



The Greatest Con Man?

Is it irresponsible to depict problematic figures as "good" people? **M.15**

Roses 2018

Away loss for York as Lancaster claims victory **P.28**



Nouse



Est. 1964

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Thursday 10 May 2018

York gender pay gap higher than national average

- The University's mean Gender Pay Gap is 19.31 per cent, 5.21 per cent higher than the average
- 62 per cent of the uppermost pay quartile is male, while the lower most quartile is 63 per cent female

Oscar Bentley
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF York's mean gender pay gap is 19.31 per cent, a recently released report has revealed, higher than the national average of 14.1 per cent. Under new statutory gender pay reporting legislation, organisations had to release their gender pay gap reports by midnight on 4 April, with the University releasing theirs ahead of the deadline in March.

The University's mean gender pay gap, or the difference between the mean hourly rates of pay for male and female full pay employees, was revealed as 19.31 per cent, a slight decrease from 2016's 19.71 per cent, while the median gender pay gap, or the difference between the median hourly rates of pay, ranked at 17.72 per cent, again a slight drop from 18.61 per cent, however is staggeringly higher than the UK average of 9.1 per cent.

The report also revealed a 47 per cent to 53 per cent split of the University's staff, however more male employees receive bonuses, at 4.59 per cent as opposed to 3.86 per cent, with a staggering overall mean gender bonus gap of 73.97 per cent, significantly higher than the UK average of 40 per cent. However, the high mean bo-

nus gap has been warped by the inclusion of eight recipients of NHS Clinical Excellence Awards, given to qualified medical professionals jointly employed by the University and the NHS, funded by the NHS with the University having nothing to do with the determination of these awards. This leaves the median of 4.38 per cent as a more accurate portrayal of the University's gender bonus gap, which in turn is significantly lesser than the UK average.

The report further reveals that the uppermost pay quartile of the University is male dominated (comprising 62 per cent of the quartile), as opposed to the lower most pay quartile where males comprise only 37 per cent compared to 63 per cent for females. These findings infer that the senior roles and highest paying jobs at the University, and as such the University's senior management, are overwhelmingly male, with the University's Executive Board itself having a slight majority of males.

In response to these findings, the University says it has resolved to tackle what it calls its "unacceptable" mean hourly rate gender pay gap by trying to understand the barriers to the recruitment and promotion of all females, by encouraging females to apply for senior roles, introducing unconscious bias training

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York suffers a 225.5-126.5 Roses defeat, read more in our supplement

Watkins charity drive kicks off

Joseph Silke
NEWS EDITOR

YORK'S FULL-TIME Sabbatical Officers have begun a campaign to raise money for the Charlie Watkins Foundation, which will culminate in the team completing a skydive this month. The charity, established in memory of York Criminology graduate Charlie Watkins, aims to raise awareness of mental health issues affecting young people in higher education. Charlie Watkins took his own life at the age of 22 on 13 March last year.

The recent graduate of the class of 2017 had landed a job working at York Chocolate Story museum in the city centre but was let go after his participation in four-day filming for an episode of the matchmaking programme *Take Me Out* led to him not turning up for work. In the episode, which was later broadcast in his memory with the consent of his family, Charlie expressed regret at failing to find love during his three years at the University of York.

In a statement released last month, the sabb officers announced plans to fundraise for the Foundation. York Sport President Laura Carruthers, who was friends with Charlie, said of the campaign: "We want to raise awareness to students about mental health issues and raise money for the Foundation who do brilliant work in educating people about the stigma surrounding suicide." Charlie had long suffered with mental health issues since he was a

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

I always find summer term at University a confusing experience. It can be one of the most fun and yet most terrible times of the year simultaneously. Let me explain: on one hand it's great as temperatures in York finally get above 10 degrees celsius. However, on the other there are exams to revise for. You have no lectures that you have to get up for, but that means that you have to try and find a spot in the library. There are some decent events such as Roses and Summer Ball however these come paired with the realisation that you have now completed a significant chunk of your university life and that a lot of your mates are going to disappear into the abyss of the real world in a matter of weeks.

Asides from being the home of my mid-university crisis, this summer term has been particularly confusing for me personally. I've managed to actually do some of my degree (Exam Gods please have mercy on me). Although unfortunately I am now writing this article from the comfort of my bed having realised that it is very likely that I may have glandular fever. If this is the case it means that I will be bed ridden for up to a month. Something that I have to say I didn't

put into my summer schedule.

However, in my semi bedridden, semi-Nouse-office-ridden state there has been one thing keeping me motivated. Something that has pulled me through the exhaustion of this paper and its Roses supplement. This mystical cure to my pessimism and tiredness came to me courtesy of YSTV's Roses footage, in which a men's rugby self-tackle was not only comic in itself but has now been made into a spectacular meme (pictured). If you are not fortunate enough to have seen this event, I will do my best to describe it for you.

Following a spectacular side step from a Lancaster rugby player, the trajectory of a York tackle was misplaced. Rather than tackling the Lancaster player, the York player instead plowed into his teammate in spectacular fashion.

For those of you who are not particularly interested in rugby and do not quite understand the hilarity behind this incidence, this is the sporting equivalent of slapping yourself in the face, or dropping a full plate of beautifully crafted spaghetti bolognese onto a white shirt. Some may even go as far as saying it's a literal representation of Brexit's impact on the U.K economy.

This edition of *Nouse* contains our Roses supplement and although this did feel like a bit of a self tackle getting this to print, I hope that you enjoy its content. If you don't then you can have your money back.

Jacob Phillips

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New policies proposed to reform YUSU elections

Joseph Silke
NEWS EDITOR

OUTGOING YUSU Community and Wellbeing Officer Mia Shantana Chaudhuri-Julyan has proposed that funding be made available for the establishment of a sixth full time sabbatical officer in 2020, splitting her current role in half to create a separate full-time Community Officer on top of a full-time Wellbeing Officer. The proposal was submitted in this year's round of YUSU policy submissions which are to be considered for adoption based on student feedback.

Citing the responsibility of "two extremely broad areas under one remit", Chaudhuri-Julyan said that creating a separate Community Officer would "benefit YUSU untold amounts and give much-needed capacity to tackle issues outside of the wellbeing remit." She stressed that due to the large workload of wellbeing issues, community issues tend to be neglected which will become increasingly detrimental to students as the University continues to rapidly expand.

Chaudhuri-Julyan also noted that YUSU's combination of the two roles in one office is a rarity at UK universities. The Community Officer would focus primarily on housing and relations between students and the city council as well as relations between students and residents of York. The new position would aim to clarify the confusion over the duties of the President and the current

community side of the Community and Wellbeing Officer.

The proposal for a sixth Sabbatical Officer wasn't the only proposal for developing the FTO team. A different policy, also submitted by Chaudhuri-Julyan, has proposed that the incoming sabbatical team "be mandated to prioritise increasing diversity of YUSU elections". The request comes as the recent elections were criticised for the limited diversity of the candidates and victors, as well as for the continued dominance of college chairs in the Presidential race. Only two of the full-time officer candidates weren't men and only one was BAME.

This call for greater diversity was echoed in a different proposal by Christian Stickels who criti-

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Number of proposals this policy process

cised the current electoral system for advantaging the "most popular" candidates over the "most agreeable" ones. The policy calls for changing the current single transferable vote (STV) and alternative vote (AV) systems to a points-based system in which each candidate would be awarded points based on preferences.

Other proposals relating to elections included a second by Stickels to reform quorum rules. Current rules allow a referendum

motion, for example, to fail because of low turnout despite if the overwhelming majority of those who participate vote in favour. A policy by Christopher Haley requested a return to a post-election breakdown of each round of voting, rather than simply the final result. This had been the case until this past year.

On the issue of mandating the next Sabbatical Officer team to strive to increase diversity in elections, Chaudhuri-Julyan told *Nouse* that: "I can't stress enough that I absolutely think this should be a top priority for the next sabbatical team. I've submitted this as a policy so if you agree, do give feedback to the Policy Review Group (you can look them up on Facebook) saying so. I think given the backlash after the elections this year and the sense of disillusionment after such a profound lack of diversity (the sabbatical team nominations collectively only delivering

two candidates who were not men and only one candidate who was not white), the next team should undertake in-depth research of the barriers to under-represented groups both running and winning elected YUSU positions as well as the monopoly of college representatives, and propose and implement a range of new recommendations designed to address this at a variety of levels.

Increasing diversity of nominations was a key YUSU priority this past year. Efforts included targeting messaging to and engagement with under-represented groups, personalized recommendations to individuals who would make good candidates and the Union President rallying support with this agenda in College Committee meetings. Nominations as a result of these efforts initially were the highest ever and incredibly diverse. However, once candidates names were announced, nominations dropped off and diversity decreased. It is sus-

pected that the monopoly of those with a strong college background for example discourage those who have not had these leadership opportunities previously not to bother running as they feel they cannot win. Those from under-represented groups are the least likely to have benefitted from these leadership opportunities previously.

Given that previous efforts to address this issue have not worked, it is necessary that the 2018-19 Sabbatical Team make this project a priority from the start of their year in order to implement solutions ahead of the 2019 election. This work would make real strides into understanding these barriers and the monopoly of particular groups on the YUSU elections - as well as actually coming up with practical solutions to tackle these and implement them working with relevant stakeholders e.g. colleges. The effect of this would be invaluable in making the election truly accessible for everyone, from any background and with any identity. Any student should feel able to nominate themselves and truly able to have an equal chance of success."

The policies will be considered carefully over the coming week by the Policy Review Group (PRG), headed by the new Policy Coordinator Josh Mackenzie, which will use submitted student feedback to decide whether or not to implement the policies.



IMAGE: JOSEPH SILKE

YUSU Bars opts for diet drinks in Sugar Tax's wake

Eloise McMinn Mitchell
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

VENDORS, BARS and restaurants across the United Kingdom have been implementing the country-wide sugar tax on soft drinks, including the bars on campus run by YUSU, increasing the price of fizzy drinks in particular. With the levy, the UK joins a small club of nations who have implemented similar policies including France, Mexico, and Norway. Television chef Jamie Oliver, who campaigned vigorously for

the imposition, called it "a tax for love".

The tax came into effect in early April, having been proposed by the government as a means of helping combat the obesity crisis sweeping through the UK. Drinks that contain more than 8g of sugar per 100ml will be taxed at 24p per litre, whilst soft drinks containing 5-8g per 100ml are taxed at 18p per litre. The resulting funds of this are expected to raise £240 million, a decrease from the original expectation of £500 million. This money will then be invested into school sports and healthy school breakfast clubs.

Many companies producing

popular drinks such as Fanta, Ribena and Lucozade worked to reduce their sugar content ahead of the tax being introduced, with 50 per cent of all drinks seeing a reduction in sugar levels before the tax came into place. Advocates of the policy have already hailed these reductions as evidence of success. Coca-Cola, however, opted not to reduce the sugar content of their line.

On campus, the YUSU bars or cafes will no longer be serve original Coca-Cola on their post-mix taps, but instead will serve the less sugary Coke-Zero or Diet Coke. Cokes will be served in glass bottles, now costing £2 rather than the previous

£1.30 from the tap, though plastic bottles are available for £1.50 from Glasshouse. Coca-Cola's regular soda contains around 10.5g of sugar per 100ml, whilst competitor Pepsi reaches 11g per 100ml.

Children are the prime target of this tax, with statistics indicating that children drink up to a bathtub's worth of sugary drinks per year, around 80 gallons. Obesity in general in the UK has also been a major concern for policy makers, with the NHS admitting over 600 000 obesity related cases in 2017. The UK government hopes that this tax will be an effective measure to begin to deal with the issue.



IMAGE: COCKTAILMARLER

NEWS IN BRIEF

York Festival of ideas returns

The York Festival of Ideas returns for its eighth year this term 5-17 June with a programme of over 200 mostly-free events. Highlights this year include the 2018 BBC Radio 4 Reith Lecture by historian Margaret MacMillan and an address by Shadow Attorney General and Corbynista Baroness Chakrabarti.

Uni launches online degrees

Last month York launched its very first online-only degree. The MSc programme in Innovation, Finance and International Business is part of a new partnership with Higher Ed Partners (HEP). Prospective students can now gain their very own Masters degree without fear of being ambushed by rabid geese!

Bridge over troubled water

The bridge linking the together Vanbrugh over the Hes West lake has been, to turn a phrase, "done up". It has been closed for various days this term, and now features green painted railings, new lights, a tarmac surface. One second year history student noted that "I didn't notice them before, but now I see the light(s)!"

Open Doors hours extended

Building on the success of the introduction of the online referral system last year, York has extended its Open Door hours to make services available for more students. The increased hours come as a result of additional funding and campaigning from students. It is accessible to all students via the Student Hub.



IMAGE: DAN POWELL

James' Men's Officer proposal

Oscar Bentley
DEPUTY EDITOR

A REFERENDUM to create the role of Men's Officer on the James JCRC has ended in the proposal being rejected with a 60 per cent majority against. An email, which was sent to members of James College on 20 April, asked students whether the JCRC should enact two gender officers: a 'Men's' Officer, and a 'Women's and Non-Binary' Officer.

The email noted that while James JCRC currently had a range of liberation officers, namely LG-BTQ+, BAME, Disabled Students, and Mature Students, they wanted to "highlight" the experience of Female, Non-Binary, and Male students by adding two new gender officers, aiming to increase representation and encourage the college to consider how gender issues impact students. The email further noted that this was intended to bring the JCRC in line with other colleges and YUSU, however some members of the Women's Network

had expressed concerns regarding the concept of a male liberation officer.

In a meeting attended by YUSU President Alex Urquhart and Community and Wellbeing Officer Mia Shantana Chaudhuri-Julyan, it was established that there was confusion over what the JCRC aimed to achieve, regarding whether the role was intended to be a male wellbeing officer, as opposed to a "more controversial" liberation officer. Other colleges do indeed have gender wellbeing officers, with the Halifax College Student Association (HCSA) having two gender equality officers on its committee.

James JCRC Chair Alexander Smart said that "We simply made an error in wording in a proposal we sent out to the college which we have since apologised for and are dealing with accordingly."

Chaudhuri-Julyan told *Nouse* that: "Liberation groups reflect structural and systemic inequality, which women face specifically because of their gender. This is not something that applies to men whatsoever, thereby I would not support a men's officer in a libera-

tion capacity as they are not an under-represented group."

Chaudhuri-Julyan further commented: "Men's mental health is a specific demographic wellbeing issue that does need attention. The choice available to the committee in my opinion is this, they could decide now to run a priority campaign on men's mental health to tackle this issue under the current wellbeing representation structure, or, they could decide based on the need of the college members that a male wellbeing representative is needed in some way either as a full officer in its own right, by specifying that one wellbeing representative under the current structure must self-define as male, or by following Halifax's example and electing a gender equalities officer. The choice is theirs."

Nadine Smith, one of YUSU's Women's Officers and a James College member told *Nouse* that "We believe that the James JCRC meant no offence with the referendum and the suggestion of a 'Men's Officer' and fully support introducing a gender equalities officer, which would be inclusive while supporting liberation."

Gap 'unacceptable'

>>> Continued from front

for key positions, a "deeper analysis" of all pay gaps within diverse employee groups, and by continuing current good practice, such as the Athena Swan initiative.

A University spokesperson told *Nouse* that: "Addressing the gender pay gap is a high priority for our senior leadership team - the University Executive Board - and our Council. The issue is a national one and we are committed to understanding more about the factors that impact on career progression and pay for men and women.

YUSU's Women's Officers Sophie Meehan and Nadine Smith told *Nouse* that "Women are just not being promoted as much, and when they are they are not being paid what they are worth and not being paid the same as men", adding that "It's not just at York it's a wider issue and the fact that Universities and companies are coming out with their gender pay reports is great because it really highlights the issue so what the University has said about their strategy is really important and it's very important that they stick to that and we hold them accountable for that."

"It is important to note that the gender pay gap is not the same as an equal pay gap and unfortunately many media outlets have conflated the two. It is the law that men and women doing work of equal value should receive equal pay. We are confident that the University complies with current legislation. The gender pay gap is a measure of the difference between men's and women's average earnings across an organisation."

On the matter of the heavily male upper pay quartile, they further commented: "Whilst the statutory gender pay reporting is new in 2018, York has been undertaking equal pay audits for many years. We want to go far beyond meeting statutory obligations ... We are looking closely at the proportion of male and females in senior roles, as well as a proactive approach to training, mentoring and personal development to support women in their careers."

YUSU President Alex Urquhart added: "This gap in pay remains pretty dire and does not make for comfortable reading; it's a significant gap that does not align with the



The percentage of males in the upper most pay quartile

UoY's ethos and principles. I have seen first-hand the efforts being made by the University to reduce this gap, and this is encouraging. Despite this, it is vital that the student-body continue reporting and challenging the status quo on this as we well equipped to agitate for more progressive steps and results."

York St John has one of the highest gender pay gaps in York, with a median gap of 37.44 per cent, although they claimed that their figures were distorted by their paid student ambassador scheme including more females, while York Minister ranked as one of the lowest, with the Chapter of York reporting a relatively low 1.25 per cent mean gap.

Urquhart's site kicks off with anonymous reporting

Imogen Bellamy
NEWS EDITOR

YUSU HAS recently launched a new petition site. A manifesto pledge of Alex Urquhart, YUSU President, it has been created to facilitate students' interaction with YUSU policy, helping aid the Union's representation of students.

There are two sections to the petition site: "Ideas" and "Petitions". "Ideas" relates to small, easy to implement changes, with the example on the petition site being "Install another water fountain on the 2nd floor of the Fairhurst". Every month the top three ideas will be discussed, and the Union Officers will then take it forward if it can be successfully done. The proposals in this section are hoped to be "simple" and "uncontentious".

"Petitions", however, is more complex. A student has to submit a motion, which will need 300 student signatures to be discussed

by Officers. These can be more nuanced, with sweeping statements that require an action plan. The online example is "The University must work with the council to build more affordable housing." Petitions remain live for 10 weeks in order to be able to gain the support necessary.

While in the future, the site may be subject to joke petitions or requests, there is currently only one motion online. The YUSU sabbatical team have submitted their own petition to launch the site: "We call for anonymous reporting and action on student safety issues". Anonymous reporting, in place at many UK universities, often sees campus statistics for hate speech and sexual assault spike due to more people being willing to come forward than they otherwise would be.

While any anonymous reports cannot, by their nature, be followed up by YUSU, it is a helpful tool in seeing where on campus are frequent spots of trouble. It can also be used to identify marginalised groups unwilling to report in person, which aids in creating plans to

help those that feel unable to come forward by targeting their demographic groups. The petition has 80 signatures thus far, but appears to be closed to new signatories unless one is signed into YUSU's website.

Alex Urquhart provided *Nouse* with comment: "The petition site is designed to facilitate students setting YUSU and the University's



The number of signatures needed for a petition to be considered

agenda with collective action. I know students have raised concerns about being able to influence Officers actions and now they have a tool to do just that.

"I'd like to ask students to do two things. First - use it! Challenge the status quo, think about big student issues, discuss, organise, work with YUSU and be an agent for positive change. The second is to sign our first petition."



IMAGE: YUSU

The petition site was an election manifesto pledge of Urquhart

Love York Awards receives record level of nominations

Oscar Bentley
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE LOVE YORK Awards have this year received a record number of nominations, with 645 received by YUSU, almost double last year's total of 380 nominations. The awards, which this year are taking place at the Joseph Rowntree theatre, aim to celebrate the best in the student body and their achievements. 638 nominations were received in 2016 - the previous record total - with 335 received in 2015 and 442 in 2014.

The theme for this year's ceremony, due to be held on Thursday 7 June, is Community - perhaps particularly notable in the wake of the policy submission by YUSU Community and Wellbeing Officer Mia Shantana Chadhuri-Julyan to spin Community off into its own Sabbatical Officer position - with the venue of the Joseph Rowntree theatre chosen to highlight the links between the University and the City and the importance of the cooperation between these two partners.

Categories up for grabs in this year's awards include Contribution to Student Wellbeing, which was last year claimed by former LGBTQ+ Officer Jaz Liddell, the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Award, last year claimed by the then relatively new University of York Memes, and Campaign of the Year,



IMAGE: YORK OPERA

last year claimed by the University of York Women's Rugby Club for their work in raising awareness on sexual abuse and sexual violence.

This year's ceremony also includes some new gongs up for grabs, with the addition of a College Sport Award, which aims to 'recognise the valuable contribution collegiate level sport makes to the student community.' The Extra Mile Award has also been expanded this year, with each of the five YUSU Sabbatical Officers rewarding a student who has made a valuable contribution to the University across a range of activities, based on their own sabbatical remits.

Furthermore, another new award is included, the Honorary Achievement for Outstanding

Contribution to the City of York. This award will be determined via a campus ballot, asking students to vote for an organisation within the city which is making a 'significant positive impact' on students' lives.

Student Activities Officer Mikey Collinson told *Nouse* that "I am SO happy with the quantity and quality of nominations for this year's Love York Awards, smashing the record with a huge 645 nominations! Students achieve incredible things, and I'm incredibly pleased to see so many people nominated for such a wide range of awards. I'm really excited to celebrating and recognising some fantastic students on the 7th June. The judging panel have definitely got a tough job on their hands!"

1011 students dropped out in 2017

Jacob Phillips
EDITOR

A *NOUSE* INVESTIGATION has revealed that a large number of students fail to pass their degrees each year. In 2017, 1011 students did not complete their course as a result of academic failure or due to other unsuccessful reasons. Of these, 180 students were awarded a lower exit as they had completed enough of their course to be partially awarded. This means that approximately 1 in 18 students fail to complete their course at York.

These figures are an improvement on the number of students who did not complete their course in 2016, when 1087 students did not complete their course, with 173 awarded a lower

exit.

This information comes two months after the Guardian reported a national rise in the number of students dropping out of university. This reported stated that drop out rates were on the rise for the third year in the row and that 26,000 students in England who began studying for their first degree in 2015 did not make it beyond the first year.

In response to the number of students who have not completed their course the University stated, "the University wishes to support students to achieve the

completion of their degree programmes. However we recognise that, in the course of their studies, students may find themselves in circumstances which make it hard to progress in the usual timescale or to complete their desired course of study. Academic departments provide advice and support through their departments to students who are facing difficulties affecting their academic progress.

"Central services including the Student Hub, Open Door and Disability teams, offer students a range of advice and guidance. In addition, the University has recently undertaken a major project to identify what could be further done to support student retention. Changes arising from the project include the introduction of an option to repeat the year for students who either withdraw from or fail their first year."



IMAGELIBRARY NAUKMA

What's On...

The best upcoming events for you to check out on campus, in York, and beyond

"All My Sons" by Arthur Miller, 18th - 20th. Drama Barn. £4 members/£5 non-member.

Eurovision Viewing Party @ The Lounge. 12/05 20.00
2 Flat screens showing the event and plenty of drinks!



Featured: YUSU Bungee Jump
£30

YUSU RAG will be hosting the ultimate end of exam celebration with the chance for students to Bungee Jump onto the campus lake. It costs £30 pounds to sign up (fundraising goal is £75). Proceeds go to Action for Children. Info Session 10/05 at 18.30 in P/L/05.

Against the Odds: RAF At War Weekend
12/05 - 13/05

Tickets are £12 Adults/£10 Concessions, and £5 for children. Happening at the Yorkshire Air Museum.

Brought to you by BeSpeak.



Featured: SpeakEasy - 28/05, Free Entry

Taking place at The Nook, this will be a night of "articulating art and artful articulation". Open to the most experienced or least experienced artists,

the event is promising candlelight and beer, as well as alcohol free options. Free entry to people over the age of 18.

Reminder: YUSU Summer Ball, 12/06, York Racecourse. £36 or £71 Incl. Graduate Dinner
Microscopic World in 3D, Ron Cooke Hub, 15/05
FREE Admission. Speakers, Drinks and Exhibition.



Featured: Tragedy 24/05, £8, 7.30 doors open

If you're looking for something more lively to go to, Tragedy is the band to see. The "all metal tribute to the Bee

Gees and beyond" group are a mix of heavy metal, disco and Grease. The New York band will be performing at our very own Fibbers.

Roses 2018 Top 10 Highlights

1. THE SEESAW COACH After a long hard weekend of reporting, all anyone wants to do is get home and to bed. The coaches end up becoming an almost mythical relief to see. But one coach disappointed the waiting masses by mounting the curb and ending up with its front at a 20-degree angle with its back firmly planted on the road. Irritation ensued.

2. A SURPRISE APPEARANCE During Saturday's most exciting fixture, Men's 1st Basketball, the crowd were entranced as York earned a credible 61-55 loss against the Lancaster team, currently residing in a higher division. Despite this, one person stood out amongst the crowd: Sky Sports pundit and former Manchester United right-back, Gary Neville. When this news reached the media room, it was met with scenes of frantic panic as Sports Editors scrambled to get a quote from the legend.

3. URY TAKE A NAP After a long weekend of going event to event, *Nouse* were perplexed to find *URY* in the Media Room taking a nap. After *Nouse* tweeted pictures of the scene, the group rectified their behaviour by now napping sitting upright so as to appear awake.

4. PITCH INVASION The closing fixture of the weekend saw scenes of rabid Lancastrians storming the field to the dismay of the watching security. The best moment of this is when the wrecked advertising boards were fashioned into a rudimentary slip-and-slide for the watching fans.

5. 'SELF-TACKLE' In the weekend's closing ceremony came one of the finest moments of Roses as two York players collided in spectacular fashion, after a Lancaster player swiftly stepped them both. The video has garnered more than 220 000 views, compounding their embarrassment.

6. ACOUSTIC GUITARGATE No matter where our Sports Editors went over the weekend the same irritating sound seemed to follow them around. Credit to the guitarist who managed to play the whole weekend (He was even at the athletics a week before the opening ceremony!) That's one way to become a BNOG.

7. LANCASTER OPENING CEREMONY COMEBACK Despite being painful to watch as a York supporter, the Lancaster comeback was impressive victory, completing a 3-2 win with a 90TH minute goal.

8. DARTS Always a popular event, it was during the darts on the Saturday evening in which it was revealed that Lancaster had won this year's tournament. However, this did not stop York's Jack Worrall from winning the highest quality darts match of the night. Well played sir.

9. WOMAN'S RUGBY DOMINATE ONCE AGAIN UYWRUFC just keep smashing it, defeating Lancaster 34-7 in the Firsts match.

10. THAT EXTRA LONG FINAL SHIFT Our brave Sports Editors signed off our Twitter live feed at 18:06. However, they did not finish editing our Roses Supplement until 04:23 the next morning. Thanks for all your effort guys!

Uni research reveals the evolution of eyebrows

Jacob Phillips
EDITOR

RESEARCH FROM the University has suggested that human survival may be partially dependent on how mobile our eyebrows are. York research has determined that the purpose of eyebrows is to provide humans with greater communication skills. This in turn enables humans to establish large social networks, in particular through enabling us to express more nuanced emotions such as recognition and sympathy. This emotional understanding is said to be a crucial reason for why human beings are the only remaining species of hominins.

In a similar way to antlers on a stag, a pronounced brow ridge was seen as a sign of dominance and aggression in our early ancestors. However, modern humans mysteriously traded these features in for a smooth forehead with more mobile, hairy eyebrows. This new York research looks to provide answers to a long running academic debate on the subject on why humans evolved to have this unique feature. By using 3D engineering software, York's researchers analysed the iconic brow ridge of a fossilised skull, known as Kabwe 1, held in the collections of the Natural History Museum. This skull belonged to a species named the 'Homo heidelbergensis' which lived between 600 000 and 200

000 years ago.

In doing so, the researchers were able to discount two common theories on why eyebrows evolved the way they did: that they were required to fill the space between flat brain cases and eye sockets, and that the ridge's role was to stabilise their skulls during the process of chewing. Senior author of the paper, Paul O'Higgins, Professor of Anatomy at the University of York, stated: "Looking at other animals can offer interesting clues as to what the function of a prominent brow ridge may have been. In mandrills, dominant

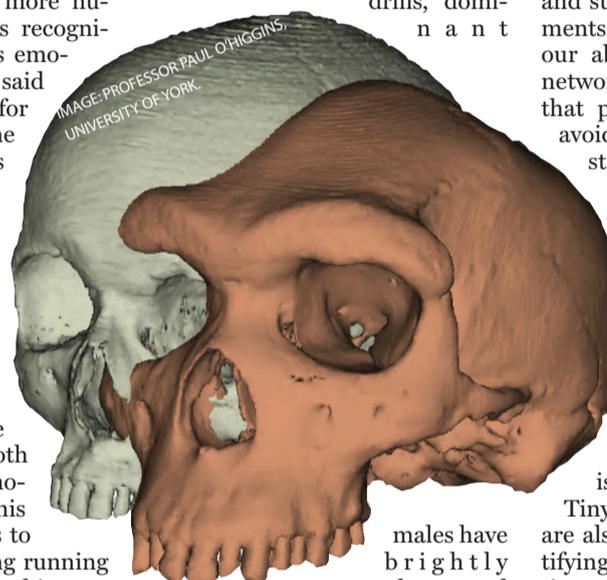
and social signalling is a convincing explanation for the jutting brows of our ancestors. Their conversion to a more vertical brow in modern humans allowed for the display of friendlier emotions which helped form social bonds between individuals"

Co-author of the paper, Dr Penny Spikins from the Department of Archaeology at the University of York, said: "Modern humans are the last surviving hominin. While our sister species the Neanderthals were dying out, we were rapidly colonising the globe and surviving in extreme environments. This had a lot to do with our ability to create large social networks - we know, for example, that prehistoric modern humans avoided inbreeding and went to stay with friends in distant locations during hard times.

"Eyebrow movements allow us to express complex emotions as well as perceive the emotions of others. A rapid "eyebrow flash" is a cross-cultural sign of recognition and openness to social interaction and pulling our eyebrows up at the middle is an expression of sympathy.

Tiny movements of the eyebrows are also a key component to identifying trustworthiness and deception. On the flip side it has been shown that people who have had botox which limits eyebrow movement are less able to empathise and identify with the emotions of others.

"Eyebrows are the missing part of the puzzle of how modern humans managed to get on so much better with each other than other now-extinct hominins."



males have brightly coloured swellings on either side of their muzzles to display their status. The growth of these lumps is triggered by hormonal factors and the bones underlying them are pitted with microscopic craters - a feature that can also be seen in the brow bones of archaic hominins.

"Sexually dimorphic display

HYMS to accept 90 more doctors a year from 2019

Eloise McMinn Mitchell
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE HULL YORK Medical School will be training 90 more doctors per year from 2019 onwards. The move, which comes after the Department of Health started an initiative to increase the number of places at medical schools in England, will mean that 25 more places for medical students choosing to begin studying from 2018, whilst the other 65 places will go to students in the cohort beginning in 2019, marking a 69 per cent increase from the 130 home places available in 2017 to 220 being available in 2019.

The Hull York Medical School has already trained over 1000 doctors since it was created in 2003. Many doctors that train in York have chosen to stay in the local area, but



there remains a drastic shortage of doctors; some areas have fewer than 50 GPs per 100 000 of the population.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt announced the initiative, which wants to target areas of psychiatry and general practice as areas severely lacking of doctors in the UK, to increase the number of medical school places to 1500 by 2020.

The University of York's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Koen Lamberts, said "The expansion of the School will help us to produce more doctors who are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to respond to challenges within healthcare and to transform patient care. Through our strong relationships with our NHS partners we are able to translate significant research and teaching into real benefits for society - improving diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for large numbers of patients".

The Dean of the Hull York Medical School, Professor Una Macleod was also positive about the change to the medical school, and said "Expansion will enable us to build on this success [of having already trained GPs already working and mostly in the region] - training more doctors who are equipped to respond to challenges within the healthcare sector and to deliver brilliant care to people within our region and beyond".

This expansion will help with GP recruitment, and increase the Academy of Primary Care's research, providing more professionally trained doctors for a system which is currently experiencing a shortage, with many GPs being over 50 years old and may be retiring or working less.

Hull York Medical School currently ranks 26th in the UK for medical schools, just below Queen's University Belfast.

Fitness to study policy reviewed by Uni

Joseph Silke
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY is considering adopting a new Fitness to Study Policy. The policy concerns students' ability to "take part fully and effectively in their studies and in the life of the University community". The policy was last updated in 2014 and the revision would allow for students' study to be terminated as well as for students to be processed in absentia. The policy is designed to ensure that students do not compromise their own or others' health during their time at York. The policy applies to all students at the University of York except, at present, those studying with the Hull York Medical School. The new policy would provide

provision for study to be either suspended or terminated where there are substantial concerns about the welfare of the student or their impact on others. This comes after all other avenues of support from the university have been exhausted but concerns about physical or mental wellbeing remain. The process, like before, is to be divided into three stages: the informal stage; the review and support planning stage; and the formal stage.

Changes to the regulations state: "The Vice-Chancellor may temporarily suspend any student from any class or classes, and may exclude any student from any part of the University or its precincts; provided that any such suspension or exclusion shall be reported to the Council and the Senate at their next meetings and shall cease not later than three months from the date of such suspension or exclusion. The

Vice Chancellor may also terminate a student's registration where recommendations have been made under the fitness to study, academic misconduct or disciplinary procedures."

The informal stage involves notification of the student about concerns raised and an arranged meeting with staff to discuss them. The student is offered the support of campus services to deal with any issues. A review period of at least two weeks is agreed. If, following review, the concerns have been resolved, the case will be closed. If a resolution is not found, the process moves on to the second stage.

Stage two occurs if "Stage 1 has not been successful and/or if the concerns raised are too serious to be dealt with informally". A written action plan is produced which may involve ongoing and regular monitoring during a second review

period. All of this is documented in writing and sent to the student. Like stage one, the case is closed if the issues are resolved and the case moves on to the next stage if not.

The third stage, the formal stage, is reserved for serious or persistent concerns about the wellbeing of the student and/or their risk to others. A final plan for action is devised with a written record of the consequences should the action plan fail, namely a leave of absence, suspension or termination of studies, or the student's failure of their programme. The proposed changes would allow for these stages to be completed without requiring the student attend in person, which is currently necessary.

Suspended students must prove fitness to study before returning, and their academic department is to provide advice and guidance to assist the student throughout this.

Sabb Skydive

>>> Continued from front

boy.

The three objectives the FTO team set out were: to help roll-out the 'Chat with Charlie' helpline initiative; to promote conversation about mental health issues on campus; and to raise money for the Foundation by collecting at club nights, by running karaoke and film events, and by culminating the campaign in a skydive. The finale to the campaign will be completed at the Hibaldstow Airfield in North Lincolnshire on Monday 28 May 2018.

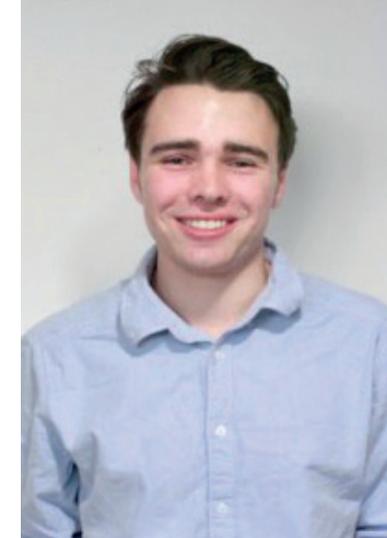
Harry Watkins, Charlie's brother who founded the Foundation, will be joining the FTO team for the finale and commented: "The sabb team have shown amazing support to the Charlie Watkins Foundation. I look forward to working closely with them to bring Chat with Charlie up to York, providing an online platform for university students."

To promote the campaign, the sabbatical team appeared on ITV Calendar News alongside Watkins on 25 April. Watkins said of the ultimate objective of the Foundation that "if one person feels safer then it's a success." The fundraising target for the campaign is £2,100 and donations can be submitted online via JustGiving as well as at the activities organised.

The University of York has come under scrutiny in recent years due to the number of suicides committed by students. In 2016 a total of five York students tragically took their own lives sparking an investigation by the City of York Council. At an inquest into the 2017 death of 19-year-old Jordan Bilsland last month, a university spokeswoman said that £500,000 had now been invested in mental health support services for York students.

Suicide is preventable. Readers affected by the issues raised can contact Samaritans on 116123, Mind on 0300 1233393, or the University of York's Nightline on 01904 323735 or the University Open Door team on 01904 324140.

IMAGE: YUSU



Watkins pictured while running for Student Activities Officer

SPARK:York finally opens its doors

Imogen Bellamy and Jacob Phillips
NEWS EDITOR AND EDITOR

SPARK:YORK FINALLY opened its doors to the public on 4 May following some delays. The shipping container-based retail site hosts bars, food vendors, shopping opportunities and performance venues and hopes to appeal to all of York's population, students, families, and the elderly alike. Originally planned to open in April 2017, then in September, the project was postponed multiple times due to budget constraints.

The opening of the night was unfortunately dampened following a small fire breaking out in a pizza oven at approximately 2 AM. Despite this, the 24-unit space still provides opportunities for a diverse range of businesses. The retail site contains various new businesses which have previously not been able to afford a retail space. Spark:York's focus is on providing spaces for new start up businesses. The conditions for renting a slot inside Spark: York include being an independent enterprise and contributing in either a direct or indirect way to the local community. This community spirit is reflected by shop owners themselves with as many as three different businesses sharing one shipping container.

Rather than being a place for existing companies to expand, the focus was of Spark:York is to either develop those that were often temporary, or those that could not afford a permanent residence due to York's high retail lease prices. In their mission statement, Spark:York state, "York is full of talented and visionary people. We are creating an affordable and inclusive space in the

middle of town that will create opportunities for local people to realise their ambition. Whether it's a local chef with a unique culinary idea, a budding retailer who can't afford a space in town, or a volunteer who wants to take their charitable ideas to the next level; we aim to be the Spark that starts their journey."

They have also delivered on their promise that, "Activities and support will be offered to all, including those with additional needs, low incomes, and those suffering exclusion, isolation and loneliness." York Nurturing Community has started YNC kitchen, which occupies a shipping container upstairs in the retail complex. Its purpose is to provide those in the local community that cannot necessarily afford food.

There are also more student-appropriate areas, such as the shop Heart of Wax (which is a perfect example of the spirit Spark:York aims to embody). It is a collaboration between two local vendors, Anna and Phil, who have combined both of their resale businesses to rent a unit. The combination of vintage clothing and vinyl records appeals to York's student population while also being on brand for Spark's reputation of sustainability.

The space, located on the corner of Piccadilly, had previously been derelict since the mid 1990s. Spark:York hopes to therefore replicate the success of similar projects such as Pop Brixton which too was built on a brownfield site.

Spark:York's future is not necessarily permanent. The space will be reviewed in 2020 when development to the area surrounding the site will begin. However, if the spot is successful it may be kept on. With performance spaces that will be open for hire by student groups, cocktail bars and a pop up brewery, Spark:York hopes to be a feature of student life.



ALL IMAGES: IMOGEN BELLAMY



IMAGE: PIXABAY

Government to intervene on campus no-platforming

Imogen Bellamy
NEWS EDITOR

ON 3 MAY THE Universities Minister Sam Gyimah called for new guidelines to protect the freedom of speech in universities across the UK. This is after a nationwide trend of concern regarding so-called “no platforming”, where students block speakers with “unfashionable or unpopular” views, leading to a meeting between university and student leaders.

This meeting followed a report released in March by Parliament’s Joint Committee on Human Rights. In the past, institutes have been warned regarding events being cancelled or prevented by no platforming, due to students claiming that the opinions or subjects to be discussed are offensive or inflammatory, leading to an investigation as to why there are these issues. The committee concluded that the problem was not unwillingness to display diverse opinions, but instead a confusion over what was permissible and the red tape involved in hosting speakers.

The current guidelines for free speech at universities have remained unchanged since the 1986 Education Act, which states that, “Every individual and body of persons concerned in the government of any establishment to which this section applies [which includes universities] shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for members, students and employees of the establishment and for visiting speakers.”

These laws should ensure that speakers cannot be blocked from university campuses, as they are expanded to state that use of a space cannot be denied to individuals, or bodies of people, due to “the beliefs or views of that individual or of any member of that body” or “the policy or objectives of that body”.

Harriet Harman, Chair of Parliament’s Joint Committee on Human Rights, cited “university bureaucracy” for the problems and called for the defence of “free-

dom of expression” and warned “there is a problem of inhibition of free speech in universities”.

The committee’s report said any potential protests or intimidation tactics should not be preventing student societies from hosting events. It stated that, “Masked protest, intimidatory filming or physical disruption is unacceptable and must be stopped.”

Harriet Harman maintained that “Students must respect the right of other students to say things, no matter how unpleasant, offensive or insulting. They can protest, but they can’t stop them.”

Sir Michael Barber, chair of the news higher education watchdog, the Office for Students, was one of the officials in attendance on 3 May. “Our universities are places where free speech should always be promoted and fostered,” he said. “That includes the ability for everyone to share views which may be challenging or unpopular, even if that makes some people feel uncomfortable.”

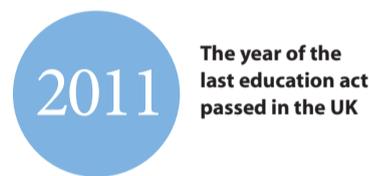
Sam Gyimah stated, “A society in which people feel they have a legitimate right to stop someone expressing their views on campus simply because they are unfashionable or unpopular is rather chilling. There is a risk that overzealous interpretation of a dizzying variety of rules is acting as a brake on legal free speech on campus.”

“That is why I am bringing together leaders from across the higher education sector to

clarify the rules and regulations around speakers and events to prevent bureaucrats or wreckers on campus from exploiting gaps for their own ends.”

His resulting call for a change in guidelines is being heralded as the biggest intervention by ministers in university free speech for three decades. This is despite the fact that nothing technically has been, or is being done, yet.

Some believe that the freedom of ideas in higher education institutions is not being challenged. Alistair Jarvis, the current chief executive of Universities UK, used the March report’s summation that “there is no systematic problem with free speech in universities” as evidence to state there is no problem. “Universities are committed



York bumped out of top twenty UK unis

Joseph Silke
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF York has fallen from 20th place to 21st place in the new Complete University Guide rankings for 2019. The latest drop is a continuation of a trend which has seen York slip down the tables since peaking at ninth place in 2010. The list, released every year, ordered 131 UK universities based on four measurements: entry standards, student satisfaction, research quality, and graduate prospects.

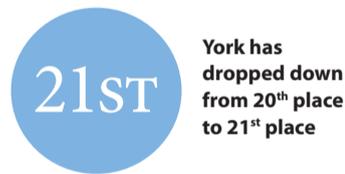
York, despite falling out of the overall top 20, came in at 10th place for student satisfaction and 14th for research quality. York’s overall displacement came because of lagging graduate prospects and decreasing entry standards, coming 24th for graduate prospects and 31st for entry standards. York was given an overall score of 770 out of a maximum possible score of 1000.

Some individual departments at York made it into the top 10 by subject area: chemistry came in at sixth place; the English department came in at eighth place; and biology came in at ninth place. Other subjects that made the top 15 were history, politics, law, archaeology, music, nursing, linguistics, social policy, philosophy, and psychology. York came 15th overall out of the 24 research-intensive Russell Group universities.

Cambridge and Oxford both retained their positions of first and second place respectively while the London School of Economics and Imperial College London both

moved up the table to third and fourth place respectively. St Andrews topped the Scottish universities, moving down from third to fifth place for the UK overall. York rival, Lancaster University, moved up the table from ninth place last year to eighth place this year. York St John dropped from 122nd place to 123rd place.

The data used to compile the rankings came from publicly available sources such as the National Student Survey; the 2014 Research Excellence Framework; and the Higher Education Statistics Agency.



Some of these sources, however, have come under scrutiny in the past. The National Union of Students voted to boycott the National Student Survey, for example, amid government plans for the survey to be used to potentially set higher tuition fee levels.

The Complete University Guide itself cautions the use of its rankings and emphasises that “the league tables do not tell the whole story. Courses offered by top ranking universities are not always the best. Universities that rank lower down may deliver outstanding courses in specific subjects, due to expertise and the facilities available.” The creators added too that, where institutions scored similarly, “you shouldn’t take the ranking differences between universities too heavily.”



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Controversial speakers such as Milo Yiannopoulos have been met with backlash on university campuses

to promoting and protecting free speech within the law. Tens of thousands of speaking events are put on every year across the country, the majority pass without incident,” he said.

Gyimah has been accused of trying to “micromanage free speech issues” by Gordon Marsden, the shadow higher education minister:

“This announcement is simply another piece of meaningless posturing from the government, while it has nothing practical to offer students dealing with record levels of debt,” he said. “If the minister was serious about the challenges students face he would abandon his unworkable plans to fine universities over the actions of independent student unions and follow Labour’s commitment to bring back maintenance grants and scrap tuition fees.”

The Department for Education stated that the attendees of the meeting would discuss which guidelines were necessary and how to enforce them. with the Office for Students, also having a duty to protect free speech. The Office for Students would have powers to publicly shame institutions or dispense fines for not following the precedent set of universities being bastions of free thought.

N COMMENT



IMAGE: CHRISTOPHER DOMBRES

Too many people are giving in to conspiracy

The world of lily-livered lizards and sentient cyborg government is starting to become mainstream

Jan de Boer



We have all heard of wild conspiracy theories: theories that are intended to rock both our world and our understanding of an event or topic. Many people see the pyramid with an eye at the top on the one dollar bill as evidence that the higher echelons of American government are connected with the “Illuminati”, that the baggage reclaim layout at Denver, Colorado airport has been shaped like a phallus in order to incite devil worship, and let us not get started on the inner mechanics of the global fluoride conspiracy.

Conspiracy theories are a fun way to pass time, by either mocking them for their far fetched assertions of deeper meaning or by digging the metaphorical hole deeper with a few friends and a couple of glasses of wine. They can be relatively harmless things as many theories fall apart with the application of the tiniest grain of salt. However in more recent times, conspiracy

theories and theorists have gained significant popularity and I fear that there is a danger that their telling of events are being taken more seriously than ever before. Skepticism for the stories that the mainstream media produce is not being applied to the men and women that say that lizards are in the corridors of power and, one of the most widely known theories: “they are putting fluoride in the water to turn the freaking frogs gay”. So here now is my conspiracy theory of why conspiracy theories are so popular and now being taken so seriously.

Imagine you are standing at the scene of a fire which has just destroyed an office block. A few people have been severely injured and several are feared dead. Police and firefighters are none the wiser as to whether it was arson or an accident, maybe some faulty wiring or material of poor quality that plagues housing both in this country and abroad. The mainstream news claims that it was an accident and the true cause of the fire is unknown. The situation is too complex for any conclusions to be made, as John Green said “truth resists simplicity”. It is at this moment that conspiracy comes in. Conspiracy theorists are popular

for one because they offer a clear-cut truth to what could be a highly complex situation. Making morality from ambiguity, and making sense out of chaos. A conspiracy theorist could say that the office was deliberately set alight for the insurance money, and supply misleading or

In the land of fake news and distrust of mainstream media, why not put your faith in conspiracy? ”

fake evidence so that it looks like he or she is telling the truth. In the era of instant gratification and almost constant news, phony evidence, either taken out of context or straight fakes could be generated to support the claim. Then there is nothing left to do but let it spread across the internet. Reddit and 4chan are recommended if there are any budding theorists reading.

Despite our best efforts at *Nouse* to balance the views of the people, there will always be a tendency to lean towards stories in the newspapers that best serve our political narrative. The same is true of conspiracies. Say that office block had an active ring of neo-nazis on the second floor (or indeed it is faked that there were) and the drama-elves in the Reddit factory find that the owner of the building is Jewish. With a few clicks to shore up the story, you have a recruitment tool for the alt-right. The truth has been warped to serve a narrative. It could well be true that there was a neo-Nazi cell in the building and the owner of the building was Jewish, but what conspiracy does is bind correlation and causation together so that a neat little propaganda package is delivered. What I find most disturbing in today’s world is that more and more people are believing them.

The past three years in the media have been tumultuous to say the least. In some ways I wish we could have a day assigned each week where the events of April 1930 at the BBC could be repeated in that there was no news. We have seen a worrying fusion of news, comment

and entertainment that has led to outcries of fake news and the corrosion of the reliability of once great news sources. Our skepticism of mainstream news has led us to new news sources such as infowars.com where Alex Jones and his compatriots have somehow gone from gay frogs to hard-hitting journalism. The BBC, and ITV can now be as sensational in their telling of news as the wild theories that they are meant to protect us from. With their stories being proved as faked or misreported, why not put your trust in a conspiracy?

Conspiracy theories can be fun, I have spent many an evening sarcastically fretting about wild theories like how the plastic tips of shoelaces are called aglets and how their purpose could be considered sinister. They can be fun so long as they are not taken seriously. Unfortunately theories can also lead to the most despicable ends, such as Holocaust denial and belief in the worldwide Jewish conspiracy. My main fear is that in the era of distrust toward the mainstream media, fake news and increased prominence of alternate media, what was once the rantings of the oblivious could become the belief of the masses.

EDITOR'S OPINION

It's Mayday for the NHS

Seren Hughes



I write this from home, 2 weeks into a pretty serious virus which has kept me in bed the whole time. It's pretty crap. It takes getting ill to realise just how much there is to miss out on in the space of a short time at university: Roses, house parties, even just going for a coffee with friends. And, the icing on this delicious illness cake is that there is no medical treatment for a virus. All you can do is rest. In our busy student lives, where we expect quick solutions to everything—coffee to keep us up for a late revision session, alcohol to help us forget our worries, Deliveroo when you can't be bothered to shop—to be told that a doctor can do nothing for you sucks. All you can do is watch back-to-back episodes of 'Friends' and drown in Lemsip and tissues.

But the worst part has been the incompetence of the NHS. At my practice, you have to fill in a form, which a GP will look over and get back to you. Firstly, it's annoying enough that you cannot just call up reception and speak to someone. It's all so bureaucratic it has to be done on a form. Anyway, four days after I filled this form out, I finally get a call from a GP saying it's just a virus, there's no point having an appointment. How do they know it's just a virus without physically seeing me and actually giving me a check-up? It turns out the practice had a massive influx of patients on the day I filled the form out and it was taking them a while to get through everyone. This in itself is worrying—what if I had been a more vulnerable patient? They should not have such a terrible staff to patient ratio. People's lives are at stake.

Next up, I start having breathing problems. I call 111, and they tell me to go to A&E and off I go,

still feeling terrible from this virus. The doctor I see there seems more concerned with my puffy eyes and breathing than the virus, and prescribes medicine for allergies. A few days later, I'm still really feeling ill, so I go home. One morning I wake up and can barely speak or swallow, my throat is so swollen. We call up my old doctor and they squeeze me in for an appointment that very morning. He now says that all the allergy stuff was a red herring, I've definitely got something more serious than a mere virus, and a blood test is done. Finally, a proper check-up after two weeks.

Then you look at the news, and see that Theresa May has overruled Cabinet Ministers who were calling for more doctors from overseas to fill empty NHS posts; that non-EU doctors are being denied visas under May's policy to reduce net immigration. This just seems counterproductive. Surely patient safety and fixing doctor shortages is more of a pressing issue than the Brexit agenda? If empty posts need filling, and there are people willing to do it, what kind of backward government says no, risking the health of the very people it is supposed to serve? Of course, Brexit was the will of the people, and May is answering to that, but surely well-being is more important than isolationism.

There should not be such a disparity in medical care across the country, and Theresa May should be focusing on healthcare as a top priority. It is unacceptable that at one practice, they did not have the staff to meet patient demand and wrote my illness off as not serious, that at A&E they treated two of my symptoms in isolation, and that it took going to my old practice back home to finally get the quick and effective medical advice I needed.

A stronger, better funded NHS means a healthier country, which in turn would save the government money. If overseas doctors can help solve this issue, then Theresa May should bite the bullet and let them come.



CARTOON BY HOLLY HUXTER

"Theresa May, tidying (or hiding) the mess that is the NHS?"



IMAGE: TIM DENNELL

Eradicating racism in our world is not a goal of fantasy

Progress can only be made if we accept that there is a problem

Has'san Suhail



In the course of this article, if you ever feel that I am talking of a perfect society, please know that I am not. I think I know that's not possible. I have watched 'Zeitgeist', I quite like the different perspective presented in it of a crime-free society, but I just do not think it is possible. I think it is not possible because there will always be some lunatics willing to ruin people's lives.

So having established that I am not talking of a perfect society, I am happy to acknowledge that there will always be things that we know we could improve. Is racism something we know we can improve? I think we know we can. The question is, why is it taking us so long to eliminate racism from our society. If you think it is idealistic, then you are essentially saying that we cannot eliminate racism from society? If that is really what you believe, then just ask yourself: why not?

Are we saying that there will always be people who would make comments like "an average white person is smarter than an average black person," or when hearing of someone committing a crime, the first thing we suspect is the skin colour of the criminal, or a black sport athlete should be penalised more for the same offence committed by a non-black athlete?

We need to realise that we are not born racist. Racism is a product of a lot of the things that are wrong with our society: exploitation of the weak; biased sugar-coated cur-

ricula; capitalist media, which tells what sells; lineage pride. So it is not just one thing that makes people racist, it is a combination of a lot of different things. Thus, it is also then a reflection of our society; the same society that we quite proudly and repeatedly say has become much more civilised in comparison to the past.

Let's look at one of the more recent landmarks we have achieved, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which formed the basis for the human rights frameworks in most countries.

We need to understand that we did not just come up with the

We need to realise that we are not born racist. It is a product of many factors in our society

UDHR on its own. It was a six year long war, resulting in countless deaths and permanent damage, that compelled us to come up with a preventative measure to ensure that it would never happen again. Sixty or seventy years later, we still engage in unjustified wars, meddle in other countries' affairs on the basis of hoax news yet keep quiet when we saw bodies falling in other countries.

Let's face it, if we think we are any better than before, we are not. What has improved is our laws that we have created over time to keep

us in check and, more recently, the media shaming that holds us accountable. I think we would really know how much we have improved if we removed our laws for just one day. The comparison of past to present would pretty much be the same as comparing a developing country to a developed country. I am from a developing country, and back home when we hear of incidents of theft, etc we compare ourselves with more developed countries. And you come to a developed country only to realise that the more developed you become the more sophisticated you become in your crime, for example the financial crisis of 2008. The culprits roam freely.

I am not trying to imply that we are not aware of racism's existence. I fear that we do not do enough to eradicate it. We have lived with racism for far too long, it needs to stop. Governments need to do more to create a society that genuinely respects other people and not just because of the law. More importantly, we need to stand up and make sure that this is a priority for our governments. I know this is harsh, but we become accomplices to the wrongs in our society when we choose to stay silent when we are required to speak.

Please speak up. This is not even an alien issue for us in the sense that it is not an issue that exists only overseas. This is something people around us go through every day. Only two months ago, there was a video that went viral on the internet of a girl scared in her dormitory in Nottingham Trent University due to racist bigots shouting all sorts of nonsense outside her door. Since then, there have been too many incidents of this nature that have surfaced.

Liberalism needs a new Cold War mentality

Cowtowing to dictators and appeasing autocrats, classical liberalism in the 21st century is once again in the fight for its life

Finn Judge



After becoming an unrivalled global hegemon at the turn of the information age, adversaries of America and its allies are turning to troll factories and dangerous, nationalist propaganda that pervades ideological cleavages across the globe. Militaries stand for nothing: information is everything.

The past 15 months under President Trump have been dizzying, norm-defying and deafening from thousands of tweets. Redeemed bureaucrat James Comey, no matter his image-defining motives, hit the nail on the head when he described the Donald as not medically, but “morally unfit” to serve as president – ignoring the values and institutions that made America ‘great’. The crisis of confidence within the American deep state is more than a self-serving conspiracy for the alt-right: it’s liberalism’s last stand against those who would destroy its

global standing for the sake of some tariffs and a few more oil rigs.

America first, they profess. Yet when it comes to the global race, they concede to the bigotry of ‘strongmen’ Putin, Erdogan, and Xi. It leaves little to the imagination as to why Trump values these leaders: no checks or balances, freedom to enact the ‘will of the people’, and not to mention self-aggrandisement. Perhaps if he understood diplomatic norms, Trump would have adhered to the memo “DO NOT CONGRATULATE” upon Putin’s re-election. It’s bad politics for America, but worse for the Donald: the despots are literally laughing at him.

Britain’s divorce from the EU and its own economic standing is fair game: Putin and his army of cyber-trolls not only intervened in the Brexit referendum, but also in favour of Corbyn’s campaign – as recently uncovered by The Sunday Times. Far-right Eurosceptics Orban, Le Pen and Alternative für Deutschland make natural bedfellows with the Russian bear. With democratisation in decline, China’s President Xi assumes presidency for life. Trump comments: “Maybe we’ll give that a

shot someday.”

The lines between ideology and realist power politics are blurred. The EU was set up to prevent war on the European continent; America’s role in NATO and on the continent served the same purpose. Hillary was a pro-NATO hawk and Macron was a pro-EU Russophobe, who sought to fight back. One was subject to political assassination (metaphorically); the other survives, seeking to temper the replacement. No one should envy Macron’s long game – not least because, with Trump’s threat of tariffs and continual bad-mouthing of the EU, it appears to be going terribly.

This is what happens in the absence of values. Once the world is confirmed as a scary, dark place of outsiders, everybody is equally distrusted. No longer foundations of common ground, the institutions that

bound liberal allies together – the EU, NATO and the UN – have all, at some point, been derided by Trump as being set up to “take advantage of” the US. Aspiring to despotism, he sees no resemblance of himself in these bodies; no mutual goals. While it shouldn’t need stating that dictatorship is generally awful, this ‘America First’ agenda seems to put morality last.

If there was ever a doubt that liberalism required morals, recent memory should put it to rest. The assault on freedom and geopolitical unity is too evident to allow for hesitation. If we don’t reclaim our norms, institutions and democratic integrity, someone else will reframe them for us – to be unrepresentative of our objective interests. Diplomatic norms are underpinned by realist necessity, not airs and graces existing in a vacuum. It’s time to engage in the war on freedom: not with weapons, but with ideas and integrity. This begins with restoring the home front.



IMAGE: GLOBALPANORAMA

Students that pay the price of a good time

It is ridiculous that students must pay excessive prices for the university subsidised events that they deserve to enjoy

Saskia Starritt



After having not attended in our first year, and regretting that decision upon the influx of Instagram posts, my housemates and I were eager to celebrate the term’s end at the 2018 Summer Ball; that was until we logged in to buy our tickets and saw the price at £36.

It’s not just the Summer Ball that has proved costly. Campus favourite Big D, promising to bring underground acts and D&B to the often lacking York, has been priced at £26-28 per ticket. Moreover, a multitude of societies’ end of year dinners and awards ceremonies can cost their members even upwards of £50.

These ticket prices are a huge burden to those wanting to make the most of the end of term. The ‘FOMO’ (Fear of Missing Out) which many a student has been victim of, that comes with not attending such events isn’t solely based on feeling left out. We all deserve to celebrate having survived the horror that is exam-time and any other achievements of the academic year. It seems somewhat unjust that to do just this results in many excessively panicking and regretting the amount of money being spent, with

some perhaps relying on their overdraft to cover the costs of the social events being held. This isn’t even beginning to consider club nights, as each YUSU/York Parties night out requires a £5 entrance while favourites such as Soul Candy and ON&ON are typically priced anywhere from £5-£8.

There is a constant pressure anyway at university to not only maintain a social life, but to constantly form new friendships and experience new things. Trying to

We have been ill-prepared for the costs of maintaining a social life ”

strike the balance between socialising and progressing academically is arduous and the extortionate prices of such events do not necessarily act as a deterrent from attending, but simply intensify this pressure.

Quite frankly, I didn’t expect university to be so expensive. To most students in the UK, who are of the generation of ‘Blair’s Babies’, tuition fees are a simple fact of life. The £9000 a year that I pay, as unbelievable as it may sound, doesn’t really have much value because it

never existed in my account to begin with. I suspect that many of my peers would agree. Being in 40 grand of debt by the time we’re 21 is an unfortunate position to be in, but one that we have been prepared to face since the Tory-Lib Dem coalition.

Given this debt, and the limit of how far a student loan can stretch, students are prepared to have to budget and yet, despite our best efforts, are still forking out hundreds of pounds to keep up with the social calendar. It is these costs which we have been ill-prepared for.

It is unrealistic to propose that organisers of events such as Big D or Soul Candy would sacrifice making a profit for the sake of their student market. Regardless, there is no guaranteeing that this would be an effective solution to the problem as while YUSU may be not-for-profit, their event prices are still the highest of the lot.

Students are now considered consumers. However, the night life and events available in York does not reflect this, and there is such little choice that a monopoly of high prices has been established. The fact of the matter is that if we don’t subscribe to this, we will have to accept potentially feeling left out and unable to fully enjoy the year’s end with our friends. The University ought to consider providing more support and advice to the overwhelming number of students struggling with this reality.

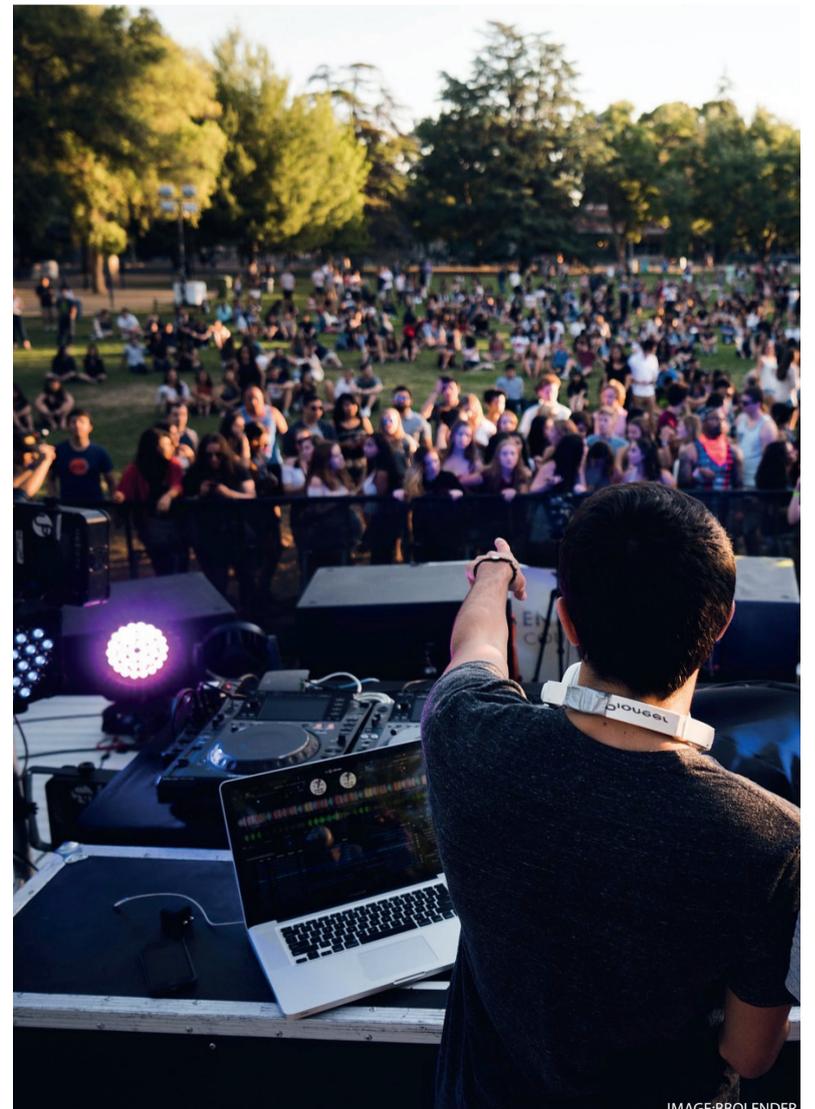


IMAGE: BBOLENDER

It's time to get a handle on London knife crime

Knife crime rises in the nation's capital shouldn't inhibit people's daily lives, but preventative measures must be taken

Kit Taylor



I was surprised to hear that the knife crime statistic in the capital had risen by 22 per cent over the last year. Nonetheless, given the unfortunate but frequent reports of knife-related incidents, it seems that some people are becoming accustomed to regular crime. I have had the experience of both living in York, arguably one of the safest cities in the UK, and living on the outskirts of London where crime can be rife. Hence, I find the discussion of how we can rectify rising knife crime very interesting.

A few years ago I had a friend. He was lovely, but relatively quiet. He kept his head down and got on with his work, but could occasionally be the target of jokes. Unfortunately, he sometimes suffered from anger issues. But he was kind. I hadn't heard anything about him for some time until two months ago, when a local newspaper from my hometown featured a report on him. "19-year-old arrested for murder following fatal stabbing attack"; the report said. I refused to believe it at first. How could someone so kind and close to me do such a thing?

People are quick to blame video games for the rise in violent crime.

Alas, I believe there is a much deeper issue here. To do such a thing as possess a threatening knife, let alone use it, requires a significant sentiment of anger or frustration. This is where the issue lies, and not necessarily with graphics on a screen. I firmly believe that reform can go a long way. Especially in cities such as London, making sure that every person has the correct support could result in fewer people relying on knives in moments of frustration. If my friend had received the correct support for his anger, he might have been free today. However, it does not feel apt

People are quick to blame video games but there is a deeper issue

for me to only mention the potential users of knives. What about the potential victims?

I asked my friend Emma who lives in East London how they feel about crime in the capital, and was intrigued by their response: "Crime in London is not as terrifying as everyone makes it out to be, in reality the chances are quite low compared to other cities like Chicago. While it is true that murder rates have gone up in the past year (with at least 50 cases this year), this is insignificant

compared to the 650 homicide rates recorded last year in Chicago (USA Today: 2017)." It did confuse me to hear what Emma had to say, and yet it was almost settling. Among such horrid circumstances and recited statistics, I find it comforting to hear that people do not let the possibility of crime upset how they go about their daily lives. Wariness is understandable, but not going out of one's way due to fear on a daily basis.

It cannot be ignored that a man was recently stabbed on Walmgate, near the 'Student Castle' accommodation block, and a regular pedestrian route into York town centre, despite the reputation of York being one of the safest places to live. Perhaps then, in cases nationwide, there could be more effort to prove to the public that they are being protected. Following the incident, York Police have been more prevalent in the City and held an event that weekend where they would talk to residents about the policing going on in the local area. Perhaps this kind of system would be useful for cities such as London.

Whatever system will be implemented, I believe this article is summarised well by Emma: "People will still go on with their daily lives. I continue to walk down the busy Mile End Road late in the evening without fear." Let us hope that some progression is made in reducing these crime statistics over the coming years.

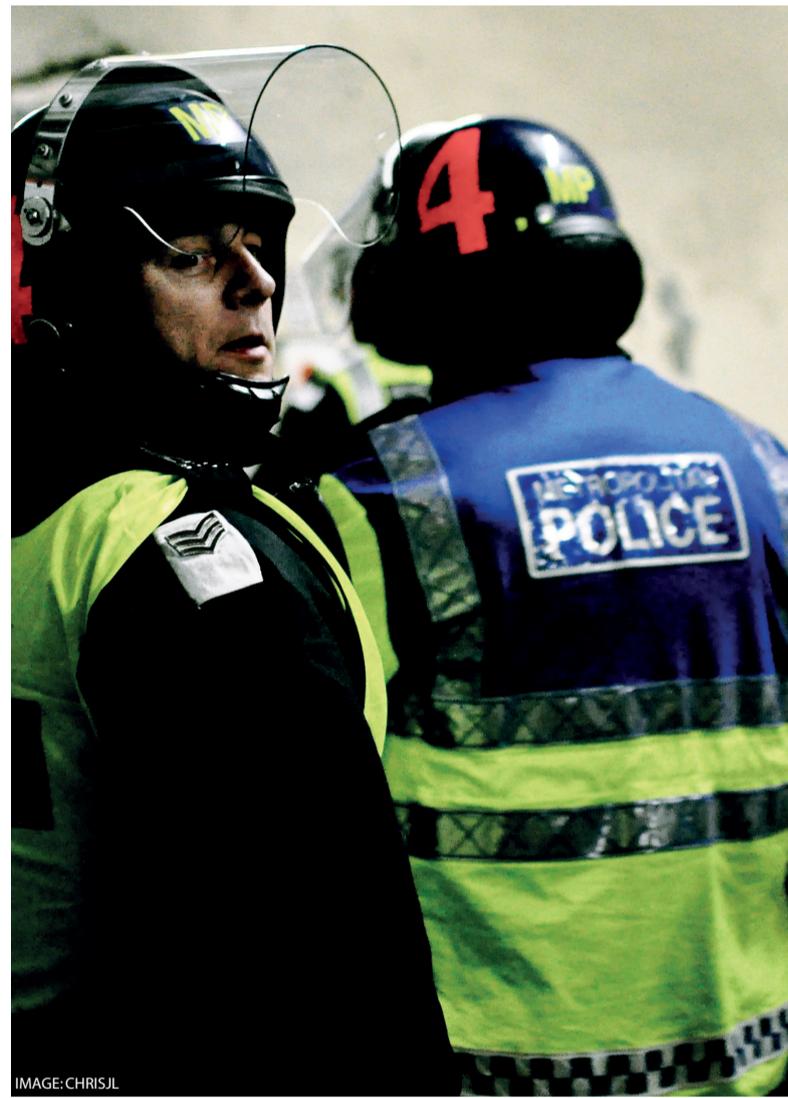


IMAGE: CHRISJL

How did Venezuela go from riches to rags?

Venezuela is facing a downward spiral of economic and social deterioration due to the incompetence of its new dictator

Kajetan Ceglowski



Today, Venezuela is associated mainly with its ongoing economic and political crisis. Hyperinflation, hunger and a high crime rate paired with the increasingly autocratic regime of Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro has put the country into a deadly spiral of ongoing violent protests which could escalate into a civil war.

The state is close to bankruptcy and many people have already decided to leave the country. However, the situation in Venezuela was not always that bad. In fact, it started to significantly deteriorate only a few years ago. Last century, the country was seen as a stable democracy with good living standards and optimistic forecasts. What has happened since then that has changed the situation so drastically?

There was one thing that distinguished Venezuela from other countries in the region - its possession of oil. This acted both as a bless-

ing and a curse. On the one hand it has helped the state to become one of the richest in Latin America, but on the other, Venezuela has a considerable dependence on it. It is estimated that the sale of petroleum accounts for more than 50 per cent of the country's GDP and around 95 per cent of its exports. This has always had a profound effect on the country's political situation.

Initially, it was very positive, however things started to complicate with the presidential election of 1999 and the ascent to power

Venezuela's nationalisation of industries hasn't led to a rise in productivity

of the United Socialist Party Hugo Chavez. He quickly started to implement populist policies including generous social programmes.

It cannot be denied that to some extent this helped the poorest

as it is estimated that poverty was cut in half.

However, it was mainly done by artificially creating jobs in newly nationalised industries, which did not lead to greater productivity. The country was further dependent on imports from abroad as subsidised national companies could not compete. The bubble burst after Chavez's death and the beginning of Nicolas Maduro's presidency. He decided to continue the risky policies of his predecessor, even extending them. After the drop in oil prices in 2014 this was no longer possible.

Furthermore, he devalued the national currency

and exploited its exchange system. As a result of this, the country suffered; hyperinflation reached over 7000 per cent, the poverty index hit 82 per cent, there was a GDP

decline of 35 per cent (sharper than the one during Great Depression in the USA), and the severe shortage of food has led to the population's malnutrition.

Simultaneously, the political situation is not much better as Maduro fills legislative positions with his loyal supporters and severely represses the opposition. It is no wonder that Venezuela is now filled with violent protests. This crisis is also affecting other nations within the region. Over 600,000 people have fled Venezuela to escape the conflict.

Is there any possible solution to the problem? The US already tried to convince Venezuela to restore democracy and has offered this country humanitarian aid. Maduro's government declined it, seeing it as a "foreign invasion". For the whole situation the president blames the capitalists and rather than concentrating on reforms he tries to hold onto power.

Sadly, it seems that without radical change (e.g. fixing the currency problem, diversification or power sharing), the situation in Venezuela will continue to deteriorate.

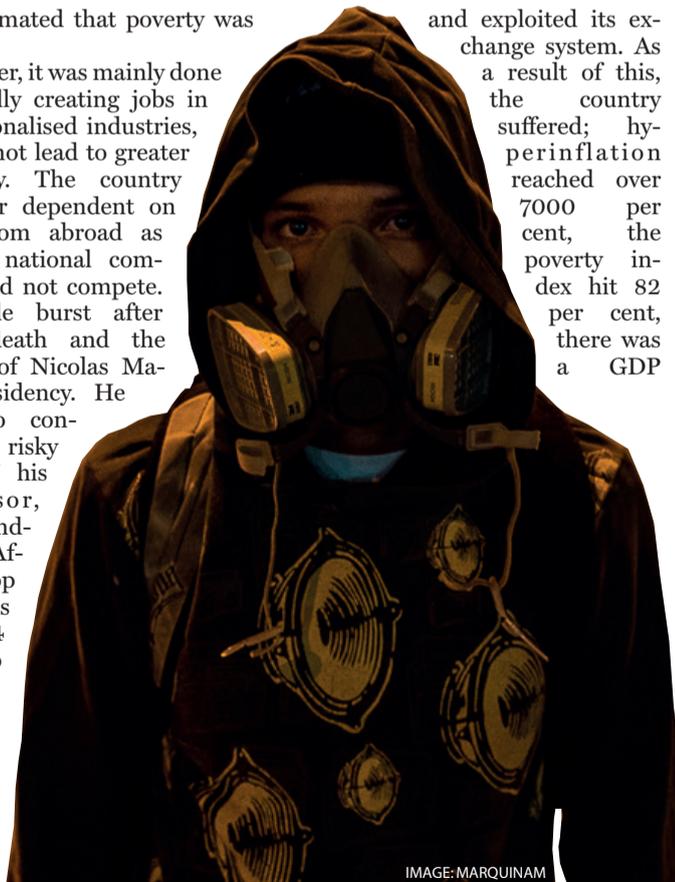


IMAGE: MARQUINAM

Fashion may change, but our prejudices don't

The recent embracement of streetwear on the highstreet has not equated to an embracement of the culture it represents

Saskia Starritt



Growing up, if I saw anyone wearing a hoodie, be they an individual or part of a group, then my first thoughts would be those perpetuated by mainstream media at the time: these people were something to fear and to avoid.

Particularly throughout the early noughties, hoodies and tracksuits were presented as synonymous with anti-social behaviour and violence, with wider society labelling any individual in such clothing as a 'chav'. The banning of hoodies from shopping centres such as Bluewater in 2005, and from a plethora of shops and schools across the country, made the politicisation of such garments and rejection indisputable.

However, the popular opinion about the hoodie has changed. Since 2016, the catwalk has embraced 'sportswear' and 'streetwear' in an unprecedented way. These trends are celebrated within virtual

ly every edition of renowned fashion magazines, promising their readers that combining a tracksuit with a crisp white shirt, or a hoodie with a leather skirt will make them appear 'edgy', 'cool', and 'modern'.

The profits and popular culture presence of brands such as Supreme and Palace has seen major growth. Despite the seemingly excessive prices of these brands (the typical price point for a Supreme hoodie being within the £148-200 range), they have managed to amass a cult-like following of teens and twenty-somethings desperately trying to keep up with, and afford, 'Hype-beast' culture.

So, has the popularisation of such streetwear meant that those once shamed for being 'chavs' are now considered on trend? The short answer is no, they are not. How an individual in a hoodie or tracksuit is perceived by the rest of so-

ciety is dependent upon the context in which that garment is worn. For example, a student in a Russell Group university

can indulge in streetwear because society knows that they are highly educated, and evidently able to spend such money. This new-wave of streetwear consumers often meet the socio-economic requirements to avoid being accused of violence or aggression, unlike their style's predecessors. Unsurprisingly, those who continue to wear these garments, as they have done for decades now, perhaps in more impoverished areas and without the high-fashion logo, are yet to enjoy the luxury of being deemed 'fashionable' and 'edgy'.

This embracement of streetwear within popular culture and fashion has resulted in some going as far as to declare it an appropriation of the working class. The labelling of this movement as such has caused quite a controversy.

Whilst it may bear a resemblance to instances of cultural appropriation, the nature of social class is of such complexity that it is difficult to determine whether it ought to be considered an independent culture. Nevertheless, this distinction, between how different people in the same clothing are regarded by others, acts as an unnerving reminder of the extent to which class-based judgements are entrenched into our society.

This is not to say that people embracing such trends should necessarily cease to do so. We ought to feel able to enjoy and experiment with clothes as fashion is ultimately a form of self-expression. But there needs to be more consciousness and awareness amongst consumers when such styles are declared fashionable and sweep every shop floor; we should recognise the way in which styles originate and the political weight that something as simple as the hoodie holds.

Such an awareness would remind even the most elite that their artistic inspiration has been drawn from trends first popularised by those shunned due to their socio-economic status.



IMAGE: THE UNKNOWN VLOGS

North Korea is preparing to bite the hand it shakes

The warmth expressed by the North Korean regime is not an olive branch but rather a calculated fight for its survival

Calum Stewart



Nobody predicted the whirlwind of events that have taken place on the Korean Peninsula in the past few weeks. On Friday 27 April, at 9:30AM, the young dictator crossed the demilitarized zone to shake hands with Moon Jae In. This was the first time since the armistice of 1953 that a North Korean leader has visited the South.

Kim's behaviour seemed almost jovial, with the young dictator announcing the closure of Pyongyang's nuclear testing facilities and apologising to Moon for waking him up with his missile tests. This friendly sentiment was replicated in Kim's meeting with new US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo when he suggested that North Korea would relinquish its nuclear weapons program completely. Events seem to have taken such a positive turn that Moon suggested Trump receive a Nobel Peace Prize; the latter after all has been awarded for much less.

However, while some may dub this a 'Nixon goes to China' moment, it's far too early to pop open the champagne, or a celebratory Diet Coke in Donald's case.

Kim's sudden 'change of heart'

does not indicate America's diplomatic initiative, but a pre-planned strategy to ensure his own survival. Kim is an international pariah at the head of a regime responsible for some of the greatest human rights abuses of the 21st century.

It is imperative that he maintain the security of his regime domestically and internationally if he is to afford the luxuries of his predecessors and die of natural causes.

Until recently, more traditional methods have been employed to achieve this aim, such as arbitrary detention, public executions and spontaneous missile launches over Japan. Crippling economic sanctions however, and the rumoured collapse of North Korea's nuclear test site have led Kim to employ a charm offensive while he picks up the pieces of his ailing regime.

It is Pyongyang's relationship with Beijing, not Washington from where the substance of North Korea's newfound foreign policy derives. The last thing

China wants is a reunified Korea with American bases on its borders. Therefore, regime survival is in Beijing's best interest too. China needs a valid pretence to resume the pre-

vious economic exports that the North needs for domestic stability without receiving scorn from international observers. To achieve this, Kim's regime must gain the trust of the international community.

The belief that Kim will genuinely disarm bears the same credibility as the belief that North Korean officials uncovered a unicorn lair in 2012. Along with enmity towards the US, propaganda has ensured that nuclear weapons have permeated the public consciousness as a defining attribute of North Korean society. Stripping the army of its prestige by derailing its coveted nuclear weapons program would surely weaken Kim's domestic legitimacy in the eyes of his generals and the general public.

While the conclusion is obvious, the question of whether Kim's behaviour is sincerely 'warm and genuine' shouldn't be our primary concern. Instead,

what matters most is that Kim sees the maintenance of this strategy as the most fruitful approach to ensuring the survival of his regime.

What may initially be a short-term strategy to relieve economic sanctions could evolve into a long-

Kim's sudden 'change of heart' is not a result of the USA's diplomatic initiative, but a pre-planned strategy ”

term policy if Washington treads carefully.

The historical failures of the Sunshine Policy have illustrated that it takes little for Pyongyang to scurry away into self-isolation and aggression, but the hope still remains that by maintaining 'warm relations' in the long term, the framework can be built for better relations in the future.

This authentic warmth could transcend the symbolic planting of trees and time zone changes to one day create the trust and conditions needed to denuclearise the Korean Peninsula.



IMAGE: BBC

CLASH OF COMMENTS

Was Theresa May justified in ordering strikes on Syria?

YES.

James Hare



Let me preface this article by saying that I am no particular fan of Theresa May. Regular readers of the Comment section (if there are indeed any, I have my doubts) will be aware of my role as *Nouse's* preeminent Centrist Dad. Indeed, I even went to a Halloween party as a Centrist Dad last year, which admittedly wasn't a tall order to arrange the outfit for and may have been largely due to getting home from work at 9PM and having to hotfoot it across York without having the chance to get changed before. But I digress. The point I am trying to make is that my view on this topic is not coloured by political affiliation, but by something beyond that. Put simply, I believe intervention in Syria is our moral duty.

Bashar al-Assad is a brutal murderer, and as such, I welcome the day he is made to answer for his crimes by the International Criminal Court, like so many ruthless war criminals before him. Under his command, the Syrian government has perpetrated war crimes against its own civilians on multiple occasions, with the chemical attack in Douma just the very tip of a disgracefully large iceberg. Any military action undertaken against such a regime should be celebrated purely for the fact that it weakens the ability of that state to harm innocent citizens.

Even putting aside my personal moralising, international law is very clear about what should happen to states and regimes which commit crimes against humanity. The Responsibility to Protect

(R2P) framework isn't just there to make the international community feel warm and fuzzy about the notion of protecting people from despots. It's there as a call to action, a reminder that what the international community allowed to happen in Rwanda should never happen again. It is a reminder that the over 8000 dead at Srebrenica are not forgotten, and that the international community no longer eats with war criminals while they slaughter the innocents, like latter day King Herods. Ultimately, it's a reminder that each and every one of us has a duty, nay a responsibility, to stop those who seek to strip people the world over of their lives.

Walking by on the other side of the road in this kind of situation should never be an option, and by committing to R2P the UK has recognised that. But endorsing a principle is not enough - words must meet action. Therefore in the case of Syria it is only right that the UK stands up for the protection of human rights and takes action against Assad's barbarous regime.

There are of course concerns about the effect of engagement in the Syrian conflict. Already it has created a huge refugee crisis, which the states of Europe have by and large shamefully failed to deal with, bar a few honourable examples. This is an area where the UK should do more as part of its duty to be a good international citizen. Equally, the cost of reconstructing Syria is going to be high and is a cost that those states engaging in military action now should be prepared to bear, with the lessons of Iraq still there and plain to see. But these are problems that ultimately are less important than protecting human rights and the lives of the innocent. Theresa May was right - and I never thought I'd type those words.

NO.

Ed Smith



The short and simple answer to this highly complex question is no. The question of whether she was righteous in committing Britain to airstrikes against the Assad regime is not the correct decision as it commits the UK to yet another war, in a region that has seen active British engagement since, what feels like, the crusades.

The argument in favour of for the airstrikes relies on the basis of Responsibility to Protect (R2P). R2P is a contested subject in the field of conflict management, security and stability, with academics' and scholars' arguments boiling down to the classic historical argument that 'the imposition of R2P is dependent on each contextual basis'. Essentially: 'it's more complicated than that'.

The imposition of the R2P paradigm on the Syria debate, is quite frankly tardy. Even though May is legally and morally justified in her decision last month to bypass Parliament and invoke air strikes, she is fundamentally undermined by numerous criticisms.

Firstly, her decision comes almost four years after the first account of chemical weapon use by the Assad regime in Syria, in which Assad has continuously broken international conventions and treaties that have urged him to destroy his armoury of chemical weapons. This decision then seems to follow the conservative choice of catch up, reactionary policies; not the preventative action that is too often required, but largely never implemented within the field of

conflict resolution. Secondly, and to a significant degree, it is clear that this decision will probably fail and follow the pattern similar airstrikes that preceded interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, this inevitable failure in state stabilisation is correctly interpreted by many to be another attempt at trying to deconstruct R2P as an international policy. This is a clear and coherent argument to make, especially considering the current destabilised state of Iraq and returning Taliban aggression in Afghanistan.

Following on from this, R2P can often further undermine itself even if the contextual basis for the decision is both legitimate and legal. De Waal articulates this through the case of Darfur, which has ultimately led to two pseudo-states, and completely disregarded local and regional politics.

Before concluding, I must restate that I in no way support Assad, and am not a 'terrorist sympathiser', as so many of those supporting action against Assad have labelled critics. The regime Assad has sustained and his reaction to the revolts in 2011, that came as a part of the Arab Spring, are completely abhorrent. However, I believe that Theresa May is using the plight of millions of Syrians and the most recent chemical weapons attack as a reckless attempt to nudge the world to another 'Great Power' war, which was what the R2P principle was established to prevent.

Thus, if Theresa May truly cares about the people she is now protecting with £12m bombs, why has she continuously voted against and denied access to those fleeing conflict not only in Syria, but in Eritrea or Myanmar? It is another case of hollow words from a robot Prime Minister.



Bana Alabed
@AlabedBana

London. 497 days of peace. I am very lucky, my life is good.

28 Apr 2018



J. K. Rowling
@jk_rowling

It's that anniversary again. This year, I apologise for killing someone who didn't die during the #BattleofHogwarts, but who laid down his life to save the people who'd win it. I refer, of course, to Dobby the house elf.

2 May 2018



Amelia Gentleman
@ameliagentleman

#windrush victims I'm talking to are surprised by Rudd's resignation - they identify Theresa May as the architect of the policy that caused them so much pain

29 Apr 2018



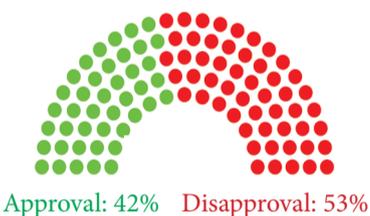
Victoria
@_honeybooboo

A degree is called a degree because at the end, your total grade is made up of 360 credits. I'm baffled. I shouldn't be at university.

30 Apr 2018

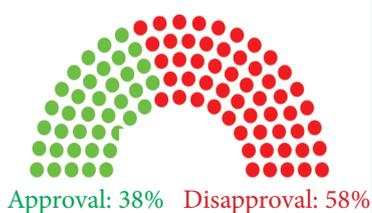
BY THE NUMBERS

Approval rating of President Trump



Source: Gallup

Approval rating of Prime Minister Theresa May



Source: IPSOS Mori

#minstergram

Nouse takes a look at what you've been Instagramming recently in York



@yorkshire_pudding Had some good news today!



@frankietheminisausage_ I never want this snow to disappear it's the best thing ever!



@uniofyork Such a lovely day on campus

MUSE.

KEEP
YOUR
POLICIES
OFF
MY BODY

MY BODY MY CHOICE
MY BODY MY CHOICE

BODY POLITIK

IS CHANGE COMING FOR
IRELAND?

ARTS

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M6

Charlie Ralph outlines the detrimental effect the new EU lighting laws will have for theatre venues. Stella Newing meanwhile laments the recent lack of successful Shakespeare productions

M7

Rosemary Evans delves into links between the arts and the subconscious from the Victorian era to the present day

FILM & TV

M14

Jasmine Onstad examines *Queer Eye's* social commentary and Andrew Young celebrates the 20 year anniversary of *The Truman Show*

M15

Oscar Bentley explores Hollywood's latest bastardisation of History, P.T. Barnum should instead be described as "The Greatest Con Man"



FEATURES

M4 Niamh Carroll explores the prevailing misogynistic environment in Ireland, and the recent protests challenging this precedent

M8 ABBA return after 37 years of silence, making Emily Taylor very happy as she evaluates their career

M16 Emma Jacob speaks to music journalist David Hepworth on his latest book and the biggest moments in his career



MUSIC

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M12

Beth Colquhoun debates whether breakups makes for higher quality melodies, through the Weeknd's latest EP: *My Dear, Melancholy*

The team also provide a revision playlist for those mid-evening library sessions

FASHION

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M9

Oscar Bentley examines *'Boys by Girls'* magazine, known for its use of the female rather than male gaze

Peter Jacobs talks to UoY student designer Toby Mcmillan

FOOD & DRINK

M19

James Mayer argues the benefits of Veganism and the major reasons why you should make the switch



TRAVEL

M18

Rhian Roberts explores "The Night of Fire" festival in Majorca

Flavio Sansa presents a local's guide to Rome, showcasing the best locations and sights the city can offer



GAMING

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M17

Abdullah Hussain explores Twitch streaming and the recent record breaking achieved by Tyler 'Ninja' Blevins

Patrick Walker reports on the latest Fragsoc LAN event and gives a rundown on the typical weekend long experience

“Why do elephants have flat feet? For stamping out burning ducks!”



AL GREAVES, PICTURED IN ONE OF HIS TWO SHEDS, DISCUSSES THE LIFE OF A STAND-UP COMEDIAN AND HIS BURNING DUCK COMEDY CLUB

How did you originally get into comedy?

I've always enjoyed stand up comedy, I also once did a course in 'Presentation Skills' through my employer and thought it might be funny to do presentations but without having anything important to present. Or demonstrating any skills.

Who would you say your main comedic influences were?

Police Squad, Alf, Vic and Bob, The Day Today, Brass Eye, Alan Partridge, The Mighty Boosh, Stewart Lee, Paul Foot and Josie Long.

What has been your personal career highlight to date?

As a performer, winning the Stockton Arc Gong show in front of an audience of 300 was nice, also performing in various shows at the Edinburgh Fringe. As a promoter, selling out the 200 seat Crescent Community Venue with Josie Long's *'Lefty Scum'* show.

What would be your advice for any aspiring comedians out there?

Bill Hicks (allegedly) said "Write what entertains you. If you can't be funny be interesting - have something to say and then do it in a funny way". I'd advise student comedians to take advantage of writing and performance opportunities offered by the Comedy Society to develop their voice and

persona, but also try to get gigs in different venues to get accustomed to performing to a range of different audiences. It's also important to regularly watch professional comedians, such as the voice of 'Survival Of The Fittest' and Edinburgh Best Newcomer nominee Brennan Reece who is coming to YUSU Courtyard Bar on Sunday 27 May.

How did you find the transition from performing to running a comedy club?

Because I come from a performing background I try as much as possible to create the sort of environment other acts will enjoy. I recently told fellow act Peter Brush how I wanted to continue performing stand up so nobody could accuse me of being 'a failed comedian'. He pointed out that only meant that I would continue to be a failing comedian.

How did the Burning Duck Comedy Club get its name?

I once heard the joke "Why do elephants have flat feet? For stamping out burning ducks!" which I thought was funny. A year later I heard the joke "Why do ducks have flat feet? For stamping out fires" which made a bit more sense of the second bit.

Are there any up-and-coming comedians you'd recommend people check out?

Anybody booked at the Burning Duck Comedy Club! Including the voice of *'Survival Of The Fittest'* and Edinburgh Best Newcomer

nominee Brennan Reece at YUSU Courtyard Bar on 27 May. And also most people booked into Bob Slayer's 'Heroes' venues at the Edinburgh Fringe. I also have a shortlist of at least 100+ acts I want to book, but if I had to pick seven (in addition to Brennan Reece) they might currently be Adam Larter, Phil Jarvis, Harriet Dyer, Seymour Mace, Phil Ellis, Michael Brunstrom and Jayne Edwards.

What's coming up in the next few months for the Burning Duck Comedy Club?

Did I mention that the voice of 'Survival Of The Fittest' and Edinburgh Best Newcomer nominee Brennan Reece is coming to YUSU Courtyard Bar on 27th May? We will also be soon presenting our annual Student Comedian Of The Year competition on campus, now in its fourth year! We are also continuing to present touring shows from the best up and coming comedians at The Basement and The Crescent and finalising our line up for a small festival at the end of June. We will be presenting more shows with the Great Yorkshire Fringe every day in The Basement at 8.30 (£5 to guarantee a ticket in advance or pay what you want afterwards) and from next September will be running regular mixed bill line ups as well, so hopefully be able to offer more regular meaningful stage time to student comedians. Check out our upcoming shows at <https://burningduckcomedy.com/>

Interview by James Hare

EDITOR'S NOTE



IZZY MOORE TRIES OPTIMISM FOR THE FIRST TIME

It's that time of year again folks, the one where suddenly a number attached to your name becomes highly important. 59, 60, 69, 70. Out of context they seem fairly innocent, but as prisoners of the library and connoisseurs of the Facebook procrastination scroll - well they certainly have a fair bit of meaning for us. Numbers, eh? Who knew they could determine our self worth, and contribute so much to our happiness? It's not even an exclusive phenomenon to summer term, or higher education. Likes on Instagram, balance in your bank account, matches on Tinder... It's starting to seem that our lives are becoming an extended exam.

We "pass" or "fail" these "social tests" based on numbers which out of context mean absolutely nothing. Yet, when assigned meaning, they can gain the power to warp our self-esteem. Too little likes? We jump to ultimatums, question why on earth we'd post that picture in the first place. And conclude by feeling super shit about it all.

The other notable "exam" is the scale. A number which we're told is important. Weight, size, appearance. Don't you dare go over a certain number otherwise you're fat, unworthy and unattractive. Seeing a trend yet? You might argue we've grown out of that one with the "fitspo revolution." However, if you're not judging yourself through stones and pounds, it's your body fat percentage, the amount you can lift, or again how many likes that photo of you flexing achieved. These numbers, now more than ever, affect all genders, not just women. It seems instead of doing away with superficial judgement we now subject everyone to it. We live in an age of numerical value. But, accepting external sources of pressure to please other people, without looking after yourself... Numbers become harmful.

The scale doesn't show the whole picture. Weight is more than just body fat. It's muscle, food inside your stomach, water, bone, your organs. And it definitely does not reflect your happiness or self-esteem. Some numbers just aren't worth having.

The mark you end up with at the end of the year doesn't show the whole story either. It won't define how well liked you are, it may not even show how much work you put towards it. Numbers don't help us all the time. Especially when we allow them to define us. This isn't to claim marks aren't important. But, there is such a thing as balance. Get enough sleep. Drink water. Eat. It's only for a few weeks. You are more than a collection of digits.

IMAGE CREDITS

Cover: Zewrestler
Opposite, from top: Vanessa Ifediora, Wikimedia Commons
Q&A: Al Greaves

NO COUNTRY FOR IRISHWOMEN?

NIAMH CARROLL DISSECTS THE PREVAILING CULTURE OF MISOGYNY ON THE EMERALD ISLE

“Being a woman is a bit like being Irish. Everyone says you’re important and nice, but you take second best all the same,” author Iris Murdoch once said. There has long been the sentiment among Irish people that, while we’re loved for Guinness and the craic, we are not taken ‘seriously’ enough by the world. However, Ireland has come a long way in the last fifty years. The Celtic Tiger helped transform Ireland from a largely agricultural economy to a fast-paced, wealthy nation, which despite the financial crisis of 2008, it has remained ever since. Ireland was once completely dominated by the Roman Catholic Church, which was reflected in socially conservative laws and the beliefs of its people; however, in 2015 it became the first country in the world to approve same-sex marriage by popular vote. Despite modernisation across the island, there are still major issues in Ireland. Namely, as Murdoch captures in her quote, the failure to grant women

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Normalisation of deeply misogynistic language as just “lads’ banter” is very worrying

the respect, autonomy and equality they are entitled to.

Of course, misogyny still afflicts almost all nations to some degree; it is by no means an Irish phenomenon. While Ireland is an example of a nation where there are currently prolific cases which highlight the damage of a patriarchal society, women remain second-class citizens globally. For a British audience, it is also worth remembering while the issues that women face unite the north and south of Ireland, a border divides Ireland; one territory being part of the UK and the other being the Republic of Ireland. In Northern Ireland, British citizens face challenges they would not face anywhere else in the UK. Successive British governments have led on the attitude of benevolent neglect towards Northern Ireland, yet this has allowed a devolved government dominated by sectarian parties to restrict their citizens’ (especially their female citizens’) rights.

Despite the prevalence of misogyny everywhere, the example of Ireland presents one where the mistreatment of women, which has been present and ignored for so long in our society, is becoming increasingly visible. There are twin events which have been recently bearing heavy on the collective consciousness of women in Ireland. They are a rape trial and an abortion referendum: two seemingly unconnected events which highlight the fact that Irish women are still seen as second-class citizens throughout the island despite superficial liberalisation.

The rape trial took place in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and concerned two rugby players who have played for Ulster and Ire-

land. The two players were acquitted of rape, and their two friends, accused of indecent exposure and perverting the cause of justice, also found not guilty. For readers not familiar with Irish sport, to play for Ulster and Ireland bestows a level of prestige and fame that grants the players a celebrity status in the small territory of Northern Ireland. The complainant (19 at the time), had gone out to celebrate the end of her exams in a Belfast nightclub where she then met the men in a VIP area, she had gone back to an afterparty with a group, where what the players insisted was a consensual threesome occurred. She texted a friend the next day saying she was reluctant to bring charges because, in her words, “I’m not going up against Ulster Rugby”.

The case lasted 42 days and had most of Northern Ireland, and indeed the island of Ireland, gripped for its duration. Despite the ‘not guilty’ outcome, many feel outraged about the direction the trial took. The woman making the accusations was subjected to eight days on the stand during which it was insinuated she was “interested” in celebrities, her blood-stained underwear was examined and she was asked why, if she was being raped, she didn’t scream.

The “laddish” behaviour of the men was also exposed in the trial through a series of WhatsApp messages revealed. It was revealed to the court that the rugby players referred to themselves the morning after the alleged incident as “top shaggers” and claimed that there was “a lot of spit roast last night”. One of the players was asked by a friend how the woman was to which he replied, “very very loose”; the other sent a photo of some female partygoers to a groupchat, he captioned the picture “Love Belfast sluts”. Some of the public on social media were quick to point that these messages did not point to anything non-consensual. This is true; yet, the normalisation of deeply misogynistic language as just “lads’ banter” is very worrying. While the men were found ‘not guilty’ of rape, this kind of language de-means women to mere sexual objects and contributes to what is often referred to as ‘rape culture’.

I could elaborate on the particularities of the trial, but instead I want to discuss what happened afterwards. I have chosen not to name the rugby players because I am not writing about them. Instead, I wish to focus on the Northern-Irish and Irish women who fight against this kind

of misogynistic culture.

Following the outcome of the trial, there were some who celebrated the result on social media, others called for the complainant’s legal right to anonymity to be waived, the worst even went as far as to call her a “slut” or a “liar”. Perhaps it was this wave of contempt against the now 21-year old woman that spurred women across the island into action. Within a day of the verdict, solidarity rallies with the complainant had been organised across the island of Ireland; outside the court in Belfast and in the cities of Derry, Galway, Dublin, Cork and Limerick. The hashtag #Ibelieveher was widely shared on social media.

A crowdfunding ad was taken out appealing to Ulster and Irish rugby teams to cancel the contracts of the players involved, on the grounds that their misogynistic messages meant they should no longer represent their country or province and could no longer act as role-models to young people.

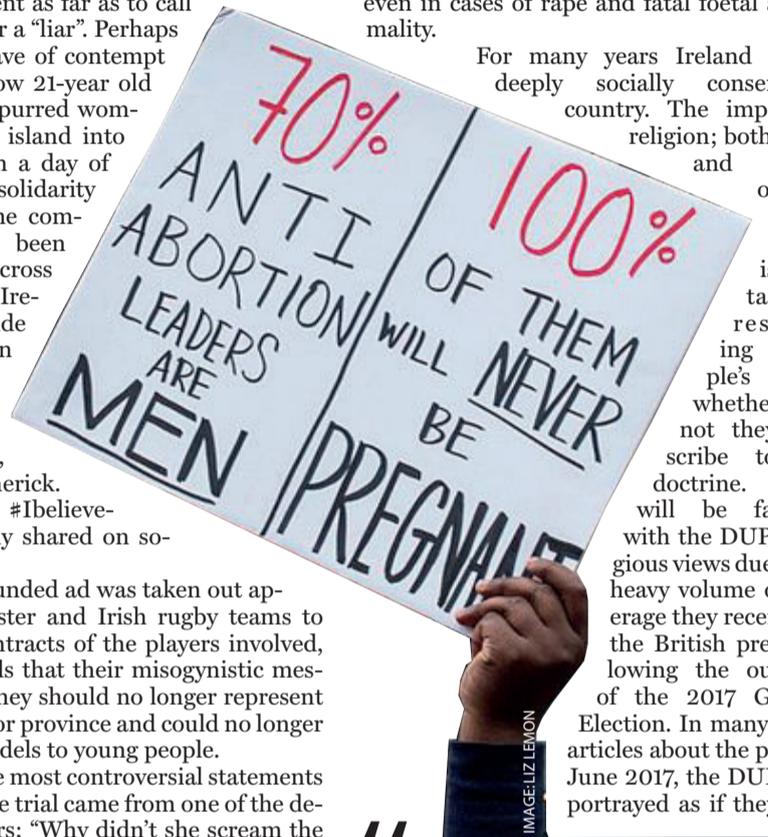
One of the most controversial statements throughout the trial came from one of the defence barristers; “Why didn’t she scream the house down?” he asked, “A lot of very middle-class girls were downstairs. They were not going to tolerate a rape or anything like that.” At one of the rallies, a woman held a sign which responded, “She ‘didn’t scream’. So we will for her”; and Irish women did just that refusing to let the issue go. Following protests and campaigning, the two players’ contracts with Ireland and Ulster were terminated.

While many feel the legal system let women down in the Belfast rape trial, female solidarity means that the normalisation of chauvinistic “lads’ culture” is finally being challenged.

We can celebrate small successes; however, there is still much to be done on the island of Ireland. The ripples of impact created by the Belfast rape trial are still being felt but Irish feminists will have no respite after what was for many a difficult few months mitigating the damage of the result. On 25 May, there will be a referendum on whether to repeal

the Eighth Amendment of the Irish constitution. The Eighth Amendment grants both the woman and the foetus equal rights in Irish law. In practice, this makes abortion almost completely illegal in the Republic of Ireland, even in cases of rape and fatal foetal abnormality.

For many years Ireland was a deeply socially conservative country. The impact of religion; both north and south of the border is still tangibly restricting people’s lives, whether or not they prescribe to the doctrine. Many will be familiar with the DUP’s religious views due to the heavy volume of coverage they received in the British press following the outcome of the 2017 General Election. In many of the articles about the party in June 2017, the DUP were portrayed as if they were



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It seems that while a border divides the island of Ireland, it is united by the refusal to trust women

modern-day flat-earthers, an almost laughable bunch of Bible-bashers. Yet, what was forgotten is that the DUP are not simply the laughable allies of Theresa May, but a governing party of Northern Ireland, whose religious fundamentalism heavily impacts the laws of the land. Women in the north of Ireland, like those in the south, are prevented by the law from obtaining abortions. These women are not laughing at the DUP. The Prime Minister’s actions in forming a pact with the DUP legitimises them and their misogynist and homophobic attitudes which have a direct impact on some many British residents in Northern Ireland.

It would be remiss to contribute NI’s abortion policy solely to the DUP. Ironically, a significant proportion of Catholics are united with their traditional Protestant rivals on their determination to prevent women from having choice. It seems that while a border divides Ireland, it is united by the refusal to trust women with their own bodies.

Both the north and south of Ireland have been slow to liberalise socially. In the Repub-



IMAGE: WILLIAM MURPHY

IMAGE: LIZ LEMON

lic of Ireland; contraception only became legal in 1980, divorce was relatively recently legalised in 1995, and homosexual activity decriminalised in 1993. In NI; same-sex couples still cannot legally get married, despite legalisation in the rest of Britain and the south of Ireland. The Eighth Amendment, which criminalises abortions, was introduced into the Irish constitution in 1983 following a referendum in which almost 67 per cent of voters approved the move.

Of course, while abortion is illegal in all of Ireland, this does not mean that women are not having terminations. Women desperate to regain agency over their own bodies are making lonely journeys to Great Britain to obtain abortions. An average of 11 women a day board a flight or take a ferry in order to obtain the procedure and shockingly, it is perfectly legal under the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland's laws to do so. We are not preventing Irish women from having abortions; rather the message that is being sent out is simply "not on my doorstep".

Abortion is not a pleasant topic; it's easy to see why many are emotive about it. In an ideal world, no-one would have to have a termination, the same way in an ideal world no-one would need any serious medical procedure. The refusal to grant Northern Irish and Irish women abortions in their home countries is not a moral standpoint, otherwise travel would be made more difficult, it is a decision to defer the uncomfortable topic that amounts to nothing more than cowardice. What many forget is that you can be personally against having an abortion, but also for others having a choice; the two are not mutually exclusive. Until relatively recently abortion was a taboo subject in Irish politics politicians deeming it too controversial to legislate on, perhaps afraid of retaliation from the Catholic Church who still hold much sway over sections of Irish society. This fear of electoral retribution over abortion has cost lives.

Savita Halappanavar was a 31-year-old dentist who found out she was pregnant in August 2012; a very much wanted first pregnancy. Up until 17 weeks, apart from some mild back pain, everything appeared normal with no risk factors to suggest any danger with the pregnancy. Then, on 21 October, she and her husband Praveen arrived at University Hospital Galway with intermittent lower back pain. Savita left the hospital having received a treatment plan for back pain only to return later that day crying as she believing herself to be miscarrying; midwives and doctors at the hospital confirmed that miscarriage was



IMAGE: HANNAH VICKERS

almost inevitable. Savita was in unbearable pain and highly distressed. At this point Savita and her husband asked for a termination, the hospital said they couldn't: the foetus still had a heartbeat: Naveen Halappanavar said it was explained to them (who was originally from India) by a midwife that Ireland was a "Catholic country". Seven days after she had begun to miscarry, Savita died from cardiac arrest. Savita's life could have been saved if she was granted a termination.

The tragedy of Savita's death rocked the nation and beyond. The headline of the story on the Indian Times website was "Ireland Murders Pregnant Indian Dentist". Many were deeply moved by the untimely death of a young woman which could have been prevented. The Irish government had not legislated on the X Case, while in 1992 the Supreme Court had found that abortion is permitted in Ireland under the Constitution in circumstances where there is a real and substantial risk to the life of the mother. It took over two decades and a highly publicised death

for any legislation to be made on the matter, with the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act having been introduced into law in 2013.

Savita's legacy does not end with this one Act, rather, her tragic death mobilised and inspired activism which created the momentum to facilitate the upcoming referendum. For many across Ireland, Savita symbolised all the women who had been affected by abortion law. Savita's family raised awareness after her death, they contacted pro-choice organisations in Galway who in turn contacted the press however, the tragic truth is, there are countless more Savitas whose stories have not been heard. This was echoed in the placards bearing Savita's image at vigils and protests following her death, which read "Never again".

The Irish government was forced into action following the outcry over Savita's death. Pro-choice individuals made sure abortion could no longer be pushed to the back of the agenda. We are now in a position where the majority of Irish government ministers support the "Yes" position (to repeal the Eighth Amendment), including Irish PM Leo Varadkar. While the outcome of the referendum is still to be determined and the result will no doubt be close, even the fact that there's going

to be a vote is remarkable given the "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil" approach of the government just a few short years prior.

Women are entitled to control over their own bodies, it is not just women who have health complications that ought to be allowed terminations. Women have been criminalised for making decisions about their own bodies. Laws in Ireland most keenly affect the vulnerable; for example, those unable to afford the trip to England. In 2016, a woman in Northern Ireland received a suspended prison sentence after she took an abortion pill: a 19 year-old who had desperately purchased the treatment having been unable to raise the money to travel to England. She induced a miscarriage at home alone with no medical supervision and was forced to dispose of the foetus in a bin. Following this potentially dangerous and undignified procedure, she had to endure police interviews and a court date where she received a 13-months suspended sentence. Despite being in the UK she was criminalised for something which

is completely legal everywhere else in Britain. Northern Irish and Irish women deserve better than this.

The testimonies of women who have suffered under our abortion laws move us towards action with countless stories of the distress the Eighth Amendment and Northern Ireland's outdated abortion legislation have caused to women. The referendum did not come about overnight, it is the result of tireless campaigning across Ireland.

The pro-choice side faces an uphill battle to win a "Yes" vote; the Irish Eighth Amendment has attracted international attention from religious individuals who see Ireland as the last bastion of pro-life laws in the Western world. The 'Save the 8th' campaign has employed Thomas Borwick, who was chief technology officer of the Vote Leave campaign in the run-up to the Brexit referendum. No matter how deeply pro-choice one is, it is easy to see why abortion stirs up such deep fear in people. Yet, much of this fear could be mitigated if we simply trusted women. One of the most common pro-life arguments is that women will start using terminations as if it were a method of contraception. This argument underestimates and infantilises women by insinuating they cannot make responsible decisions about their own bodies.



IMAGE: WILLIAM MURPHY

The refusal to recognise women's autonomous selves is what draws the cases of rape culture and the abortion discourse together. Women are objectified either as vessels for pregnancy or as sexual objects, depending on what fits the narrative best.

These are attitudes that have existed in Ireland (and in almost every other country). As far back as history goes, women have been subjugated. The ingrained misogyny of society has been left largely unchallenged by mainstream politicians who are happy to let the status quo stand so long as they don't lose power. Our society is still male-dominated, stifling progress at all levels. In Northern Ireland the aftermath of "the Troubles" conflict is largely dominated by the stereotypical "old, white men". I spoke to prominent Northern Irish feminist Dr Sophie Long about this, and she noted that "the gendered nature of war and the equally gendered 'peace' which NI has experienced centres forms of politics which can dampen hope and seemingly reduce the possibility of meaningful cooperation. We are confronted with a two-community model, led by men, which is locked into place (the place being the past) and willing to sacrifice itself to hinder the flourishing of the 'other'."

Every tale of women's hardship caused by the ingrained misogyny of our land empowers us to fight against it



Change in Ireland and Northern Ireland is not coming from the establishment. Instead the march towards an island free from misogyny is led by ordinary women. These women are spurred on by the stories of others; tales of women who have been labelled "sluts" after they made rape allegations or who have had to travel to another country to obtain healthcare. We are all these women, and every tale of women's hardship caused by the ingrained misogyny of our land empowers us to fight against it. Dr Long insists that women are the way forward in Ireland, north and south, "the relationships which have been forged by women from the island of Ireland, who together are applying class and feminist lenses to contemporary problems, are where hope lies for all of us. The potential for alternative ways of thinking about the place we come from and how we might be able to live lies within the feminist movements of Northern Ireland. Solidarity among sisters is where we should look to; no freedom without women.

"Ireland's record on misogyny is shameful; a book could be written on the experiences of Irish women as second-class citizens. However, as an Irishwoman from Northern Ireland, I am not ashamed of my country. Misogyny taints societies globally, while in Ireland there are still unusually oppressive legal restrictions on women's bodily autonomy, the kind of objectification of women that riddled the rape case exists almost everywhere. Instead of being ashamed, I am proud of the women who will no longer allow misogyny on our island to be swept under the carpet. The battle is by no means won. However. The tide is turning in favour of the women across Ireland who have mobilised to fight against their status as second-class citizens. M



IMAGE: VANESSA IFEDIORA

TURNING THE LIGHTS OFF ON THE WEST END

CHARLIE RALPH EXPLAINS HOW NEW EU REGULATIONS ON LIGHTING MAY SPELL THE END OF THE CURRENT THEATRE INDUSTRY

It is one of the oft-ignored elements that make up a visit to the theatre, but theatrical lighting is crucial not only from a literal perspective (as most theatrical works require the audience to see the performers) but also from an artistic one. Whether it is a grand theatre illuminating an entirely imaginary universe or just four white lights in a black box, lighting tells a story in a way that narrative cannot. It is therefore tragic for more reasons than one that proposed EU regulations planned for September 2020 will render existing stage lighting equipment obsolete and unsustainable, potentially leading to circumstances as catastrophic as the closure of most theatrical venues in the UK.

The National Theatre are one of the many theatres lobbying behind a campaign to help "Save Stage Lighting" by protesting the implementation of these new regulations. Citing recent, hugely popular productions such as *War Horse*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and *Angels in America*, The

National Theatre state that "there is no existing equipment that could create any of the images you are familiar with from these productions that would be allowed under EU legislation". They then go on to say that viable replacements for the lighting required for these shows do not currently exist and even if they did, "theatres across the country would soon need to replace the vast majority of existing lamps, dimming and control infrastructure. Initial projections estimated this cost at over £1.25 billion". While theatres such as those run by The National Theatre can barely afford this, it would be an even more catastrophic cost for smaller, independent venues.

There is an undoubted environmental benefit to these new restrictions, hence their impending implementation, but theatre makers and venue managers state that they are already doing as much as they can to balance energy efficiency and artistic quality, using a mixed palette of the inefficient tungsten lights and the lower quality, but usually more en-

ergy-efficient LED lights. Many theatres tout their ethical goals and environmental sustainability targets as being something they are very proud of and care deeply about, but this new ruling seems to be a step too far for the entire industry.

The planned lighting laws, limiting lights to 85 lumens per watt with a maximum standby power of 0.5W, are already in place in many domestic and industrial settings. However, up until now EU law has exempted stage lighting from these regulations. As of 2020 though, the plan is for this to change. Award-winning British lighting designer Tm Routledge wrote in *The Guardian* that "pretty much every single tool we use as lighting designers will be rendered obsolete by these rules", noting that not only will theatrical endeavours be affected but also music venues, festivals and touring concert productions. For example, Beyoncé's much-heralded recent Coachella performance would be very different if it took place in 2021 as almost none of

the technical feats present in the show would be possible under these regulations and even those that were would be unwatchable to a live audience thanks to poor lighting quality. The National Theatre make the persuasive argument that "any power savings that could be achieved will likely be far outweighed by the scrap created and the energy required to manufacture and distribute new fixtures" and according to a 2014 study, only 5 per cent of a theatre's total power consumption is accounted for by stage lighting. Theatres and artists are rightfully going after this proposed legislation with all they have as its implementation could very well mean the end of their industry in no small terms. The suggested method for protesting these lighting regulations is usage of the hashtag '#savestagelighting' on social media. If you want to get involved and preserve not only the artistic merit of most stage productions, but also the existence of smaller theatres and music venues, visit @savestagelighting for more information on how to help.



IMAGE: EVA RINALDI

BRING BACK THE BARD: SHAKING UP SHAKESPEARE

STELLA NEWING ANALYSES THE RECENT LAPSE IN SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTIONS OF SHAKESPEARE'S GREATEST WORKS

I recently had the privilege of watching the Royal Shakespeare Company's most recent production of *Macbeth* in Stratford, directed by Polly Findlay, with Christopher Eccleston and Niamh Cusack in the leading roles. It was an engaging, innovative and sharp staging of one of the Bard's most popular plays. Taking place in the 21st century, the set had the appearance of a psychiatrist's waiting room, complete with water coolers, plastic chairs, and grubby carpeted floors. The witches are played by eight-year-old girls, clutching dolls, and Eccleston, in black beanie and fatigues, transfers the deeply complex masculinity of Macbeth into the character of a modern-day soldier with a refreshingly jocular swagger.

But apparently not everyone saw the same performance as me. The reviews of this latest production were overwhelmingly underwhelming, a smattering of three stars with occasional downright dislike across all major newspaper and online reviews. And it's not just Findlay's version that's been falling flat with the critics. Rufus Norris's *Macbeth*, currently being shown at the National Theatre, attempted another nuanced 21st century interpretation, set in a country torn apart by civil war. This earned him even more derisive comments than Findlay, with critics lamenting the fact that the savage urban-ness completely missed the poetry of the script.

It led me to wonder, why are current Shakespeare stagings failing to hit the mark?

A brief look back at various archives of reviews for the last few years points to a notable lack of productions that are hitting the critical sweet spot. The Globe's 2017 *Romeo and Juliet* and the Rose Theatre's *Much Ado About Nothing* (set in a Sicilian spa) had a distinctly lukewarm reception.

Sure, the critics don't know everything, and I'm certain you'd be able to find a lot of audience members with wonderful things to say about what they watched. But, at the end of the day, a Shakespeare play featuring big names and big venues will be looking for acclaim and appreciation within the industry, as well as ticket sales.

Perhaps the increasing scale of theatre production plays a part. It would probably be impossible to count the number of Shakespearean performances that are staged in the UK every year, let alone worldwide. In reality, there's not a whole lot of point putting one on if you're not going to test the boundaries, turn heads and do something a little bit exciting. It could be an unexpected setting, a shift of focus on the lead character, or something original with the sound and lighting; the point is that no one's going to pay upwards of fifty pounds to watch something that they already saw in 1974.

So it might be inevitable that this need for adventurousness from directors becomes over-egged, resulting in some attempts that turn heads slightly too far. It must make it difficult for reviewers as well; the sheer volume

of performances, each needing something distinctive said about them, has sharpened our cultural awareness and taste. Maybe we're a more cut-throat audience these days.

It can't be the case that we've hit a Shakespearean stalemate, can it? I hope not, and, to be honest, I really don't think so. In among the supposedly lacklustre high-profile performances there are still many absolute gems. BBC 2 recently streamed the Almeida's *Hamlet*, in which Andrew Scott delivered a breathtaking performance of the famous soliloquy. But where has the gold dust Shakespeare gone, the next generation of Ian McKellen and Kenneth Branagh? Or maybe they're out there, being ridiculed by a snotty critic who took offense to Mercutio using a mobile phone.

While I'm a huge supporter of a fresh take on a Shakespeare play, even I can admit that there are some changes which go too far. The Globe's production of *Much Ado About Nothing* last year raised critical eyebrows when they swapped the line "You always end with a jade's trick" for "You always end too soon". The overt allusion to Benedict's performance in bed was greeted with hilarity from the audience.

Call me a purist, but I'm wary of butchering the text too much, for the sake of a more accessible laugh. The beauty of Shakespeare is its relevance for any period, whether it's the battle of the sexes in *Much Ado* or the political

turmoil and mistrust of *Julius Caesar*. There's really no need to pre-empt an audience's intelligence levels by adapting the script to a modern speech.

I still haven't figured out what the answer is to the problem of the current culture of underappreciated (or justifiably criticised) Shakespeare. This wasn't meant to be a suggestion that the theatre's in a state of disarray; as I hope there always will be, there are stellar performances of the nation's most treasured plays every year.

I think what I'm trying to say is that the latest wash of criti-

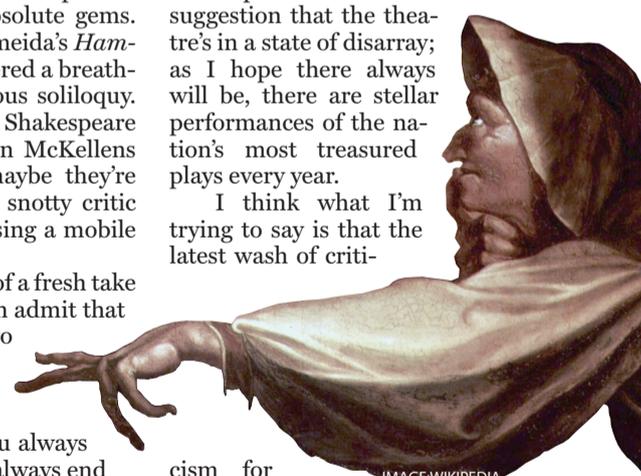


IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA

cism for the larger scale performances shouldn't detract from the eternal pertinence of these plays and that quirky new interpretations are part and parcel of the rich production history. Long story short, bring on the weird and wonderful adaptations, and take the reviews with a pinch of salt.

ART AND THE EXPOSURE OF FEAR

ROSEMARY EVANS ASKS WHETHER ARTS AND POPULAR CULTURE CAN TELL US WHAT LIES WITHIN OUR COLLECTIVE SUBCONSCIOUS



Freud's theories of psychological repression are among his most famous, and while there is some debate about the validity of his more controversial ideas about castration complexes and oedipal desires, most people can agree he was onto something when he argued that we repress the things that are bothering us, squashing them into our subconscious so we can delay properly confronting them. Freud was also right when he argued that despite being expelled from the conscious mind, those fears and anxieties don't go away completely – they bubble away in the subconscious and manifest themselves in subtle but telling ways. What is interesting is that this phenomenon may not just apply to individuals, but to society as a whole.

An exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in London this spring brings together the work of four influential photographers of

As symbols of purity, children are the antithesis of what was most disturbing to Victorian society

the Victorian era: Julia Margaret Cameron, Lewis Carroll, Oscar Rejlander and Clementina Hawarden. Taking in this selection of magnificent portraits – examples of art photography in its adolescence – what was striking to me was not the distinctive artistic style of each of the photographers, but the fact that, overwhelmingly, all four of them focused on the same subject. In between the odd portrait of Charles Darwin or Alfred Tennyson looking fabulously bearded and imposing, almost every photograph featured the same thing: children. Carroll obsesses over the frame of a small boy sitting in a chair, while Cameron produces photo after photo of young girls dressed in white staring abstractedly into the

camera. Given that this era saw the dawn of photography as a major medium of Victorian 'popular culture', the centrality of children as a focus is significant not only in that they are clearly a serious preoccupation of the artists, but a serious preoccupation for society too.

Initially, the idea of children as a Victorian obsession seems confusing – weren't the Victorians famous for forcing children to risk their limbs sweeping chimneys and chop off their fingers using industrial machines? It seems strange that a society with such obvious disregard for children's safety or quality of life should make them the focus of popular art. This is where Freud comes in, because once we've dived into the subconscious of the Victorians, it all makes sense: Cameron and Carroll take photos of children because, as symbols of purity and innocence, children are the antithesis of what was most disturbing to Victorian society – its corruption and ruin in the wake of mass industrialisation. Essentially, children were an escape.

As the idyllic, pastoral England of the 18th century was rapidly swept away by the urbanised, mass-industrialised world of the 19th century, anxiety about its ruinous effect on society dominated popular thought. Such changes, and the smoke and dirt and urban filth they brought with them, were seen not only as a threat to England's natural beauty, but as prompting a moral decline that would cause irrevocable damage to the fabric of society. The structure of new industrial cities facilitated higher rates of crime, prostitution and poverty, creating an impression of urban settings as centres of depravity and immorality. As William Blake despairs in his 1804 poem *Jerusalem*, what hope was there of constructing religious paradise among the "dark satanic mills" of industrial society? For the public who received these photographs for the first time, the world was a place of danger and increasing corruption. The Victorians wanted to look at images of purity because the world in which they lived was becoming so upsettingly impure.

If we see arts and popular culture as a form of Freudian escapism from contemporary anxieties – as a reflection of our collective subconscious – we can apply this theory to modern society to see what our anxieties

might be. So take a seat, grab a tissue (unearthing repressed anxiety is, as Freud tells us, inevitably upsetting): it's time to psychoanalyse the society of 2018.

Before we even attempt to identify exactly what's buried in our subconscious, and what it is we're trying to escape from, the predomi-

In the modern world, there isn't really any room for fantasy

nance of fantasy in arts and popular culture might tell us we're pretty big fans of escapism. The incredible success of the Harry Potter franchise among both children and adults and the way it occupies a huge section of popular culture is a prime example of this, as is the unrivalled popularity of Marvel films. The fiction and film that we love most is that which situates us in fantasy worlds deliberately different from our own. Reading about wizards and watching films about superheroes certainly suggests a reluctance to engage with the real world; perhaps it suggests an impulsive need to escape from it.

The predominance of fantasy in popular culture and the suspension of scientific fact that this genre necessitates might also hint at our subconscious frustration with a world in which we have all the answers. The digital, post-Enlightenment age gives us constant, unchallenged access to virtually every crumb of information we could possibly need. The internet, and the swathes of research evidence and news reports it can instantly serve up to you, has the answer to pretty much any question you could possibly want to ask. We know why the sky is blue, and why time travel is impossible, and why magic (probably) isn't real. In the modern world, (as much as the conspiracy theorists might try to find space for it) there isn't really any room for fantasy. However, perhaps our penchant for the fantasy genre (not to mention conspiracy theories) suggests

that however useful all that information is to us, we savour a bit of incredibility. We want access to worlds where the facts that demystify the universe do not apply, and we want to believe that wizards or superheroes (or UFOs) might be buried somewhere in this painfully rational world. Perhaps this doesn't count as a collective societal anxiety, but Freud might call it a subconscious frustration.

What could arguably lead us to a more poignant example of our collective anxiety is the centrality of nature in popular culture. Perhaps everyone's obsession with *Blue Planet* stemmed not only from the universal adoration of David Attenborough, but from our desire to escape from the unnatural, polluted, socially complicated world of people and find solace in footage of pretty fish that belong to the untouched, simpler, natural world. While modern disapproval of the planet's 'corruption' is more environmental than religious in its origins, we aren't unlike the Victorians in our anxieties about the damage that human progress is doing to the world. Fears about the environment and the seemingly ceaseless conflict characteristic of human society are everywhere. The only way we can escape them without turning to fantasy is to turn to the natural world. Maybe *Blue Planet* as a solace of escapism betrayed us when David Attenborough started confrontationally telling us about the devastating impact of plastic on the planet's aquatic habitats. Maybe that's why the impact of that episode on environmental campaigning was so great – the mind is most likely to have its anxieties brought to the surface when, safe and content watching its footage of pretty fish, it thinks it's safe to stop repressing them and it is caught off-guard.

Perhaps it's going too far to say that our obsession with *Bake Off* (and cookery programmes in general), comes from our unease with the idea of food. Although given we find ourselves in a culture of food fads and constant news reports detailing how most of what we eat leads to heart disease or obesity or cancer, is it any wonder we distract ourselves from the pressing fear of filling our bodies with carcinogenic, nutrition-less (but really tasty) garbage by watching Paul Hollywood eat lots and lots of cake while we munch on spinach leaves?

ABBASOLUTELY OBSESSED

EMILY TAYLOR CLAIMS THAT SHE DOESN'T HAVE AN UNHEALTHY ADDICTION TO ABBA, SHE HAS IT ALL UNDER CONTROL, HONEST. BUT NOW THEY'RE BACK

Who found out that nothing can capture a heart like a melody can? My answer to this question is ABBA and well, whoever it was, I'm a fan. On 27 April they returned. People said I was foolish but I believed in them and after 35 years they have returned to bless us mere mortals with their talents with two new songs. But the truth is ABBA never left us. I mean this quite literally, *ABBA Gold* is enjoying its 834th week in the album charts. It has beaten *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* and is now enjoying second place as a best selling album in the UK, only behind *Queen's Greatest Hits*. *ABBA*, *Queen* and *The Beatles* are simply omnipresent acts. At birth you already know the lyrics to 'Dancing Queen' and 'Bohemian Rhapsody', it's now encoded into our DNA. If I meet anyone who doesn't know a song by these artists then I will take that as evidence for extra-terrestrial life, for only living in another galaxy is a good enough excuse for not knowing who ABBA is.

Despite all this ABBA are still treated mostly like a joke. They're 'guilty pleasure' music and not worthy of serious thought - unlike the 'magnificence' of The Beatles and Queen. Don't get me wrong, I love both The Beatles and Queen. But they are no ABBA. I get it, I'm possessive, it isn't nice. But ABBA deserve so much more respect than they currently get. Maybe it's because of their disco roots, or their Swedishness or their questionable fashion choices, but for what ever reason they've been wrongly maligned. This goes from the very beginning of their career. Despite being the definitive act to come out of Eurovision they were in fact rejected from the competition in 1973 with their Swedish no.1 'Ring Ring', an upbeat little pop gem about a girl waiting at a phone for her lover to call. Maybe this song was just too frivolous for the serious institution that is the Eurovision song contest. So next year they came back with another love song, but this time the woman is comparing her love to the 1815 Battle of Waterloo. It has since been voted the best song in the competition's history.

They were an overnight phenomenon in Europe, but it took them a while to break through in the States. But did you think the feeble United States of America could defeat the beast that are ABBA? No, they soon surrendered to the might that is ABBA with their little-known hit 'Dancing Queen', which may also just be one of the greatest songs ever created. You may argue that it's overplayed but can a party truly be viewed as a good party if 'Dancing Queen' is not played? The answer is no; it would be a very bad party. From the rolling piano notes and the angelic sounding synth that opens the song, everyone in the room is suddenly on the same page. Then it rockets straight into the chorus 'You can dance, and to this song it's impossible to do anything else. The titular Dancing Queen isn't the singer of the song but someone who the singer has seen on the dance floor, but for four glorious minutes every person listening can become the Dancing Queen, young and sweet, only seventeen. It's the perfect mix of a celebration for the freedom that youth allows and the wistful nostalgia of looking at others having the time of their lives. Just feel the beat from that tambourine.

The complexities and depths of

ABBA songs are incredible but in their music it comes across as so effortless. Snobbish fans seem to equate pop music to dumb music but a perfectly fine-tuned pop song is a precise and carefully engineered thing that if done successfully, can capture the attentions of millions of people (without sounding like you're trying). ABBA's sound is something that was built in the studio, to the extent that over the ten years they were together they only toured for a total of three months. Benny and Bjorn were perfectionists in the studio and their sound was nigh impossible to recreate live. Though ABBA's success is very much based on the talents of its members, credit also has to go the band's sound director Michael B. Tretow who, using a style inspired by Phil Spector's Wall of Sound, created the complex arrangements that made the grandi-

I love both The Beatles and Queen. But they are no ABBA

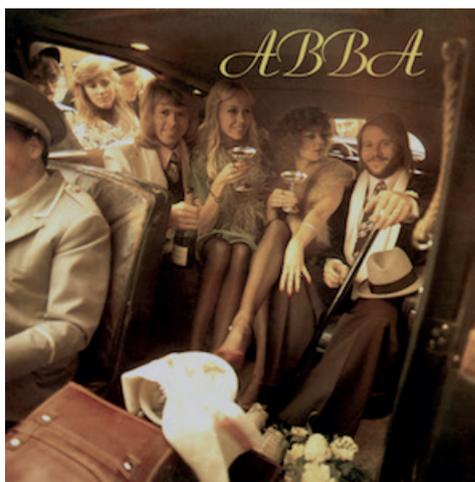
use and rich sound they're known for. ABBA show that pop music can pack a punch just as much as any rock artist. They conquered the world through their music and also their music videos. Their videos now do seem adorably dated, case in point, check out Anni-Frida's costume at the end of the 'Head Over Heels' music video that I can only describe as beautiful golden tinfoil complete with a mullet (oh 80s fashion). But their director used a visual style inspired by the stark stylising of famed film director Ingmar Bergman - this minimalistic approach focusing on the faces of the band members helps to humanise their complex arrangements and emphasise the emotions behind the songs.

Musically they were up to date with the times moving from the groovy disco popular in the 70s to the more synth-laden 80s with ease. But one of the things that makes ABBA so timeless is the emotional heft and vulnerability that lives in their music. They were emotionally raw in a way that few acts have ever been but presented in a pristine

pop package. Their lives, and more particularly their relationships, drove the music they created. Despite their music being embraced by the LGBTQ+ community ABBA exist in a space I would label as 'I can't believe they're not gay'. Though they seem to be greatly bemused by their acceptance into the community. Rather they are famously made up of two couples whose love, marriages and break-up are charted through the music they make. Their last album and utter masterpiece, *The Visitors*, was made in the wake of Benny and Frida's separation. It's darker than most of their previous work and lyrically complex - spinning themes of lost love with Cold War isolation and paranoia. Memories, good days, bad days, they would confess all and audiences emphasised with the heartache as well as the joy that the band could truthfully convey.

But now they're back and you'll be dancing once again. But with the new songs there's now a sense of expectation hanging in the air. What on earth will they sound like? An attempt to recapture their old sound or will it be something completely different? All the members still speak of ABBA with fondness and it seems to be a project made out of love not a cash-grab (mostly cause they're rich enough already). But whatever they create they can't tarnish their reputation; they've brought joy to millions over decades whether people would care to admit they like ABBA or not. But without a song or a dance what are we? It almost doesn't matter that they aren't taken seriously. ABBA have no interest in cool; coolness has always contained aloofness and a certain amount of ironic detachment. 'Punks don't care about nothing man!'

But you would never catch one in a flared fluorescent jumpsuit. ABBA are so sincere in their sparkly outfits its almost painful and that's why they are so utterly fantastic. In a pop-scene so dominated by image it's good to see sincerity and good-natured music triumph over decades. "You may think that a grown-up woman should never fall so easily" but ABBA are just that good. There will never be another ABBA. Maybe next time you hear an ABBA song listen to the beautiful orchestration or the emotive lyrics. Or just forget all that and mindlessly dance along; it's what ABBA would have wanted. Well there's nothing more to say, no more ace to play, let the music speak for itself. So thank you ABBA, thanks for all your generous love and thanks for all the fun. M



BOYS BY GIRLS: EXPLORING BOYHOOD

OSCAR BENTLEY UNRAVELS 'BOYS BY GIRLS', THE BIENNIAL MAGAZINE THAT DEPICTS BOYS THROUGH THE FEMALE GAZE

Boys by Girls is a fashion magazine like no other. Edited by photographer Cecilie Harris, it publishes on a biannual basis, alongside a constant stream of shoots appearing on their Instagram feed, which has amassed some 100 000 followers.

While ostensibly *Boys by Girls* may appear to be a menswear magazine to the unassuming eye, it is so much more than that. All of the models are boys – not men, that's an important factor, with Harris stating: "There is something so magic about the teenager. They have it. We lost it. Capturing it in images is why we shoot." Moreover all of the photographers, led by Harris herself, are girls.

Boys by Girls takes a deep dive into masculinity, exploring what it means to be the modern man. Gone are the perfect-bodied models of the mainstream fashion industry, and gone is the toxic masculinity that grips onto society and culture. What remains is a raw image of what it means to be a man – in fact, a more accurate summary is that it presents a raw image of what it should be to be a man. There's a vulnerability and

quietness to the masculinity on display here.

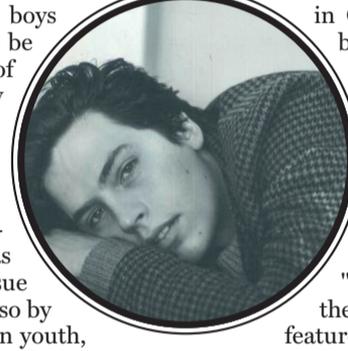
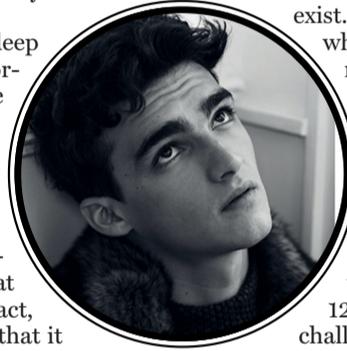
And sorry, not a man actually – a boy. That's why *Boys by Girls* is boys, and not men. As mentioned earlier, Harris says it is because the teenager holds something magical; their growing up, coming of age, and maturing into men.

But the focus on boys and boyhood here is, in my opinion, because the magazine wants to look to the future of gender. In their shoots, gender norms cease to exist. These are the boys who will one day be men (some of them already technically are; despite the baby face, actor Thomas Brodie Sangster as featured in Issue 12 is actually 27), so by challenging gender in youth, perhaps it's an attempt to counteract a culture of toxic masculinity from continu-

ing. Consequently perhaps this is why it's by girls: the female gender taking a small step to tackle what they want men to be, and also what they want the fashion industry to become. These girls are not going to be voyeuristically shot by the male photographer, but take an active role in shaping their industry through their own lens.

Each shoot has a story to it – their website describes their shoots as a balance between fashion, art, and documentary – ranging from growing up, to political activism, to equal love, to self-acceptance – each dressed in fashion's latest threads. Take the 'Brotherhood' editorial they published back in October – which looks at the brotherhood felt by boys united by friendship, and not by blood. The editorial describes the photographer's intention to have the boys "clash with tradition", letting them explore their youth in a documentary fashion: no cage imposed upon them, but an "invisible rope that unite[s] them." In addition, each issue features multiple covers: one with a talent, and one which focuses on fashion, with Issue 13, 'Tales of a New Generation',

being the most recent instalment. The issue focuses on the challenges that face Generation Z in a world of social media and "being able to find peace of mind, for all of us, in a very noisy world", and which lands Riverdale actor Cole Sprouse on the talent cover. And while there are interviews with talent, the real insight comes from the pictures, offering a unique perspective. The future of masculinity no longer resides in the hands of the man – it's been claimed by the girl.

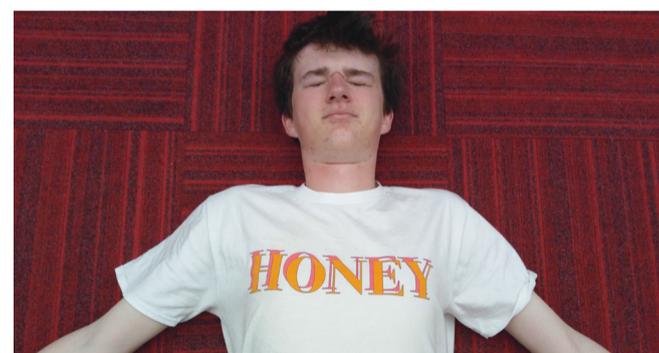


BOYS BY GIRLS



GIVE ME HONEY: BUILDING A BRAND ON CAMPUS

PETER JACOBS CHATS TO TOBY WILLIS ABOUT THE CREATIVE PROCESS IN FASHION DESIGN



There's something awfully exciting about young people making stuff. I find that when young people are creating, when they are moving in the world, it just feels so raw and fresh in a really powerful way. I think the key to this is the potential that young people have to become the heroes of tomorrow. In terms of what they're creating, it can be anything; an essay, a painting, a poem, a papier-mache sculpture, or even a t-shirt.

Toby Willis is one such guy. He's an archaeology student in James College. But alongside this course, he's decided to do something more; he's decided to create a t-shirt brand called 'HONEY.' In explaining why he came to create a brand of his own, he said "I guess I've got an interest in fashion, and t-shirts are something that everyone wears." So the message here is one



of mass appeal. Toby feels that producing an authentic t shirt brand is worthwhile because everyone wears them, clearly the kid has money on his mind.

He said that being a student, money can be a rough ride and so if he can produce a brand that people enjoy and make some money at the same time, then that's a win win.

In terms of the brand itself, I think HONEY is a really interesting one. Toby described it as "sweet and colourful." The sound of it is quite soft." But I



think the key to this word choice is its simplicity. We live in an age where clarity and ease of access is everything and so one word catch-all phrases are ideal. Think Apple, think Facebook, and very soon think HONEY.

That's not to say there's a kind of deep message behind this creative project. Toby said that at the moment he's just enjoying the creative process for its own sake, but that in the future it would be good to gain a deeper meaning to the work. "I was trying to think of issues in the world and

maybe I can do a protest design." What I like about Toby is his honesty. He's not claiming to have stumbled upon enlightenment in the process of making these shirts, just that he's a guy looking to express himself to the world through this artistic process and that's cracklakin.

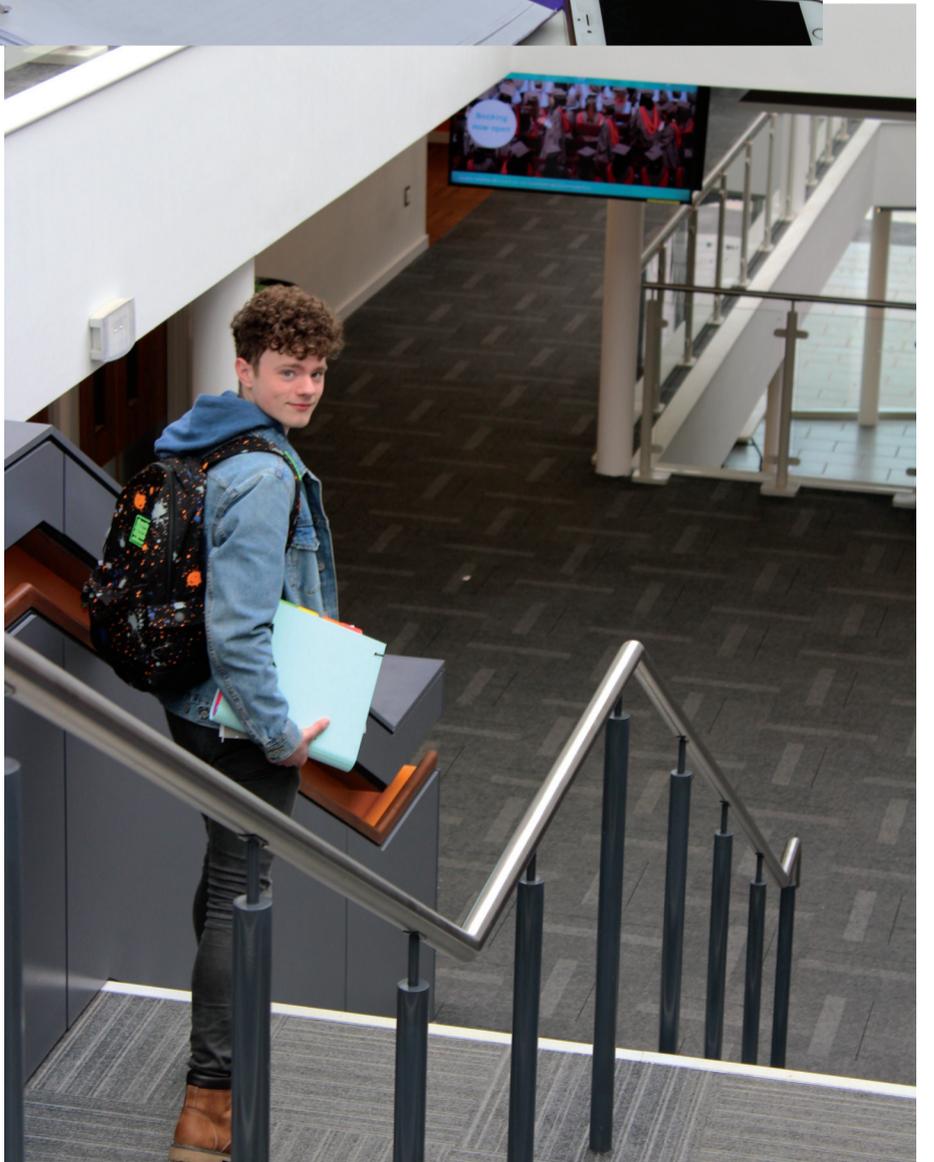
It's great to see young people thinking hard about the clothes they wear and the extent to which they could do better. That engagement with society is what university is all about, not conforming to the world but reforming it to our own fresh ideals. Toby is doing that in a fresh and dynamic way and it's great to see. It's a privilege to meet with these creatives, engaging with the world around them. I think the message that Toby and others bear is that if you see a problem, change it, and make a thing of beauty.



Shoot Editors: Daisy Wallis and Lily Abel



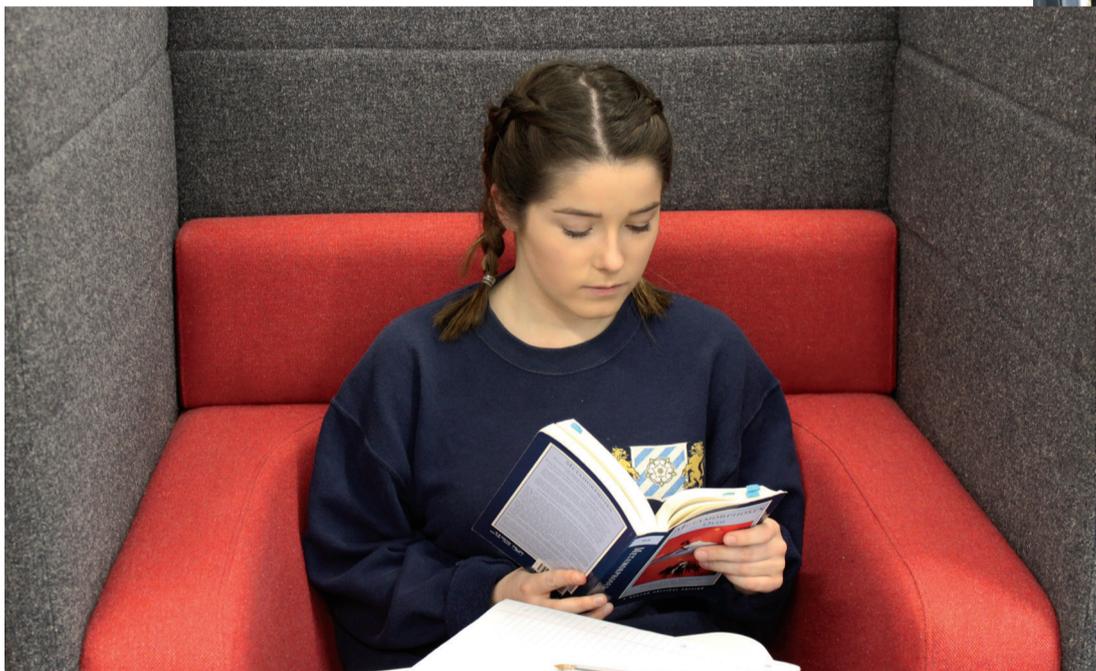
Models:
Amelie Rothwell
James David
Stella Newing



The Breakfast Club



As the dreaded exam season hits, we set out to campus on a Saturday morning to capture revision fashion at its finest. Comfort is clearly key.



DO BREAK-UPS MAKE FOR BETTER MUSIC?

BETH COLQUHOUN EXPLORES THE WEEKND'S BREAKUP WITH SELENA GOMEZ AND HIS NEW EP

It is not a shock that 'love' is the number one topic for writing songs. Its journey possesses a wide spectrum of emotions from that first brief spark to the heart wrenching end. However, which has more power over the mind, our emotions and ultimately the music scene? It could be said that a breakup is more dwelled upon and overthought than that of the rose-tinted beginnings of a relationship, with heartbreak bringing the need for an outlet to pass the lonely times, more often than not ending in sad 90s emo songs being played on a half-heartedly tuned guitar. Though, through this disastrous state sometimes something beautiful emerges and a top ten record is born.

This is nothing new to the likes of Taylor Swift, Adele, or Sam Smith whose songs famously centre on lost love and heartbreak. In fact, the more painful the heartbreak, the better the tune. We all know we would rather curl up and sing "Someone Like You" than have to boogie on down to most of the current Top 40. Yet, 2018 looks like it may just be facing its biggest breakup chart explosion since the days of Fleetwood Mac.

The breakup between musicians the Weeknd (Abel Tesfaye), and Selena Gomez hit music and gossip headlines alike, after the couple of 10 months finally called it quits.

Since the breakup, The Weeknd has

dropped a six-song album at the end of March, 'My Dear, Melancholy', teamed up with Kendrick Lamar on the 'Black Panther' soundtrack; specifically, the single "Pray For Me". Tesfaye recently continued his new single path by headlining Coachella. He also confirmed allegations that his recent tracks may contain some parallels with his recent split with Selena Gomez. His performance of "Call Out My Name" managed to pull all our heartstrings as no emotion was left unshown to the thousands of fans, including such celebrities as Justin Bieber (Selena's ex-boyfriend).

The EP album hit fans unexpectedly, following no publicity before its release except for a cryptic Instagram post, however, it did not disappoint. Although sparse, the quality of what content we got exceeded expectation, proven by reaching number one in the Billboard charts for the third time and its lead single "Call Out My Name" reaching top 20 status in the UK charts.

This lead song highlights Abel's heartbreak most distinctively, with lyrics hitting extremely close to his home affairs. Most notably the lyrics, "I almost cut a

piece of myself for your life", referring to Selena's illness when Abel apparently offered to be her kidney donor. Furthermore, the words "I was just another pit stop till you made up your mind, you just wasted my time" echo that of a broken heart. Nevertheless, Gomez's indecisiveness could be taking a hit with these lyrics as she was seen with her ex Justin Bieber following her split with Tesfaye.

“ I was just another pit stop till you made up your mind, you just wasted my time

But gossip aside, slightly, this soap opera could ultimately send The Weeknd's career skyrocketing, some saying on Twitter that he is "Doing Drake better than Drake", his former friend and the initial catalyst in Abel's music career. The EP enjoys a series of dark and sexy R&B with the jarring unfocused memories of a breakup. This is perfectly equipped by the emotional rollercoaster-fuelled lyrics, one minute being "you put my life thru hell" the next "this dick is still an option". The album is a brilliantly executed nod to his previous slow layered synth and down-tempo vibe of "Kiss Land" and "Trilogy", although now, Tesfaye has brought a new element of romantic disappointment. Consider this album as Romeo's cries to Juliet or a take on Heath Ledger's performance to Julia Stiles of Frankie Valli's "Can't Take My Eyes Off You", in "Ten Things I Hate About You".

Nevertheless, The Weeknd's heartbreak

has proved crucial in the development of this album that has had its production credits include Skrillex, French techno artist and Kanye West collaborator Gesaffelstein, plus producers and songwriters who have had their hand in the production of Beyoncé's "Formation" and Camilla Cabello's "Havana". It would seem that the emotions produced by heartbreak are just the right level to irritate the mind enough to produce the need to release it through making music. Not unsurprisingly, it would also seem that these emotions are stronger than those of the initial spark of a newly formed romance.

Yet family parties do not consist of listening to breakup songs like those by Abel and Adele and texting your ex while tears make it hard to tell what you're exactly typing. No. They entail a cheeky conga to "Come on Eileen", with that one Auntie thinking she is in fact 'the' "Dancing Queen", and, ending the night in a drunken rendition of "Hey Jude" on the dancefloor.

Surely this is more powerful than any kind of love song, though that might be the influence of alcohol. Alcohol aside, a possible reason for this influx of positive emotions could be due to the party atmosphere and the emotions reciprocated from those at the party. The emotions found in a love strong, particularly one about heartbreak, are felt alone. This being the case, it is more than likely that the song affects people as it reminds them of past events, unlike the emotions at a party that are entirely of the moment.

It is indeed the influx of emotions felt by a breakup that creates such a personal and powerful experience. It is the subjectivity of a relationship, for example, Abel Tesfaye and Selena Gomez's, that allows for a song to be more prevailing than that of an arbitrary party anthem. This is not to say you cannot party to "My Dear Melancholy", though its slow synth and retrospective sombre R&B makes for more relaxed listening, yet, you will get your daily fix of edgy tunes.

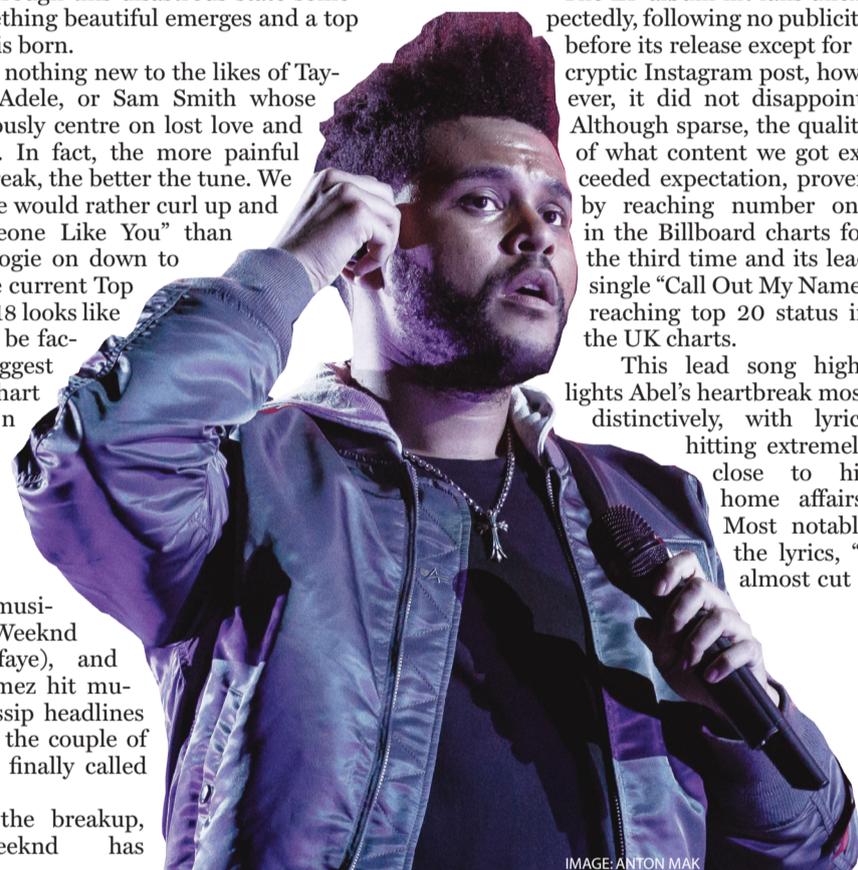


IMAGE: ANTON MAK

REVISION PLAYLIST

THE MUSIC TEAM SUGGEST SOME OF THE BEST TUNES TO GET YOU THROUGH THE EXAM SEASON

MELODY - Lost Frequencies

ATHEIST - Disciples

BROOKLYN IN THE SUMMER - Aloe Blacc

NEVER BE THE SAME - Camila Cabello

I GOT THE JUICE - Janelle Monae

HAVE IT ALL - Jason Mraz

ME & YOU - Honne

SYMPATHY - Twin Shadow

BETTER NOW - Post Malone

OVER AND OVER AND OVER - Jack White



ONE KISS - Calvin Harris & Dua Lipa

PARADISE - George Ezra

FILTHY - Justin Timberlake

PERM- Bruno Mars

CAROLINE - The Magic Gang

CALL OUT MY NAME - The Weeknd

BOOGIE - Brockhampton

PEOPLE GIVE IN - Manic Street Preachers

FOR NOW - DMAs

LAY IT ALL ON ME - Rudimental & Ed Sheeran

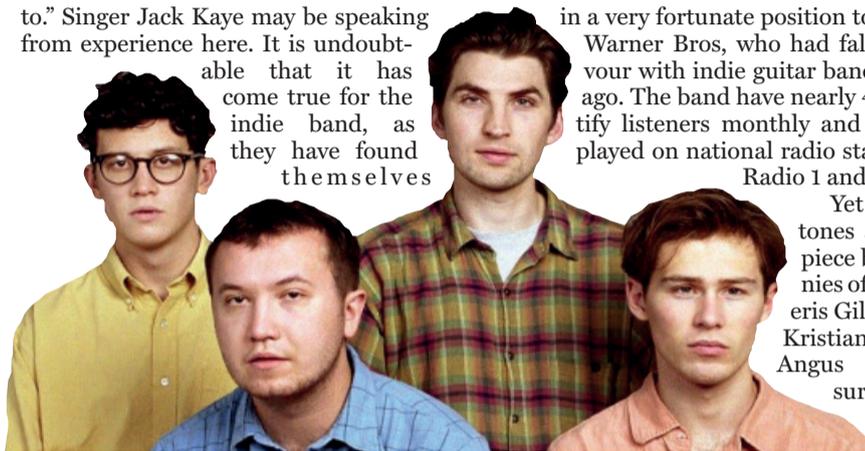
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ALBUM REVIEWS

THE MAGIC GANG
THE MAGIC GANGBETH COLQUHOUN
7/10

The eponymous album is the first album created by the Brighton band. The song 'Caroline' expresses encouragement and ironically paves the way for their future, with the lines "someday soon you'll be right where you need

to." Singer Jack Kaye may be speaking from experience here. It is undoubtable that it has come true for the indie band, as they have found themselves



in a very fortunate position to be signed by Warner Bros, who had fallen out of favour with indie guitar bands a few years ago. The band have nearly 400 000 Spotify listeners monthly and are regularly played on national radio stations such as Radio 1 and Absolute.

Yet the happy tones and the four-piece bright harmonies of members Parris Giles, Jack Kaye, Kristian Smith, and Angus Taylor reassure indie music that there is still a mar-

ket for the old school amateur guitar bands. Although unlike very niche indie bands that have one particular sound, The Magic Gang have had numerous powerful influences that have made many of their tracks timeless.

Growing up on a musical diet of Weezer and The Beatles, their music adapts to the decades of their influences, being fitting to follow any kind of sixties-to-nineties playlist. The light sound makes for a perfectly perky and chilled fifteen-song soundtrack for this coming summer, or even to warm up those days when summer has become lost to the fickle British weather.

The Magic Gang begin their tour following the release of their highly anticipated first album this autumn.

MANIC STREET
PREACHERS
RESISTANCE IS FUTILEANDY YOUNG
8/10

A new album from Manic Street Preachers is bound to be an interesting affair. Their music has ranged from brash guitar rock, to string-inflected arena grandeur and, on the quite wonderful "Rewind the Film", restrained and reflective quasi-folk. Their new album also sees them returning from their



longest ever break between albums. As the Welsh trio grapple with middle age,

they have produced an album that sounds both resigned (hence the title) and full of the energy of their youth. With an album that comes as far into a band's career as this, it is impossible not to compare it to their previous work. Thankfully, *Resistance is Futile* brings to mind two of their best works: the majestic musical craft of *Everything Must Go* and the outrageous verve and enthusiasm of *Generation Terrorists*. When James Dean Bradfield's guitar soars in on lead single "International Blue", it is easy to see why Nicky Wire has likened it to "Motorcycle Emptiness" possibly their greatest ever song.

For their whole career the Manics have very much been defined by the culture-referencing, often overtly political lyrics of Nicky Wire (and for a time with the late Richey Edwards). Because the band have made a career out of raging against the political establishment and produced one of the bleakest albums of all time in *The Holy Bible*, it is easy to forget their positivity. As he has done before, Wire pays hom-

age to some of the figures who have inspired him, including Yves Klein and Vivian Maier.

Most moving, however, is "Liverpool Revisited". It combines the big-scale rock that the Manics do best, with a touching tribute to the Hillsborough victims, their families, and the people of Liverpool, all accompanied by a seething political undercurrent.

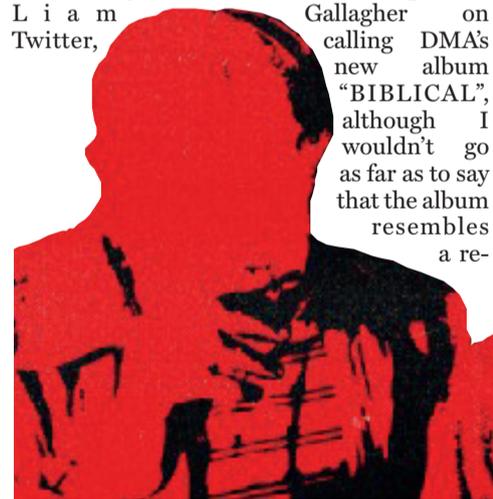
Musically, *Resistance is Futile* does not find the Manics stretching themselves. It is one of their simpler works; there's no literary samples, and no historical recordings. All of the tracks present are big, too. The danger of the album becoming too uniform is averted, but not as much as one perhaps might have hoped. What continues to make the album engaging up until its close is the confidence and vitality that the 40-something rockers still possess, and their constantly fascinating lyrics.

The day the Manic Street Preachers make a bland and uninteresting album is the day they should call it a day. *Resistance is Futile* shows that they won't be going anywhere anytime soon.

DMA'S
FOR NOWBETH COLQUHOUN
8/10

If a band were ever to be classed as 'the next best thing', it would be DMA's. The eastern Australian band composed of Matt Mason, Tommy O'Dell and Johnny Took, have just dropped their second album, "For Now" following their 2016 album, "Hills End". Ironically, DMA's are set to be the next hottest thing with over 600 000 Spotify listeners monthly, however, their sound is more of a throwback to the 1990s British Indie scene than ever before, especially the first half of their album. Yet, with "Do I need you now?" the album takes a more modern indie sound, showcasing

the band's ability to adapt through the range of indie tones that a three-piece band can accommodate, hence broadening their sound from such a niche as *Hills End* saw. The album even got the thumbs up from Liam Gallagher on Twitter,



calling DMA's new album "BIBLICAL", although I wouldn't go as far as to say that the album resembles a re-

ligious text, it certainly is one of the best albums that have graced us in 2018. The bands second album

a deeper and more mature sound. Inevitably this is going to widen their fan base, which is already rapidly growing. The band have a huge summer ahead of them, not only headlining large city

as Liverpool's 'Sound City', but also playing events such as Reading and Leeds, their biggest shows to date. They are currently on tour, having just completed a sold-out show in Leeds.

Watch this space.

SHIT MUSICIANS SAY.

Kanye West after proudly tweeting his signed MAGA hat.

"I'd never support anyone who has made a career out of hatred, racism and discrimination."

SEEING EYE TO QUEER EYE: MORE THAN A MAKEOVER

JASMINE ONSTAD DIVES INTO NETFLIX'S LATEST BINGEABLE DELIGHT, FINDING PLENTY OF SOCIAL COMMENTARY ALONG THE WAY

For those who have been living under a wifiless rock for the past couple months and haven't heard about Netflix's successful reboot *Queer Eye*, it's a makeover show where five gay guys (The Fab Five) drastically turn around the life of a man who has lost direction in his life. Interior designer Bobby revamps the homes of the "heroes"—the term used to describe the participants in the show. Doncaster-born Tan styles the men and preaches the wonders of buying clothes that actually fit you. Antoni is the foodie of the show, though he somehow manages to not once use a stove or an oven over the course of the whole series. Karamo is in charge of "culture" (whatever that means) and mainly performs the function of a human motivational insta-quote. Finally, there is the fabulous Jonathan, the grooming expert, who is a fountain of quotability (can you BELIEVE?!?) and joyful energy.

Much more than a gimmicky makeover show, the reboot has been such a runaway success due to its genuine and heartfelt core. Yes, it may be superficial and silly at times. Yes, it sometimes panders to straight audiences at the expense of queer culture. And yes, it may attempt to solve the problems of loneliness and toxic masculinity with neoliberalist consumerism. But, despite all this, it tackles loneliness, masculinity and race relations while remaining lighthearted and not getting

too preachy. There is a lot more to learn from this series than how to make an avocado and grapefruit salad.

What comes to mind when you hear 'white cop from the deep south'? Violence? Racism? Ignorance? How about if I add that they also voted for Trump and owns Make America Great Again merch. In liberal circles the person described above may seem like a nightmare incarnate, someone



that should be reviled and their opinion ignored.

This was similar to the initial reaction of "culture guy" Karamo in the third episode of the series which features Corey, a NASCAR loving cop from a small town outside Atlanta. With his youthful days of outrageous partying and wearing gym shorts every day seeming to have stretched into his middle age, he was looking for help reconnecting with his wife and family; pre-Queer Eye his idea of a romantic date with his wife was walking around Target for an afternoon.

As the only black member of the cast, Karamo found it especially hard to put all

of his assumptions about Corey to one side when filming. After making the effort to properly talk to each other however, they found some middle ground (in their love for the Wu-Tang Clan) and even managed to become friends. Their open dialogue culminating in respect and understanding was extremely cathartic to watch, mainly because experiencing these sorts of conversations are such a rarity in the media. Apart from spats over twitter, opposite sides of the ideological spectrum are interacting productively less and less.

The MAGA cap has been a symbol of bigotry and ignorance (also more recently Kanye West) to many. A prime example of the complete lack of communication between opposite sides of the political battlefield is the reaction to Kanye West's twitter outbursts this week. After tweeting his love for Trump as a brother and donning the MAGA cap, many big names came out against him and the likes of Rihanna, Kendrick Lamar and longtime friend John Legend have ceased following him.

While everyone is entitled to curating the media they wish to see, *Queer Eye* shows the importance of engaging with the views that you might find scary or impossible to relate to. This could be the only way of healing the gash that has opened up between each polarised side of the political spectrum. So yes, it is much more than a makeover show.

KEEPING UP WITH... THE TRUMAN SHOW

ANDREW YOUNG CELEBRATES THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CELEBRATED SATIRE, FINDING PARALLELS WITH OUR OWN SOCIETY

A lot can change in twenty years. Back in 1998 Apple's latest products were the size of a small house and Tony Blair was only a year into his tenure as PM. Yet, some things made a whole two decades ago seem eerily prescient nowadays. Among these is the wonderful satire of *The Truman Show*. Directed by Peter Weir (*Witness*) and garnering an Original Screenplay Oscar for Andrew Niccol, it is a heartfelt and very human film, but one with a huge amount to say about the direction reality TV and commercialisation are going in, or rather, have gone in.

Almost every shot of the film watches Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey), a man who believes himself to be living a fairly humdrum suburban existence. He has a mother, a wife, neighbours and friends. Little does he know, none of these people are real; every person in Truman's life is an actor and Truman's entire existence is one big TV show. Chosen from a group of 'unwanted' babies, Truman's life is watched continuously by an audience of millions, with some even keeping the TV on as they sleep.

Re-watching *The Truman Show* today is fascinating. It must first be said that it is a terrific film. Told with the bittersweet heart of Weir's *Dead Poets Society*, it is a film that has stood the test of time in its quality as well as its message. Yet what really plays in the mind is its place in the reality-TV timeline. Released just a year after Big Brother made its debut and almost a decade before *Keeping Up with the Kar-*

dashians began our social media obsession with people whose names begin with K, *The Truman Show* presented a nightmare vision of reality taken to its logical conclusion.

What is abundantly clear with the slew of reality TV in the current era is that audiences are fascinated by people, and we like to watch what we think are real people, behaving in natural ways. Of course, these people often have lifestyles that are ridiculous compared to our own; the relationships on *Made in Chelsea* inspire gossip on a level most of us could only dream of. Yet, the more people complain that these shows are 'constructed' or just downright lies, the closer we will come to *The Truman Show*. The genius of the film is that it shows us what a truly successful attempt at reality TV would be like.

As Truman begins to realise that his life is a lie and sets out on a path to escape, it would be easy for the film to be a simple exercise in sticking it to the nasty corporation. Yet, while Truman Burbank is an intriguing creation, the real genius here is in the character of Christof, and not just because he's played by the superb Ed Harris. Christof is revered by the media as a brilliant innovator, but what the film points out is that sometimes great innovation requires great sacrifices. Just like many people are inspired by Kim Kardashian

and see her as a role model, Christof points out that watching Truman is a great source of comfort and happiness to many around the world. Yet it is at the cost of his personal freedom.

Many reality stars have chosen their lifestyle and may well enjoy it, but, like Truman, some of them are having less and less control over their parts in the media circus. Kylie Jenner was just 10 years old when her family began their journey to superstardom, while the new generation have been born directly into the spotlight. Our love of a famous baby has always been clear, as the reaction to Prince Louis, destined to be photographed and commercialised, demonstrates. In *The Truman Show*, not only are the audience manipulated by the megalomaniac but somehow genuinely caring Christof, Truman is the greatest victim of all.

Twenty years after the film's mag-

nificent ending, it has been proven right: we are all complicit in something we also disapprove of, yet it does bring us genuine joy. The madness of our obsession with reality TV is clear, but it is also borne out of a very human fascination with other humans. One day, it may all go a bit too far.



HOLLYWOODISING HISTORY: THE GREATEST CON MAN

OSCAR BENTLEY DEBATES THE LIMITS OF ARTISTIC LICENSE WHEN DEPICTING PROBLEMATIC FIGURES FROM THE PAST

The *Greatest Showman* would have you believe that, while flawed, P.T. Barnum was a man who championed those with differences, celebrating them and teaching tolerance to the masses through his travelling show. It would have you believe that Barnum's 'greatest travelling show on earth' was not due to spectacle, but because it gave those who had previously been branded 'freaks' a stage to show off their uniqueness, giving them a place in the world which before had only shunned them. The truth, however, is far less liberal than that. Barnum was not an enabler of the beauty of diversity, but instead was an exploitative purveyor of 'freak shows'. Barnum made profit by mocking his 'freaks' and 'oddities'. He was a violent racist. Above all, he was certainly not the lovable family man who, while may have got slightly lost on the way, just wanted to provide for his wife, and in the end proved himself to be a good person.

One of Barnum's first 'successes' was conveniently absent from the film. Joice Heth was a blind and partially paralysed black slave, who Barnum bought and exhibited, encouraging his paying public to mock her racial 'inferiority'. She was 80 years old, but Barnum promoted her as 161 and the mammy (read: nursing maid) of George Washington, which needless to say was entirely untrue. She was an alcoholic, which Barnum exploited, getting her drunk so to extract her teeth, all to make her into more of an 'oddy'. And, after a life of slavery, Barnum even denied Heth the dignity of death, instead performing an autopsy of her body, charging the public to come and watch.

So, while *The Greatest Showman* chose to completely ignore Barnum's racism, events

from his life that it does feature are heavily glossed over. In the film, Charles Stratton, or his stage name of General Tom Thumb, is an adult little person who agrees to become part of Barnum's act, who, while hated by the bigoted public, is given a place of belonging by Barnum. The real Stratton however was a five year old boy, who Barnum got hooked on booze and cigarettes, to the delight of his paying public.

I hope I have summarised that Barnum was a

bad man. *The Greatest Showman* does attempt to show some shades to his character - he's fairly clearly shown to be a conman, and also shuns his 'freaks' as he begins to climb the social ladder - but, to be frank, this

is a fairly standard character arc, where the protagonist does everything with the best of intentions yet begins to get high on their own self-importance, before a setback causes them to realise what's truly important. It's by the numbers.

The dilemma here comes from the wrestling match between fidelity, marketability, and storytelling. The producers were targeted with creating an original four quadrant movie musical, which is no mean feat. And largely, although *The Greatest Showman* was plagued with some middling critical reviews, they succeeded, becoming a box office climber, which still had legs four months after release, a phenomenon almost unheard of. Its music, from the lyricists of *La La Land*, is catchy, and its story (despite my criticisms of Barnum's character arc), is largely engaging.

The producers have crafted a 'good' movie.

The problem is that it bears so little resemblance to real life that it's almost laughable.

Some may argue that this doesn't matter, and I agree that first and foremost storytellers need to put creating a captivating story above all other concerns. When telling a true story, they should not be tied to following every event verbatim; after all, most things in real life don't exactly fit a Todorovian narrative structure. But, fidelity to the truth should not be forgotten entirely.

The Greatest Showman may be an extreme example of the dangers of taking creative licence too far - I'm sure not too many would take issue with Stephen Frears' *The Queen* depicting the wrong personal private secretary for example - but *The Greatest Showman* turns an exploitative racist into a loving celebrator of difference. It whitewashes history into a feel-good story, and tries to sell what was abuse and bigotry as a modern celebration of diversity.

When doing press for the flick, Barnum actor Hugh Jackman proclaimed that "[Barnum's] belief was what makes you different makes you special... you can be discriminated for that but if you own up to it and we start to embrace everybody then it can be what makes life special and fantastic." This proclamation is, unfortunately, ludicrous. Barnum may have later in life entered politics and eventually left the Democratic Party over its support of slavery, but he spent most of his life and earned his fortune discriminating, not embracing.

As a movie, *The Greatest Showman* is good, something which its 88 per cent Rotten Tomatoes audience rating attests to. But as a depiction of real events, it is problematic and irresponsible. There is a reason freak shows no longer exist, and that circuses which exploit humans and animals have all but died out. Late in the movie, Jackman sings that "from now on, these eyes will not be blinded by the light". And as such, we shouldn't let the light of *The Greatest Showman* blind our eyes to the horror which lies underneath.



MUSE'S CINEMATIC EXAM SURVIVAL GUIDE*

*DISCLAIMER: WE CANNOT GUARANTEE YOUR SURVIVAL AND TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR MARKS, OR LACK THEREOF

Here we are again; the birds are singing, the flowers are blooming, and we're not allowed to see any of it, because we're stuck inside revising. Exam stress gets to us all, unless you're one of *those* students, who has apparently escaped the May misery. We in the Film & TV section believe, of course, that films are the solution to all your problems. We can't guarantee you a first, but we can offer you a bit of inspiration, or at least a distraction from your current state of despair.

There are several approaches to beating the revision blues. The first is simple: be inspired, and who better to inspire you than Robin Williams. The beloved actor gave one of his best performances in the heartfelt school drama *Dead Poets Society*. If by the end you don't have a desperate urge to stand on a table and shout, 'O captain, my captain!' then you may as well accept your third. You know who wouldn't have accepted a third? Elle Woods. Nobody believed in her, but Reese Witherspoon's *Legally Blonde* protagonist proved that regardless of what you've done in the

past, you too can get into Harvard Law and win a murder trial (what, like it's hard?), or at the very least pass your degree.

Even with all the inspiration in the world, sometimes you just need a break. Have you been in the Library for 12 hours straight with nothing but remnants of a meal deal to show for it? Have you recently sustained an injury from banging your head against your laptop? Have you been inside so long you haven't interacted with the geese for over a week? Well maybe, you just need to escape from university. Run away from your problems like Matthew Broderick in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*; taking the time to enjoy life (and gatecrash a parade).

Or alternatively imagine what it would be like if your education was just one big musical number, as in *Pitch Perfect* or *High School Musical*. Follow the lead of the Barden Bellas and practice some acapella in the library (only in a 'studious buzz zone', mind you), and don't forget that we're all in this together.

If this doesn't work, then maybe what you

need is just a bit of perspective. After all, your life could be a lot worse.

Your 48-hour exam might feel as drawn-out and excruciatingly painful as sawing your own arm off. But at least you're not actually sawing your own arm off, as in Danny Boyle's *127 Hours*. The prospect of Week 5 finally coming round might make your skin crawl with fear. But at least you're not being chased around campus by a psychopath with a Ghostface mask and a very large knife, like the characters of *Scream 2*.

At times university might feel like an exercise in torturing young people by making them viciously compete. But at least the government isn't literally forcing us to fight

to the death on a remote island, as in *Battle Royale* (OG Japanese Hunger Games).

Failing all of this, there is only really one option, submit yourself to hours upon hours of useless procrastination. Don't lie to yourself, it's bound to happen anyway so you might as well do it properly, immersing yourself in a thrilling cinematic world. Our personal recommendation would be to while away the hours with a back-to-back marathon of the *Lord of the Rings Extended Editions*. Still have time after this 12-hour task? Why not revisit *The Hobbit* for good luck? Fuck it, we're all doomed anyway.

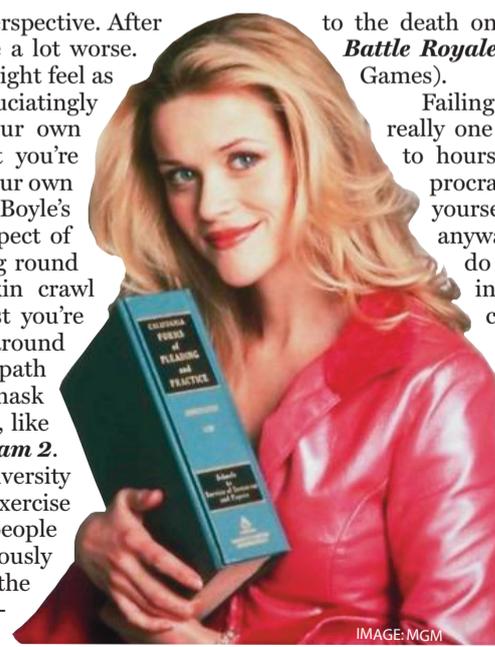


IMAGE: MGM

MUSIC'S GOLDEN TICKET

EMMA JACOB SPEAKS TO MUSIC MOGUL DAVID HEPWORTH ABOUT HIS UPCOMING BOOK AND HOW THE MUSIC WORLD HAS CHANGED THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER

By any standards, David Hepworth's career is one which glitters with success. He has rubbed shoulders with some of the music industry's biggest and brightest throughout the years. With magazine titles such as *NME*, *Smash Hits*, *Mojo* and *Sound* under his belt, Hepworth is one of the big names in the music journalism industry. Placing his stamp on the industry when he presented Live Aid in 1985 alongside Bob Geldof, it would be easy to feel intimidated in the presence of such a music mogul.

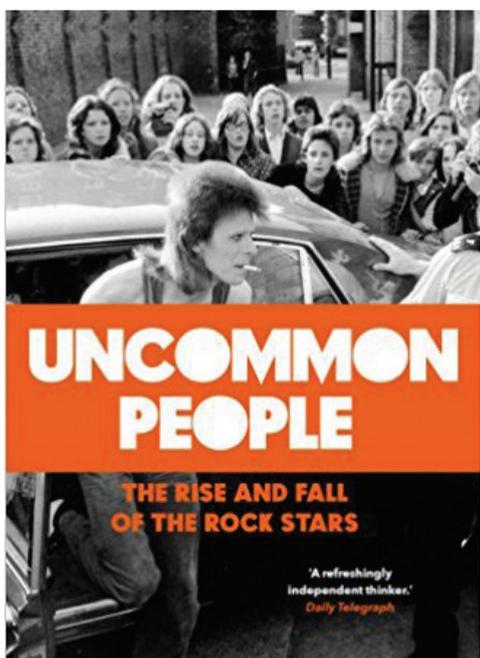
If you go towards music it flees. You have to be receptive when it comes to you

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Yet when David Hepworth walked into his event in York on 18th April, his presence had, startlingly, the opposite effect. His appearance saw him immediately laughing with the captivated audience, myself among them, as he jovially threatened to fight anyone who did not share his opinion on musical legend Chuck Berry.

His event came as a product of his new book *Uncommon People: The Rise and Fall of Rock Stars* in which he offers snapshots of rock stars throughout the 20th century, from Little Richard to Kurt Cobain. As he introduced the book to the audience, he explained how he believed musical eras to span 40 years, with the era of rock and roll spanning from the 1960s to the 1990s. The book is a refreshing and insightful examination of the genre, taking the reader from rock star to rock star, illustrating them at the height of their fame, like photographs lined up in a treasured album.

For him, his birth year of 1950 was the



“golden ticket”, placing him at 21 years old in 1971, the year he believed to be the best year in music. His writing, in both *Uncommon People* and his earlier work of *1971: Never A Dull Moment*, is a love letter to forty years of rock music.

While Hepworth holds his ‘golden year’ of music close to his heart, he by no means wants to keep it to himself, welcoming the younger generation to enjoy the magic of the 1970s. When speaking to me about how relationships with music change, he claimed “You can’t have the same connection because you didn’t live through the era in which it emerged. That doesn’t mean you can’t enjoy it. I wasn’t around in 1928 but I love Louis Armstrong’s recordings from that time.”

David explains that the accessibility of music has changed the way in which people have a relationship with their favourite artists and records. His book *1971* explains the spectacle that was the release of a new record, and the excitement that came with it, with records more often than not costing more than a concert ticket, a concept which is entirely alien to today’s younger generation. Technology has allowed access to a world of music, something which has both broadened the horizons of listeners but also seen the loss of the intimacy of the listening process.

If somebody says ‘can you do this?’ say yes and then go and learn... the world will beat a path to your door

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For David, as he tells one audience member at the end of the evening, it is technology, and more specifically social media, which killed the rock star. Today’s constant stream of information on our favourite celebrities means that, should today’s stars behave in the same way as Mick Jagger or Jimmy Page at the height of their fame, they would, in the words of Hepworth “be apologising every day for their antics.”

It was the perfect blend of technology and musical talent, mixed with the perfect level of maintained anonymity that made 1971 the perfect year for music. It was in this decade that music defined a generation, and penetrated every aspect of the lives of the youth. David explained how “in the 70s, people in their twenties didn’t have televisions or phones and they didn’t go to the movies much so music had a power that nothing else had”.

It is a respect for this power that permeates every aspect of Hepworth’s writing, from the power of music itself to the power that rock stars held. When addressing this power during his talk, Hepworth gives the examples of Mick Jagger and Ian Stewart. Stewart was



ALL IMAGES: DAVID HEPWORTH

a member of the Rolling Stones when they first formed, as a pianist for the group, but as they grew in popularity and attention, managers dropped Stewart for not fitting the band image. Hepworth explains that while Stewart could imagine a life outside of the Rolling Stones, Mick Jagger held the unique quality that only rock stars had, which was to know that they were destined to be powerful musical figures before their name had ever graced the lips of the public.

And if anyone is able to recognise a true rock star, it’s Hepworth, with his passion for the music industry dominating his professional life as well as his personal interests. As he discussed anecdotes of his professional career during his event in York, it was difficult to ignore his professionalism and experience. His work on *Live Aid* in 1985 was groundbreaking in the music world, yet he uses it to highlight how much power the music industry holds, stressing the way in which the event took Bob Geldof from virtual obscurity to a candidate for a knighthood virtually overnight.

Humorously sharing his belief that when he was told to report on the Band Aid single there would be nobody there, only to see every music star of the decade ready to record, Hepworth’s life as a music journalist has seen him in

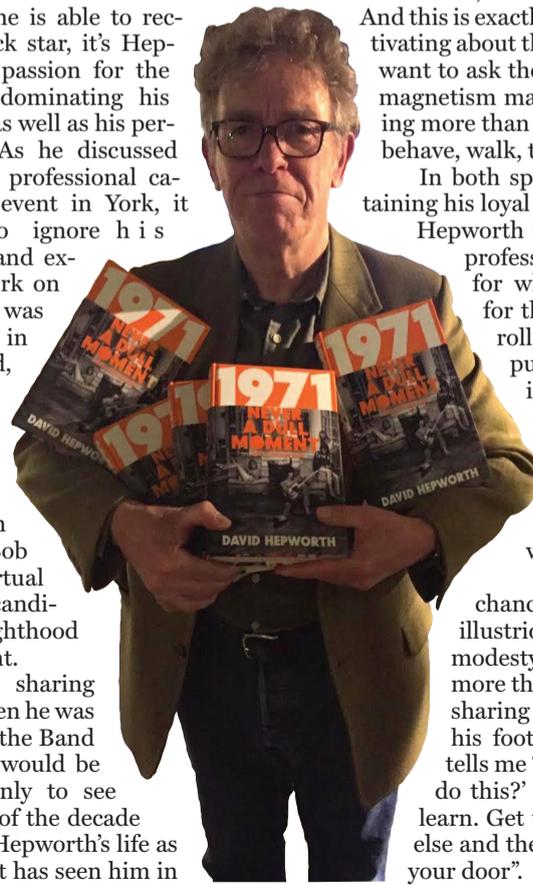
the front row of some of the genre’s greatest moments. He witnessed first hand the way in which the music industry had the ability to make or break a person, and his writings on rock stars clearly reflects it.

Nothing encompasses this quite as much as his tale of when he came upon the chance to interview the legend Bob Dylan. David laughed about the memory of when, asked how the interview was going, Dylan remarked “I don’t know, he keeps asking me questions”.

And this is exactly what David finds so captivating about the rock star: you shouldn’t want to ask them questions. Their sheer magnetism makes you want to do nothing more than watch them: the way they behave, walk, talk, perform.

In both speaking to me, and entertaining his loyal fans at his literary events, Hepworth is nothing but a constant professional and a music fan for whom sharing his passion for the generation of rock and roll has become a lifelong pursuit. His golden ticket in the lottery of music has become a golden ticket for his readers, and, in his words, “If you go towards music it flees. You have to be receptive when it comes to you.”

Yet when I got the chance to ask him about his illustrious career, David was all modesty, claiming it was nothing more than “sheer luck”. And when sharing what it takes to follow in his footsteps in the industry, he tells me “if somebody says ‘can you do this?’ say yes, and then go and learn. Get up earlier than everybody else and the world will beat a path to your door”. **M**



NINJA, FORTNITE, DELE ALLI, AND DRAKE

ABDULLAH HUSSAIN INVESTIGATES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FORTNITE STREAMER NINJA BREAKING TWITCH VIEWER RECORDS AGAIN

Fortnite streamer Tyler 'Ninja' Blevins smashed the Twitch streaming record - again. The popular streamer had 667 000 concurrent viewers during his Twitch stream of *Fortnite* at a Las Vegas Exhibition centre. This comes off the back of his previous record which he set a month ago with Rapper Drake - one of the most successful Canadian artists in history - which peaked at 628 000. This is more impressive when considering the previous two records were held by 'LoTyler1' in his return stream at 386 000 and then *Dr. DisRespect* at 388 000.

Ninja beat those records by nearly 300 000 viewers. What many media outlets are

Streamers entertain thousands for hours daily, a skill which often goes uncredited

”

attributing this to is Drake being a catalyst for his rise in popularity; this is grossly incorrect. *The Verge* covering the breakage of the first record as "Drake drops in to play *Fortnite* on Twitch and breaks the record for most-viewed stream". Drake did not break the streaming record, Ninja did. This article is presenting this point as many other articles seemed to have forgotten it. Personally I find is sadden-

ing how much attention the recent stream record breaking got when compared to the first.

In fact a simple google search asking 'Twitch record broken' will find that the first few articles will be littered with Drake in the title with few covering the recent milestone. Now, this is mostly because the rapper Drake will of course create more traffic to these articles and sources, hence the title of this one. Ninja broke the record first and without celebrity help, but Ninja himself is not getting the credit he deserves: as a streamer, an entertainer and a gamer.

There are a number of factors that contributed to him breaking the record for a second time as well. The first of course is Ninja himself. Since the release of *Fortnite*, Ninja has slowly been growing his viewership with his high skill levels in the game but also being a very entertaining person - streamers must be able to entertain thousands for hours daily a skill which often goes uncredited for.

The platform Twitch has been booming recently, rivaling YouTube in terms of livestream viewerships. Their sponsorship deal with Amazon, Twitch Prime, allows those with Amazon Prime to subscribe to their streamers giving them four pounds ninety-nine per month, which is then split 50-50 with Twitch themselves. This has allowed more streamers to regularly stream due to an increase in their income from the platform. Many minor celebrities have also been streaming on Twitch as well, with Jake and Logan Paul recently joining the platform along with veterans such as 'Shroud' and 'Imaqtpie' who have also been booming. But the main factor which led to the record being broken is *Fortnite*, the game



IMAGE: BAGOGAMES

itself.

The game is a phenomenon already reaching legendary status in gaming history. The free-to-play *Battle-Royale* has garnered much attention most among age groups ranging from 12-25 and is arguably the most popular game in the world at the moment with it being the most popular game on Twitch, which acts as a fair reflection of how popular it is. I mention the age group specifically as the audience of *Fortnite* is very much a young one - a quick search on YouTube and you can see that those who mostly make this kind of content are targeting this specific demographic. But the game attracts so much more than that. Using footballers as an example, Dele Alli - one of the most promising English

talents at the moment and regular starter for Tottenham - has been streaming along with his team mates such as Harry Kane, although if he actually won a game or just finished close to winning is not in my current knowledge. This trend can be seen overseas too with Griezmann using popular dance emotes in the game to celebrate his goal against Arsenal in the Europa League semi-finals.

The game's meteoric rise in popularity, Ninja's ability to stream at a high standard and Twitch's rise in the market of online streaming have all led to this monumental achievement. Ninja should be given more credit than he is currently receiving and we wish him more success in the near future as an ambassador of Twitch streaming.

SOCIAL GAMING: A YORK FRAGSOC WEEKEND

PATRICK WALKER PLAYS THE NIGHT AWAY AT THE LATEST FRAGSOC LAN EVENT

The FragSoc LAN is the largest real-life social event in the gaming society's calendar. Members meet up in Physics two or three times a term, with their PCs and game consoles, to chat, play games, and watch esports events. The most recent one was at the end of Week Two, and I headed over to Physics to find out what the experience is like.

The event runs all weekend, and FragSoc have the whole of Physics (and occasionally, the Law and Management Building on Hes East,) to themselves. On one side of the large space is the PC gaming area, with rows of hulking PC towers awash with RGB lighting; it turns out if you take your PC out of the house regularly, it's helpful to have it look good. One guy had brought a widescreen monitor and a case so large and white it looked like it was about to take off. Society Chair Dhilian explains that LANs are even bigger in winter. "Summer LANs are a bit quieter because everyone's busy". That, and the fact that like every society, FragSoc suffers a slow drop in attendance over the course of the academic year.

The LAN begins with a casual game of *Overcooked*. The atmosphere was very relaxed: FragSoc LANs heavily emphasise games with a low skill ceiling, and I really enjoyed myself. The co-op game places you in a kitchen, trying to construct meals for ex-

tremely picky customers. The game requires just three buttons, but the kitchen gradually becomes a mess of dropped food, ill-constructed dishes, and messy plates. You all play as raccoons, obviously. *Gang Beasts* is another couch favourite: a four-person game in which slightly overweight wrestlers try and punch, headbutt, and kick opponents off the map. One wrestler is shaped like Donald Trump, and dump-tackling him off an iceberg is ex-

tremely satisfying. Afterwards, I find myself in an impromptu *CS:GO* game. It's the most fun I've had playing Valve's shooter: the secret to my enjoyment? Absolutely everyone is bad at the game. One of my teammates decides to handicap himself by using a Steam Controller, and the other sets himself the task of using only pistols. We start behind in rounds, but mount a meteoric comeback and get to watch our opponents live as we cap off the final kill.

There's a massive pizza order in the evening, and we all eat junk food watching the sunset through the windows. As the evening rolls on, people start playing individual preferences in groups: *DOTA*, *Guild Wars*, and *PUBG* all make an appearance. The night concludes with *Overwatch* free-for-alls, including an original game mode, where gravity is set very low, and everyone is turned into a tank. I win, but it's 2AM by then, and I head home, flush with victory.

The second day was even more relaxed. We watch a bit of eSport together on the massive projector, and I get carried to my first *Fortnite* win by some hardcore FragSoc committee members. I am also persuaded to try *League of Legends* for the first time. I get destroyed, but it's fun nonetheless. Gaming at university can be a lonely hobby but LAN felt different: FragSoc's big message for these events is that gaming doesn't have to be anti-social. LANs allow nerds to meet up and chat without pressure. Everyone is really happy to chat and chill. Dhilian says that despite most players now being online, gamers still welcome the chance to socialise in real life. Online gaming still can't really beat in-person relationships. It's an experience to which I'd love to return. The next FragSoc LAN is on the weekend of Week Eight.



IMAGE: PATRICK WALKER

SETTING THE NIGHT ABLAZE IN PALMA DE MAJORCA

RHIAN ROBERTS TAKES US FOR A FESTIVE NIGHT OUT ON A PARADISE ISLAND

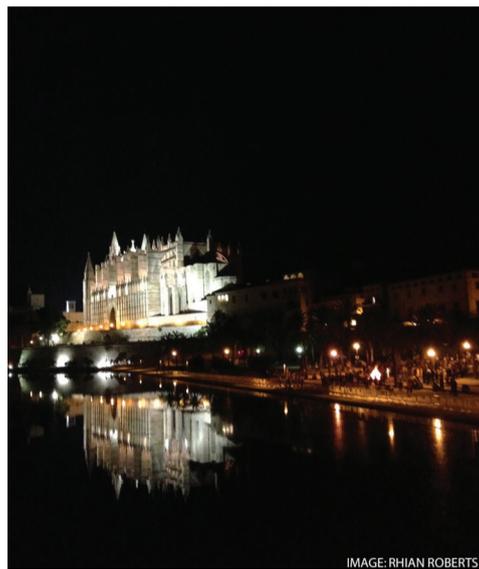


IMAGE: RHIAN ROBERTS

In Majorca, the midsummer feast of St John the Baptist is a little bit livelier than your average firework display in England. On 23 June, for one night only, the old town

of Palma comes alive for the Nit de Foc, 'The Night of Fire', creating an electrifying atmosphere in the city until the early hours. The festival is quintessentially Majorcan, and it is the perfect way to experience how the Spanish throw a party!

When we arrived at the festival, early evening, we were immersed in the island's rich traditional Spanish culture. This was a nice contrast from Palma during the day, which can often feel like it is being overrun with tourists and day trippers, descending from their cruise ships, into the old town, with their whistle stop tours. We were greeted by crowds of flamenco dancing Spaniards. Strangers of all ages dancing in sync with each other and live music against the backdrop of the Catedral de Santa Maria and the Royal Palace of La Almudaina made for a street party like no other.

After various live performances and a healthy dose of flamenco dancing, the most exciting part of the night, the Correfoc, approached. The Correfoc ('Fire Run') brings the streets to life during the night with a parade of giant dragon sculptures, set ablaze with fire-

works as they march through the old town, to the rhythm of drums. Performers dressed as devils dance, in the sparks of Catherine wheels attached to the pitchforks they brandish above their heads. Some of the more daring spectators were able to dance under the fireworks with the devils. A local informed us of a superstition, that if you dance with one of the devils, then you will have good luck for the rest of the year (depending on whether you make it back out alive and unscathed or not!).

Prior to attending the festival, we hadn't quite anticipated just how quickly things could escalate, and we ended up sprinting away from a particularly feisty firework brandishing devil. So, if you do decide this festival is something not to be missed, make sure to keep your distance from the fireworks, and ensure you are stood in a space that will allow you to quickly evacuate if one of the demons of the Correfoc comes your way, Catherine wheel in hand.

When visiting the festival, it is important to be vigilant, and keep your valuables close to you in case of any potential pickpockets lurking in the crowd. It is also a good idea to keep

a fair distance between yourself and the main firework display when the performance is at its fiery peak. Be aware of your surroundings; several palm trees set on fire during the night, though none of the locals really seemed to bat an eyelid.

And if all of that isn't enough for you, after the Correfoc and some more live performances from dancers and drummers on the main stage, the last revellers often make their way to the beach to light fires and watch the sun rise. If you do head to the beach, stay well away from the sea if under the influence of alcohol as there are many strong underwater currents surrounding the Balearic Islands. No one appeared to be intoxicated at the event, but there was alcohol for sale and just be aware that most foreign travel insurance policies exclude cover for events that take place after excessive alcohol consumption, wherever you're headed.

Overall the event is an amazing insight into Majorcan culture and the ways in which the islanders celebrate in the summer months. Visit the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website for more travel advice for Spain.

WHEN IN ROME DO AS THE ROMANS DO

FLAVIO SANSA SHOWCASES THE BEAUTY OF ITALY'S MOST QUINTESSENTIAL CITY



IMAGE: FLAVIO SANSA

Anyone who has willingly picked up a history book will have read about Rome, with countless others affected by its impact on Europe and indeed the world stage. A city with an ancient past, and a continuing cultural relevancy due to its legacy, it may appear as an obvious place to visit. Its most famous landmarks can be clearly laid out by any tourist-focussed booklet, and said landmarks won't be difficult to access due to Italy's tourist-eager economy. With a history ranging from the mythical foundation story of Romulus and Remus, to the rise of Christianity symbolised by St Peter's Square and the 20th century capitulation to fascist dictatorship, Rome has an immense story to tell the keen visitor, one just needs to be willing to step outside the comfort zone of their hotel. This

article will cover some of the most obvious and essential parts of any visit to Rome, however the aim is to also offer suggestions that are off the beaten track. While what I present will never be a truly exhaustive list due to the capital of the Italian Republic's sheer amount of heritage, it should be enough to give a visitor a good choice of activities.

The Colosseum, also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, is worth visiting, but as with some other places in this guide it is best visited on one's own accord, getting relevant tickets etcetera online. Not far off from the amphitheatre is the Roman Forum, a plaza surrounded by ruins of the ancient governmental buildings of the city's distant past, one can tell how central this part of the city used to be to Roman life just by visiting in person.

Saint Peter's is another essential visit, for both the religiously inclined and not, with the square itself having plenty to view and the basilica emanating an ominous aura. St Peter's is truly a spectacle to behold, with the Vatican museums in the geographically close Vatican City being another obvious trip to make, in order to start to gain an appreciation for the Christian (specifically Catholic) tradition of Rome as a whole.

Yet another set of famous destinations would include the squares of Piazza di Spagna, at the bottom of the Spanish Steps and overshadowed by the equally beautiful titular church of the Santissima Trinità dei Monti, and Piazza Navona, an ancient square sporting an Egyptian obelisk and a fountain to name a few of its attributes.

Trevi fountain should be at top of the list while you are visiting, the iconic coin throw (using the right hand) makes for a memorable experience, photo opportunity, and a chance to wish a return trip to Rome, serving also the side purpose of funding charity.

Further obvious places that deserve im-



IMAGE: FLAVIO SANSA

mer Roman temple of impressive structure whose oculus needs to be viewed from within in order to gain full appreciation. The Archbasilica of St John Lateran and the Basilica of Saint Mary Major should also be seen by those who find the Vatican interesting; the former houses the ecclesiastical seat of the Bishop of Rome (the Pope) and the latter is the largest Catholic Marian church in Rome.

Slightly more niche destinations, yet ones that are still of great patrimonial significance, are the minor basilica of Saint Peter in Chains, which houses Michelangelo's famous statue of Moses among other notable relics and art and the EUR district infamous for being the conceptual brainchild of Mussolini (offering a glimpse into Rome's fascist past). A perfect place for an ice cream break would be the steps leading up to the fountain of Piazza Trilussa.

A more obscure fact about Rome is the fact it has its very own ancient pyramid, the Pyramid of Cestius, available to visit every second and fourth Saturday of the month providing one books in advance.

In terms of food you cannot go wrong

in a city like Rome, however if you are truly stuck for recommendations, a popular chain of restaurants throughout the city is Insalata Ricca, the literal translation of the name being "Rich Salads". A fantastic pizzeria which I'd personally vouch for is La Montecarlo, and for a quick bite to eat do yourself a favour and visit Forno Campo de' fiori. If you are looking for something a little more high end, Ristorante 44 is a classy restaurant whose owner studied in England and therefore speaks great English.

Rome is more than its historical sights and magnificent cuisine, there are often great events taking place such as open-air cinemas, markets etc. It is highly advised to take a look at what's going on at the time of visit, and on a less positive and practical note, it is advised to make sure that while on public transport one's belongings are kept safely stored. Rome gets many foreign tourists so it's fertile ground for pickpocketing: please don't let your holiday be spoiled by simple negligence!



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

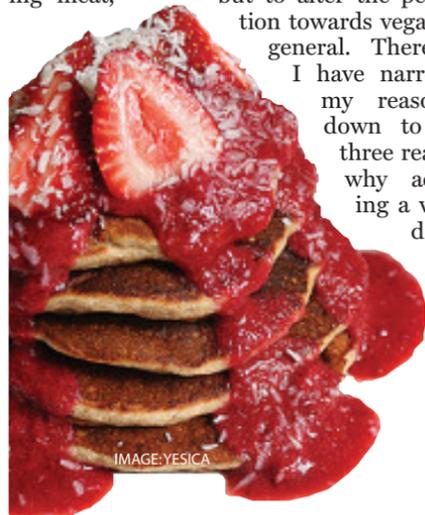
HOW TO SAVE THE WORLD: BECOME A VEGAN!

JAMES MAYER EXPLORES THE MYTHS ABOUT VEGANISM AND HOW VEGANISM CAN IN FACT, SAVE THE WORLD

In early October of 2017, I was startled to see the response to a poll on *Good Morning Britain* which read 'Would you go vegan to save the world?'. The percentage response was 44 per cent yes and 56 per cent no. It was at this moment that a wave of confusion and frustration swept over me, that the majority of the British public would vote no. To add to my disappointment, journalist Piers Morgan noted that he has "never met a healthy-looking vegan", and personally commented on the vegan journalist, George Monbiot's "pale" skin tone. This spurred me to write this article, as I believe if 56 per cent of people would rather the world be destroyed so that they can continue to consume animal products, then something is drastically wrong with the perception of veganism. Clearly information in relation to veganism has been severely misconstrued. It seems there is this inner fear that omnivores have towards a plant-based lifestyle which needs to be addressed and hopefully resolved.

I hope this article influences omnivores to alter their perspectives; not only on eating meat,

but to alter the perception towards vegans in general. Therefore, I have narrowed my reasoning down to just three reasons why adopting a vegan diet



may be beneficial to yourself, animals and the world.

1. It is healthier!

According to researchers from the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine in Washington DC, "following a vegetarian [or vegan] diet is twice as effective than a carnivorous one when it comes to losing weight". One of the main reasons for this is that vegans consume far less of the saturated fats found in meat and dairy products. Therefore, vegans suffer far less often from high cholesterol levels and subsequent heart attacks.

I was kindly given a vegan cookbook as a going-back-to-university present last September and have relied on the affordable and nutritious meals to get me through my busy schedule. The cookbook is called *Keep it Vegan* by Áine Carlin, an omnivore-gone-vegan. She explains in her introduction that her transition to a plant-based diet has led to her hair now having a "natural shine", her skin to "clear" and her nails becoming "bullet-strong". Furthermore, the Clear Skin Forever website states that "there is abundance of a hormone called IGF-1 in milk, which is really good for [calves], but not for you". IGF-1 is a growth hormone which makes calves grow larger and stronger, although unfortunately for you, it also tends to make acne grow too. Since making the transition to veganism, I have definitely witnessed a reduction in the amount of acne I get. Therefore, a vegan diet helps your body inside and outside.

However, despite knowing the health benefits, I was worried about how I would replace my dearly-loved dairy products. Yet I found that I actually prefer coconut milk as an alternative to cow's milk; it is naturally sweet and easier to digest. Furthermore, vegan butter and vegan ice-cream taste virtually the same as their dairy counterparts in my opinion. I would even go as far as to say, better! And the best part is that they are healthier!



2. The meat industry is cruel

Now, onto a trickier subject to discuss: animal welfare. The animal equality website notes that over "56 billion farmed animals are killed every year by humans" and that these "figures do not even include fish and other sea creatures whose deaths are so great they are only measured in tonnes". Not only this, but the way in which most animals are slaughtered is violent and cruel.

Cows come under the top 10 most intelligent animals in the world according to Mother Nature Network. "Cows are also capable of feeling strong emotions such as pain, fear and even anxiety". The animals' equality website suggests a solution to this issue: veganism; reporting that if one person adopts a vegan diet, we could "save up to 95 animals a year, and thousands during our lifetimes".

Animal production would decline if more of us adopted a vegetarian or vegan diet. Fewer animals would be bred in order to be reared for meat, thus fewer would be slaughtered in inhumane ways.

3. Yes, you could just save the world!

Veganism could combat world hunger. An ecologist from Cornell Chronical advised scientists that the U.S. could "feed 800 million people with grain that livestock eat". This food could be instead given to citizens in third

world countries who need it. Furthermore, the statistics are unbelievable when it comes to water consumption. According to VegNews, "it takes 100 to 200 times more water to produce a pound of beef than it does to grow a pound of plant foods". Furthermore, air pollution from livestock has become a national crisis that most of the nation are unaware of. The documentary *Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret*, mentions how cows secrete 150 Billion gallons of Methane per day "which is 130 times more waste than the entire human population". A UN report warned that "rearing cattle produces more greenhouse gases than driving cars". In fact, it produces more than the entire transportation sector: cars, trains, boats and planes combined! I know you must be thinking that your contribution will be meaningless, so what is the point in becoming vegan to save the planet anyway? Well, becoming vegan can sometimes set off a chain reaction. Others can become intrigued by your diet and life choices, and some feel that they would like to try this, even if only once a week or so. A few of my friends have become vegan (or at least tried a few recipes) because of their fascination with my diet. If you want to find out more about veganism; I highly recommend two documentaries that can be found on Netflix: *What the Health?* and *Cowspiracy*.

RECIPES TO TRY: SIMPLE SPAGHETTI WITH ROAST VEG

MANY THANKS TO @EVERYDAYWITHREAY FOR PROVIDING THE RECIPE, FOR MORE INSPIRATION CHECK OUT HER INSTAGRAM

Ingredients:

Wholewheat spaghetti (or white spaghetti but wholewheat keeps you fuller for longer!)

- 1 x Red onion
- 1 x Aubergine
- 1 x Pepper (colour of your choice)
- A few olives (sliced)
- Some salt and pepper for seasoning
- Some rocket for garnish
- Dash or two of olive oil
- Suggested: balsamic vinegar for the rocket

1. Chop the onion and pepper into slices
2. Slice the aubergine
3. Place the vegetables in a baking tray and generously drizzle with olive oil and season with salt and pepper.
3. Bake the vegetables in oven for roughly 25 minutes or until soft
4. Griddle the aubergines (if you dont have a way of griddling, you can bake them instead)
5. Cook the spaghetti in a pan of boiling water according to the instructions on the packet.

6. Once the vegetables and spaghetti are cooked, put them on a plate with a handful of rocket, drizzle some balsamic vinegar on top of the rocket and throw some chopped olives onto the pasta and voila! A super easy meal which is not only vegan, but incredibly healthy and simple.

Saying that, the recipe is also incredibly budget friendly. From Morrisons the approximate total is £4.36, for several servings

- Spaghetti - 61p a pack
- Red onion - from 25p each (although if you go into the supermarket and pick up just the amount you need, it may be cheaper and will reduce food waste!)
- Pepper - 60p each or 97p for a pack of 3
- Aubergine - 50p
- Bag of rocket or similar salad - from £1
- Olive oil - from £1.40

If you're interested in any further recipes from everydaywithreay, then check out her instagram page. Not everything is vegan or vegetarian but she has got some such recipes which are really tasty and certainly look instagram worthy.



10 THINGS I HATE



ABOUT UNI

IMAGE: HOLLY HUXTER

JACK DAVIES MOANS ABOUT WHAT'S PISSING HIM OFF OF

1. Top of the list, undoubtedly, is the **dissertation**. In between my important commitments of work and drinking, there just isn't time to write 8000 words. So much effort.
2. My **writing ability**. So it turns out, three years of not turning up to anything on an English degree hasn't exactly aided my ability to write a gigantic essay. In other words, it's shit. Hello 2:2.
3. Unbelievably, in a cruel twist of fate, I've contracted a **horrible cold** during the lovely warm weather we've been having. How am I meant to enjoy getting fucked up in a beer garden if I can't taste my cider?
4. My **decision to stay in York** next year after I finish studying means I've got to find a house in which to, yknow, live. Tragically, the only ones left available look like set backgrounds from Trainspotting.
5. **Gareth Watts**, my housemate.
6. I've said this many times before, but my **money management skills** are truly appalling. In this last week, I've booked two holidays, numerous gig tickets and spent an eye watering amount drinking in every beer garden York has to offer.
7. The **prospect of getting a job** post uni is now becoming a daunting fire alarm perpetually sounding inside my head. The issue is, the jobs that are available either have shit pay, or sound about as appealing as a 4-week trek through the ISIS-ridden mountains of Syria.
8. While the sun is beautiful, and I've spent every second available out in this weather we've recently had, my **natural complexion** of milk bottle white means I'm now, basically, a walking beetroot.
9. I worry more and more about my **quite outstanding ability to lie**. Some of them are so extravagant. For no reason the other night, in a taxi, I decided to relay tales of my girlfriend, being pregnant with twins, and constantly craving chocolate to the driver to explain my own request for him to pull over at a garage so I could buy about ten chocolate bars.
10. The tenth thing I hate about uni this week is **uni**. Done with this shit man. Students are cunts.

Hare to Help!

by James Hare



IMAGE: JAMES HARE'S MUM

WHO THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA? NOT JAMES HARE

I recently discovered that the phrase is "the world is your oyster" not "the world is your lobster" as I had long believed - am I alone in falling prey to such a colossal misunderstanding?

Thank you dear reader, for taking the time to write to me about this issue which is clearly troubling you greatly. I often get questions of this ilk - just last week I had to explain to Tony Blair that when people use the term "war criminal" in conversation around the topic of Iraq they generally are not congratulating him on removing one from power.

The answer - and it will shock you to hear this - was revealed to me in a dream as I slept through a party I was meant to be hosting just a few days ago (the life of a student newspaper agony aunt is both thrilling and exhausting in equal measure, I assure you). Had I not fallen asleep at that moment, your query would have gone unanswered and my guests would have had to listen to my inane banter for even longer than they had already had to suffer through. Seriously, it was like asking Al Gore about his locked box.

Firstly let me say that I completely understand the feeling you are experiencing right now, having misunderstood such a commonly used phrase. I used to believe that cucumbers and computers were one and the same in my youth, often asking my grandparents if I could have a computer to eat, and wondering why there were a lack of plug sockets in their greenhouse. Luckily I eventually realised the distinction, but for a long time I refused to eat cucumbers due to my belief that they contained a number of chemicals I had been warned to avoid. It was a truly horrifying state of affairs.

Throughout history there are many examples of people making similar mistakes. Let us remember Napoleon, as shrewd a military strategist as they come (imagine playing Civilisation or Age of Empires with

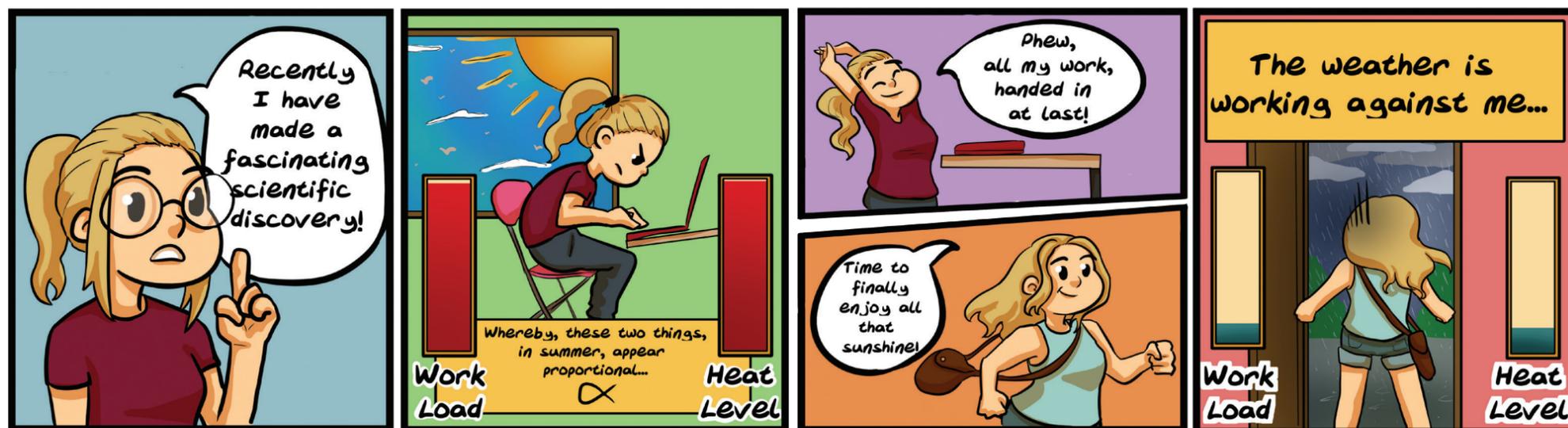
him on the cucumber, the wily fox would eat you alive). Napoleon misunderstood the warnings of an encounter with General Winter in Russia, believing the General to simply be a Brit who had got lost in the wilds of Eastern Europe with a particular dislike for Frenchmen, a la young Edmund Blackadder. Instead, he came face to face with the monster known as the Russian winter. Having come face to face with the Polish winter, I can confirm he made a huge mistake. Imagine weather that embodied the only notable work of Vanilla Ice - a lot of ice, and a horrible experience for all unfortunate enough to come into contact with it.

Closer to home, there are more mundane misunderstandings that still lead to people feeling embarrassed. It can be small things, like accidentally putting in the wrong quantity on an online supermarket order because you confused scales of measurement - ordering 10 carrots is fine, ordering 10kg of carrots is only salvageable if you put out an alert to all neighbourhood rabbits to come and rescue you from the avalanche of orange pouring from every orifice of your kitchen. Likewise, I once interpreted the price of a meal as being fixed rather than based on weight and ended up buying £25 worth of goulash from a Czech street vendor. It was well worth it, albeit a real struggle to carry around with me - I was more stew than man that day.

There are surely many more misunderstandings I could list - my Editors would likely suggest that Jack Davies being given the column next to me is one of them, after they asked him to design a page and it came back with a pre-designed space for his ramblings. Yet we are pressed for space, so I cannot go on much further - much like my near 7ft tall friend Kieran when we confronted him with a series of ever decreasing size of doorways.

Send questions to james.hare@nouse.co.uk

NIAMH MURCHAN ON THE WEATHER'S CRUEL TIMING...



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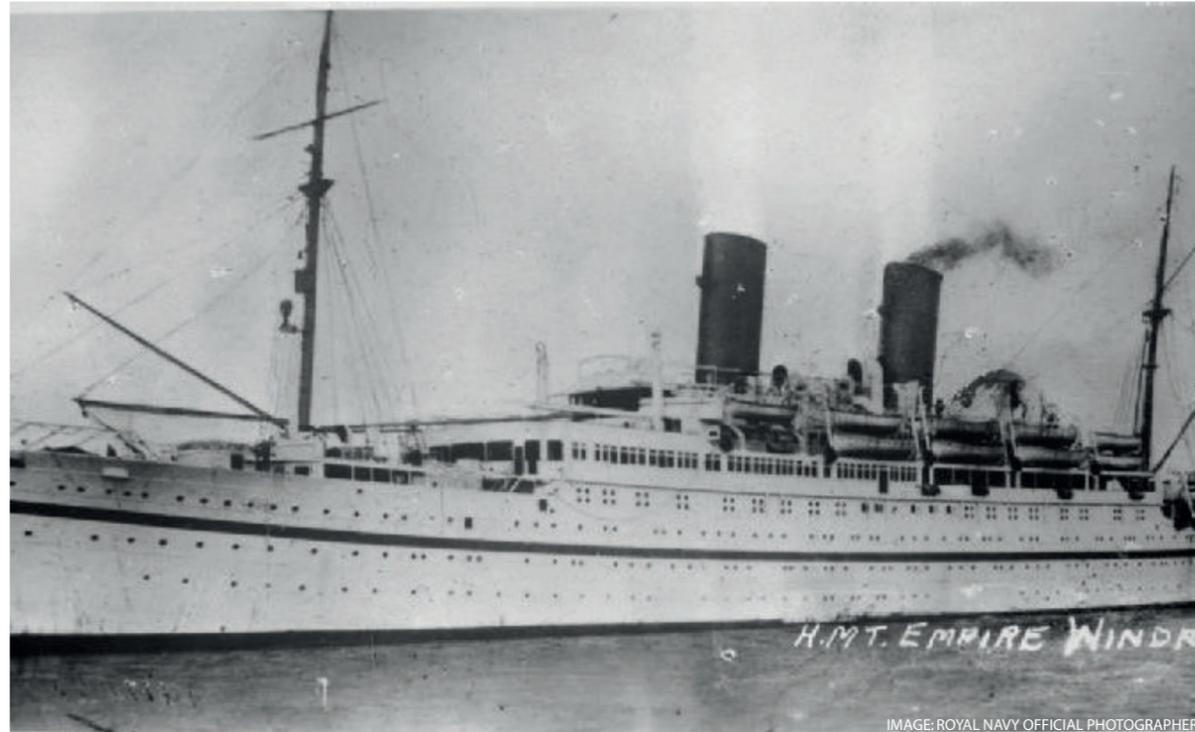


Amber Rudd resigns after misleading Parliament

Callum Tennant
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

AMBER RUDD was forced to resign from the Cabinet on 29 April after admitting that she “inadvertently” misled Parliament about whether the Home Office had removal targets for illegal immigrants. The former Home Secretary had been facing increased pressure from the Opposition over the Windrush scandal and the accusation that she had strengthened the “hostile environment” towards illegal immigration in the Home Office.

The Windrush scandal revolves around the immigration of workers from former British colonies to Britain following World War II, as Britain faced a major labour shortage. These immigrants under the British Nationality Act of 1948 were given full rights of citizenship and residency in the UK, however over half a century later these immigrants found themselves being told they had to prove they were British despite many not having any of the necessary documents. Multiple British citizens were nearly deported and it’s unclear if any have been wrongly deported. Public outrage at the scandal has grown as it has become more apparent that the same generation that came to help rebuild Britain, leaving all they knew behind, are not being treated like the heroes they are. Instead, they are being treated as potential illegal immigrants and in some instances are being denied access to healthcare, even having to prove their na-



MV Empire Windrush, the ship after which the Windrush generation is named, arriving in Tilbury, Essex in 1948

tionality in order to rent a house or open a bank account. It was after being summoned to the Home Affairs Select Committee for questioning about this scandal that Amber Rudd said that the Home Office did not have specific deportation targets, saying “that’s not how we operate.” However, shortly after, a leaked memo prepared for Rudd and other high-ranking Home Office officials contradicted this, which read: “we have exceeded our target of assisted returns.” Rudd faced a further blow when a letter signed by her and sent to the Prime Minister was leaked in which Amber Rudd stated she had

the “aim of increasing the number of enforced removals by more than 10 per cent over the next few years.”

Later that night Amber Rudd resigned, stating that she had “inadvertently” misled parliament following revelations about local targets for assisted removals. Unfortunately for Rudd this was a checkmate situation; if she was aware of the targets she purposefully lied to Parliament and if she wasn’t then there would be claims that she didn’t know what is going on in her own department and wasn’t in control. One thing this does confirm is just how dan-

gerous the Home Office is for politicians, as Amber Rudd – formerly seen by some as a potential party leader – becomes the latest to have their career brought down while in the role of Home Secretary.

The resignation of Amber Rudd is a blow to Theresa May, and marks the loss of arguably her closest ally in the Cabinet which will now be dramatically different following the promotion of Sajid Javid as the new Home Secretary, notably the finest BAME person to hold this position. Contrary to Rudd, Javid has not shared a close relationship with May, he was one of her most fierce

critics at the first cabinet meeting following the disastrous 2017 General election result and has already stated that May’s phrase “hostile environment” is “a phrase that is unhelpful and does not represent the values as a country.” This willingness to openly challenge May’s legacy at the Home Office could prove challenging for May, who has lost four cabinet ministers in the past six months, three of whom were close allies. Rudd’s departure from the cabinet also removes one of the most vocal Remainers, tilting the balance of the cabinet ever so slightly towards a harder Brexit. As a new Home Secretary arriving in the midst of a scandal Sajid Javid has his work cut out, however he may be the first step in the Conservatives drawing a line under the Windrush scandal. Javid spoke of how, when he heard about the scandal, as the son of a Pakistani immigrant he thought that it could’ve been his family being threatened with deportation.

This empathy will resonate and help the Party recover and improve its image among minority groups. Looking ahead Javid has some large challenges: as Home Secretary he is responsible for keeping safe a country whose terror level is at ‘Severe’, a country facing a 20 per cent year on year increase in violent crime according to police figures and will be closely involved in the continued investigation into the Salisbury nerve agent attack. Javid only needs to look at his predecessor to see how risky the position of Home Secretary is, but if he looks at the predecessor before that he can also see the opportunities and doors this position can open.

Macron achieves balance in Washington DC

Patrick Walker
POLITICS CORRESPONDENT

THE FIRST EVER state visit to the US was a display of awkward conflict and utterly bizarre physical affection. Macron’s trip to Washington came at a time of political difficulty at home, and he recognised that a good showing around Trump would restore confidence in his premiership. The American President, as far

Macron’s trip to Washington came at a time of political difficulty at home

as Trump strategies go, wanted to reject Macron’s views on key issues: Iran’s nuclear programme, the US’ ongoing trade war, and America’s

climate change agenda.

The two men certainly didn’t seem keen to air these differences, at least for the first two days. They were strangely affectionate with each other, exchanging the traditional French kiss on the cheek, and hugging. At one point, Macron placed his hands on Trump’s knee. The display was a stark contrast to the chilly reception Merkel, or the prolonged handshake that went viral after their first meeting. Both leaders seemed desperate to convince the media their relationship was an ongoing success, and they achieved this. *The New York Times* declared the state visit ‘Le Bromance’. Trump has either begun to listen to his advisors, or has decided that having at least one ally in Europe would be beneficial to a country about to level trade tariffs on a global scale.

Macron’s first goal for the visit to manage Trump was a resounding success. His address to Congress struck a different tone,

and while he added the usual imperatives on ‘unbreakable bonds’ and international cooperation, he also set about an impassioned criticism of Trumpism. His method demonstrated good political

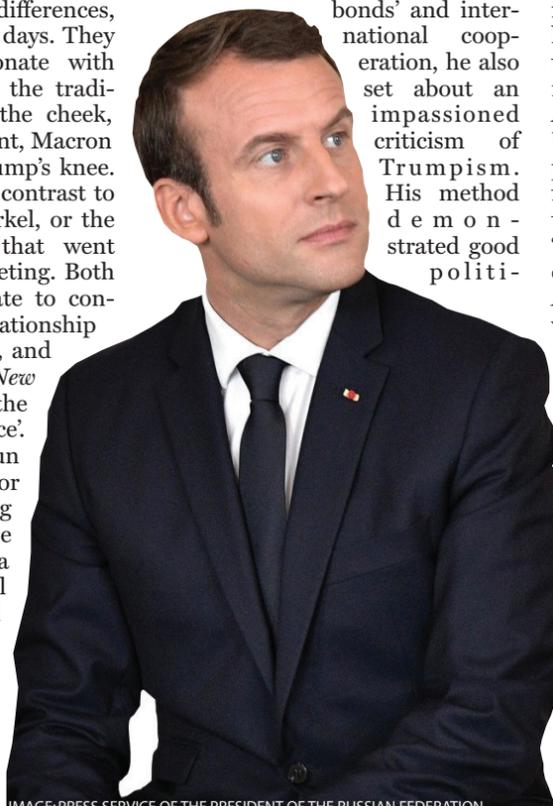


IMAGE: PRESS SERVICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

understanding. Knowing that American politicians enjoy discussing America’s leadership the world, he defended a number of topics through that lens. He argued that multilateralism was “invented” by America, and made a plea that the US “help preserve... it.” He also expressed discontent at the US’ exit from the Paris Agreement, and said that he hoped they would rejoin “one day”. He even found time to criticise Trump’s domestic policies. As the Supreme Court was deciding whether to permit Trump’s travel ban just minutes from the US capitol, Macron passionately declared that he did not share Trump’s “fascination” with the “illusion of nationalism”.

Macron’s attempt to separate his diplomatic ideology from that of Trump didn’t stop there. Trump smartly worked hard to ensure Democrats were excluded from the good press surrounding the state visit, not inviting them to dinners, and spending most of the visit by Macron’s side. Despite this, Macron found time to meet Democratic leaders, notably embracing Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) a civil rights leader who

marched with Martin Luther King Jr. Lewis had previously been dismissed by Trump as “all talk.” Other Democratic leaders expressed contentment at these displays, including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who praised Macron on Twitter.

For Macron, the trip to Washington was a success. He demonstrated his differences with Trump, endearing himself to his own country, where the American President is very unpopular. Simultaneously, he gained Trump’s respect and avoided the bad press surrounding their previous meeting that alleged the two leaders’ policy rifts were irreconcilable. Trump must also feel pleased. He reinforced the importance of a ‘special relationship’ with France, in light of May and Merkel’s embroilment in domestic political difficulty, and demonstrated his aptitude for state visits. The message the Trump team ultimately wanted was that Obama wasn’t the only president capable of a charm offensive. That said, state visits are good, and easy to win. If Trump continues his trade war, he may find the ‘special relationship’ a little harder to maintain.

Local elections end in deadlock

Niamh Carroll
POLITICS EDITOR

THE LOCAL ELECTIONS last week seem to signal an era of political deadlock between Labour and the Conservatives. While Labour gained 77 seats, this was not a decisive indication that electoral support has turned in their favour and they failed to take several target councils from the Conservatives. Despite losing seats, Theresa May's Conservative party managed to hold off the sort of expression of mass discontent at the local ballot box that the ruling party often fears.

A Labour takeover in London had been talked of before the local elections, but it failed to materialise. While Jeremy Corbyn's party managed to gain Tower Hamlets and councils outside of London such as Sheffield, it failed to snatch the capital's "Tory Crown Jewels" such as Wandsworth. There are signs that the row over anti-Semitism in the party has taken an electoral toll as the Conservatives took target seat Barnet, where there is a large Jewish community. If Labour had hoped to make gains upon their performance in the 2017 General Election, then they failed to achieve this. Jeremy Corbyn deemed the result "solid"; muted language from a Labour leader who declared his party had "changed the face of British politics" following the result in the 2017 General Election.

Meanwhile, it seems that UKIP's demise was to the Conservatives' advantage, as they gained control over Basildon and Peterborough following the collapse of UKIP's vote. Local elections are normally a time when voters feel freer to express discontent at the ballot box by casting their vote for smaller parties; UKIP have in the past (especially prior to the referendum) done very well in local elections. Despite their loss of 123 seats, general secretary Paul Oakley, declared all was not lost for the Eurosceptic party, saying: "think of the Black Death in the Middle Ages," Mr Oakley said. "It comes along and it causes disruption and then it goes dormant, and

that's exactly what we are going to do." However, last week's results do not bode well at all for UKIP, once seen as the new third party in British politics, as they seem to have lost momentum even at a protest level in a UK set on course for Brexit.

The Liberal Democrats celebrated success after gaining four councils and 76 seats. Leader Vince Cable declared: "we are very much on our way back." Brexit continues to have electoral impact and the party's ultra-Remain stance seems to have done them a favour, with the party gaining the pro-EU areas of Kingston, Richmond and South Cambridgeshire. However, after faltering support in recent years, the barometer to measure success is set low. These gains are small given the propensity for small parties to do well in local elections, whereas in General Elections voters feel cornered into making a choice between the two main parties as they feel anything else is a wasted vote. The Green Party made a net gain of seven seats, including co-leader Jonathan Bartley. After the results, the Greens declared themselves as "England's fourth party", and given UKIP's dismal result it seems hard

It seems that UKIP's demise was to the Conservatives advantage

to dispute this.

The BBC estimates that the turnout was an underwhelming 36 per cent, and in some ways the results are rather underwhelming too. Parties' leadership don't see local elections in terms of the issues of bin collection and green belts; instead they see them as a litmus test for how their party is faring among the electorate. The picture seems to be much unchanged from the General Election; with the two main parties neck and neck in support. Whether this will change in a political landscape deadlocked by Brexit remains to be seen.



A Colombian man marches for a peace which is now in jeopardy after reports of continued FARC criminality

A rocky peace in Colombia

Federico Rueda
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

COLOMBIAN presidential candidate and chief peace negotiator of the government during the peace process. Humberto de la Calle, recently claimed that "the way we are going is towards war with our eyes closed." The candidate's claims come in response to the new recent crisis in the peace process surrounding Jesús Santrich, a leading member of the former rebel movement, the FARC.

Santrich has been recently arrested on allegations of trafficking drugs to the US. According to the peace agreement, any criminal activity related to the conflict that occurred prior to the signing of the treaty is subjected to a special tribunal, however if such an action occurs at a later date, then the individual is subjected to the ordinary justice system. If the crime is drug-trafficking, related, this has traditionally meant extradition. To engage in such a practice for the case of Santrich however is problematic. The FARC has claimed he is innocent, arguing that the case is a plot to sabotage the negotiated

peace. Santrich himself has been on hunger strike since 9 of April.

To add further complications, the *Wall Street Journal* has alleged that the US and the Colombian government were investigating another FARC member, Iván Márquez, for similar accusations. Márquez responded by quitting his congressional seat, arguing that he could not serve in the Senate while being labeled a drug trafficker, and transferring to one of the camps meant for demobilised guerrillas.

The Santrich affair is not the only obstacle in Colombia's rocky road to peace. Negotiations with the last remaining major guerrilla group, the ELN, have faced the difficulty of finding another host country after the Ecuadorian government terminated this role due to fighting on its border regions.

Furthermore, the demobilisation of the rebels left a power vacuum in rural areas that has been filled by right-wing paramilitary groups, the ELN and FARC's dissenters. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 6 600 have had to flee in early 2018.

The government has also been accused of not doing enough to secure the peace in general. Human rights groups have condemned the

government for supposedly not properly investigating the increasing number of assassinations of human rights leaders throughout the country. Others have accused the government of not implementing the treaty by failing to approve all necessary laws; Congress voted against the implementation of representative seats for the victims and finally the fact that many of the camps the demobilised rebels had to concentrate in were not even set up.

The inability of the government to fully implement the deal can also be traced to the hostility towards it by major politicians including the largest opposition. Uribe's handpicked successor and opinion-poll favourite for the presidential elections this June, Iván Duque, has also made modifying the treaty a major theme in his presidential campaign.

Ultimately, with only 45 per cent of the FARC's members remaining in the re-insertion camps, powerful politicians' open hostility to the peace accords, the fall in trust by both the FARC and the government of each other's commitment to the deal, and actual resumed fighting between the remaining armed groups, de la Calle's claims a likely confirmation of a frightful omen.



LEFT WING RIGHT WING

Thoughts from the (new) Politics Editor

IN MY FIRST COLUMN as Politics Editor, I would like to lament the loss of my formerly boring subject. In my 2015 A-Level Politics class we found events such as Ed Miliband's stone tablets with Labour's election promises and the subsequent election of Jeremy Corbyn (who "wouldn't last months") completely sensational. How naïve we were.

Over the last few years, everything has changed, and you'd be a fool to make any long-term bets.

This week threw up another surprise; who would have believed, even six months ago, that North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un would be discussing halting his nuclear weapons programme? This week saw the historic summit between the lead-

ers of North and South Korea. The meeting was surprisingly cordial and had a tone of optimism that has sparked hope about the future of the Korean peninsula.

US President Donald Trump, ever humble, has claimed credit for his role in facilitating the meeting. Only a few months ago, relations between the US and North Korea seemed to be reaching boiling point, after a series of fiery exchanges between Trump and Kim Jong-Un. But now two men who once labelled each other a "dotard" and a "little rocket man" are scheduled to meet, a historic move for any US President. While Trump proclaiming

credit for himself is hardly surprising, it seems he is not the only one who believes he had a role in facilitating greater relations on the Korean Peninsula. Earlier this week, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said, "President Trump should win the Nobel Peace Prize."

While many would balk at the idea of the same President who tries to ban refugees from entering the US and who thinks it's acceptable to "grab her by the pussy" winning a Nobel Peace Prize, personally, I support the idea. I hope Trump and Kim Jong Un's meeting is the greatest, hugest diplomatic meeting on record and that they manage to

solve Korea's problems. I hope Donald Trump wins the Nobel Peace Prize.

Contemporary world politics resembles some unfeasible TV drama which has been commissioned for one season too many and is having to pull outrageous plotlines out of the bag in a desperate attempt to keep its viewers interested. Having almost used up all storylines, the next twist must be a US President getting a Nobel Peace Prize and being impeached for paying 'hush money' to a porn star in the same year. Who, two years ago, would have predicted this could be a feasible scenario?

Is Cambridge Analytica's closure Facebook's revival?

Younis Mageit
BUSINESS EDITOR

AS THE NEWS of a data breach of unheard scale met the world, news as to the magnitude of the resultant damage that Facebook was to incur met its executive directors and shareholders. Facebook share value was said to have declined by 7 per cent in the immediate aftermath, the most considerable single day decline since 2014.

Although the congressional testimony session at which Facebook executive director Mark Zuckerberg was interrogated has managed, vis a vis share prices, to modestly revive its fortunes, the longstanding data-protection issues, and the concomitant reputational damage that will have been generated by this, still threatens its return to the pre-shock position.

It is thought, in some quarters, albeit rather optimistically, in some quarters that the recent announcement that Cambridge Analytica and its parent consultancy company SCL group are to terminate their operations, will in itself lead to a reversal in the current status of consumer confidence and thus the prospects of Facebook.

Recovery however, as opined by

Kyle Taylor of the *New Statesman*, will not lie in a collection of symbolic gestures (such as the acceptance of fault on being summoned before committees) designed solely to reassure without providing substantial redress.

From the manner in which Cambridge Analytica have announced closure, citing alienation by suppliers and therefore customers in the wake of the media coverage, rather than the admitting guilt in conduct, it is possible to infer that such data breach outbreaks, not least those that undermine democratic processes by undue influence, will not be a thing of the past.

Cambridge Analytica, even at the point of closure, contend that they acted in accordance with the law and make the claim of merely having engaged

in what was "widely accepted as a standard component of on-line advertising in both the political and commercial arenas". Reference to company's house reveals that its executives have established a new company called Emer-

data. In other words, a fundamental breach of trust; in which the respective rights of privacy, autonomy and freedom from discrimination are not observed still may not result in a breach of law. There is also doubt as to whether the recent introduction of European data protection

regulations, due to come into force on May 25 will act as anti-dote to this. As Andrew Rawnsley said, writing for the *Guardian*, politicians have sought to control digital giants with rules drawn up for the analogue era.

What emerges from Facebook's review of practice, as a result of such regulatory weakness, which strengthens to weaken that serves to dismiss rather than to embody consumer confidence, is a business model that is premised on the notion, as suggested by Ira S. Rubinstein, of consumer-empowerment. Such empowerment it is widely thought can only be achieved in the rethinking and subsequent redesign of the informed choice model, whereby it may constitute an actual exercise of consent. Tillburg University has acts found that a lack in consumer confidence acts as a barrier to growth. The protection of fundamental rights important in sustaining and enhancing consumer engagement with Facebook cannot simply depend on the infrequent trial by media, important though it is. Prevailing big data practices such as data mining demand an adequate response that coheres to the challenges it raises. Only then, with the establishment of ethical data practices, will Facebook be able to experience a renaissance in market success.

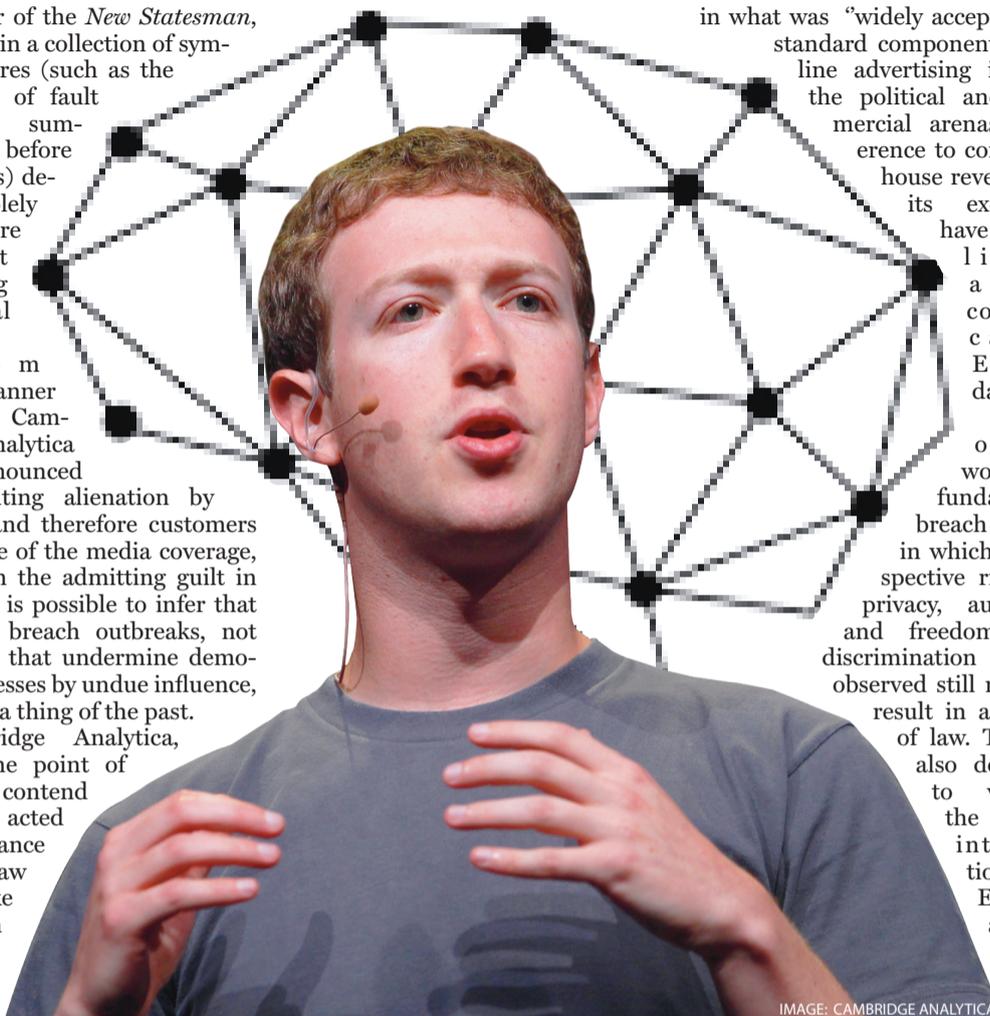


IMAGE: CAMBRIDGE ANALYTICA

The 67 year old Virgin man ventures into equity

Nicholas Brown
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

THE ENGLISH billionaire and founder of the famous Virgin group, Richard Branson, has this week announced his intention to create a private equity fund by raising £440m for investments in consumer goods. The business tycoon, who is thought to be worth over \$5.1 bn, is to manage the fund alongside Metric Capital, a British equity firm, to generate equity through investments for pension funds and

among other large investors.

Branson, has years of experience in investment under his belt and sits on the board for the RISE fund. The new fund aims to generate returns of up to 20 per cent for investors by seeking out innovative goods for the consumer market. The founder of Virgin is said to be particularly "attracted" to the consumer market due to the rapid growth figures of his new partner Metric Capital. This move is a significant testament to the sheer size of Branson's reputation in the industry, but his success is rooted in one business, the Virgin group.

The Virgin brand, instantly recognisable today, was founded over 45 years ago as a small record shop in Notting Hill by Branson and Nik Powell, who coined the name as they considered themselves 'virgins' in the industry. The brand grew massively in the 1970s and the entrepreneurs launched a record label that managed the popular punk rock band, the Sex Pistols. Over the 1980s, the conglomerate really started to take shape. Branson launched Virgin Holidays, providing package holidays, and Virgin Airships that providing hot air balloon rides. The firm currently has 60 brands associated with the company, ranging from wine to flights.

Many of these brands work on franchise agreements whereby Branson and the Virgin holding group receive a fee for the licensing of the brand.

The Virgin group is estimated to be worth £5.5 bn today due to its 45 year expansion through its growth in different fields. Branson's recent attraction to consumer goods seems to be rooted in the very early Virgin brands such as Virgin megastores which provided goods straight to the market. However, not all of the Virgin group's ventures have been successful. Virgin cola for example was launched in 1994 to try and tackle the dominance of Pepsi and Coca-Cola yet only amassed a small 0.5 per cent market share in the US. Virgin vodka, Virgin clothing and Virgin lingerie were other brands that flopped when brought to the market.

The most recent troubled Virgin brand is Galactic, which aims to take tourists out into space to observe Earth from above. The project, has been dogged by problems since it was established and even resulted in the death of a pilot during a test flight. Although, not as a complete failure the other brands listed above, the project cast doubt on some of Branson's business decisions and these may cause doubts for investors in his new collaboration with Metric Capital.

It is reported that Branson and the team will be using their £440m

fund to invest in the digital consumer industry. According to Price Waterhouse Cooper, the digital consumer goods industry is estimated to be worth over \$100bn globally. The new fund will be analysing trends in the industry and will invest in innovation to develop and seek out the latest goods and bring them to market. Trends in recent years that have amassed huge returns for digital firms have included artificial intelligence such as the Google Home (that sold over 7m units in the 4th quarter of 2017) and Amazon Echo.

This new project is unique in the sense that Richard Branson will be heavily involved in the day-to-day running and funding decisions of the partnership. In the past, Branson has been involved in such decisions only as an advisor and this development not only shows how sought after his expertise is in the industry.

City insiders told City-AM how bosses at Metric Capital were extremely keen for Branson's involvement, as raising private equity can be extremely difficult, especially due to the growth of private equity funds due to investors seeking investment opportunity with low interest rates. It will be months, potentially years, before we see any real growth in the fund. However, any new developments will be eagerly anticipated by investors and the markets due to the ability of the fund to innovate new goods.



IMAGE: WILLIAM MURPHY

Soaring interest rates in Argentina

Jack Harvey
BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

INTEREST RATES AT the Central Bank of Argentina reached reportedly the world's highest rate last week, standing at 40 per cent.

On Friday 4th May, the Central Bank, led by its President Federico Sturzenegger, made the bold move to increase interest rates for the third time in eight days. The interest rates had sat at a high of 27.25 per cent in the previous month before increasing by three points to 30.25 per cent and again to 33.25 per cent on Thursday.

The move comes in a long-running struggle against high rates of inflation in the country. In 2017 Argentina faced the second highest level of inflation in the region, behind Venezuela. The nation's previous government's policy of quantitative easing – printing more money – may well have inflamed the country's inflation problem.

Last week, multiple foreign investors took their capital out of Argentina, prompting the Central Bank's string of increases to interest rates. \$951 million of reserves were sold last week, a small sum in comparison to the \$6.7 billion of

reserves sold over the previous two months. The sudden loss of foreign investment may be linked to a capital gains tax against foreign visitors implemented last month.

The Argentinian President, Mauricio Macri, has taken a pro-market stance in the face of the economic problems facing the country. Macri's mission is to improve the free flow of capital and liberalise markets, in contrast to his predecessor's policies, widely seen as protectionist.

Macri is well-respected by foreign investors for his determination to work towards a free market, free movement of capital and fewer economic regulations. While interest rates have increased, the Macri government announced that government spending would fall. Despite his promising

economic principles, Macri and his government face a number of tough decisions.

Though a

rise to 40 per cent seems extraordinary, this may be one move of many to remedy Argentina's economic difficulties.

The Central Bank of Argentina maintains that it will take all the necessary steps to reduce inflation, aiming to meet the government's target of 15 per cent.

There are several options available to the Argentinian government, but all bear their own costs in terms of long-term implications for the economy, as well as the political party's popularity. Raising interest rates, as Sturzenegger has elected to do, is one way for governments to respond to high inflation. High interest rates im-

proves the chances of better returns for investors.

However, at home, the ordinary Argentinian may find it hard to borrow money with such a high interest rate to pay. If businesses and ordinary people don't have the money

Macri and his government face a number of tough decisions

to engage, the economy's health will only decline. For Macri, this might invite criticism from trade unions who point out that rapidly increasing numbers of workers are out of pocket.

Overall, Macri faces a difficult balancing act of tackling high inflation versus winning the confidence of foreign investors and maintaining good trading relations with other nations in the area.

Though 40 per cent currently marks a world leading high, historically, the country's interest rates have been far higher. Argentina's interest rates once reached 1389 per cent in 1990, putting this crisis into perspective.

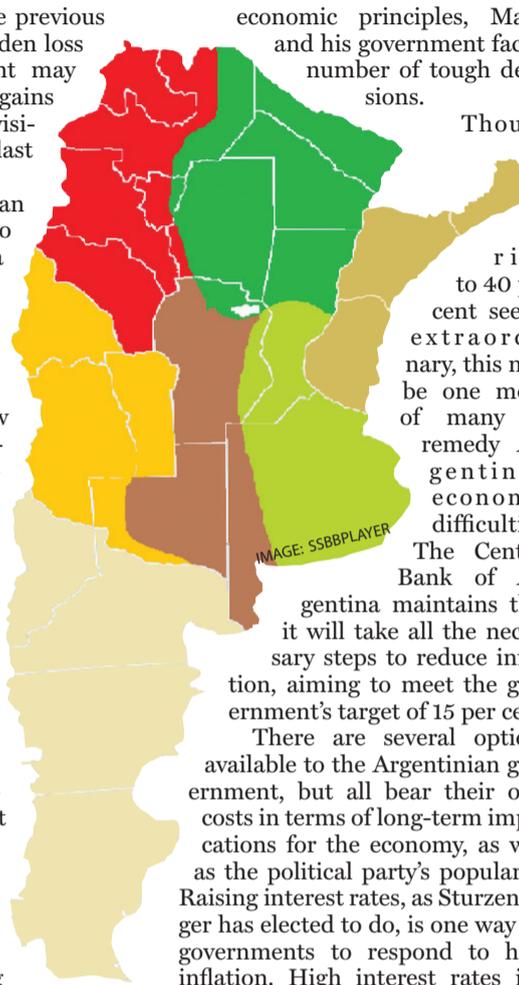


IMAGE: SSBPLAYER

IMAGE: CLAUDIO LOMBARDI

“What have the Romans ever done for us?” Informed us about financial crises

Jacob Phillips
EDITOR

THE 2008 HOUSING crisis could possibly be the biggest financial disaster of the 21st century. \$260 bn was spent by the US government in order to bail out banks in an attempt to return economic life to normality. In the UK, the impact of the following austerity can still be felt today. However, a lot of the symptoms of the 2008 housing crisis had been seen before. In fact they were seen as early as 33AD.

In 33AD the first ever financial crisis took place. During the reign of the Second Roman Emperor Tiberius, financial crisis struck across the Roman Empire, leaving no region unaffected. During this time period, the Roman Empire had an expansive international economy. Cereals, olive oil, fish and metals were traded between Rome and the areas that it controlled. In fact Rome had its very own version of Wall Street at this time. Rome's Via Sacra was home to many banks and companies, serving as the epicentre of Rome's economic empire.

However, as a result of poor policy making and panicking bank-

ers, Rome fell into crisis. Firstly, the government reduced its expenditure and money lending. This meant that they followed austere policies which reduced the amount of money in the pockets of the average Roman. Without money being spent in the economy, people had less money and businesses suffered.

In response to this, bankers and business owners paid off loans too quickly. They sold off their properties at low rates in order to gain cash. With everyone trying to sell their properties, and with people having less money to spend, the prices of property swiftly declined.

With everyone trying to withdraw their money when trading was failing, two key banks on Rome's Via Sacra closed their doors, leading to price instability. The Roman Empire was left with less money and less means of receiving loans. In simple terms, people had no money to spend and limited sources of income. In addition, individuals found that their property was now worth a lot less as people could not afford the prices set before the crash.

So how did the Roman Empire solve this issue? By taking a very similar approach to that of policymakers following the 2008 crisis. Large loans were made to bankers

with zero per cent interest rates in order to provide people with money. Secondly, imperial loans did not charge any interest for three years. This led to the beginning of a slow economic recovery.

These policies in fact reflect very closely what happened in 2008. The Roman policy of zero interest rate loans can be viewed as a simplified version of Quantitative Easing. Furthermore the Imperial loans the Romans implemented re-

flect recent maturity easing policies which are designed to keep interest rates low until economic recovery has started.

Although the economic life of Roman times may seem a distant world compared to modern economics, the principles it espouses have similarities to Keynesian economics, as well as policies such as Quantitative easing. Perhaps the economic policies of the future will also have Roman roots.



WEEK IN NUMBERS

Digest of the week's most important figures.

164,000

The increase in employment in April in the USA, lower than economists predicted



2bn

Estimated loss in Tesla's Market Value after it's founders refusal to answer 'dry' finance questions

£600m

The offer made by tycoon Shahid Khan to buy Wembley Stadium



30,537

The number of flights in the worlds busiest air-route, Singapore to Kuala Lumpur

40%

The interest rate introduced in Argentina to prevent further devaluation of the Peso



125

UK-based jobs that Bank of America intends to transfer to Ireland due to the anticipated impact of Brexit

What we can learn from the 'city in the garden'?

Alessandra Zannier
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

WITH THE GROWING threats posed by global warming, the need for nations to take action is becoming increasingly apparent. Singapore prides itself on being the greenest country in Asia, ranking 14th in the UN Environmental Performance Index, beating its neighbours of Malaysia (63rd), Thailand (91st), and Indonesia (107th) by considerable margins: astonishing results for a city state of its size.

The reasons behind this great environmental performance lie in the government's unwavering commitment to 'green' projects. Former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made it his goal to earn Singapore the nickname of "City in the Garden", which is extremely well-deserved. In fact, 47 per cent of Singapore is covered in vegetation and 80 per cent of all homes are less than 10 minutes from a public park. Given that the island is only 278 square miles in area and has the third highest population density in the world, this is a fantastic achievement.

Green spaces are arguably one of the things Singapore is most famous for. The iconic Gardens by the Bay, which opened in 2012, are testament to the city's forward-thinking approach to the environment. Their world famous Supertrees, tree-like vertical gardens that light

IMAGE: ROD WADDINGTON



up every night, reflect the harmony that exists throughout the city between the urban and natural environments. Not only are these trees brilliant works of engineering, they also contain photovoltaic cells to collect solar power. What is more, Gardens by the Bay boast a Flower Dome and Cloud Forest that display some of the finest flowers and plants from around the world.

Walking through Singapore, you quickly become aware that nature is ever-present. The majority of skyscrapers have green spaces or vertical gardens. One example is the

Park Royal, which recently earned the title of Asia's Leading Green Hotel for its living walls and waterfalls that naturally cool the building. Also maintaining this eco-friendly standard is the illustrious Marina

One can only hope the rest of the world will follow suit ”

Bay Sands Hotel, a must-see for anyone visiting Singapore. This ho-

tel is committed to environmental sustainability, with green initiatives that include collecting rainwater for the hotel, using skylights to reduce artificial lighting and flow regulators to reduce water consumption.

While Singapore is no doubt world-leading in terms of its environmental performance, the government has plans to improve it even further. Speaking at the Ecosperity conference in 2017, the country's Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean stressed that future development will focus on "Building a sustainable economy, creating

a sustainable living environment, ensuring sustainable development for our people, and contributing to international collaboration."

Plans are already in place for the introduction of a carbon tax in 2019 to reduce emissions and ensure the quality of life remains high. Furthermore, the Land Transport Authority has revealed it will completely ban the introduction of new cars on the roads from February of next year. The fact that the island's population has grown by 40 per cent since 2000 leaves no doubt as to why such a policy is necessary. The underground system is also expected to expand by 2030, paving the way for a car-free country.

With measures such as these it's no wonder Singapore is Asia's most eco-friendly country. From its numerous green spaces to its world-renowned architecture that fuses nature with modernity, it is clear that Singapore is on the way to mastering environmental, sustainable development.

Apart from simply benefitting the environment, Singapore's dedication to nature inspired architecture and successful attempts at environmental preservation has led to a boost in ecotourism, for natural hotspots in such as the 400 acre Bukit Timah Nature Reserve within the city's limits, being home to upwards of 500 animal species and 840 flowering plant species, with similar parks nearby. One can only hope that the rest of the world will be inspired to do the same.

Entomophagy: are insects the food of the future?

Jasmine Wells
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

IMAGINE BEING transported 100 years into the future, what will have changed? What will have stayed the same, and what will have disappeared completely? With the modern fears of overpopulation, climate change and extinction, what will we leave behind for future generations? There are endless numbers of issues

Eating insects could help combat malnutrition and global warming ”

that need to be addressed, first and foremost the matter of overpopulation, which presents an ongoing challenge that scientists are working hard to overcome. The population is growing too fast to be sustained by the limited resources that our planet can provide.

To be critical, the United Nations' goal to achieve food security,

ending malnutrition and world hunger by 2030 seems slightly out of reach. If it were achieved, it would be interesting to see what changes had been made to ensure a sustainable agricultural future, which in light of poverty, food shortages, and climate change, sounds like an impossible task to achieve. Paradoxically, the solution might actually be in our past; entomophagy, the practice of eating insects.

It is understandable why eating insects for food is considered a taboo in the west; people associate it with primitive and barbaric attitudes, or even last resorts in times of famine. It is natural to think that eating those small critters often considered pests hardly sounds appetising, but where does this disgust come from?

Of course the question remains, why insects? How might they be the solution to feeding the current and ever-expanding population? Lots of research has been conducted, and is still on going, with the goal of answering this question, and so far, the statistics are worth considering. The three main advantages in welcoming insects into our diets are their abundance, nutritional benefits and a lower ecological footprint. Over 2000 insects are consumed worldwide, allowing for a diverse selec-

tion, offering different tastes and textures. Due to their natural abundance, food security can be assured, provided that sustainable methods of harvest are practiced.

Furthermore, many studies, including those conducted by Dennis Ooninx et al. (2010) suggest that insects could serve as a more environmentally friendly alternative for the production of animal protein with respect to greenhouse gases, land use and water use. For example, broiler chickens emit 32-167 per cent higher emissions compared to that of mealworms, and 1g of edible beef protein uses up 8-14 times more land and 500 per cent more water compared to that of mealworms. With an ever-expanding consumer-conscious community, eating insects could possibly be a solution for those who are searching for a more environmentally friendly protein substitute.

In terms of nutrition, insects are not inferior to any other source of animal protein such as fish and meat; they are just as wholesome a protein source. The protein content in insects varies greatly, ranging from seven to 91 per cent, depending on the species, developmental stage and environmental diet. Insects are rich in healthy fats and vitamins; a study conducted by Ar-

nold van Huis suggested that 100g dietary intake of African palm weevil will meet the recommended daily intake of magnesium, manganese, iron, zinc and copper. This is vital to consider as eating insects high in protein and fats could help combat malnutrition, pollution and global warming.

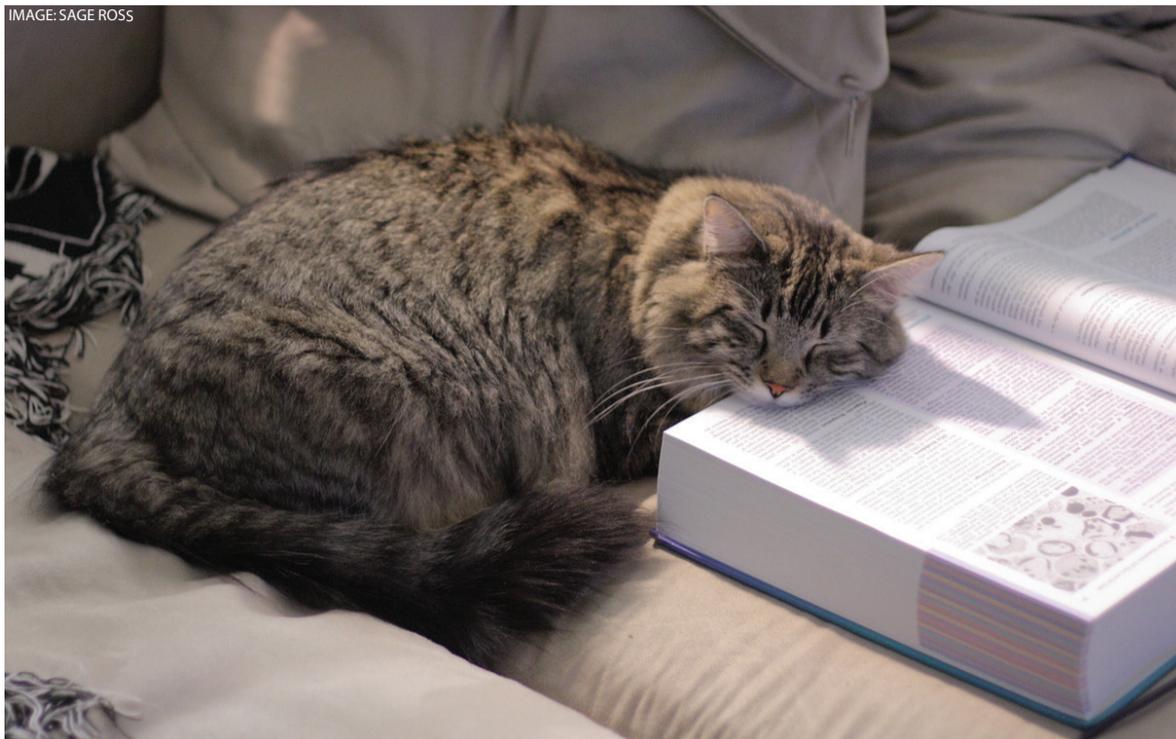
Evidently, eating insects is not a novel concept; the idea has been

up in the air for years, but is often disregarded in the western world due to 'consumer disgust'. Accepting the idea of insects as food will arguably be the most difficult challenge to overcome, but once society recognises that the many benefits outweigh the negative social stigma, it may be the solution we all need to feed the world's ever-growing population.



IMAGE: T.K. NALIKA

IMAGE: SAGE ROSS



Studying smarter, not harder

James McNulty
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

AS EXAMS APPROACH, success is on everyone's mind. Hard work is probably going to get you 80 per cent of the way there, but there is always a feeling you could do more. We've all wished at some point for a magic pill that will instantly make us remember everything or simply wake up the day after the final exam. Though science still hasn't invented a magic pill to get a first or a time machine to avoid exams altogether, a lot of research is being conducted on how to best orient your efforts for success.

One thing nearly everyone has heard before is that they should learn actively, not passively. Our brains are terrible at retaining information we don't actively engage with. Average student retention rates from unused information gained from reading or attending a lecture are only between 5-10 per cent. This tiny number quickly increases to 50 per cent if the content is actively discussed and debated, 75 per cent when executing practice questions, and reaches as high as 90 per cent when the student teaches the content to others. A study published in the journal of Anatomical Sciences Education showed a mean increase of 12 per cent in exam marks in students who took part in peer-led seminars compared to those who only attended lectures.

So what can we learn from all of this? Never waste time blindly reading through content; take notes, meet up with friends to discuss, engage with what you learn.

In his most recent book *Why We Sleep*, Matthew Walker writes extensively about the effect of sleep on our information retention. If you take away anything at all from this article, let it be the importance of getting your eight hours every night. Sleep allows us to remember the important and forget the use-

less. When awake the brain receives a lot of sensory information, some of it useful and some not so much.

A lot of the information we need for exams comes in the form of facts and figures. A specific part of the brain (the hippocampus) is responsible for remembering this kind of information in the short term. The hippocampus, however, like any other short-term storage device has a maximum capacity. If you take in too much information you run the risk of not being able to remember new information; experiencing a phenomenon known as interference forgetting, where information previously stored in the hippocampus is lost.

Remarkably, sleep allows information in the hippocampus to be transferred to and stored in a more permanent area of the brain, the cortex, creating space for new memories to be formed. In a study Walker conducted, two groups of participants were challenged to learn and were tested on two sets of information, once in the morning and once in the evening. The catch was that one group took a 90-minute nap in between while the others stayed awake. The napping group scored 20 per cent higher than the group that didn't sleep, despite the non-napping group showing no decrease in concentration. Findings were the same with a full night of sleep as opposed to a short nap.

In addition to this, sleep helps us remember what we have learned. Jenkins and Dallenbach took two groups of participants who learned a list of facts. One slept eight hours, the other group stayed awake. Predictably, the well-slept group performed around 40 per cent more effectively.

While awake our brains seem to have the ability to tag short-term memories that are formed with labels of 'to be forgotten' or 'to be remembered'. When we sleep the memories which are tagged to be remembered are consolidated and those that aren't are flushed from our minds. This helps us to store

useful information we need for exams and forget what we overheard the people next to us in the library talking about.

In short, cramming the night before isn't going to work. Your hippocampus will simply reach capacity and you will forget information previously stored and struggle to remember that which you are attempted to learn. Most importantly, getting eight hours after your hard work revising is instrumental in remembering everything you've learned.

So you get it, you need to learn actively and get your sleep. But we can't study 24/7 in the time leading up to exams. Fortunately, recent research conducted at the University of British Columbia in Canada shows that cardiovascular exercise, pretty much anything that gets you sweating, increases the size of the hippocampus. In addition to this, exercising promotes good sleep, improves concentration, and reduces stress and anxiety. So, take a break and go for a run, swim, or take a walk (or, as scientists at Harvard medical school suggest, "intense floor mopping or vigorous raking of leaves").

While on the topic, we might as well dive into some of the cutting-edge research going on in terms of memory which may help you learn things in the future. As discussed earlier, sleep helps memories to be transported to more permanent sites of storage. For this to happen, rhythmic electrical signals called sleep spindles flow over the surface of the brain. Some researchers have tried putting electrodes on subjects' heads while they sleep to increase the occurrence of sleep spindles. In some cases, it worked with, memory retention improved.

While you can't put electrodes on your head to boost your memory, you can make sure to get consistently good nights of sleep, and exercise regularly. These tips aren't going to hand you a first, but could make the coming month easier and less stressful.



YORK RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



This edition, Science editor Nathan Castro meets with Biology's Dr Peter Mayhew to discuss evolutionary ecology

Department: Biology

Current project: Automatic Acoustic Observatories - non-invasive long term monitoring of acoustic species

Advice to aspiring scientists: "I made the [initial] mistake of wanting to do everything by myself, when working with other people who are just as interested in your area can be wonderful."

Selected publications: Mayhew, P.J., Jenkins, G.B. & Benton, T.G., (2008) A long term association between global temperature and biodiversity origination and extinction in the fossil record.



IT IS NOT RARE for researchers to find themselves face to face with challenging questions about the natural world that cannot be answered in a single paper. Rather than attempting to understand phenomena independently, individuals from different areas of expertise focus their efforts on collectively tackling such questions as units of a larger body: the scientific community. The compiling of findings across different subfields allows scientists to build on each other's knowledge and take steps in the right direction towards concrete answers. With aim of further understanding how the diversity of life came to be, Dr Peter Mayhew's choice to research insects due to their species' richness and high diversity is a great example of how a specialist's perspective can be applied to address a much broader scientific question.

Particularly interested in studying parasitic wasps within the Hymenopteran order of insects, Dr Mayhew's work has taken multiple approaches towards understanding the evolution and global distribution of parasitoid species and what it could mean for evolution as a whole. After a short talk with Dr Mayhew, his genuine passion was made apparent through his descriptions of the journeys his research has taken him on. Such dedication may be the very reason he has been able to successfully apply insect models to evolutionary ecological study as well as to study of the global distributions of species.

Hymenopteran insects carry out different jobs based on their sex. For this reason all species within the group have specialised sex determination mechanisms, allowing mothers to choose the sex of their offspring. The larval stage of these wasps earns them their title as parasitoids. Once eggs are laid on or inside host insects by mother wasps, larvae feed on their host until sufficiently developed. Mother parasitic wasps have the remarkable ability to select the gender of the implanted egg by fertilising it using stored male gametes

to create females or leaving it unfertilised to create males. Female offspring regularly require more nutrition as future mothers, therefore are commonly implanted within larger hosts than male eggs.

Rather than observing births of all females from large hosts and births of all males from smaller hosts, some male larvae are observed in large hosts and vice versa. From an evolutionary perspective this overlap prevents offspring from developing in their optimal environments, the potentially leaving some female larvae underfed. Dr Mayhew hypothesised that the limitations of the queen's own nervous system could explain why sex ratios are not optimal. Using a computer-based neural network designed to mimic the shortcomings of an organism's nervous system, similar sex ratios as those observed in nature were seen; supporting an evolutionary ecological hypothesis which suggests complete optimisation of sex ratios can be limited by the parent's own abilities.

Apart from his studies of evolutionary ecological phenomena, Dr Mayhew's work has brought him as far as Brazil's Serra dos Órgãos national park to study the geographical distribution of parasitic wasps and other species in habitats as high as 2200m above sea level. The park is home to rare forest biomes known as Atlantic rainforests, where specimens were collected at various heights above sea level to determine whether different species inhabit different altitudes. Dr Mayhew's ability to conduct a wide range of projects around a central topic demonstrates devotion to his calling. He recognises the insight his specialist work could provide in answering much broader questions about life's diversity and species conservation.

The amateur water colour painter and astronomer feels research can be balanced with other aspects of life and emphasises the importance of finding interests outside your field.



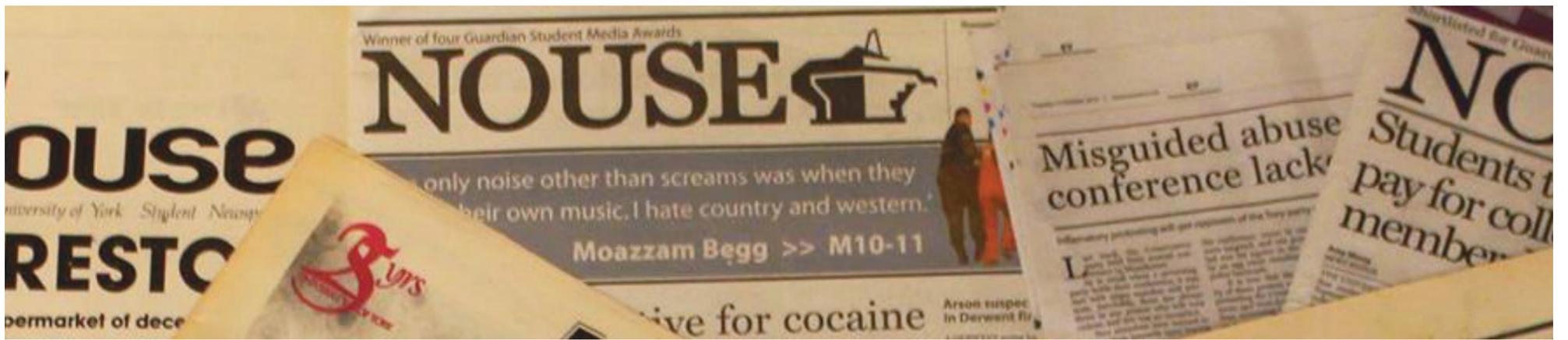
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NOUSE TRIES... Ultimate Frisbee

Jordan McWilliam tries one of the strangest but enjoyable sports ahead of Roses 2018



Jordan McWilliam
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

THE TIME HAS finally come for my *Nouse Tries*. Scrolling through the YUSU list of sports, after two terms of trying to dodge this feature, I managed to find a gem in Ultimate Frisbee.

The sport was created at Columbia High School, New Jersey in the 1960s and is referred to as 'Ultimate' due to toy company, Wham-O, having the trade mark for the term 'frisbee'. With indoor and outdoor variations, I tried out the indoor version at their Give It A Go session on Sunday Week 2, which takes place every week in York Sport Centre on campus West at 12PM.

The biggest variation between indoor and outdoor is the number of players; with 5 per team when playing inside and 7 per team when playing outside.

The best way to describe the sport is as a mix between netball and American football with a frisbee instead of a ball. It is similar to netball in the way that you cannot move once you have caught the frisbee and similar to American football in the way that you have to catch the frisbee in the end zone in order to score a point.

After not throwing a frisbee in years (hard to believe I know), my session started, somewhat ironically, with me hitting the netball posts, situated a good 20 me-

tres from my where it was meant to go. Despite this awful start, my throwing did get better as the session went on, although I'm not sure I could have got much worse to be honest.

After the warm up, we got into a small exercise of 'pass and move' as I tried to improve my throwing technique, hoping to steer clear of any netball posts.

This exercise was a tame build up for what was to come, however. After the passing exercise we headed into small 3 vs 3 games. It took me a while to figure out what was going on as I was running around trying to get hold of the frisbee as my team were unable to score in the first match.

As the session went on I started to get the hang of things, managing to score our first point in a 4-1 loss. We were on the up. Although, I wasn't prepared for the non-stop running that this entailed, given that I bruised my foot on Thursday and was unable to walk for most of Friday, after sustaining an injury in a football match. I battled on however, and we even managed to eventually win.

The team has seen a massive increase in membership this year; the women's team has tripled and the men's team has doubled in size. This remarkable period of growth saw 120 people show up for their Freshers event.

Speaking to a few members it was clear that everyone had come from different sporting backgrounds including rugby, football, netball among others. The team had a magnificent

season, going not only unbeaten but also winning every single game in the league as they romped the Northern 2B league to win the league by six points. This comes despite a high turnover of players.

After the 3 vs 3 game we finished the session with full 5 vs 5 games, going through the tactics including the different types of formations called stacks. However, my first game got off to an awful start as I gave the frisbee away which led to an attack and goal from the opposing team. I quickly redeemed myself however, through an interception which led to a goal for my team.

Overall, Ultimate frisbee was a fast paced and exciting game full of a wide range of people which creates a friendly and welcoming environment within the club. The sport is gaining increased popularity not only at York but also internationally as it has now been recognised as an official sport by the International Olympic Committee and there is a chance that it will be included at the upcoming 2024 or 2028 Olympic Games given the prestige and popularity of ultimate in the respective host cities of Paris and Los Angeles.

Ultimate frisbee's performance on the Sunday of Roses ensured that the tournament was a successful one for the team; despite a bad and unlucky start to the tournament on Friday, which saw them lose three games all by one point each. Sunday, however saw the two biggest games in terms of points and York walked away with two excellent results. York's two results in the men's outdoor and outdoor open gained York 8 points as opposed to the 5 points gained by Lancaster from the three Friday games.

If you would like to know more, or if you're interested in Ultimate, contact ultimate@yusu.org.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Virginia Stichweh
DEPUTY SPORTS



WELCOME TO THIS year's penultimate edition of *Nouse Sport*. BUCS games are over for this year and the match reports have been replaced by an assessment of the 'ProTeam' app. Emma Albery, a Middlesex cricketer and student at York talks about her experience at Lord's, and Sport President-elect Zac Sheppard sketches his vision for the year to come.

While the temporary disappearance of the 600 to 800-word match report has eradicated the part of *Nouse Sport* which I strongly suspect not even my closest relatives read, I nevertheless have my doubts. Who devised the academic year so as to confine sports to the winter and have exams in the summer? Whoever it was, they've made the top floor of Morrell the greatest hope for the resurgence of vitamin D levels.

But this summer brings us the 21st FIFA World Cup in Russia, so there is hope. Though perhaps only the slightest glimmer

of it because as the comment piece on the lack of interest in England's national football team states: "Supporting England is pain." You might, in other words, have to throw your enthusiasm behind Liverpool's Champions League exploits or alternatively switch sports by reading about Jordan McWilliam's try at Ultimate frisbee.

To round off with this most cheerful of editor's comments: Roses was this weekend. Lancaster reclaimed the trophy on home-soil and left York soundly beaten. Yet, looking at the Editor's comments of the previous two editions, it seems to me that the question to be settled this weekend wasn't whether Roses are red or white in the first place (and it's a good thing at that, because frankly: how depressing...). No, this weekend's competition was about which Sport Editor was attired worse for the weather circumstances: Adam or Chay. With temperatures surpassing twenty degrees, if either of them was seen wearing a coat, we have a winner.

Together with Jordan and our sport correspondents they have compiled a sixteen-page supplement on Roses and if what I was told beforehand has proven to be correct, they've had to sleep on the floor of a Lancastrian lecture hall for it, too. VS.

TEAMMATES

Nouse talks to Riding Team Captain Ellie Fells

Name: Ellie Fells
Position: Team Captain
Course: English Literature
Year: 3

Most Dedicated:
Amy McIntosh - we had to stop her from turning up to training a few days after breaking a facial bone!

Biggest Lightweight:
Pub golf broke us all, but we owe Alexa big time for introducing us all to Yummy Chicken - a much better destination than Salvos.

Most Improved:
Elsie Hargate - she's fairly new to riding but posted the best result in the B team for Roses 2018.

Best Helmet Hair:
Alice Williams somehow always looks very well put together

Most likely to lose control of their horse:
That'd be me. I am most likely to go in the wrong direction in dressage or jump the wrong fence...my bad, sorry everyone...



IMAGE: ELLIE PARKER

No luck, just data: predicting the NFL draft

Predicting the potential of the players in this year's dramatic NFL draft is not down to coincidence

James Hare
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

APRIL BRINGS WITH it many things. For your average Brit, it brings the first chance to adopt to the reddish hue of a lobster courtesy of the spontaneous appearance of the sun for a few meagre days. And for the 32 teams of the National Football League, it is when the annual draft comes around. This year the draft - or the Annual National Football League Player Selection Meeting to provide the official title - took place between 26 and 28 April, with the Cleveland Browns holding the first overall pick, which they used to select Baker Mayfield, the Heisman Trophy winning quarterback out of the University of Oklahoma.

The Browns came into the draft off the back of a run of historic futility that saw them win only one out of a possible 32 games, and complete only the second winless season since the NFL adopted a 16 game season in 1978. Blame for this appeared to be cast at the door of Sashi Brown, the General Manager throughout much of this accursed run. Brown

had attempted to take a more analytical approach to player evaluation, relying more heavily on data than traditional NFL General Managers. His replacement, John Dorsey, was expected to take a somewhat different approach, with his reputation as an old-school "football guy" preceding him. And then came the Mayfield pick.

The 2018 quarterback class was considered to be one of the strongest in recent memory, and so it proved on draft night with five passers being selected in the first round. Mayfield went first to the Browns, followed by Sam Darnold (third overall, to the New York

5

The second highest no. of quarterbacks taken in the first round of NFL Draft

Jets), Josh Allen (seventh, to the Buffalo Bills), Josh Rosen (tenth, to the Arizona Cardinals), and Lamar Jackson (32nd, to the Baltimore Ravens). Even more remarkably, Mayfield was the only of the quarterbacks taken without a trade from a team to move up and grab them, showing the high esteem the class

was held in by the NFL community.

However, Mayfield was considered somewhat of an unconventional choice by the Browns. Standing at little over six feet tall, he was considered by old-school football types to be too short to play football in the NFL - the traditional threshold for quarterback height in scouting is 6'2". Yet the success of Russell Wilson and Drew Brees, both Super Bowl winning quarterbacks despite being below that threshold, suggests that in fact height is not a barrier to success.

Analytics was the buzzword surrounding the Brown era in Cleveland, but with Dorsey in charge the expectation was that data would be discarded as an evaluation tool and the focus would once again be on watching tape above all else. Yet Mayfield was the prototypical analytics pick, grading out as the best quarterback in the class according to a number of number based models based off college production, and even in some cases high school production. Contrast that with Josh Allen, taken seventh overall, who was for many the top quarterback in the class based off his physical traits - many scouts believed him to have the strongest arm of any prospect they had seen, but his accuracy

and lack of college production point to him struggling at the pro level. Mayfield was the pick that the old Browns' regime would have been expected to make, Allen or Darnold the one most NFL sources expected

the new regime to make. And yet when it came to it, data won out over pure observation, suggesting that the NFL may just be embracing analytics for player evaluation after all.



Baker Mayfield was drafted first overall by the Cleveland Browns

Three lions on the shirt: where did it all go wrong?

12 years on from England's last knockout win, the country is apathetic. How do we begin to fix this?

Chay Quinn
SPORTS EDITOR

25 JUNE 2006. Stuttgart. David Beckham defies illness to put England into the last-eight of the World Cup with a free kick from thirty yards against Ecuador. England were into their third quarter-final in as many major tournaments. Things looked promising. A side full of superstars went out that day: Beckham was joined by the likes of Ferdinand, Terry, Ashley Cole, Lampard and Gerrard all coming into the best years of their careers.

That Sunday night remains the last time that the England men's international team have won a knockout match at a major tournament.

Supporting England is pain. There's no two ways about it. Millennials have seen only a handful of moments which can be said to inspire pride in England. When the highest heights we've seen is a scrappy 1-0 victory against Ecuador, you know something is up. The lack of joy since 2006 has turned to apathy that now runs deep.

Is the lack of success really all that is causing the lack of interest and lack of faith we have in the national team? No, this problem

is more complex. The disinterest that started to grow after the 2006 World Cup comes down to English clubs, foreign owners, English players and English fans.

The national team was a victim of the success that English teams enjoyed between 2005 and 2012. Eight Champions League finalists in as many seasons coming from the Premier League created a collective attitude in all of which sidelines the

national team. The void created by a poor national team, including a non-appearance at Euro 2008 was filled by scintillating club sides. The apathy had been consolidated.

It's been just as bad at board-level: predominantly foreign owners have shunted off duty towards their cash-cow country and the development of footballers in said country took big damage. This foregoing of promising talents in the U18 and

U21 levels results in a lack of exciting players and creates an England squad which is full of dogged but unexciting players who are there as a result of physical attributes, not technical ability. It is only Rashford and Sterling who have an explosive ability to wow fans currently.

This has been going on for over a decade and has trickled down to the fans who now would prefer to watch the excitement generated by

their club's foreign players; Cristiano Ronaldo, Mo Salah, Eden Hazard et al. This is now a firm part of our footballing identity.

All of this has bred an unidentifiable England team and an indifferent fan base. The team tasked with reviving pride have been foolish. We do not need to do what Germany, Brazil or Spain do. Opposition are not what we want to be; the only goal should be providing pride for the wearers of the Three Lions.

Having an ideal that you believe in, even if it contradicts everything that has gone before, is how the greatest teams have been made. 1970 Brazil, 1974 Netherlands, 2010 Spain. These are considered rightly to be the greatest national sides of all time. Why? Because they were innovators. Sides that saw the existing status-quo and rewrote it.

The true barometer of success in this endeavour will be whether Wembley can stop having its most exciting moment be a Mexican wave and actually start to produce some exciting, explosive and entertaining football for the fans after so many years of heartbreak.

11 years, 10 months and 14 days after that night in Stuttgart, 5 major tournaments, a now-forgotten "golden generation", and a new £800m stadium built, the wait goes on.



IMAGE: STRAWBERRY TOURS

Uncertain future for controversial sports app

Infant sports app ProTeam has been on campus for six months, but to what extent has it been successful?

Adam Philpott
SPORTS EDITOR

CONTROVERSIAL SPORTS APP ProTeam has largely failed to make an impact upon college sport at the University of York and other launched universities, an investigation by *Nouse Sport* has discovered.

Arriving on campus in October 2017, ProTeam promised to revolutionise college sport at York by providing a centralised location for organisation and information, whilst increasing coverage and hype surrounding the high-quality sporting displays to be found at college level.

Those that had doubted the existence of college league tables were silenced as the new free-to-use platform provided easy access to college league tables, fixtures and results.

So, 6 months on, how much of an impact has the platform had at the University of York and the other 9 universities granting it official backing? Has there been a movement away from lengthy email chains and multiple Facebook groups towards one streamlined organisational platform?

An investigation by *Nouse Sport* suggests that, despite early

£70k

The amount spent developing the app by ProTeam Technologies Ltd.

optimism and clear praise of the app, ProTeam has largely failed to have the impact it promised in most of its launched universities, including the University of York.

Meanwhile, ProTeam Technologies Ltd. has expressed a desire to

change its business model and suspend development of the app after experiencing setbacks which have left the app – initially costing ProTeam around £70,000 to develop – with a lack of funding.

The results of a survey sent out by *Nouse Sport* to York college captains are fairly damning for the app. While 93 per cent of respondents have or had downloaded the app, 60 per cent admitted to being infrequent monthly users, and all respondents expressed a preference for using Facebook to conduct club affairs.

While there was overwhelming popularity for the app's provision of easy access to league tables, fixtures, and results, the other features received little salience, with one respondent saying they dislike "everything else".

A common pitfall highlighted by surveyed captains was the app's lack of updates and mass usage, thereby nullifying any positive effect ProTeam could have within college sport. A quick browse of the app confirms this: There is varied usage across launched universities, with some leagues naturally being more up-to-date and attracting more attention while others resemble a room without furniture. Though in the former case, a lack of usage prevails when compared to the number of students within college sport.

This is perhaps not surprising since the success of the app was always going to be contingent on sports captains registering their team on ProTeam, providing regular updates to scores and team sheets, and encouraging their teammates to download the app.

The survey also revealed a lack of motivation on the part of captains to update the app, with just 13.3 per cent of respondents claiming they update scores and 60 per cent ex-

pressing little or no motivation to update the app. This can be attributed, at least in part, to the lack of usage of ProTeam and suggests that better promotion of the app on campus and more incentives to use the app could trigger a usage boom.

One respondent confessed: "The app seems unused so any updates I provide will probably not



reach a large audience and therefore be worth my time." Certainly the biggest obstacle seems to be convincing captains and players to move away from Facebook to ProTeam, with one respondent questioning: "Facebook works, so why change it?"

Several Freedom of Informa-

tion requests submitted by *Nouse Sport* found that York is not a unique case and that ProTeam has experienced similar struggles at other launched universities. Just 52 students at Northumbria University have downloaded ProTeam since its launch in December 2017; while Leeds Beckett University reports a download figure of 27, or put another way, 0.15 per cent of current students. More dramatically, ProTeam failed to launch at Durham University after Team Durham issued an email to all sports captains stating that the platform was not to be used in a Durham-wide capacity due to legal concerns with the app's terms and conditions.

The FoI responses also revealed an anomalous case. In contrast to the varied and limited usage at most launched universities, Loughborough University, which launched ProTeam in the same month as York, is a rare case of teams embracing ProTeam, keeping it up-to-date, and receiving large amounts of followers in return. 4000 students have downloaded the app, which contributes the majority of the monthly users on the app across all launched universities. If anything, Loughborough is an example of the great potential of the app when it is embraced successfully.

Going forward, ProTeam Technologies Ltd. has stated it will be taking a change of direction and freezing development of the app for the time being. Priding itself on making an app which is completely free to its users, ProTeam is unlike its American counterpart, TeamSnap, which charges users up to \$17.99 per month. This, coupled with investors withdrawing their confidence in the app, has meant that further developments are not economically viable. Development of the app stopped at Christmas

with usage and investment stagnating, following what had been a promising initial few months for the app.

A ProTeam spokesperson admitted that the app currently was

The app is not suited to the climate of university sport ”

"not suited to the climate of university sport and investment", and the company instead will be focusing on the automation of sport live stream production through the use of AI and extending its target market beyond university sport. However, ProTeam does plan to resume development of the app later this year.

Spearheading the launch of ProTeam back in October 2017, York Sport Union President Laura Carruthers expressed delight and optimism at the unveiling of the University's first ever sports app. Six months on, however, some of that optimism has been replaced with criticism: "Whilst there is no doubt that ProTeam has immensely improved the logistics of organising College Sport here at York, clearly there is definitely scope to improve."

York Sport Union President-elect Zac Sheppard echoed these sentiments: "One of the first things I want to address as sports President is to look at ProTeam. I think there are really good elements but ProTeam is definitely not perfect."

Only time will tell whether the app will flourish beyond Loughborough, but the desire for centralised access to college league tables, fixtures, and results is clear.

Handball's first charity tournament a success

Emma Peal
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE UNIVERSITY HANDBALL club held its first-ever charity match last month against the York Hunters in aid of Mind, raising over £200 in the process.

Around 70 people turned up to watch the two matches against a familiar local community team, constituting the biggest crowd the club has entertained outside of Roses.

The matches provided both the men's and women's University sides with a stern test of endurance and skill in the run up to Roses 2018.

The men's match finished 17-12 to the visitors with Hamish Arnold, Florian Eckel, Magnus Glaerum, Malthe Gronert, James Hundson,

Gui Mendoca and Reece Remedios all getting on the scoresheet for York. Amongst all of the excitement, the score in the women's game was not recorded.

Both matches were fast-paced and aggressive, with frequent collisions as the defending players bravely attempted to stop onrushing attacking players in their tracks. Despite the plethora of collisions and clashes, no injuries were sustained on the day.

A bake sale was held in conjunction with the £2 entry fee, with all money raised going to the fantastic support charity Mind; which helps with mental illness and has been the chosen charity for many university clubs across campus in recent times.

Club President Beatrice Trascau was delighted with how the day went and is confident that the club

will host more charity tournaments in the future saying:

"I think the event surpassed expectations. We definitely did not expect that we will be able to raise over £200, but it was a welcomed surprise."

"To my knowledge, this is the first time our club has put on a charity event so I really hope the success of this one will encourage next year's committee to make this a tradition.

"Also it was the first time we played with such a big audience (apart from Roses) and it was a great feeling to see that even though handball is not as popular in the UK as it is in the rest of Europe, we still had a lot of people who came to support both us and the great cause we were raising money for. "It was also really nice to have the support of the Sports Union who promoted our event, and also of next year's Sports

President who came and supported us. "Overall, we're really proud of what we've been able to accomplish with this event and we thank eve-

ryone who contributed to it in any way, especially the York Hunters who have played such a critical part in it."



IMAGE: FACEBOOK

Historic Archery victory amongst awards

For the first time in 12 years, the University of York advanced archery squad have had an amazing season, winning with an overall overwhelming 400-point margin. This culminated in winning the North of England Universities Archery League Indoor Championships and League, as well as achieving a sportmanship award, as chosen by other clubs.

Darts club raises over £2000 for charity

The University of York Darts club has recently surpassed the £2000 mark in terms of money raised over the year in aid of JDRE, an international charity that has links to several countries in the world despite being founded in New York: The charity focusses on conducting research into Type 1 diabetes - a cause to the hearts of members within the club.

Hockey return to the fore in Roses 2018

After a long hiatus spanning all the way back to October, the club made its competitive comeback at this year's Roses. The hockey team have not been allowed to play or train since the incident 7 months ago. Which saw a number of offensive and racist remarks and drawings on t-shirts at their social event. The story made national news and the hockey team was disbanded. The team have been allowed back in training since Easter and have played a few friendlies. The team got on better than expected given their year out, managing to get two wins and a draw from six matches.

Tickets now available for the Colours Ball

Tickets for the Colours Ball are now available on the YUSU website. The event takes place on Sunday 10 June, starting at 18:00 and ending at 23:00. Tickets cost £33 for the event, taking place at The Principal Hotel. Beginning in 1998 this year marks the 20 anniversary of the Colours Ball. The event has a vast array of awards on offer including best team and sport journalist of the year *cough*. The voting closes on Sunday 13th May, so make sure to vote quickly.

York cricketer takes to the field at Lord's

Sport interviews Emma Albery on how she got started, going to Lord's with the MCCC, and her plans for the future

Virginia Stichweh
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

Q: How did you start playing cricket?
A: When I was five, I went along to my brother's training and the coach asked if I wanted to join in.

Q: Is cricket a family sport?

A: My grandad was a very keen cricketer. My dad has always been keen on hockey and cricket. I'm the person that has taken cricket on in the family, I'd say.

Q: How do you balance cricket with university life?

A: I've found that now that I'm busier, I'm more productive. Every single week I'm travelling between York and London, but luckily, both York and Middlesex couldn't be more supportive.

Q: What does it mean for a cricketer, to play at Lord's?

A: Lord's is the place where everyone wants to play in their cricketing career. For Middlesex, it was the first time the women played there in our 83-year history. The feeling was unbelievable and there were quite a few happy tears. It's taken a whole year of preparing for this. Still, I don't think you're ever prepared to

play at Lord's. That will always be a feeling you don't get anywhere else.

Q: Did you have a favourite moment at Lord's?

A: You walk out of the Long Room onto the pitch. And the best thing for me was having my family there, watching me. You know when you try not to smile because you want to be cool about something, but there was no stopping it.

Q: Why did it happen now for Middlesex?

A: In sports, there's a huge difference between men and women, however, Middlesex has been working hard on improving the women's game.

Q: In the future, could you imagine promoting cricket? Or girls' cricket?
A: Definitely. I coach kids at the moment with First Choice Coaching in Cambridge and we've even had England players come in. I started this year and I absolutely adore it.

Q: What are your future goals for cricket?

A: I've got a lot of goals. Well, I had a back operation two years ago and my goals were different before that. It's hard to come back from a serious operation. But, I got into the Middlesex first team and from now on, I want to be more of a prominent person in the team. I'd also like

to get into the England Academy or play for England one day.

Q: Did you know at five years old, that you wanted to do this?

A: Definitely not, I always played cricket just for fun. Then England Cricket asked me to be part of England U15. Once you get the recognition from something, you begin to think, you could go somewhere with this and why wouldn't I do some-



thing that I love?

Q: Do you have other future plans?

A: Long term I want to work in a charity, but to start myself off, so I could work for a charity for free, I would like to do mediating. When I went to India I was so shocked by the socio-economic disparity, I realised I wanted to help. I've always been driven by that. That and cricket are probably my two loves.

Q: Did you go to India for cricket?

A: I went to watch my brother in the Junior World Cup. He plays hockey for Great Britain. It was funny, when we played at Lord's, for him to say, my little sister is living one of my dreams, I was like 'I think I've made it now,' I was so happy.

Q: Who has helped you to get to this point?

A: Our head-coach at MCCC, Danni Warren, has given me individuals. I probably wouldn't have made it into the squad without that. I'm also a York Sport scholar. That's really helped me. They have kindly given me five-hundred pounds to spend on travel and kit.

Q: You're playing at Roses, too. Do you have any predictions?

A: The girls have worked really hard and our president, Alice Pike, is very good with us. I think we're going to win at Roses. I'm really excited!

York Sport President-elect Zac's vision

Nouse Sport sat down with Zac Sheppard to discuss his York Sport vision, from championing women to refereeing

Adam Philpott
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK SPORT UNION'S President-elect Zac Sheppard has stressed the need for integration with the local community, greater inclusivity in sport, and better refereeing on campus ahead of his assumption of office.

Speaking to *Nouse Sport* ahead of his term in office, he spoke of the recent successes in college and university sport and of his vision for the next academic year.

Closing the gender participation gap by championing women in sport is at the heart of his manifesto, with blueprints for women's-only gym sessions and a women's sports day during the next 'This BUCS Girl Can' week.

Building on his work as a College Sport Officer, where he expanded women's netball leagues, Sheppard also wants to set up women's college football and rugby leagues.

"Making sure that clubs understand that it is important to offer equal provision for both men and women in sport is a strong drive of mine," he told *Nouse Sport*.

This comes at a time of heightened pride for women in sport, with England winning gold for the first time ever in netball at the Com-

monwealth Games 2018 and developments in women's football and rugby at national level.

On the topic of greater inclusivity, the current BUCS and Sports Assistant also wants to make university sport more accessible throughout the year. An avid and committed tennis player himself, Sheppard has found it hard to try his hand and sign up to other sports outside of Freshers' Fair.

"A big thing that I've found is, I chose my sport (tennis) at the start of the year, and then it's very hard to dip into other university sports part way through the year."

He believes that providing a weekly timetable of sporting opportunities and more pay-as-you-go club sessions for beginners will facilitate this goal.

The quantity of qualified referees in campus sport, particularly at college level, has cast a sizeable shadow over the integrity and quality of sport at York, with referees not always possessing official qualifications.

Current York Sport President Laura Carruthers has admitted to it being a problem that has permeated successive presidents - a record which

Sheppard wants to stop by instigating a Student Coach and Referee Development Programme aimed at qualifying students at York.

"College and university sport relies on passionate volunteers who are giving up their time to referee a sports match. It's not the easiest of things to do when it's pouring down with rain and you have 22 people on a pitch yelling at you for an hour and a half in a football match."

With subsidies to make the courses more accessible to York students, it is effectively a win-win situation. Students doing a course will gain life-long skills and qualifications which can be used both on campus and externally; meanwhile, sport at York would benefit from a larger quantity of available qualified referees.

Linking York Sport Union with a local charity for the year and setting bigger fundraising targets is another development present in Sheppard's vision; whilst still permitting clubs to choose and fundraise towards

other charities. His new fundraising ideas including 'A Question of York Sport.'

Amongst the biggest achievements he has seen



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N SPORT

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Heartbreak as Lancaster claim home win

Jordan McWilliam
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

ROSES SAW ANOTHER victory for the home team for the eleventh successive tournament, as Lancaster secured the win by a 99 point margin 99 point to reclaim the Roses trophy.

York were on the back foot from the very beginning after the 10-point Lancaster lead after the pre-weekend events proved irrecoverable. As York trailed for the whole weekend, with the final score being 225.5 - 126.5, this is only the fourth time that the 200 point mark has been reached, with Lancaster and York both doing so twice.

Friday got off to an awful start for York as they won only one of

the first nine events. This early dominance proved to be a key part of the weekend. The belief that Lancaster could win after this was emanated throughout their performances. Nothing better encapsulates this than the men's football at the opening ceremony. Losing 2-0 at half-time Lancaster were spurred on by the crowd in the second half, they managed to come back and scored a last minute winner to break York

hearts. Losing the game near the end was a recurring theme throughout the tournament in a weekend to forget for York.

As the tournament rolled onto Saturday, York didn't fair much better as they had the worst day of the tournament Lancaster increased their lead to an extra 60 points, not only to have a lead of 98 points but also to secure the trophy. The result was confirmed during the darts af-

ter. Lancaster won four events in a row, all worth four points.

Sunday proved to be the best day for York, with big wins in the cheerleading, Kendo and ultimate frisbee. Despite the improved results the men's rugby at the closing ceremony mirrored the opening ceremony. After a brilliant display in the first half, Lancaster came out in the second half inspired by the crowd to come from behind to win.