetham ward when I was a Councillor we had 38 different nationalities; I believe there is a direct link between diversity and success." He went on to point out that while parties such as UKIP are looking negatively upon EU immigration, "the immigrants coming through the EU are actually net contributors."

This was a point recognized by Darren Mason, Public Relations Officer for LUECS and one of the organizers of the event. He told SCAN, "[Khan's speech] allowed us to understand the challenges facing the EU with the rise of UKIP from the viewpoint of a elected European representative. As a society we also feel that it allowed people to start understanding that you can be British AND European, rather than them being separate identities which cant co-exist."

Another topic which Khan was questioned on by the audience was the recent plans for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, linking American and European trade. He replied, "I think too much has been said about the trade agreements with the US. I have concerns, such as about healthcare and the NHS - I don't want to be in the situation where privatization is happening through the back door. At the moment it is too early, I am meeting people of interest, members of unions but I think it is too early to make a decision as of yet. We need to safeguard some of our key values."

Mason saw the speech as a triumph: "The event was a overwhelming success, it provided a opportunity for people to directly communicate with a European politician and break down the barriers which people sometimes feel about the EU."

## Assembly for Change Interview: *Niall Couper*

HENRY SAKER-CLARK **NEWS EDITOR**  
 @HENRYSAKERCLARK

As part of Assembly For Change, this weekend Head of Media for Amnesty International UK, Niall Couper, delivered an engaging speech on campaigning and human rights journalism. After his speech Couper, a Grizedale alumnus and former SCAN News Editor, spoke to his former newspaper about what it is like to campaign for human rights.

Within his speech he told an enthused audience that it was his, and the charity's, desire for truth which acts as the drive to promote human rights issues and raise awareness of the horrific abuses regularly taking place across the world. Couper declared a desire to "detoxify" human rights in the UK, describing the integral role that Amnesty UK plays in this objective. "There are issues that are very UK specific which will run from our own offices. We will be looking at things such as arms

control here, such as the use of tasers. We look at refugees, we will be looking at the government, for example at the Human Rights Act, and all sort of issues which we will analyse on a national level."

Couper was fiercely passionate about human rights, describing the frustration of his job when he is unable to reach out and publicize the heinous abuses of human rights happening to people around the globe. "The horrible things I get to hear about and I get to see. I can get absolutely frustrated, 'Why are people not interested in this?' We've had stories where there's been a pile of dead bodies outside a morgue because they've not been able to deal with them. 50 odd bodies. They had been executed outside there, and there was actually a couple of people that were alive at the bottom of that pile, and we've had a researcher who's documented these people who actually survived."

"Sometimes in a very bad situa-

tion we get to see video footage for things like this, and we will go, 'how can a national newspaper not be concerned about that sort of issue and not be concerned that this sort of horror is going on?'" Moreover, Couper described the difficulties of being responsible for making sure that these devastating personal stories are given the platform necessary to improve the lives of them, and others suffering the same situation. "You do feel responsibility because what you really want to do is make a difference for those guys, because they're actually without a voice in their country because they are being persecuted, normally by their government."

"One of the hardest things that amnesty has to do is choose who we work on, because we probably get around three thousand cases a year, and we can't work on all of them so we only work on a select few. We have to choose which cases to really escalate." Of those many cases of human rights injus-



Lucy Lamb

tice brought before him, Couper said that they are only able work on thirty of these, and only about ten of these would be likely to make significant progress.

"How do you make that effectively life or death decision for some of these people? Realistically it's a question of whether someone will be spending a 95 year prison sentence or whether they will be released by presidential pardon." During Assembly For Change, Couper also delivered a workshop

with students on human rights and the importance of effective campaigning. Speaking about how Amnesty UK effectively campaigns, Couper said, "it is about being the most creative and innovative we possibly can be. So we have to create a space for that, and try to constantly seem interesting and relevant. It means we have to find the cases that people are going to connect with; you have to be able to identify with particular examples for people" to take notice and give support to the issue.



## EDITORIAL

### *Free education: hopes and reality*

Our front page this issue is somewhat different to our usual design - we decided it necessary to compare the hopes of those marching on the Free Education demo to the reality of the dramatic rise in tuition fees planned by Lancaster University. Of course the two cases are not directly comparable: the University is planning to raise international and postgraduate fees (it cannot touch UK undergraduate fees because of the government cap), while a lot of the 10,000 marching in London on Wednesday Week 7 were UK undergraduates. The sentiment, however, is comparable: on the one hand, there is the belief that education is a public good and should therefore be free to everyone; on the other, a consumerist attitude to education which appears to only be increasing. Three things take us aback when we think about the University's plans. First, it is so disheartening that those who have the least access to funding (i.e. international students and postgraduates) are the ones who are being hurt most by the proposed changes. Second, it seems extremely counterintuitive for the university to keep erecting barriers to prospective postgraduates when Lancaster wants to be considered a research-focused university. You can expect a full report in SCAN on the University's dire approach to postgraduate retention next term. Finally, it appears that the University would inevitably have increased UK undergraduate fees if its "competitors" were doing the same. Despite the large showing in London, free education seems further away than ever before.

### *Our new business section*

As we continue to focus our attention on pressing issues like tuition fees, the cost of living and the future of the collegiate system, it is sometimes easy to forget that one of the largest worries for many university students is finding a job at the end of it all. Unless you are a student of the management school (in which case one imagines you always have one eye on your future career as you continue your studies) for many Lancaster students the world of business and careers can seem an alien place. That is one reason why SCAN is piloting a new business section, which can be found on pages 46-49 of this issue. We hope the interviews, events reports and careers advice contained within are not only interesting, but provide you with some worthwhile information which you can build upon as you think about what you want to do once you leave Lancaster.

### *JCR elections*

Best of luck to everyone who is running in the JCR elections. JCR officers do a fantastic job at instilling a sense of community and putting on great events for their students, often with little to no credit. We hope in the coming weeks and months to build a stronger relationship between the student media and the JCRs so that officers are given the credit they deserve. As the College Review trundles on, this time is better than ever to realise what a good job JCRs do and what a vital part the colleges play in the Lancaster University student experience.

In the mean time, of course, many are focusing on getting elected. Voting opens on Wednesday Week 8, and SCAN will be providing live coverage of the various election results nights on Friday Week 8.

JACK PERRY EDITOR  
@JACKPERRY01

## Who won the Question Time debate?



HENRY SAKER-CLARK  
@HENRYSAKERCLARK

When I first saw the schedule for Assembly for Change, I was quite shocked by the array of people who were willing to travel away from civilisation to the prestigious venue that is George Fox lecture theatre 1. However, I was not just impressed to see a host of people making keynote speeches to get people engaged, but also to see the opportunity for the audience to get their own questions addressed by political figures: the Question Time debate. While it was a long distance from its namesake as far as production value went, as well as lacking a certain Mr Dimbleby, it was just as engaging as the televised alternative.

For me, a key reason for anticipation of this specific item on the timetable was the audience participation, which was evident throughout and highlighted an obvious sentiment across the audience. Based solely on the reaction of the audience it was not always easy to tell who came off on top, but it was easy to recognise who suffered. Eric Ollerenshaw, Conservative MP for Lancaster and Fleetwood, squirmed in his seat during questioning, becoming all too aware of the left-wing sentiment at play. On topics such as the centralisation of power in London and the cost of living, he clearly didn't realise that telling people to grow up and think more would just increase the bitter mutterings cast in his direction.

Although there had clearly been an effort to present a political spectrum, the direction of the debate reflected a pretty uneven representation. As with the audience, it was positively left-wing. It felt almost intentional that Peter Tatchell was sat on the far

left, with Green Party leader Natalie Bennett beside him (the two sat next to each other like a tag-team), and local Labour candidate Cat Smith to their right. Without even considering what was actually said, audience favouritism towards said three people was quite apparent. A notable contingent hollered whenever Tatchell or Bennett spoke, and Smith's Lancaster University background gave her a perspective onlookers could immediately empathise with.

Although it is easy to say the audience reflected a left-wing bias, it was obvious that people were captivated by Natalie Bennett and her Green ideology. It was refreshing to see a party leader who was not trying to accommodate for everyone, constantly playing it safe so as not to offend anyone who might possibly wander into a voting booth. She was regularly greeted with rounds of applause for recognising the same problems with the modern political culture as much of the audience did. But what is perhaps most interesting is the way in which she livened up the debate. It was as though she hoped a representative of a major broadcaster was somewhere amongst the crowd. She not only held her own, but was forthright and perfectly suitable for that somewhat more important debate she wishes to be a part of.

She was not the only person who benefited from the debate, though. NUS President Toni Pearce received some of the loudest responses from the audience, despite spending most of the day with a target on her back after the right honourable mess that was the NUS's statement about the free education demo. In her speech, she mentioned that students are often portrayed as single-issue voters (clearly meaning tuition

fees) and powerfully articulated other concerns on the cost of living and political education. She struck a chord with the students, staying away from party politics and addressing the problems that students regularly face.

All the while there was another important battle in play: the race to represent the Lancaster and Fleetwood constituency. Despite currently sitting in as the MP for our constituency, Ollerenshaw appeared confident in his own stance on issues by taking firm positions, but did not receive a response that suggested a shared position amongst those watching. Robin Long, whom it is hard not to consider the sixth panellist, seemed like a lamb for the slaughter at the start. He was perhaps as happy as Toni Pearce was that tuition fees were not the focal point of debate, but was largely inoffensive and sometimes ineffectual. Towards the end, however, possibly as his confidence that he wouldn't get glared out of the building grew, he received cheers and clear approval from parts of the audience. Whilst possibly not enticing any new supporters, he might have achieved the Lib Dem goal of keeping the support of previous voters.

Within this three-way competition, while picking an outright winner is bound to be tricky, there is a clear victor. This may be the most clichéd thing ever put to paper, but the audience were the winners - not just during the debate but during the whole weekend. The grand finale of a weekend of political participation and engagement made me, and many others, feel like I could make a positive difference in May 2015 and for many years to come.

Lucy Lamb



# Immigration policy is alienating our students



*Is Keith Vaz MP (pictured above) right about immigration policy hurting our international students?*

**DANIEL SNAPE** COMMENT EDITOR

Twitter @DTCSNAPE

Last month, Keith Vaz MP warned the nation that the government's harsh immigration policy was hurting our international students. Just in time for International Students' Day last Monday a number of other prominent figures, including the Conservative MP for the Cities of London and Westminster and the director-general of the Institute of Directors, have come out saying the same thing. Why does Conservative leadership, under fire from every direction, insist on trying to prevent such a large proportion of our students from going to university? If the immigration and security minister is to be believed, it's just because the UN is making them.

Right now, the coalition is imposing tighter and tighter visa restrictions on international students. A person from outside the EU wanting to study in the UK has to give precise details as to where he/she is going, find up-to-the-minute bank statements that prove he/she won't require any public

funds, and undergo comprehensive biometric testing, among other requirements. While some of these measures have clear security benefits, the system has become unservicably bureaucratic and is causing huge inconsistencies from country to country. If international students have to spend as much time proving their worth in visa centres as they would on their coursework, they are not going to want to study in the UK.

That's simply part and parcel of the voting public's increasing paranoia around foreign people. The absolution of nationalism is also probably responsible for the recent Immigration Act, which now forces international students to pay about £150 each towards NHS treatment and obliges landlords to make intrusive checks on international tenants starting Monday. However, most disturbingly, the British government insists on including international students in the national migration figures. That means they come firmly under David Cameron's plan to bring net migration below 100,000. This last policy is by far the easi-

est to rectify and could be the key to giving international students a proper welcome: if we remove them from the statistics, the government would be under no political obligation to decimate their numbers.

Unfortunately, the coalition's blatant targeting of international students for public amusement has caused the number entering the UK each year to drop for the first time ever. The minister in charge of immigration enforcement claims to be doing this in the name of international harmony, because the UN advises countries to count students as permanent migrants after one year. But this UN guideline simply has public service number-crunching in mind. There is no reason we couldn't continue to count the number of students going in and out of Britain and publish the results in a separate dataset.

Universities like Lancaster are the ones most threatened by British immigration policy. Almost a quarter of students at Lancaster University are international.

Turning competent students away is not only going to devalue one of the UK's greatest export markets, but rob Lancaster of a vital source of income – right when University management was counting on undergraduate numbers rising and agonising over new international campuses. These policies could cause more permanent damage if a close competitor for international students, like Australia or Canada, managed to knock Britain out of second place among the world's most popular destinations for university.

That may sound vain, but every student knows that reputation rules higher education. When international students graduate, they act as envoys for their university and often unknowingly promote British education abroad. The frankly overindulgent reputation of this country for teaching is the reason one in 10 world leaders was educated in the UK. And this reputation is an economic lifeline for the country. We have very few specialist industries, but education is one, and with the help of our international graduates we

can turn related industries like science and technology into new specialisms. Hence, as long as countries like China and India are failing to provide enough tertiary education for their rapidly developing population, we have both the right and the responsibility to cater for the rest.

Being an international student must be hard enough as it is. When you consider the bureaucracy of the visa system, the hostility of the general public, and the price of tuition, it's a wonder we've registered any international students this year. One study from Regent's University London showed that 40% of international students thought they were only welcome in Britain for their money. Clearly, if the government is intent on turning Britain into a 56 million-acre hermitage, we should at least protect our students from the political implications. Although, any more acts of brazen nationalism and international students might just decide not to come here anyway.



# The problem of poverty porn

ANNA MENG **LIFESTYLE EDITOR**

✉ @A1LKM

Poverty porn comes in many forms: it can be written, photographed, or filmed. Any sort of media can be utilised to exploit the poor's conditions to create sympathy, anger or outrage. The aims of poverty porn vary: sometimes increasing charity donations, sometimes selling newspapers, sometimes just entertainment. Famous examples of the latter include films like *Slumdog Millionaire* or, as Imogen Tyler discussed on Sunday Week 5 at the Assembly for Change, the upcoming second series of Channel 4 programme *Benefits Street*.

The term 'porn' is a rather apt description for this phenomenon. The content is often both graphic and extreme whilst being completely detached from reality. Though in many cases, like in

*Benefits Street*, poverty claims to be truly represented in the form of a documentary, there is nothing honest or objective about it. Television especially is part of an international media that, because of the way it's commissioned and edited, can only ever present a highly subjective form of reality. The same can be said for the written word or the photograph: we are always looking at the world through the perspective of the people who created them.

On the one hand, the media simplifies and stigmatises the poor for financial gain. In the case of TV programmes that seek to entertain, this is deplorable. For charities, on the other hand, it is often a necessity. Poverty porn is used to make problems more easily understandable to a privileged audience that is otherwise detached from the suffering going on elsewhere. It's sensationalised

suffering that perhaps can be justified by the fact that it brings in donations which can make even a small amount of difference.

However, poverty porn as utilised by charities is also dangerous as it perpetuates harmful ideologies. It tells the poor that they are helpless and the rich that money is the only way to further change. Ignored are holistic images of poverty, which could be used to highlight the perfectly preventable causes of social injustice that so easily perpetuate themselves. Instead there is an excess of extreme suffering that evokes hopelessness, humiliation, and ultimately inferiority. It is successful in empowering the wrong person – as the wealthy are put in the position of saviours – ignoring the need for mutual transformation.

A similar analysis can also be applied to *Benefits Street*. According

to Channel 4's executive, Ralph Lee, there is no malign intention; "there is no agenda". Yet in television programming there always is an agenda: to make as much money as possible by getting the highest number of viewers. And the way it's done in *Benefits Street* is by shameless exploitation. In the 10-second introduction itself we see men smoking in doorways as children play near large piles of domestic waste in the streets.

It's also a very apparent criticism of welfare policy. As Tyler rightly argues, the images we are confronted with in *Benefits Street* lead us to re-imagine the welfare state as the head of a 'benefits culture' that both impoverishes citizens and feeds addictions, leading to a welfare dependency that imprisons the poor. True, current welfare policy is such that often, living unemployed off benefits is only slightly less profitable than

having a job. The welfare system, designed to reduce inequalities, has instead ended up creating even more social segregation.

There has been significant backlash against *Benefits Street*. Before filming for the second series began in Grimsby, Austin Mitchell MP accused Channel 4 of "demonising the poor and making poverty entertainment". Mitchell had his own reasons for trying to remove the Channel 4 camera teams from Grimsby, but the popularity of such poverty porn has been shocking to politicians, critics, and viewers alike. As to actually addressing the problem of poverty in the UK and generating real change, however, not much has been done.

**WEDNESDAY**
**FRIDAY**
**SATURDAY**
**WHOOOPS!**  
W E D N E S D A Y

**MASH UP  
& PURE CHEESE**  
3-4-£5 ON SELECTED DRINKS

**CLASSIC HITS & RNB/HIP-HOP  
BASHMENT/AFROBEATS  
DRINKS OFFERS SHAGGA**
**SUGAR  
SATURDAY  
TAKEOVER**
**SOUND SLAVES  
& YOU TAKE OVER**  
3-4-£5 ON SELECTED DRINKS

@TheSugarhouse thesugarhouse

**THE SUGARHOUSE**



# ANSWERS FROM ALEX SQUARE

Comment Editors Daniel Snape and Bryony Seager have been asking for your opinions on the latest big news issues to hit Lancaster University. Thank you to everyone who took part and look out for us next week!

## DO YOU THINK STUDENT LIVING IS AFFORDABLE? ARE HIDDEN COSTS A PROBLEM?

Textbooks are very pricey per term for me. - Amy, 2nd year Law

The private rental in town is expensive. Access to books can be problematic. You often have to buy more books than you're originally told about. - Antonia, 3rd year PPE

It's expensive! I live on campus so bus passes aren't a problem. Textbooks costs are something they don't tell you about when you join. - Gary, 3rd year Engineering

Sometimes your loan only covers the rent! I have to go and see compulsory shows for my degree that I wasn't told about which are expensive. - Rachel, 3rd year Theatre Studies

Student living is so expensive. Medical students get an NHS bursary and it's still horrible. Most have to get part-time jobs because it's that bad. Five years of nine grand fees is a lot. If I was leaving college now, I wouldn't become a medical student. - Mustafa, 5th year Medicine



## WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE FREE EDUCATION DEMO?

I went to one in 2012. I think the reasons for the demo are right but I'm not sure it will change anything. - Alessia, 3rd year Law & Criminology

I didn't know it was happening. I saw the poster of Nick Clegg going back on his promises floating around Facebook... the NUS should be supporting it. - Amy, 2nd year Law

I didn't know there was a demo! But seeing as I'm coming out of university with a huge debt I can only be in support of it. - Gary, 3rd year Engineering

No, I don't believe in free education because, without us paying for tuition, the level of education and the facilities would not be as good. I also think that the NUS backing out of the demo was a sensible thing to do. You can't go along with the demo because they

would not benefit from that either. - Alex, 1st year Law

I think free education sounds good. I don't know enough about it to really say if it would help the universities, though. But NUS withdrawing from the demo is probably bad for us. I think they should have stuck with their promise, really, because it's just not fair to have such high tuition fees. I think the lecturers understand that too, and

they should stand with us. - Clodagh, 2nd year Environmental Biology

If safety is the NUS's concern, I think if something were to happen and they'd gone ahead despite those concerns, then there'd be big trouble for them. They have to consider personal safety, definitely. If that's their stated reason then it's not an ulterior motive or anything. - Paul, 5th year Medicine

## ARE ACCOMMODATION PRICES AFFORDABLE? SHOULD LUSU DO MORE TO HOLD THE UNIVERSITY IN CHECK ON THIS?

It wouldn't put me off too much living on campus. The high standard is what makes it worth it. If there were more good standard things in town I would live there though. - Amy, 2nd year Law

Definitely! I lived in the cheapest accommodation in first year for £73 but this year this same room is £86. I don't understand why it keeps increasing. LUSU Living in town is more expensive than going private – why is that? - Alessia, 3rd year Law & Criminology

My room is big so I feel I'm getting my money's worth! - Hannah, 1st year English Language

I think it's overpriced. In Lonsdale it's gone to over £120! In town it's much cheaper for the same standard. - Antonia, 3rd year PPE

Since first year the price has gone up £5 a week and services have been cut such as taking the bins out. - Gary, 3rd year Engineering

I think living on campus at Lancaster could be a bit cheaper, but I think off-campus is affordable. But I'm a first-year, so I don't have the best knowledge of it. I do think the price of accommodation on campus is quite tragic, actually. People talk about the political system and how the country's run by private school kids but then university is so expensive. Accommodation prices could be reduced to that we can add a little bit more diversity to our universities. - Alex, 1st year Law

I've never lived on campus. I guess one of the reasons I didn't decide to move here was the cost of accommodation. I was a choice between having a car and travelling, or getting rid of the car and living here. - Paul, 5th year Medicine

In town it's not so bad but the Uni accommodation is pretty expensive. It's lovely that the accommodation's nice – I was in Cartmel last year – but it is just too much. - Clodagh, 2nd year Environmental Biology



## HOW MUCH DO YOU USE YOUR PURPLE CARD? IS IT WORTH IT?

I don't have one now because I didn't get much use out of it when I had one in 1st year. - Gary, 3rd year Engineering

I use it as student discount in town and for food in college bars and discounts in LUSU Central. - Amy, 2nd year Law

Mostly for discounts into Sugar! - Hannah, 1st year English Language

I think they're good. I use it for Sugar. - Rachel, 3rd year Theatre Studies

I have a Purple card. I think it's useful for the £1 discount at Sugar! I haven't actually found any other use for it, particularly. I think I'll have made the price back in a couple of months. - Alex, 1st year Law

I don't think Purple card is worth it. I don't drink and it's mostly alcohol-based discounts. I definitely haven't made my money back yet. - Clodagh, 2nd year Environmental Biology





**POWERUP**

**ELECTIONS**



CCCO & JCR  
ELECTIONS

**VOTING**

**OPENS**



WEDNESDAY  
**WEEK 8**  
FROM 10AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION : [lsu.vp.development@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:lsu.vp.development@lancaster.ac.uk)



# Should the Assisted Dying Bill become law?

YES

SOPHIE BARBER

Recently, Lord Falconer's Assisted Dying Bill went to a third reading in parliament, proposing a new law under which terminally ill adults could choose to end their own lives. In the UK currently, it is illegal to assist someone to die. 76% of people in England and Wales believe this needs to change, and so the new bill has been met with a furore of approval.

The proposed legislation could mean that only people over the age of 18 who are considered mentally competent are able to determine their own deaths. It also highlights that a doctor or nurse cannot administer the medication, only provide it and assist the patient. These strict legal safeguards are in place specifically to stop anyone abusing the new law.

In my opinion, this bill is long overdue. Many people who suffer from fatal and terminal diseases end their lives in unbearable amounts of pain, with little control over anything. This law would allow sufferers to take back some autonomy; they would be able to limit their own pain and choose a dignified death, instead of an impossibly long and drawn out process.

Criticisms of this bill seem to fall pretty flat. It has been implemented in the US state of Oregon for the past 16 years, and no cases of abuse have ever been recorded. There have not been any large scale problems with the law, such as people trying to force those who are mentally ill to acquiesce. Quite the contrary: the suffering of terminal patients seems to have lessened considerably.

As for people who deem the bill as a way to assist suicide, they couldn't be more wrong. The patients who benefit from the new law are those whose prognosis has given them six months or less to live. Health professionals must confirm that there is no possibility of recovery from the illness. Adults must also be in a healthy state of mind, so those suffering from depression or other mental illnesses would not meet the criteria for this process and so could not legally end their own lives. After making the choice to die, patients have a number of days in which they can revoke this decision if they change their minds. Therefore, the risk of people being assisted in their death without proper consideration or consent is pretty much non-existent.

In general, there is very little public, legal, or parliamentary desire to punish those who, at the current time, must go abroad with their significant others to fulfil their

wishes for an assisted death. Surely, it would be much easier and more comfortable for these people and their loved ones to be able to remain at home when making this monumental choice?

It is cruel and morally unfair to place restrictions on someone's ability to control their own life and death. The dignity of these people is put in jeopardy if the government refuses to pass this bill. Their suffering can become intolerable. For exam-



Michael Chen

ple, somebody with terminal cancer may end their life in agony, with little control or dignity. The new bill would allow that person to choose the time of their own death and enjoy the time they have left with their loved ones, unmarred by physical deterioration. Although palliative care is in place for these situations, this often cannot compensate for a patient's loss of bodily functions, or make up for the prospect of a dignified end being taken away from them.

In such a forward thinking, liberal country, I don't think I am alone in believing that this bill can only bring positive effects in people's lives. Losing somebody is hard enough as it is; watching them suffer seems unnecessary and hurtful for everybody involved. We can only hope that Lord Falconer's bill is made an Act of Parliament soon, allowing those people with terminal illnesses some final moments of dignity.

JULIA MOLLOY

[@JRMOLLOY2](#)

As a practising Catholic, it would be very easy for me to hide behind my faith and say: "Catholic teaching does not agree with assisted dying, and therefore I don't." However, my opposition to the Assisted Dying Bill, proposed by Lord Falconer, is far more complicated than religious belief – and in fact, it has very little to do with my faith at all.

her eyes. She argued that, should the Assisted Dying Bill become law: "People would look at me and ask why I am alive and not asking to be killed." Why would we want to put anyone in that terrible state of mind?

This hits the nub of why the Assisted Dying Bill should not become law. It could seriously destabilise the most vulnerable in our society, pressurising them to consider assisted dying, especially at this time of economic austerity. In Britain there is a culture of not wanting to be a burden, even to our loved ones. By allowing assisted dying to become an option, suddenly terminally ill patients have a way to stop themselves from being a burden, when in fact, with the possibility of palliative care, their quality of life could enable them to spend some valuable time with their loved ones.

None of us can predict the future, and none of us can truly know how many enjoyable hours a patient could spend, free from pain, with loved ones before their death. The late Lynda Bellingham, for example, made the decision to stop chemotherapy, but tried to make it to Christmas, her favourite time of year. If assisted dying was an option, surely hers and other such people's whole mentality will be altered because of the possibility of not only relieving their pain permanently but relieving their loved ones of them being a burden. The Assisted Dying Bill is something of a knife-edge – patients could be cutting short their life without allow for the possibility of palliative care or working for them or advancing technologically so that it will absolutely work for them. Surely there could be nothing worse than realising, after a patient has taken their own life, that they could have had more time together.

There's equally the problem of truly distinguishing whether a patient is of "settled will" to die. Although the bill does necessitate a cooling-off period, would somebody who has just been diagnosed as terminally ill be able to rationally make such an irreversible decision? And how can doctors measure whether someone is of "settled will"? It is a qualitative, subjective measurement, allowing too much room for error.

Death is a terrifying, almost taboo subject area. Bringing the possibility of assisted dying to law would, I think, be a grave mistake. I do believe that human life is sacred; I do agree with Catholic teaching. But opposition to the bill is about much more than that – it's about protecting the vulnerable and not sinisterly giving those who think themselves a burden to society and their loved ones a way of escaping this eventuality.

Lord Falconer's bill has recently been put through a third reading at the House of Lords, with 50 amendments suggested and accusations flying around that the lords are trying to "strangle" the bill. Supporters, on the other hand, argue that the bill is about the choice to die rather than implying that terminally ill patients should take this option. The bill itself proposes that patients have to: be terminally ill with six months or less to live; be mentally sound and have a "settled will" to die; have two doctors certify that the patient is of settled will to die; and administer the drug to themselves.

What is important to note is that those who brought the concept of assisted dying into the public eye – namely, people such as the late Tony Nicklinson with locked-in syndrome – are not covered by the bill. In fact, some such people are against it. The BBC spoke to a sufferer of motor neurone disease, who can only communicate using technology controlled by the movement of





# **POWERUP**



**GENERAL MEETING**  
COMING SOON



THURSDAY  
6PM  
**WEEK 8**

INFO / AGENDA ITEMS :  
[lusu.vp.development@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:lusu.vp.development@lancaster.ac.uk)



# Lords reform: a decision for the public?

STEPH MITCALF **BUSINESS EDITOR**

The idea of reforming the House of Lords is not new. The most significant Lords reform took place under Tony Blair and New Labour, when all but 92 hereditary peers were removed. However, rhetoric has exceeded action on all sides around this issue ever since. Gordon Brown's government pledged within their 2005 election manifesto to remove the last 92 hereditary peers, though he did not. The coalition agreement towards an elected House collapsed after the Lib Dems faced difficulty reaching a compromise with the Conservatives. Only recently, Ed Miliband announced Labour's plans for the Lords to be replaced by an elected 'senate', placing much more emphasis on having a more varied membership based on regional factors. Is anything likely to come of it this time?

The main argument against the House of Lords as it stands today

is that the institution is seen to be undemocratic. Peers are appointed, not elected. They are therefore not directly accountable to the voters. This calls into question the legitimacy of the chamber. Additionally, once a person has been granted a peerage, they are a Lord or Baroness for life. They may not be voted out at the next general election. Some commentators feel that this means the members of the chamber are not representative of the public.

More recently, the regional origin of members of the Lords has come under closer scrutiny. The perceived under-representation of Northern England has been much more heavily debated after David Cameron reignited discussions about regional assemblies and the West Lothian question, following the Scottish referendum. Lords membership favours London and the South East. Milliband told a conference in Blackpool at the end of October that the upper

chamber "fails to represent large parts of the UK". He highlighted that the north-west has almost as large a population as London, yet London has five times as many members in the Lords.

Opinion polls tend to show that the public wants House of Lords reform. A 2012 YouGov poll, commissioned by Unlock Democracy, found that 69% of respondents favoured a partly elected House of Lords. Of these, 33% favoured a wholly elected House. However, public opinion was not strong enough to stop the Conservatives from veering away from their agreement with the Liberal Democrats for reform.

There are also convincing arguments as to why the second chamber should not be subject to radical changes. The House of Lords is subordinate to the House of Commons. Should the House of Lords be fully elected, as pushed for by the Liberal Democrats and

more recently by Labour's proposed reforms, the two Houses face a dilemma. If they are both elected chambers, they would, theoretically, hold equal legitimacy to implement policy. However, within the legislative framework, the Commons may override the House. So which House would be subordinate in the event that they hold equal legitimacy? Baroness Boothroyd herself expressed concerns that the Lords would become a "second-rate version of the House of Commons".

Furthermore, the House of Lords is largely made up of experts and specialists in particular fields. The House of Commons frequently comes under criticism on the basis of being full of 'career politicians'. The Lords is a counter balance to this. If you search the 'Members of the Lords' section of the government's website, you will find that many have established careers and interests, and membership of associations and charitable or-

ganisations, which is not nearly as prevalent amongst members of the Commons. There are 175 peers who serve as crossbenchers, i.e. they are not strongly aligned to a party and therefore are not subject to the whip in the way members of the Commons are. Even in the event that they do represent a party, whips are much less influential in the Lords. Peers largely act on what they actually think and provide perspectives on legislation others may fail too on the basis they must 'toe the party line'.

There are strong arguments on both sides of the debate. A wholly elected House may cause substantial issues. Abolition would similarly be a large loss to the British political system. Before making a decision that will significantly alter the composition of the UK constitution for centuries to come, politicians need to be sure of the priorities of the public and do the best they can to reflect this.

# Vladimir Putin: making a scene 101

BRYONY SEAGER **COMMENT EDITOR**

@BEINGBRYONY

A picture often speaks louder than words, and the photograph taken of the leaders who attended the G20 summit last week certainly does that. Vladimir Putin, the infamous leader of Russia, is out on the end of the front row, looking as if he has been cast adrift from the centre of politics. Effectively, he has. The Canadian prime minister is noted to have said to him: "I only have one thing to say to you: you need to get out of Ukraine." Blunt words for a supposedly peaceful meeting.

Putin isn't any stranger to blunt words, however, as early in November he announced that there was nothing wrong with the Nazi-Soviet pact (also known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact), which the Soviet Union made with the Third Reich. It was a treaty of non-aggression between the two nations, stating that they would carve up Poland, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Romania between them. These comments were made by the Russian presi-

dent when talking with young historians in Moscow, urging them to critically examine the causes of the second world war.

These comments are a direct U-turn from ones that the Putin regime made in 2009 when he condemned the same pact, but said that the Munich Agreement of 1938 made by Britain and France destroyed any chance of an anti-fascist front. Critics have said that the comments Putin made last week are a blatant attempt to shore up Putin's authoritarian regime and his position in Ukraine by using history as justification. A pact that agreed to a division of land in Eastern Europe might naturally cause alarm in that part of the world, but once again it seems like mostly hot air from the ultimate balloon. I don't think it's something to get too wound up about just yet.

I'm not trying to say that Putin isn't a threat to the stability of Eastern Europe, because I believe he is, but to deny the words of Gorbachev from last week I don't believe we're already in a third

cold war. This might seem even more likely as Putin himself has threatened this outcome during a tit-for-tat expulsion of German and Polish diplomats from Moscow after a supposed Russian spy was expelled from Warsaw. These moves all seem to portray Putin as being the ultimate bully-boy, flexing his muscles and causing mayhem just to big-up his own ego. Putin's awareness of his image, and the image he'd like to portray, is undeniable; most of us have seen the picture of him bare-chested in army trousers having done 10,000 push-ups or whatever the caption says. This is compounded by the extremely silly fact that an art exhibition recently shown in Moscow had Putin portrayed as the Greek demi-God Hercules in traditional scraped-away-black pottery style of ancient Greece, but they all had a modern twist. Some of the paintings showed Putin defending Russia against terrorism, whilst others showed him wrestling with western sanctions. The exhibition was opened to celebrate Putin's 62nd birthday last month.



Dmitry Terekhov

In terms of what is going on in Ukraine, maybe the man has a goal in mind. He continues to deny that Russia has supplied arms to the rebel separatists in the area despite continued international pressure about the question. What is striking, more than anything, is Putin's seeming lack of concern about what anyone else says or does; he headed home from the G20 early,

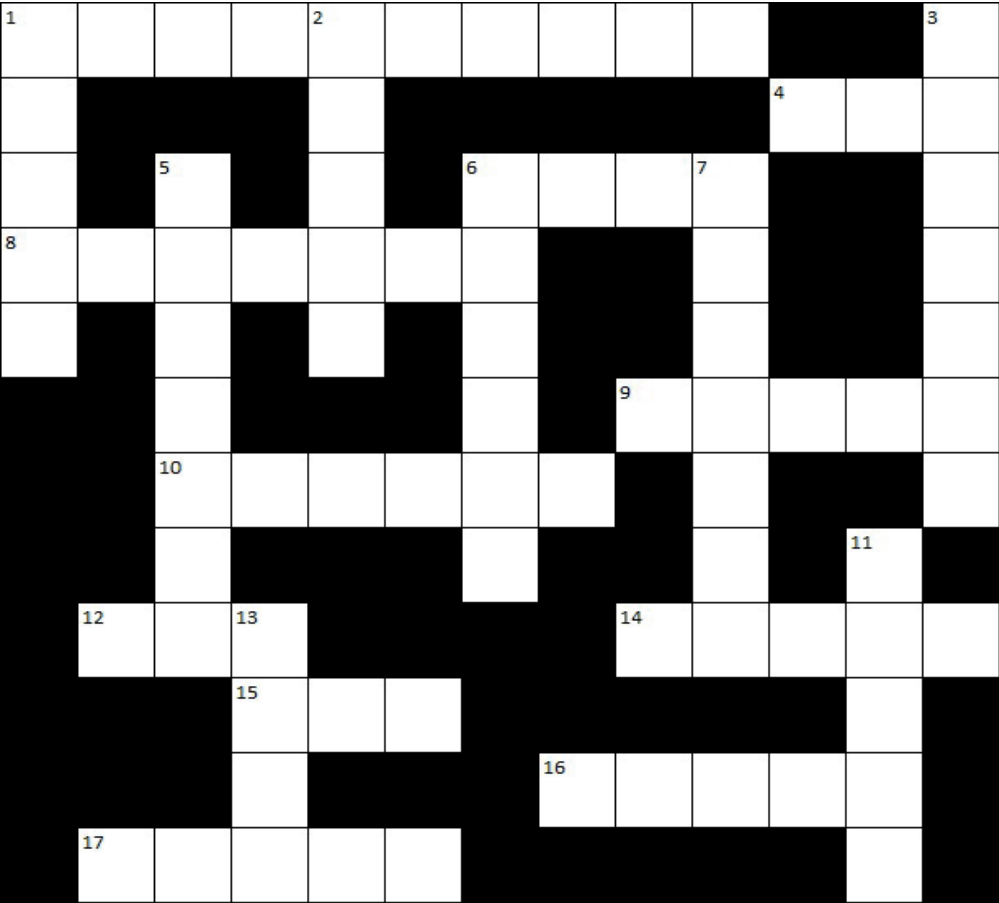
claiming he needed a good night's sleep. He is seemingly convinced about the power behind him, and whether his words are just bluster or not, his highlighting of various incidents in Russian history that seemingly mirror today's events can only add to the image of this authoritarian and domineering figure.



# PUZZLES

BY JONNY SPICER PUZZLE MASTER

## CROSSWORD



- Across
- Down
1. Relating to something on the edge of something else (10)

4. Hill or rocky peak (3)

6. Pulled tight (4)

8. Back-stabber (7)

9. Feel a sharp, stinging pain (5)

10. Spanish rice dish (6)

12. Small snake (3)

14. Noble gas (5)

15. Mischievous sprite (3)

16. Main artery from the heart (5)

17. Make an effort to improve one's appearance (5)
1. Religiousness (5)

2. Ski slope (5)

3. Very learned (7)

5. Social blunder (4-3)

6. Three times as large (6)

7. Small wood eating insect (7)

11. Often yellow precious stone (5)

13. Long for (4)

## EQUALIZER

This puzzle is relatively easy and fun. Simply use each of the four basic mathematical operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) in the circles so that each row and column comes to the same number.

3

7

6

○

3

○

3

10

1

12

○

3

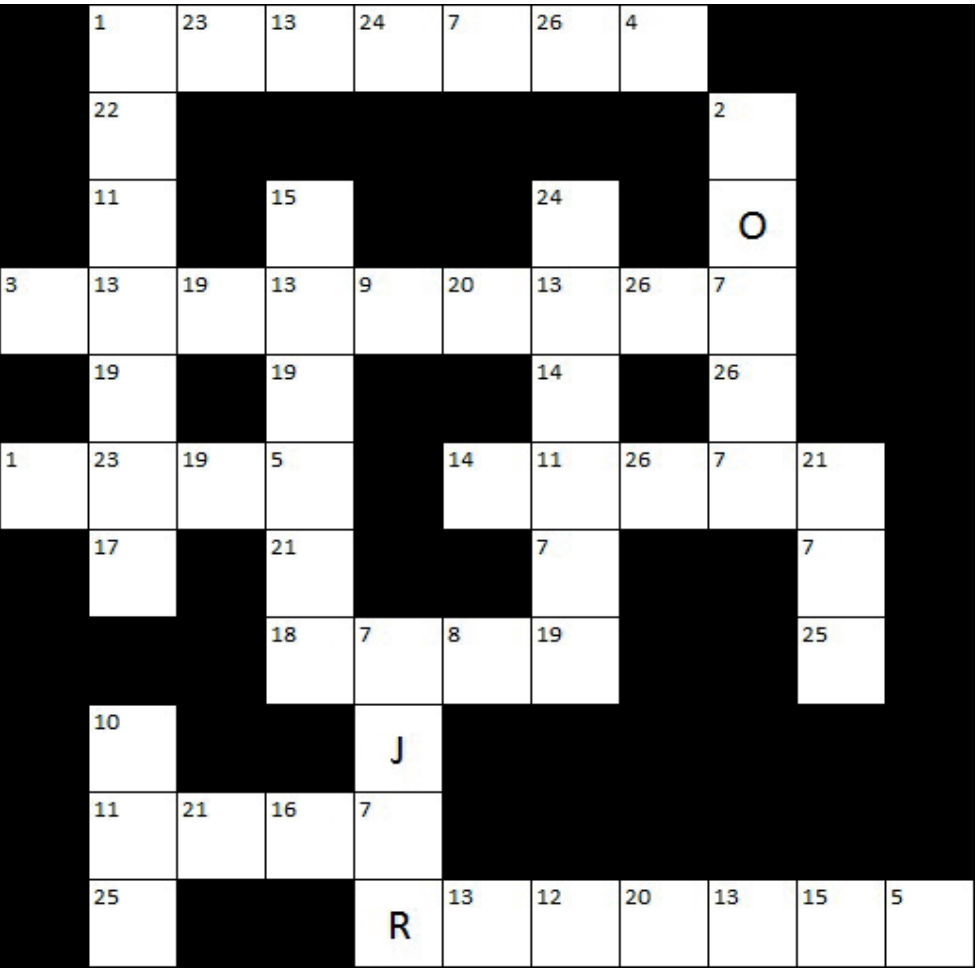
○

11

2

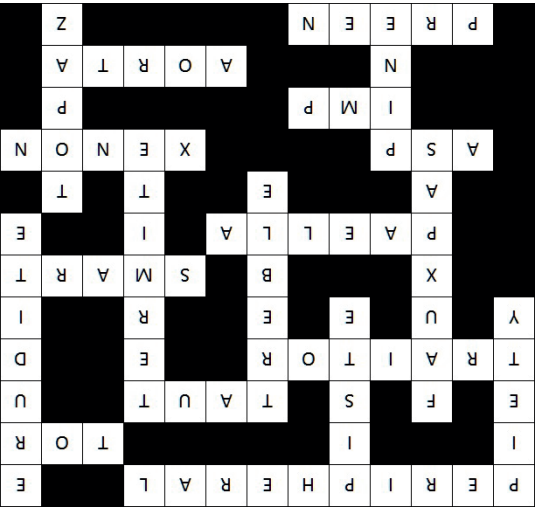
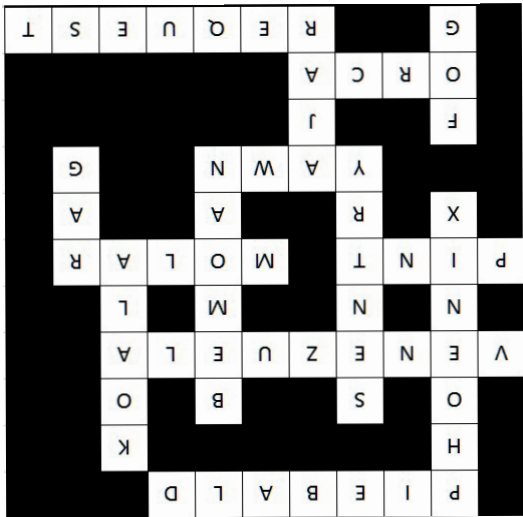
9

## CODEWORD



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6 J	7	8	9	10	11 O	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 R	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

## ANSWERS





# - Know you're - purple®

**Oscar's**  
WINE BAR & BISTRO

PINT OF LAGER

**54p SAVED**



CHEESEBURGER

**99p SAVED**

NEW LOOK

SHIRT

**£1.99 SAVED**

TOPMAN

JEANS

**£3 SAVED**

central

CADBURY DAIRY MILK  
ADVENT CALENDAR 90G

**£1.25 SAVED**

AERO INSTANT BUBBLY  
HOT CHOCOLATE DRINK  
VARIETIES 288G

**£1.54 SAVED**

COLD & FLU REMEDIES

**UP TO 58p SAVED**

## MAKE YOUR £12.95 BACK...

REMEMBER: IF YOU DON'T ASK, YOU DON'T GET!

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

**LUSU**

# Thinking about your housing options for next year?

LUSU Living offers a great value package open to both Lancaster University and University of Cumbria students that includes gas, electricity, water, broadband, TV licence, contents insurance, a cleaning service and remember, **we don't charge a deposit!**

Take a look at the comparisons below and see how much you could **SAVE** next year with LUSU Living

Provider	LUSU Living	LPNM
Accommodation type	Standard	Standard
Weekly rent	£87	£80
Utilities (Gas/Electricity/Water)	✓	£10
Lease length	46 weeks	48 weeks
Deposit	£0	£150
TV Licence	✓	£1*
Contents insurance	✓	£1*
Cleaning service	✓	£2*
Broadband	✓	£2*
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>£4,002</b>	<b>£4,758</b>

✓ Bills included in weekly rent  
\* Optional Services

# living

You could save over  
**£750**  
by choosing LUSU Living  
and we don't charge a deposit!

Phone: 01524 593084 Email: [lusu.living@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:lusu.living@lancaster.ac.uk)

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





---

# CAROLYNNE

---

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT // FEATURES // FASHION // LIFESTYLE



LEE DICKSON BY ABIGAIL DAVIES  
READ THE INTERVIEW ON PAGE 34

## Ockham's Razor - 'Not Until We Are Lost'



**CRISTINA SPOIALA**  
@CRISTINAASSSS

Two unique performances by the aerial theatre company Ockham's Razor, 'Not Until We Are Lost', were shown as part of Live at LICA's initiative to connect cultural events on campus and the city.

The first performance of physical theatre was situated in the LICA building on campus, and the walk to the venue was mesmerising. The imposing square building was lit by dim lights dotted around the pond, creating a fortress-like feel; a perfect preface to the performance taking place at Lancaster Castle two days later.

Like the full show, which takes a

free-flowing structure where the audience moves between different performance spaces, this short preview allowed viewers to place themselves around the scaffolding which hosted the three performers. No seat was required, just an upward gaze as 'Not Until We Are Lost' unfolded above. The audience definitely remained on their toes as the performers jumped and swung across the steel frame.

In many ways, the piece could be described as minimalist; the set was simple (featuring only a frame of steel rods) and the performance featured no lines or spoken words. Despite this almost clinical approach, Ockham's Razor managed to perfectly convey themes of friendship, love and support with

great warmth and emotion. The small cast of three swung, shuffled, climbed and fell about their frame, illustrating how movement alone can portray emotions that are understood by all.

One criticism would be the short length of the show, which was repeated several times during the evening. After only 15 minutes, I was left wanting more. Thankfully, more was offered later in the week at Lancaster Castle – although this second performance was also just a short 15 minute taste of what Ockham's Razor have to offer.

Against the fantastic backdrop of the castle, this second piece involved a different set of actors, although was also part of 'Not Until We Are Lost'. The audience were left to place themselves around a ceiling-height class cylinder and many seemed unsure of what to expect. This structure provided the only light in the courtyard, with a lone performer stood inside. A man trapped? Lost? Through this simple imagery, the imaginations of the audience were immediately captured - the buzz of curiosity and excitement was clear.

Once again, we watched the man

perform, by climbing and sliding, within this confined space. I was in awe of the skill and bravery shown; at one point he slid head first down into the tube, leaving the audience gasping. Although the staging was brilliant, the audience's reactions were equally as captivating.

From the crowd, a woman emerged. Despite being outside of the confines of the man's cage, they worked in harmony, performing both separately and together. No words were exchanged; again, the movements and silent interactions were enough to convey the emotions and messages clearly. In the climax, the woman helped the man out of his glass cage so they can climb down to the ground together. No longer lost perhaps? This is too early for me though; before I know it they were walking away through the crowd - forever lost to us.

People within the audience started softly singing along, another moving touch by the company whose use of local volunteers in every performance integrates the community within the work produced outside of Lancaster. A touching ending to their last performance

of 'Not Until We Are Lost'.

Afterwards, I was able to talk to Jensen Tudtud, a Lancaster student and member of the choir involved. He said: "I performed for the company in 2012, the last time they were in Lancaster, and we were the second choir they've had back then. The newly formed choir this year was the fourteenth! Everyone involved couldn't quite believe how fast time has flown by. Only three of us could rejoin the new choir as most of the former singers graduated in July.

"It's been really wonderful hearing the songs (re)interpreted and we've been super lucky to have our choirmaster Anna Flannagan work with our voices. The aerial artists never cease to amaze me, by both their astonishing physical prowess and their modesty as creative collaborators. They headlined the Mime Festival in London two years ago and performed at the Sydney Festival in January before they returned for Light Up Lancaster - still after all that, they were so delighted to come back and do this show for us. The Lancaster choir feel very privileged in taking part - it's been a truly unforgettable experience."

## STAY CULTURED

### Playing Another (Live at LICA)



Candoco Dance Company, the renowned contemporary dance group of disabled and non-disabled dancers, is twisting perceptions of what dance is, who can dance and who enjoys it in an evening of two new works. Thomas Hauert creates a structured improvisational piece over the score of 'Tosca's Kiss', and Hetain Patel presents an intimate exploration of dancers' personalities and physicalities.

Nuffield Theatre - Thursday, week 8

### Cinderella (the Dukes)



This festive season, the Dukes are presenting a brand new take on a classic fairytale. Life is tough for Ella on the farm: Dad is away, the family has hit hard times and then her sisters are forever preening themselves in the mirror and making her a misery. With live music and songs, puppets and bags of laughter, this show promises a big hearted theatrical treat for party-goers of all ages.

The Round - Friday, week 8 onwards

### Two From A Smith (Live at LICA)



Lancaster based Theatre Maker Andy Smith (co-director of the award winning plays *An Oak Tree*, *ENGLAND* and *The Author*) returns with this unique double-bill of solo performances. Using his trademark conversational style, 'Commonwealth' and 'All That is Solid Melts Into Air' are connected by their desire to contemplate the world we live in, and think a bit about how we might change it.

Nuffield Theatre - Tuesday, week 9

### ULMS Christmas Concert



The university's Music Society will be hosting a large festive concert with all their large ensembles. The big band, brass band, swing group, symphony orchestra, wind band, choir and string orchestra will be performing a selection of Christmas music in Lancaster Cathedral. For tickets, which are £5 for students, email [a.stephen@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:a.stephen@lancaster.ac.uk) - any remaining will be available on the door.

Lancaster Cathedral - Thursday, week 10





JAMIE MILLS  
@JHRM94

Citing Foals, Arctic Monkeys and the Cure as their main influences, Bristol-born 5 piece indie band Coasts have resolutely resisted the overtures of the major record companies and embarked on a unique and independent path. I spoke with keyboard player David about the history of the band and what they are busy with at the moment.

The next 12 months promises to be absolutely huge for Coasts. A 12-date headline UK tour beginning later this month, including a stop at Heaven in London, is just the beginning. The tour coincides with the release of their second EP, *A Rush of Blood* (released 1st December), the title track of which has already gained widespread attention. Then it's just a matter of finishing their debut album and heading across the pond for a North American tour, during which time they'll play 2 festival dates including a slot at the legendary Lollapalooza. Their album gets released in June - perfect timing for the European festival season. Amongst all the touring they will find time to perform live on Made in Chelsea and maybe even take a couple of minutes to sit down.

The members of Coasts met at the University of Bristol and began playing together in 2011 after moving to Bath. None of them had any serious musical experience, but their passion for music brought the band together. In their own words it also seemed

"better than getting a real job". They began rehearsing over the summer in the crypt of a church, something they felt heavily influenced the band's sound. Playing in that underground space with the sun outside definitely "gave a darker tone to those early songs" and helped create their own brand of indie pop: big choruses, dark lyrics and beautiful melodies. The band draw heavily on dance music, principally Calvin Harris, but try to "bring guitar and drums to that sound".

The early years of Coasts were spent focusing on rehearsing and writing rather than touring. David explains that they wanted to really make sure "all the music sounded great" before playing it for other people. 2012 saw the release of their debut EP *Paradise*, which received a huge boost when a song from that album, 'Oceans', was featured on Made in Chelsea. David told me how appreciative they were of being on the show: "they've been really good to us; the support they give to new artists is fantastic." Relentless touring followed, and they developed a strong fanbase. Despite this success they stayed with their independent label Tidal Recordings, choosing to maintain a creative control.

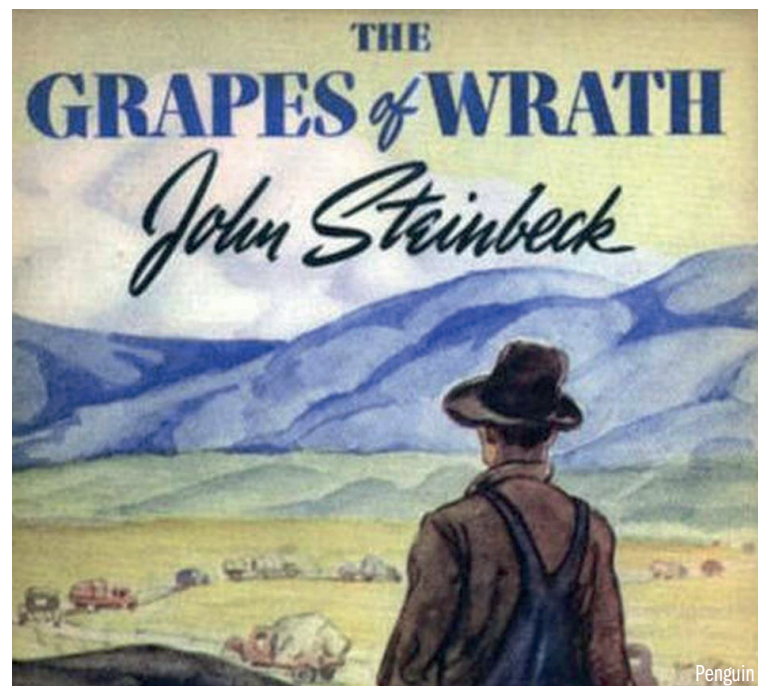
Two more years of songwriting and touring have got the band to where they are now. Hitting the studio in January, they recorded the tracks 'Let Go', 'Wash Away', and 'Lions' before returning later in the year to re-record 'A Rush of Blood', this time with James Rushent (Does It Offend

You, Yeah?'s frontman), who added "synthesizer madness" to the song. The band were incredibly excited to work on the new EP with producer Mike Spencer (Emeli Sande, John Newman, Foxes), whose impact on the British music is already evident. Having found early on that a democratic approach to music created difficulties in getting ideas across, their method now centres on a guitar riff from which lyrics are added, and the song is built from there.

The band is unashamed in their ambition. When I asked David where they'd like to be in 5 years time he said: "We want to be a couple of albums down the line and to be headlining arena shows. We want to be the biggest band in the world; we want to be the next Coldplay." The response to the music so far would suggest they are perfectly capable; 'Oceans' has already received nearly 2 million hits on Spotify, and the band's hard-work ethic, combined with their musical talent, will undoubtedly pay dividends. A big step has undoubtedly been signing to Capitol records to release their music in North America and organise a US tour next year. The band felt "there is a bit of glass ceiling if you're not with a major label - the clout they can bring you can really make a difference."

*Coasts' new EP A Rush of Blood will be out on Monday, week 9, and they will be playing Sound Control in Manchester on the following Sunday.*

## 75 years of The Grapes of Wrath



DESSITA PETROVA

2014 marks the 75th anniversary of the publication of *The Grapes of Wrath*, deservedly earning John Steinbeck a Pulitzer Prize for its artistic and social merits. The story revolves around a farmer family who leave their home in Oklahoma and travel to California in search of a better life. The novel itself reflects the turbulent 1920s in America at the time; horrid sandstorms and droughts made agriculture impossible. Farmers' inability to produce a crop led to their failure to pay the banks what they owed, meaning land was taken away from them. California was their promised land, bewitching them with its abundance of young fruit trees and green fields.

With their loaded caravans, thousands of families set off to find work, food and land. Their utopian ideals are shattered shortly after arrival; justly paid work was hard to find. Most of the land there belongs to rich and satiated owners who care only about profit. The farmers' labour is exploited: they are forced to live in horrible conditions and work day and night for a loaf of bread. They have moved from one hellish place to another, but before long realise that maybe justice could still exist - there are a lot of them in the same boat after all.

Steinbeck skilfully draws parallels with the real happenings in America in *The Grapes of Wrath*. Every other chapter is an interlude which slows down the pace of the narrative and opens the reader's eyes to the reality of the non-fictional context. The novel creates the notion of a new world built through a revolution - a fierce united struggle against the oppression. In some places of America, the book was banned and even burnt for its "dangerous" influence. As the book clearly indicated Steinbeck's stance on capitalism, he was labelled as a communist and as a Marxist ideologist, and the novel itself was considered by many to be an act of propaganda. Even the FBI were watching the author's every move but found no reason to prosecute him. Conversely however, the association of farmers were also unhappy because of the way Californian farmers were portrayed in the book, condemning it as libellous.

The scope of the book's effect on the nation was phenomenal, and that in itself is justification for its labelling as one of the great American novels. Equally important however, *The Grapes of Wrath* is an excellent story about the willingness to go out of your way to help your fellow man, and is one everyone should read at some point in their life.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## INTERVIEW

# Embrace

CHRIS BICKLEY  
@CHRISBICKLEY1

*Having scored their third #1 Album in 2006, Embrace were pretty much silent until 2013, when they began a string of mysterious secret gigs in undisclosed locations. This was succeeded by a self-titled album with a new electronic sound.*

*Whilst most synonymous with the Britpop hit 'All You Good Good People' and power pop anthems 'Ashes' and 'Nature's Law', the Yorkshire band have gained new fans with this change in style. I was able to grab 10 minutes on the phone with bassist Steve Firth the other day to ask him about Embrace's current and future plans.*

**First things first, are you looking forward to your upcoming tour?**

Yeah, I always look forward to touring, it's the icing on the cake really. You've done the album and you want to get out and play it to people.

**You seem to have taken on an electronic style with the new album. Was that intentional?**

Yeah I think its music we've been listening to for the past few years,

especially Rick [Richard McNamara, guitarist] who's been listening to a lot of dubstep and things and I think it's kind of influenced the writing process. Plus you've got to progress your sound or else it stalls and just sounds retro doesn't it? You've got to try and move with the times. It wasn't intentional to sound "current", it was just that we listen to a lot of music and have absorbed it.

**Was there a subconscious urge to try and reinvent yourselves then perhaps?**

I think so yeah. We've tried it with a few of our albums, but the previous album to this didn't really go anywhere and it didn't really move on. You've got to keep moving on or else you're just being yourself and it's boring to be you.

**Would you say the recording and writing process has been vastly different to *This New Day* [their last album] then?**

Yes definitely. We had no record company involved really, no one breathing down our necks. No one really saying "you need to write singles for the radio" or anything like that. It was just us writing music that we liked. Sometimes obviously we do procrastinate and

go on forever and you do need someone outside the organisation to tell you to get things done, and we didn't have that. So it's a good thing and it's a bad thing.

**The fans have reacted well, how did you want them to react to the new sound?**

Well we just realised it's really hard out there. There's so much music out there, it's got to be really good and so we worked on it until we thought it was the best we could do and we've been really happy with the response. The audience seems to like the new songs as much as the old songs which – of my experience of going to gigs – is not always the case. People usually tend to like bands' old stuff.

**It's been a long time since your last release; what made you decide that 2014 was going to be the year to return?**

Basically it took us a long time because we decided to have some time off after the last album, just so we could all do other things. It was meant to be six months but it turned into a couple of years before we could get everyone back in the room together. And when we started it was very little other than a few demos Rick had made. So it

just took a long time. We thought we'd finished it in 2013, but we kept writing new songs that were better than the songs on the album, so we just kept going. Basically we all ran out of ideas and we were all happy and decided it was time to put it out. There was no big masterplan, it was when we were all just happy with it, we tried to get our new label Cooking Vinyl to put it out.

**Could you tell us about the thought process of doing secret gigs for the past year and a bit?**

Oh god the thought process...it's something that evolved. It's something that we really really enjoy. We organise everything. We come up with a strange idea, we find a strange place, we do everything. And it's hard work but it's really rewarding. The fans love it because it's different and it's exciting. It got to the stage where we did a secret festival where no one knew where they were going until the day before! We've had zombie themes, we've had a secret gig in a cave, we've done one on a beach... We were just trying to do something different, because we'd played a lot of the normal venues on the normal circuit so many times we can't even remember them half the time, so we were creating memories for ourselves and our fans.

**What do you think the next step will be after this tour?**

Well we're working on another album at the moment. We've got maybe seven songs which are of the right standard and that we're really pleased with. There's talk of going to America and doing some more gigs in the Spring, and if anyone comes up with a really unusual secret gig we'll do that. We don't want to go away this time, we want to hang around for as long as we can.

**Do you reckon that was the most difficult period for you in Embrace, the 8-year gap between records?**

Yeah the first couple of years of it was, where we weren't really seeing much of each other. It was kind of like; is it going to happen or not? Our keyboard player started his own band Talk To Angels and Mike, our drummer, had started managing another band and it was kind of like; is it

going to happen? We weren't sure. We love what we're doing and we all get on as friends. With some bands it's really hard to work but with us, we just get together. We've known each other twenty years now - we're all just good buddies and we get on with it. It was a bit depressing to think it might have finished, but I'm glad it didn't.

**If you have one, what would you say has been your biggest regret of your career?**

I don't really have regrets - it's always been everything that's happened has happened for a reason kind of thing, and we wouldn't be here and we wouldn't be the band we are without all the bad decisions we've made over the years. I know Rick, if you asked him, would be doing the football song ['World At Your Feet']. We had about two days to decide on that and like three days to record it and it all seemed to happen in a bit of a blur. He was not really interested in football and he didn't really want anything to do with it, so I know that's what he'd say!

**Do you think that song gave you a bit of a stigma too?**

Well we knew it was going to be a poisoned chalice because no one else wanted to do it. But nothing ventured!

**And they couldn't rope the Lightning Seeds back in again could they?**

No I think they asked a load of bands and they all said no! "No we're not touching that!" Literally I think we had a night to decide on it and we thought, "Why not? Let's have a go."

**So if England turn up again in a couple of years asking for another song?**

No it's not worth doing in the slightest! Real football fans didn't like it and we didn't get much out of it. We went to a couple of football matches and I think the record company had to pay the FA for the pleasure of us doing it. Nothing worth doing, but I don't regret it, haha!

*Embrace are touring throughout November and December. For the full interview, visit our website.*



# Traditional TV channels: swimming against the stream



**RORY MELLON**

Television is dying whilst simultaneously reaching new heights. Perhaps I should rephrase: *traditional* television is dying. The days of planning your life around network schedules for fear of missing your favourite show, are long gone. The 21st century has become the decade of convenience and TV is perhaps most representative of this.

It's hard to determine exactly where the decline in the traditional method of watching television started. Perhaps it was when

services like Sky+, Tivo and DVR boxes became commercially viable and widely available. Having to sit through an ad break after a big reveal in *Lost* started to become unthinkable.

Of course Sky+ launched over a decade ago so they can't really be to blame for the decline in the viewers of traditional television networks. The real culprit is a little service known as Netflix, and by little I mean behemoth that is single handedly responsible for around a third of all US internet traffic.

It's not the typical network-pro-

duced shows that are available to stream instantly on Netflix that have the channel big-wigs running scared, it's Netflix's original programs. It's hard to argue the quality of such original hits as *House of Cards* and *Orange is the New Black*, and whilst Netflix doesn't release total viewing numbers, industry predictions using internet traffic stats suggest they have a viewer base most network executives can only dream off.

It's easy to look at network juggernauts such as *The Walking Dead* (AMC) and *Game of Thrones* (HBO) and claim that traditional television is alive and thriving, but that would be false. These shows are very much the exception, not the rule. And HBO are even restructuring their on-demand service purely because of how many people are choosing watch *Game of Thrones* online illegally - people would obviously prefer to watch something when it suits them, and that's exactly what Netflix is about.

In the UK, networks such as the BBC, ITV and Channel 4 have all launched their own on-demand services in order to stay up to date. Perhaps more telling is that all

three of them have experimented with putting shows up on these services before they air on television. How many people sit at home to watch *The Apprentice* on a Wednesday night at 9pm rather than watch it on the BBC iPlayer when they have a free hour?

It's not just Netflix that is putting out its own original programs. Amazon Instant Video (which launched earlier this year in the UK) has crafted an interactive system allowing subscribers to vote on which original series should be picked up for a full season. Yahoo recently announced it would be carrying on the cult classic series *Community* after it was cancelled by US network NBC, similarly to what Netflix did with *Arrested Development*. Television networks have never faced such large and high quality competition.

The phrase "I'll just wait for it to come to Netflix" hasn't yet become commonplace, but it's likely to. Netflix recently announced it would have the first series of Batman prequel *Gotham* just days after it finished its traditional television airing. This has led to an "I'll wait" sentiment across the

internet, because why sit through endless advertisements and the frustration of waiting a week for the next episode when you can just binge-watch the whole series, ad free, only a few months later?

We're barely two months into the autumn 2014 television season, which is when shows tend to premiere at least in the US, and it's already been a bloodbath. *A to Z* (NBC), *Bad Judge* (NBC), *Selfie* (ABC) and *Utopia* (FOX) have all debuted to appalling ratings and swiftly been cancelled. Yet Netflix has announced this month that they will be adapting Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events* into a series.

Perhaps acclaimed director David Fincher (who directed the first episode of *House of Cards*) put it best when he said "The world of 7:30 on Tuesday nights, that's dead. A stake has been driven through its heart." More and more people are turning on their tablets and computers every to watch new shows, whereas less and less people are turning on their TV sets. It's only a matter of time before the traditional means of distributing television shows is laid to rest.

## LUTG Presents 4:48 Psychosis

**ELLIE VOWLES CAROLYNNE EDITOR**  
[@ELLIEVOWLES](#)

*4.48 Psychosis* is the final work of British playwright Sarah Kane, named for the time in the morning that she would often awake during the peaks of her depression. The main subject of the play is this depression; discussion of suicide is a key theme throughout and it should definitely carry a trigger warning for such content. Kane herself committed suicide before the first performance of the play which took place in 2000, a year and a half after her death.

Since then, the staging of the play has varied wildly, partly due to the structure of the original script which featured no setting, stage directions or characters. In

December, Lancaster University Theatre Group will be staging their performance of the play and I was lucky enough to catch up with the directors ahead of their opening night to get a few details of what they have in store.

**Do you fancy revealing any details on how you're planning to stage the play?**

We've been lucky enough to get the Nuffield Theatre as our venue, which is a huge space, so we've set ourselves the challenge of taking advantage of that huge space while still creating a very personal and intimate experience for the audience.

**Every production has been really different. What do you plan on bringing to the script?**

As with most post dramatic texts, *4.48 Psychosis* has no characters or stage directions, which leaves the direction of it completely up to the individual's interpretation, so no two performances of it are ever the same. We plan to focus more on the text itself, staying as far away from the literal as possible, using our ensemble of 8 females to deliver the language to the audience in an open and honest way.

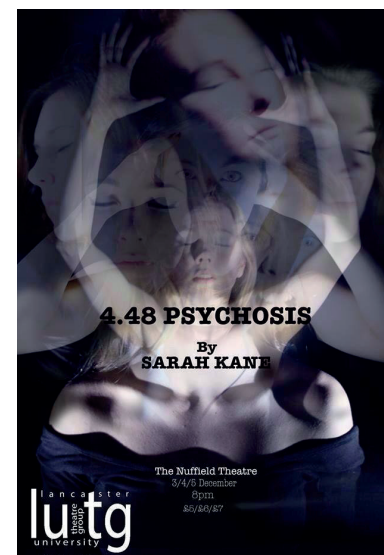
**The script leaves a lot to interpretation – do you think it's more difficult to direct a play that leaves so many decisions for you to make, or do you prefer the creative freedom?**

Although creative freedom was what we first desired when we selected the show to work with, having the creative freedom has

proved much more difficult than we first thought. Because the show is so open to interpretation, every single detail of it has to be designed by us, and designing those details takes a lot of time and hard work!

**How do you plan on handling such an intense and sensitive subject matter?**

We've made the creative decision not to stage the show in the "realistic" setting of a hospital ward so a lot of the intense and sensitive subject matter has been left to be exposed only through the language itself. We've deliberately put the poetic language of the text in the foreground of the piece to sensitively expose the window Sarah Kane has given us into mental illness.



**3 performances of 4:48 Psychosis will be running at 8pm in the Nuffield Theatre from the 3-5th of December. Contact Lancaster University Theatre Group for ticket information.**



## Review: The Imitation Game



RORY MELLON

It's impossible not to respect Alan Turing; in his tragically short lifetime he achieved more than most could in a thousand. Without his work I wouldn't be sitting here typing this review out on a laptop. But despite how incredible his achievements were they don't translate particularly well to the silver screen, with *The Imitation Game* feeling more like a showcase of Benedict Cumberbatch's acting ability than a genuinely compelling film.

The central narrative is interesting enough following Alan Turing's attempts to crack the enigma code, a Nazi encryption used to disguise all their radio broadcasts. Within the first twenty minutes the main players have been introduced and the game has been set up.

So it's surprising that all the momentum built in the early stages runs out so quickly as the film becomes increasingly slow. Screenwriter Graham Moore does an admirable job but the truth is watching a group of mathemati-

cians try to solve a hugely complex code just doesn't make for the most enthralling viewing. That's not to say the film doesn't have its moments, but enjoyment of *The Imitation Game* comes from an interest in Turing's work rather than an engaging experience.

Like most biopic films, *The Imitation Game* focuses on several different time periods in Alan Turing's life; the lion's share of the film takes place during World War II but we also see him in his final years and as a young boy at school. It's these school boy days

that feel the most out of place; their reason for being included is obvious but they feel unnecessary and frankly rather dull. Which doesn't help with the pacing issues the movie already has...

There's a struggle for focus at the heart of *The Imitation Game* between Turing's work developing what would form the basis for the modern day computer and his sexuality. These two plot threads aren't interwoven well, instead feeling like separate entities that are switched between when one runs out of steam. This focus on two different aspects means that neither gets the attention it deserves, and both come off worse.

Benedict Cumberbatch, an actor I've always found to be hugely overrated, shines in a lead role worthy of all the nominations he's sure to land come awards season. Alan Turing is an endlessly fascinating man, and the film's best moments all stem from him. Watching him interact with people particularly in an early scene featuring Charles Dance is hysterical. His relationship with Joan Clarke (Keira Knightley) is also explored; these scenes try to give

the proceedings some heart and are moderately successful.

Keira Knightley isn't given a great deal to work with and at times Joan Clarke seems to be overshadowed by the men in her life. Which is a shame because early on the film makes a point of displaying that she is cleverer than most of them, but this is quickly abandoned so she can have picnics and be spoken down to by every male character.

The final third is easily the strongest, which is a shame because the middle is so drab that some audience members may have switched off by that point. The film's slow build up finally has some pay off, with a strangely haunting final scene.

*The Imitation Game* will be remembered for Benedict Cumberbatch's show-stealing performance, but not much else. It's watchable, but it often strays into unenjoyable territory as the audience is subjected to what feels like endless scenes of almost worthlessness. Alan Turing is a fascinating figure but this movie about his life isn't quite as interesting.

## Review: Afrovides



ROSA ROGERS

@ROSALUCYROGERS

'In 1994 a new nation was born. Since then, our artists have been showing the world that South Africa has stories to tell: stories that speak to the collective memory of who we are, that speak of life in South Africa today - stories that link us to the world.'

James Ngcobo - Artistic Director, Afrovides launched an unforgettable festival at the Dukes, designed to entertain and inform people of the South African culture through the power of performance arts. The festival's use of storytelling, dance, drama, music, native paintings, costume and jewellery helped show audiences a vibrant, mesmerizing and true

South African identity.

Entering the Dukes on the launch night, I had to push through the crowd in order to see the opening act on stage: the Dukes Township Café Choir. There were about 30 singers, dancing side-by-side and dressed in South African clothes.

The singers, of many different nationalities, had a shared love for the subject of the songs they were singing. The songs, which originated in Zimbabwe and Namibia, spread a positive atmosphere through the venue; despite the lack of space people were singing and dancing together. South African culture had transformed the room: the décor above the bar included sprayed 'Savana beer' images and the colours recalled the South African imagery. On top of the bar was delicious African cuisine and to the side, a table of handmade crafts and jewellery.

The audience was made up of different ages and cultures, brought together with the shared interest to understand and to experience what Afrovides had to offer.

When the choir had finished, a female poet came to the stage to perform pieces on justice, love and femininity. She taught the audience a South African trait to click in the air and nod their heads when they 'felt' the poem speaking to them; performing the words with everything she had. At first the noise in the bar was too loud to hear her though after a few minutes she had succeeded in silencing the talking (even of children) with her words, and many hands rose to click. Her poetry offered a sense of suffering and also hope that she had experienced; she seemed humble but her performance was inspiring.

The next act of the night was a

full band playing an assortment of instruments from a drum kit, electric guitar and double bass to: cowbells, rain shakers, maracas, djembes, a balafon and kalimba. The dancefloor was full of all ages coming together with the appreciation of the music. They played for around 40 minutes, with songs ranging from African polyrhythm to contemporary and almost Western style music. I saw many hints of reggae and also ska, and was introduced to complex rhythms I had not heard before, but enjoyed very much.

To end the launch party, a DJ from Manchester played old authentic African vinyls, with an upbeat rhythm ready to continue the party through the night. The audience had caught a glimpse of the Afrovides philosophy: the South African style of performance and of what to expect in the week to come.



# Review: A Wing

**CHARLOTTE DAVEY**  
 @CHARLOTTEDUVEY

I would be lying if I were to say that I was a seasoned rave-goer. The fact that I just used the term 'rave-goer' is probably demonstrative of this. But after spending nearly two week's worth of my food budget on a ticket for a night of techno music courtesy of influential Detroit Techno producer and DJ Carl Craig, I decided I should try and make the most of a new experience.

So, on November 1st, my friends and I braved the apocalyptic weather conditions and headed to Lancaster Castle for the fifth 'A Wing' event since it started last spring, the fourth being a Halloween Fancy Dress event on the night before. The raves are held in the A Wing of what was, until 3 years ago, a functioning C-grade prison within the historic walls of

the castle (hence the name). After negotiating the treacherous cobblestones that pave the entrance, you pass through the courtyard and into the prison wing, which appears to have remained virtually untouched since its closure in 2011. While an undeniably atmospheric and unique location, with the bar store room located in one of the only unlocked cells, it is somewhat unsettling to think that we were partying in what had until so recently been some people's dismal home.

Nonetheless, I have been reliably informed that Carl Craig, a big name in techno, played a decent set. Despite the state of the art sound system, however, there was a distinct lack of mid range, but considering techno's primary focus on hi hats and a rolling bass, this did not prove to be a catastrophic loss. Apparently. For those of us less educated in tech-

no music, you were greeted with a wall of sound on entering the prison, which pulsated its way through your body until sometime around lunch the next day. It was only when someone asked us to stay for one more song that I discovered we hadn't just spent the last two and a half hours listening to one song on a loop...

The prison is a vast, eerily sterile environment, which has considerable potential. Its size let it down somewhat though, as before last entry at 11pm, the ground floor was used as a heaving dance floor because entrance to the first floor was temporarily prohibited. As soon as the first floor (where the DJ set was played from) opened after last entry, the downstairs completely emptied, and was only used when people wanted to visit the bar, which seemed to defeat the object of having two considerable floor spaces. The top level consisted of a dance floor and a square walkway overlooking the ground floor, reassuringly fitted with suicide nets. The balcony served as a conven-



ient leaning post, right up by the speakers where you could enjoy having your ear drums perforated whilst shouting incoherently to the person next to you, or observe the empty dance floor on the floor below. One of my main pieces of advice to anyone attending future A Wing events who thinks they may want to buy a drink during the night would be: don't. Unless you are eligible to take out a mortgage. At £4.20 for a can of Red Stripe, A Wing isn't catering to student wallets, particularly those who have just paid nearly £30 to attend the event.

No matter how clichéd this may sound, A Wing really is a unique experience, and could be big news for Lancaster, as the city's equivalent to Manchester's Warehouse Project. Even for the hefty price, I would recommend it to students regardless of their musical preferences, as the prison provides an edgy equivalent to Lancaster's usual sticky clubs - worth the investment for the sake of trying something completely new.

# Is the death of the iPod imminent?

**ELLIOT THOMPSON**  
 @EAT101

2001 saw the launch of the first iPod, the portable music device that went on to revolutionise the way that we listen to music. Fast forward thirteen years and it looks like the iPod could soon be no more.

Over the past decade and a half, the iPod has been one of the must-have gadgets; with the introduction of variations such as the Nano, Shuffle and Touch (which have all seen multiple versions), there was always an iPod to suit everyone. The growth of the market was boosted by the launch of the iTunes store in 2003, allowing members to buy music online which they could store and play on all of their devices. The iPod lifted the restrictions on how much music a person could carry at one time; with marketing slogans such as '1000 songs in your pocket', it was an irresistible piece of technology to the music-lover.

In September 2014 the production

of the iPod Classic, (for all intents and purposes, the modern version of the original iPod), was discontinued by Apple. Many were saddened by this - not just because of the disappearance of the iconic click wheel you have to roll your finger around, but because the device helped pioneer the digital music world. Its demise could highlight the industry's decline in that less people buy music every day.

It's now been four years since the iPod shuffle saw an upgrade and two years for the iPod Nano - have Apple given up on making music players which are not also phones? If you visit an Apple store you'll find the iPhone and Mac have pride of place at the front of the store, with the iPod somewhere at the back. Apple boss Tim Cook has admitted that iPod sales this year are down 52% compared to early 2013.

So why have sales of the digital icon fallen? Dr Alice Enders (former senior economist at the World Trade Organisation) be-

lieves "the converged media device is the way forward." Perhaps this is the reason the iPhone is Apple's most popular product - it is an iPod plus hundreds of other devices, due to its capability to run 'apps'.

The growth in popularity of music streaming has had a detrimental impact on iPod sales. Research from the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) shows that almost twice as many songs have been streamed in the UK in the first nine months of this year compared to the same period last year. Streaming removes the hassle of having to download files, and in many instances is free. But you can't carry it round with you in the same way you could with the iPod. There was something special about having your whole music library in your pocket that seems to have been lost - streaming is mainly done on devices that are stationary, e.g. laptops.

The significance of streaming can't be denied though. The Official Charts Company (OCC) has



recently started including streams in UK singles charts calculations. Singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran has stated he is a big fan of streaming because it provides a platform for artists to promote their music for free. But Taylor Swift is opposed to it due to the extremely small royalties (roughly 0.4p per stream compared to 30p per download from iTunes) and has not released her latest album on Spotify to encourage people to buy it.

The music world is changing, and

as the iPod once proved, change is not always bad. I would like to say there's still a place for the iPod - there's so many distractions on an iPhone that there's less of an immersion in music as there was in the days when you'd spend a good while wheel-scrolling your way through your artists to decide who to put on next. But the figures are hard to argue with: people have other things they would rather spend money on now than music and music-players. As sad as it is, it seems the iPod's time is coming to an end.



## Interview: Sugarhouse door supervisors

Features Editor Abigail Davies, headed down to The Sugarhouse on a Friday night to learn a little bit more about working as a door supervisor. All of the security staff that work at The Sugarhouse are employed by LUSU through a company called FGH Security Ltd.

**ABIGAIL DAVIES** *FEATURES EDITOR*  
 @ABIGAILDAVIES\_

First up, tell us who you are and what your role in the company is.

**Dave:** I'm Dave Hassall, the marketing manager at FGH Security Ltd. My involvement with the company stems back to when I was a student. I started out as a door supervisor, and then after I graduated I worked my way up into management.

The company was originally set up nearly twelve years ago to cater for Lancaster University. Our managing director Peter actually wrote to the students union offering to provide security for the Ex-travs, believe it or not, and we set up off the back of that really.

I joined about a year after that and we've been a very student orientated brand since. In terms of offering employment opportunities to students, I would say that about 50% of the staff that we have on the books at the moment are either current students or ex-graduates of the university. We specialise in providing stewards for student-orientated venues like the Sugarhouse and Salford Student Union.

**You all work as door supervisors for The Sugarhouse. Can you introduce yourselves and tell us what you study.**

**Sam:** I'm Sam, I'm a second year Maths student at Lancaster University.

**Richard:** I'm Richard, and the same goes for me; I'm a second year Maths student.

**Alice:** I'm Alice. I've just graduated from Lancaster University. I didn't have this job whilst I was studying, I actually just started two months ago. I started stewarding for the company over the summer and then decided to take this job afterwards. I'm trying to set up my own business at the moment, so the hours work out well because I can work nights and then during the day I can work on my business.

What is a typical night like as a door supervisor?

**Sam:** I'm often on door management so I organise the queues and try to get everyone in as quickly as possible. And then we just make sure the night runs smoothly I guess.

**Richard:** It depends on the role. Because obviously we have people on the front door, people on the back door, we're check IDs, we're signing in guests. So that is more of a hectic night than if you're indoors. Sometimes you can have quite a quiet night, just watching the crowd and making sure that everyone is safe, making sure that everyone is happy. So it really depends on where you are; different roles, different challenges.

**What kind of procedure do you follow to make sure that people stay safe?**

**Sam:** Obviously if people have had too much to drink we tell them go home. We usually get one of their friends to take them home so that they're not wandering about the streets on their own.

**Alice:** One of my roles as a female member of staff is to check the female toilets. So if there is someone who has maybe had a bit too much to drink I'll try and take care of them, get them some water, make sure they're alright. And then we don't just get them out and leave them. We'll make sure that they get home safe with their friends, or we'll put them on the Sugar bus or call them a taxi. We don't just deal with them in here we also make sure they can get home alright.

**What is the strangest thing you have ever had whilst working?**

**Richard:** At Sugar you tend not to get that much strangeness because students are quite nice, I'd like to say.

**Sam:** It's generally very quiet. There is not normally too much to deal with, it's just trying to keep people happy.



Abigail Davies

**Richard:** Generally the worst thing is clean up duty. When someone has had a bit too much and they manage to vomit on themselves. And then we sort of have to wipe it off them. It's not the best really. Alice is practiced in that.

**Alice:** Yeah. I think that we don't find things strange but I imagine that for people who haven't been students it might be. Like in Freshers' Week I literally saw guys ripping their T-shirts off each other with their teeth. We wouldn't kick them out or anything for that, they're just having a laugh and whatever, but I think maybe if it was a different venue that might be considered a little bit odd. I think that with student venues it's just different from other nightclubs.

**There is quite a lot of stigma surrounding "bouncers". Would you call yourself that?**

**Richard:** I try to say that I'm a "door supervisor". It sounds a bit more professional and obviously "bouncer" arks back to the image of huge guys standing on a door

throwing people out by the scruff of their neck and their trousers. Generally I try for "door supervisor", but the reaction often is "oh, you're a bouncer then".

**Alice:** Yeah. I get that.

**Sam:** People do tend to be quite open minded though, because I suppose once I explain that when I got the job I was looking for bar work anyway and this is just the same hours but we get paid more. It's just a job for me.

**Do you feel like you don't get taken as seriously by unruly customers because you are a female in what is generally a male-dominated industry?**

**Alice:** No. Before I started I thought that this might happen, but I haven't found that at all. I do tend to find that if I reprimand someone in any way they do actually listen. It is also quite nice knowing that if they did put up a bit of a fuss, especially if it was someone a lot larger than me, that we have got a really good team. I always feel safe; I can just radio through and

have the assistance that I need.

**How do you look out for the staff working on the floor and the bar? How do you keep an eye on everything?**

**Sam:** I think we just try and work together. I know that whenever I'm in the main room I walk past the bar, look at the queue. If there is anyone who looks like they have had too much I'll point them out to the bar staff and say "don't serve this person". Then I'll ask them if they've had any problems. One of the bar staff who works here is my flatmate and I'm friends with a lot of the staff. We get on really well, which makes it easy for us to approach each other if we've got problems.

**Richard:** I think that is one of the best things. The staff here aren't scared of us, they're quite happy to talk to us if they've got a problem. Like if they're picking up glasses and people are being a bit rough they'll just come up to us and point them out so that we can keep an eye on them, just to make sure that everything is going smoothly.



# What on Earth is food sustainability?

**NIYATI BURDE**  
 @NIYATI11

It sounds like a dauntingly complex issue, something that only environmental activists and scientists studying climate changes should care about. It sounds like a boring topic that highly qualified specialists discuss as they stress about the future. It sounds dull. Maybe it's because 'food sustainability' is a mouthful or maybe it's because we don't hear the words enough, but we rarely ever connect our food choices to our carbon footprint.

Our societies have become globalised and whilst we see that clearly in so many other aspects of our lives, we haven't quite woken up to the globalisation that is happening in our kitchens. Our fruit and veg can come from any number of European countries, not to say anything of packaged foods that are shipped in from far away continents: by the time we get to cooking, our food has had a whirlwind adventure across the globe. So what? Well, the issue with sourcing your food international-

ly, or even from opposite ends of the country, is the carbon cost of transportation.

While the carbon cost is just one unsustainable side-effect of global food sourcing, it is one that we can easily combat.

Exercising an awareness of the environment when you make your weekly grocery shop means that you can reduce your carbon footprint by simply choosing to buy locally. Choosing to buy British, or even better, Lancastrian produce, means that you're cutting out the fuel spent on logistics. You're picking produce that hasn't had to travel a long way and therefore hasn't been pumping as much carbon into the environment.

Choosing to grow your own herbs in your flat means that you can have the lowest carbon greens possible. Choosing to use one of Green Lancaster's free campus growing spaces means that you can lower that carbon footprint even further. And, in addition to reducing your carbon footprint, you can choose to buy organic or



Winter greens planted in Green Lancaster's polytunnel as part of the Edible Campus project

free-range products and benefit the local livestock as well.

There are so many little things you can do make yourself more accountable to the environment and it so easily goes unnoticed. People are also hesitant to grow their own produce because they feel like they're not equipped with either the skills or the spaces to start digging and planting. What we need to do is explore the opportunities that already exist. Green Lancas-

ter is an example of an initiative on campus that provides students with free growing spaces, guided volunteer sessions, and free harvests from the local site. It's a no-fuss way to try something out and see whether you could pull it off, so why not? Use the internet, use social media, use friends in the know, and use your student officers - there is no end to the number of resources at your fingertips.

It's about time we started breaking

down the issue of food sustainability into an accessible, actionable cause that we can all work towards simply by making tiny changes to our lifestyle choices. If all you have to do to make a difference is buy locally from farmer's markets, choose free-range over battery, or grow herbs on your windowsill, there is really no reason not to. Food sustainability isn't big and scary, food sustainability is waking up to what your community can offer you.

## Veganism, vegetarianism and the environment



Rescued caged hens at Green Lancaster's EcoHub where they are cared for by volunteers

**EMILY BIRKETT**  
 @EMILY\_BIRKETT

Being vegan or vegetarian is not simply a dietary requirement, it's a life choice and it does effect the environment more than you

think. Earlier this year, I decided to officially go vegetarian. Prior to this, I would eat it on occasions but I made the decision to simply not eat it at all. This was simply because, after researching vegetarianism, I felt more and more

uncomfortable with eating meat for various environmental and moral reasons. I never really enjoyed the taste of it anyway and I genuinely feel healthier since giving it up since I now supplement my diet with more vegetables and

fruit.

So how does being vegan/vegetarian effect the environment? Firstly, it reduces your carbon footprint. If you buy meat you're contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and switching to a vegan diet can reduce your carbon footprint from up to 50%. Research based in the US shows that big meat eaters have a higher carbon footprint than vegetarians or vegans. In fact, before they have even had anything to drink or have eaten non-meat products, their carbon dioxide emission is already higher than a vegan or vegetarian's emission. On top of this, most of the plant based food is grown for the animals that are farmed to be killed for meat produce. These animals tend to eat a lot more than a normal animal requires to eat because it's the farmers job to help the animal develop faster, which will obviously

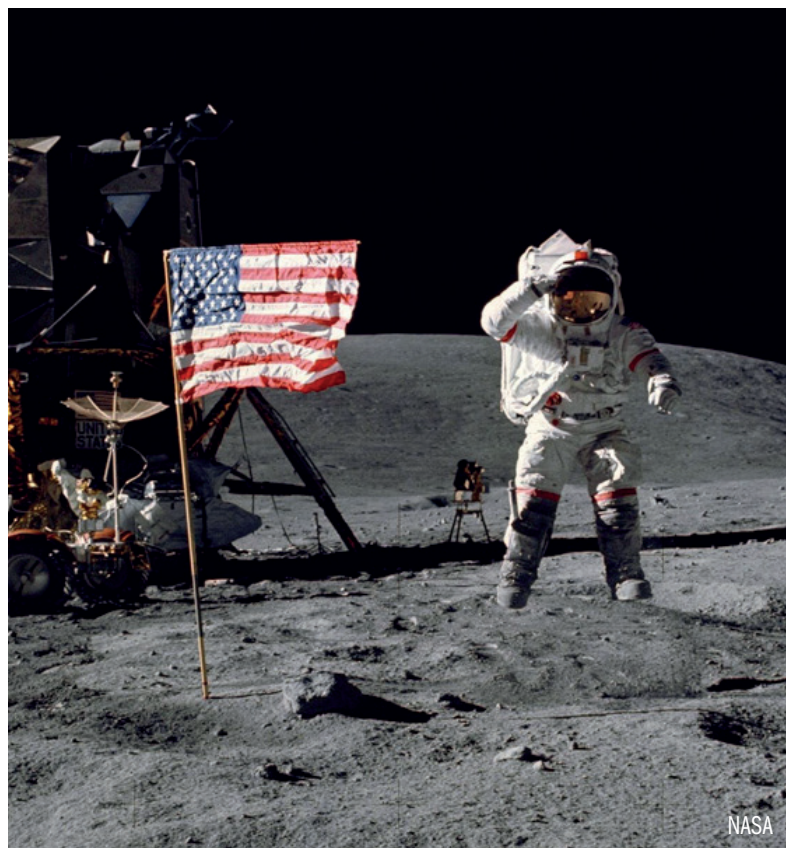
produce more profit when selling the meat.

As the meat industry grows, we require more land to farm these animals. To acquire this land, we would have to cut down more trees in order to make room. It's a snowballing effect of which you have most likely heard before; trees give out oxygen, therefore the oxygen levels will reduce, meaning less rainfall - less rainfall that helps to grow crops, resulting in less food - less food that we need to feed us (and animals). Although, cutting down trees may seem like a minor issue, they play a tremendous factor in the reproduction of many things. For example, simply providing oxygen to keep us alive.

I'm not, by any means, an expert in this field and I am not trying to be. I'm just a girl that's done some research and likes her veggies.



## Conspiracies unravelled: we never went to the moon



ALEX KENNETT

The American Government's sick patriotism has often been its justification for all kinds of evil but on July 20th 1969 its sole moti-

vation became its own downfall. Whilst the actors Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins planted the flag on the moon, they couldn't resist setting up indoor fans to make the proud stars and

stripes flutter in the breeze. The American flag waving was always an iconic image to the overseers who faked our trip to the moon. They thought that the American people would be easily brainwashed by the sight of the flag. But some of us saw through the façade that the Government created as an obvious tool for distracting the American citizens from the disaster of the Vietnam War. It is no coincidence that the manned landings conveniently and suddenly ended around the same time that the United States ended its involvement in the war.

The faked moon landing was undercut by the American Government's love of the corporations that sponsor and support it. Una Ronald, a resident of Perth, Australia, saw a bottle of Coca-Cola briefly roll across the bottom right of her TV screen. The American Government couldn't resist Coca-Cola's demands and allowed them to advertise with subliminal messages during the moon landing broadcast. If it was not for Una Ronald, and the few others who wrote in to complain about

this sick display of consumerism, maybe we would never have noticed and just returned to gulping Coca-Cola with a side helping of corporate lies.

A particularly unnerving aspect of the faked moon landing was Walt Disney's sponsorship and the staging by Hollywood, which used a script of Arthur C. Clarke and the talents of Stanley Kubrick's directing. After the success of 2001: 'A Space Odyssey', which boasted space scenes that were frighteningly realistic for the time, Kubrick was approached by NASA. Kubrick filmed the moon landing with a cinematic technique called Front Screen Projection, and if you look carefully at many of the photos you can still see the photo cross hairs behind the objects in focus revealing the editing and faking of the shots.

Kubrick agreed to do this extravagant faking in order to get unasked funding for the rest of his films. But despite his dirty dealings with corporations, he attempted to leave clues of the forgery he had helped create. A director as mas-

terful as Kubrick would not have allowed the studio lights to point in such a direction that the shadows were incorrect. He knew that on the sun there would be only one light source meaning all the shadows would have run parallel to one another, and would never have allowed the flag to flicker had he wanted the landing to be an undisputed success.

Most tellingly, in his next film, 'The Shining', Kubrick left a variety of clues and hints for the more observant viewer. To start off with, the child's wears an Apollo 11 shirt in one scene. And to top it off, the now famous line on Jack's typewriter, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy", so obviously hints at A11 or Apollo 11 through his utilisation of the word 'All'. Finally, the mysterious hotel room from The Shining is the number 237. It is no coincidence that it is a mere 238,000 miles from the Earth to the moon, implying that they didn't actually make the last mile. This is sinister message becomes the most chilling aspect of Kubrick's horror film.

## Gender, language, and domestic abuse

BETHAN ARCHER

The political arena of domestic violence is one that is filled with debate. Simply naming the act, it turns out, is not simple at all. There are many who dislike the term "domestic violence", believing that the word "domestic" makes it too cosy and creates the notion of this being private rather than public problem. Some believe "Intimate Partner Violence" would be better – extending the problems of abuse beyond the home and attempting to raise awareness of the abusive dynamics of those who do not live together. Others prefer "Inter-personal Violence".

And with a query over the name, is the definition of abuse also queryable? What constitutes domestic violence/intimate partner violence? While the Home Office recognises psychological abuse -

defining domestic violence to include "any incident or patterns of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour" - there is a gap in the law and such abuse can currently fall outside judicial reach. The work of the Domestic Violence Law Reform Campaign has not only caused the Government to reconsider the legal framework, but has prompted a wider discussion of varying facets of domestic violence. This debate and analysis has often not only focused on the type and quality of support offered to survivors, but who these survivors are.

The statistics and ratios of domestic violence according to gender vary depend on who you ask. Women's Aid's Polly Neate states that 89% of victims are women, while the Mankind Initiative argue that 38% of victims are male. The statistical disparity could be

due to the fact that each person is using different measures of violence. The Mankind Initiative's data reflects a wider variety of inter-personal acts of violence (extending the documentation of abuse to other relationships, such as parents), while Women's Aid's uses the statistics provided by the British Crime Survey, referring to the split gender percentages of those who have suffered four or more acts of violence from one person. Regardless, when everyone's providing different numbers, we must become suspicious about whether people are cherry-picking the "best" statistics for their argument.

Every study I've ready has agreed that there are more women than men suffering under domestic violence, but there is some disagreement on where the emphasis in funding and awareness is placed -

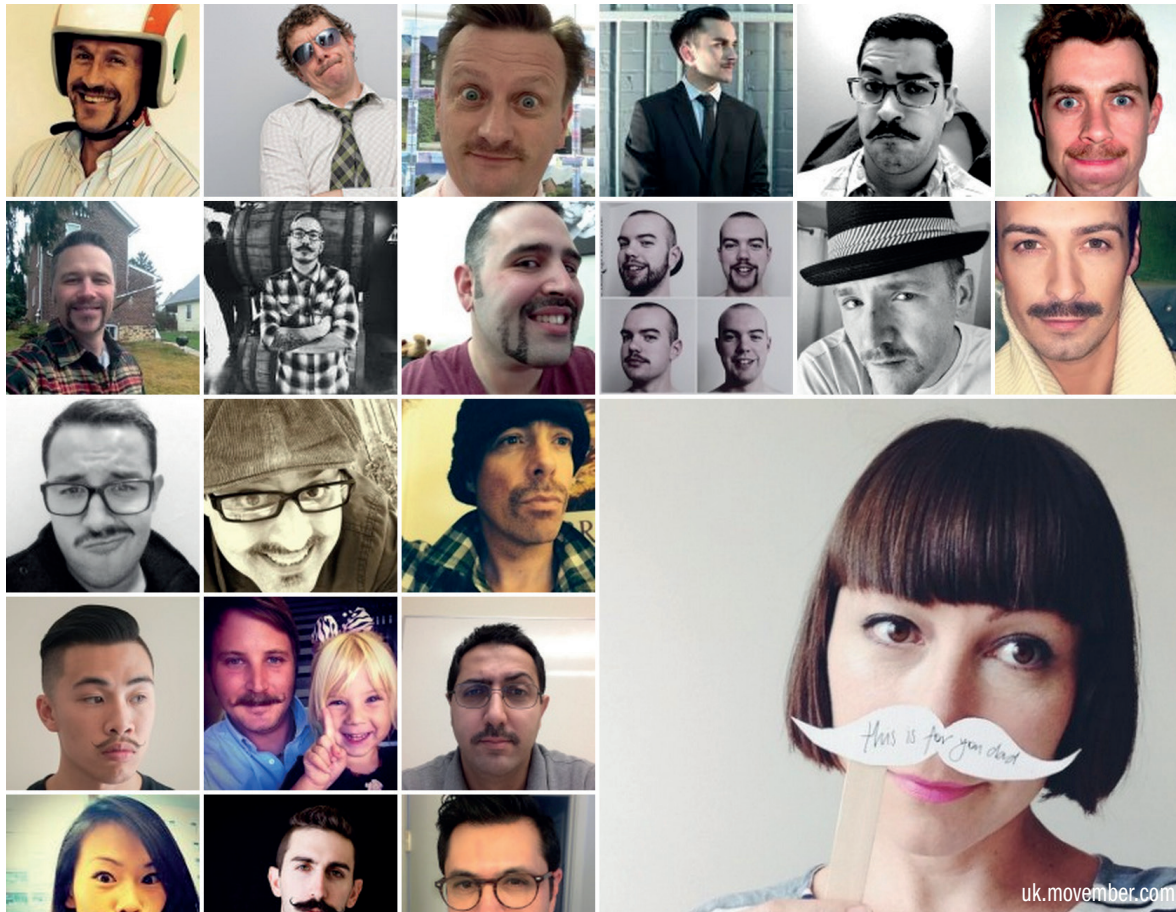
and whether legal language or academic study should be gendered.

Most campaigners agree that both women and men need gender-specific services. For women, the notion of a safe space is vital, and there are worries that a gender-neutral service would give rise to opportunities for their abuser to follow them into what is meant to be a sanctuary. Glen Poole (the director of Helping Men) argues that men also need a gender-specific approach, and that simply converting current women's support to be offered to men would not work because "One of the important roles that the women's movement has played in helping female victims is that they have been loud and unapologetic advocates for women. With the best will in the world, it is unrealistic to expect the self-same campaigners to be strident advocates for men."

Polly Neate said in a Guardian article shared with Poole, "At Women's Aid we are often asked 'what about the men?'" With already too few resources to help women, the idea of stretching women's support services to try to cater to male victims of abuse – when even men's rights activists agree it would not be the appropriate method of helping – is not something many charities and women's shelters are willing to do. Part of the problem is this notion that there is only a limited amount of funding to spend on support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and to fund aid for men, we must take away from women. If domestic violence is as prevalent and pervasive across both genders as campaigners suggest, shouldn't we be looking to fund both more? The erasure of male suffering is unquestionably awful and a problem, but is it fixed by trying to silence the voices of female victims?



# Get to know your mo



## CHAD BUNNEY

This year I joined the number of males on campus who have put down their shavers for the month of Movember. Beginning in Australia over a decade ago the notion of not shaving on the eleventh month has now spread throughout the world, but what is it that growing a moustache represents? This is the question that Mo-bros (the bros who grow mos) want you to ask.

Reading up on some of the facts and figures, I realised that I was largely ignorant about cancers that affect males specifically. For example, one in eight males will be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point in their lives, and every hour one man in the UK will pass away because of the illness. Figures have shown that males actually have a 14% high chance of developing cancer than females. However, testicular cancer is highly treatable, with over a 95% cure rate if caught in its early stages. With this in mind, making men aware of such a figure could potentially be life saving. All the more reason to join the moustached ranks of Marx and Einstein. Yet, one factor that I did not real-

ise was necessarily associated with Movember was mental health. Earlier in the year Emma Watson made a speech at the United Nations as part of her new role as UN Women Goodwill Ambassador, which mentioned as part of her launch of her HeForShe campaign how "UK suicide is the biggest killer of men between 20 and 49 years of age". She suggested that the inability to address their mental illness, which results in suicide, is a fear that it may make them seem less "macho", like less of a man. Whether or not Watson is correct in this, the figures do show that 75% of suicides in the United Kingdom are male. Surely by helping begin dialogue with males about mental health through Movember we can help tackle these figures by freeing up a male channel of communication on the topic.

Participants of Movember hope that by growing out the facial hair, and therefore changing the look of their face, they might too "change the face of Men's Health". Using the iconic moustache as a conversation starter it is the aim of a Mo-bro to get others talking about male health, whether that be discussing male specific cancers or opening a dialogue about men-

tal health. But raising awareness throughout the month is not the only aim of the campaign; many who take part also use this to raise money for charities associated with male health. Achieving a sum of over twenty-million pounds last year within the United Kingdom alone, the donations this year are expected to significantly help the charities such as Prostate Cancer UK.

Fourth time mo-bro, Alex Varey, took part again this year forming a team with the Lancaster University Theatre Society. When I asked him what he liked about the charity he said: "It's not like running a marathon or doing a bungee jump, it's simple, just don't shave." As an added incentive Alex has promised to shave his head if the team manage to reach a thousand pound goal, a gesture which like the growing of a moustache is bound to raise good conversation for the cause.

For more information about male health and Movember see: <http://uk.movember.com>

# Coppafeel!



## AMY-JAYNE BOWDEN

The last few weeks have seen a boobie takeover, the likes of which campus has never seen before in the name of eradicating late detection of breast cancer. The Lancaster Uni Boob Team, in partnership with County College JCR, were "Feelin' It" for breast cancer awareness, with inflatable boobs, bra pong, and other boobie themed fun. How, you may ask, is any of this relevant to breast cancer awareness?

It is all about figuring out what is normal for your boobs. It is a question that not enough women can answer, perhaps because they're not checking their boobs regularly, or if they do they struggle to find the words to describe what is actually normal for them. The "Feelin' It" campaign is the start of the Uni Boob Team's mission to get campus buzzing about boobs and gain an understanding about what feels normal for you!

This is all part of the wider #Whatnormalfeelslike campaign run by Coppafeel! Coppafeel's aim is to start healthy conversations with women across the UK by reclaiming the vocab that we use to describe our breasts. Too often, women are only know how to define their boobs in terms of size. They can't define how they actually feel because they aren't checking. The vast majority of women in the UK check their weight more regularly than checking their boobs for the signs and symptoms of breast cancer! And this needs to change. After all, what's more important: how you look in your new dress,

or whether you might be at risk of breast cancer.

We want to eradicate the taboos and common misconceptions around checking boobs from a young age. It is not perverse, and it isn't just a case of one size or type fits all. Women can have peachy, squidgy, spongy, doughy, firm, or sensitive boobs. Or a mixture of the above! When it comes to boobs, as with any part of the body, there is no right or wrong way to be. The goal is to make you, and the people around you, realise that the earlier you start checking, the sooner you will be able to tell what is normal for you. If we make this a national habit, just having a feel every once in a while, it could one day mean that all breast cancers are detected early enough to save lives.

The team are hoping that their first event will raise more awareness of their wider aims on campus and that before long the "Check em Tuesday" and girls night in events will be huge hits. They aim to have 200 of you signed up for free text reminders by the end of the year. That's a hell of a lot of people coppin' a feel at Lancaster for a very good cause!

Coppafeel today and let us know what normal feels like for you, you know you want to!

To join the team contact your Uni Boob Team Leader Amy via tweeting @UBTLancaster. To sign up for free text reminders and 20% off at BouxAvenue text UBTLancaster to 7050





## INTERVIEW

# Lee Dickson

Abigail Davies

**ELLIE VOWLES CAROLYNNE EDITOR**  
@ELLIEVOWLES

Tell us a bit about yourself.

My name's Lee Dickson and I run the Lancaster University Autism and Specific Learning Difficulties Society. It's a society for all people at the university or living in the city with either autism or specific learning difficulties such as dyspraxia, dyslexia, AH, VH, dyscalculia, etc. We're open to everybody; even if you don't experience any of these difficulties, you're still able to come along.

What motivated you to form the society?

It was mainly because of a lack of a society like this; there aren't any others for people with disabilities, not even just learning difficulties. I felt that I needed a platform for myself to be able to meet people

with certain disabilities as I have dyspraxia. Nicholas Peat (who is now the society's vice president) and I then decided to create a society for people with these conditions to come along and feel safe to meet others who are like minded or to learn about these issues.

**Dyspraxia is something a lot of people might not know about - can you give us some idea of what the condition is?**

It's also called developmental co-ordination disorder, so it's a mix between gross motor issues and academic issues. I might knock over a glass of water every day, trip over myself, walk into things, bump into people. Some people might be okay with using cutlery where some others might not; it varies from person to person which is why it often takes a long time to be diagnosed and assessed in terms of educational statements. Some

people have extremes of being averse to light or noise; for example, I tend to be more nocturnal because sometimes daylight can hurt my eyes. We have poor visual perception.

The other side is the academic side. Many people with dyspraxia can be slower at retaining information and knowledge - not necessarily "not clever", but reading a book might take twice as long as someone else without the condition. We might get words muddled up when we're speaking to people. We might know what the word means, but it won't come from the mind to the lips. It can be quite damaging for someone who feels they know something quite well but just can't get the words out. During a stressful situation, that's when the symptoms will flare up.

Now you're in your 3rd year; what experiences did you have in your

first years at Lancaster?

I wasn't diagnosed until the end of my 2nd year with this disability so I ended up repeating the year. Throughout that year I had to start dealing with coming to terms with what the condition is, how I can cope with my studies and things like that. I was quite angry a lot of the time; at myself, not the condition as such. I was wondering why I am how I am, and things became a little bit harder for me when I realised why I am this way and it's made me who I am. After coming to terms with the disability, seeking the right support opened my eyes up to what was out there for me. I became involved with the dyspraxia foundation and found out that I'm not alone. Actually, there are about one in five people with a condition similar to mine this in the country.

Being diagnosed with a disability

sounds really stressful and difficult - can you tell us about the process?

It was Lent term 2013 and I couldn't get the essays I had to do done; I just couldn't get them in for the deadline and those for the last term had been really bad. I just felt something was wrong. I had a complete mental breakdown in terms of trying to articulate my thoughts on paper, so I went to the History department and told them I just couldn't do it anymore. I was on the edge of dropping out altogether, but my department told me to go home over Easter and just relax. I tried to work on my essays but just noting was working.

I came back in summer, accessed the counselling service who helped me talk through some of my issues and referred me to disabilities where I spoke with an advisor. My mother had pointed out that I was nearly diagnosed as a child in the 1990s; I was taken out of school for 1 year because I had verbal language problems and after a year in an SEN school with more specialised help I was able to excel, so I was returned to mainstream school. It has still been hard though; I had to put all my time and energy into work and so my mother said that I should seek some diagnosis.

Luckily there was financial support available for me from the University in the form of the Hardship Fund, which allowed me to pay for an educational assessment and was diagnosed with dyspraxia. It was a weight off my mind because I knew that I was right in thinking that something had been wrong. The rest of the term was spent dealing with getting the support in place; I applied to Student Finance for DSA (Disabled Student's Allowance) and got a wide range of support including having a Dictaphone to help me articulate myself and specialised laptop software for mind mapping to help me save time. I was also granted extra time in exams.

Over summer I was able to relax and come back and start my 2nd year afresh in my new year. It was like a second chance. Unfortunately when I returned to repeat my second year I was intent on not letting my condition control or defeat me and by taking this stance and pretending I was okay



and fine, I allowed the disability to rule me. Throughout this year I have had to come to terms with who I am and the positives of the condition.

### How has your disability affected your experiences in academia?

Before I came to Lancaster, I was getting As at A Level. I was quite academic and made it through my exams. Then, when I came to Lancaster, I really started to suffer in exams and with my essays and I realised it was because it's a different way of studying history at university and a different way of doing things. It was debilitating; I knew how I should have been performing, but I wasn't getting the grades that I felt I deserved.

When I was diagnosed, though I knew what was wrong with me, it made me more paranoid because I now know that with the right support in place there's no excuse for failure. Now I have to be even better than before so in a lot of ways there's more pressure. There's also a lot of added pressure of needing to make it through a disability.

Last year, when I was struggling with accepting the realities of the disability, I did cut myself off from certain support because I felt I shouldn't need it and I should be fine. It took me a long time to ask for help because I felt like I had to live up to high personal expectations; I had certain aims that I wanted to meet. When I couldn't, it was a major confidence knock. Here I am, I could get a 1st at this university, but I was struggling to even get a 2:1. It's so frustrating when you know that a disability is the only thing stopping you, but you have to persevere, work hard and try to find positives. Last year the disability owned me, this year I own the disability.

### How has having to sacrifice so much socially affected you at university?

I felt that at school I put in 10 hour days at school and then would go home to do more work. It had to be my main priority and I ended up having to sacrifice relationships with people I really liked because I had to revise for exams and work had to come first. I know other people who didn't have to do that or make those sacrifices but could still succeed. I put in the extra

time and because I'm ambitious; I could never settle. Whenever I didn't meet my personal targets it just made me feel like I had more to do. Being at university aiming to get a 1st, I have to stay positive; when you get knocked down you have to get back up again, otherwise what is there? I try to work hard, continue to strive upwards and have fun whilst doing it. The journey is never how you plan it; things always change along the way.

### How do you feel support from the University and Student's Union has been for you?

The History department has been my rock in a way - they are the ones who have supported me the most. My student advisors have been there for me (even on deadline days) and helped with giving my extensions, supporting me with one on one assistance, giving my back confidence etc. When I was doing my first set of essays since returning, I was nervous and not getting the grades. A lot of it was a confidence issue, but the History department stuck by me and still do.

I had to walk out of an exam for the first time ever last year because I just didn't feel like I could survive the exam; I was writing an essay and I had the answers in my head but I just didn't feel like I could get them onto paper. I went to the department and they told me not to worry, allowed me to defer some of my exams until August and said that they would get me more support. In August, I had a scribe in place and felt a lot more comfortable and made it through them.

In terms of the rest of the University, the disability department is superb in what they do. They listen to everyone on a case by case basis and I really feel like they're overstretched. Both them and the other student services (like counselling and the student registry) have to deal with people with different cases every day but I was able to see both. I had one session of counselling and it really made me realise that I am not alone, there is support for me and helped me find out how to relax and to cope. The university was there for me all the way.

### What do you feel you've gained from forming your society?

I've gained a lot. It's opened my eyes to the realities of my condition and made me more at ease with myself. I think I'm now in the acceptance stage. Last year I went through a lot of denial, maybe anger, and I think now I've accepted that I've got this disability and now I can make the difference and maybe help others by working hard and putting on events for people to come along, have fun, be at ease in themselves and know that they aren't alone.

### How do you feel about the recently introduced CCO Disabilities position?

I'm wary when the union creates new positions e.g. women's officer, ethnic minority officer. I think sometimes you have to be careful not to just positively discriminate when there are already welfare officers as it is. However, I think David Whitlock as CCO Disabilities has turned my opinion around; I think he's doing a fantastic job in working with Mia Scott (VP Welfare) to raise awareness of issues like mental health and dyslexia. I think the position is there to provide that extra bit of support. For example, David has worked with careers to put on a 'disclosing your disability to employers' workshop and I've had members of the Autism and Specific Learning Difficulties Society who found it really helpful and obviously it's an important issue that isn't really dealt with otherwise at University.

### Disabled Students Allowance and the recent planned cuts is a hot topic for most disabled students at the moment. How do you feel about it?

I think that's something I want to read into more; if it came to it I'd definitely oppose my political party on the issue. Students need some support. If the university no longer gets funding for DSA, less students will get the support they need, whether it's one on one support or laptops and equipment. Equally, we're still living in tight times economically and I think it should be up to the university and how they want to manage their funding. It might be worth giving universities more individual choice in how they use their funding too; at the moment you have to apply for DSA through student finance which is government based.



Abigail Davies

I'd like to see a localised level of power and I think universities should take on more responsibilities in how they allocate funding.

### What advice would you give to someone in the position that you were prior to your diagnosis?

If you don't want support from a person, still don't shut yourself off from tackling a problem. Maybe read around and find out as much as you can about it - there is so much info online and something might resonate with you. Speak to a friend rather than someone in a position like a welfare officer. If you don't want to speak to a friend, know that there is support if you need to access it.

Referring yourself to the counselling service is always worth doing as they're a confidential service

and they might be able to give more support in terms of referring you to the disabilities office to get more support with your disability. It might just be that you don't have a disability you're just showing some symptoms for whatever reason - whatever it is, they can help get to the bottom of things.

In my opinion, the more professional help you get, the better. The idea of getting professional help with your physical or mental health shouldn't be a dirty thing or carry a stigma - they're trained for a reason and here to give you specialised service. While you're at university it's free, so use it.

One thing I've definitely learned from my experience is that you should always ask for help when you need it.



## When should we start celebrating Christmas?

**BRYONY SEAGER** COMMENT EDITOR  
@BEINGBRYONY

First off, let's get one thing straight: I don't hate Christmas. Whenever I utter something remotely annoyed about seeing Christmas decorations up in September I get called some kind of Scrooge. I'm not a Scrooge about Christmas – in December. That's when it is, and that's where it should stay.

Christmas is about being with family and close friends, eating ridiculous amounts of food, gift giving and receiving, hoping for snow on Christmas Day and listening to cheesy music that you really shouldn't like. This is all fine and is

really fun. In this sense Christmas is like cake; it's fun to eat once in a while, it tastes good and you get a little buzz from eating it, but if you had to eat it all the time, it would get dull, tiresome, and sickly. This is how I feel when I see Christmas leaching its way both sides of Halloween, or when Christmas cards appear in the shops in September. There's so much else to do and to enjoy before Christmas marks the end of the year, and to focus on it for so long just seems to sap a lot of the joy out of it.

I remember when I was kid and about ten days before Christmas I would help my mum decorate the tree with the fairy lights and all our decorations, candles on the

mantelpiece would go into their holiday holders, and the wreath would go up on the front door. Then the night before I would try and go to sleep really early so the night would go faster; Father Christmas would come down the chimney and put all the presents under the tree, and then it would be Christmas Day! The house would be filled with the smell of good cooking, the family would be together and I could finally open my presents! At that age I wasn't really aware of the whole rigma-role that surrounded the holiday, and the more I did become aware of it, the more it lost its shine for me. It's daft that in November people are running around asking "have you done it all yet?", or

when people talk about the "big day". It's not a big day; I'm not getting married, it's not a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It's a nice day and it's light in the middle of the dark winter (the origins of the Yule festival), but folks, it happens every year and there's no need to start playing Christmas music in the shops in October.

This Christmas is going to be a small one, I'm going home to my family and we're going to enjoy a meal together and each other's company. When I think of Christmas Day I think of warm fires, reading snuggled into the sofa, checking out the gifts other people may have bought you, and just being content.

I think by dragging it out, making it more materialistic, and hyping up expectations about the "big day" to a ridiculous level, it spoils the more relaxed elements of what should be a lovely holiday. By having such a big run up to Christmas, the jump into the day can seem small and therefore there's disappointment and annoyance. If we keep the holiday where it belongs, and begin to get excited as that first door opens on the Advent Calendar, then the magic is still there, and not lost as it gets scraped over too much time.

## Thinking about the homeless this winter



kris krüg

**ALEX KENNETT**

If somebody told me that they do not give money to homeless people as it will just be "spent on drugs" I always used to, somewhat childish, respond with "If I had to sleep on the street I'd rather be high than stone-cold sober." Obviously, homelessness deserves more complex and serious analysis than the former opinion gives it. One of the hardest things

about it is simply knowing how many people are homeless. With some purely anecdotal evidence I have seen more homeless people about Lancaster since returning after summer (but this is statistically meaningless for those who don't suffer from "liberal guilt"). Statistics are updated regularly but there are a variety of different ways someone can be homeless, and due to the nature of a nomadic, homeless life they can be very difficult to find when it comes to statistical surveys.

Research by the charity Crisis indicates that about 62% of single homeless people are hidden and may not show up in official figures. The "hidden homeless" can include people who have found a temporary solution meaning they are staying at friends, family members' homes, or are squatting. This is the hardest type of homelessness to measure accurately. For more severe cases there are various official figures of those sleeping rough which are released and updated regularly.

In February 2014 the Department for Communities and Local Government released the 2013 figures for rough sleepers. All regions of England's amounts of rough sleepers have gone up since 2010 – when the current coalition came to power – with the one exception of North East England. An odd case which rose greatly in 2012 but then dropped by 60% in 2013. The most extreme rises in rough sleepers from 2010 to 2013 are the South East of England which increased by 72% and the East Midlands which increased by 70%. Both of which are frightening statistics.

Someone can be considered as statutory homeless (according to the 2014 Housing Statistical Re-

lease) "if they do not have accommodation that they have a legal right to occupy". The main causes for this type of homelessness were the end of an assured short-hold tenancy or parents/friends no longer being able or willing to accommodate.

However, for those people who do believe themselves to be homeless, getting help isn't always as easy if they are not considered a priority. Over 26,940 people applied to councils for help with homelessness in the period of April to June 2014, but only 13,470 of those applications were accepted. According to the official Government figures that's 49% of those who applied were accepted and of those were rejected: 26% were found to not be homeless, 18% were homeless but not in priority need, and 8% were found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need. Priority is given to the more vulnerable, for example houses with children, elderly or disabled occupants.

Many of those who were given assistance were placed into temporary accommodation. However, in spite of these efforts an article published on this year on the 3rd November by Shelter says that

90,000 children in Britain will face homelessness this Christmas. That is another very frightening statistic.

There are so many different types and causes of homelessness that the scale of the problem is terrifying. It goes deeper than those who are actually sleeping on the streets. There are issues with home ownership and the housing crisis making properties unaffordable for those in need. Renting is an unpredictable market and many vulnerable people live in fear of prices rising or worse, eviction. This is not to mention the low quality of temporary and privately rented housing – with one third of private rented homes in England failing to meet the Decent Homes Standard.

Even considering the scale of the issue, those on the street have it hardest, particularly in these winter months, and are in need of any help that they can get. Some of the charities that help combat homelessness, and provided some of the statistics I have mentioned in this article, are Homeless Link, Shelter, Crisis, and Help the Homeless.



# Depression in students - do we overlook it?



TONI WOOD

Depression does not just refer to a person who is feeling low. It is a diagnosable mental health condition that occurs when the balance in someone's brain chemistry becomes slightly uneven. This can

have many causes: bereavement, stress, high consumption of drugs and alcohol... some people are even just genetically prone to it. If left untreated, depression can become very serious, leading to self harm or in some cases suicide.

The typical lifestyle of a student:

poor diet, lack of sleep, academic pressure, and stresses like financial and relationship worries can actually leave the student brain vulnerable to depression. But, due to age, many young people can showing signs of depression can be ignored, or accused of "attention seeking" behaviours. This

however is not helpful, depression can affect any person, young or old, and people showing signs may not be able to "snap out of it", and may require genuine help.

I interviewed a student friend of mine at a different university who has recently suffered from an episode of depression regarding their thoughts on whether or not depression is overlooked in young people: "I think the main thing that people don't understand is that depression, and other mental illness', are like physical illnesses. It's important to recognise it as a biological problem that has symptoms (which can be potentially debilitating) and needs to be addressed and treated to keep it under control or nip it in the bud. It's not the same as feeling a bit down in a tough situation; it can last for months at a time and people suffering often struggle getting out of bed in the morning. Most people are not aware of how bad it can be, and making comments like 'you just need to be more positive', do not help. People suffering need access to

the help that's right for them. Personally I sought counselling, and, whilst I do sometimes feel myself returning to that place, I know that I am strong enough to cope."

Some symptoms are depression are: constant feelings of melancholy, lack of interest or enjoyment of life, changes to appetite, frequent disturbance of sleep pattern, low self esteem, finding it difficult to make decisions, lack of energy or motivation, feeling anxious or worried and having thoughts of self harm or suicide.

Depression needs to be nipped in the bud, before it seriously affects your studies or in more extreme cases; your life. If you or one of your flatmates are showing two or more of the above symptoms it may be worth checking it out.

*If you are feeling low and need someone anonymous to talk to, phone Lancaster University's Nightline Counselling service on 01524 594 444 (open 10pm - 8pm)*

## The sober life chose me

GEORGIA GAGAN

Throughout my time at university, I chose not to drink alcohol. That's right; not getting drunk, not even having "just the one". I felt it was an easy enough choice to make, having suffered from anxiety and panic attacks for just over seven years now and being advised by a counselor not to drink alcohol before it was even legal for me to drink, it's something that was never a huge issue. Although not an issue for me, I have found it can be more difficult for others to accept my choice.

Writing this article as a postgraduate, I look back on the few weeks before coming to university as an undergraduate and laugh. I think it's fair to say I was seen as "uncool" when I started going to parties and festivals, sitting there with my coke, feeling the pressure from my peers to "just have a sip"

of whatever they were drinking. The anxiety increased tenfold the weeks leading up to starting at Lancaster, with recurring nightmares of my new housemates tipping me upside down and making me do a keg stand when they found out I didn't drink. My experience at university could not have been more different. From the off, my housemates and friends respected my decision. There were a few mutters of "boring" and "how do you do it?!" along with an element of confusion, but when they saw me on a night out and found that I was the last person wanting to go home, they were able to see that I didn't need a drink to have a good time.

There are definitely pros and cons to not drinking, especially in such a sociable environment as university. Pre-drinks and drinking games can be quite an uncomfortable experience, and sometimes I



Simon Cocks

do wonder what it would be like to go out and get drunk, but the pros outweigh the cons for me. Not drinking helps me to save a fair bit of money (usually to spend on the take-away after the night out), and you do remember everything that happens while you're out - I've

lost count of the number of times I wake up in the morning to a message asking what someone did after a certain point in the night. It's also quite nice to wake up the next morning with no hangover!

I'm glad I was able to come to uni-

versity and not feel the pressure to drink. There is a huge stigma attached to people who don't drink, but I don't judge people based on their decision to go out and drink, so why should I be judged for going out and not drinking?



## MARY AND MILLY: Vintage and classic style



**JASMINE CLARKE**  
FASHION EDITOR

Mary & Milly is an exciting fashion boutique selling beautiful clothing and accessories that have a vintage and classic style, perfect for any occasion. The boutique is named after the owners two grandmas, which adheres perfectly to the timeless feel of the brand. We had an interview last week with Poppy, one of the boutique owners to find out more about their clothing line which you can find on Alex Square every Thursday during Market Day.

*Where did the name of the shop come from?*

The boutique is named after my two wonderful grandmas.

*Where do you source your clothes?*

In the North West at different suppliers.

*What interests you most about working in fashion?*

My love for fashion - I believe

that it is important to you love what you do.

*What sort of style would you describe your clothes?*

Vintage and classic style. All the pieces are brand new & can be styled for day or night to ensure you avoid the common I have nothing to wear moments.

*Where does the inspiration come from?*

From both my grandmas style and inspiration is also drawn from the catwalk.

*What are your signature pieces for this Winter?*

It has to be a cape – they are perfect for layering in the cold weather and a stand out statement coat is a must. Get ready for our winter collection landing very soon on our ASOS Marketplace boutique [www.maryandmilly.co.uk](http://www.maryandmilly.co.uk)

You can follow Mary and Milly on Instagram, Twitter & Pinterest under the name [maryandmilly](https://www.instagram.com/maryandmilly).

## Beyoncé for Topshop



**GEORGIA SHEPHEARD**  
DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR

Growing up I've always had a soft spot in my heart for Beyoncé. Fierce and sassy, beautiful and kind, a performer and a role model; I'm almost certain I can't be the only one with a guilty crush on her! But she isn't the only one to have a claim on my heart and maybe my wardrobe too, for Topshop, my favorite go-to store is equally as dear to me. A store I cannot leave without making an unnecessary purchase that defies both practicality and Lancaster

weather.

Up until now these two passions of mine have remained unconnected but everything changed last week when Phillip Green, owner of Topshop, announced the brand are launching a new partnership with Beyoncé, creating a line of "athletic street wear" set to hit the shops autumn next year.

Now if anyone knows a thing or two about being an active woman, it's Beyoncé. Devoting hours of her life to dancing, rehearsing and training for tours and performances on top of being a mother and wife, she surely knows a thing or two about sports and dance wear.

On her most recent tour, Beyoncé seemed to have a well-established go-to outfit; leotards and tights. Albeit a little more unconventional than your typical ballet style ones, bets are on that the two are

sure to make an appearance in her collection.

This isn't the first time Beyoncé has shown some appreciation for our British brand Topshop either. Earlier this year she hit the Oxford Street store and went, like I did at the age of 14, a little crazy for the brand. Spending three hours in there, she swept the floors and picked up a whole wardrobes worth of clothing. In the following days photos emerged of her in various ensembles which, inevitably, all sold out.

I can only imagine the same will happen when her active-wear eventually hits stores next autumn. However, with so little details currently revealed it seems until then we must wait in eager anticipation. With a reputation too for surprising her fans, Beyoncé has sure set expectations high. So here's to a year of speculation and surprises, may it all be worth it!

## Dressing for: Winter Ball

**ALEXANDRIA DALE**

No matter what college you're from, Grizedale, Bowland or the distant south-west colleges of Lonsdale and Cartmel, almost every JCR is organising a Christmas Ball this year. If you weren't lucky enough to get a ticket or couldn't afford one, (end of term struggles...) I guarantee you'll have the chance to dress up at least once this festive season. So grab a cuppa and have a read of my Christmas style party guide!

### THE GIRLS

If you're wearing a cute cocktail dress or going for full on glamour in a full-length number, keeping it simple is key. A neutral colour palette of white, black or grey is always a winner, but if you're feeling brave go for a bolder hue in red, cobalt blue or bright pink. Lace or metallic touches will add an extra something, or my personal favourite – sequins. If you can't wear sequins at Christmas, when can you?! Finish the look by throwing a faux fur coat over the



top on the off chance it snows... Accessory wise, a statement necklace or chandelier earrings will bring some glitz. Add a killer pair of heels and a clutch and you're ready for any party from now through January!

### THE BOYS

Whenever an event comes along that requires formal dress, it seems to me that boys open up their wardrobes and pull out the only suit they own that has been worn time and time again. Come on boys, this year be brave and

try something new! Instead of the classic black James Bond look, try a suit in navy or dark red. Make a statement in a velvet dinner jacket, the perfect texture for Christmas as it provides a little extra warmth. Add a quirky touch with braces, and a bow tie is a sophisticated alternative to a tie. You can't go wrong with desert boots, loafers or Chelsea boots if you don't want to wear traditional formal shoes. Just remember some cufflinks and collar tips and you're ready to go! A classic but modern look, you'll seem the perfect gentleman.



# SPINE SPOTTER

Showcasing not only the most stylish students but all those who have made an effort to stand out from the crowd (even if they are only visiting Greggs).



Alexander Parmley

## Alice Hackett

Course: Management and Entrepreneurship  
Signature Piece: Royal blue skirt  
Favourite Shops: Missguided, H&M, New Look



Alexander Parmley

## Nadia Maalin

Course: Psychology  
Style Icon: Rita Ora  
Signature Piece: These black trainers  
Favourite Shop: River Island



Alexander Parmley

## Keiran Holmes-Darby

Course: Law  
Signature Piece: Black skinny jeans  
Favourite Shops: Burton, Topman



Alexander Parmley

## Caitlin Angell

Course: LUSU Overseas Intern  
Style Icon: Ellie Goulding  
Signature Piece: Woolly scarves  
Favourite Shops: H&M, Topshop

## Faye Greason

Course: LUSU Overseas Intern  
Style Icon: Alexa Chung  
Signature Piece: Warm brown jumper  
Favourite Shops: Topshop

# A fond farewell to 2014



Lauren Beck

## GEORGIA SHEPHEARD DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR

2014 is coming to an end; there is no denying it, no hiding from it and certainly no repeating it. Whilst a part of me wants to hibernate under my covers and pretend it is still May, another part of me looks forward to the New Year and whether good or bad, all the adventures to be had. As we reach December then, naturally we are inclined to look back on the year, to review the stories, the trends and the people that have shaped us for the past twelve months.

What women and students like us want is always changing and this was more than evident when the results of a survey taken by Very.co.uk were published recently. For starters, this insight into the mind of a 18-21 year old women in 2014 suggested that fashion needs to change a little in the next year to keep women interested.

In fact, only 18% of the demographic believed Fashion Week trends to be realistic inspirations. Whilst I agree many designers are simply looking for much needed press attention and recognition at Fashion Week, I can't help but feel maybe this statistic simply highlights the public's detachment with Fashion Week.

As Miranda Priestly so harshly puts it in the Devil Wears Prada, fashion filters "down through the department stores and then trickled on down into some tragic casual corner where you...fished it out of some clearance bin". Disregard the rudeness of this and instead consider that, whether you realize it or not, our high street is made up of stores which take their own inspiration from the runway, recreating simpler, softer versions that we can actually wear on a day to day basis.

Rather than Fashion Week then, Very's survey found that almost half (47%) of 18-21 year old women were influenced instead by bloggers and vloggers and 37% of women got the majority of their style advice from blogs and vlogs. Both these stats suggest that perhaps it is the personal, friendly nature of blogs and vloggers that has been enticing and influencing us this year which, with the world of fashion blogging so rapidly increasing, isn't a surprise. Sites such as Tumblr, Blogger, Wordpress and Youtube are so easy to use now and accessible across the globe that perhaps the immediacy and openness of the Internet is simply trumping the exclusivity of Fashion Week.

As well as bloggers, 32% of women said they found celebrities' style influenced their own. Asked exactly whom they would choose as their personal stylist, the top three results were Cheryl Cole, Victoria Beckham and Kim Kardashian. A reflection of the events of the year perhaps; the Kim's wedding, Victoria's new line and Cheryl's secret French husband!

The most revealing statistic of the survey though is the shocking revelation that 30% of women have worn and then returned an item of clothing! Clever trick for when you're pinching pennies but need a new party dress, or a little too cheeky and deceptive? I'll leave that for you to decide!

If the guilt would eat you up, then perhaps you're one of the 68% of women that said they get more satisfaction from bagging a bargain than emptying the bank account for a designer item. I for one am and cannot resist the temptation of a sixty-pound dress reduced to twenty! If only I could stop there and prevent myself using it as an excuse to buy another three...



## Who wants to get married the Carrie Bradshaw way? I do!



DAFNI TSOUVALA  
@DAPHNE\_TSO

Sarah Jessica Parker inspired by her fashionable jewel-toned evening shoes, gives a chance to all her fans to walk in her on-screen shoes.

Accessible by spring 2015, her collection will include leather and satin styles in white, ivory and blue. Of course, all will be complete with her signature grosgrain detail. The stylish pumps will be priced \$355 to \$545, depending on the fabric, will first be released on Zappos.com Wedding Shop, and eventually will roll out to other retailers. From what we already know, Sarah Jessica Parker designed her debut shoe collection in collaboration with Manolo Blahnik CEO George Malkemus. How very fitting, Ms. Parker.

As Sarah Jessica Parker exclusively told Vogue, "Because I got to play that role, I wore a lot of shoes, and by default I learned an enormous amount. It's hard to walk away from that."

While we have yet to see images of the designs, we are sure they will make us want to say "I Do" in no time.

Brides Rejoice! Okay, it may be too soon to talk about that given the age we all are, but who hasn't fantasized their own dreamy, elegant, romantic wedding day? Who doesn't want to inject a little Sex and the City style into their big day? Good news, Sarah Jessica Parker has just announced that the SJP Collection is adding special styles for brides that will allow you to come one step closer to channelling your inner Carrie Bradshaw on your wedding day!

You all remember that moment of Sex and the City, when Big tells Carrie that he can't go through with the wedding. That weighted moment that shattered through the movie seats when people went to see the film and still brings tears to my eyes when I watch the scene. It was a weight that could only be lifted with a pair of Manolo Blahnik's, as Carrie sat lonely, waiting for the perfect moment to revive the broken love between her and Mr. Big. Now,

## Beauty advent calendars

ANNABELLE BRITTLE  
@ANNABEEBEAUTY

Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe one of the best things about Christmas is the build up before the big day. The increasing excitement, the anticipation, the preparations: it all adds to the magic, and integral to that magic is advent calendars! But these babies bear no resemblance to the chocolate offerings of childhood, although they still do have a little treat hidden behind each door, they're just a little more glamorous! Welcome to the wonderful world of beauty advent calendars...

**YOU BEAUTY DISCOVERY CALENDAR, £49.95**



This is the beauty calendar I grabbed as soon as it was released because it's simply amazing. The contents is worth over £240 and it includes great brands like Laura Mercier, Liz Earle, Philip Kingsley, Benefit, and Rodial, to name

a few! Ooh, and you get an Aromatherapy Associates candle, too. How festive. As with all the calendars featured in this list, this would make a fantastic gift for someone, but an even better treat for yourself.

**LUSH 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS CALENDAR, £49.95**



In true LUSH style, this stunning gift set is packed with some of their best-selling festive themed goodies. It contains one product for each of the twelve days of Christmas, (25th December to 5th January, just FYI) including a Dashing Santa Bath Bomb, a bottle of Hot Toddy shower gel, and a tub of Celebrate body lotion. A must for any LUSH devotee.

**THE BODY SHOP 24 DAYS OF JOY CALENDAR, £50**



In this big box of beauty, The Body Shop has included some of their classic products like the Shea Body Butter and the Vitamin E Moisture Cream. They've also added in some brand new items from their Christmas line like the Glazed Apple Heart Soap and the Frosted Cranberry Shower Gel, as well as a handful of make-up bits and bobs, too.

**BOOTS NO7 25 DAYS OF BEAUTY SECRETS, £35**



Boots are back again this year with another beauty calendar, and it's even better than the last one. It contains twenty five gorgeous No7 products, including some of the cult-status-worthy Protect & Perfect line. It also contains two mascaras, two lip crayons, four nail varnishes, and a whole host of other fabulous items. Now, this calendar is sold out online, but my inside sources tell me that they're still available in Boots stores across the country, so go get yours now!

## Making the most of the mo

ELLIE VOWLES CAROLYNNE EDITOR  
@ELLIEVOWLES

First and foremost, let's be frank: I hate moustaches. I think they're creepy looking and there's something about them that just makes my skin crawl. However, given that the increasing popularity of Movember has propelled the 'tache onto campus and into my life, I feel like it's about time for some moustache guidance to be administered. The campaign has raised about men's health issues and it's raised a lot of money for related causes, so it's difficult for me to be truly upset with the mo. In order to do my best to help with the Movember effort, it seems about time for some guidance to be given for anyone attempting to gain some

upper lip decor this month by highlighting some celebs that have mastered the art of facial fuzz.

### MAINTAIN THE MO

A perfect 'tache won't just spring up overnight, nor will it appear without any effort on your part. A truly great mo requires maintenance and supervision – you might even want to invest in a little moustache comb. Whatever your approach, the path to a brilliant mo will rarely come without obstacles that must be overcome.

### GO HARD OR GO HOME

Not everyone's moustache attempts will be successful. For many, you will try to grow but your mo' just won't show. It's worth remembering that this is really more

about charity and awareness than it is about improving your appearance, so persevere! Wear your gross pubey 'tache like a badge of honour and stick it out til the end of the month when you can free your face.

### HAVE FUN WITH IT

As previously stated, Movember definitely isn't about improving your appearance; it's about being charitable and raising awareness. With that in mind, you can't really take your 'tache too seriously. Maybe you should try Hulk Hogan or Salvador Dali styling? You could even take inspiration from fictional characters, channeling Super Mario or Dick Dastardly to add some comedy value to your face.



# Ins and outs of rave fashion



**CHARLOTTE DAVEY**

As someone whose day to day fashion choices are based largely upon blindly selecting a semi-clean top from my floordrobe and coordinating it with one of my 3 pairs of jeans or myriad pairs of black leggings, I usually fall into a state of panic when it comes to finding socially acceptable outfits for nights out. This panic descended into full scale hyperventilation when I found myself with tickets to a techno night and no idea as to the social mores of rave culture. With friends who are heavily involved in the LUEDMS

scene, I have been (forcibly) exposed to Electronic Dance Music, and so could pretend to know what was going on music-wise; what concerned me was what to wear so as not to stand out like a Cartmel student in County College.

Rave culture emerged in Britain in the 1980s, and the clothes worn by ravers have changed in accordance with popular fashion over time. Generic accessories associated with raves (and Claire's Accessories) such as glow sticks, kandi jewellery and fluorescent paint gained popularity as they were found to boost the psyche-

delic effects of MDMA. Raving attire was bright, casual, and loose fitting in order to facilitate exhausting, sweaty, ecstasy fuelled all-night dancing. In the early 90s, rave culture was adopted by the middle class adolescents and young adults of the Home Counties, spreading around the country when illegal underground raves gained increasing popularity. Photographs and film footage of these events suggest that the clothes worn to raves largely reflected fashion trends of the time, and thus the baggy jeans, dungarees, denim shirts, and NHS prescription specs that defined the 90s also formed the basis of their night time attire. It seems that the current trend of oversized vintage shirts, big glasses, and hair scrunchies directly emulate the fashion choices of the 90s, and with the growing popularity of Polaroid film and instagram filters, some people nowadays are virtually impossible to differentiate from our 90s counterparts who paved the way for today's raves. In 2014, however, what look should I attempt to pull off in order to try and mask the fact that a normal Saturday night for me is spent either asleep in Sugar House, or drinking Earl Grey and reshuffling letters from the Bailiffs?

A friend told me that, if I didn't

want to just wear standard going out clothes, I should try and look 'edgy'. The last time I had attempted edginess was in 2008 when I put some badges on my school blazer, and this wild rebellion had been quashed after 5 hours when I was instructed to remove them in afternoon registration. Edginess, then, was going to be difficult for someone whose fashion knowledge is so minimal that they don't know how to follow trends, let alone consciously defy them. After 3 hours of scrupulous charity shop hunting, I found myself in TK Maxx, battling with pushchairs and pensioners to try and secure the edgiest outfit possible. Two trips to the changing rooms, and trying 11 items of clothing confirmed that there is a fine line between edgy and hideous. One pair of trousers, which wouldn't have looked out of place on an 18 year old Avril Lavigne, were so luridly coloured that I thought someone may actually have vomited on them. I was failing at edginess, and the outfit I attempted to construct left me looking like the love child of Will Smith circa 1992 and a middle aged Zumba instructor. Eventually I narrowed the selection down to two T shirts. I figured cross dressing was probably quite edgy, but rejected the dangerously tight, pretentiously outlandish multi coloured men's

T shirt in favour of the cheapest, wankiest T shirt I could find. My choice was a £4 crop top in a horrific pink and purple asteroid pattern, emblazoned with the inspirational message "I'm a Believer" superimposed over a unicorn. As a militant cynic who believes in very little, my inner atheist wept as I tried on the T shirt. The questionable choice of brand name 'Dead Lovers' was plastered underneath and I figured, Hey, there's nothing more edgy than a brand name promoting necrophilia, so I bought it.

With the help of a pair of frilled Primark socks poking tentatively over my ankle boots, I had successfully turned myself into everything I loathe about our generation. On showing my housemate I was encouraged when she told me that she literally wanted to punch me in the throat. Perhaps, then, I could be edgy after all? I'll never know for sure because half the ravers were in Hallowe'en fancy dress, and everyone else was too busy enjoying themselves to care what other people were wearing. Essentially, I should have saved my money for alcohol instead of crafting myself into a pretentious idiot, because in fashion, as with everything else in life, those who matter don't mind, and those who mind, don't matter.

## Burberry's new Christmas campaign star: Romeo Beckham

**DAFNI TSOUVALA**

@DAPHNE\_TSO

With a singer, fashion designer and model as a mum, and one of the most famous footballers as a dad, it is no surprise that the Beckham children are not average kids. Brooklyn, 15, is currently dating the movie star Chloë Grace Moretz, Cruz, 9, plays for Arsenal's junior team, and Harper, 3, has already been spotted in the front row at New York Fashion Week. This time, Romeo Beckham, aged 12, hits the red carpet by starring in Burberry's new festive ad campaign "From London with Love".

The story captures a boy (Romeo)

delivering a gift of love with magical fairy dust to a young couple, played by up-and-coming British dancer/models, Anders Hayward and Hannah Dodd. A magical journey of wonder and romance through the snowy streets of London captivates the audience, whilst celebrating iconic Burberry products throughout. That said, good luck following an actual narrative while watching the campaign. If you haven't already, you will be far too amazed by all the elegant and good-looking people dancing around in Burberry coats against the scenery of snowy London to pay attention to much else. Save for the adorable Romeo, of course.

Burberry's Christopher Bailey, CEO and chief creative officer (a rarity in the fashion world), went all out. As he announced in his interview with GLAMOUR magazine, he was inspired by the "golden age of cinematic musicals", and as we can see it turned out to be a magical festive campaign. Christopher Bailey also said: "It continues to be an utter joy working with Romeo - he has charm, style and great energy! I'm delighted that he's the lead role in our festive campaign."

Having launched his first Burberry campaign at the age of 10, Romeo is veteran of the brand and it's no mystery why he's such a



Burberry favourite. He's definitely adorable, and he also seems to have inherited quite a bit of talent from his parents - from his influ-

ential screen presence to his impressive dance moves to his ability to pull off a child-sized Burberry coat.



## You can have your cake and (not) eat it, too



In the last issue, Charlotte Davey went 'Sober for October.' This week, she takes on Veganism.

### CHARLOTTE DAVEY

I have always been slightly suspicious of vegans, as I couldn't fathom how any rational human could live without the culinary delight that is post-night-out ham and pineapple pizza.

With Sober October a dim and distant memory, I awoke last week with a dry mouth and pounding head wanting nothing more than to neck a pint of tea and a bacon sandwich. On stumbling into the kitchen I remembered that in a temporary moment of insanity, I had accepted the challenge of going vegan for a week, and opened the fridge to see which elements of my pre-challenge Sainsbury's shop I would still be able to eat, in the confines of my new diet. Staring back at me were 3 varieties of grated cheese, 8 yoghurts, half a pint of milk, 2 fillets of fish, 6 eggs, and a packet of bacon. Slowly decaying in the bottom drawer of the fridge were a two week old broccoli and half a packet of mushrooms.

I was going to be very, very hungry.

One of the earliest struggles I faced was on the first day of the challenge when I went out for a meal with my housemates. Having never been a fussy eater, and being lucky enough to have never suffered from food allergies, I've never paid much attention to what goes into restaurant food. This time, when presented with

vague descriptions that gloss over ingredients with no information about whether or not the vegetarian options contain dairy products, I realised how much I usually take for granted.

Day Two introduced me to the impressive selection of vegetarian and vegan sandwiches, wraps, and calzones available on campus in Spar, which made up for the decaying mushrooms I was resigned to eat for dinner. Despite my loud and hyperbolic complaints that I may in fact starve to death, I secretly enjoyed blowing my student loan on olives and hummus at the market on Saturday.

I started to lose the will to carry on, however, after a failed attempt to make cheese-free pizza. On scouring the supermarket's Quorn selection, I discovered that even the lurid pink meat substitutes contain milk and egg extracts, and so was left with a homemade pizza base constructed from chickpeas, rice flour, and cauliflower topped with tomato and vegetables. This could well have been a culinary triumph were I not the world's most impatient chef. After addressing my 'pizza' with expletives that could make Gordon Ramsay blush, I settled for eating it half raw with a spoon, all washed down with the tears of my inner carnivore. The week's low point came in the form of two friends coming around to my house, eating the most delicious looking carrot cake

off my plates, and then leaving me empty-stomached with the washing up.

While a week is perhaps not long enough to fully reap the benefits of this drastic diet change, I did notice my jeans feeling distinctly looser (though whether or not this was a result of my inability to correctly use a tumble-dryer, I'm not sure). I found it a constant struggle to consciously find sources of protein in foods such as lentils and peanuts, and I often binged on carbs as an accompaniment to the inordinate number of vegetables I was consuming. The week did, however, introduce me to the InfoLab's fantastic Cafe 21, whose cheap vegan and vegetarian food I can highly recommend if you ever stray further down the Spine than George Fox!

Being vegan for a week has really made me reassess my relationship with food. Even when eating vegetarian meals I usually compensate with dairy or eggs, and I have realised that these aren't always integral to an enjoyable meal. As two of my closest friends bake cakes as a form of therapy, however, I can't see this becoming a permanent lifestyle choice, and if anyone tries to tell you that herbal tea and a banana are an acceptable substitute for a full English Breakfast when it comes to Thursday morning hangovers, I give you my full permission to finally put Tofu to good use and beat them senseless with a packet of it.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT HISTORY



**BRYONY SEAGER**  
@BEINGBRYONY

History has something for everyone; by its very nature its scope is huge. If someone says they don't like history, or they don't find it interesting I find it anathema. History is full of stories, riddles, interesting people and events to discover. So when I see people working away at their subject I feel a little bit guilty because I spend my day reading and researching stories and their place in the past, the fact that they're (mostly) true notwithstanding.

Despite saying all this the subject is not walk in the park. It's a lot of work to find out all the ins and outs you need to know, to discover why things happened the way they did, how they happened, the effects of it and how to get that all down in a coherent way so somebody else can understand what you're trying to say. The reading to do all this can sometimes get a little intense, and you'll often see history students surrounded by dozens of books in a quiet place trying to find head-or-tail of the case they're trying to prove or detail.

To be a historian you need a lot of skills, you need to be able to sort the truth from a lot of rubbish, to be able to communicate effectively, to be analytical and to be open minded. For these reasons the world is your oyster with a history degree, unless you want to study medicine or law, there are lots of career options open from teaching, to sales, to finance (yes, really), to management, to the armed forces... the list is genuinely endless, which is why I guess it irks me so much when people automatically assume you want to go into a teaching if you study history. There's absolutely nothing wrong with teaching, but there are a lot of other options.



# Europe's best Christmas markets

Dafni Tsouvala takes you on a tour across Europe, guiding you through the best things to eat, drink, buy and see across the Christmas Markets.



## DRESDEN, GERMANY

27 November 2014 - 24 December 2014

If you like Christmas, you'll love Dresden. Dresden's Christmas markets transform the city into a winter wonderland, filling the city with sparkling lights and festivities. At the heart of this magical place is the Striezelmarkt, one of the largest German Christmas markets. It is also the oldest in the world, having been established in 1434. This market boasts the world's largest Erzgebirge wooden pyramid and a candle arch you can actually walk across. In addition to this, the area is also known for the pflaumentoffel, a good-luck charm made from dried plums, and famous for selling crafts from all over Saxony.



## BASEL, SWITZERLAND

27 November 2014 - 23 December 2014

The Basel Christmas market at Barfüsserplatz and Münsterplatz is considered to be one of the prettiest and largest in Switzerland. Plenty of events and amazing special exhibitions also take place during the Christmas period in the city's many museums.



## NÜRNBERG, GERMANY

28 November 2014 - 24 December 2014

With the recent opening of the world-famous Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt, it is already beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Smells of mulled wine and rum punch, roasted almonds, Nuremberg bratwurst and gingerbread fill the air. Market officials enforce traditions with Teutonic efficiency: no plastic wreaths, recorded Christmas Muzak, or gaudy carousels allowed.



## VIENNA, AUSTRIA

15 November 2014 - 24 December 2014

Vienna's Christmas markets are an age-old tradition that definitely should not be missed. Here you can find over 20 official Advent Markets, each of them selling a huge variety of seasonal gifts and mouth-watering treats. About three million visitors go to Vienna each year at that time for the beeswax candles, wooden toys, and glass ornaments. You definitely need to try the cream-filled pastries, candied fruit, roasted chestnuts, and of course Weihnachtspunsch (a spiced "Christmas punch" that consists of wine and brandy or schnapps sweetened with warm fruit juice).



## BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

29 November 2014 - 5 January 2015

Brussels' Christmas Market has only been around for a few years, but it pulls off its Plaisirs d'Hiver/Winter Pret ("Pleasures of Winter") festival with elegant style. In keeping with the Belgian spirit of a united Europe, the 240 wooden chalets host artisans from around the world selling a kaleidoscope of Christmas wares, handmade crafts, and souvenirs. The quaint stalls are punctuated by a 35m toboggan slope, a ferris wheel illuminated with 18,000 lights and, of course, the famous 200 foot-long skating rink. Don't forget to try the Belgian waffles, caramelized apples and seasonal croustillons (sugar doughnuts).



## COLOGNE, GERMANY

24 November 2014 - 23 December 2014

Every Christmas, the city center of Cologne is surrounded by the magic of all the festivities. Christmas music, arts and crafts, toys, Christmas decorations and the smells coming out of the Christmas bakeries create a harmonic atmosphere. The aroma of mulled wine, hot chestnuts and gingerbread fills the air.



## STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

24 November 2014 - 16 December 2014

With a dusting of snow, the market looks like a Christmas card, Scandinavian-style. Although the first Christmas market on Stortorget Square in Old Stockholm was held 500 years ago, the modern event only dates back a century. Cheerful stalls are filled with crafts made only in Sweden, such as glass, pottery and jewellery. The musts of Stockholm's Christmas market include glögg (mulled wine) and pepparkakor (thin gingerbread biscuits). Be sure to bring home a taste of Sweden!



## PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

1 November 2014 - 1 January 2015

Prague's Christmas markets takes place in Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square. Here you'll find unusual food and drink rather than gifts and decoration. During the week that leads up to Christmas holidays, the streets sport huge tubs of water filled with carp, the traditional Czech Christmas dish. Czech carols are sung all over around the market. You'll also get to enjoy the view of the beautiful surrounding architecture and dazzling lighting at night!



## STRASBOURG, FRANCE

28 November 2014 - 31 December 2014

It was in Strasbourg in 1570 that the very first edition of the oldest Christmas market in Europe took place, called the "Christkindelsmärik" (market of the Infant Jesus). They say "Strasbourg, the Capital of Christmas" and from what I hear, I can't blame them. Caroling choirs, nativity plays, an ice rink and mulled wine served in boot-shaped mugs. Edible specialties include pretzels, roasted chestnuts, bredele cookies, and Flammekeuche ("flamed cake"). Now you've had a tiny taste of what it includes, I guess you can understand why it continues to enjoy such success.



## BARCELONA, SPAIN

28 November 2014 - 23 December 2015

A fairy-tale like Christmas market takes place every year in Barcelona since 1786. Here, you can buy all manner of handcrafted Christmas decorations and gifts, along with mistletoe, poinsettias and Christmas trees. But it's all the objects you can buy to create the nativity scene that differentiate the market. The most popular figure on sale for nativity scenes is the curious Catalan figure of the Caganer (a figurine depicted in the process of defecating) so don't miss out!



## Review: Revolution cocktail masterclass



ABIGAIL DAVIES **FEATURES EDITOR**  
 @ABIGAILDAVIES\_

Upon stumbling into Revolution on a drunken night out, it becomes very easy to forget how much effort actually goes into making their delicious cocktails that every student in Lancaster knows and loves. Standing at the bar I have seen people order eight of the most mouth-watering concoctions for themselves and their friends, before starting to impatiently grumble about why they're taking so long to make. But what people might not realise is just how much skill and knowledge has gone into every sip that they take.

Harry Potter's bedroom under the stairs may not sound like the most elegant venue for a cocktail masterclass. But the nickname of

this little bar at Lancaster's Penny Street Revolution does not reflect the actuality of the class. The bar was decked out with toy tiaras, hoola necklaces, heart shaped antennas, and stick on mustaches (all of which were fully utilised after a few more drinks), and we were greeted with a tasty one 'Strawberry WooWoo' each.

We were each allowed to choose two cocktails that we could make ourselves. I soon discovered that each cocktail was almost completely unique; it is a wonder that anyone can remember the different flavours and techniques without having to read and re-read the menu. My favourite was the 'Sweetshop' cocktail. Made with Stoli Razberri vodka, banana liqueur, bubblegum syrup, cranberry juice, lemonade, and garnished with a fizzy strawberry

lace, this beverage is simply indulgent.

If you know your cocktail shizzle I would definitely recommend taking a peak at the 'Premium Classics' section of the menu. Their 'Peanut Butter Martini' might just change the meaning of, 'I'll have a double vodka martini' for you. We tasted a twist on the classic gin and tonic with Revolution's 'G and Tea'. For this magical treat you actually have to brew tea, which is quite possibly why your cocktails might take a little bit of time to make. But be patient, it's worth it.

Something which genuinely surprised me was the number of different ingredients that went into the cocktails; syrups, sugar, herbs, mixers, and obviously alcohol. Not to mention the emphasis put on the brands used. It quickly became evident that Revolution only wanted to use the best, reaping the most fantastical taste possible.

After all that cocktail making it was time for a game. We split off into two pairs to create two teams where one person was the eyes and one person was the hands. We then had to make a 'Cranberry Fizz'. For those who don't know, this cocktail is less than 200 calories, so you can sip up without feeling guilty. Our server judged our cocktails as we battled it out to make the tastiest drink in the

quickest time. In this case flavour won out over speed, which is just more proof that these cocktails are worth the wait.

The winner then gets to decide whether they want to be nice or nasty to the losing team. Being the lovely people that we are, we decided to be nice, and we each got to sample some of Revolu-

white and some are darker and why some spirits give you a worse hangover.

If you're interested, the darker spirits have usually been aged for longer in their casks. And, the severity of your hangover is largely dependent on the amount of congeners in the alcohol. These are affected by how many times



tions own vodka flavours. From an extensive list of thirty different shots, we all agreed that the yummiest was the salted popcorn. However, if you have a devilish side, you could give your friends the forfeit of making them shot a chilli shot.

If you do decide to go, one thing to make use of is the bartenders knowledge of alcohol. Your server will be able to resolve any of your alcohol related queries. Amongst a bunch of other questions, we asked about why some spirits are

the spirit has been distilled, and how long it has been aged for. Unfortunately, for those who love a flavoursome whiskey, the longer it's been aged for, the more congeners.

But don't let this talk of hangers put you off the masterclass. In short, it is a lot of fun, and not overly priced for what you get either. Between the expertise of your server and the sheer amount of alcohol involved, the night works out to be well worth the affect it has on your overdraft.

## Christmas, by someone who doesn't celebrate it

AMY AMIRA

When it comes to this time of the year, after the craze of Fresher's Week and Halloween has died down, you think you're about to settle down for some peace and quiet. Then you see the Christmas decorations come up in the city square, the Christmas gifts on sale and the latest promotional Christmas drinks at Costa. That's when you know: it's almost Christmas!

For everyone who celebrates it,

it's the craziest time of the year. No matter how early you start your Christmas shopping, there's always that one person you're going to forget buying a gift for. But for someone who doesn't celebrate it, it's not quite the same.

Of course it is exciting; you're filled with anticipation of snow and all the sweets (who are we kidding?) Then there are the Christmas meal deals, the abundant chocolate, the Christmas themed drinks in coffee shops, the cinnamon rolls, the log cakes, the markets.

It's simply irresistible! I won't stop there. The one thing that everyone is looking forward to is the sales! Everyone gets a chance to splurge regardless of whether or not they celebrate Christmas.

At the same time, though, it gets extremely annoying that when you're wanting to go to the supermarket to get something urgently weeks before Christmas, the queue is unbearable! Everywhere you go, there are so many people.

All is good. But on Christmas day

itself, the actual depression sets in. Why? Because the streets are deserted. There's never a single soul around and all you see is emptiness! It's sad especially because everyone goes home during Christmas, so, if you're an international student like me and don't, you're basically bored with nothing to do.

However, as there are always a few of us, we tend to go even more overboard than people who actually celebrate it. Having a Christmas tree with sparkly

lights and the pretty angel on it is, quite frankly, amazing! We've also adapted to gift giving: a stocking is a must. Secret Santa has become my absolute favourite part of Christmas: buying something for someone is always interesting because you get to learn more about the person and best of all, you get a present on Christmas day too.

But as all those Harry Potter fans out there know, all you really want, is a Butterbeer at Christmas. Warm eggnogg? Not really. But Butterbeer? Yes please.



# How to stop overpacking this winter

**EMILY BIRKETT**  
 @EMILY\_BIRKETT

It's fair to say we all go on holiday and only use half the things we take. We pack far too many toiletries, clothes and even find ourselves not having enough room to pack the things we need if we're going away for longer periods of time. Packing can really be a nightmare!

So let's start with how to stop overpacking. In relation to clothes, the key is having interchangeable pieces that you can wear several times but still look like you're not wearing the same outfit. For example, with a few pairs of jeans and a few tops and you can make

several different outfits without repeating one. Which leads onto my second tip; pack accessories! With a variation of accessories including scarves, hats and jewellery there will be endless possibilities to your portable wardrobe. Before you pack, plan each outfit. This way you won't put things in your suitcase out after spontaneously saying to yourself, 'oh, I'll probably wear that' when most likely you won't.

If you're going somewhere for a week, you won't use a whole tube of toothpaste or a whole bottle of shampoo. Contact the hotel you are staying at and ask what they provide - most hotels have toiletries and towels - so don't pack

them if you can use theirs. If they don't provide you with towels, the answer is simple: pack your own.

If they don't provide you with toiletries then there are several solutions, one of which being to buy travel sized toiletries including deodorant, toothpaste and shampoos. This way you save space in your suitcase and you don't have to bring them back, just simply put them in the bin before you leave. A more environmentally friendly and cheaper alternative is buying travel sized containers and filling them up with your essentials at home.

Next thing: be realistic. If you're going on relaxing holiday, you'll

most likely pack a few books. But will you really read all the books? Is it more realistic that you will just finish one? Books take up a lot of space in your luggage and they're heavy too so being realistic on what you actually think you will use is a must.

For any avid reader, investing in a Kindle can be a great way to save you lugging heavy cases across the world on a semi-regular basis.

Every airline has a baggage allowance and even if you're not travelling by plane, you don't want to be travelling around with a heavy suitcase. If you're unwilling to compromise on your case's book content, lightweight suitcases are

the best solution. Having a soft suitcase instead of a hard one also helps with packing as soft suitcase allow you to fit things into smaller spaces and provide a lot more flexibility.

A noble method for packing light may be to try and save space with fiercely efficient packing techniques. Of course there's the well known 'rolling not folding' tip. this not only saves space but also reduces creases in your clothes so it's a win-win solution!

Finally, wear the heavier clothes while travelling. Trains and air-planes can get cold so jumpers or coats, can easily be worn to when travelling.

# 10 Secret Santa gifts under £10



**Legless Bottle Opener, £9.99**  
 Complete with eye-patch and ear-ring, this useful little pirate features a corkscrew, foil cutter and beer bottle opener, making it perfect for whatever kind of Christmas party you're having.



**Edible Eyes, £6.99**  
 Skip the passive aggressive post-it notes on your flatmate's mouldy food in the fridge and make your point with these edible eyes instead.



**Homer Egg Cup, £9.99**  
 Take your eggs and soldiers to the next level by eating eggs out of the Homer Egg Cup and imprinting your toast soldiers with the phrases 'D'oh', 'Woo-Hoo' and 'Mmmm'.



**Pussy Magnet, £9.99**  
 Become notorious for having the neatest desk around - this magnetised black cat will keep all your paper clips and staples in one place.



**Shark Fin Ice Tray £7.99**  
 Not that there's much call for ice cubes during a Lancaster winter, but when there is, these shark fin shaped ice-cubes are great additions (particularly to red drinks.)



**Wild Dining Lion Plate, £9.99**  
 Spice up any dinner table with this plate and procrastinate endlessly by re-arranging whatever food you're having around the lion's face.



**3D Dino Cookie Cutters, £6.99**  
 'Tis the season to be baking a ridiculous amount of cookies, so why not make them epic, 3D dinosaur shaped ones?



**Robot Tea Infuser, £7.49**  
 There's nothing more comforting after a long day of lectures than a hot cup of tea made with the help of this quirky little robot infuser.



**Grippy Anti-Slip Mat, £9.99**  
 Perfect for those with cars, this sticky mat attaches to your dashboard and keeps anything from your phone to spare change from slipping off.



**Nothing, £6.99**  
 Last but not least, the perfect gift for the person who already has it all: a plastic ball filled with absolutely nothing but thin air.



# Around the town in 50 pubs

## CAMPUS BARS EDITION

For this edition the intrepid team decided to return to familiar pastures - the campus bars in which they conducted their alcoholism for the entirety of first year. Though everyone is probably familiar with these old haunts for the sake of completeness and to make our title true we thought it only fair to see how these establishments fared on the merciless Potts scale. **MATTHEW POTTER, JACOB LAWTON & MICHAEL DODDS**



**THE TROUGH OF BOWLAND**  
7/10

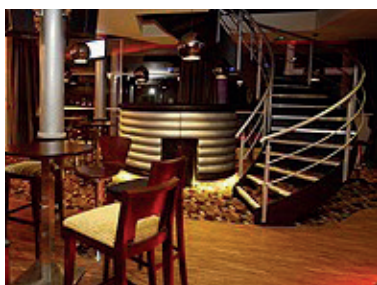
The watering hole of Lancaster's oldest college, the aesthetics of Bowland bar are somewhat muddled - a mix of old fashioned benches and slightly less old fashioned plastic tables. Along with every other pub in this edition, Bowland offers lager at a good price and a pool table. Bowland also has music events on offer and access to the TV (if you hand in your library card) and of course the legendary Bowland Pies. The Trough of Bowland also scores a bonus point after the Bowland Bar sign went viral following some sound exam advice - and also possibly because the writers of this review call this college their home.

**THE HERDWICK (GRAD)**  
8/10

The Herdwick has the feel of a proper pub: regular curry nights, interestingly decorated walls and an impressive ale selection which has seen The Herdwick featured in the 'Campaign for Real Ale's' Good Beer Guide since 2003. It also plays host to a yearly ale festival during the Summer term. The Herdwick also has live sports on show and regular open mic nights. It may not be the largest pub on campus, but it is by our reckoning the finest bar on campus.

**THE WINNING POST (CARTMEL)**  
4.5/10

Anyone who makes it all the way to this bar will most certainly need a drink on arrival, perhaps even a bite to eat. Of all the bars on campus, Cartmel certainly has the biggest menu - it has even offered Man vs. Food style challenges in the past - giving it a feel more of a restaurant with a bar perhaps. It is also home to a very large games room which is all part of the college's noble efforts to accommodate its poor students who live on the edge of civilisation. The Winning Post was the previous location of the Battle of the Bands final (now held at the Sugarhouse) squeezing a bonus point out of us, this however cannot prevent a disappointing score.



**BAR 74 (PENDLE)**  
4/10

Now named Bar 74, it is definitely possible that Pendle Bar will have once again changed its name by the time this article is published. It's known across campus for "never being open", Bar 74 has very limited opening hours (7pm-11pm, Monday-Thursday) and then closed on the weekend. The bar itself feels particularly retro with some aspects of the bar looking like they've been designed for a spaceship in an 80s film - or a particularly unpleasant strip joint. Bar 74 does host special events such as the prolific Pendle Live, Live at the Oak's only rival for regular quality music on campus but our rating system is merciless and despite some positives Bar 74 tumbles to the worst score on campus.



**THE NORTHERN OAK (COUNTY)**  
6/10

A strange set up, like many of the college bars it tries its best to accommodate many areas (some of which are included on the scoring scale we use). Food is available at certain times when the County Diner is open and The Northern Oak is even home to Costa Coffee, to the delight of many coffee lovers who felt out of place when queuing for a Costa in LUMS behind many suited business people. There is nothing particularly interesting about the bar's interior and décor (apart from the new canvas prints of the infamous 'County Ducks'). A large games room with bar sports, regularly hosting 'Live at the Oak' AND a fortnightly comedy club on Thursday nights helps The Northern Oak to a respectable score.



**TREVOR (FURNESS)**  
7/10

Trevor is probably the only campus bar which everyone actually knows the name of. Also the most central, Trev is popular for students who want to kill an hour between lectures by having one of Trevor's smoothies, milkshakes or some of their famed cake. There's also 'Trev o'clock' where you can get discounted drinks on weekday evenings. Despite failing to meet some of the more specific criteria Trev did win a bonus point for its extensive and socially facilitating seating.

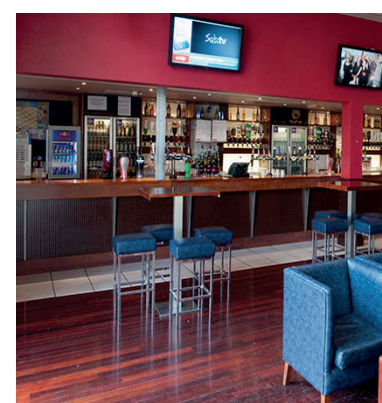


**GRIZEDALE CAFÉ BAR**  
6/10

During the day, Grizedale is a good option if you would like to eat on campus with simple yet delicious food such as wraps and pizza. At night it also seems like a popular option as it turns into a cocktail bar. Grizedale bar is possibly the trendiest bar on campus and many students even suggest that this is the best bar on campus. However, after a letter published in the last edition of SCAN, we can no longer un-see the fact that it is essentially a glorified Ikea showroom and it fails to score more than 6 points.

**THE MILL (FYLDE)**  
5/10

The Mill, like The Winning Post, has more the feel of a restaurant with a bar. In the centre of the 'sports college' The Mill certainly keeps this reputation with a large drop down projector screen to view live sports matches. It seals its reputation as the place to watch sport on campus by remaining open through the days at the weekend when many of the biggest sporting events take place. With an interesting menu which features burgers made from the meat of emu, camel, kangaroo, zebra and many more, it will certainly appeal to those feeling a bit carnivorous. There is also a decent selection of ales on offer, but The Mill fails to score on many other aspects on the scale.



**THE RED LION (LONSDALE)**  
5/10

Though once you could be fined for being drunk here, don't let such blatant Bowland propaganda put you off this large establishment. During the day it does serve food, however Lonsdale prides itself on its DJ nights and is the best option for "clubbing" on campus (open until late on Fridays and Saturdays). If you're on campus looking for some loud dance music this may be the place for you, however if you are just going for a pint and want a pub setting perhaps you should look elsewhere.





Lancaster  
University



# THE WORLD AT LANCASTER *Extravaganza*

**TUESDAY**

2ND DECEMBER

**THE GREAT HALL**

5-7pm

A colourful cultural evening  
filled with free street food,  
mocktails, exciting performances  
and activities.



WELCOME TO  
LANCASTER



LUSU



## In conversation with Vegard Jørmeland

SCAN Business talks to Vegard Jørmeland, alumni of Lancaster University and co-founder of numerous start-ups in India, Norway and the UK. Additionally, he is the organiser of Startup Weekend at Lancaster: an intensive 54-hour workshop which 'creates communities and builds businesses in a weekend'. Jørmeland has two degrees, one in Computer Science, which he gained in his native country, Norway, as well as one in Psychology from Lancaster, which has informed his involvement in several of his start-ups. Here, Jørmeland gives his thoughts on what it takes to be an entrepreneur, the skills required to be successful and acquiring people who "get shit done".

**DIVESH LACHHWANI**  
**STEPH MITCALF** *BUSINESS EDITOR*

What ignited the spark in you to start a new business venture? You are involved in a lot of start-ups, so how did you get the idea of entering this field and starting companies?

Wow. Let's see, the thing is, since I was born, I was always breaking toys and then building them again from scratch. As I got older, the way of doing this got a bit more sophisticated, for example, I built an iPad prototype, a couple of years before the original iPad had arrived.

We spent the year doing that and soon after, we managed to sell two of these things. Then I figured out that I don't know shit about selling stuff, or business. I know how to engineer stuff. Of course, the question is how do you improve on that? It is a journey, it's a path, so with me it actually started at birth.

So how do you find the right people to bring to your organisation that have the same ambition and goals as you? That requires a kind of talent, or skill, to acquire the best people, doesn't it?

I am highly selective. Essentially, what I do is I go and look for people who get shit done. That is a set of personal characteristics and the way that I go about finding those people is to find the people who are making a fuss in any given city. If I come to a new city, such as Lancaster, and go speak to people, some names tend to get mentioned over and over and over again, and those are typically the people that get shit done. Those are the kind of people you want on your team, the power players, anybody else, I don't care about.

What kind of characteristics do you look for in the people you take on?

The characteristics I look for is

for people who are able to communicate efficiently, who are able to have a clear vision, and to explain their vision to other people, to break this down to the concrete plans and then to act upon the plans, to get shit done. Get shit done is a pretty big Silicon Valley concept these days.

You graduated from Lancaster University. What advice would you give to students who enter a field like yours, or who want to be an entrepreneur?

Actually, the advice I would give is to everybody and not just to people who think they are an entrepreneur. Honestly, I believe that people don't know if they want to be an entrepreneur before they actually try. I have met a lot of people who didn't think they had it before they tried and then figured out that entrepreneurship is exactly what they are for.

So, my advice, to anybody, is to try. You need to try to get some hands on experience. Do a product, do a start-up, do whatever. You can't learn this stuff in a classroom, I believe. So I would definitely advise people to go to a Start-up Weekend; that is exactly what we do there.

*"The difference between successful people and unsuccessful people is the stuff in their brain; that is their experience and their mind-set. Mind-sets can be taught."*

Do you think people are 'born as leaders', or 'born as entrepreneurs'?

See, I'm a psychologist, and I have some pretty strong opinions on that. I do believe that certain personality traits are useful for a leader and for an entrepreneur, of course you can be born with that. But, when that is said, I would argue that the difference between successful people and unsuccessful people is the stuff in their

brain; that is their experience and their mind-set. Mind-sets can be taught. You can learn a mind-set.

So you do feel that people can develop the skills to be an entrepreneur?

Absolutely!

That's brilliant. In regards to that, what would you say are the top three skills that you need to be an entrepreneur, or to be successful? You have previously mentioned that it is vital to try.

I would say, if you meet an entrepreneur, you will learn one thing pretty fast and that is that entrepreneurs are not the people with the answers to questions. Entrepreneurs are the people with the questions. I find that if I believe I have all the answers, I am going to have real difficulty when it comes to actually figuring out the problems and figuring out a way of doing stuff. The best way to do that is to go out and ask questions. 'Why is that that way?' Or 'How can I do that?', etc., and dare to be stupid. Of course, the next thing I would argue is that you really need to figure out how to set a goal, how to make a plan and how to act upon that plan, which is the hardest bit. If you don't have a plan and you don't execute, you aren't going to get anywhere.

On a personal basis, what motivates you?

The process. I like the process of creating stuff, that is what motivates me, because you are kept in a constant challenge, and when you are always in that balance between skill and challenge, you are right at the top of what you are able to achieve. You go into a psychological state called "flow", and that is the most intrinsically rewarding possible state.

We would like to know, how do you find new ideas for your companies?



Vegard Jørmeland

That is interesting, that you brought ideas up. I think people think that you need an idea to be an entrepreneur; that is not true. You do not need to have an idea. The thing is that your success is a combination of how good your idea is and how good your execution is.

*"The idea doesn't really matter, it's the execution. If you have good execution, like the people behind the Snuggie do, you're going to be successful."*

Let me give a concrete example on that. Have you ever heard of a product called a Snuggie? In my subjective opinion, the Snuggie is the dumbest product that has ever

been made. I'm thinking, who needs a blanket with arms? Who doesn't have a sweater or a regular blanket?

But it turns out that the Snuggie is so popular that now it comes in an edition for two people. So the idea doesn't really matter, it's the execution. If you have good execution, like the people behind the Snuggie do, you're going to be successful.

So it is the execution that is more important?

That's the key thing, yes. Don't wait around for the right idea; you are going to wait forever.



# In conversation with Matt Smith

*Global Entrepreneurship Week saw many people with ideas, which they hope can make a difference in the world of industry, looking to grab the attention of the big names in business and establishing connections that could soon see them get their ideas off the ground. In Lancaster, things were no different, with a range of events taking place on campus across the week. To mark this week, SCAN Business talked to the Director of The Centre for Entrepreneurs think tank, Matt Smith. Since he graduated from Lancaster in 2008, Matt has managed to build his organisation up into a team of over 24 staff, secured over £3.5 million in government funding for his initiatives, and has gone on to represent young entrepreneurs at several prestigious venues, including the UK parliament and the World Economic Forum. Matt also serves as an advisor to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Entrepreneurship.*



Simon Harrison

**LIAM BURNS**

**Do you think your time studying at Lancaster was the point at which you decided to go down the route of entrepreneurship, or did you have ideas before or after university?**

I had taken part in Young Enterprise at college, without much success. I had also done some money-making one-off ventures throughout school and college. But it was re-launching the University Enterprise Society and interacting with local and celebrity entrepreneurs that led me to look away from a planned computing career to focus on entrepreneurship promotion.

Can you think of any skills you learnt or developed at Lancaster that led to the position you are in now?

Re-launching and serving as President of the Enterprise Society had the greatest impact, but I was also an exec member on the Ski Club and the Kite-surfing Society and

represented the academic societies within LUSU. All of these gave valuable leadership and management skills, boosted my confidence and built useful connections that continue to help me.

**What challenges did you face in the co-founding and development of your organisation the National Association of College & University Entrepreneurs, and how did you overcome them?**

The greatest personal challenge was working on it full time for 18 months without a salary to get it off the ground. I regularly worked 80+ hour weeks and also spent 18 months living in London hostels for 3 nights a week when trying to cut costs by moving back in with my parents in Nottingham.

I kept my drive and optimism by celebrating the regular wins, however small.

As a graduate yourself, did you feel a greater pressure in representing students and young entrepreneurs to institutions such

as the World Economic Forum,  
the UK Parliament and the Welsh  
Assembly?

Such unique and high-level opportunities (including discussions at 10 Downing Street and Buckingham Palace, and delivering training to the Iraqi Youth Parliament in Erbil) can be a little nerve-racking, but confidence always comes from having strong domain expertise, a clear plan and the knowledge that the audience are keen to hear your insight.

*“Entrepreneurs are made, not born. By developing your enterprise skills then putting them to practice through university-run business challenges you can gain experience, learn from failures and increase the likelihood of success when you come to start your own business.”*

In your opinion, is entrepreneurship a skill which some individuals possess and others don't, or is it something that can be taught and subsequently supported by

organisations such as your own?

Entrepreneurs are made, not born. By developing your enterprise skills then putting them to practice through university-run business challenges you can gain experience, learn from failures and increase the likelihood of success when you come to start your own business.

**Are you excited to see what ideas the next generation of potential business leaders have to offer?**

Students and graduates are behind some of Britain's best startups! Be it the Heriot Watt grads who started punk brewery, Brewdog; Bristol grad, Jamie Murray-Wells, who revolutionised the glasses industry with Glasses Direct; or Oxford grad, Emily Brooke, who is saving cyclist's lives with the Blaze Laserlight.

The creativity, innovation and drive of students is inspiring and their business ideas never cease to amaze me.

Is there any business sector in which you see a greater amount of potential for expansion and/or innovation?

All things tech, digital and app-based are hot right now, but there's lots of opportunity in every sector and industry. As we see above, some of the best businesses don't touch digital apps. One example is that there are very interesting opportunities around elderly care as the population ages.

What advice would you give to any up-and-coming entrepreneurs wishing to step out in to the wider business world?

Always keep learning and bettering yourself; don't be afraid to ask those a few steps ahead of you for guidance; equally, always support those at an earlier stage through mentoring; build a trusted support network of like-minded entrepreneurs you can rely on for support & encouragement; keep networking!



# Part-time work: the opportunity cost of making ends meet

Nathan Jones gives us an insight into the conditions students have to cope with in order to fund university study.

NATHAN JONES

I started working at my local store of a high-street retailer during my AS levels, and during my three years employment I've almost been fired four times, and felt like quitting at least one-hundred times.

There are just moments of physical inability which "Big Brother" (Head Office) fails to comprehend, and moments of severe stress. Join me, reader, in my fortnightly tale of triumphs and tumultuous turmoil as I recall the good and bad moments of my minimum wage, zero-hour contract career so far.

One such example is what my summer "holiday" was like this year. I needed as much money as I could get to fund the next year of university and, being on National Minimum Wage for my age bracket of 18-21 (£5.03 per hour) plus any commission, I needed as many hours as I could afford to get.

Unfortunately, the store was undermanned in the delivery shift department (as no one wants to do it) and they decided that, as I had volunteered to do delivery shifts in order to get hours, that was going to be the place where I was going to be.

I'm a salesperson, selling customers footwear and driving sales – even acting as supervisor or manager of my department at times. Yet now I was going to be doing deliveries. My alarm would go off at 3:45am, as I'd scurry around my pitch-black bedroom putting on my uniform, grabbing my hi-vis vest, and leaving the house without making a sound (so as to not wake the parents) at 4:05am.

*I started working at my local store of a high-street retailer during my AS levels, and during my three years employment I've almost been fired four times, and felt like quitting at least one-hundred times.*

It takes me just over an hour to walk, zombified, the 6km into town to work – there are no buses at that time, nor can I afford a bike what with saving for university and my current wage. I'd save the one-litre bottle of Lucozade in my bag for the struggle ahead. Once at work, I'd get sorted and start work at 5:30am.

As a shoeboy (fondly nicknamed "Shoey"), I know trainers inside and out, and so it's solely my job to sort the shoes that come in

through delivery into categories: ladies floor, ground floor, basement floor, and hanging shoes.

Within the ground floor category, there are two sub-categories: table stock (i.e. the boxes you see on the shop floor), and stockroom stock (the shoes you see on the walls but with no boxes on the shop floor). Within both of these, the shoes are grouped into brand, and then by size range.

Shoes come in cages – roughly 80 shoes per cage and about seven cages in a delivery during the summer. Big Brother guidelines say a cage should be sorted and cleared in ten minutes. I have until 9am to clear all cages, and an hour after that my shift finishes.

As an undergraduate economist, I worked out the efficiency of this. There's approximately 560 shoes in total and 210 minutes in which to sort them. Meaning every minute, I have to clear 2.67 shoes to sort out; all to be finished by 9am.

This is kind of achievable, when you take into account fatigue from being on my feet for at least an hour already at a stupidly early time of day, the fact I'm doing shuttle-runs between the cage and where the category piles are, and

the effects of the Lucozade are wearing off!

Now let's analyse Big Brothers' estimates. The company average for unloading a cage is 10 minutes. This means eight shoes per minute have to be sorted, or a shoe every 0.134 seconds (yeah, right. That means grabbing a shoe, looking at the product name, knowing where it goes, placing it in the place, and getting back to the cage, in 0.134 seconds).

Big Brother fails to recognise the fact that the company average is that low because there are four or five Shoeyes in most other delivery teams, but just myself in my store's delivery team.

*With rising living costs at university by not living on a "Pot Noodle" diet, I really needed as much money as I could get. Needless to say I'll specifically be asking to avoid the delivery shift when I return for the Christmas vacation.*

This has caused a few disputes between myself and my manager. He tells me I'm not quick enough, whereas I'm telling him that having me run (yes, literally run) across the shop floor single-hand-

edly doing the task is, from an economists point of view, inefficient.

Having at least one more person would make the task be completed closer to company standards, but he refuses to see that – even with my empirical workings out – and rules that I must work faster (how exactly?)

So that's how my mornings over the summer were for about six days a week. Sometimes I'd do it for ten days straight (and not always finish at 10am either – on occasions I stayed on until 4pm, or even 11pm!).

From an economist's viewpoint, the opportunity cost of myself going to work was an extra six or seven hours in bed (and that's really what I'd prefer!), however, with rising living costs at university by not living on a "Pot Noodle" diet, I really needed as much money as I could get.

Needless to say I'll specifically be asking to avoid the delivery shift when I return for the Christmas vacation.

# Can there ever be a future for commercial spaceflights?

LIAM BURNS

If anyone was considering a potential career in Virgin's Space Tourism sector, they may now be looking to rethink their career options. Richard Branson's hopes of owning the first company to make commercial spaceflights a reality have had a huge setback due to the tragic crash in the Mojave Desert on October 31 that resulted in the death of one of the pilots.

The response to such a terrible loss, not surprisingly, has been a negative one for Virgin, with around twenty already-paid passengers asking for refunds on their tickets.

Even without this disaster the project has been beset by problems ever since its inception in 2004. The development of Virgin Ga-

lactic has been ongoing now for 10 years, and has required over \$680 million of investment from organisations outside of the Virgin Corporation, the only notable successes of which have been the few successful test flights that have taken place since early 2010. Virgin have also seen very little support from NASA.

Considering the purpose of the project, many would believe such backing would be a necessity. However, NASA has instead decided to pledge support to what could be seen as a major rival to Virgin's ambitions, the Sierra Nevada Corporation and their 'Dreamchaser' spacecraft.

On top of all this, Virgin Galactic still have the pressing issue of finances to cope with. Expenditure on their spacecraft 'Spaceship 2'

has risen continually due to constant development and need for maintenance, all of which leads into how they hope to recoup these costs, where there are still issues to be found. Seats had initially been priced at \$200,000; however, ever-increasing costs have caused this number to be increased to \$250,000 a seat.

Passengers are not only required to spend incredible amounts of cash, but also need to take a health check before flying in order to ensure they are capable of enduring the flight. All of this has led to many questioning why so much should be given for the sake of a 2.5 hour flight – a luxury novelty for those few who can afford it.

While it may seem a little early to suggest Virgin Galactic may possibly be a failed venture, it does cre-

ate an interesting comparison to another form of luxury travel, one that had to be retired due to problems similar to those experienced by Virgin now: Concorde.

Even at the beginning, in the late 1960s, the development of the aircraft had caused serious economic loss to both Aérospatiale and BAC, the French and British companies involved in Concorde's manufacturing, requiring government bailouts for both companies.

Then there was the issue of ticket prices. A journey on Concorde could cost as much as five times as much as the same journey on a regular airliner. Public perception quickly began to sway against it as a privilege of the rich, rather than as something which the majority of air passengers could afford.

Maintenance costs also rose consistently, especially in comparison to the more modern and efficient airliners that could be maintained far more easily as the years went on. However, by far the most crucial element in its retirement was the 2000 Paris air crash, which killed 113 people – a huge disaster for those involved and British Airways and Air France. Finally, in October 2003, all aircraft stopped flying.

So, two means of luxury travel, both incredibly expensive for passengers and owners alike, both with major public perception issues, and both with fatal crashes to their names. One has already been removed from service, will the other soon follow suit?



## Event: Dinner with Industry

DARIO NAPODANO

One of this year's biggest employability event will come later on this month, during week 8. The 'Dinner with Industry', hosted by the Bright Futures Society, has been running for nine years straight and has always managed to outdo itself every time, growing in prestige and recognition due to the opportunities it provides. It gathers 60 students with 20 top employers. "I am very proud of our flagship event", said Giulia Ravasi, President of the Bright Futures Society, "student tickets have sold out in only three weeks and we are looking forward to this night!"

This year, employers include IBM, PwC, Deloitte, Barclays, TKMaxx, as well as various entrepreneurs from northwest England SME's. Expedia will also participate, and it will be the first time this company will come to Lancaster University. Former alumni representing the companies they work for will also be present, and will be prepared to ask any questions about the experience they have had in their given career. On top of this, several careers consultants from the University are bound to attend, acting as intermediaries between the students and the prospective employers. The event is a great opportunity for students to obtain information on working for these specific companies in the future.

Other than providing career opportunities for all attendees, the Dinner with Industry is one of the largest networking events hosted at Lancaster throughout the whole academic year. Networking is an essential skill when looking and applying for jobs; this event has proven to be a great opportunity for people to improve their communication skills and make contact with people who can help them out in their career path. In the past, this event has been very important in encouraging students to make lasting connections and gather information on each company from their representatives and employees. On top of providing career opportunities for all attendees, this night in particular is also a chance for people to bolster their Lancaster Awards achievements as a networking opportunity, making attendance even more advantageous.

# Event: Careers Fair 2014

EMILY CLAYTON

This term, Lancaster University once again held its annual Careers Opportunities Fair in the Great Hall. 88 employers from many different career sectors travelled to the University and over 1800 students came to meet them. Like every previous Careers Fair it was crowded, hot and even had a little bit of drama, but overall it was a great success. As well as leaving with bags full of freebies (the Mondelez International Cadbury's freebie stand was particularly impressive) hopefully many students, like me, left with a better idea of what may be in store for the future.

Before now I hadn't given much thought into what I want to do after I graduate. It's a frightening prospect and something I had dropped to the bottom of my to-do list. Therefore I went to the Careers Fair with a completely open mind and my options open. I found all of the employers very friendly, and they were all really keen to answer my questions. After an hour of speaking to employers I discovered that the skills gained from my History degree can be applied to a large number of different roles, and I was encouraged to apply to many of the



Piotr Motyka

organisations I spoke to.

All of the employers who attended the fair offered appealing opportunities for graduates. For me, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, L'Oreal and United Utilities stood out in particular. My friends who I attended the fair with (a Maths, Finance and Accounting major and an English and Religious Studies major) were also spoilt for choice of graduate opportunities relating to their skills and interests. Some of my friends who are medical stu-

dents were particularly interested in a career in medicine with the army.

Although the Fair was very well organised, not everything ran smoothly. Not long after the Fair began a group of protesters targeted the BAE Systems stand. The protesters lay down in front of the stand for a short time, and then continued to do a funeral march around the hall. The protest lasted altogether around two and a half hours, but remained peaceful

and considerate to other students, allowing them to access the stand for career information.

For me the fair was a great success. I left with a bag full of chocolate and sweets, a packet of biscuits, a handful of mini torches, a thermal flask and some magnets. More importantly, I left with a better idea of what I want to do after I graduate and with a number of organisations in mind which I plan to apply to.

## Opportunities: work shadowing with Santander

STEPH MITCALF **BUSINESS EDITOR**

Work experience is hard to get. This is a reality in any field or industry. This is a difficult paradox, because you can build your whole academic profile for a career you may not be ready for. The Santander UK university branch on campus is now offering a flexible, voluntary, work skills programme which is arranged around your studies, to allow you the opportunity to gain real life work experience and improve your skills base in this area. The scheme is spread over a two-week period and focuses on improving your skills in several key areas.

As the first person to work shadow with the branch, I can tell you first-hand how the scheme plays out. I sent Sarah (the University

Relationship Branch Manager) my CV towards the end of summer and was asked to attend a brief interview at the start of term. The staff are all very open and happy to answer questions and let you sit in on their daily activities. That spare part feeling that might happen more often than not in some workplaces didn't happen in this instance. I have been offered so many cups of tea this week that I can say with certainty that the team has not taken me on to be their "brew girl".

Activities are varied and you will cover everything from risk, to staff feedback meetings, to producing your own reports. Santander have recently launched a new app, SmartBank, and during the week I've gained an insight into the launch of this product in particu-



Steph Mitcalf

lar. Feedback is a really big part of this placement. The last thing most businesses want is somebody (especially a measly 19 year old) to come in and give feedback on their processes. However, at Santander, I have been asked frequently for my opinion and really genuinely encouraged me to say what I think. This is an invaluable skill, because it is important to move beyond the mould of the

student-teacher scenario and start to actually use your initiative and have a positive impact.

The full information on this scheme is available via Target Connect. If you wish to apply, send some information on yourself and your CV to the University Relationship Branch Manager, Sarah, at sarah.lonergan@santander.co.uk.



# Societies of Lancaster: Women's Basketball



Lancaster University Women's Basketball Club

CHETNA SAHAI

In the past two years, Lancaster University Women's Basketball has quickly risen to become one of the University's most successful teams. From a 2A division team in 2012 to 1A winners and BUCS Trophy finalists last year, the team has created a real name and presence within the Northwest. Last year, their win against York during Roses secured the overall win of Lancaster. These achievements have earned the ladies the title of 'Team of the Year' for two years in a row.

The team's success is a result of the ladies' hard work, determination and passion for the game. Every member of the team is instilled with these same values. At every practice and at every game, the team never fails to play at its full potential, with all their energy and love for basketball. Often, spectators have been in awe of the

team's energy on the court and the team's ability to give its all even when victory is imminent. Whether the game is close or Lancaster is leading by 30 points, the ladies play without being affected by the score.

This year the Womens' Basketball Team has had a challenging season with only seven returning players and no coach. The spirit of the team, however, has not changed; the new members bring the same determination and passion, but also potential for a stronger team.

There is now a strong dedication to both the team and the University like never before. One of the newest team-members stated that she enrolled at the University to be part of the team and play. This is the commitment and passion that makes Lancaster's team so successful. Halfway through this

term, a new coach and Lancaster alumni were secured, providing the team with strong leadership to face the intense competition in the 1A league this year.

These new developments have already shown progress in Week 6's home game against Bradford. This was Lancaster's first match with both a new coach and a new starting team, and this definitely made a difference. With a close start, the second half saw the women's team play impeccable defence and strong offence. Lancaster won with a final score of 66-24.

Events in the past weeks have encouraged the Women's Basketball Team to train harder and maximize their strengths to win the final two games of 2014. The next home game will be at 5:30 pm on Wednesday Week 9 at the Sports Centre.

## Match report

## Another victory for the Lancaster tennis team

CASPER LAW

Lancaster men's 1st tennis team beat Leeds Beckett University 5th team with the score 10-2 on Wednesday Week 6. The victory for the Red Roses made them one of the last 16 remaining teams in the Northern Conference Cup.

The Lancaster men did not have as smooth a start as they had in their previous matches, losing one of the doubles matches before the start of the singles matches. However, the singles players did not let any of the supporters down and won all their games.

Maxim Uslamin, who has won all his games for Lancaster this season, was clearly in on a hot streak; his serve and his ground strokes outplayed his opponent on a classic wet and windy Lancaster day.

Daniel Fabisch, who claimed another singles victory for Lancaster, was in the centre of a controversial event during the match. His opponent disagreed with his decision to call a ball out. There were severe arguments amongst the players from both teams.

*The matches and players would undoubtedly benefit from the the supervision of match officials or umpires. However, on a practical and financial level this may not be possible.*

Eventually, Fabisch won the match and collected another two points for Lancaster. Some of the players from Lancaster expressed their disappointment towards their opponents' attitude and sportsmanship. The matches are usually held without any match officials or umpires and are expected to be played with players' mutual respect and honesty.

The matches and players would undoubtedly benefit from the the supervision of match officials or umpires. However, on a practical and financial level this may not be possible. The court was another issue raised by the players, with

some arguing that the courts were too slippery to play on a rainy day.

The Lancaster captain, Andre Danuns, thought that the reason behind their loss in the doubles match was that they split their doubles team. Speaking to SCAN, Danuns was very optimistic about the future of the team this season. He believes that his team can win the cup this season, quite simply because the team has more quality players this season compared to last. After the game, Danuns said: "We had only three or four good players last season. This season we have five to six good players in the team."

The depth in the squad is a very important element to success in such an intense competition fixture, given that the single matches are usually played immediately after the doubles matches.

*The Red Roses currently sit at second place in the Northern 3A league table following three victories in a row.*

It is reasonable to believe that a player who has played two or three sets in the double matches would get exhausted in the singles matches. Therefore, sufficient depth in squad allows doubles players to focus on their own matches. Meanwhile, a set of fresh singles players can be sent to play afterwards. Such an organisation would undeniably be beneficial to the team.

The Red Roses currently sit at second place in the Northern 3A league table following three victories in a row. They are currently behind league leaders Manchester 3rd on points' difference.

The Lancaster 1st tennis team fought for the top seat of the table against Manchester 3rd on Wednesday Week 7 (results not known at time of writing) before they play Liverpool John Moores 2nd on Wednesday Week 8 in the last 16 round of the Northern Conference Cup.



## Match report

# Rugby League looking to bounce back after tough start to their season

HENRY SAKER-CLARK **NEWS EDITOR**

✉ @HENRYSAKERCLARK

Despite suffering a number of defeats in their opening fixtures this season, Lancaster University Rugby League are looking onwards and upwards for the rest of the year.

On Wednesday Week 6, despite tries from Marcus Heath, Mark Brown, and Sam Hudson, the tireless efforts of the whole team were unable to stop a closely fought 22-14 defeat at the hands of Newcastle University in the cup.

Although the team have lost their first three matches this year, they clearly believe that their season can still be successful following a tough opening fixture list.

For large parts of the match Newcastle's underlying quality shone through. They held possession for long periods of the match, but still found it difficult to break through Lancaster's hard working forwards.

Speaking to SCAN, Vice-Chairman of the team Joe Weir com-

mended the group's tenacity and grit despite the disappointing result. "The lads put the effort in. In the first half, Newcastle had a hell of a lot of possession on our line but it was set after set and the guys defended admirably. I think, at the end of it, because we only had four subs they were getting tired. They were trying to get quick plays and lost the ball, and then it was just a vicious cycle in the end."

Nevertheless the better side walked away with the victory. In the second half, the tiredness of the men in red and black was obvious as Newcastle's greater physicality became apparent, putting a great deal of pressure on Lancaster.

"To be fair I think Newcastle played very well, they knew how to win a game," Weir added. "We just seemed to have a bad game I think; nothing seemed to come off. We were giving away soft penalties and were losing the ball often."

Lancaster sit second from bottom in the Northern 2A division, following defeats to Salford and UCLAN. Weir commented that

early results had been disappointing, but perhaps not surprising with early ties against high quality opposition. "The thing was, we've been improving every week. We've been playing teams like Salford and UCLAN where you have to be on your game and we've been not far off it but we've been coming up short because they know how to win games."

James Russell, the side's Chairman, added that they found it hard to compete with universities with such a sporting pedigree. "They are two of the teams we think are going to be up there at the end of the season."

"The issue is that they are sports-based universities, a lot of the time with players studying for sports-based degrees, so their life IS sports. Also, they normally start earlier than us in the term so they have an extra week or two of training as well."

The team have not just been in the spotlight on the pitch, but off it as well. They became the centre of debate regarding the ethical sponsorship of sports teams

after gaining a sponsorship deal with KPMG, a company deemed unethical because of past involvement with tax evasion schemes. Russell said that whilst it is completely fair that there is policy to ensure sponsors are deemed ethical, the Rugby League team took issue with the "lack of communication" they experienced with LUSU.

He told SCAN, "LUSU haven't spoken to me about KPMG since September 8. They haven't contacted me about anything. Last thing I knew it was going to Council and they'd let me know the result, and I've not heard a thing."

"This is where the issue came. I got to the point where I was like, well we are going to have to order the kit. We didn't have it for the first match; we had to borrow a kit off Heysham. But LUSU still haven't spoken to us about any sort of issue there or anything like that. I was told it would be sorted by early September but it wasn't and nobody has spoken to me about anything since."

Russell was keen to address how

the club has really benefited from the extra funding given by the Students' Union and through their sponsors. He said that they aim to keep the cost as reasonable as possible for the team and "we are only able to put it at that price because of the sponsorship and the funding we get from LUSU as well. Without sponsorship we couldn't do it."

Hopes seemed high ahead of their next fixture against the University of Chester, with Weir and Russell in agreement that a win could be on the cards if the team is fighting fit.

Weir stated, "We've got a few injuries. I think it's got to the stage where, because we don't have the post-game physio, having game after game after game, it's getting to that point where the players bodies are saying, 'we can't do much more.' But it would be massive for us to get a win, because we have got a long break until the next match."

## Three months to three years: Van Gaal's extended rebuild

JAMES ANDREWS

When Louis Van Gaal was first appointed as the manager of Manchester United, many commented that his charismatic, confident personality was exactly what the club needed. The general consensus was that he should be able to pull the club back up from mid-table to becoming title contenders once more.

In and amongst all the media hype, the Dutchman announced that people were to judge him after three months in the job. A bold statement indeed, and one that Van Gaal has been left to almost immediately regret considering he has since overseen United's worst start to a league campaign since 1986.

Upon narrowly losing the recent Manchester derby 1-0, Van Gaal has adjusted his timeline by now claiming that United are "in a process that could take three years."

This marks an incredibly drastic change from what he first said back in July. It would appear that the manager has either severely underestimated the task presented to him or that he was merely playing upon media expectation when he said three months.

Looking at the situation as a Manchester United fan myself, I personally believe that Van Gaal's original claim was rather irrational, if anything. For me, any sort of meaningful rebuild would take three years at least, possibly ex-

tending to four or even five years. To return the club to a position where they are able to mount a serious challenge for the title and regularly progress to the latter stages of the Champions League has to be a priority in terms of aims for these three to five years.

*If Van Gaal does achieve a top four finish and accompanies this with a decent run in the FA Cup, that would constitute success for his first season in charge.*

With regards to this season, it is clear that the crucial objective for Van Gaal is to get United back into the top four. A swift return to the Champions League is paramount, not only for pure footballing reasons, but also for financial reasons.

Not being in Europe's elite club competition has inevitably led to a loss of revenue for the club. Whilst United as a business will survive perfectly fine without Champions League football for one year, spending two consecutive years out of the competition would start to have a detrimental financial effect.

Bearing in mind that United were humiliated by MK Dons in the Capital One Cup, if Van Gaal does achieve a top four finish and accompanies this with a decent run in the FA Cup, that would constitute success for his first season in charge.

In Van Gaal's defence, his team is still adapting to a new system,

with six summer signings all vying for a place in the starting eleven. Furthermore, injuries to some of these new signings, such as Marcus Rojo and Radamel Falcao, have hardly helped matters. Once Van Gaal has a full strength squad at his disposal, I would expect the team to start firing on all cylinders in a bid for the top four.

Overall, I do believe that Van Gaal will eventually succeed at Manchester United; he just needs to be given time. I'm also glad that he is thinking long term with a "three-year" rebuild, everyone can see the job is no quick fix. This may prove to be another trophy-less season for the club, but so long as Champions League qualification is assured, Van Gaal will be on the right track.



Inter-college football: league tables

A League Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Bowland	3	3	0	0	13	3	10	9
Lonsdale	3	2	1	0	10	5	5	7
Furness	4	2	0	2	15	9	6	6
County	3	2	0	1	9	7	2	6
Pendle	4	2	0	2	5	10	-5	6
Fylde	3	1	1	1	9	8	1	4
Grizedale	3	0	0	3	6	10	-4	0
Cartmel	3	0	0	3	2	17	-15	0

B League Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Pendle	3	3	0	0	12	2	10	9
County	2	2	0	0	20	3	17	6
Fylde	3	2	0	1	7	3	4	6
Graduate	3	2	0	1	7	8	-1	6
Bowland	2	1	0	1	6	5	1	3
Grizedale	3	1	0	2	7	8	-1	3
Lonsdale	3	1	0	2	6	7	-1	3
Furness	3	0	0	3	4	16	-12	0
Cartmel	2	0	0	2	1	18	-17	0

Inter-college netball: league tables

A League Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Fylde	4	4	0	0	196	74	122	12
Pendle	5	3	1	1	148	138	10	10
Bowland	3	2	0	1	77	80	-3	6
Grizedale	4	2	0	2	106	121	-15	6
County	3	1	1	1	80	82	-2	4
Cartmel	3	1	0	2	55	74	-19	3
Furness	3	0	0	3	52	82	-30	0
Lonsdale	3	0	0	3	61	124	-63	0

B League Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Bowland	4	4	0	0	123	44	79	12
Fylde	3	3	0	0	74	20	54	9
Lonsdale	4	3	0	1	83	56	27	9
Graduate	3	2	0	1	50	37	13	6
Cartmel	3	2	0	1	40	44	-4	6
County	3	1	0	2	49	67	-18	3
Furness	3	0	0	3	31	67	-36	0
Pendle	4	0	0	4	37	88	-51	0
Grizedale	3	0	0	3	26	90	-64	0

Results correct at time of publication.

SCAN Golden Boot standings

A League

Name	College	Goals
Will Avrili	Lonsdale	4
Pete Barnes	Furness	4
Jack Halliwell	Lonsdale	4
Sam Armstrong	Fylde	3
Harry Heptonstall	Bowland	3
Ben Saunders	Bowland	3
Joseph Ashworth	County	2
Ryan Fairclough	Fylde	2
Jocelyn Kirby	Bowland	2
Stephen Moore	Grizedale	2

B League

Name	College	Goals
Gary Davidson	County	10
David Townsend	Graduate	4
Henri Bidaou	Pendle	3
Luke Williams	Fylde	3
Bruno Almeida	Graduate	2
Kieran Cavanagh	County	2
Adam Green	Pendle	2
Kieran Holmes-Darby	Lonsdale	2
James Hyde	Bowland	2
Jordan Merna	Fylde	2

Disclaimer: Golden Boot standings are correct as of information received by Wednesday week 7. For any missing goals, please update the official league site or email results into scan.sports@lusu.co.uk



# shop & central

Outstanding Value Every Day

OFFERS  
OFFERS  
OFFERS  
OFFERS



ONLY  
**£1**

Copella or Tropicana 330ml

shop & central



2 for  
**90p**

McVities Jaffa Cake; Minis & Medley Bars

shop & central



JUST  
**£1**

Red Bull 250ml

shop & central



2 for  
**£1**

Galaxy Gift White & Maltesers Reindeer

shop & central



each  
**99p**

Coca-Cola Classic 500ml

shop & central



each  
**£1.50**

Kettle Chips 150g

shop & central



JUST  
**99p**

Oasis 500ml

shop & central



2 for  
**70p**

Kelloggs Cereal Bars

shop & central



ONLY  
**£1**

Lucozade Sport 500ml

shop & central



JUST  
**£1**

Galaxy Minstrels 105g, Maltesers 88g & M&M Peanut 115g

shop & central



## Opening Times

shop: Monday-Friday 8.30am-8pm, Weekends 11am-5pm

central: 8.30am-Midnight, Weekends 9am - Midnight

all prices and promotions accurate at time of print

shop.lusu.co.uk

LUSU



# Is the 3G pitch just a novelty?



Jonathan Eldridge

## CLAIRE STARR **SPORT EDITOR**

🐦 @CLAIRESTARR94

It has been seven weeks since the official opening of Lancaster University Sports Centre's Third Generation (3G) Pitch and despite delays to the surface's construction, the introduction of a new pitch was widely anticipated. However, since the opening, it hasn't all been plain sailing.

The 3G pitch is an artificial surface - a mixture of artificial grass and the traditional surface of AstroTurf pitches - and is also fully floodlit and fenced off.

By using a drainage system similar to that of the existing AstroTurf pitches, the 3G surface is able to absorb overnight rain and Lancaster's heavy downpours, enabling the pitch to still be playable in whatever weather northwest England throws at it.

The introduction of an all-weather surface is designed to improve

the condition of other pitches and ease the congestion for playing space due to bad weather postponements, a problem particularly faced by the College Football League.

According to figures provided by the Sports Centre, the breakdown of usage of the 3G pitch is British Universities and Colleges Sports teams: 40 per cent; College teams and the new Just Play scheme (including training and league matches): 51 per cent; and other (including University staff usage and outside customers): nine per cent. Impressive statistics when considering that students take up 91 per cent of the usage of the state-of-the-art facility.

With the playing space in such high demand, regardless of a £6 increase in price to hire the pitch for all users, you would expect the use of the surface to be highly organised and maximised to its full potential.

Yet this hasn't stopped problems having plagued it in the last few weeks. One Cartmel versus Pendle B league football match was, on arrival at the pitch, found to have been double booked with a non-University associated children's match. Instead, the B league match had to be moved to another pitch, one which is much narrower than it should be due to the positioning of the new 3G facility.

Cartmel Football B Team Captain Matthew Acs told SCAN that the referee knew nothing about the situation and he hasn't heard anything from LUSU since. He expressed that the narrowness of the pitch that the match had to be moved to makes it a terrible football field and a challenge to play on.

There have also been similar oversights. For example, early on in the season, the pitch gates were found to be locked at times when the pitch was supposedly booked to be used, leading to a delay in

the start of matches.

Although it is unclear whether this was the fault of the organisation of LUSU or the captains, this is clearly an issue which could have easily been avoided. Sometimes, teams playing at the weekend have also been told that the floodlights on the new pitch must be turned off at 6pm on a Sunday, as that is when the Sports Centre officially closes.

However, there are still University teams training in the Sports Centre after 6pm on Sundays despite its official closure to the public. So if this is the case, why can't University teams still use the new playing space at this time? Surely this would help to maximise the pitch's usage.

However, despite the minor problems that the pitch has faced in the last few weeks, it has also had plenty of benefits. Jonathan Eldridge, Cartmel Football A Team Captain, describes how "in terms

of keeping the playing surface relatively smooth on the rest of the grass pitches, it has worked quite well - and the 3G pitch is much more preferable to play on." The 3G pitch has come as a relief to the University and College teams, allowing less congestion around waiting for playing space, with Lancaster's incessant rain no longer posing such a challenge for the teams or a threat to finishing leagues.

The rise in price of £6 for the use of the pitch doesn't seem a problem either, with the increase in surface quality compared to the other pitches far outweighing the rise in price.

Clearly the 3G pitch has been a smart investment for the University, and once a few minor glitches have been ironed out, in the long run, it will be a great asset to the University's sports facilities.



# CELEBRATE YOUR CHRISTMAS MOMENTS



SILVER TREE  
LANCASTER

67 Penny Street,  
Lancaster, LA1 1XF  
01524 847100

Be inspired at [pandora.net](http://pandora.net)

PANDORA  
UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS



# Women in sport: a focus on Lancaster University

Ellie Vowles talks to some of Lancaster University's sports clubs about gender inequality in sport on campus.

ELLIE VOWLES CAROLYNNE EDITOR  
@ELLIEVOWLES

The Forbes list of the 100 best paid athletes lists only three women: Maria Sharapova at #34, Li Na at #41, and Serena Williams at #55. A British audience of 20 million people tuned in to watch the 2014 FIFA World Cup, compared to an estimated reach of 5.9 million people for the entire duration of the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup.

While the British men's rugby team consist of entirely professional players (who have each been promised £15000 per test match for the 2015 World Cup) the women's rugby team features a plumber, vet and lifeguard among other professions. It seems pretty clear that on an international scale, men's sports dominate in terms of both funding and public interest.

For many, the Lancaster University campus is its own separate little bubble in most respects, but what about when it comes to sport? SCAN asked female sports teams for their opinions on the gender differences that exist in sport, and whether they thought they applied to Lancaster.

**Women's Volleyball:** "Internationally, men's sports teams are definitely getting a lot more attention and then as a result a lot more support and funding than the women's sports teams. However, in our opinion women's team sports are as exciting as men's team sport. At Lancaster, the men's and women's volleyball team gets equal support and funding from LUSU which we really appreciate. I think that often men are coming to our games because some say volleyball players look sexy and not because of our performance. In beach volleyball it is even worse. If spectators come to the men's games the focus is clearly on the performance and not on the looks of the players."

**Squash:** "Internationally, the lack of attention towards women in sport is really sad. The amount of time and effort that they put into training is the same as their male counterparts; I really hope this

changes as I believe they deserve equal attention and praise.

"In our squash society I am happy to say that we don't go have a situation where men are given more importance when it comes to training or funding. We work and play as a society. At the end of the day, it's a bunch of people who love and respect the sport."

*"Internationally, men's sports teams are definitely getting a lot more attention and then as a result a lot more support and funding than the women's sports teams."*

**Fencing:** "For fencing, neither men nor women are given much attention on the international stage and this is particularly true in Britain. It is clear that people still focus on the men's side of things because it is deemed 'more exciting', but I don't think for fencing the difference between the two is as obvious as in other sports.

"At Lancaster, the Fencing Club is joint - i.e. we don't have a Women's Fencing Club separate from the men; we receive the same resources as the men's team. We do, however, tend to give the men's team priority with coaching because they are in a much higher league than us and there are fewer women. We're trying to address that balance slightly to ensure the women's team receive, in particular, individual lessons when we need them.

"In fencing, it is a given that women fence differently to men. For instance, men are going to be naturally more aggressive and faster than women, but women tend to be more patient and so fence in a different way.

"However, in terms of looks and size, as a fencer you are covered from head to toe in equipment so can't really be seen, which means it's not a massive problem piste side. I think there is a stereotypical image of fencing as a 'geeky' sport, just people sword fighting and trying to emulate movie action and this is especially true of Britain, more so than in other countries.



Jay Theis

"This image particularly puts off women from joining the sport. It's also seen as quite a masculine sport which also puts off a lot of women from taking part.

"But now, fencers are definitely trying to combat that image. There are cases of international female fencers doing magazine shoots for instance, to prove that female fencers are still feminine and to raise their international public profile.

"This is something we're also trying to combat at the University club, by emphasising that fencing is a proper sport, that improves your fitness and requires a certain amount of training, as well as having a strong women's team and large close-knit group of girls at the club.

"This seems to be in contrast to other sports where women tend to want to be seen as more masculine to prove they are good at the

sport. In fencing it's the opposite. International female fencers want to prove that they are feminine in a very masculine environment."

**Korfball:** "There's a stigma that means people think women's sport is boring, which just means people miss out on watching good sport. As korfbal is a mixed sex sport, playing means we constantly get the chance to compare and contrast male and female players.

*"The media should feature women's sport more on sport channels which currently heavily weigh on the male side."*

"Luckily for us korfbal is such an equal sport. Women get praised for their power, technical skills and tactics just as much as the male players. A lot of people think that the girls in korfbal teams are the game changers."

**Hockey:** "It's disappointing that women don't receive as much at-

tention in regards to international sports, as both men and women train equally as hard and both have to perform under immense pressure, yet only the men seem to gain more recognition.

"The media should cover women's sport more with advertising and featuring them more on sport channels which currently heavily weigh on the male side. At Lancaster the men seem to get a little more support (but that could just be because they stretch their budget more).

"Men's hockey has focus on speed and strength, whereas for women as the game is slower people tend to focus more on the tackles and the interaction.

"That said, it would be a lie to say spectators didn't sometimes focus on our skirts. Aside from those things I think, as hockey is, there are aspects that gain equal focus for both male and female games."