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the University paper

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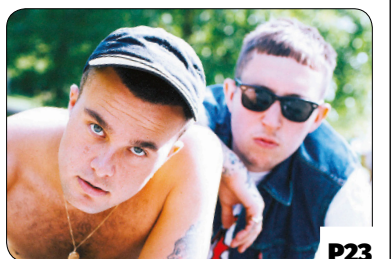
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Power is in your hands... Poll booths to open over NUS ties

AMY DENMAN

The University of Leicester's students' union will hold a in/out vote to decide if it will stay affiliated with the NUS.

All students from Leicester will be invited to vote in the two-day poll at the end of October.

They will be asked the question: Should the University of Leicester

Students' Union remain affiliated to the National Union of Students?

Nick Frost, a maths and economics student from the No campaign, said: 'Our SU pays nearly £50,000 to affiliate to the NUS, more than double the grant funding pot for societies last year. In return we get ineffective representation, rampant anti-semitism and a resistance to reform. Not even the NUS Extra card is worth it.'

“NUS definitely isn't perfect – it doesn't claim to be – but it does listen to students”

Rachel Holland, Leicester University SU

SU president Rachel Holland from the Yes campaign said: 'Leicester students are stronger as part of the NUS, and likewise, NUS can only be powerful when students' unions are at its core. NUS definitely isn't perfect – it doesn't claim to be – but it does listen to students and students' unions.'

NUS president Malia Bouattia said: 'We hope students will vote to remain a part of their national union. The

future of higher education in the UK is under threat and now more than ever it's so important to have a strong collective voice so we can stand up for students.'

A number of unions have held referendums this year including Warwick, Exeter and Surrey, who voted to remain affiliated. Whereas SUs including Newcastle, Hull and Loughborough all voted to break away.

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Lecturer treks the unknown mountains of South America

Amy Denman

A physics lecturer ventured across mountains so remote she had to build her own road.

Dr Suzie Imber from the University of Leicester spent two months on a mission to be one of the first to identify, climb and officially record a series of unmapped mountains in a remote area of the Andes in South America.

Dr Imber said: 'It's the dream of every mountaineer to climb a peak that nobody has succeeded in summiting before.'

'We targeted some of the most remote mountains in the Andes, facing 100mph winds that destroyed our tents and temperatures so low they froze our vehicles to eventually summit nine of these mountains.'

'We discovered Incan ruins on the

“We targeted some of the most remote mountains in the Andes, facing 100 mph winds that destroyed our tents.”
Dr Suzie Imber



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summit of several of these peaks, leading to further questions of how and why the Incas, centuries ago, preceded our journey.'

Before her adventure Dr Imber teamed up with fellow climber Maximo Kausch and used the university's supercomputer to come up with her first objective and create an accurate list of mountains above 5,000 metres.

Once the team discovered a series of mountains were not listed on existing catalogues, Dr Imber set out to climb and selection of the uncatalogued mountains.

Dr Imber gave a lecture called Nameless Peaks Of The Andes at Leicester in October about her adventure as part of Ada Lovelace Day, which celebrates the achievements of women in science.



PICTURE: UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER, DR SUZANNE IMBER, CAIO VILELA

Road blocks: Dr Imber and Maximo Kausch

IN BRIEF



Astronaut is honoured with degree

The University of Leicester has awarded British astronaut Tim Peake an honorary degree.

The university's president and vice-chancellor, Prof Paul Boyle gave the space explorer an honorary Doctor of Science degree during a visit to the National Space Centre in Leicester.

Major Peake returned to earth in June after a six-month mission on the International Space Station, which used the environment to run experiments as well as test new technologies for future missions.

Great minds x-plore ideas

Lecture series TEDx is bringing Leicester's 'best thinkers' together for a day of talks and performances.

The University of Leicester have partnered up with a number of companies to bring the event to the city. The talk will take place on October 26 at the Curve Theatre.

Grad thanks uni years on

The owner of games company Wales Interactive has credited his success to his time at De Montfort University.

David Banner, who helped create the highly-praised game The Bunker, said: 'I'm proud of what I've done but I maintain it was the support at DMU which showed me I could do it.'

Magnificent seven

De Montfort joins six to help the economy

Jak Edgley

De Montfort University has joined forces with six midlands institutions to boost economic growth and job prospects in the region.

Nottingham Trent, Birmingham City, Coventry, De Montfort University, Derby, Lincoln and the University of Wolverhampton have collaborated to create the Midlands Enterprise Universities.

The partnership will offer businesses and local authorities skills, research and facilities from

each institution to help create jobs and boost economic growth within both the midlands.

Prof Dominic Shellard, DMU vice-chancellor, said: 'DMU is at the forefront of creating and applying knowledge that supports economic development.'

'Being part of Midlands Enterprise Universities will mean we can bring our expertise and our connections to bear on delivering economic growth for our region, enhancing the quality of life of our citizens and communities. The East Midlands is a powerhouse of our national economy and we are delighted that universities are recognised as such an integral part

of its future development.'

The universities aim to provide an economic resource for the Midlands Engine, which aims to create 300,000 jobs and £34billion worth of growth in the region by making the most of its location.

The universities have already begun to work with the Midlands Engine project – which is backed by Theresa May – to put plans into action.

These plans include developing routes to support talent in manufacturing and engineering.

There are also plans to provide support to small organisations and start-up projects judged as having the potential to succeed. Midlands

Enterprise Universities aims to support businesses in a number of sectors including creative and digital design, food and drink manufacturing, health and life sciences and energy and low carbon technologies.

Sir John Peace, chairman of the Midlands Engine, said: 'I am pleased to see this new collaboration between the region's universities, which further adds to the spirit of partnership and unity being developed across the Midlands Engine region.'

'Their aims align closely with the Midlands Engine ambitions to support sector growth (and) improve productivity.'

VC: We're still open to all

De Montfort University's vice-chancellor has pledged to redouble the university's efforts to protect international students in reaction to policy proposals announced by the home secretary.

Prof Dominic Shellard gave a speech outside Hawthorn Square and said he felt proposals made by home secretary Amber Rudd were 'un-British' and 'disturbingly intolerant'.

In October, Amber Rudd announced the government would be cracking down on the amount of international students who are allowed to study 'lower quality courses', in an attempt to control immigration numbers.

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