

scan

City Councillor burn book labelled 'disgusting'

Jack Filmore, City Councillor, apologizes for his "intentionally stupid" burn-book which insulted members of union council.

HENRY SAKER-CLARK NEWS EDITOR
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City Councillor for the University ward, Jack Filmore, has apologized for a burn-book which he wrote within the minutes of a Lancaster University Anti-Capitalist (LUAC) meeting in June. The burn-book labelled members of this year's and last year's LUSU council with insulting descriptions, labelled by members of the Union as "disgusting" and "appalling."

Filmore, the Green Party City Councillor for the University, described his own comments in the document as "intentionally stupid" and took entire responsibility for the slanderous document. Filmore was however criticized for his apology, in which he began by describing LUSU's discussion on the document as "petty", as well as quoting Bilbo Baggins.

LUSU VP (Welfare) Mia Scott proclaimed her own personal disgust towards Filmore's actions in writing the document and the effect this had upon other students. "This probably highlights an overriding issue that we have in LUSU and outside of LUSU in terms of being personal about each other and not actually focusing on what we do as officers, which I think is absolutely disgusting and I don't want to see anything like this again."

"People have the right to bitch about LUSU, but don't be silly enough to write it down. I just wanted to point out that some people have told me today that



Jack Filmore

they don't feel able to attend LUSU council because of this document and think that is absolutely disgusting. And I just never want to see a document like this again."

The burn-book details LUSU members in terms of physical appearance and whether their personal politics aligned with that of LUAC. Filmore actively described students in insult-

ing terms who he is in fact paid to represent on Lancaster City Council.

In the document, Filmore stated that current VP (Campaigns and Communication) Ronnie Rowlands "needed taking down a peg." Furthermore, students were analysed in the context to LUAC politics, with Filmore noting that some members "could be friendly", "could be an ally" and were "way too Labourite".

LUSU Councillor Andrew Gierke took personal offence to the document written by the Councillor and his inadequate apology. "He can say [it's] stupid all he wants but some sections of this sound frankly blatantly sinister. It says our Chair Ronnie Rowlands needs 'taking down a peg'. I mean I'm slightly worried. And when it says Andrew Gierke, 'possibly some common ground', I would like this put on minutes, I would never have any common ground with someone who uses that sort of language as a democratically elected official."

In his apology Filmore apportioned the blame for the document upon himself, yet also tries to dampen the importance of the issue at hand. He begins, "it is with a heavy heart that I see LUSU discuss petty comments when there are so many serious and important issues to talk about and take action over. It is with an even heavier heart that I admit that this is in fact my fault."

Numerous members of Union Council, who are themselves affiliated with the anti-capitalist group, agreed that Filmore was entirely responsible for the document. Polly Davis CCO (Environment and Ethics) said she felt misrepresented by Filmore's minutes but also that the discussion raised ought not have an entirely negative outcome.

"I want to put it forward that a lot of the opinions expressed were

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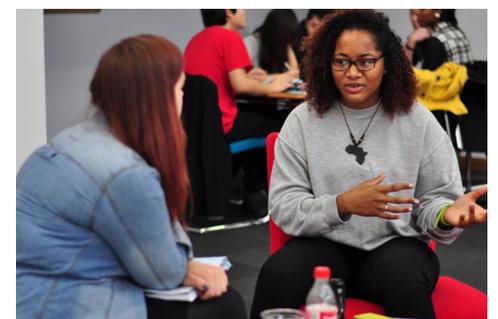
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Staff vote in favour of marking boycott

University staff have supported a marking and exam boycott over radical pension reforms which could lose staff thousands.

HENRY SAKER-CLARK NEWS EDITOR

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Staff at sixty-nine universities, including Lancaster, have overwhelmingly backed industrial action over radical reforms to university staff pensions. It was confirmed on Monday Week 3 that the ballot regarding changes to staff pensions, which could see university staff lose thousands of pounds, saw a response favouring staff protest through a marking and exam boycott.

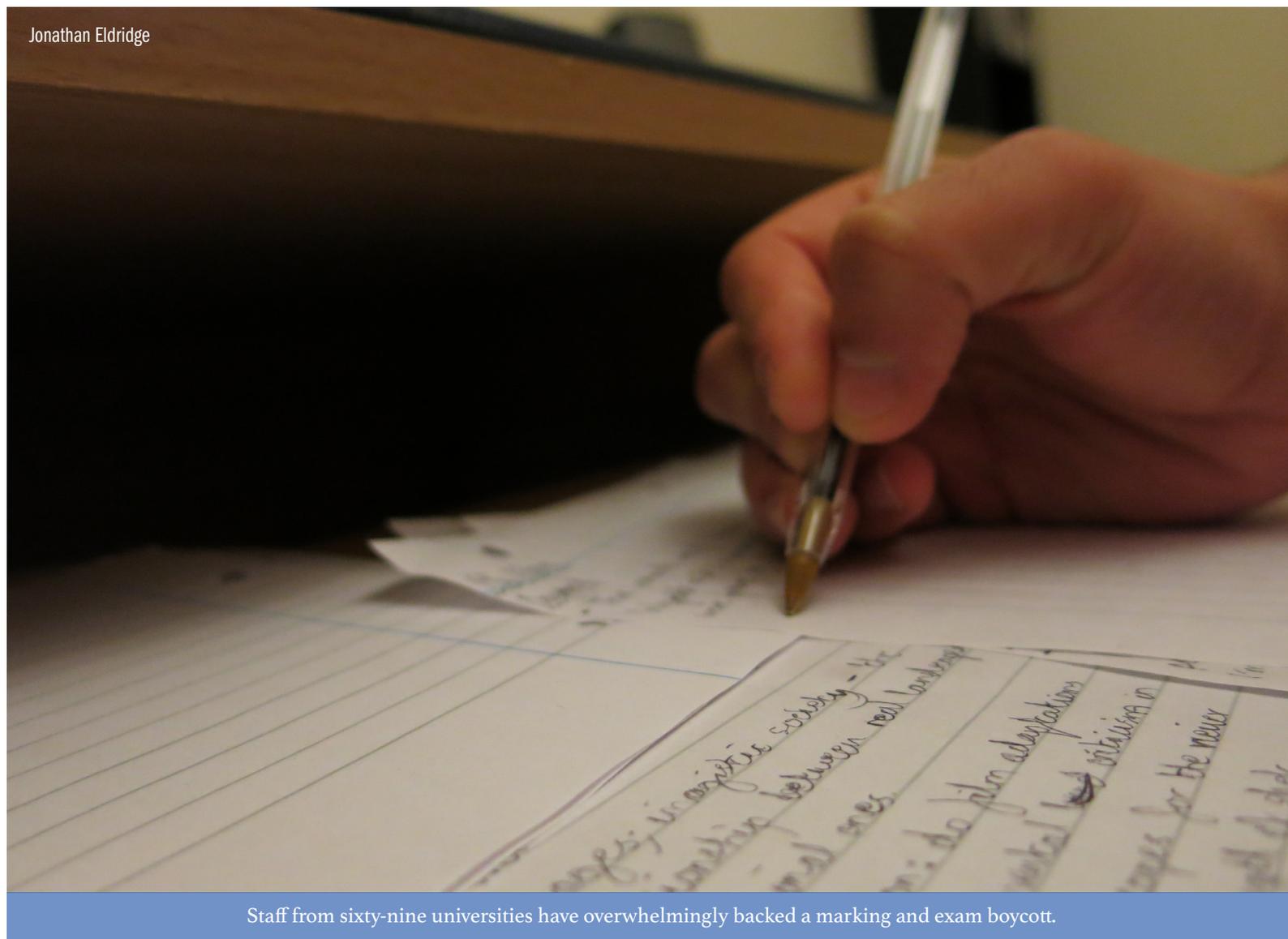
The UCU (University and College's Union) ballot revealed that 78% of members who responded voted in favour of strike action. An even greater majority, 87%, voted in favour of action short of a strike, which would most likely include a marking and exam boycott.

The ballot took place from Wednesday Intro Week to Monday Week 3 gaining the opinions of university staff, including lecturers, but also teaching postgraduate students. On Wednesday Week 3 UCU representatives will have spoken to representatives from the employers, Universities UK, who have chosen to alter pensions plans.

According to the Union, the vote "would most likely lead to a marking boycott and a refusal to set exams," although no action can be confirmed until the end of the week. At the time of publication the outcome of the talks was not known.

UCU General Secretary Sally Hunt has proclaimed that the Union's members have made their opinions on the matter clear for Universities UK. "UCU members at universities across the UK have made it quite clear today that they reject the radical changes being proposed for their pensions. We will go into talks on Wednesday hopeful that we can resolve the current impasse."

"However, we will go into that meeting with a serious mandate from members that they need to see real improvements. If the employers do not address our concerns then we will meet on Friday



Jonathan Eldridge

Staff from sixty-nine universities have overwhelmingly backed a marking and exam boycott.

to determine what forms of disruptive action we take and when they would start."

This action would stop students being set coursework or receiving formal marks and feedback, as well as halting exams. When a marking boycott was announced in Easter Term last year, this saw anger from students on social-media that their degree's and hard work would be threatened by this action.

Although deriving from the same union, UCU, there is different reasoning behind this call for industrial action. The reasoning behind Monday's call for a marking boycott is due to complicated changes to the pension schemes of staff in pre-1994 universities. According to the UCU, Universities UK, want to reduce the coverage of the defined benefit element of the scheme and introduce a riskier defined contribution pension scheme.

Industrial action which took place in the last university year were caused by disputes over staff pay. University staff pay had fallen by 15 per cent in real terms over the previous five years, but the proposed marking and exam boycott in May was cancelled after Union members chose to accept a two per cent pay increase from their employers. The UCU, however, feels that this merely eased the disputes momentarily and that there are still concerns over staff pay in the sector.

Modelling done by First Actuarial for the UCU has shown that academics could be thousands of pounds worse off if the changes did go through.

The new pension changes would involve leaving behind the traditional Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) which had

been in place within these sixty-nine older universities. It was recently revealed that the USS scheme had developed a deficit, thus causing for the scheme to be altered drastically.

Modelling done by First Actuarial for the UCU has shown that academics could be thousands of pounds worse off if the changes did go through. The changes Universities UK have proposed would see an end to the final salary element of the scheme for all members, introducing an earnings cap at £40,000 above which benefits will not apply, and expect members to have to pay more in the future.

Regarding the pensions changes Hunt commented on the UCU website: "Staff see their pensions as deferred pay and are understandably angry at the impact these proposals would have. We are making it very clear in this

ballot that if members back industrial action, and there is no negotiated solution, we will be looking to quickly move to an assessment and exam boycott."

"We do not accept the way the scheme's deficit is being valued or share the overly cautious and pessimistic view, which has prompted plans for deep cuts to pension provision. We want a solution that protects the pensions of staff and ensures the scheme remains attractive to new members of the profession."

The ballot saw a forty five per cent turnout, which was the highest in a national higher education ballot since UCU was formed in 2006.

If the employers continue with the proposed pension changes after discussions in Week 3 then the UCU will meet on Friday to decide what industrial action will take place and when.

LUSU torn over Ethical Sponsorship

Rugby League's KPMG deal brings debate in Union Council over ethical sponsorship controversy.

NATHALIE FARRUGIA NEWS EDITOR

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Lancaster's Ethical Sponsorships and Donations policy came into question when the university's rugby league team agreed a sponsorship from KPMG. The ethics of the organisation KPMG, who specialise in auditing, tax and advisory, came under scrutiny regarding its assisting companies in tax avoidance and bribery, evidence which LUSU said came from Private Eye and Google searches. As a result of these findings, the LUSU executive initially voted not to approve the sponsorship request from the Rugby League a few weeks before the start of Michaelmas Term. However, after this, the viability of this policy came under discussion and due to the ranging opinions between Executive members on the policy, the issue was taken to the Trustee Board to be discussed. As a result, the Trustee Board decided that the discussion of the policy was to take place in Union Council as a result of it being a political decision for members of the council.

Speaking on the policy at Union Council in Week 3, CCO (Environment and Ethics) Polly Davis said "obviously this is something of a concern to me, because one of the biggest things we're working on this year with ethical investment policies, is trying to get the university a better green rating and things like that, so therefore to me it seems only logical that we also screen sponsorship partners

for sports teams... Quite frankly we don't want students to feel uncomfortable. We want ourselves to look like a greener cleaner more ethical institution." When several members questioned how LUSU would decide what they deemed as ethical and unethical, Davis suggested a committee for this "would be a really good idea".

"We need to start speaking to the people we are trying to affect, rather than we all decide."

The proposal to have a better screening policy was also something several members mentioned throughout the discussion, including VP (Activities) Salman Rukhsar who said "I personally completely agree that we should have a screening process, just like NUS, but we need to start speaking to the people we are trying to affect, rather than we all decide. It's quite easy for us to say, 'we don't want any unethical corporations sponsoring our teams', but it's not affecting us, it's affecting them and what they're doing, and if we are going to do that we need to start helping them we need to help them find alternatives, rather than say, 'No, you can't have KPMG sponsor you, but we are not going to help at all in securing any other funding.' The lack of communication between LUSU and the sports team was also an issue raised by member of Rugby League Executive and Furness President Will Hedley who said "The Rugby League Exec were never actually



David Barrett

told that the sponsorship deal was not allowed. There was no communication between the executive committee and the rugby league team after the sponsorship agreement was made."

Furthermore, as LUSU themselves use KPMG as their auditors, the suggestion that the organisation was unethical and consequently the introduction of this policy because of this issue has caused some controversy. President Laura Clayson addressed this in the agenda for council and said "Naturally, this discussion does open up the wider issue of the use of KPMG by LUSU as Auditors, as well income generated through marketing sales from LUSU Trading Services Ltd". However she said "this will need to be discussed

in a separate paper due to time constraints and is largely dependent on the outcome of this conversation." Damon Fairley VP (Union Development) revisited this issue during council. He said "KPMG are our auditors as a student union and there is an element of, we have to practice what we preach. We pay this company to do our own audits so I think it is slightly hypocritical of us to say no to the rugby league team that you can't have this sponsorship when we are currently using the services of this company. The short term resolution is that we allow this sponsorship but with the very clear resolution that we need to go away and find a framework of how we apply this policy."

As no decision was made by LUSU

or the trustee board regarding whether or not the Rugby League team were allowed to accept the sponsorship from KPMG, the team went ahead with accepting the money. Speaking at the end of the discussion, Hedley said, addressing LUSU "Seeing as there was no consultation with you and with the rugby league, our chairman made several attempts at getting an answer from LUSU, but he didn't receive any communication back. As we had to order the kit, he took the decision to order it and take the money. KPMG is already on the kit so on behalf of Rugby League I apologize, but it's already been done. As the rugby league exec was not told they just did it. I apologize for that decision."

SCR gone too far?

HENRY SAKER-CLARK NEWS EDITOR

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Week 2 saw this year's first university elections take place as members of the Post-Graduate Board, University Councillor roles and college JCR positions were elected. A few of the key positions assigned on Friday evening included the appointment of Lucy Ryan as General Secretary of the PG board, Andy Ainscough as Chair of the board, as well the seemingly mandatory appointment of a Pullan brother, as Reuben Pullan was elected as Pendle Events Officer.

The PG Board elections have come under scrutiny after accusations were made against the Graduate College SCR regarding the violation of election bye law, and the the LUSU and Lancaster University Code of Practice bye law. SCAN has been informed that there was interference from SCR members in the promotion of some election candidates and during the hustings which took place on Tuesday of Week 2.

The latter accusation is a specific violation of the Elections Bye Law; Bye Law B1 guarantees independence in all matters related

to student representation was undermined by the role played by SCR members. It is believed that this bye law was broken when College Principal Claire Povah spoke at the hustings. In addition, Bye Law A1 was violated when Povah endorsed a candidate on social media, and Graduate College Administrator Jane Hulland shared images of an individual candidate's poster on the Graduate College Facebook page.

LUSU VP (Union Development) Damon Fairley replied to these accusations; "Unfortunately, there was an instance during Postgraduate Board hustings whereby a member of the SCR asked a question without being invited to do so

by the chair. Directly after the incident I went over and had a quiet word with the SCR member who was very apologetic and did not realise they did not have speaking rights at the meeting. Since, we have been proactive and communicated with all colleges to remind SCRs that they do not have speaking rights at hustings."

The complaints have laid some blame for these errors on, not just the SCR members in question, but also the election process more widely. This has put added pressure on the success of Week 8's JCR elections which Fairley will also be responsible for. Fairley was however proud of the elections, saying to SCAN, "this year we have

seen some of the strongest Postgraduate Board elections in some time.

"During the 2013 Postgraduate Board elections 248 students voted, during the 2014 Postgraduate Board elections 349 students voted. Although there is still a lot more we can do to boost turnout and engagement with elections in Graduate College, I think it's really encouraging that the hard work LUSU and the previous Postgraduate Board have put into elections has paid off and has boosted turnout by over a third in Graduate College."

2015 general election could be swung by student vote say NUS

Lancaster's small majority in the last election could easily swung by student voters in the May 2015 general election.



Coventry City Council

LAURA WILKINSON
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Recent figures from NUS have revealed that student voting could have a significant impact on almost 200 swing seats in the May 2015 general election. The recent NUS results showed that, out of the 200 seats that could most easily swing during the upcoming election, a massive 194 have a student population larger than that needed to swing the seat, meaning that the student vote will be more important than ever.

Even though there has been significant political engagement amongst many students, Joe O'Neill, LUSU VP (Education), believes that many do not recognise the power their vote holds. Speaking on the Bailrigg Effectiveness Review, Friday Week 1 on Bailrigg FM, he addressed his concerns, saying that "it's a key role of students' unions in particular to get that message out to people that we do hold a massive swing on how our politics works as a whole."

O'Neill does, however, realise that

parties are not doing themselves any favours when it comes to getting the student vote. He felt that none of the major parties currently deserve the vote from students in next year's election because none of them really factor students into their policies. If any party were to really deserve the vote they would need to "realise that young people are disillusioned and disenfranchised because nobody stands up for us, nobody speaks for us and nobody cares about us."

The recent poll by NUS shows that seventy three per cent of students are now registered to vote. This is a significant proportion, especially considering that students now have to register to vote individually compared to recent years where universities could bulk register all students. However, the poll also showed that only four per cent of students strongly affiliated themselves with a party, suggesting that any party could be in the running for much of the student vote this time around. Almost two thirds of students asked by NUS said that they believe it is everyone's duty to

vote implying that students will be out in their droves to vote when it comes to election time next year.

The Lancaster and Fleetwood district, in the 2010 election, was won by Conservatives with a majority of only 333 votes. This was a tiny 0.8 per cent of the vote so is a seat that could easily be swung by the student vote, especially because of Lancaster's high proportion of students in its population.

This means that the swing needed would be a measly 0.4 per cent to change the power from the Conservatives to Labour. According to O'Neill, "we get more votes than that for just our CCO elections so if students come out and they mobilize and they do actually vote then they are likely to change the balance of power here."

There is however concern that student indifference to politics could negate this possible influence, something only heightened figures such as Russell Brand calling for young people to not vote. O'Neill hopes that LUSU can re-

mind students of the importance of voting and political engagement through a number of different events, the first of which being the Assembly for Change that is being held on Saturday and Sunday of Week 5.

"Democracy isn't just about ticking a box twice a decade it's about doing stuff, it's about caring, it's about getting active and hopefully the Assembly for Change will highlight to students a number of ways that they can do that."

The results reflect not just Lancaster but how students can affect the election nation-wide. NUS President, Toni Pearce has expressed, similarly to O'Neill, that high student voter turnout could have a significant national impact. On the NUS website, Pearce stated that students "are the force to be reckoned with at the Ballot Box" and that the union, as well as many student unions across the country, including LUSU, will do everything in their power to get students to vote and have their say heard in British politics.

Burn book labelled 'disgusting'

continued from front page.

not the opinions of everybody at this meeting, just for clarification for everyone, which was a meeting organized by members of luac and some other groups on campus as a means of looking at how activist groups, particularly luac, could work alongside or against lusu. And it was always supposed to be something very constructive.

"I personally regret that these minutes were made, I had nothing to with them, but I do think it is massive, massive shame. But also instead of using them as a means to perhaps name and shame people it would be better to maybe look at some of the issues that have been raised in these things."

This was a sentiment shared by other union members who attended the meeting, such as Caitlin Shentall, CCO (Women's Liberation) and Anna Lee, CCO (LGBTQ*). Shentall said that although these LUAC minutes, the only member of the group guilty for the offence caused was Filmore, and thus only he should apologize for these actions. "I'd just like to put it out there that everything that I'm quoted as saying there I didn't actually say. So, actually, the minutes are the views only expressed by Jack and not by myself so I don't need to apologize, because I didn't say anything it said on there."

However, LUSU VP (Education) Joe O'Neill commented that Filmore's apology itself was not adequate. "I know that something has been circulated over the past few days saying apologies have been made, especially towards the last FTOs, but I can confirm that not a single one of us has received an apology about this. There was a tweet, a general tweet. There was also an apology made by somebody else, not the person who wrote this, to one of the the FTOs, but not the rest of us."

Moreover, O'Neill was appalled by the behaviour of this elected official. He described Filmore comments: "I think that there are mentions about peoples disabilities, people's appearance, that sort of thing. That's completely unacceptable."

Plans for Roses 2015 underway

LUSU and the University met to discuss plans to ensure a win away at York next year.



NATHALIE FARRUGIA NEWS EDITOR
@NATFARRUGIA94

In Week 1, LUSU met with the university to discuss plans for how Lancaster intends to secure a win at Roses 2015. This academic year, the tournament, which is Europe's biggest intervarsity competition, sees Lancaster compete away at the University of York.

Speaking to SCAN about the importance of winning away and the emphasis both the university and LUSU have put on guaranteeing a victory, James Marengi, Sports Development Manager said: "The key thing to consider is that we've not won Roses away for thirty years this year, we want to try and change that or at least heavily close the gap."

In terms of planning, Marengi said there is a lot more going into what they can do to make the teams successful this year, "for the first time ever we're working closer with groups to make sure we can get the best out of them so that they're in the best possible position to be winning in York this year."

He also said "I think the one thing that we want to be doing is motivating students so that they believe that they can win and that they're going over there with the intention of winning and that we're there around the weekend to actually support them." Marengi also added that "because of the fact that we don't have to organise the event, there is more time that can

go into working with the teams on the sporting performance stuff."

"We've got six months, start training hard... everything you do, do it with Roses in mind."

Compared to previous years competing away, he said "While we've always put it out there that we want them to win, this is the first year we're actually backing it up in terms of supporting them to actually win as well. Now we're having teams sign up to the idea of winning. We'd expect that with everything extra that we're doing that they are going to be putting in plans themselves from now." He told SCAN that they have emphasised to the teams that the preparation for Roses isn't "a two week thing", he said "we've got six months, start training hard... everything you do, do it with Roses in mind."

One of the ideas that LUSU and the university are trying to encourage the teams to understand, Marengi said is "Roses will be won or lost before Easter, you can probably make a difference in a handful of the sports in two or three weeks but actually the majority of them, like 35 out of the 40 sports will be won now, because

the difference in teams will be so great that you can't turn that around in a couple of weeks. But actually, everything that you do now will mean that Roses will be won or lost in the first two terms."

While there are many plans already in preparation to ensure a win away, Salman Rukhsar VP (Activities) told SCAN: "We really want to start telling people about it but the Vice Chancellor worries that York will do the exact same if they find out, so if we want this advantage, we should hold back our plans." Marengi agreed, suggesting Lancaster wanted to take a "surprise approach". Therefore, SCAN cannot at present reveal any of the exact plans proposed for next year. However, Marengi said "the one thing we can say for definite is that this was all based on student feedback from our sports teams and societies based on what they think will help them win roses and be successful and we've taken that evidence and presented it to the Vice Chancellor. He added "Traditionally, difficulties of winning away from home are students not being able to travel because of exam commitments and that people have to sleep on lecture theatre floors the night before matches."

Linguistics department founder dies



JACK PERRY SCAN EDITOR
@JACKPERRY01

SCAN has been informed that the founder of Lancaster University's Linguistics and English Language department, Geoffrey Leech, has died.

Professor Leech, who began his time at Lancaster in 1969 as one of the English Department's first language specialists, founded the Linguistics department in 1974 and is credited as being fundamental in its development. The department is now ranked ninth in the world by the QS World University Rankings.

Leech was born in 1936 and, having studied and taught at University College London, spent the majority of his academic career at Lancaster. He retired from his role as Head of the Linguistics Department in 1996. He died on August 19 2014.

In an online tribute to Leech, current Head of the Department of Linguistics and English Language, Greg Myers, said: "Colleagues, students, and collaborators remember Geoff as enormously encouraging and supportive; he helped launch many careers. He was remarkable in his modesty (a topic he considered in his studies of pragmatics), especially for someone so widely renowned in his field.

"But he also had the self-confidence to pursue huge, long-term projects until the rest of the field could see their value. And he could be fiercely angry if he thought an injustice was being done.

"For departmental colleagues, the intellectual loss is incalculable," Myers said.

The Linguistics and English Language Department will be holding a Memorial Event to Leech during Michaelmas Term.

Do Union Council give a f*ck?

NATHALIE FARRUGIA NEWS EDITOR
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In the Union Council held in Week 2, LUSU President Laura Clayson proposed that the issue of swearing in Union Council should be discussed, based on problems raised by some individuals in council, who said that they found it uncomfortable. She asked the council to consider the following questions: How do they feel about the current acceptance of swearing, should swearing be allowed in Union Council meetings, does it create an inclusive and accessible culture, and also, depending on the general response, whether they thought policy and by-law changes should be made. Clayson opened the discussion and said "I've heard pretty strong arguments from both sides and I didn't want to make a decision unilaterally, so if everyone could have a discussion about it so we can get

some idea of what people think, that would be great".

"I think there's quite a few issues with trying to enforce something like this."

Speaking against swearing in Union Council, Richard Molyneux, Nightline service director, said "I think we (LUSU) are meant to be a professional body and it just detracts from that." LUSU Councillor Becky Cook agreed and said "I think that if LAI:TV are going to film us and make us properly accountable, then swearing isn't exactly a good image to put out as representatives of the Union." When asked by VP (Campaigns and Communications) Ronnie Rowlands why she thought this, she said "Well, if you're a shy person who wants to run for a position but isn't really sure then a really aggressive environment in

Council is going to put you off doing that. At least in my opinion."

On the other hand many debated that swearing in council was not a bad thing and that it made LUSU more approachable, they also discussed the issue of trying to enforce such a rule. Lizzie Houghton, another LUSU Councillor said "I think there's quite a few issues with trying to enforce something like this, and while I take the point about professionalism, I also think we are meant to be accessible and I take that accessible might at first appear like, 'well, swearing, that shouldn't be a good thing because maybe it's aggressive, maybe it puts people off.' There's also the argument that if you're swearing it shows passion."

She also said "I think in terms of engagement with our members there's an argument that perhaps

we're trying to be too professional, and with too professional it can become quite alienating. Especially if there are some members who might find a slightly more relaxed atmosphere in LUSU Council more welcoming than if we were hung up on speaking the Queen's English." She also highlighted that there was an issue of defining swearing. She said "I think it's something that actually very hard to define. I see that as long as it's not engaged as personal insult but as a point of emphasis then I'd rather people were swearing because it shows that people are passionate about their argument rather than having to have this very clinical environment which might arise otherwise."

Despite the discussion, no final decision was made regarding what LUSU were going to do to address the issue.

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Student and staff concerns continue over this term's looming college review

Staff and students have raised concerns over the limited student and college representation on the decision making panel.

HENRY SAKER-CLARK **NEWS EDITOR**

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

Concerns have been raised by VP (Campaigns & Communications) Ronnie Rowlands that there is general unrest amongst staff and students surrounding the forthcoming College Review. The review, set to analyse the roles that the College play in University life, is taking place with limited input from College representatives and student opinion according to the VP.

Bringing the issue forward before Union Council on Thursday Week 2, Rowlands stated, "I have picked up on a great deal of unrest from both staff and students about the upcoming College review. As it stands, apart from one Principal and our Provost of Colleges, there is no real College representation on this committee."

"The University has pledged to 'consultation', but we all know how that often turns out. I believe it is important that the Colleges take an active role in politically involving themselves in this review and ensuring that our voice is heard by the University."

In Week 2, SCAN revealed that only one College Principal would be taking an active part in the review. As well as this, it was unveiled that student representation too would be limited, with LUSU President Laura Clayson and LUSU VP (Union Development) Damon Fairley the sole student voices on the review panel.

Speaking in Union Council, Clayson revealed that she had initially been placed as the only student representative on the panel before Fairley's introduction. She also proposed that a democratically student voice be on the review panel but this idea was shot down.

"Initially the panel was just comprising of me as the student representative. I went to University Council, I expressed my concern about this and said there needs to be more student representation. I said that Damon Fairley should sit on it as VP Union Development



Sammie Caine

College Presidents will be meeting at part of a focus group for the forthcoming review.

as it is within his remit. Also, I suggested that the other position shouldn't be filled by me, it should be an elected member of Union Council. Sadly that was rejected."

Clayson continued, saying that although there was trepidation towards the review from LUSU members this was still something they have to act on. "I think we need to engage with it, because if we don't it's going to go ahead anyway and then we are going to have no voice, so I just want people to consider that when they are thinking about it. It's happening, we can't change that, so let's just try and get as much out of the university as we can when they do this review."

The strategic lead of the review is set to come from Fylde Principal Frank Wareing. Wareing's role will be to coordinate the self-evaluation document, which is expected to be an important piece of evi-

dence for the panel.

Despite Wareing's key influence in proceedings, members of Union Council were still alarmed by the lack of College representation and the intentions behind the review this highlights. Many believe that this reflects an anti-college sentiment from some parts of the University.

"The colleges need to be right in the middle of every consideration we have as a union because they are such an integral part and such a good reason why people come here and why people stay here. That really needs to be fed back to whoever decides on this sort of stuff."

LUSU Councillor Becky Cook passionately argued that the review needs to recognise the important role played by the nine colleges. "The college's need to be right in

the middle of every consideration we have as a union because they are such an integral part and such a good reason why people come here and why people stay here. That really needs to be fed back to whoever decides on this sort of stuff."

According to the reference of terms for the upcoming review, its purpose is "to consider the effectiveness of the current College staffing structures and make recommendations for the future to enhance support and leadership in the Colleges." This focus on College leadership is particularly important following recent decisions over two colleges, Bowland and Lonsdale, which are acting without their own College principals.

The document also highlights the academic merit behind the collegiate system, something which Pendle President Rebekah Chris-

ton believes misses the point. "In this college review information, is the main idea that the colleges are only worthwhile whilst they are contributing to the academic success of the students? Because if so, that is completely out of touch with what students actually think."

It is unknown exactly when the review process will begin, but there have been recent discussions about the possibility of greater student input throughout the process. During council, Clayson stated that a focus group of eight students from Union Council would soon be formed to aid the review. Grizedale President Harry Jacks, added to this that an email had circulated around College Presidents that they too would act as a focus group, although neither of these groups will have the same command as those voices within the ten person review panel.



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EDITORIAL

LUSU need to take an active approach towards ethical sponsorship

One of the more important discussions which took place at the long, drawn-out Week 2 Union Council was the discussion of ethical sponsorship. LUSU passed a motion in the last academic year which committed it to only doing business with those companies considered ethically viable. The rugby team's recent sponsorship deal with consulting firm KPMG was considered to be going against this motion, and was thus brought to Council for discussion. As the conversation unfolded on Thursday Week 2, the extent to which LUSU themselves have flouted the ethical sponsorship motion was revealed: KPMG are in fact LUSU's auditors. To dictate what societies can and cannot do while at the same time refusing to follow your own rules smacks of hypocrisy. However, if LUSU is serious about ethical investment – and given President Laura Clayson's manifesto pledge to make sure the University's financial partners are more ethical you would hope they would be – they need to help societies find ethical sponsors rather than penalise them when they don't.

This can be achieved by giving a clear guideline as to which companies are considered ethical and which are not. More importantly, LUSU need to be active in actually seeking ethical sponsors for their societies – when SCAN researched ethical companies which could act as potential sponsors, we found that LUSU did not have an existing relationship with a single one. If LUSU are serious about ethical sponsorships it needs to help societies find them.

Lancaster: where your vote actually counts

The British General Election is only a few months away. Immediately the chorus of "why should I care? My vote doesn't count!" rings out throughout campus. However, if you decide to vote in Lancaster (as opposed to at your home address) then your vote certainly will count. As evidence collected by the NUS shows, students' votes could be crucial in determining the outcome of several swing seats, and this could not be truer than in Lancaster. Current Conservative MP for Lancaster and Fleetwood, Eric Ollerenshaw has only a sliver of a majority – your vote could be the one which kicks him out or keeps him in. With the Assembly for Change only a few weeks away, there is no better time to get politically engaged.

Halloween

The terrible weather and the shorter days indicate that October is slowly drawing to a close. That, of course, means one thing: Halloween. There are several events taking place to mark the occasion, including one by the Lancaster University Marketing Society, in conjunction with several other societies. Green Lancaster will also be doing pumpkin carving in Alex Square. Be sure to also check out SCAN's own tribute to Halloween on page 28 of this very issue, in which Abigail Davies details the origins of the occasion.

JACK PERRY EDITOR
@JACKPERRY01

The problem of personal politics in LUSU

DANIEL SNAPE COMMENT EDITOR
@DTCSSNAPE

Thursday Week 2 saw the very first Union Council of the year, and already the elected representatives of LUSU are mired in personal-politics clashes. A document leaked from the Lancaster University Anti-Capitalist society (LUAC) variously described members of the Council as "Labour clique", "quite cute", and "up her own arse", to name a few. For some reason, the document was then put on Thursday's agenda and thrown around by Council for longer than almost any other item. One member demanded an apology, and another said she knew of members who could not be there that day because they were so disgusted by the document.

Ironic, perhaps, that only a few moments earlier LUSU President Laura Clayson was lecturing these people on the 'culture of Council', reminding them that Union Council was there to further the interests of students and not "personal politics". With that in mind, I'm not sure what Deputy Chair Colin Mang thought would come of the debate. He said he introduced the document because a lot of people asked him to, but he must have known that a lengthy deconstruction of some anti-capitalist's private opinions by the very people in them would only worsen the personal spats that so often get in the way of things.

Many of LUSU's recent personal-politics clashes are party political. The majority of LUAC members, I gather, are hardcore environmentalists. This document, posing as the minutes from one of their gatherings, questions whether they could work with a mainly Labourite students' union, going through each Council position one by one and giving an insulting profile of those members, both incoming and outgoing, who were considered anything but anti-capitalist. The question of party politics also surfaced awkwardly during the hustings for Union President in March. A member of

the audience quite sensibly asked whether the political leanings of the candidates would get in the way of their duties to the students. Although the point was clearly targeted at Luke Parchment, the question remains an important one for Clayson given her environmentalist and "obviously left-wing" ideology.

The whole bicker was only made worse by the fact that several students on Council are also members of LUAC and are named in the document. We later found out that the document had only one author, who had flagrantly misrepresented the other members, but not before those members had to spend half the debate apologising for the minutes and half the debate insisting that they themselves had done nothing wrong. The damage was done and Council felt divided.

For every moment spent trying to subtly dish out blame within Council for a snide remark, the more incapable they become of working together.

Therein lies the problem with personal politics in the Students' Union: for every moment spent trying to quantify the insult caused by one student's personal opinions, Council is ignoring the important problems they are in some cases paid to debate on our behalf, and for every moment spent trying to subtly dish out blame within Council for a snide remark, the more incapable they become of working together. Union Council was not only failing to represent students' interests on Thursday; it was actively making things harder for us.

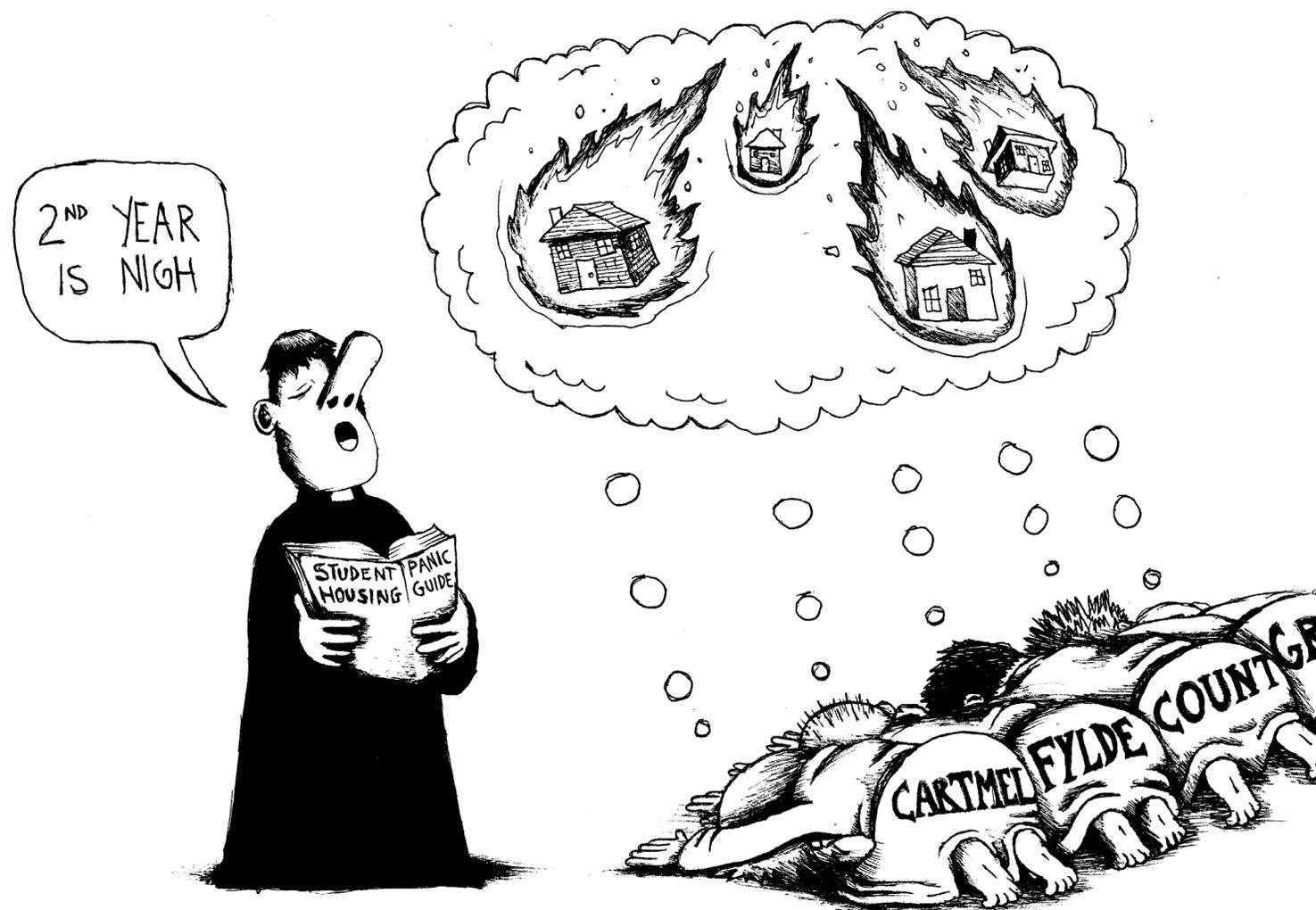
The true owner of the document from LUAC turned out to be Lancaster City Councillor Jack Filmore. In a statement read to Union Council by the Chair, Filmore gave a rather back-handed apology by taking complete responsibility for the inflated minutes but simultaneously criticising the Council for wasting time debating them. It

was a brave move, and it was then that much of the Council felt they had to make known their disgust with Filmore. However, strangely enough, I find myself siding with Filmore.

Of course, the stupidest thing you can do with your more unsavoury opinions about the people you work with is write them down and publish them as a dialogue. But Filmore was right in saying the members of Council had no right to drag this mean-minded row into the highest forum of the Students' Union. Some members have to learn that elected positions come with a certain amount of not-so-constructive criticism. If you think it's alright for the electorate to circulate pictures of the prime minister as a bright pink condom, then it's alright for students to complain about the LUSU President's haircut. More importantly, members of Council must learn that spending 10 minutes writhing in each other's disgust in order to come up with a suitable act of revenge is no way to respond. Take it on the chin, LUSU.

Despite this, there is hope. The student television station, LAI:TV, has plans to record the entirety of each LUSU Council in high definition and broadcast the results on the internet. I think the introduction of cameras to Council would have similar consequences to the introduction of cameras to Parliament, where they generated a bit of democratic discipline. Under the audio-visual scrutiny of the public, MPs were forced to show up for debates, say something useful and, most importantly, talk about the right things in the right order. Perhaps, therefore, a camera lens can strip some of the personal politics from Union Council.

Four accommodation myths we shouldn't be teaching students



Alex Chau

ISABELLA FORD

With the greatly anticipated Freshers' Week now a distant, if not somewhat blurry, memory, first years will now be settling into their new homes for the coming year. You would be right in thinking that the growing mound of "further reading" on your Moodle page and the pasta sauce-encrusted bowls littering the kitchen would be the finishing touch to the university to-do list - that is until the accommodation talks begin. These talks will be running from Wednesday, Week 4 to Thursday, Week 5 with a different college for each day, the aim being to give first years all the information they need about living on or off campus next year. Let the inevitable panic ensue. But there are a few myths about off campus accommodation that the University should not be spouting.

The first myth is the fear that all the "good houses" will run out. With statistics showing that the

number of student houses in the private sector has doubled over the past seven years, quantity has certainly increased in terms of what's available off campus. Although affected less by this than some of the bigger UK cities, Lancaster still has a lot to offer. The stable intake numbers also mean that there is more supply than demand. Those who do hastily purchase the first house they see will be forfeiting more suitable houses they could have found later on, so don't rush the process.

Furthermore, as the University's reputation is growing, what with its various university league table standings creeping around the top 15, student expectations of accommodation are also going up. The University's own on-campus accommodation has now won five awards for the last five years from the National Student Housing Survey for Best University Halls. In response to this, landlords are endeavouring to improve their services, meaning the quality

is increasing with the quantity. Lancaster University will also be launching its own new Approved Homes Scheme, which will be making sure properties are up to a certain standard and managed in an appropriate manner.

Secondly, don't let anyone convince you that there aren't many agencies to choose from. In Lancaster there are many housing agencies, including LUSU Living, Yellow Door Lets, Student Housing Lancaster and City Block, and each will have a good quality house or flat for every group of students. Whilst LUSU Living will launch its new webpage for 2015/16 houses shortly after the talks, Yellow Door Lets and Student Housing Lancaster already have some to peruse online. A good tip is to make sure you have a look around a couple of houses and preferably with at least two different providers, so you can have a good grasp of the different standards on offer. Remember, lettings agencies are not out to con students, but to give

advice on finding a house that's suitable and in your price range.

The third myth is that comparing the houses themselves is tough. No one is being asked to visit ten different houses over the course of the next ten weeks, but do keep an eye out on the internet for what's on offer. Key pieces of information include things like deposit amounts, whether the rent to pay per week includes gas, electricity and water bills and what the lease length is. Location should be carefully considered - for example, houses that will be a little more on the expensive side will be in the city Centre or by the bus station, so steer clear of these areas to take the pressure off your student bank account.

Lastly, just because you're told to consider your housemates last doesn't mean they are the least important. The average number of people to a house is four to six, but there are also plenty of houses for three and seven. If you were hop-

ing to take your entire block over, houses on the same street can sometimes be arranged, or you can move into apartment blocks. Think very carefully about who you want to live with - that guy in the flat next door might be hilariously spilling his drinks around the entirety of Sugar, but in your living room at three in the morning? Not so fun.

The whispers about second year accommodation seem, to me, a little premature and will undoubtedly trigger alarm. The talks may not do much to ease this, but they will prevent the foreseeable shock that will reverberate around the campus when second-year accommodation becomes a crucial topic. So save your panicking for now, where it's better spent on missed deadlines and on that ketchup stain you just can't get out of your bedroom carpet.

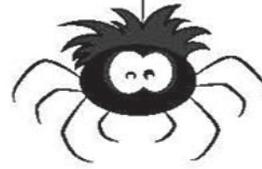
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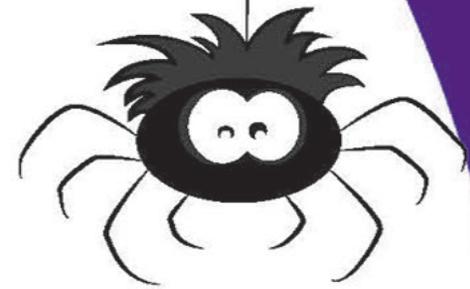
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Forget unemployment: the real concern is underemployment

ELEANOR NEWTON

Recent figures from the Office for National Statistics have revealed that, despite unemployment dropping back to a pre-recession level, youth underemployment has sharply increased, leaving 47% of graduates working in jobs that don't require a degree-level education. In other words, although the coalition may gloat about there being fewer young people without jobs, the jobs they do have are increasingly unsuitable. Whilst underemployment figures at Lancaster are substantially lower than the national average, with approximately 74% of graduates having obtained graduate employment, the exponential rise of the so-called gringos, or "graduates in non-graduate occupations", suggests a fundamental problem in both the education system and labour market within the UK. As a result, the debate regarding "Mickey Mouse" degrees and "McJobs" has once again resurfaced.

With an increasing number of

school leavers choosing to (or feeling obliged to) continue into higher education regardless, the question arises over the cause of such rampant underemployment. Are young people being given inflated expectations regarding the benefit their studies will have upon their employability? The hyperbole of university recruitment campaigns in the competitive environment of UCAS would certainly suggest so, but many students may simply be acting on outdated information from parents or teachers. The face of higher education has changed so much in the last few years that it must be hard for prospective students to know who to trust about the value of a degree.

Is the onus also on the government and the employers themselves to respond to the influx of graduates by way of job creation and the abolition of unpaid internships and work experience? As we come to understand the impact this trend is having on graduates, it also raises questions over the impact that graduate underemployment

is having on the employability and job prospects of unskilled jobseekers, who now find themselves competing with those highly qualified people unable to find graduate openings. For them, this is not just the difference between a respectable, high-paying job and a more unpleasant, menial one, but the difference between a living and long-term unemployment.

Many graduates seem to hold the questionable viewpoint that once one has successfully obtained any degree, they can expect a "graduate position."

One of the most difficult questions concerning the reasons for underemployment is what, if anything, constitutes being an overqualified worker? Indeed, many graduates seem to hold the questionable viewpoint that once one has successfully obtained any degree, regardless of subject or institution, they can expect a "graduate position" somewhere. This is not to assign blame to the graduates, but

is instead indicative of the negative side effects that come with promoting higher education as an infallible means of upward social mobility, without considering both the quality of the institutions and the availability of suitable employment.

Over-recruitment by a steadily increasing number of higher education institutions has arguably devalued degrees, with most graduate employers now expecting candidates to have gained a degree, some work experience, and an internship. As a result, many graduates have come to think of non-graduate level jobs as a kind of rite of passage for all graduates, and perhaps they are right. In other words, with almost half of the population progressing to higher education, is it time for us to reconsider what it means to be a graduate and adjust our expectations accordingly?

In September David Cameron announced plans to use benefit cuts to fund approximately 3 million

apprenticeships should the Conservative party win the next general election. Such an announcement does raise the question of the extent to which the government is responsible in creating jobs for its citizens. However, it also underlines a key factor highlighted as an area for improvement by the government in finding suitable employment: having a knowledge of your selected industry and possessing the skills it requires. Many degree schemes and institutions have been chastised by employers for failing to provide their graduates with the relevant knowledge and experience needed to fulfil the roles on offer. Indeed, whilst a degree scheme may hold academic merit, it is clear that this isn't always synonymous with producing well-prepared or suitable job candidates. Fixing this asymmetry is going to be no mean feat. As always, it is down to us students to make the best of a bad situation.

Is Lancaster teaching anybody anything?

Is it possible to go to a university other than Oxbridge and still succeed? Jake Mellor suggests that Lancaster is certainly doing well for itself.

JAKE MELLOR

Anybody following the Conservative Party Conference may have noted the proclamations of Jenni Russell, a commentator who writes for The Times and the London Evening Standard, that many non-Oxbridge universities do "not teach anybody anything." But anything said at the Conservative Party Conference must of course be taken, not with a pinch of salt, but with a bucketload.

She told a Conservative fringe meeting that she had spoken with someone working at Credit Suisse (a finance company) and concluded that English graduates cannot be recruited as they are not comparable to international talent, having never been anywhere and being unable to speak any other language. She even went on to compare native English graduates to the disabled. Note the use of "English" rather than "British". Now, this is either inherently racist or downright insensitive, or even both. It is certainly not a metaphor that should be used in

the mainstream, as unpopular as Conservative Party Conferences are.

There is a huge difference between being monolingual and being disabled. There are certainly no "Monolingual Needs Departments" in schools or "monolingual access ramps" in buildings. Granted, being able to speak only one language may raise issues should one decide to go abroad or converse with people from another country. But according to the BBC, over 95% of the British population are monolingual English speakers. In comparison to this, the number of disabled people in Britain is much, much lower.

Putting aside this tactless comment, is attending Oxford or Cambridge really that crucial for life in the real world? Does dressing up for black tie events or wearing elegant robes for evening meals every week, receiving battels, and calling the cleaners "Scouts" make one a superior academic? Russell claims student workloads outside of Oxbridge are minimal. It is true

that at Lancaster, as with multiple other universities, students do not receive (unless they are very unlucky) an essay every week of an eight-week term, but it is surely the content and quality of the essays given, rather than quantity, which helps a person to grow and succeed in academia.

In answer to the question, "do you need to attend Oxbridge to be successful?" I offer a resounding, "no".

Russell also claims that academics at non-Oxbridge universities are rated on their research output rather than what they are doing for their students. She seems to forget that the primary job of a university is to research, study, and develop the minds of intellectuals. University is not just big sixth form. Lecturers and tutors are not there to spoonfeed you all of the information, or hold your hand as you walk down the road. Students require initiative and a desire to study and succeed in order to produce results worthy of

a degree. Yes, universities have a duty of pastoral care to make sure students know what they are doing and do not feel overwhelmed by towering libraries, imposing reading material, and strict word counts in essays, but the students themselves – regardless of which university they attend – have a responsibility to seek the knowledge they need as Harry Potter seeks the Golden Snitch: passionately, determinedly and relentlessly.

Should a researcher provide all the information needed for students to succeed, then plagiarism would be rife and nothing new would be discovered, formulated, or made. If researchers across the United Kingdom devoted all their time to students, they would not have the opportunity to study (and kill) the world's oldest mollusc in Bangor. Lancaster would be a very dull place if everybody was taught the same information or skills – a situation which could be compared to the Orwellian society of 1984.

Ultimately, Russell's views seem

even more outdated than MySpace, the Ford Model T, and Rick-rolling. Her speech conveyed the impression that she feels all universities should take a monastic approach of mediaeval teaching. She complained: "There has been a real change in the way universities operate... [since] 20 or 30 years ago." This is something that we in the modern world call "development". Just as technology, sporting talent, and Channel 4's programming improves, so too do universities and their provision of education. In answer to the question, "do you need to attend Oxbridge to be successful?" I offer a resounding, "no". When Lancaster University was founded, it did not set out to be "just another" university. With time, effort, and enthusiasm, it has risen in the rankings to the best young university in the UK according to the Times Higher Education '100 Under 50', and the 10th best young university in the entire world as of 1 May 2014. I say to Jenni Russell: wake up and smell the red roses.

Should university tuition be free?

YES

NO

BRYONY SEAGER COMMENT EDITOR

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

Earlier this year the government revised down its estimates for how much money lent in the form of tuition fees would ever be raked back. It was estimated when this revision was made public that the tripling of university fees back in 2012 has added nothing to the government's coffers, and will in fact leave them with losses for the next 30 to 40 years where repayments are concerned if the economy keeps in the same pattern as it is currently showing. Graduates have to earn £21,000 before paying back their tuition fees and as the situation stands at the moment 45% of graduates will not earn enough in their lifetimes to repay their tuition fees. It has been calculated that if this figure reaches 48.6% the government will be making a significant loss compared to before the tuition fee hike.

The idea behind the initial fee rises was that the government could cut payments to universities and these institutions would make up the difference by charging more fees, which the government would pay until students could pay it back. Make sense? Lots of people thought it was an odd way around the issue as well; pay less to supposedly get more back. As you can see from the statistics above, this hasn't exactly worked out the way the government planned. They are losing 45p in every £1 they lend out and this isn't expected to change for another 30 to 40 years. By then the economy is likely to be drastically different, so it's difficult to discuss what the impact might be by then.

Outside of the UK, Germany has just made tuition free for all, even international students, and this has catapulted the country (quite naturally) into a position of extreme popularity amongst prospective international students. Some may ask where the difference in fees is going to come from: where is the extra money going to be found? Back in the UK the Conservatives argued that Labour's mooted plans for lowering tuition fees to £6000 would add more to the deficit and make the economy unstable once again.

The Labour government replied that the difference could be made up by reversing a cut in corporation tax for banks that the Conservative party has implemented. Corporation tax has always been a sticky issue when linked with tuition fees because it has been estimated that if corporate giants such as Google and Starbucks paid even a fraction of the tax they owed, then the resultant money could be used to aid payments for higher education.

Aside from all the economics jargon, and heading back into more wishful thinking, tuition fees should either be lowered or scrapped altogether to make for a more level playing field. As discussed in many articles before in SCAN, going to university is expensive enough with many families being hit hard in the pocket to help pay their children's living costs, and without the added worry of how paying back a base amount of £27,000 is going to affect them later in life. Many a prospective student has been put off going into higher education altogether because of the debt they would be clobbered



with when they left.

Some also argued that by raising the tuition fees it would discourage those who perhaps shouldn't be at university, and should maybe consider apprenticeships or learning on the job, from going into higher education. Basing this idea on monetary standards is frankly quite repulsive; university isn't for everyone, but on no account should the 'yes' and 'no' pile be sorted due to wealth. It should be divided on merit and a real understanding of what university might mean for them and their job prospects. With tuition fees the way they are currently, one of the biggest topics of conversation when someone is thinking about going to university is how they are going to afford it, which in terms of furthering their intellectual capacity and job prospects (what university should really be about) should be much further down the conversational scale.

DANIEL SNAPE COMMENT EDITOR

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

I'm fairly certain that back in November 2010, when the coalition first seriously considered raising the cap on tuition fees, I was the only student in my entire school who was prepared to defend the idea. My reasoning was this: the government no longer had the money to subsidise everyone's higher education, so the universities would have to find another source. If the universities couldn't find enough money of their own, I would end up with a second-rate bachelor's. Thousands of hours of political and

cut-backs. Secondly, for the government to cover every £9,000 instalment, the higher education budget would have to grow by at least a third – and fast. To put that into perspective, the Treasury would have to find a sum of money every year roughly equal to the price of our EU membership.

That is not to say, however, that the student loans system is perfect. A lot of students in favour of lower tuition love to point out that projections for defaulting on student loans are coming dangerously close to the 48.6% mark, after which raising the cap would have cost us more than we gained. If we're comparing this to free tuition, the rate of default would be 100%, so they can hardly complain. However, a broken student loans system is no excuse to take £9,000 a year from the state. A more sustainable Student Loans Company, which might charge only inflation-level interest and charge repayments for longer than 30 years, would easily cut rates of defaulting.

With free tuition, we would lose the privilege of confronting every problem with the catchphrase: "Is this what I pay nine grand a year for?" It's a question that has cultivated real accountability in universities over the last few years, pushing them to reconsider some of their more complacent services. If the government had to send a comfortable subsidy to Lancaster every time a student signed up, there would be no incentive to reduce teaching costs, but there would be every reason for management to ask the government for more.

A particularly grave mistake made by a lot of students is the belief that £9,000 fees are somehow unfair. Let's be clear: no student of any socio-economic background is being ruined by the £9,000 cap. Sure, it's a daunting prospect having to square your student loans, but that's a problem for graduates, not prospective graduates. Under the present system, there are more students from disadvantaged backgrounds going to university than ever before. If anything, free tuition would be the least egalitarian option. Unprecedented numbers of people would want to go to university and would have to be separated out by stricter academic entry standards, forcing universities to discriminate against groups that don't perform as reliably on paper.

I must admit, if free tuition were remotely doable, it would take a great deal of self-sacrifice from us. There is nothing we can do to climb out of this financial blip now; free tuition is a social ideal, and that's precisely why we can't have it.

economic study later, my opinion hasn't changed much.

Two stories in the headlines have kick-started the tuition fees argument again. Vince Cable has warned that further austerity measures may encourage the government to set the cap on fees even higher. Meanwhile, in Germany, the last state to charge university fees has made tuition completely free. Students around Britain are now asking themselves: why can't we be like the Germans? The answer, as always, is economics.

A lot of romantic student activists have trouble stomaching the constraint that is money. Firstly, universities clearly want more funding, as 98% of UK universities charge the whole nine grand for courses. Even then, trade unions are threatening further industrial action due to university

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For your 16th birthday: the vote



PATRICK WILSON
 @PADDYWILSON

Here's a Facebook status I wrote after the 2010 general election: "Well played Britain, we've now got a smarmy bastard in charge of the country." Cutting edge political analysis, I'm sure you'll agree, and this is exactly why Labour is right to call for the voting age to be lowered to 16.

It's easy to chalk opinions like my status up to immaturity, resting on the presumption that in a few years' time a valid opinion will arise from the mire of political apathy. That's the system we and most countries use. Yet I know people 18, 20, 25 years old (and older) who profess artificial opinions just like my status. Many others say nothing; they couldn't care less. Why? Allow me to very briefly quote Tony Blair: a lack of "education, education, education".

Just a few months before the age where I could pay taxes, marry, and enlist in the armed forces, I typed out that stance based on David Cameron's manner, not on his politics. I knew very little about that part. Lowering the voting age is the best way to counter that if we go about it the right way – the right way being education, which is something I had not received on the subject of politics. This is why education has to come part and parcel with enfranchisement. At the moment, by the time we queue to put a cross on a ballot sheet, school has come and gone. When we ought to have been schooled on how our country is governed and has been governed in the past, school stayed ominously quiet.

If we look at Scotland, where the voting age was lowered to 16 prior to the referendum, schools introduced lessons and discussions about independence and politics. Were the pupils more susceptible to ideological indoctrination? Certainly not. Students of this age understand mathematical equations beyond my grasp, so I think they could comprehend a topic which has even greater impact on their lives – a topic one could argue has more relevance than a great deal of the current syllabus.

Sure enough, the pupils voted. A study from the University of Edinburgh showed that a mere 7% of youngsters had not discussed the referendum with anyone. Scotland is now perhaps the most clued-up nation in the West, politically speaking. At 16, Scots come out of school with at least a basic political understanding, which will serve them for many years to come. That's something I'd like to see more widespread. With political education taking root at an earlier age, we will have a more informed electorate with the ability to make decisions that they could at least try to argue for.

There are, of course, arguments against giving the vote to 16-year-olds. It's suggested that as the main political parties tend to cater to older voters right now, they will need to dramatically adjust their target audiences. Otherwise, it is argued, young people will become apathetic due to the lack of attention paid to them. Without this shift will the parties have any impetus to change without younger voices calling for it? Party youth wings are also a good exam-

ple. They lie on the periphery of a party and therefore leading politicians don't see them and, consequently, the youth vote, as particularly strong or important, which is of course false. The argument for ignoring young people lies in the fact that "no other age group is treated this way", which seems to me more of an argument against than for. No other age group is treated this way because they can vote, so naturally they will be given more attention. Let's even that out.

"But I don't know any 16-year-olds asking for the vote!" I hear you unconvinced reader call. That, frankly, is neither here nor there. It's easy enough to discover stories of a startling number of women who were relatively ambivalent about their voting rights up to suffrage success, with some even campaigning against enfranchisement. Yet to think of anything other than universal suffrage now seems rightly ridiculous.

Refraining from giving young people the vote says: "You can't be trusted." Perhaps next year after the general election, MPs will be forced to look at this issue once again. Many Conservative MPs are against giving the vote to under-18s, but maybe more lobbying will help change their minds. Treat people like adults and they will act like adults, especially when it comes to voting. Hopefully, then, though old Facebook updates will inevitably remain embarrassing, perhaps the political updates of future youth will have more merit than mine.

We deserve more choice around modules

JULIA MOLLOY PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
 @JRMOLLOY2

Picking the right degree for you is only half the problem of your university journey. Picking modules you want to specialise in is something else altogether. By now, all Part II students will be stuck with whatever modules they're studying based on a choice made months before any module details were fully finalised. For most people, the choice is daunting. How can you possibly know whether you will enjoy studying a particular module if it's a completely new topic? Whilst this is something that we all have to face up to alone, the University isn't necessarily making things easier for us.

The first problem that always comes up for second years going into their final year is that joint honours students are either not allowed to do a dissertation, or are severely restricted in their dissertation subject. As a joint honours student in English Literature and Creative Writing, I'm one of the annoying few whose degree lies within the same department and so the choice of doing a dissertation or not was entirely left to me. For others, however, this was not the case. A friend studying English Literature and Religious Studies was initially told that her dissertation could only be in Religious Studies, whilst my flatmate, who is studying Biology and Geography, has no choice but to do a Biology dissertation.

The reasoning behind such restrictions – or so rumour had it – was that joint honours students weren't "dedicated" enough to do a dissertation in one particular subject area. Of course, this is absolute nonsense, and the English Literature department duly relented concerning joint honours students (albeit rather late in the process) for the first time. This, however, is only half the story. For English Literature students, third year brings the option of doing specialised half modules, taught by a tutor who designs the module around their own research area and interests. The catch? Only if you're a single honours student or doing English Literature and Creative Writing.

Yet even if you're "dedicated"

enough to be worthy of half modules, the restrictions don't end there. Timetabling often means that half modules only run in particular terms, meaning that two modules you want to study may be run in the same term. This would be fine in itself – if, of course, we were made aware of which modules were running in which terms before enrolment day. It's difficult to talk of other departments across the University when I don't have personal experience of them, but judging from my friends' experiences they weren't nearly as problematic. It was almost like a game – guess which modules are running in which term, only to discover on the day that all of the modules you're interested in are in Michaelmas term, what a laugh! Or rather, how ridiculous it is that no-one is given finalised information before enrolling on modules that they probably won't be allowed to change because of class sizes and timetabling issues.

There are all sorts of nuanced restrictions that students are not made aware of and are expected to be able to adapt to on a whim when it comes to picking modules. A friend said that she was unable to do the modules she was interested in for her course because it meant that too much of her degree would be made up of coursework – a rule which I have never heard before and, so far as I know, wasn't made clear to students doing that particular degree. Given that most students expect that they will be able to specialise in their subject area, degrees become peculiarly restricted depending on what the make-up of your subject is. Unfortunately for most, this often means that you'll probably study at least one duff module during Part II (I certainly didn't count on doing Shakespeare for a year when I came to Lancaster).

The only saving grace is that the people in charge of enrolment decisions are, I think, gradually listening to students. Joint honours students can now do dissertations in English Literature, and new modules are coming into force to cater for student wishes. How long it will take before manoeuvrability on changing modules or enrolling for half modules, however, is another kettle of fish altogether.

Does a 'new city culture' belong in Lancaster?



Mae Reddaway

DANIEL SNAPE COMMENT EDITOR
 @DTCSNAPE

For just over a year, Lancaster's Business Improvement District (BID) has tried to generate a 'new city culture' in the heart of Lancaster. The BID, also known as Lancaster Unlimited, is a kind of business cooperative run by the Chamber of Commerce incorporating 320 firms in the city centre. From local donations, European funding, and a 1.5% membership tax, the BID has secured many hundreds of thousands of pounds to invest in "promoting and renewing" the city around its businesses. But with most of its projects in the early stages of planning, what else could a new city culture mean for Lancaster, and is it something we truly want?

We may be able to find one clue in the origin of the BID scheme. The ability to institute a BID was enshrined in the Local Government Act 2003 as a way of mod-

ernising British cities. There are now more than 100 groups like Lancaster Unlimited operating in towns and cities around the country, but these organisations were piloted in, and in some ways designed for, London. No doubt many of the principles, practices, and goals recommended to BIDs have originated in those early trials. But many people up here would consider Lancaster to have a very separate identity from the bustling business districts of the capital, and no doubt would want to protect that from company-led modernisation.

There were clearly reservations about this when the establishment of Lancaster Unlimited went to a vote. Although the scheme is designed to rake in more customers for local business, only 67% of city centre enterprises elected to join it. Perhaps business leaders were sceptical of the membership costs, which resembled the business rates bill of a second local

council. In fact, there were fears that councils would use the public services of BIDs as a way of outsourcing their own duties, but Lancaster Unlimited clearly states that it runs alongside local authorities and not for them. Perhaps, then, there was too much uncertainty as to what this organisation would do to the cosy, traditional image of the local area.

However, a quick study of the BID's initial plans show that they could be quite useful. One of its main targets is seasonal marketing campaigns. Business in the city has often benefited from visitors during festive events like the Christmas show Light Up Lancaster and the famous Lancaster Music Festival.

Both events bring a sharp increase in demand for pubs, hotels, and takeaways, and neither would have gone ahead last year if Lancaster Unlimited had not match funded the projects. There is now

talk of other big events during Easter and the bank holidays.

Festivities are innocent enough, but what about the more permanent changes planned for Lancaster's street furniture? Again, the BID seems to have devised changes that are very much in keeping with the historical and natural heritage of Lancaster. There are plans to increase the signage in lanes containing some of the city's hidden gems. The BID also has a decent understanding of the city's more unsavoury parts, targeting specific 'grot spots' for vandalism or flyposting, and considering more CCTV coverage in strategic areas.

Lancaster Unlimited has also brought other benefits to business coordination in the city centre. For instance, the building work taking place around the bus station has caused a lot of disruption for retailers in the northern half of the city centre. The BID, to balance

the books, managed to secure a donation of £50,000 by way of apology from United Utilities, which could then be reinvested in the businesses most disturbed. A few companies acting in isolation could never exert that kind of pressure.

One of the most pleasing policies of the BID, however, is the use of empty window space for local advertising. Empty shops are always a disappointment for visitors to Lancaster, so redeploying those spaces for business and social enterprise is a tidy and instructive idea. Through ideas like these, it seems that the BID has a lot to offer Lancaster. It has proven that there are ways of renewing and modernising a city without robbing it of its unique charm. Whether the future plans of Lancaster Unlimited have so much decorum remains to be seen.

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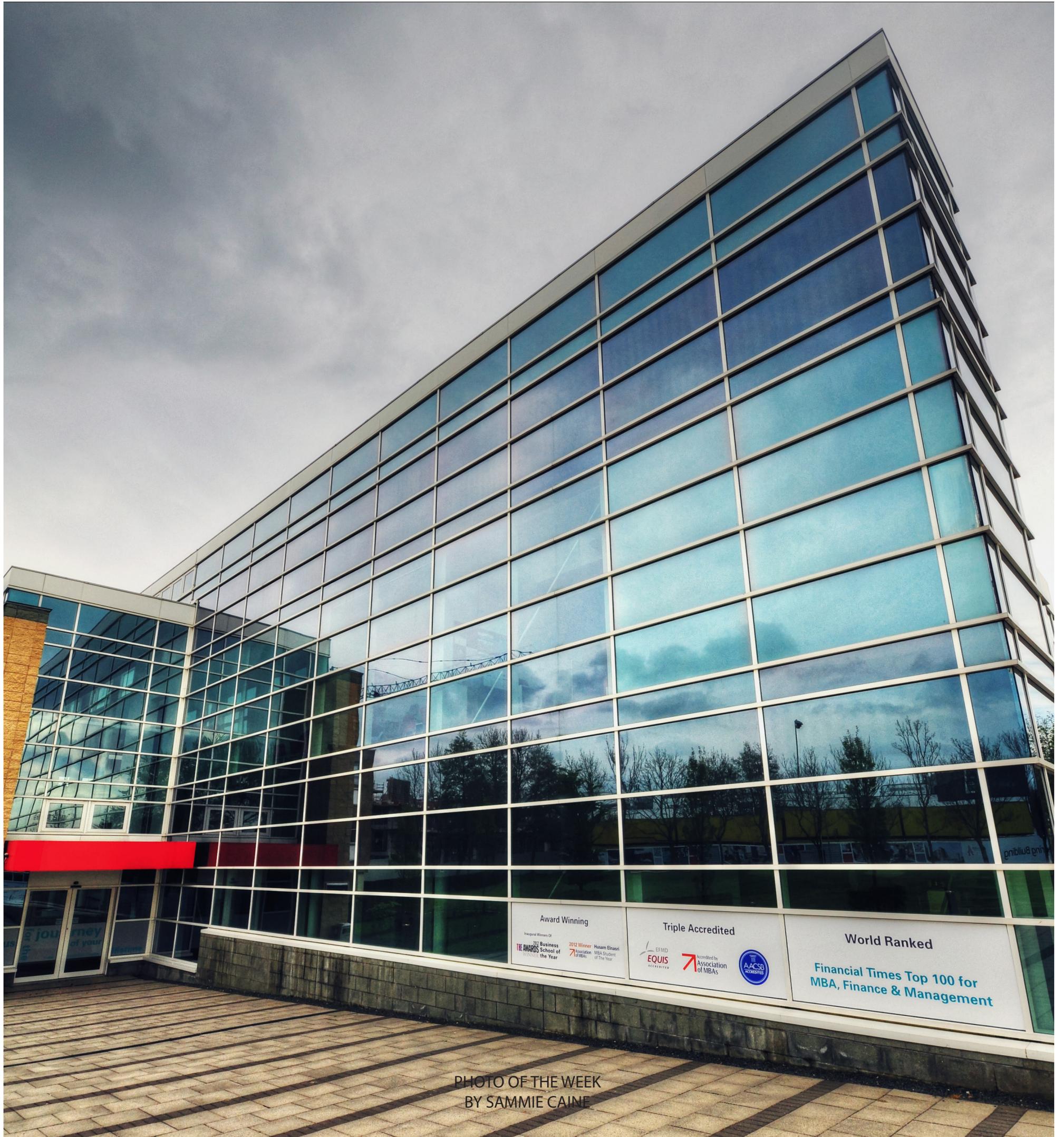


PHOTO OF THE WEEK
BY SAMMIE CAINE

Testing Media: Mel Brimfield

EMILY BIRKETT
@EMILY_BIRKETT

Many galleries that you walk into nowadays are simply painting after painting coherent to a specific theme or medium. It can get repetitive and although visually it may be appealing, sometimes it's more interesting to walk into an exhibition and not know what the next piece will bring. When you walk into Mel Brimfield's 'Testing Media' exhibition in the Peter Scott Gallery, the versatility hits you straight away and you'll find yourself walking round the whole exhibition before settling at one piece - you simply want to see what else she has to offer.

Commissioned by many galleries and companies, Mel has worked with performers and artists making short films combining performance, photography and painting to create a truly interesting concept

and a fresh, modernised look to her work. By referencing theatre, film and fellow artists such as Jackson Pollock and Vincent van Gogh, she has been able to conjure a collection of artwork that appeals to all ages, proving to be a truly successful exhibition. Her flexibility and lack of restriction keeps the audience interested and with supplementary features available (e.g. headphones), you can listen to the performances and be captivated as you fully focus on the screens in front of you.

The vocabulary used in the videography ranges from flamboyant language to a lack of control in what is being said, vulgarity and comedic approaches ensuring you will definitely not forget about it. You almost feel sympathetic for many of the characters portrayed by a lip-syncing Dickie Beau, an artist that has worked with Mel for many years now.

The exhibition itself makes you focus on things that you wouldn't usually notice. The HD video piece entitled 'Death and Dumb Part 2', a blacked out background surrounding a very vocal mouth is quite disturbing.

On the day when the exhibition was opened, Mel held a talk where she referred to this piece as having sexual connotations. She informed attendees of her many inspirations including old comedy game-shows such as *It's a Knock-out* and plays like Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days*.

It's hard to summarise 'Testing Media' in a review as it will mean something different to everyone. Go to the Peter Scott Gallery, pick up a handout and work your way through what is an incredible exhibition.



Mel Brimfield, Vincent (after Kirk Douglas - Full Series)

STAY CULTURED



The world premiere of an accessible new translation of *A Doll's House*, Henrik Ibsen's groundbreaking play about marriage and money, comes to Lancaster Grand on Thursday, week 4. The play was originally met with controversy for its criticism of 19th Century marriage norms - some it had to be rewritten for the original German showing as it was believed they would not respond well to a strong decision made by the female protagonist.



The Silence of the Lambs remains one of cinema's very best crime thrillers, and it's coming to campus this week. Clarice Starling, a young U.S. FBI trainee, seeks the advice of the imprisoned Hannibal Lecter to apprehend another serial killer, known only as "Buffalo Bill". The film, which won Academy Awards in all the top 5 categories, will be on at Take 2 Cinema on Thursday and Friday, week 4.



Acclaimed theatre company *Ockham's Razor* are bringing a unique physical theatre production *Not Until We Are Lost* to Lancaster. Split between LICA and Lancaster Castle on Wednesday and Friday, week 5 respectively, the performances explore what it is to be lost through the telling of short stories. Featuring originally designed aerial structures, an original score from Graham Fitkin and a 20-strong local choir, it's not to be missed.



Lancaster Grand theatre will be bringing us one of Tchaikovsky's world famous classical ballets, *The Nutcracker*. The enchanting tale follows Clara and her nutcracker doll, which magically transforms into a princely soldier. Their adventures see the Prince and Clara combat the Mouse King and join the Sugar Plum Fairy on a wonderful trip to a kingdom made entirely of sweets. For tickets, visit lancastergrand.co.uk

Eight glaring omissions from the 2014 Mercury Prize

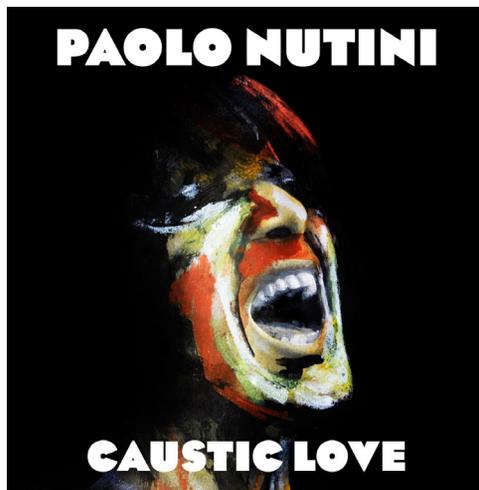


Open to albums released by British or Irish artists between September 10th 2013 and September 8th 2014, this year's Mercury Prize shortlist of 12 was announced in early September. Here's some albums Andrew Sharp thinks deserve to be on there.



Honeyblood
HONEYBLOOD

One of the heaviest and most deliciously filthy albums on my shortlist is Brighton duo Honeyblood's incredible self-titled debut. The panel were clearly not adverse to huge guitar licks and pounding percussion, which begs the question of why the debut offering from this no-nonsense Glaswegian twosome didn't hit the mark. Dubbed a venomous break-up album, *Honeyblood* is 40 minutes of 90s inspired grungey post-rock of the highest standard from a band that has tragically slipped under the radar of most.



Paulo Nutini
CAUSTIC LOVE

First impressions of the Scottish singer-songwriter's return were good, with 'Scream (Funk My Life Up)' whetting people's appetite four months in advance of the record. Later singles 'Iron Sky' and 'Let Me Down Easy' didn't chart as well but still proved Nutini's talent – something cited in defence of the record after it met criticism over its "lack of innovation". His voice is indisputably incredible and probably the main reason many industry professionals have hailed it as a future classic.



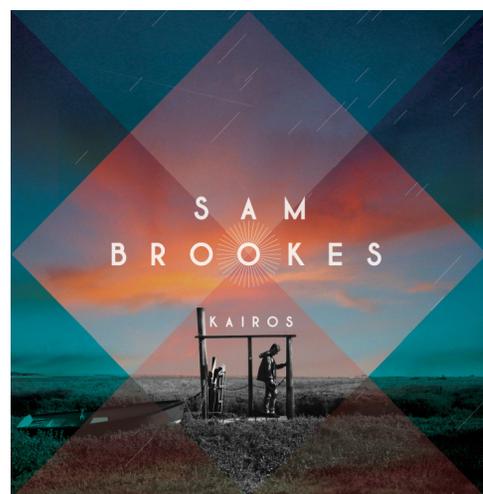
Thumpers
GALORE

Out of the ashes of *Pull Tiger Tail* rose London-based duo Thumpers with their debut album, *Galore*. The record makes a statement. It shouts light-heartedness: punchy, completely inoffensive, with sun-soaked rhythms and glossy production behind them. They're not out to change the face of music, just to capture your hearts, put a smile on your face and make your toes tap. It might not be as sophisticated, high-brow or innovative as the judges were looking for, but my god it's a good listen.



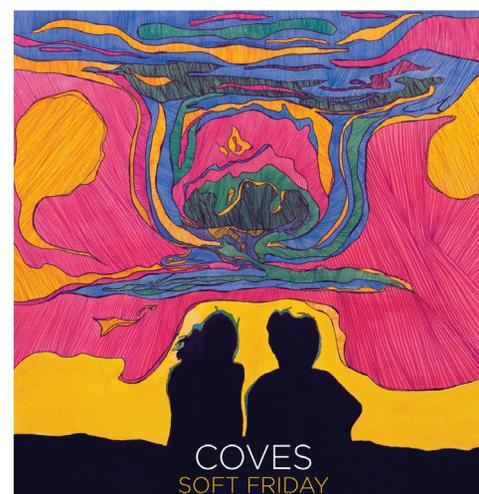
Elbow
THE TAKE OFF AND LANDING OF EVERYTHING

With a nomination in 2001 a win in 2008, these Mancunians are Mercury royalty, so it's strange their sixth LP didn't feature. This album was their first to not be written as a group. Each member instead pitched completed songs which gives the record a much more personal and human edge to it, especially as frontman Guy Garvey split with his long-term girlfriend during the writing which led him to some lyric changes. It's simultaneously grand and unassumingly subtle - a symphony of beauty from start to finish.



Sam Brookes
KAIROS

Ed Sheeran has unceremoniously taken the humble singer-songwriter and sold it to Simon Cowell's pop machine which has, in turn, cloned mass marketable guff. Sam Brookes, however, retains integrity. *Kairos*, Greek for "opportune moment" is just that. Underexposed at the bare roots of the industry, he funded the record via pledgemusic.com after touring experience with some of folk's biggest names. The 24-year-old has managed to craft a collection of songs which feels comfortingly familiar on first listen.



Coves
SOFT FRIDAY

Formed in 2011, Leamington duo Coves released their debut album earlier this year. The album works so well because the tracks fit together seamlessly while each still holds its own personality. Opener 'Fall Out Of Love' has a distinctly 60s twang with a playful drum section, 'Beatings' is much more eerie and theatrical whilst 'Cast A Shadow' seems like a vicious track infused with a trippy sitar-based back line. It's a captivating if not hallucinatory homage to yesteryears.



The Kooks
LISTEN

The Mercury judging panel steered away from household names on the most part so it's little surprise the London quartet didn't make it onto the list. With seven of the nomination being debuts and the others signalling a change in direction for more established artists, *Listen* did the opposite and instead triumphantly cemented Luke Pritchard and company as masters of energetic and catchy indie-pop with their fourth album. Surely a better accolade; they didn't want the £20,000 prize money anyway.



Band Of Skulls
HIMALAYAN

Southampton's finest rock outfit returned with their third album earlier this year and made sure they did it in style. *Himalayan* is jam-packed full of burgeoning guitar hooks, stomping rhythms and sweeping, shout-along choruses. The trio possess a modern day glam-rock vibe which is extremely difficult to pull off without seeming kitsch or dated, but they just about manage it every time. Singles 'Nightmares' and 'Asleep at the Wheel' as well as 'Hoochie Coochie' are highlights of an album with few low points.

scan INTERVIEWS

The Arts & Ents team have been busy this week, interviewing musicians at local gigs or in preparation of them coming to Lancaster. These are just the highlights - for more of each, visit our website!



DAN CROLL

'Our head of photography had a quick chat with Dan Croll before his gig at 53 Degrees in Preston.

SAMMIE CAINE HEAD OF PHOTOGRAPHY
@SAMMIEPHOTO

How's the tour going? You've been to a few places already...

Yeah, we started off in Sheffield, which was really good, it was our first gig in Sheffield. Then London the next day, which was mad.

How was it playing KOKO [in London] - that's quite a big venue, isn't it?

We actually played KOKO two years ago, on Christmas Eve-Eve with Bombay Bicycle Club for a charity event. It was only the bottom floor that they opened but obviously you still had the feeling of being in the whole venue, it was an amazing feeling. Then two years have absolutely flown by and now we've headlined it.

Would you say that studying at LIPA has shaped how you are as a musician, or do you feel you could've tried going straight into working your way through the industry without studying first?

So many insane musicians have never studied music... You don't need to, that's the thing, but I chose to because I saw how collaboration key - it's all about meeting people. When I entered LIPA I was this teenager writing over-emotional, anxiety-ridden music, and then I was thinking "I'm gonna study a music course for three years and I'm gonna try every bit of music", I just went a little bit mad really... The guys in the band were all in my class and they've introduced me to a world of music; I'm so grateful to them. The course was good, it taught you the business side of it and stuff,

but mainly the experience was down to the people I shared a class with.

You're writing at the moment for the second album, are you finding it quite challenging trying to live up to the success of the debut album?

It's horrible - absolutely horrible. [laughs] It's one of the biggest challenges. You just go through all kinds of emotions really trying to write a second album. I had about five years to write my first album and now I've only got the odd week in between touring and stuff. I know I'm experiencing things with the boys on the road and stuff but it's not the things that I experienced that the first album was written about. I'm slowly getting there. Still trying to aim to have it done for Christmas so we can release early next year, but it's tough. You wanna work fast but you want that quality as well.

Do you have any little nuggets of wisdom for students who aspire to a career in music?

Erm... wash your laundry? I think what my mum always kind of drilled into me was that not everything happens straight away, nothing happens first time. It's a bit of a negative one when you hear it just like that, but it applies to any kind of career really. It's tough when you get a knock in the music industry, it's a really tough place. You're writing songs that are so emotional to you with close connections, it could be love or loss or something like that, so when someone says it's not good or not good enough for radio or you're not going to make it with that sound, ignore that, it's you and it might not come this week or this year, but it could come at any other time so just keep going with it really.



ELLIOT BEAVER

Matt Hughes spoke with the new Hecate Enthroned frontman Elliot Beaver ahead of their gig in Yorkshire House in week 4.

MATTHEW HUGHES
@MATTHUGHESGOW

What has it been like to join and tour with an internationally famous metal band?

It's not all that different from being in any other band really, besides the recognition you get and the size of the shows. It's been great to meet so many Hecate Enthroned fans that like what I've done with them, and it's humbling being able to contribute to a project that has a longstanding history and an established fanbase. The practical aspects of being in the band are identical to any other - you still go to practices regularly, demo material, bounce ideas off each other, see where the music goes and hopefully play some shows.

Hecate Enthroned released a new album, Virulent Rapture, earlier this year. What were your main influences for this record? Do you feel it builds on the overall sound of previous releases, or breaks away from it?

Each of us has our own influences that we draw on, but ultimately I think the biggest influence on the writing of VR was the drive of the band to come into its own and find a coherence. In terms of the actual music, I hear a lot of classic Emperor and Deicide in it, with occasional hints of progression from some of the proggy stuff Nige is into.

I think the album fits into the discography quite nicely as a musical step forward whilst still being fundamentally Hecate at the core. It's definitely more guitar driven than Redimus, and there's a very different approach to the structuring of the

vocals, but I think you can still tell it's the same band that wrote it. Just a little older and wiser.

You've provided vocals for a number of extreme metal projects over the years - are there any vocalists or bands that you are particularly influenced by?

The two big ones would be Nergal (Behemoth) and Corpsegrinder (Cannibal Corpse). I love Nergal's holistic approach and dedication to his art, and I'm kicking myself that I didn't think of putting blood in a painting sooner. Everything Behemoth have ever done has resonated with me, and their road warrior to indomitable rockstar transformation over the last 3 years has been incredible to watch.

That being said, I can't deny Corpsegrinder's influence on me. Nobody controls a stage like him and besides the way he sounds, I love that he can pull off really complex vocal patterns that he didn't write himself.

What are your main lyrical inspirations?

I'm fairly eclectic in terms of where I draw inspiration but the vast majority of what I do lyrically is directly influenced by either classic literature, poetry, the occult or other musicians' work. Whilst I was writing *Virulent Rapture's* lyrics, I was revisiting a lot of William Blake's more visionary and abstract poetry and watching the BBC's *Hollow Crown* trilogy of Shakespeare adaptations. I think it shows in the songs a little more than it should. There's a lot of Jon Nodtveid's creative DNA in my lyrics, and the occult references are there for those that understand them.



JERAMIAH FERRARI

Ruth Ogunade spoke with Manchester reggae/rock band Jeramiah Ferrari after they played Pendle Live for the Lancaster Music Festival.

RUTH OGUNADE
 @RIA_NADE

How did the band originally come together?

It's a really uninteresting story; we basically met each other in school.

How old were you?

Fourteen, fifteen, we've been playing together since then, just honing our sound. What made you want to do calypso/reggae/ska?

Its soul music, feel good music. We like it and a lot of the artists we were listening to... we pretty much wanted to do a mix of punk of reggae.

The new album's out, why should people get it?

You should get it because it's new music.

Where can people get it?

You can get it from iTunes, or you can also get it from our website, or come down to one of our shows and we'll give you one and if I'm drunk enough I'll give you one for free.

'Island Girl' an amazing song, what was the inspiration behind it?

It's basically a love song. I like to write about love a lot in my lyrics. We all like to love in different forms – be it family, friends or a partner.

'Mindless Riots' – what's the background be-

hind that?

That was written about the riots that happened in Manchester; people started to adopt a gang mentality and began to overlook the real issue until it became mindless violence.

What is your creative process? Do you guys have a jam, or do you write lyrics separately?

It's always different really, sometimes we'll come up with some chords on the guitar and bring them to Ryan (lead singer) and he'll get some lyrics and a melody. Sometimes it happens in practice as a band – every song is different.

Describe Jeramiah Ferrari in three words.

Energetic, soulful and original.

Which is your favourite song that you've ever made, or what is your favourite song to perform?

There's a new song off our new album that you can buy now on our website called 'Baking Sun'. It's a really feel-good song... we like to perform that song because it gets people bouncing.

Where can we find Jeramiah Ferrari next?

All over the UK: we're booking dates everywhere, so Leeds, London, Manchester even Scotland. And in November, we're playing in Burnley with UB40!

Jeramiah Ferrari are playing in Kendal on December 31st. Their self-titled debut album is available now - check out Ruth's review of it on SCAN's website!



ASHLEY FAYTH

Ellie Vowles spoke with Canadian singer-songwriter ahead of her gig at County's 'Live at the Oak' event on Wednesday, week 5.

ELLIE VOWLES **CAROLYNNE EDITOR**
 @ELLIEVOWLES

You've recently released your second EP I Am the Bird – how has the experience compared to releasing your first, Wonder Wonder?

It was a very different process. I played a much bigger role in the arrangement and production of this album, so it feels a more personal. It was recorded very quickly... in about four days... so the whole experience was a bit of a blur, but very exciting.

What would you say had been your biggest achievement of your career so far?

Not too long ago I was invited to represent Canada on the International Songwriters' Tour, and we showcased at South by Southwest in Austin, Texas and College Music Week in New York. That was pretty crazy. Either that or learning to play a B chord!

You originally came to the UK to study for your master's degree – was the decision to put your studies on hold a difficult one?

Not really. I loved my degree, but I really felt I was ready to try something different. I was in year 5 of my program, but had reached a natural break before beginning my MPhil. I had (and still have) every intention of going back into academia. Along with music, food, and volleyball, literature is one of my life loves.

What advice would you give to anyone facing a similar decision?

Finish your degree first; it can't hurt, from a practical perspective. My degree has been

invaluable, albeit in a somewhat indirect way. The experience you gain at university will help you in whatever field you choose, music or otherwise – even if it seems irrelevant. It's still a kind of life experience.

How have you found living in England? Is it majorly different to Canada?

I LOVE England. Love. There are trains here. And curries. And theatres. I'm from a very small, isolated, and beautiful part of Canada called Random Island which couldn't be more different. I like that I can ride my bike everywhere (because the nearest shop isn't an hour away up an ice-covered incline) and that I can wear shoes all year round. I have a lot of great friends in England, and a fantastic support group. I kind of miss doughnuts, though.

What effect has your relocation had on your musical style?

Relocation has had a HUGE impact. I think landscapes and geography influence my writing more than anything else. The kind of music I've been exposed to on a day-to-day basis has also changed a lot. Country music is very predominant in my hometown, and it seems almost non-existent over here. I've listened to a lot of British folk music, and quite a lot of indie. But yeah. The weather. The people. It all finds its way into lyrics and music.

If you could meet any of your influences, who would it be?

Inevitable, but always my least favourite question. Living or dead, I'd probably say that I'd like a private audience with Edna St. Vincent Millay and Dorothy Parker.

NT Live: A Streetcar Named Desire



GRACE TOPPING

Benedict Andrews' exhilarating production of Tennessee William's classic *A Streetcar Named Desire* has taken the theatre world by storm. Originally set in the stifling heat of post-war New Orleans, Andrews relocates to the 21st century, but the timeless tale of a damaged Southern belle remains the same. Blanche DuBois (Gillian Anderson), a fragile individual who has lost her estate, money, and job travels to New Orleans to seek shelter and solace in her sister Stella Kowalski (Vanessa Kirby), who is her only remaining family. Yet when she arrives at her sister's poky and run-down flat, things are not as expected. Blanche's bourgeois old fashioned values clash

with Stanley (Ben Foster), Stella's whiskey drinking, poker loving, and sexually animalistic husband. As the play progresses we are drawn into Blanche's mental downward spiral and the dark past which perpetually haunts her.

Andrews' production was solely performed at The Young Vic Theatre in London, but they launched a live screening on the first night in cinemas all over the UK. I attended the live screening at Odeon cinema in Preston and believing it wouldn't be very busy, I didn't pre-book. I was wrong. The cinema was completely filled. Only just scraping a ticket, I was sat two rows from the front. The amount of people there proved the play's timeless appeal and the profound

impact it has on an audience.

Andrews' refreshing and gritty adaptation of the play does not disappoint. The mundane and bleak set of a 21st century apartment takes centre stage. Inside, the colour scheme is white and minimalist. Performed in the round, the stage is intimate and small; the tiny and transparent apartment means the actors can't hide for a second. The stage actually rotates at periods during the performance, in order to give each audience member their own unique performance. While this is a quirky manoeuvre, I can't help but worry that the actors get dizzy...

If they do, they hide it well. Kirby and Foster are convincing as the

darkly passionate couple alongside Anderson's phenomenal performance as Blanche – she is particularly captivating in the last scene of the play. However, whereas Blanche is a graceful, delicate woman, Anderson gives the audience a harder vision of a pathetic and pitiful woman's descent into madness and alcoholism. She is trashy rather than endearing and her voice often borders on hysterical. This leaves an uncomfortable feeling, but is no doubt intentional what with the 21st century context.

I have to say I prefer the original escape and magic of the sizzling heat and beautiful dresses of 1940's New Orleans – at times the story can become disorientating in the modern day setting and costume

(Kirby wears jeggings!). However, Andrews' production provides an intriguingly darker, powerful and jarring new perspective on the dangers of lust, deception and mental health.

Overall, I think that the play is a must-see – if you get a chance to go to a screening, you should. It doesn't matter that you're not there in person; the emotions of the actors are intensified on the big screen to the point where you could argue it's an even more intimate experience.

An NT Encore screening of A Streetcar Named Desire will take place at the Dukes on Wednesday, week 4.

Lancaster Music Festival: Heidi Happy



Dominique Schreckling

ROSA ROGERS @ROSALUCYROGERS

The Lancaster Music Festival hit the city streets and university campus last weekend, bringing together a fantastic array of jazz, blues, funk, soul, reggae, experimentation and many talented one-act shows. The line-ups included local and internationally renowned musicians, including the Toronto based band Andria Simone who (speaking to Brian the saxophone player afterwards), told me they had fallen in love with the city, thinking it was a beautiful place to be and to perform to. Andria Simone blew the crowd away

when they played Thursday night at the Borough, where tables and couches were moved in order to make way for the infectious dancing which caught each audience member one by one. The level of the performances was set at such a high standard that there have been calls in The Visitor to also host the festival in Morecambe. And this is not surprising when you look at the warm effect of the festival on Lancaster music lovers.

My personal highlight of the festival was watching Heidi Happy. I had been to Atkinson's 'The Hall' in the past and warmed to

its unique design, friendly atmosphere and great coffee (served in something which looks like it belongs in high school chemistry; I was informed later that it is named a Syphon, originating from Germany).

Watching Heidi Happy perform surpassed previous expectations of The Hall and the city itself. I saw how people of the Lancaster community come together to share something special, something different and something, very much, inspiring. Heidi Happy is a Swiss singer and multi-instrumentalist. She builds layers of music using

vocals, a xylophone, synth and many things I had never even seen before. The addition of each new layer kept the audience mesmerised as she experimented in front of us and created some beautiful pieces. Her music ranged from old Swiss folk to contemporary French dance music, with melancholic pieces of great song-writing ability in between.

Her songs sung in French or German still caught each member of the audience and looking around I could see a shared enjoyment passing through both the students and the locals of Lancaster.

Noel Gallagher, chasing yesterday?

SCAN's Arts & Entertainment editor went to the press launch of Noel Gallagher's second solo album.



Matt Everitt led the discussion with Noel Gallagher at Facebook HQ

SIMON JAMES ARTS & ENTS EDITOR
@SJAMES

'Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds' – an unforgettable title (to everyone but my mum who still says 'Liam Gallagher's Angry Birds'), which is both the solo moniker for the ex-Oasis-songwriter and the name of his number one album from 2011, which went platinum. I went to Facebook HQ in London to listen to him officially announce the follow-up, something I've been highly anticipating since the promised 18-track album in 2012 never happened.

The new record is the first one Noel has ever produced by himself, and it's called *Chasing Yesterday*. Not what I'd have gone for, I have to say. Especially considering, despite his success as a solo artist, it is proving impossible for him to leave the shadow cast by Oasis: The first question of the event was from a fan, asking whether the new tracks are going to appear in "the" Oasis reunion set. Noel was incredulous of this assumption, but why choose an album title that heavily implies a longing for the (Morning) glory days?

"Effectively it doesn't have a title – I couldn't really think of one," Noel said. "I literally came up with it last week - it's a line from one of the songs. If I could change it now I would." I hope his lack of confidence in the name is not a reflection of the music on the album. Obviously a title's not the be-all-

and-end-all, but I can't help think Oasis's intriguing title '*Don't Believe the Truth*' was the product of a collection of songs which made a statement.

Noel disagreed: "It's all about the tunes at the end of the day," and he went on to give us a sample of one of them – the first single, 'In the Heat of the Moment' (which is available to listen to on Youtube). I wanted to love it, but it didn't come anywhere close to the expectations the previous album had given me. It has grown on me, but I still don't think it's a powerful enough first single – the "na na na na na"s that are reminiscent of a nursery playground grate on me almost as much as Noel's analysis of the song did: "Is it great? Course it is. What does it mean? It doesn't mean anything." Ouch...

Now I'm not saying that a song is only good if the lyrics tell a story, or make an explicit statement, or even have a subtext. A large portion of Noel's songs don't do those things, especially the more famous ones (good luck describing the message behind 'Champagne Supernova'). But "it doesn't mean anything" is something different altogether. I believe that Noel's sometimes "nonsensical" lyrics (e.g. "I know a girl called Elsa, she's into Alka-Seltzer, she sniffs it through a cane on a supersonic train") corroborate each other to leave a certain impression depending on the song (in that example: Northern Britain's drugged-up working class). To say that a song

"doesn't mean anything" is selling himself short in my opinion – the lyrics were chosen for a reason, to convey a certain mood if nothing else.

Noel actually went on later to express exactly that: "When writing a song, the melody evokes some kind of mood and I just follow that really for the words. Generally speaking, the quicker songs come to me, the more memorable they are."

Despite this last point, there is a song on the new album, 'Lock All the Doors', which has taken him 23 years to finish. There is an Oasis demo of the song from 1993 online, and Noel sang some of it on the Chemical Brothers' 1996 single 'Setting Sun', but has only recently found a verse that ties in with the "fucking brilliant" chorus. We'll have to wait until March to see if it's been worth the wait.

He described the rest of *Chasing Yesterday* as "eclectic". There are some songs that are rock and roll. Some that are psychedelic. The phrase "space-jazz" was used at one point. There will be sax solos, wine glasses, and I even asked him if the electric kettle will be making a reappearance from the last album, which he said it would. I still don't know whether or not that's a joke.

We asked Noel whether it's hard to keep new music a secret in the age of social media. Although he said he'd managed to keep the details

of *Chasing Yesterday* under wraps, he did express that it's something he has to be constantly aware of. "Fans know everything that's going on. They're constantly tweeting shite all the time. It's just boring. When I was growing up listening to music you didn't know what the Smiths were up to from year to the next and you didn't wanna know. For all the great things the internet has given us, it has destroyed the mystery of music."

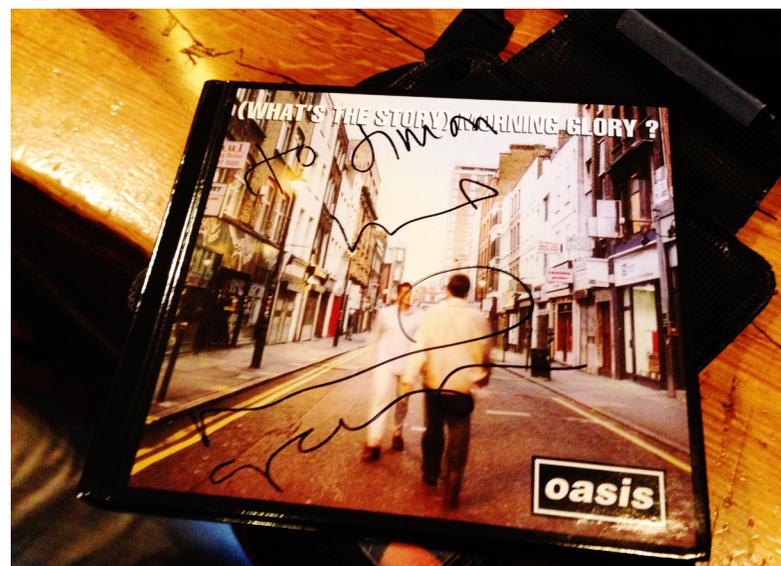
After running a feature last issue about U2 "giving" away their new album to iTunes users, I was interested to know whether Noel would ever consider doing something similar. In short: no. "My records cost too much fucking money to be giving them away for free. People that do that tend to hide behind the ambiguity of 'well it may have been downloaded by this many people'. I prefer my bands to make a record, fucking put it on the counter, stick their chest out and stand behind it. That's the way I work, it's the way I always will work and if anything, I'm gonna put the prices up on my records, never mind give them away for free."

Noel was asked via Facebook what his proudest moment was. Although at first he mentioned the moment when Oasis secured their record deal (and they celebrated with "shit loads of fucking drugs, limousines and crazy women"), he soon realised what he's most proud of looking back: "Me and Liam, dragging that thing, what-

ever it was, to Knebworth in such a short space of time. Oasis has carried on and is still going strong, somewhere."

But will it be going strong on a stage at some point? Not in the near future it seems – the announcement of Noel's solo tour has quashed rumours of an Oasis reunion to celebrate the 20th anniversary of (*What's the Story?*) *Morning Glory*. But relationships seem to be on the up at least – when asked about whether he was enjoying Beady Eye (Liam's band's) output, he said he was and that he had recently gotten "completely shit-faced" with some of them. He did not say if this included his brother.

Is Noel chasing yesterday? I'm not sure. It says a lot that after a High Flying Birds press conference it was *Morning Glory* that I asked him to sign – it's near-impossible for him to ever top what he did with that band. He's still well-received however, and says he thinks people will like his new solo album. But then in true Gallagher fashion: "As long as you buy it, you can fucking hate it for all I care." If the materialism in this statement is even partly true, which I'm sure it is, then it's more than likely he's sat and worked out what an Oasis reunion tour would do to his bank account. Maybe plans are starting to form, if only in the back of his head while he sings songs that "don't mean anything." But Sally can wait to find out – let's see how the new album fares first.



Simon asked Noel to sign his classic Oasis album

The origin of Halloween



Justin Barlow

ABIGAIL DAVIES **FEATURES EDITOR**
@ABIGAILDAVIES_

How could someone have possibly dreamt up something so bizarre as Halloween? It's one day in the whole year where people dress up and take to the streets to knock on strangers' doors and ask them for sweets. I don't know about everyone else, but when I was five I was told to run away if a stranger offered me a bag of pick-'n'-mix. And yet, many people revel in this opportunity to take advantage of their neighbours and stock up on a few weeks worth of chocolate. But, very few of the people who celebrate Halloween actually know why the day is so significant, nor why we go "trick-or-treat"-ing.

It all started with Samhain, the Gaelic festival which marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. Between the sunset on the 31st of October and the sunset on the 1st of November, people in Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man would acknowledge the transition of seasons. It was considered as a very liminal 24-hours, allowing spirits and fairies to enter the human realm. The people were afraid of these supernatural entities, and felt the need to appease the pagan gods and spirits of nature since they would decide whether their livestock survived the winter or not. To appease the spirits people left "treats" of food and wine on their doorsteps.

The death of their livestock wasn't the

only thing these people were afraid of; the souls of the deceased were also thought to visit their homes. To prevent any harm coming to them, they would do two things. The first would be to have a large feast, in which they would invite their dead relatives to protect them. The second thing was to walk around with masks on, so that they looked like ghosts. That way the real ghosts wouldn't be able to tell that they were human, and so they wouldn't come to harm. Nowadays, we just wear costumes to scare our friends and have fun!

So how did we get to the name "Halloween"? The idea is in the history but not the name. Well, Halloween is a contraction of "All Hallows' Evening", which takes place the day before the Western Christian feast on All Hallows' Day. The feast takes place to remember deceased saints (hallows) and martyrs, as well as followers of Christianity who are no longer with us. The Christian Church used the notion of death from Samhain for their own uses. The idea is to laugh in the face of death, to confront and ridicule it - hence, in this instance, the need for scary costumes.

During this medieval celebration of Halloween, two new traditions were brought into play: souling and guising. Souling was practiced on the 2nd of November, on "All Souls Day", where people in poverty would beg for "Soul Cakes", and in return would pray for

dead people's relatives. Meanwhile, guising was basically an olden-day version of the trick-or-treat we all know and love. People would dress up and exchange singing, poetry, or jokes for food. However, the term "trick-or-treat" didn't come into being for a while afterwards, and largely focused on the "tricking" part.

You might still be left wondering things like "what about traditions such as carving pumpkins?" Well, it didn't start with the pumpkin, but the turnip. Whilst souling, the Catholic children used to carry turnip lanterns to represent the souls of the dead. In some parts of Great Britain, this was then transformed into a device for scaring people on the roads. Young boys would carve the gruesome faces into the lanterns, much as we carve witches and scary faces into our pumpkins today! Perhaps we would be surprised if full-grown adults were reduced to hysterics at the sight of a carved pumpkin, but, apparently, it actually used to happen.

Today Halloween is a massive business and the second-most commercial holiday of the year. Perhaps it has lost its roots; I'm certainly not thinking of my livestock or deceased saints why I dress up, carve pumpkins, decorate my house, eat toffee apples, and egg my neighbour's car. Regardless, it is still interesting to recognise the historical origins that modern-day fun is built upon.

Ask
Abigail

Ask Abigail is SCAN's new agony aunt column. Have you got an issue you need advice on? Send a message on the Facebook page, Ask Abigail, and we will try our best to help you out!

"I'm meeting my boyfriend's family this week. Not just his parents, his whole family. I've not even met his parents before. I'm nervous - how should I act, what should I wear?"

The most important thing is to be yourself, but also to adapt to the environment. Don't be afraid to speak your mind or make jokes with his family, providing that they start the ball rolling first. In our experience, sometimes saying too little or being afraid to talk can make the situation more awkward for everyone. Don't be afraid to show off your personality; there is a reason that he is with you and we are sure that his parents will appreciate you just as much as he does. As for clothes, just don't dress as if you're going on a night out. Wear something you're comfortable in!

"I went out with my new flat mates during in fresher's week, and one of the boys was spiked. He could barely walk and so we put him in a taxi. On the way home he was sick and I had to pay at £80 fine. He doesn't remember and I don't know how to bring it up."

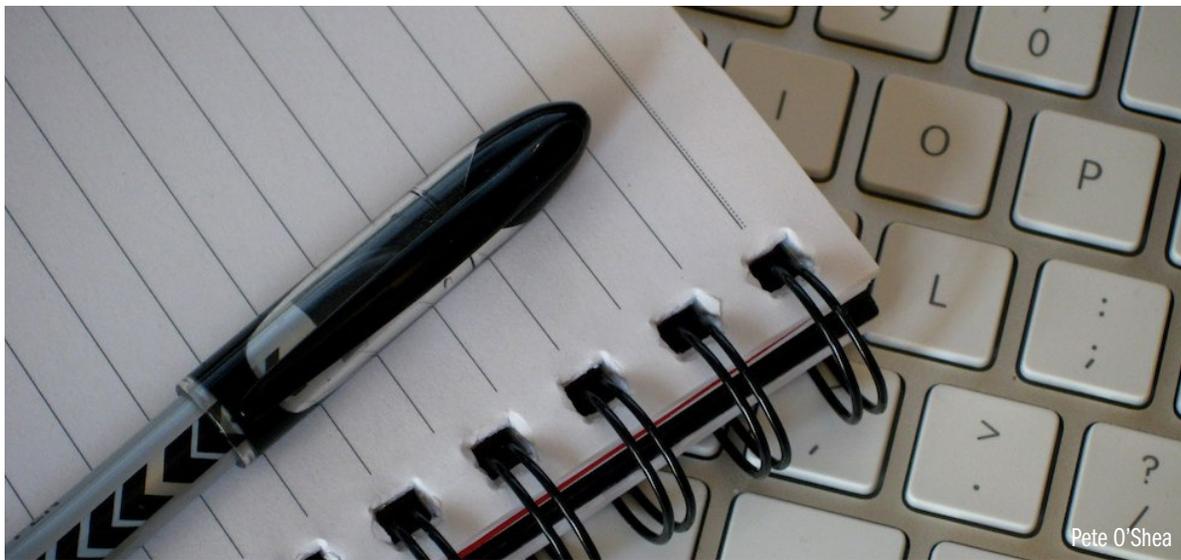
Imagine if you were spiked and couldn't remember everything. Would you not want someone to fill you in on what happened? Broach the subject carefully with your flat mate. Tell them that they were ill and we're sure they will appreciate your honesty. Of course it is not your fault that they were spiked, but it's also not your responsibility to pay the fine either. If they are reasonable, you should get the money straight away.

"I was catered last year and now I've moved in with my friends we have to cook for ourselves. The only thing is that people have started eating my food. I'm on a tight budget and can't really afford to share, but I don't want to seem stingy."

Student's get it, we don't have a lot of money. That's probably the reason your friend is stealing your food in the first place. Politely ask them if they have borrowed your food, and if they say yes ask them not to do it again. Or, if you're really stuck for cash, ask them to pay you back. Do not accuse them unless you are 100% sure they did it, as that will probably cause more trouble than it's worth. And DO NOT write your name on every tin in your cupboard in a mildly passive aggressive manner, unless you want to come face to face with the kind of "banter" that leaves you starving for the rest of the year.

All questions will remain anonymous and may be published in SCAN.

Why working with people with disabilities is not just for your CV



LAURA MASON

Working behind a bar? Working in a shop? Waitressing? These were the kind of jobs that I was applying for when I first arrived as a Fresher in Lancaster two years ago. I wanted something that paid, not necessarily something I would enjoy. I wanted something to merely fill my CV. Never did I imagine that I would find such a reward-

ing job as I have now. As a Student Support Worker at Beaumont College, which is run by the charity Scope, I care for young adults with disabilities, helping them with their basic needs and supporting them to become as independent as possible. Over the past year, I have watched students grow and develop, with some eventually moving into independent living.

In truth, after receiving the news

I had got the job, I was incredibly nervous to start work. Unfortunately, for many people (including myself at one point) the thought of working with people with disabilities is terrifying. Delving into the unknown, working with some of the most vulnerable people with the most complex needs is nerve-racking. However, having spent over a year working at Beaumont College, I could not imagine myself working anywhere else. I

not only look forward to work, but I can leave after a shift knowing that I have made a difference. The rewards you can gain from a job in care do not compare to conventional part-time jobs.

My perspective on certain things has changed since becoming a Support Worker. Now that I have witnessed how challenging simple, everyday tasks can be for some people, I try not to take these for granted. I support some students with tasks as simple as eating and drinking – something which most of us are able to carry out independently, without aid. Other students are unable to communicate their thoughts easily, and therefore their preferences, wants and needs are sometimes overlooked, and this can be very frustrating for the students. At Beaumont, we work with each individual student to aid him or her in developing their communication skills, even if they are non-verbal. It is especially rewarding for me to have the opportunity to help students find the best ways to express themselves.

When I began my role as a Support Worker, I was not aware of the skills that I would gain in my job. As a third year student, it is important to start thinking about possible careers after university, which all begins with the tedious job of compiling a CV. Now that I have this experience, my CV has come to life, displaying various transferable skills that could not be acquired in many other jobs. The training that I have undertaken displays my commitment to helping others – a quality which shines on any CV. However, the impact that the skills I have gained have had on my CV is simply a bonus to what I have seen, learnt, and experienced whilst working with people with disabilities.

I believe that any kind-hearted individual with an interest in helping others should push their boundaries and look into working with people with disabilities. As cliché as it may sound, it's a life changing experience.

10 ways to save money at Lancaster University

JOANNA GRESTY

1. Toilet roll. Nobody has time to be handing over their grocery funds for the week just to buy an agreeable pack of Andrex loo roll, so how about taking few extra napkins from the local McDonald's next time you're drunkenly bartering over the quality of the toy you got in your Happy Meal? A cheap and cheery way of making sure you're never sat playing Russian Roulette with your backside and a wad of SPAR's Own Brand paper again. Why not pinch some straws and ketchup sachets while you're at it? This can only work in your bank account's favour.

2. With great loans comes great responsibility. It's time to resurrect the fine art of hag-

gling for a new age of university budgets. No harm was ever done by getting a little bit sassy with the debit/credit card machines in New Look. After the cashier has tallied your clothes and accessories and the card machine screen asks, "Is £45.00 okay?" don't just press the "YES" button like a patsy, begin the negotiations! Start your counteroffer at £3.50 and test your money-saving mettle to the max. NB: Probably best to do this at the market and not chain-retailers.

3. If you have been in Lancaster for even a day you will know that rainfall on an hourly basis is fairly unexceptional. To save money on an umbrella, try going to the lost and found department of the university or large public library and telling them you lost a black

umbrella. They will have several, from which you can pick the best one and claim it as your own.

4. Shop reductions are a student's best friend. When you see a fatigued looking employee stumble out the staffroom with a yellow sticker price gun, wait for it... wait for it... GO! Tail them like you're discretely trying to start a conga line at an awkward wedding reception. Follow wherever those little reduced stickers go like you're being paid for it. Don't be afraid to express your opinion to said employee. That bread roll could easily be a couple of pence cheaper. Will anybody really buy that out-of-date pasta salad while it's still got a pound sign on the price label? You're just a friendly neighbour trying to help the busi-

ness after all.

5. Hang onto the outside of the 2A to campus.

6. If you ever find yourself in a stationery shop about to purchase a pen, drop the item and back away slowly. Breathe. There is no need for such extremities. Fresher's Fairs, Department Opening Days, and pretty much any undergraduate exhibition will have ballpoints up to their knees hoping that a couple of easily-influenced first-years will, in a couple of years, find themselves thinking, "Well, this orange pen has served me well – maybe I will take that internship at B&Q."

7. Have a House Swear Jar. The charge is up to you. I was

raised by a teacher and a vicar thus would end up having to pay a mortgage's worth of pound coins whenever I so much as stubbed my toe. Maybe the smaller expense of top a cuss would be better suited to a house of loutish post-teens.

8. Watch Nick Clegg's speech pledging to eliminate tuition fees and get so worked up by it that your blood pressure goes up thereby increasing body temperature and reducing the need for heating.

9. Student discounts. Always ask. ALWAYS. Ask at DFS.

10. Shop at Primark.

INTERVIEW

Omena Osivwemu



Sammie Caine

ELLIE VOWLES CAROLYNNE EDITOR
 @ELLIEVOWLES

First of all, would you introduce yourself and tell me a little bit about yourself and your role?

Okay, well I'm Omena Osivwemu. I'm a second year sociology student. I'm the events manager for the hip-hop society and also quite involved in ACS (African Caribbean Society) and FemSoc.

Due to my background and experiences, I take a personal interest in racism and race theory, and it's a definite area of interest in sociology. I'm the first Ethnic Minority CCO as it's a new position here at Lancaster. For me, this role is about making steps forward to diversify representation at the University, to diversify the distribution of funding, but also to push this University's public image and make it more diverse. At the moment Lancaster's image is quite homogenous; the Roses publicity was pretty much all white people. I see myself as just setting the founda-

tions and helping get the ball rolling in diversifying LUSU and our leadership to make it more representative of us as a student body.

Your role is a new one; how has that been for you? Do you feel like you've had to forge an identity for the role or has that been clearly laid out from the start?

It was difficult, especially in terms of actually running. Although I ran unopposed, a lot of people who define as black were against the role in the first place. I went about it by getting in contact with those who were most vocal about it to discuss why, as well as the positives and negatives of it. A lot of people felt that it was quite undermining and patronising; despite not having a black officer, they had done fine at the University and all of a sudden to be told that they were the victim was quite jarring. A lot of people felt like it was highlighting something that wasn't there.

I personally felt a lot of racism. I guess what you could call institutional discrimination is there, but because no one has addressed it, it's been overlooked. In terms of this role, a lot of it has been me coming up with my own ideas and discussing what I could do with the other CCOs and the FTOs.

I'm now trying to establish an Ethnic Minorities Council and then hopefully get other people to run for the position after me. I want to encourage other people to run – for any position, not just this one. People think that just because they're physically different or English isn't their first language or they have an accent that they will be persecuted, which isn't the case.

One of the things you've done so far as part of your role is run a Black History Month campaign – tell us about that and the sorts of things you've done.

The idea was to just get it out there that October is Black History

Month; with Freshers Week and other big events going on around the same time, it has always been overlooked. I came up with the idea of profiles because it's always been about celebrating those that came before us and forged the way where others hadn't. We celebrated people like Trevor McDonald, the first esteemed Black journalist, and Dianne Abbot, the first Black MP, as well as people even further back than that. I thought it was important to get them out there and get their names recognised, because a lot of people wouldn't know about them at all.

We also had a film screening about the struggles of various ethnic minority groups when they came to Britain, as well as having a Sugarhouse event on the Saturday Week 3. We had posters all around campus - it was just about raising awareness.

As you've mentioned a lot of people were opposed to the idea of an ethnic minorities CCO and a lot of people feel similarly about Black History

Month; how do you feel about the opposition?

To be honest, it sounds harsh and radical, but I see those who self-define as Black and yet are opposed to what is basically Black empowerment as ignorant. They're ignorant to the problems. A lot of black people say there's no such thing as racism in this country because it's a lot more visible elsewhere. A lot of those people have had good experiences and that's lucky for them, but they're ignoring other people's experiences. I'd say it's just as much about raising awareness for them about the people who have come before them as it is about educating non-black people.

The NUS Black History month poster features names of various South Asians, for example, Arundhati Roy and Mohammed Hatta under the blanket term "Black" – do you think that this is cultural erasure?

That was sort of the criticism of officer role; people didn't want

it to be called Black CCO, as it is nationally, because there is a misunderstanding of the term Black. It's a political term to mean non-white. It means all those that have faced racism, particularly in the UK, and was adopted by South Asians, Arabs, and Africans alike – each active group adopted it themselves. South Asians that say “I'm not black” are almost ignorant of their own culture from only 30-40 years ago.

The film we viewed featured people from all over the world who all came to Britain at various different times, but that all identified as Black. Ultimately, employers and people who were discriminating weren't doing it to only African people, it was everyone with brown skin. I guess a lot of people thought that we're stronger together, so to start dividing over “Oh, I'm a little darker than you” or “Oh, I'm not from the same country as you” defeats the purpose of solidarity and all fighting against the same thing. Our grandparents' generation recognised that while they came from different countries and had different cultures and languages, they were all fighting the same thing: institutional racism.

The term Black has now become about race, so I understand that South Asians wouldn't identify with it, but I just think it's about a lack of knowledge. Even the Southall Sisters are majoritively South Asian, but they call themselves a Black campaigner group, so I think it's just a lack of knowledge about the political discourse.

You've mentioned a lot about Black women specifically and the fact that you identify as feminist. How does your position as a woman and feminist effect your identification with the term Black, if at all?

You do have different experiences as a Black woman to Black men.

I've read and seen people like Audrey Lorde, Angela Davis, and Maya Angelou, and they are all people who recognise that they are oppressed as women as well as for being Black. Obviously, my mum has always been a strong feminist in my life as well.

As a Black woman, you face sexism from Black men as much as you face racism from white men. There are things, such as police profiling, that are disproportionately experienced by Black men but Black women are still part of that struggle. There are things like domestic violence, rape culture and sexual violence that affect Black women because they are perpetrated by Black men. For me, there are things that I fight against more as a woman than as a Black person and vice versa.

How has the lack of representation of Black women in the media affected you throughout your adolescence?

I no longer struggle, but if you asked me as a young teenager then definitely. It was a part of growing up, but my ethnicity was a part of it and I had to find how I self-define. I define as Black and as a feminist woman, but also as mixed race. I have the issues of Black people saying “You're not dark enough” and “You're acting white” as well as white people saying “You're not white”. It was about going back to my parents and discussing where I am from, where my ancestors are from and how I want to define that.

My mum has always made sure I had role models and representatives in my life; she always brought me Black Beauty magazines and made sure I had Black dolls. Simple things like that. She always highlighted that there are Black people out there and although they aren't represented by the mainstream media, that has never

been an issue for me personally. People like Beyonce are big role models because they are in the mainstream, but it disappoints me when white middle class feminists say she isn't a feminist. I always wonder if that's because she's Black, because white women that own their own heterosexuality are always considered feminists.

You've touched on it already, but often within an academic context Black people report being told that they are “white on the inside” if they don't conform to Black stereotypes. Do you feel like that sort prevalent in an academic context?

Yeah, but from my experience it's usually coming from other Black people. In my studies I've come across a concept called the internalised gaze and I see this as internalised racism. We've been bombarded with these images for centuries that Black people aren't going to come up to scratch with white people because we aren't clever enough. We're ok to be sports people or performers, but not academics or writers. Black people who read a lot and are intelligent or even who associate with middle class white people are called “Oreo” or “Coconut” because it's not seen as embracing Black culture. This is just the stereotypical Black rather than how it actually is, though. My dad is Nigerian and there's a stereotype of Nigerian students being quite studious and academic, yet my friends will say I'm being white because I've always been the geek. I think it's just internalised racism and stereotypes.

Do you find the attitudes and environment of campus to be different to your hometown in the UK?

Definitely. First year it hit me quite badly because I'd never really been stared at – there's just quite a sinister feel to knowing you're

a minority and being visibly different, but that's highlighted by everyone's reactions and response to you. Coming to Lancaster, it wasn't as diverse as it seems to be this year – I don't know if the intake of ethnic minority students has been higher or if people are just integrating more. Manchester is so diverse - no one stares at you unless you seek attention. You'll hear 10 different languages just walking around and growing up I'd never felt different, even with my skin tone which is dark for mixed race.

Last year I had a bit of an incident with racial harassment and a lot of the language I would hear in general conversations was not acceptable. I had heard about stuff like that before, but coming to Lancaster racial slurs were used offensively. It's almost accepted here because it's not challenged; there's policy to say people can't be racist, but there's no channel to use to complain. When I did try it took a long time, determination, and a lot of going back and forth between members of staff. It was an unsatisfactory system which is partly why I took on this role.

With your experience of racial harassment, what were the consequences of that? Was it dealt with properly?

I highlighted it and pushed it until it was dealt with and they were spoken to and had to apologise. In that sense I think it was dealt with, but it was also unsatisfactory in that I felt they got let off with it a bit. For me, the best revenge is success. Now I have this role and am pretty visible within the University, they'll see my face plastered around on posters and know that they caused that. It's a positive repercussion.

I think there should be a better system and it should be better

publicised because people don't really know who they would go to in that situation. It takes a lot of searching to find the University and LUSU policies on it. When you come in as a fresher, no one highlights what isn't acceptable and what you can do if you encounter any racial discrimination.

Once ethnic minority people get into positions of power, I think people do start coming forward – I've had discussions with Salman (FTO Activities) and he's said since he got the role people have come forward and said things he didn't know were happening on campus. I think because there haven't been that many ethnic minority officers in the past, it's been kept quiet so people think it doesn't exist. It's not that it doesn't exist, just that it isn't visible.

What would you say to someone who has experienced racism on campus? Who should they come to?

I'd say to come to me, Salman, or anyone else in LUSU that they felt comfortable with. Most officers are allies and strongly oppose racism and any form of harassment, so I think they would actively do something about it. We can either push it for them or they can push it themselves. Contact your college dean and make a formal complaint, and it's useful to search policy because then you can cite it. Say what you want to happen. In my case, I had to give a statement as did the person in question.

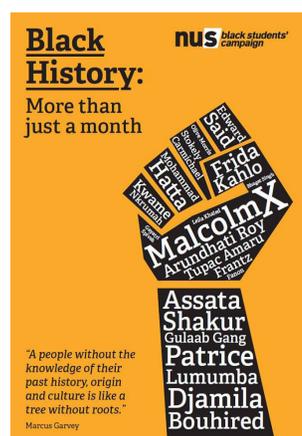
At the moment, they don't tell you what consequences have come from the process because it's confidential. To me, that's unsatisfactory; you're just sat in the dark not knowing what's gone on and you just have to hope they've done something. If enough people are coming forward, it's something we can definitely push within LUSU.



Apparently if you're not white, you're black. Glad entire ethnic identities have been merged into one inaccurate term.



How are Arundhati Roy, and other South Asians, considered black? Coloured skin is not a race. Good god.



NIYATI BURDE

To say that any non-white person must identify themselves as black is perpetuating the same racism people of colour have faced and are facing around the world. 'Black' is a distinct race and community of peoples with a very different history and struggle to the struggles of South Asians, Asians, Arabs and any other non-white communities. What is being said then is that, because we have all faced vastly differing degrees of discrimination in vastly differing ways, we must be celebrated with no regard for the diversity within our status as 'non-white'. If we choose to identify as black, great. Do it. If not, you must have an alternative because right now, the only way a South Asian, Asian or Arab can celebrate his or her cultural history is by identifying as black. Why must there be one term for all non-white people? Do we not count as separate races and ethnic groups? Are we not allowed separate voices and identities? Can we not have months that celebrate our unique struggles and histories without being told that we are all the same race because we are not white?

Problematic feminist politics from a male perspective



From left to right: Tom Hiddleston, Neil Gaiman, Simon Pegg and Douglas Booth

TOBY ATKINSON, KITTY STERNE, POLLY DAVIS

One of the major debates surrounding contemporary feminism is the question of men's participation in what is at heart a movement focused upon the emancipation of women and the creation of a society where true gender equality exists. This is a debate which has gained considerable attention recently as a consequence of the launch of the UN #HeForShe initiative. As popularised by actress Emma Watson, the initiative encourages men to actively support efforts to combat sexism in society, under the logic that "one half of humanity" should actively work to support the other half. This notion that feminism would benefit from men's involvement, while at the same time men would benefit from feminism, is not unique to this recent initiative; a brief online search of "Why men need feminism" will generate a multitude of articles arguing not only that men should support the struggles of women over issues such as sexual harassment or equal pay, but that men themselves would benefit from gender equality. In a world no longer dominated by patriarchy, so the argument goes, men would no longer feel

forced to conform to stereotypical ideas of masculinity, such as being dominant or hard working bread-winners, and that an equal society would enable men to explore alternatives, such as being able to express emotions or look after children. In this way, not only would men be helping women by campaigning to eliminate sexism, but men would be helped too, and on the surface such an argument in favour of men's participation in feminism seems quite attractive in that it draws attention to the ways in which patriarchal society has negative consequences for men and encourages them to supporting gender equality.

Now, although this line of thought has merit, the participation of men in feminism is not as simple or clear cut as men joining feminist movements or feminists movements declaring themselves supportive of men. Several issues are worth considering - ones that show that although there is value in men's involvement in feminism, as called for in the #HeForShe campaign, it must be critically engaged with and thought about. As an aside, this piece was written in response to requests from women identifying as feminists and I have

consulted feminist friends I know about doing it in order to avoid the sort of pitfalls of men engaging poorly with feminism as outlined below.

Although, as said before, patriarchy has negative consequences for people of all genders, it must never be forgotten that it primarily has such effects upon those who are not men, as men do receive benefits from such an unfair framework, for example greater pay for doing the same or a similar job. A failure to recognise this can be seen to risk downplaying the fact that feminism is a movement intended to emancipate people of oppressed genders and that although such a struggle will have positive effects for men, it must be remembered that this not its primary purpose.

As a consequence, although men should definitely support feminist struggle, they must do so in the knowledge that they are not at the centre of it, and that as such they should not expect to be pandered to e.g. constantly being reassured that their contributions matter, or else they risk reinforcing patriarchy's submission of women's interests to those of men.

Furthermore, the fact that men may proclaim themselves feminists and support feminist campaigns does not automatically mean they are no longer capable of sexist behaviour. Men who define themselves as feminists or feminist allies have a great responsibility to ensure that they live up to such declarations in their everyday lives; for example, by being willing to listen and learn from others rather than being defensive when challenged over a problematic remark.

In addition to men's engagement with feminism not being as easily clear cut as it may appear, the ways in which feminist groups and campaigns engage with men is also worth considering. What do we even mean when we talk about "men" here? Just as the category of "women" encompasses a wide range of women of different classes, races, sexualities etc., so too does "men." Men who are white will experience life very differently from those who are black, or men with disabilities will experience different issues to those defined as able bodied. As a result to talk about the need for feminism to incorporate men and men's issues is not as simple as it

may seem at first. As was suggested to me by a feminist friend in the context of the #HeForShe debate, it could be strongly argued that rather than just appealing to "men" as a broad category, feminist campaigns would be more effective at reaching out to and supporting men if such struggles were closely linked to other liberation struggles over such issues as race, class, disability, and sexuality, where people who are men are oppressed by other social hierarchies operating alongside patriarchy. Doing so would also help to ensure that those men who do become involved in feminist struggle include the most marginalised in society rather than simply being the most privileged i.e. white, middle class, straight etc.

In conclusion, although men may have a role to play in feminism and the struggle against patriarchy this does involve contentious issues which cannot and must not be ignored, but ones which if tackled critically can help to ensure effective, meaningful feminist politics and the creation of a more equal society. As another feminist friend of mine likes to put it, in the end "equality is everyone's issue."

What does the word 'feminism' mean to you?

"I agree with feminism's concepts of equality between genders. However, I believe the word has been hijacked by shitty women to justify their horrible traits. For example, 'I refuse to cook because of feminism.' When really, feminism doesn't mean that women shouldn't cook. It means that men should be cooking as well. Therefore, I'd rather use the word 'humanist' instead of 'feminist'." - Huzaiyah

"Feminism shouldn't be a dirty word! Being involved in feminist politics has given me the courage to take up leadership positions and love myself, as well as making me aware that patriarchy affects others in ways I have never experienced." - Caitlin

"I want to have the right to say that I'm a feminist without being judged."

"I believe feminism these days is interpreted incorrectly. Feminism should be about equality I think. But nowadays it ends up being about hatred towards men expressed by women. Women need to realise and understand the real philosophy of feminism before associating themselves with feminists, as a lot of feminist organisations are philosophically ambiguous." - Ieva

"I agree with the term 'feminism' because it appropriately suggests that the movement is for the empowerment of women. The negative stigma around the term mostly comes from a misunderstanding of what feminism means: a movement for equality and the liberation of women of any background." - Lex

"Feminism = misjudged and generalised! Feminism is for everyone. People need to forget age old stereotypes of man-haters and bra-burners. I am proud to call myself a feminist but I know when I use that word some people will make assumptions about my character and beliefs."

Surviving first term



Sammie Caine

EMILY-JAYNE NICHOLLS

Fresher's Flu

First term is always the hardest - especially for a Fresher. Moving away from the home comforts of a roast dinner every Sunday and having fresh sheets on your bed every week can be downright traumatic. Luckily for you, we have a few tips to help you get through the dreaded Michaelmas term!

With all the new people from around the world coming into one place, the dreaded Fresher's flu may make its way over. As much as I'd love to offer a helpful solution, unfortunately it's often a case of riding it out. That does give you a good excuse to curl up with a cuppa and the Friends box set, but

it definitely isn't the best of news. However, there are a few things you can do to try and keep healthy. Lancaster is cold, so get the boots and scarf on and try to keep warm! As annoying as it is to eat actual real food rather than Dominoes/insert favourite takeaway here, plenty of fruit and veg give the immune system a boost and even just a few extra glasses of OJ will help. Although you may feel like you're

a walking Holby City extra, a bit of anti bacterial hand gel never goes amiss either.

Work Hard

Hopefully after a few weeks you will have vaguely got the swing of how the lectures, tutorials, and seminars work. It's not as complicated as it seems, honestly! Yes, it's a tricky balancing act; it is easy to go straight into school mode and get all your work and reading done the second its set, and then go completely into student mode where you drink your body weight in alcohol and begin a complex relationship with your liver. First year doesn't count, we all know that, but do be aware that if you apply for internships or jobs those marks might be all they have to go on. Make sure you do your work, keep up on your reading and participate in lessons but don't kill yourself. First term isn't about getting all 'A's its about getting the hang of the whole uni malarkey, and of course learning how to get through the day without letting on that you have a hangover.

Play Hard

So, with the work hard spiel is over I can say what we are all thinking: first term is also the time for playing hard! I'm certainly not promoting hard drinking but I am saying that it's ok to use first term to find

your feet (and by feet I refer to your liquor of choice.) Of course playing is not just about consuming questionable cocktails, it is also about getting involved in sports, societies, and all that extra stuff you enjoy. Yes, it's fun, but you will also learn things, make friends and have amazing experiences. Having something else to focus your attention and time upon is hugely important and allows you to do something you love, try new things, and meet new people. Win all around!

Becoming a Grown Up

First term doesn't turn you into a bona fide grown up but it does allow you to dip your toe into the adult world, and for the record it's ok to massively fail at first! This is the time for figuring out how to do things that make you a productive member of society; things like cooking, cleaning, and other little things that take you out your comfort zone. Some people have never taken a bus before, or never lived alone, or used a washing machine. All of that is ok and this is the time to figure it out. You will screw up, you might ruin a few clothes, burn some food, and break a few plates but that's ok. That is what first term is for; you'll figure it out eventually. But for now, maybe put Dominoes on speed dial just in case!

Fashion meets feminism



GEORGIA SHEPHEARD
DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR

For the finale of their Spring 2015 show, Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel did something incredibly brilliant. From the balconies to the dormer windows, the puddles dotting the runway to the guardrails protecting the front row, the Grand Palais was transformed into a recreation of a Paris boulevard. Creating a scene both extravagant and relevant, Chanel's usual runway show was replaced

this year with a feminist protest through the streets of a faux Paris boulevard.

Led by Cara Delevigne, an army of models hit the runway singing, shouting and waving signs with slogans such as "Boys should get pregnant too" and "History is her story" and "Women's rights are more than alright". Addressing one of this year's most eagerly debated topics Chanel has done it again, proving fashion isn't so

out of touch with the realities of the world as maybe some believe, Karl himself claiming it all simply felt "right for the moment".

And, if that wasn't exciting enough, Karl even sent one lone man down the runway too with his own 'He For She' sign, a nod of support for Emma Watson's recent UN campaign, a solidarity movement for gender equality, bringing together both halves of humanity in support of the other.

However, the show has had mixed reviews and despite telling Elle UK that he took inspiration for this collection from his mother who was "a great admirer of a certain feminist of the 19th century", many find Karl Lagerfeld to be an all too unlikely supporter of feminism. Especially when in recent years he has dismissed concerns over size zero models as the worries of "fat mummies sitting with their bags of crisps" and often insulted female leaders of the

world and celebrities, famously calling the talented singer Adele "a little too fat".

Although Chanel is unlikely to cause a revolution then and might even be dismissed as a clever marketing ploy to sell clothes, it's got people talking, started a welcome conversation about where feminism and fashion stand beside each other and let's face it, is a nice change from Karl's usual nasty jokes!

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

ALEX DALE

This October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and thanks to the High Street backing the campaign there are plenty of ways for you to show your support and donate to the cause!

Office has released three special edition pairs of shoes all in a shade of pink, with fifty per cent of profits going to Breast Cancer Care. There's a style to suit everyone with a classic flat, strappy mid-heel or a pointy stiletto. Henry Holland has also given a fashion touch to the campaign. As part of Debenhams' Think Pink range, Holland has designed a pink lips bag for his H! By Henry Holland collection, seeing donations made to three different breast cancer charities. River Island has joined in too with a slogan t-shirt. Available in store

or online, a thirty per cent contribution is made to Breakthrough Breast Cancer. It's only week 3, but if you're already struggling with your student loan, there are cheaper ways to join the effort. This year Asda has set up their own breast cancer charity, Tickle Pink, and offer a multitude of products that can be purchased to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month. And if you really just want to show your support, Smint's new strawberry flavoured mints are a fruity and refreshing treat and also donate to the cause.

Every year nearly 55,000 people are diagnosed with breast cancer in the UK, the equivalent of one person every ten minutes. Show your support and combine a shopping trip with a charitable donation!

Life of a fashion intern



ALEX DALE

Do you remember the scene in *The Devil Wears Prada* when Stanley Tucci takes Anna Hathaway to the fashion cupboard and her life is changed forever by the rails of designer clothes, and shelves of bags and shoes? Walking into the Company Magazine office on the first day of my summer internship was just like that. The comparisons between the film and my internship end there though, as working as a Fashion Intern at Company Magazine was

the highlight of my summer. Day to day activities included organising next season's samples sent to the magazine from various brands, sorting pieces that could be used for stories appearing in the next issue, and calling different PR agencies to request credits for pieces selected to appear in a spread. While at Company, I also had the opportunity to go on shoots and act as a stylist's assistant. The morning of a shoot day meant getting to the office early to pack the suitcases with all the

looks the stylist had chosen, and then heading off on location. Stylists, models, photographers, hair stylists and make up artists all come together to create a photo shoot, and in the role of stylist's assistant it was my job to assist all of these people. On one shoot, a model dropped out last minute and I was roped in to fill her place! My boss had a saying; "The job goes at one hundred miles an hour, but I love every minute of it." After this experience, I couldn't agree more.



Rachel Peters
 Course: Business & Economics
 Style Icon: Kate Mos
 Signature Item: This black furry gilet



Tom Brook
 Course: Economics
 Style Icon: I read GQ magazine a lot
 Signature Item: Gateshead jacket



Rebecca Gregson
 Course: Psychology
 Signature Item: My checked scarf

SPINE SPOTTER

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).



Xander Burrows
 Course: Environmental Biology
 Signature Item: My Levis!



Rachel Jacquest
 Course: Theatre Studies & English
 Style Icon: My friend, Hannah Brady
 Signature Item: Dungarees

Taking your summer wardrobe into winter



Elena Lockett

ELENA LOCKETT
 @LOCKETTSPOCKETS

Now winter has well and truly made its presence known keeping warm but also looking stylish is on my agenda. Even though loan day has passed, it's not wise to blow all your money on a brand new winter wardrobe. Thankfully, we have some tips to guide you through transitioning your summer pieces into something wearable in the colder months.

Layers

Layers are so key at this time of year; one minute we'll be caught in a full on blizzard and the next the sun will appear from behind Bowland Tower! Not only are they practical, they're also totally in these seasons. You can easily wear your favourite summer dress with a turtle-neck underneath or by doubling up shirts for a really chic normcore look.

Trainers

Nike, Adidas, Puma - sports trainers were big this summer. Although most of you might have rocked them at festivals, it's so easy to wear them all winter long, by pairing them with ripped up jeans for a casual look or even with skirts/dresses for even braver combination.

Knitwear

A brilliant way to update any summer piece and make it suitable for the colder months. I love wearing a massive ribbed jumper over a skirt for a big vs. small

look. The bigger the better this season - try buying jumpers in XL for a really on trend look.

Different accessories

A great way to update your wardrobe without actually buying new clothes is to incorporate different accessories, such as suede and fur, which automatically gives an autumn/winter feel. And who doesn't love faux fur accessories?

Maxi Dresses

Yes, you can make your summer maxi dresses and skirts wearable this winter! By throwing a shirt/jumper on top you'll be rocking a really out there trend on the Spine. You'll also be so much warmer - and you can sneakily hide tights underneath the long skirt for an added layer!

Embrace leather

Leather jackets are a great piece to have during summer; just warm enough to keep you cosy during those long summer nights but so easily workable during winter by teaming it with your favourite jeans/jumper/basically anything!

Add socks

A trend for the brave, a fabulous way to update your summer shoes and also keep those toes warm when traveling around campus.

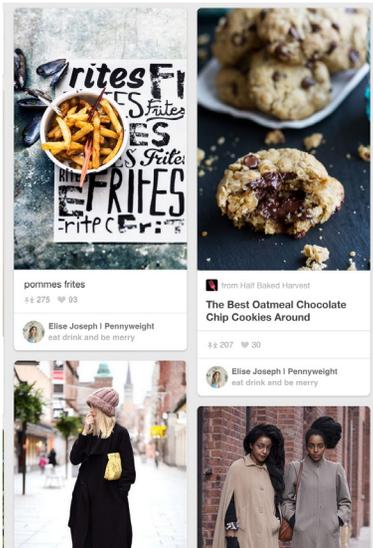
Lifestyle online: the best of the web

EMILY BIRKETT

As a rule, the word 'Lifestyle,' covers a bit of everything. It's basically the way you live your life. Most websites focus on different sections, whether it's fashion, travel or food but you rarely find a website that has it all; a little bit of everything that you can go to for a quick fix. Don't worry, the hard work had been done for you! Here's a list the best go-to lifestyle websites.

PINTEREST

<https://www.pinterest.com/>

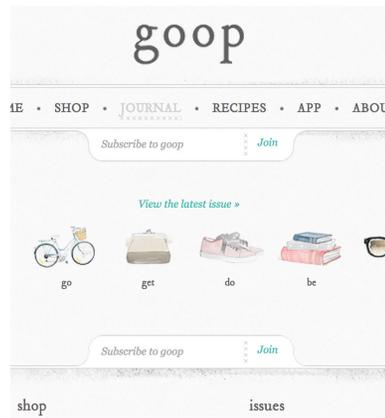


This social network allows you to create your very own online mood board. This website is a great way to store or 'pin' photos that inspire you from other people's profiles onto your own. It's like your own, personalised website and once

you've pinned something you know it's not going anywhere!

GOOP

<http://goop.com/>



Founded by actress Gwyneth Paltrow, Goop is an e-commerce company and blog which allows you to subscribe to weekly publications. Though this website is based in the United States meaning many things aren't relevant to us in the United Kingdom and it's true their online store wouldn't do our student loans any favours, Miss Paltrow has without a doubt created a lifestyle powerhouse.

MARTHA STEWART

<http://www.marthastewart.com/>

If we mention Goop, then we absolutely have to mention Martha Stewart, who is hailed the Queen of Lifestyle. The website has a simple layout meaning you can find what you need quickly and easily. Martha is also an author and publisher of many books and the

monthly magazine Martha Stewart Living so she knows what she's talking about.

THE EVERYGIRL

<http://theeverygirl.com/>



There's no denying that some websites can be quite difficult to read. The Everygirl is user friendly, easy to navigate and keeps blog posts basic so it's readable but still informative and interesting. It covers everything from managing your finances to applying for internships and even has tips for finding cheap travel tickets.

MR PORTER / NET-A-PORTER

<http://www.mrporter.com/>
<http://www.net-a-porter.com/>



These two websites are simply

your daily dose of cool. Originally retail companies founded by Natalie Massenet (Mr Porter for men and Net-A-Porter for women) they have since expanded to contain lifestyle segments 'The Journal' and 'The Edit' on their respective websites. If reading blogs isn't really your forte then their YouTube channels provide video content on a weekly basis which is sure to get you inspired.

THE ART OF MANLINESS

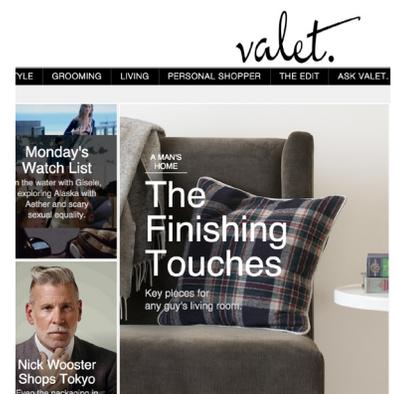
<http://www.artofmanliness.com/>



This one is for the boys. After searching high and low for lifestyle websites aimed at men, I think I've found the one. It's got a bit of everything: from creating the perfect tie, shirt and suit combination to entering a room like a boss. It's light hearted and comedic so it's a quick and easy read which I think even girls will enjoy.

VALET

<http://www.valetmag.com/>



While The Art of Manliness has a tips-and-tricks feel to it, Valet gets to grips with cocktail making, affordable denim and packing. A feature that puts Valet up there with the best lifestyles websites is their interaction with their readers through the 'Ask Valet' section. This is a great way to ensure you're able to read content that interests you by simply submitting a question giving the Valet editors ideas for what to write about next.

HUFFINGTON POST

<http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/>

If you're wanting a more newspaper like feel to your reading, then the Huffington Post is your best bet. It covers everything. And when I say everything, I really do mean everything. It is more on the formal side and really does feel like your reading a newspaper but if you want one website that you know you can rely on, then this would be my recommendation.

Student Spotlight: Media & Cultural Studies



JOANNA WALKER

Studying media has been my passion ever since I toddled along to my first GCSE lesson at the tender age of fourteen. However, as the past six years have gone by and I've furthered my education in the subject, I've been met with a great deal of criticism and mockery because of my choices. My parents even got involved, especially at the stage when I was applying to university: "But wouldn't you rather study something more, you know, substantial? Even English would

be a good alternative..."

When it came to achieving an A* in the subject and getting into one of the top ten universities in the country, it sort of felt like I'd 'cheated' my way to where I was. That was what I'd had subtly drummed into me, despite the fact that I spent four years slogging away at coursework and remembering the names of Russian theorists that were a nightmare to recall in exams. Of course, it didn't stop once I got to university. Fresher's Week 2012 brought with it some hilarious jokes from my new flatmates.

Media Studies is actually a really great way to gain a new perspective on the world in which we live and how we are fed information and, contrary to popular opinion, it's a great springboard from which to leap into a huge variety of careers. A great deal of international students also express an enormous interest in the subject, meaning that I personally meet so many interesting people on my course who can all offer their own perspective on the subject in general and how media differs around the world.

However, with articles like 'Can Media Studies Ever Be Respectable?' popping up and the subject being labelled as a "Mickey Mouse" degree by the media itself (how ironic), the sad truth is that our degree choice will, for a long time, be looked down on and regarded as an easy subject. Though it goes without saying that the jokes from my flatmates soon stopped after the 3000 word essay deadlines started pouring in.

Malaysia with LUSU Overseas



GEORGIA SHEPHEARD DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR

Back in the winter of 2013, with a desire to travel that I have come to accept will never quite be fully satisfied, I wandered into a LUSU overseas talk filled with curiosity. Within an hour of exiting, I was on the phone to my parents informing them of my plans for the coming summer: a three-week (sort of) holiday in Malaysia.

Arriving at the airport that evening it was clear I had underestimated the size of the trip, as I became one of forty-three Lancaster students, all setting off on what was undoubtedly an adventure. The first step of this was the flight itself: two seven-hour plane journeys with a stop in Abu Dhabi. For someone who struggles to sleep anywhere besides a bed, this wasn't ideal. Suffering from sleep deprivation, we eventually arrived at 11 o'clock the next night.

In a haze of exhaustion we made our way by coach to Sunway-Monasch residences, the accommodation provided for us by Lancaster University's partner institute, Sunway University. Complete with both swimming pool and Starbucks, the twenty-two floor tower block sure put Bowland tower to shame. Exploring the campus further the next day we were equally as surprised, if not

by the sweltering humidity of the city or the length of the canopy walk to the cafeteria, then by the water-park and live tiger exhibit situated amongst the university buildings. Not to mention the vast and expansive Pyramid mall, a haven of western food when chicken and rice became too much for the tenth night running.

Trying to sum up those three weeks in a limited amount of words is nearly impossible. With a second by second planned itinerary we had little time to breathe, besides from sitting in the infamous Malaysia traffic jams. But that was the beauty of it: not a moment was wasted.

We visited museums and government offices, Central Market and the Petronas Towers, Little India and Chinatown. We learnt about Malaysian culture and took part in a waterfall clean-up, cared for pets at the Furry Friends animal shelter, supported The Reading Bus (a mobile library encouraging children to read) and even spent a day 'as a parent'.

The list goes on and on, but one experience that many of us were initially wary of was the traditional Homestay, a two-night stay in the home of a Malay family. Despite the lack of bathroom facilities, the home I stayed in was

admittedly luxurious compared to some. Just like the rest of our holiday, this weekend had its very own packed itinerary and we quickly got to grips with some of the country's traditional activities. From wrestling muddy catfish with our bare hands, batik painting, coconut bowling and firefly spotting, we even had the chance to reenact a traditional Malaysian wedding with everyone dressed in a spectrum of colours.

The following weekend we were given the opportunity to spend some time by ourselves. Whilst some opted for trips to the islands of Penang and Lang Tenah, others took short flights to Thailand and Singapore. With boyfriend in tow I chose to visit Langkawi, a much smaller island known for its beaches, monkeys and waterfalls.

If I were to pinpoint what made the trip so enjoyable, it was the chance to meet and share the journey with other Lancaster students, some memories of which I cannot even begin to explain! It was my first ever trip to Asia and it was undeniably a culture shock. The food (mostly rice) and the weather (always hot) reminded me each day that I was far, far from home. But for any readers contemplating the decision to travel, I can only say give it a go, you will thank yourself next year!

Defining creativity

ANNA TROGSTAD DEPUTY WEB & MOBILE @TROGSTADA

Throughout my life, I've been constantly told how creative I am. It's one of the first words on my CV, although there was a time when I would do anything to separate myself from all things imaginative, not wanting to be defined by being "good at art". Now I'm a Creative Writing student, naturally the word "creativity" haunts me, but these days it is more like Casper than a monk in a churchyard.

Defining creativity is very difficult. I'm guilty of associating it primarily with some felt and a glue stick, but it's much more than that. If you're creative you see the world not for what is there, but for what it could be and what it might be. You don't look at a brick wall, but at the cracks in the mortar. I used to think creativity was a perspective you were born with rather than something you could develop, but the biggest thing that stops people from being creative is exactly that. It's not that you can't be creative; some merely don't see the point.

And okay, yes: what is the point? People talk of the left-brain and right-brain and there's a lot of truth in it. However, there is a strong argument for subjects that use the 'left' brain being inherently creative. You don't have to crayon up a butterfly; you could find an alternative method to seek the answer for an equation, and science is creative in ways I can't begin to fathom.

Furthermore, creativity is often portrayed as being non-essential, though if you look at creativity in the context of science and mathematics, it is not only useful but fundamental to how our world continues to change, grow, and

discover. It's easy to slate a Fine Arts student for doing a 'useless' subject, but then if you met an equally creative Physicist- just in an entirely different way- in all likelihood they would be praised for their ingenuity. Creativity isn't about a pretty picture; creativity is in the font in your textbook, on the Spine through our campus, and in the many methods by which you choose to procrastinate because the last thing you want to do is solve a Physics equation.

Most people have heard of the phrase "an earth without 'art' is just 'eh'" and I believe this. Whilst travelling in Kerala, I came across graffiti that told me "Art enters with light into the world of darkness" and it's true. You need creativity to understand. Yes, looking at the facts is a necessity, but it's like looking through binoculars. So alright, there's a cool bird in that tree over there which is real and beautiful in its own way. Remove the binoculars, however, and you'll see how the crimson sky from the setting sun makes its feathers more red, and how there are a hundred other birds that are just as beautiful soaring higher than the one that is merely sat in the tree.

There is value in being able to sculpt a poem. However, just because you aren't poetry incarnate doesn't mean you can't define yourself as creative by some measure. Try and find beauty in everything: a pretty lame, generic phrase to live by indeed, but it works. You can ask what the point of creativity is a hundred times over but it would be futile. It is much more easy to look at things creatively than turn something beautiful into mere fact. You don't question why something is beautiful; you accept it, because it just is.

Dating: Lancaster University style



EMMA ROGERS

The 21st century and all its wonders have changed the 'dating' world irreparably. The art of approaching someone in a bar or a coffee shop has been lost to make way for the challenging task of sending a friend request and matching on Tinder. Whilst the 'Sex in the City' days of messages

on the answering machine and "I'll pick you up at 8" have been replaced with text messages and posts on Facebook walls. Dating, like every experience at university, is different for everyone. However one thing remains constant for most students: the pressure.

Being at university and being surrounded by friends and housemates often means that doing what

you want to do has been replaced by what you think you should do, or more importantly what your mates say you can't do. The direct, ballsy approach to dating gets watered down due to the fear of rejection. The fear of rejection is amplified because of the small community nature of campus life. Being rejected outside of the university bubble is bad enough, but in the outside world the chances

of running into the person you hit on in a bar are slim. Whereas the chances of bumping into the guy you flirted with at Sugar Wednesdays on the Spine is not a question of "if" but rather, "when"? You can also be certain that the day you do stumble into them will be washing day, so you will be wearing trackies and a pyjama top, and your alarm won't have gone off that morning so your hair will be resembling a tropical fruit atop head.

This diluted approach to dating has led to an overwhelming amount of people skipping the dating phase all together. The cinematic depiction of dating is that you go out on multiple dates in order to get to know someone. Now this process has been eradicated in favour of in-depth text conversations restricted by multiple social requirements. For instance, if you receive a text, you place your phone on the side and wait a respectable length of time to reply because god forbid you should appear needy or desperate.

As date fright sweeps campus, singletons are left with two options. The first being the prolonged one night stand. This involves awkwardly exchanging phone num-

bers on the morning after in the hope that you have made a meaningful connection with the person you have shared your bed with. This is successful for about 1% of people and can only work for the incredibly secure; for the rest of us the doubt and constant questioning is too much and pollutes the relationship with insecurities. The second option is to date someone you already know. This could be from around campus or from your course but more often than not it is your housemates or neighbours. Again I use the term 'date' very loosely, the reality usually involves one bottle of Lambrini too many and a drunken kiss followed by the conversation that consolidates an agreement not to tell the rest of the house until you "know what this is."

Basically dating at university can end in one of two ways, humiliation and embarrassment or a relatively serious relationship. However very few actual dates take place on the path to these destinations. Maybe the recipe for a healthy dating life is to be a little more courageous, ignore the thirty minute minimum reply rule, stop listening to the advice of others and go after what you want.

Still homesick at university?

DAPHNE TSOVALA

Fresher's Week hype guarantees the most fun and exciting week of our lives. Starting life at university brings out both enthusiasm and anxiety about the move, meeting new people and having new responsibilities.

What people fail to mention is that for some students this apprehension emerges as loneliness and homesickness. For most students, everything they are familiar with has changed: they are away from parents, friends, and their hometown. They even have different routines. It is absolutely normal to feel homesick when you come to University, but with these tips and a little effort, you should soon be back to enjoying your student experience.

Stay busy

Let's face it: there is no point staying in your room and thinking about home. In fact, it will only make you feel worse. University is full of opportunities, social societies, sport activities and campus events. Get involved, try new things and make sure you always have something to do.

Make new friends

Be with other people. Even if you don't have any best friends, you still need people in your life. Try to seem approachable. Knock on other people's doors and suggest watching a movie or eating your meals together. What do you have to lose by trying? Feeling shy when meeting new people is normal, but with practice you will feel better.

Keep a positive attitude

This sounds easy, I know, but it actually is feasible to keep a positive attitude. Keep reminding yourself of all the positive reasons you are here and why you wanted to experience university life. Maybe even keep a diary of all the amazing new things that happened to you, new opportunities you have grabbed or new friends you've made.

Stay in touch with friends and family

Phone home regularly, but not too often. Try to share to your feelings with the people close to you. They will encourage you and make you feel better. However, as a student try to enjoy your university life rather than spending hours on the phone. Remember to focus on the

positives too!

Think positive thoughts

Thoughts strongly influence what we feel. Here are some thoughts that might be helpful when you are feeling down:

- *Just because I'm alone now doesn't mean I'll always be alone.*

- *Everybody, even the most popular of students, gets lonely at times.*

- *Being lonely doesn't mean something is wrong with me.*

- *I can calmly experience loneliness and learn to grow creatively from time with myself.*

Make use of student support services

Lancaster University provides excellent support services. Homesickness is completely normal and universities are experienced in helping students settle in. The Lancaster Nightline is a listening and information telephone, email and instant messaging service run by students for you. They offer a wealth of free information or just a non-judgmental listening ear. All calls remain anonymous.

Don't forget that homesickness is an absolute normal feeling and that many students face it. Try not to let this feeling overrun you. Manage to get through it and always remember to enjoy your once in a lifetime student experience to the fullest!

HALLOWEEN RECIPES

SPICED SPIDERWEB BISCUITS



These biscuits are the ideal treat for Halloween. The ground cinnamon and mixed spices give the biscuits flavour and warmth – they are delicious with a cup of tea during these chilly autumn days.

Ingredients

For the dough:
75g caster sugar
100g softened butter
1 large egg yolk
200g plain flour
1 level tsp mixed spice
1 level tsp ground cinnamon
1-2 tbsp. milk

For the icing:
Approx. 200g icing sugar
A few tbsp water
Black food colouring
1 cocktail stick
A piping bag/food bag

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C and grease two baking trays.
2. Measure the softened butter and sugar into a large mixing bowl and beat together until light and fluffy.
3. Beat in the egg yolk.
4. Slowly add the flour and spices, bringing the ingredients together with your hands.
5. Once combined, place on a lightly floured work surface and knead briefly. Roll out to a thickness of roughly 5 mm.
6. Cut into circles and place onto the baking trays.
7. Bake for 15 minutes, or until they feel firm and are light golden brown. Place on a wire rack to cool.
8. Measure out the icing sugar and add a few tbsp. of water and mix well until you have slightly runny, thick icing.
9. Separate the icing into two bowls. In one bowl add a few drops of black food colouring.
10. Spoon the plain white icing onto each biscuit and smooth to the edges to create a neat circle.
11. Place the black icing into a piping bag and use a very thin nozzle. Alternatively, spoon the icing into a food bag and cut a small hole in one corner.
12. To make a spider web pattern, pipe the black icing over the white in a thin spiral from the middle of the biscuit outwards. Then, using one end of a cocktail stick, drag it from the middle of the spiral to the outer edge in a line. Repeat in a clockwise direction to make about 6 lines.

GRACE TOPPING

WEREWOLF CUPCAKES



These terrifying cupcakes can really make an impact at a party. If you've got a bit of time or really enjoy making something a little bit more special than these are perfect for you!

Ingredients

12 Chocolate cupcakes
450g Vanilla Buttercream icing
900g Chocolate Buttercream icing
24 marshmallows
Red fruit tape (such as Winders)
8 of each yellow, orange and green M&M's
12 Black Jelly Beans
Black Food Colouring

Method

1. Take 3/4 of your chocolate buttercream icing and add 1 tsp of black food colouring. Set this aside.
2. Place your remaining chocolate icing into a piping bag.
3. To make the ears, take 12 marshmallows and cut the corners diagonally until you have 24 pyramid-like shapes.
4. Then, using the remaining 12 marshmallows, cut diagonally from each corner to the centre in a V-shape to create the muzzles.
5. Pipe a small dot of chocolate icing onto your ears and muzzle and arrange onto the cake.
6. Cut small ovals from the fruit tape in order to fit into the mouth – it should stick to the marshmallow. Any excess can be snipped away by scissors.
7. Next use your chocolate icing to pipe an outline around the ears and muzzle.
8. Then take your black chocolate icing and, starting from the outside, pipe overlapping lines to give the effect of fur – using a star-shaped nozzle can really help to achieve this. If you wanted to add more texture, the occasional non-coloured chocolate icing line can be added.
9. Once you have worked your way to the muzzle, take your vanilla icing and pipe fangs into your werewolf's mouth.
10. Finally, place 2 of the coloured sweets to make eyes and a jelly bean to act as a nose.
11. Serve as a fantastic centre piece for your party!

Editor's Note: detailed buttercream icing and chocolate cupcake recipes can be found online at scan.lusu.co.uk/lifestyle

HAZEL MASON

THE BRAIN COCKTAIL



Another party favourite, get ready to have your socks (or witches hat) blown off with this disconcerting, but yummy, cocktail.

Ingredients

30-45ml Peach Schnapps
30-45ml Bailey's Irish Cream (or alternative)
Dash of Grenadine

Method

1. Pour the Peach Schnapps into a glass.
2. Slowly add the Bailey's Irish cream.
3. Top with a dash of grenadine and serve immediately.

HAZEL MASON

THE BLOODY BRAIN SHOOTER



Ingredients

40ml Strawberry flavoured Vodka
4ml Lime juice
8ml Bailey's Irish Cream (or alternative)
Dash of Grenadine

Method

1. Combine Strawberry Vodka and lime juice in a shaker and shake (or stir with a spoon in a glass!) then pour into a shot glass.
2. Dip a straw into the Bailey's, put your finger over the top in order to hold the Bailey's in the straw. Transfer the tip into the 3.
3. Vodka and slowly remove your finger. The Bailey's should curdle slightly, due to the lime juice, creating brain-like strands.
4. Repeat step 2 until you have created the whole brain.

HAZEL MASON

Around the Town in 50 Pubs

There are a lot of pubs in Lancaster - some might say a daunting number of pubs. To hardened returners this is an accepted fact, but if you cast your mind back to first year, you may remember being vaguely terrified about the sheer volume of names proffered by your fresher's reps. This series of articles, therefore, is an effort to provide some education as to the nature of Lancaster's many pubs and also to provide three slackers with an excuse to drink too much too often. Each establishment will be rated on the 'Potts Scale' which attempts to assess each pub in ten key categories: cheap lager, ale selection, pool tables, sport and arguably most importantly, the presence of a pub dog. **MATTHEW POTTER, JACOB LAWTON & MICHAEL DODDS**



The Robert Gillow 7/10

On the penultimate day of the Lancaster Music Festival this venue was jam packed. The upstairs section less so - it made for a rather intimate setting where some slightly out there folk musicians played. The Gillow is home to regular live music events and its rustic feel makes it a great place to experience the more obscure ends of the musical spectrum. Boasting an ale selection as well, this may sound like the perfect place, but expensive lagers and the lack of beer garden held this pub back a little. Despite this, The Robert Gillow is a fantastic venue.



Merchants 1688 6/10

On the night, Merchants was a much quieter venue. It definitely scores points for setting (it was previously the castle wine cellar). An extensive food menu and a fine ale selection brings the score of this historic pub up. However, its lager price brought it down; an extortionate £3.50 for Fosters. Lack of pool tables and live sport perhaps suggested this is a place to be visited more for the atmosphere or one of the delicious meals on offer. Had the scoring system not been devised by poor students, it may have scored higher.



Ye Olde John O'Gaunt 7/10

John O'Gaunt can be found just on Market Square and from the outside looks like a very small pub indeed, however stepping inside you find yourself in a reasonably sized establishment. The pub features some of the most eclectic wall furniture in town and even a pub dog, at last! Lager was still expensive (you may as well opt for a nicer lager for a few pennies more), and there was still no pool table. but the first television of the night was sighted to much excitement.



The Bobbin 10.5/10

Located in between the bus station and Sainsbury's, this Mitchell's pub is probably the best known of this edition. As we entered, Lancaster indie royalty Lake Komo happened to be playing. The Bobbin is a spacious pub, with a remarkable selection of booze at affordable prices. Scoring very highly on the 'Potts Scale' due to the presence of pool tables, live sport on the numerous flat-screen TVs, a beer garden and once more, regular live music. The fact that no food was offered meant The Bobbin missed out on a few points.



The Yorkshire House 6/10

The two floored building - the bottom a more traditional pub and the top a room for the extensive live music catalogue to play out - has an initial aroma of sweat and Jägerbombs. The Yorkshire House did however meet many of the 'Potts Scale' requirements including a beer garden, ale selection, good prices and furniture comparable to that one might find in one's grandparent's living room. Table football in place of a pool table didn't merit a score for the requirement, but despite this and the initial scent The Yorkshire House was an enjoyable visit.



RESTAURANT REVIEW

Revolution Lancaster

ELLIE VOWLES CAROLYNNE EDITOR
@ELLIEVOWLES

Many of us have only staggered through the doors of Revolution while unsociably drunk; still, Revs has plenty more to offer than a few shots and a place to wiggle and if you're yet to discover it, you've been missing out.

Most people heading into Revs are going there for the cocktails, and to be honest I can't blame them. They have old classics, new innovations and

things that I had never even heard of before. As my friend eloquently put it, "Everything is different, but not so different that you don't want to try it." Honestly, the pricing is probably way out of the student budget - £7 for a cocktail kind of made me wince. That said, they have clearly sought to accommodate students with the introduction of the privilege card, which for £4 can get you 2-4-1 cocktails as well as a whole host of other brilliant discounts. If you plan on vis-

iting Revolution at any time throughout your degree, it seems like a solid investment.

Between the friendly staff, the hipster music and the interesting drinks, Revolution just has a kind of effortlessly cool vibe.

Something else you may have missed out on during hasty drunken visits: Revs serves food. In fact, they bill themselves as a bar/restaurant. The menu is pretty streamlined, serving mainly pizzas and a

few side dishes, but definitely continues the Revolution habit of always being "a bit different". Who would have known that beetroot would work on a pizza? Or pea shoots? Or carrot and cabbage? Yeah, I had no idea. While some of them didn't go down as well as others, I'd definitely say that any of them would be worth trying at least once. The ingredients all taste really fresh and light and you get your own individual pizza cutter (which made me feel like a pretty big deal).

Oh, and the hummus flatbread is like insanely good.

Ultimately, the best things about Revolution for me were the details; from the beehive water dispenser, to the fact that every flavour of vodka has its own scratch and sniff leaflet, to the fact that their bathrooms have soap and moisturiser. Okay, so it's pretty expensive and some of the stuff is a bit too indie for me, but for an evening that breaks the mould a little bit, I'd totally go back.

JUST RUN*

Couch to 1 mile run training

One thing that should not be left out of your hectic lifestyle is exercise. Taking part in something active will help you in many ways, including making you feel better about yourself, staying healthy, encourage you to explore your surroundings and make friends. The Just Play Introduction to Running session caters to exactly these needs.

We welcome everyone to our sessions, no matter your running experience. We want you to get involved and the sessions are designed with a range of abilities in mind. We hope to get people to the point where they have the confidence to complete the 1 mile Santa Dash in November, and even a 5km fun run in December for those who want an extra challenge.

We know it can be hard to find the motivation to go out for a run as we move towards winter, so why not take advantage of meeting with a group of people who all want to go out and run together? Come along, and bring a friend too – running is far more fun when done in groups with someone to talk to! Its important to us that everyone who takes part in our sessions, ultimately enjoys them.

The run leaders, who deliver the sessions, have completed the England Athletics Leadership in Running Fitness qualification, and are well equipped to give you guidance and advice on all aspects of running and healthy lifestyles in general. All are very friendly, approachable, and enthusiastic, and are looking forward to meeting you.

Your training schedule with our support

DATE	SESSION
October 29th	90 secs running/2 mins walking for approx. 20 mins
November 5th	2 mins running/2 mins walking for approx. 20 mins
November 12th	2 sets of 90 sec run, 90 sec walk, 3 min run, 3 min walk
November 19th	5 min run, 3 min walk, 5 min run, 3 min walk, 5 min run
November 23rd	GOAL - 1 Mile Lancaster Santa Dash
November 26th	8 min run, 5 min walk, 8 min run
December 3rd	10 min run, 4 min walk, 10 min run
December 7th	Lancaster 5k Fun Run
December 10th	GOAL - 20 minutes continuous run

Our sessions take place at 4pm every Wednesday afternoon, meeting in Pendle TV Room, which is directly above Pendle Bar. Sessions cost £1 each. All sessions include a warm up and a cool down and there is locked room where you can store your belongings while you are taking part.



*Exercise has been shown to help keep the mind sharp. So for times when you are studying hard, give yourself 30 minutes to go for a run, clear your head and come back refreshed and motivated.

It's all kicking off: Lancaster 1sts 2 - Edge Hill 1sts 2

HENRY SAKER-CLARK NEWS EDITOR

🐦@HENRYSAKERCLARK

It's not Freshers' Week any more. It's time to forget about those lazy takeaways, even lazier mornings and impulse nights out and get back into the swing of university life. The hard work gets under way now, and for the sports teams of Lancaster it is no different.

Whether taking part in BUCS for the first time or being Bowland darts team's most seasoned player, it all kicks off now. The College football season got under way on Wednesday Week 3 with each A team trying to replace County as the team walking away with this year's league trophy.

But it was not just College football which restarted recently. BUCS Men's football began with a bang on Wednesday Week 2, seeing the University firsts succumb to a 2-2 draw at the hands of Edge Hill's

first team. Lancaster started the game the better team but found themselves trailing 1-0 after a good piece of direct football caught out the University defence.

SCAN spoke to University first team winger and goalscorer, James Carolan, after the match to analyse the side's opening fixture of the season. According to Carolan: "At the start we were looking the better team, we had more of the ball, we were in their half a lot. Then they got a bit of possession and scored the goal."

About ten minutes into the game Edge Hill struck - a neat through ball cut through the Lancaster defence towards an Edge Hill forward who coolly placed the ball in the bottom right corner.

"Not much more than five minutes after they scored I equalized," Carolan added. "We were the better team for most of the first

half. When the goal came, I was on the left and I made a diagonal run on the inside. The ball was played over the top from central midfield, the keeper ran out trying to get there. I reached it before him and kned it around him, the ball rolled towards the goal and I kicked it in."

"At the start we were looking the better team, we had more of the ball, we were in their half a lot. Then they got a bit of possession and scored the goal."

- James Carolan

Lancaster made their momentum count and about five minutes later completed the turn-around to take the lead, 2-1. About 5 minutes after Carolan's goal, striker Nathan Onraet-Wells had a shot on the counter-attack, but the keeper saved it. While the ball was bouncing around the Edge Hill area, their centre-back sliced a looped clear-

ance into his goal which the keeper was unable to recover whilst running back towards his line.

The home side went into half-time with their one goal lead still intact, but struggled to maintain any pressure in the second half. "They were on top most of the second half. We sat back, and they got a goal on the counter-attack about half-way through the second-half, which made it 2-2," Carolan said.

The superb equalizer came via slick two-touch football from Edge Hill, moving the ball out wide before a cross was volleyed with precision into the bottom corner by the away side.

Following the goal, tired legs prevailed and the match became dogged and less lively. According to Carolan: "There weren't many chances apart from the goals. It was a pretty dull midfield battle." Possibly not to the appeal of for-

mer Newcastle United and QPR centre-back, and current Lancaster City manager, Darren Peacock, who watched the match incognito, but left during the second half.

There had been talks earlier in the season about the possibility of moving College A league fixtures to Saturdays to allow for students to play both for their university and college side. Although these ideas have passed for now, there was still a very "College" feel about the University first team which included seven players making their mark in college football last season.

But this wasn't a team playing out of their depth; many of these players looked at home in the first team and will continue pushing for their first win of the season.

Final Score: County 4-3 Furness

ERIK APTER ASSISTANT EDITOR

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County's league title defence got off to a winning start, as they edged past a resolute Furness side in a seven-goal thriller. County's win leaves them with a good platform for the rest of the season, while Furness will be disappointed they didn't take at least a point from the game.

County flew out of the traps and were duly rewarded five minutes in, courtesy of some sharp forward play from Jacques Ezzeldin. Centre-Back Will Mason rose highest in the box from a whipped corner and saw his bullet header saved in the Furness goal, but Ezzeldin was quickest to react when the ball squirted from the goalkeeper's hands, slamming the ball home with aplomb.

Despite the early setback, Furness responded well and soon levelled the game following a clinical counter-attack and some sublime running from Tom Chong. After a miss-hit long ball from the Furness keeper was poorly dealt with

by County, the ball found Chong on the left, who preceded to turn the county defence inside-out and unleash a shot that Liam Hartas could only parry into the path of Richard Orford.

County were keen to re-assert their lead after the setback and reacted strongly to being pegged back. Winger Tom Sassi cut inside and unleashed a 25 yard shot that narrowly arrowed wide of the far post following an extended period of County possession.

Eventually County's pressure resulted in them re-taking the lead, fresher Joe Ashworth finishing with style after a melee in the Furness area. The Furness defence failed to deal with a cross from the right, attempting to clear the ball away, but only succeeding in teeing up Ashworth, who managed to squeeze his improvised volley under the Furness 'keeper.

County continued to look impressive throughout the rest of the first half as they imposed their first real period of control in the game, adding to their lead shortly before half

time. A long ball from Hartas was flicked on expertly by Ezzeldin to find the diagonal run of Sassi, who raced clear of the Furness defence and slid the ball home confidently.

Half time seemed to rejuvenate Furness, who started the second half with a much more positive tempo, both Orford and Chong causing the County defence plenty of problems. It wasn't long before they were back within a goal of levelling the game, a fine glancing header from Antoine Hawath nestled into the far corner following an excellent set-piece delivery from the left.

With the score still on a knife-edge at 3-2, both teams were eager to retain possession and so a midfield battle ensued, with plenty of hearty tackles being left in from both sides. The scoring however was yet to stop and with another set piece, County reclaimed their two-goal lead.

After Sassi's initial corner was nodded away, the ball found its way out to James Garside on the left touchline. Garside's low cross

was inch-perfect towards his centre-back partner, and Mason made no mistake as he flicked home from close range.

There were plenty of remonstrations from Furness players about the legality of Mason's goal to the referee, after they made clear that their linesman had been flagging furiously for offside. The referee waved away the protests, and County led 4-2.

Furness reacted superbly to their latest setback and began to put huge amounts of pressure on the County back-line. Chong's lovely change of pace took him away from Al Rutter but his crisp drive was equally met by a smart stop from Hartas.

Shortly after hitting the bar with an audacious overhead attempt during a corner, Furness once again managed to pull a goal back in the game. Some slack marking in the County ranks allowed Pete Barnes a free run at the back post where he calmly steered a close range volley into the roof of the County goal.

With Furness on top, the game descended into a very heated and scrappy affair. County substitute Joe Bishop was booked within seconds of his introduction following a cynical foul on Orford. Teammate Jack Hulligan was also shown yellow moments later for a rash lunge, as the referee attempted to calm both sets of players down.

Despite all of Furness' pressure late on, the best chance actually fell to County. Ryan Kendal weaved a perfectly weighted through ball into the path of substitute Ignacio Diego, who burst clear and rounded the onrushing goalkeeper, but with the goal at his mercy somehow blasted wide.

County hung on in the remaining few minutes to ensure they started the new season with a win, but new captain Rutter will know that improvements must be made to match last season's heroics. Furness will be buoyed by their resolve and can take positives from the match going into their next fixture.

Club vs. country: who was right?

Was Brendan Rodgers to say that he won't let Sturridge play in England's qualifying matches? Sports Editor Ollie Orton and Chris Bickley discuss.

CLUB

CHRIS BICKLEY

The age old debate of club vs country has surfaced yet again, this time surrounding Liverpool's Daniel Sturridge. To cover the facts, despite speculation he would be included in Brendan Rodgers' squad against West Bromwich Albion (which he wasn't), Rodgers categorically ruled him out of any action in England's two qualifying matches against San Marino and Estonia.

Perhaps Rodgers was still irked by Sturridge's injury after the friendly against Norway, when Sturridge requested to participate in only a light training session, only to injure his groin and consequently miss out on key club games against Everton and Basel.

If Rodgers wants to keep his star player from aggravating his injury against European minnows, who is Roy Hodgson to say otherwise?

So, Rodgers is perfectly justified in feeling aggrieved, and was well within his right in banning the forward from England's qualifiers. It would be petty to say that the Northern Irishman does not have a vested interest in England's performance. These young players, including Jordan Henderson and Raheem Sterling can improve greatly from representing their national side, via confidence and experience. Yet at the end of the day, Sturridge is contracted to Liverpool. If Rodgers wants to keep his star player from aggravating his injury against European minnows, who is Roy Hodgson to say otherwise?

Particularly in games like this, Rodgers rightly feels that Sturridge would be more beneficial fully fit against fierce rivals Everton, than a drab friendly against Norway in front of a meagre crowd. An unnecessary token game means nothing to Rodgers, or any manager for that matter who is placed in this predicament. I'm sure were this a must win game to qualify, Rodgers would be less insistent that Sturridge is excused. But with all respect to San Marino, England were playing San Marino.

Ask fans of both England and Liverpool what they would prefer; a match-fit Sturridge playing against QPR and Real Madrid for example, or a barely match-fit Sturridge

playing against Estonia, with a reasonable chance of him damaging his fitness at such an avoidable cost? Liverpool fans have even more reason to side with Rodgers. This is their first season back in Europe's elite category after a 5 year exile, so understandably will want Liverpool to have a full strength squad as often as possible.

People have chastised Rodgers in the press for his actions, which is completely wrong. Sturridge's involvement against San Marino



Dean Jones

and Estonia would not have solved all of England's woes and turned abject performances into glory. As a follower of England, I would much rather the English prodigy be on top form for Liverpool and improving his game, rather than burning out in pointless international affairs – and feel I am not alone in this belief. And once more, he is Rodgers' player, not Hodgson's.

OLLIE ORTON *SPORTS EDITOR*

Perhaps led by a desire to return to the 'good old days' of football, I have always thought that representing one's country must be the pinnacle of any career. That belief is why Brendan Rodgers' latest decision to openly state in the press that he would not allow Daniel Sturridge to play in England's two qualifying games exasperates me so much.

Although Sturridge did indeed get injured

After a summer of great disappointment from England, in which Daniel Sturridge would have been expected to perform far better as the leader of England's line, many would expect all players to be ready to get back on the pitch to prove to the public that England football matches should be enjoyed once again. However, the refusal to allow Sturridge to play simply serves to exacerbate the discontent surrounding the national team at the moment.

Fans are far more engaged and entertained watching a dramatic win in the Premier League than they are watching England labour to a 1-0 win away in Estonia. The recent friendly against Norway at Wembley drew the lowest attendance since its re-opening – this is a time when we need our best players to be playing and performing well at international level. By stopping Sturridge from joining up with England, Rodgers simply serves to add to the apathy that currently surrounds the English national team.

There is a danger that Rodgers' actions may result in other Premier League managers following suit and withdrawing key players from international matches.

There is a danger that Rodgers' actions may result in other Premier League managers following suit and withdrawing key players from international matches. For many years Arsene Wenger has complained about his players leaving for international duty and returning injured – now that Rodgers has set the ball rolling by preventing Sturridge from travelling, Wenger will potentially follow suit. Not only will this cause disputes across the board, it will also begin to trivialise international football, with the best players being rested as a protective measure by their clubs.

But international football should be about far more than turning up. It should be, as previously stated, the pinnacle of a player's career – to be classed as the best in the country is an extremely high accolade. To place this below the needs of club football is surely wrong, and football in general would be worse off if Rodgers' actions become widespread in the game.

Who do you agree with? Tweet us your thoughts @SCANLU.

Bianchi's crash: a turning point for safety in Formula 1?

Following Jules Bianchi's life-threatening crash during the Japanese Grand Prix, will Formula 1 finally improve on its safety? Jessica Beard discusses.

JESSICA BEARD

While most of the western hemisphere slept in the early hours of Sunday October 5, one driver suffered a traumatic crash in the Japanese Grand Prix. Soon the world's attention was on Jules Bianchi's unstable condition. The French driver aquaplaned off the corner, sending him skimming across the track towards a tractor.

It was a painful watch as the fragile looking Formula 1 car hit the sturdy recovery vehicle with force. Through the heavy rain, the driver was rushed to hospital in hope of treating the severe brain injuries that left him in a critical condition.

This tragic event overwhelmed the FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) with complaints and demands for change. The biggest uproar came from the drivers themselves. World-leading champions, Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel, insisted that the dynamics and quality of the tyres must be altered.

Bianchi had changed to intermediate tyres, one of the two options at the time of the crash. In a driver's meeting Mercedes driver Hamilton said: "You want a tyre that clears the water and does not force us to go to the intermediate when it is so much quicker, and when it is probably not safe enough to do so."

The intermediate tyre has the lightest tread of the two that were available on the Suzuka track. It is known to have a faster lap time than the wet tyres, designed for these specific weather conditions. Although wet tyres are the safer alternative, it has to be expected of a world-class motorsport competitor to choose the one that may gain him track position.

Tyre manufacturer, Pirelli, is reviewing the argument that there is too much of a performance gap between the wet and intermediate tyres.



Ferrari Live

The collision instantly stirred the voices of all but the FIA, who bided their time drawing up plans before finally speaking on the matter late on Sunday evening. Their discussion offered new possibilities for safer conditions.

The focus was held on speed control during the yellow flag and how the implementation may work. The specifications of this are not yet clear and many different regulations have been pushed forward.

At the press conference the FIA Race Director, Charlie Whiting, held firm on the belief that no safety car was required during the removal of Adrien Sutil's Sauber. Whiting added that the yellow flagged zone was sufficient as the car was not near the edge of the track.

All drivers were encouraged to read Whiting's report and send in proposals on how to avoid future collisions of this sort.

The approaching typhoon was announced early on in the weekend, suggesting that the dangerous track conditions could have been foreseen.

Another driver, Sergio Perez, argued that for the security of all, a safety car should be deployed at all times when a recovery vehicle is on track. His comment raised concern for staff as well as the other drivers as he suggested that "you expose the marshals, a lot of people, so we need a safety car if the tractor is on track."

Meanwhile, Fernando Alonso and Felipe Massa are pushing for new

technological research on closed cockpits for the cars. Massa has had a record of big crashes, including one earlier on in this season during the German Grand Prix in which his car was sent rolling.

The most substantial one was in 2009, when a spring became dislodged from the front car's rear suspension, hitting his head and leaving him unconscious. Having, therefore, a high concern for safety, Massa was in fact calling in on the team radio and demanding that the race be stopped five laps before the incident happened in Japan.

When asked to speak his mind he said: "In my opinion they started the race too early because it was not driveable at the beginning and it finished too late."

The approaching typhoon was announced early on in the weekend. This suggests that the dangerous track conditions could have been foreseen. With concern for Bianchi's welfare in mind, it could be suggested that the timing for the race should have been re-evaluated. However, too much importance is placed upon the financial side of advertisements and sponsors. This is an aspect in which the race conveners should perhaps re-prioritize.

Respect and kind thoughts for the driver have been shown in abundance since the horrific collision, supported by a two-minute silence before the Russian Grand Prix race. All drivers were seen stood in a circle, hoping that their well-respected colleague would recover and return to the paddock.

What's going on with Andy Murray?



Marianne Bevis

CASPER LAW

Andy Murray is undeniably one of the most important players in British tennis history. The first Briton to win the Wimbledon Championships in almost 80 years, the first Olympic gold medalist in tennis for Britain in over a century, these records are clearly the proof of his success. However, his performances and his ranking have both been deteriorating sharply since the start of 2014.

Murray underwent a surgery at the end of 2013 to solve his back injury, which had brought him a lot of problems including a withdrawal in the 2013 French Open. He even decided not to participate in the World Tour Finals in London at the end of the 2013 season and missed the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award ceremony in order to prepare for the upcoming season. It is reasonable to say that Murray's 2014 season has been affected by the surgery.

Nevertheless, there is another more important issue behind his decline this season.

Andy Murray is undeniably one of the most important players in British tennis history.

Murray started his co-operation with Ivan Lendl on the last day of 2011. Lendl's contribution brought Murray to a next level. Lendl, who has stood atop the men's single ranking for 270 weeks during his time as a player, successfully built a stronger mentality in Murray's mind.

In past seasons, Murray's performance was always affected by his own mental issues. He found it very difficult to overcome difficulties during a match, despite the fact that he is equipped with one of the most powerful forehands and backhands in the tour. It took only nine months for Lendl to bring Murray two Olympics medals (a gold in the men's singles and

a silver in the mixed doubles) during London 2012, a Wimbledon championship final and an US Open trophy. A year later, Murray became the first male Briton to win the Wimbledon Championships in 77 years after beating Novak Djokovic in the 2013 Wimbledon final.

Lendl was the person who turned Murray into a grand-slam winner and a challenger for the number one spot in the world rankings.

However, their partnership ended in March 2014. Despite the fact that Murray managed to get into the semi-final of the 2014 French Open in May, Murray did not face any top ten players before facing Rafael Nadal in the semi-final. The separation between Lendl and Murray is the primary reason behind Murray's decline this season. Murray reached the peak of his career under the coaching of

Lendl, where he was considered a top player on the tour who could be a grand-slam finalist or win a few master titles every season.

He was always forth seed or lower in a grand slam tournament but lived under the shadow of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic before the appointment of Lendl as his coach.

Lendl was the person who turned Murray into a grand-slam winner and a challenger for the number one spot in the world rankings. Murray reached second in 2013, which is still his highest ranking, again under the guidance of Lendl.

Murray would always find it hard to replace a Lendl. His current coach, Amélie Mauresmo, who won two grand slam titles as a player, has worked with two other female grand slam winners, Victoria Azarenka and Marion Bartoli. Her experience as a player and a

coach may bring Murray back to his best. It is not fair to draw a conclusion at this point, since Murray started the season after undergoing a surgery and changing his coach.

Murray is now sitting 8th in the rankings. He needs more solid performances in the remaining parts of the season to win himself a place in the tour finals, which will be held in London from 9th November to 16th November.

Murray has been affected by his surgery recovery and a lot of different issues this season, but his form has been growing steadily throughout the year. His victories in the Shenzhen Open and the Vienna Open show that he is ready for a strong return. Only time can tell whether Murray is ready to win another grand slam title or even just get back amongst the top four.

Raheem Sterling - was he right to sit out?

VIKTORIO SERDAROV

In the past two weeks club football has been placed to one side, and instead the focus has been placed on international games - mainly the UEFA Euro 2016 qualifications.

As is now well-known by all football fans, England were placed in Group E, arguably one of the least competitive groups, with the other participants being Switzerland, Slovenia, Estonia, Lithuania and San Marino.

The Three Lions had two fixtures in the aforementioned time period. The first one was a smooth and effortless 5-0 win against a San Marino side, whose team consisted primarily of amateur footballers. The second one was a hard-fought encounter with Estonia, which was won by a Wayne Rooney free-kick in the 74-th minute.

However, after the game in Tallinn the attention was not on England's lackluster performance; it was on Raheem Sterling's decision to ask Roy Hodgson to sit on the bench because "he felt was too tired". This caused an enormous and controversial reaction among the football community. The burning question is - were people like Gary Lineker, Jamie Carragher and Rio Ferdinand right to justify his choice or was Alan Shearer right to criticize him?

To answer this question, the best place to start is to look at the numbers. Last season, Sterling played 37 games for Liverpool, in which he scored 10 goals. On top of that, he represented the national team, including playing all three games at the World Cup. In the 2012/13 season he played 36 games for the Reds. This season he has already played six games for the team at Anfield and three for his national team. These clearly demonstrate someone who has been pushed to the limit over the last few seasons - this is before we remember that Sterling is only 19! Judging from Sterling's age, I completely support Gary Lineker's opinion on the topic: "Raheem Sterling is a teenager. Teenagers do get tired and even moody. He's young, still developing, we should cut him some slack."

In my view, one of the biggest



Kevin Walsh

mistakes that you can make as a football manager is to overuse your players, it only leads to burn-out and fatigue. Consequently, the players are underperforming when it matters most. As Rio Ferdinand said: "Sterling - tired, fair play to him. English players are normally too proud to do that unlike our foreign friends." He gave as an example Carlos Tevez, who would often not train with Manchester United immediately after returning from international duty.

Furthermore, I believe that one of the main reasons for injuries is playing too many games too frequently; indeed, with today's game played at such a relentless pace the need for rest is even higher. For this reason, many players are unable to participate in major tournaments. For example, if we look at the last World Cup, it was missed by stars such as Riccardo Montolivo, Marco Reus, Frank

Ribery, Christian Benteke and Jay Rodriguez. These are all players that narrowly missed the tournament because of injuries that occurred little before the tournament began. I cannot help but think that playing 40-60 games per season has something to do with those injuries, so Sterling cannot be blamed for being concerned for his physical health!

One of the main reasons for injuries is playing too many games too frequently.

To return to the matter at hand, I do believe that Raheem Sterling has not been used properly by both Liverpool and England. For instance, he played 120 minutes against Middleborough in the League Cup and then he was left on the bench against Aston Villa. What is even more shocking is that he played against San Mari-

no, when this was the most convenient chance to rest him!

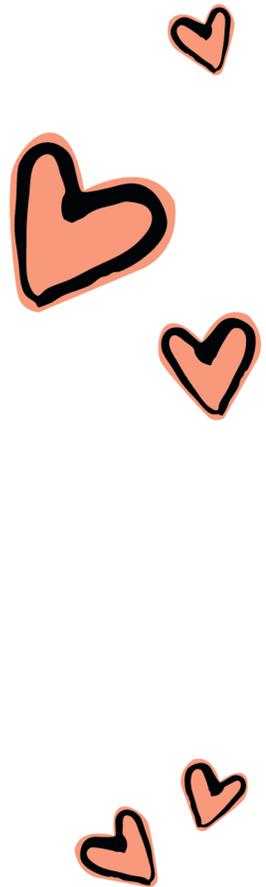
Some people may argue that he should have started against Estonia because he is England's best player at the moment. I totally disagree with such a statement because in such situations, the policy of rotation should kick in and other people should step up and deliver. Besides, Sterling even had a significant impact on the Estonia game, winning the free-kick that Rooney converted to take all three points, not long after coming on.

There are indeed further issues with Sterling's request. Why did Roy Hodgson share this private conversation with the public? Many believe it was a poor decision that it hurts the players' trust in him. In addition, has Sterling been pressured by Brendan Rodgers to sit out the game in order to be fresh for his club's fixtures?

Either way, many believe that Sterling had the right to ask such a thing - because of his age and more importantly, because he is the only person that knows when he can perform at the required level to be at his best. It is ridiculous to criticize Sterling based on comparisons with other, "normal" professionals, like Alan Shearer did.

In conclusion, I feel that Raheem Sterling's decision should be respected because even though the life of a footballer is at times glamorous and rewarding, it can also be very challenging and demanding, especially for a 19-year-old kid. In other words, I ask you to do what Sterling requested himself - to excuse him for being human.

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Societies of Lancaster: Fencing

This week Women's Team Captain Claire Starr tells us more about fencing and how you can give it a go.



CLAIRE STARR

Which sport has the second fastest moving object in sport after a bullet? Which sport has a popular British prime minister and a U.S president amongst its participants? The answer to both of these questions is fencing. One of the least well known sports in Britain, fencing is also one of the most gripping. Coming to university is the perfect opportunity to try your hand at such a sport. With the vast majority of people coming to study at Lancaster with little or no fencing experience, it is the perfect sport to begin, as everyone is in the same boat.

The Lancaster University Fencing Club has grown from strength to

strength over the past few years, winning Club of the Year 2013 and this season having its men's team in the BUCS Premier League - the only team at Lancaster to be in the highest BUCS league.

Roses also proved a success for the fencers in 2014 once again despite the tight encounter with their White Rose counterparts.

Roses also proved a success for the fencers in 2014 once again. Matched in a tight encounter against their White Rose counterparts, Lancaster managed to secure six points towards the overall total. Lancaster's women were edged 118-102 by York, but both the Men's team and Second team

managed to score convincing wins in their matches.

Having two world class coaches (one a four-time Olympian and former world number one) has produced a high quality club with fun, structured and effective training sessions. The club has also made the sport at Lancaster more accessible to beginners, providing individual lessons and a well-constructed beginners' course, which takes you from being a complete novice to team standard incredibly quickly. With several members who have fenced for Great Britain and at international competitions, you are also able to see how elite fencers train each week.

Existing since 1190 BC and being

one of only four sports to have been in every modern Olympics, fencing consists of three weapons: epee, foil and sabre. All three have slightly different rules as to where you can hit your opponent's body, how you can move and how you use the sword.

The all-white outfit makes fencing distinctive, although the sport has somewhat moved on from the original use for it (they used ink on the tip of the sword to mark where a hit landed).

The all-white outfit makes fencing distinctive and although the sport has somewhat moved on from the original use for it (they used ink on the tip of the sword to mark

where a hit landed), whites are still in use today. It is also the tip of the foil which is the second fastest moving object in sport, which shows just how quick and agile fencers are.

The club provides all the equipment, coaching and socials you could want or need and there are no advantages in terms of size or height. The only thing you really need is to be able to move quickly for three minutes. This sounds like a daunting prospect at first, but the club's training programme greatly helps you with your fitness and stamina, whether that be at 7am fitness training on a Monday morning, or during our regular fencing sessions through warm up drills and footwork sessions!