



THE TRANS TIPPING POINT

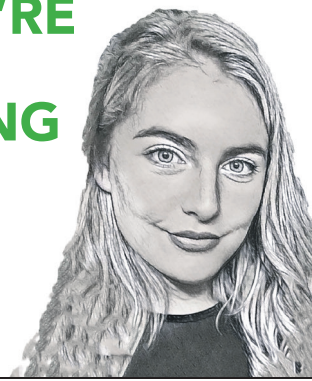
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THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF QUEEN MARY STUDENTS' UNION

THE OP PRINT

THEPRINTNEWS.CO.UK

FRIDAY 16TH MARCH 2018 - ISSUE 23 - FREE

"HIGHER EDUCATION AS WE KNOW IT WOULD DISINTERGRATE"

TRACY JAWAD

On November 30th, 2017, Times Higher Education reported that reforms proposed by Universities UK (UUK), the representative organization responsible for "shaping higher education policy agenda," would cut future pension value for higher education staff by at least 20%.

After several failed negotiations with UUK, the University and College Union (UCU) released a 14-day strike timeline, backed by 88% of its members in a 58% ballot turnout, that will cease all seminars, office hours, and lectures. The strike began on Thursday February 22nd (however, this fell on Queen Mary's reading week, which is why QMUL staff began striking on Monday February 26th).

Although pension cuts were discussed back in November, the news of a strike suddenly decorated several of the School of Politics and International Relations' doors and cork boards. Yellow UCU posters emblazoned with hashtags demanding fair pay provided some sunshine to offset February's gloom.

Publicity for the strike went viral: the Student Enquiry Centre created a webpage dedicated to FAQs about strike action, leaflets covered the floors, and module tutors and convenors even contacted stu-

dents about how they could express their support.

One email even reminded students that "teachers are not [actually] happy to be striking" because they acknowledge that it equally affects the student's learning as it does their pay.

The implications of these cuts are not only restricted to university staff or academia hopefuls, but the entire student body. Students are seeing their tuition fees going up and the rising debt weighing down on their future, so if the quality of education begins to deteriorate, then the decline in students going into university will not be far behind.

Perhaps the most significant student grievance is the timing of the strikes, which clashes with the last weeks of the semester. Without the guidance of lectures and the help of tutors during office hours, students in their penultimate or final year must rely on each other for upcoming exams and essays.

If negotiations between the UCU and UUK in the upcoming weeks fail to materialise any solution or compromise, then the subsequent collateral damage will impact all members of university institutions equally. (cont. on page 3)

President and Principal of Queen Mary, Colin Bailey, faces tough questions over strike action



Image: Erfan Divanizadeh

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*“In the midst
of winter,
I found
there was,
within me,
an invincible
summer”*

~ Albert Camus

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The Print is printed at Mortons of
Horncastle Ltd, Media Centre, Morton
Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, LN9
6JR. Tel 01507 523 456.

Established in 2014, The Print is the
free official student newspaper of
Queen Mary Students' Union. The
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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

LIAM PAPE | @papermail7

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This paper is embarrassingly late, and for that, I apologise. But let's not dwell on my inability to hit deadlines and instead let's focus on the fantastic news, features, and opinion pieces this issue is full of.

If you flip over to page 4, you will see a great scoop by Elmira Tanatarova about worries that staff who work in the Bancroft Building expressed about the safety conditions of their work environment. We requested risk assessment documents about the building from the University and what we got back was a 75 page report that Elmira combed through - so kudos to her for her determination! For me, the most interesting part of the report was the two pages of responses that staff working in the building had submitted. They were asked, "Have you experienced any health issues that you believe are / were attributed to your work environment?" There were 21 responses in total varying from

the very mild to the somewhat serious. Anyway, the full story is on page 4.

On page 16, Madeleine Goode has written a fascinating and insightful piece on 'the danger of the no-yes narrative' when it comes to Aziz Ansari - and accusations of sexual assault and harassment more generally. It digs deeper than many other things I have read about the #MeToo movement so is definitely worth a read.

Also, let me point you in the direction of the satire section (pages 18 and 19). It is as funny as it always is and you are guaranteed a good chuckle.

Away from the newspaper itself, our live SU election coverage including videos, graphs, and live streams can be found on our website www.theprintnews.co.uk/category/elections. Let me also assure you that the highlights of the elections will make it in to our next issue.

In the last month we've also relaunched 'Queen Mary Questions' - the interview show created by old Print editor Anna Savage where we put your questions to significant figures at Queen Mary. In the next couple of weeks, interviews with all four current sabbatical officers will be released on our website. We hold them to account on a number of issues from funding for sports teams to the whole QM-BL relationship. Thank you to those who submitted questions via the form and I hope you enjoy watching the show. Thank you also to Yasir Yeahia, Rakin Choudhury, Mary Ojo, and Ahmed Mahbub for letting us ask you some difficult questions on camera.

If you are a QM student and interested in the future of The Print, our AGM is in Bloomey Room 2 on 21 March at 5:15pm. Those with a Print membership should come along and help elect the new Editor-in-Chief.

LIBRARY FINES HIT DECADE LOW

LIAM PAPE

Data recently acquired by The Print shows that library fines at Queen Mary have decreased exponentially over the last few years.

Fines hit a high in 2009-10 however in the 2016-17 academic year, the fine total was only 45,709.44 - less than half it was seven years earlier.

We asked university librarian Kate Price whether the low fines were due to students using more ebooks, Queen Mary becoming more hesitant to administer fines, or simply students becoming better at returning books.

She said, "You are right to highlight the rise in the use of e-books as a possible explanation. Another possibility is that we have made it much easier for students to renew their books in good time through self-service kiosks and online."

"Although we have more students than ever before studying at QMUL, the number of loans of printed books is on a downward trend. The total number of unique loans (i.e. excluding renewals) from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017 fell to 140,035 compared to last year's figure of 155,183."

"During the same period, we recorded the number of access to e-book chap-

ters as 2,733,824, compared to 1,299,751 last year." This number accounts for access made to ebook chapters or sections so cannot be directly compared the numbers of actual books though.

Money raised through fines becomes part of the Library's budget and is used to directly improve Library services to students. Kate emphasised that library fines are not used as a way to generate income, rather "to encourage readers to return books to the library in good time so that everyone in the QMUL community has a chance to use them."

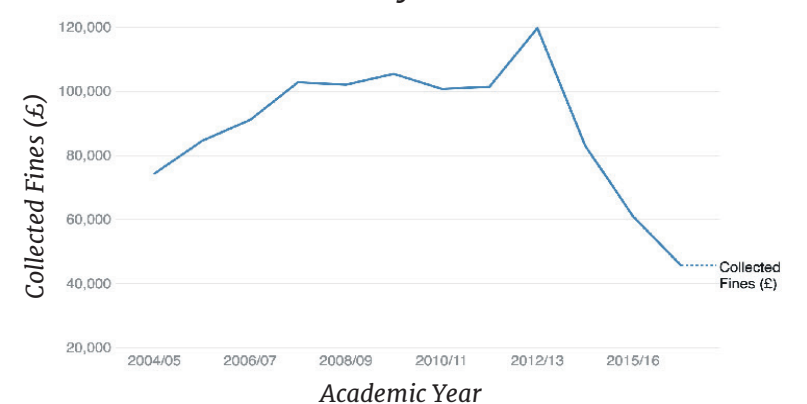
In the last few years the library have used this income to increase the number of study desks, and upgrade many of their with electrical sockets so that laptops and other devices can be charged. Kate says "the feedback from QMUL students

via surveys such as the NSS has strongly indicated that improving the study environment is their highest priority".

The library say that they are actively working on a way to dramatically reduce the amount of fines levied on students at QMUL. They intend to do this by changing the policy from levying fines on all late books, towards only levying fines on late books that have been requested by another reader. This is a policy that has worked well in other academic libraries.

However, Kate says "There are some limitations on our current library management system which means that we can't do this immediately, but we are in the process of upgrading to a new system which should make this possible."

Library Fines



(cont. from front) Nonetheless, the focus should continue to be on QMUL staff.

Collective action is most effective when participants are committed and informed, so before starting a frenzy about refunding your fees, understand why USS pensions are under attack. For this task, SPIR's Dr. James Eastwood offers some clarification on all the economic jargon that UUK's website did not.

"Under the law, a valuation [of the USS] must happen every three years. Apparently, the scheme is in a [£7.5bn] deficit—I would dispute that—so the only resolution is for employee benefits to either go down or for employer contribution to go up."

According to Dr. Eastwood, the flaw is in the "inappropriate" methodology of the valuation, which "treats universities like a private company" that could go bankrupt tomorrow.

Eastwood went on to further criticize the valuation for its projection of longer life expectancies (contrary to the fact that UK's mortality rates have slowed in recent years) and a 4% earnings increase that he has not seen since 2006.

While UUK's Policy and Analysis webpage claims that these assumptions are imperative for a complicated calculation of future costs and risks, Eastwood argues that the "best estimate is that the scheme is healthy." If anything, the scheme is in surplus: the UCU's First Actuarial commission reported that the USS, as it is, would be able to continue paying pensioners for 40 years without touching its assets.

The UUK promises that these changes will undisputedly create a more sustainable pension scheme and provide a wider array of options for where one could invest their money.

But Eastwood's not having it.

"There is a real danger that the cuts will result in the scheme's collapse as people choose to put their money elsewhere."

The shift from a Defined Benefit scheme to Defined Contribution places the security of going into academia in the shaky hands of the stock market, therefore there can be no guaranteed level of a fixed annual income during retirement. This shift was UUK's resolution to the deficit, because an increase in employer contribution is supposedly "unaffordable". Once again, employers are exonerated from any future risks because their employees take the fall.

Recent discourse in the media puts this "unaffordable" claim in the spotlight because of the controversy surrounding vice-chancellor pay and just how much is fair enough. Tensions will inevitably arise when tutors and professors hear about their pensions being at risk while vice-chancellors are getting Guardian articles written about why capping their income at £150,000 does not do their efforts and expertise justice.

These tensions foreshadow the damage of this pension gamble on two pillars necessary to uphold academic institutions: reputation and staff morale.

If the strikes fail to reverse the casting vote of the chairman for USS' negotiating committee, then this would be the third budget cut for universities since 2009.

For a country that encourages its citizens to pursue higher education because of its supposed guarantee of economic stability and upward mobility, it is becoming increasingly clear that the national economic policies it implements and the democratic principles it expounds have yet to sync up.

Rather than investing in the very sector that provides this pathway to student success, the staff's worth is being hung out to dry regardless of the party in parliament. This degradation of academic staff coupled with a post-Brexit uncertainty in the economy and migration policies, academics may find themselves asking: is England really for me?

Dr. Eastwood sees silence on the part of the administration as counterproductive to their futures objectives for Queen Mary.

"Elite universities, like this one aspires to be, try to attract the best staff through salary and pension packages, but we're now seeing better packages at former polytechnic universities. There are universities around the world with better packages! So, if we start to feel like they don't think we're worth the investment, the UK will lose its competitive edge in the global marketplace for education as staff will no longer be as talented or divers."

If academic institutions become demotivated and unhealthy workplaces, what is its implications for the future of higher education in the UK?

On February 15th, professors held a student meeting in the Geography building to find out. Upon entering the room, Dr. Eastwood passed a piece of chocolate cake to all attendees—it seemed to be their



way of showing their gratitude—while Dr. Lee Jones (pictured above) was preparing to present the facts, all the assumptions, and all the consequences of the cut.

"I became an academic because I was transformed by influential teachers. But our working conditions are your learning conditions. Staff under constant economic assault can't provide a world-class education."

What stood out the most from Jones' presentation was the 91% of UCU members at QMUL who agreed to strike. This almost-unanimous turnout would typically be sufficient enough to pressure any university into re-negotiations, but QMUL's President and Principal Colin Bailey has yet to speak out against the UUK's decision.

Malia Bouattia, the former president of the National Union of Students, followed Dr. Jones by using his facts as a map for action. Her strategy transcended beyond resistance against UUK and focused more on challenging the nationwide "normalization of privatization," which saw the "boom in university investment and management cutting costs."

She also took the same stance as Eastwood did regarding the growing demand to refund student fees. Rather than interpreting it as student disengagement with the strike, Bouattia saw it as an opportunity to not only threaten academic institutions but also policy-makers as well.

If this strategy is employed, "collectively as a form of resistance and solidarity with staff," then Bouattia believes that the strike would serve as a backlash to the commodification of education. When management and government continue to demand and accept higher fees for students without keeping up their half of the bargain, the system collapses entirely, and they

are left explaining where "sustainability" went wrong.

Before moving forward on how students can showcase their solidarity, it should be noted that the repercussions of the cuts do not stop at personal financial losses.

Dr. Sadhvi Dar, Queen Mary's UCU secretary, offered a unique perspective on just how pervasive the consequences of UUK's vote are for the vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

"Go on to Queen Mary's Human Resources page, and you'll see that 55% of staff employed at the lowest pay-grade in this institution are workers of colour. As the pay-grade increases, the number of people of colour employed in those higher grades slides down sharply."

According to Dar, these data sets illustrate that while Queen Mary is doing relatively well in employing an ethnically and racially diverse staff, the progression of WOC is "just as stunted as other universities." Poor progression rates negatively impacts one's pensions because factors like salary and length of employment determine your retired annual income. This fact alone scratches off academia for anybody coming from a marginalised community looking to create a better future for themselves.

In addition to this, WOC are not as present in managerial or administrative positions. There is currently nobody at the table with Bailey that is reminding him just how detrimental these cuts will be for BAME members of staff.

Secondly, the cuts add more fuel to the fire by also targeting young academics just beginning in their careers. If staff is predicted to lose an average of £10,000 per year, that means young professors are losing an average of £200,000 throughout the entirety of their career. This es-

timate, however, only targets those with permanent contracts.

66% of teaching at Queen Mary is delivered by staff on an hourly-paid or fixed term contract, which makes them the most exploited among all staff at QMUL. The average student is approximately £50,000 in debt: who would willingly choose a career in education if there is no longer a guarantee for return in investment or the prospect of long-term financial security?

Evidently, this strike is much bigger than pension cuts. This strike is, as Queen Mary's UCU representative said at the student meeting, about the "marketisation of the education sector and about fair and equitable working conditions."

Students have a responsibility to themselves and future generations to stand on the moral side of history. Just as the UCU stood with the NUS during all the demonstrations and protests against tuition fees, the NUS is now standing with the UCU because both unions are "committed to promoting the interests of our members and to defending education."

So, frame your profile picture on Facebook with UCU's call for solidarity. Email the principal and convince him into convening renegotiations with UUK. Print out the petition on Change.org and tape it all over campus. Show up to the picket line with awfully crafted posters and protest alongside your professors. Exercise your democratic power.

Everybody needs to throw their weight behind this because, in the chilling words of Eastwood, "if we lose this, they can get away with anything".

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NEWS

FRANCIS BANCROFT BUILDING RANKS IN BOTTOM 3% OF BUILDINGS FOR OCCUPANT SATISFACTION

REVIEW OF THE BUILDING REVEALS PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THERE ARE EXPOSED TO POOR AIR AND HAVE INCREASED RISK OF ALLERGIC REACTIONS

ELMIRA TANATAROVA

A review of the Francis Bancroft building that concluded in November 2017 revealed a multitude of health and safety concerns.

The risk assessment found that occupants are generally dissatisfied with the building, complaining of “greater occurrences of colds, flu and respiratory problems, allergic reactions, headaches triggered by working in the building, and poor air quality and odours.” The building scored poorly across the 49 key variables placing it in the bottom 3 percent of buildings in ARUP’s national database.

26% of staff who work in the Bancroft building reported to have “sought medical help for health issues triggered by their work environment.”

Traces of “gaseous pollutants” like formaldehyde, benzene, and ammonia were all found, as well micro-biological allergens such as aspergillus, penicillium (fungus) and mouse and dust mite. The report did however state that the levels were all “low concentrations significantly below the HSE workplace exposure limits (WEL).”

“Elevated but sub-WEL concentration of cyclohexadecane” was obtained in room 4.23. The reasons for which the risk assessment states are “not clear and re-sampling is recommended”.

Anonymous sources working for the university have voiced their concerns to The Print about this, after hearing rumours that one of the reasons for these problems arise out of alleged animal testing happening on the fifth floor of the Francis Bancroft Building.

A spokesperson for Queen Mary commented, “The Bancroft building has been assessed and is safe to work in. If students or members of staff have any health and safety concerns, they should raise them via hs-helpdesk@qmul.ac.uk”

University sources add: “In relation to the use of animals in research, all information about Queen Mary’s animal research can be found on these web pages, including why we use animals in research and how we care for our animals. Please be assured that all animal work is conducted under strict legal guidance set out by the government and in facilities that are regularly inspected by Health and Safety to ensure that there are no risks to anyone working in or near the animal facilities. Our legal responsibilities under the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act mean that we do not disclose the whereabouts of our animal facilities.”

Air ventilation is reported to be in a dire state that puts the air “at risk of contamination”, with The School of Business and Management, in particular, being victim,



with constant “migration of smells into the 4th floor” and staff citing poor air quality for worsening of various illnesses varying migraines and colds to asthma and other respiratory conditions. The fourth floor is where complaints concerning health seem to be concentrated.

Overcrowding was also an issue outlined in the report. The School of Business Management staff based in the

building have increased from 36 in 2011 to 85 in 2017 whilst student numbers have increased from 850 in 2013 to 1800 in 2017. On respondent to the survey on conditions in the Francis Bancroft building stated, “I really do NOT feel safe on the stairs, especially on the full hour when everybody moves around. I am really worried about an emergency, I believe that people will get trampled to death.”

The Francis Bancroft Building has scored consistently in the bottom 5% of buildings when considering the 49 core performance variables in the national database. Perceived health needs and comfort in the building rated below average in satisfaction and recent assessments all recommend QMUL take further action to increase working conditions in the building.

WIZARDS HAVE WANDS CONFISCATED ON NIGHT OUT AS THEY POSE HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK

SOPHIE MITCHELL

On a rather grim and miserable Wednesday evening in January, Drapers decided to host a Harry Potter themed Poundstretcher. Eager to head out and court the local Gin-nys – an army of Harry Potter impersonators descended upon the Students’ Union bar. Yet, to the dismay of everyone present, the wand of every Harry was confiscated at the door due to the risk of them being used as weapons.

This paramount health and safety concern drastically lowered the calibre of the evening – rendering the wizards without a trusty chat-up line, and the muggles profoundly unimpressed. Let’s hope Drapers finds use for that bucket of confiscated wands. Perhaps they could make a giant stick house, use them as drumsticks, or perhaps drinks stirrers, just to add a touch of well-needed class.

NO NEWS

LIAM PAPE

Although the ‘tabloid ban’ is a nice anecdote that reinforces the narrative that free speech is stifled at Queen Mary, The Print revealed last year that fewer than a dozen tabloid newspapers were sold everyday in the campus shops – even before Student Council voted to stop selling the Daily Mail, Express, and Sun. Most of them were purchased by builders and staff at the university rather than students.

The two shops on campus recently stopped selling all newspapers – and nobody noticed

However, it has recently come to light that The Village Shop and the Union Shop (previously Infusion) stopped selling all newspapers in October 2017.

Although this took place over five months ago, the coverage and “outrage” of this was significantly less than when the outlets stopped stocking the right-leaning tabloids.

The move to stop selling newspapers on campus was not a politically motivated decision, rather a financial one. One source from The Village Shop told The Print, “When we did stock newspapers, we hardly sold any.”

One publication that you can still pick up from campus shops is The Print.

EDUCATION IS ON THE MARKET, AND POOR STUDENTS ARE BEING SOLD OUT

BETHANY PICKERING

If you haven't heard about changes to the 'Queen Mary, University of London Bursary' - a bursary for students from low-income backgrounds - then you are not to blame. The university has gone to great lengths to keep their recent restructuring out of the public eye.

Students were never consulted or informed; no announcements were made, no justification even attempted. One may surmise, this is because it is an argument they cannot win, and a university which presents itself as an inclusive environment cannot defend their decision to sell out working class students for profit.

In previous years, a student with parental income below £42,600 but above £25,000 could expect to receive £1200 in bursary from the university; someone with parental income below £25,000 would receive £1500. For far too many students, this money is the difference between coping with university life in one of the most expensive cities in the world, and not coping; mental health issues, financial struggle, debt and anxiety.

This year, the boundaries changed drastically. A student

whose parental income is below £15,000 - an incredibly small part of the student population - will receive £1700. Those with parental income between £15,000 and £30,000 will receive a mere £750, with those above that threshold receiving nothing. Though a paltry increase has been made for the very poorest students, it nowhere near accounts for the amount that has been taken out of the system.

So why has this happened? As previously stated, answers are not easy to find. The university made no attempt to communicate to its students why these changes were made. Extensive research however,

from Sajid Javid, then Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and Jo Johnson then Minister of State for Universities and Science which stated, "We want you to be firmer with institutions to ensure their investment is allocated to the most effective interventions, encouraging more investment in outreach and other activities and less on financial support."

It has since been pushing universities to spend less on bursaries for poor students. Their justification, and the justification of Queen Mary when submitting their OFFA required Access Agreement, was that most students in receipt of the

"Students were never consulted or informed; no announcements were made"

points to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA). Their role is to make Universities more accessible to students from backgrounds that are poorly represented in Higher Education.

The body, received a directive

bursary were not performing statistically poorer than those who were not (higher-income students), along with evidence that suggests low-income students are not more likely to drop out if they do not receive a bursary.

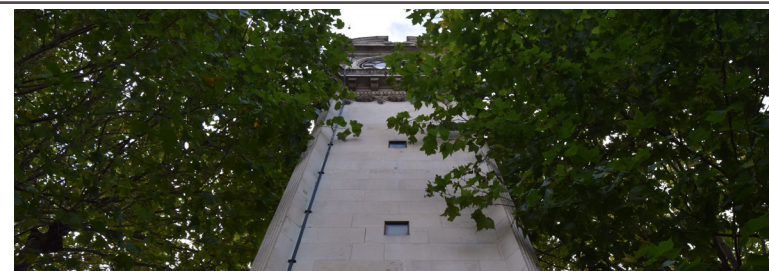


Image: Blanca González Alba

In fact, the only measure Queen Mary appears to have considered when making the decision to reduce bursary spending is whether or not it would cause students to drop out, or choose a different university. How this financial impact will affect the mental health of students, what it will mean for their work-study balance, financial status, the quality of life they have while in Higher Education, and their ability to partake in extra-curricular activities, were not mentioned in the report.

This issue goes far beyond Queen Mary though. With OFFA pushing universities to lower financial support in order to further adhere to government success targets, the method of research into bursaries was left up to individual universities. King's College London used a student survey which overwhelmingly stated that bursaries helped poor students with everyday costs necessary for their education.

Their bursaries have remained unaffected this year. Queen Mary however, did not bother asking those questions; only researching whether or not lowering the bursary would affect the amount of students they had.

At a recent meeting, the Welfare Zone - the Student Union elected committee of student representatives tasked with protecting and advancing student welfare - overwhelmingly supported a motion going to AMM on the 27th February. The motion is to mandate the student union to take direct action against the University - including protests, rent strikes, boycotts and occupations - until the bursary system is restructured in such a way as not to damage poor students' university experience, or to put them in a precarious financial situation.

CONTROVERSIAL MARKING CAUSES DISAGREEMENTS IN SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

AAMINAH AKRAM

The Print recently learned that students who sat the DEN4122: Mathematics and Computing for Engineers 1 exam had their marks raised, much to the displeasure of their lecturer.

In an email sent to students who sat the exam last May, lecturer Dr Frances White expressed his displeasure at students having their marks increased, as he argues they should not have been. The email, which had the original marks attached, states:

'Management have increased all DEN4122 exam results by a certain amount because of

the extremely high failure rate (42%). This means that a significant number of you who think you have passed, have not in reality done so'. The email further goes on to say 'after the shift increases your marks, a large number of you will have passed the exam despite learning very little or nothing from DEN4122. Well done, you should be very proud. Those of you who were routinely disruptive in lectures, or rude in feedback and emails, should be especially proud'.

Dr Frances White no longer teaches at Queen Mary, University of London.

One student we spoke to described the email as 'unprofessional', whilst another suggests 'the class was split in opinion of the lecturer, so many students felt it was directed at the individual, and the others felt it was like a general roast to the class out of righteous anger'.

We contacted Dr Henri Huijberts, module organiser for DEN4122: Mathematics and Computing for Engineers 1 to find out more about the issue. However when we reached out to Dr Huijberts, we instead got a reply from the Queen Mary Press Office. The response of the Press Office stated;

"We routinely review results from exams to ensure that the assessment criteria are right and reflect the standards we expect students to reach. Occasionally, these processes result in a change in students' marks. All of our assessment policies are approved by Senate and the relevant Degree Examinations Board, and are accessible to staff, students and external examiners."

Questions must be asked on whether Dr White should have sent an email and whether he had a right to be upset over the rise of marks. As already stated, Queen Mary has the option to change marks when the scores are assessed. How-

ever, raising marks due to a high failure rate can benefit the university more than students. Although students gain higher marks, they will not gain the relevant skills needed from the module whilst the university gets to maintain a high pass rate.

One student we spoke to agreed with the decision taken by Queen Mary. Ammaarah Ravat, a student who sat the exam explained that the 'test itself was difficult to prepare for' and the lectures taken 'weren't a great representation of what to expect for the actual exam'.

NEWS

JACOB REES-MOGG: "I'M NOT MR FLATPACK"

BOOKIES' FAVOURITE TO BE NEXT PRIME MINISTER ADMITS HE HAS NEVER BEEN TO IKEA

GRACIE BROWNING

On 1st February, Jacob Rees-Mogg, Member of Parliament known for his controversial views, was the most popular yet reactionary visitor in the Mile End Institute's 'In Conversation With...' series. Rees-Mogg's visit sparked a protest on campus, yet he was the quickest politician to sell out the event since the series launched.

The protest taking place outside of the venue grabbed the attention of everyone on campus. It is not difficult to believe that a politician such as Rees-Mogg, who is on the most reactionary wing of the Conservative party, would receive this sort of negative attention at a predominantly left-wing University like Queen Mary. But, when asked about this, Rees-Mogg did not seem phased, instead saying that "I am very flattered that there are protestors outside... that means they want to engage in political debate".

His controversial opinions on social issues were almost guaranteed to be discussed. This began when an audience member asked whether, were he to be elected as Prime Minister one day, he would try to promote his views (notably his pro-life, anti-gay marriage stance). Rees-Mogg replied saying, "all these votes are free votes, they are conscience votes, and the conscience of the country is not in the same place as my conscience, but I believe in freedom of conscience, and I believe in democracy". Thus, it was made clear that Rees-Mogg does not wish to impose these values onto Britain due to his understanding that it is not the popular consensus.

Further to him being asked if he would run for leader of the party, Rees-Mogg emphasised that "we can look at history... I'm a backbench member of parliament, and in parliament no backbencher has ever gone on to be leader of the Conservative party." However, Rees-Mogg did say, "I greatly appreciate the confidence that people are showing in me" when asked about his favour-

able odds to be the next party leader.

For now, however, Rees-Mogg made clear that he does not see a place for a leadership election anytime soon, as he supports current leader Theresa May and "I would not sign a letter calling for her to go."

Mogg was also teased on his reliance on the family 'nanny' to look after his six children, and scolded for having never changed a nappy. Having his stay-at-home wife and nanny do such things is "simply the practicalities of life."

He also made clear that he has never been to an IKEA, as "I'm not Mr Flatpack", but described Wetherspoons as "a great Eurosceptic chain".

Brexit was another key point of discussion, with Rees-Mogg agreeing that "anyone who was here [before Britain leaves the EU] legally should be welcome" as they have gone through the mental and physical strain of leaving their country for another. He also suggested there should be a different system after we

exerted his Conservative values about how his party is best positioned to create opportunities for the young, particularly in regard to continuing to aim for a property-owning democracy. He also expressed his belief in the positive attributes of universal credit.

"You make better choices about how to live your life than I can for you, I don't believe in the socialist approach where the collective is more important than the individual, and I don't therefore believe you should be nudged in living your life in the way that I think is good for you".

Moreover, to help the poorest in society, Rees-Mogg desires to see a reduction in tariffs on food, clothing and footwear, which "make up 21% of the average family's budget, but for the poorest in society, that is a higher percentage inevitably". He explained that "if you can make the 21% of people's expenditure... 20% lower... that is a dramatic improvement in the standard of living" for the poorest in society, but affects the rich little.

Regarding University fees,

"I am very flattered that there are protestors outside"

leave the EU, as he holds the belief of an implementation period, in which changes are pre-planned and implemented, rather than a transition period.

However, Rees-Mogg did dub the Treasury reports and statistics as a "constellation of the stars", arguing that the effects of leaving the customs union will not be as devastating as the Treasury purport.

When asked about Jeremy Corbyn potentially being the next Prime Minister, Rees-Mogg

explained that "if you don't pay for it, it will have to be paid by someone else... you may think it will be paid for by some mythical billionaire but it will not". Here, Rees-Mogg explains his belief in responsibility for higher education through the Student Finance England system rather than Universities being paid for through increases in national taxes. This would mean every citizen paying to fund higher education even if they did not attend University.

Mogg spoke fondly of the need



for an efficient, welcoming system for asylum seekers in the UK, "we are a land of liberty, and we believe in liberty for everybody, and we believe in the rule of law for everybody, and that means respecting the rights of all people who are this country, but we also need to have a system where people who have broken the rules can be safely deported, it is not always easy to get the balance rights and mistakes will be made... but to be holding someone in that situation in indefinite detention would be deeply troubling".

Despite his sometimes old-fashioned views, Rees-Mogg had more popular opinions when asked about the possibility of better maternity leave policies for female MPs, describing himself as "extremely sympathetic as long as its voluntary". Rees-Mogg also stands behind diversifying the House of Commons as "we need to be able to get people who have come from deprived backgrounds to bring their experience in". He made the joke that the Commons would be a very "boring" place if all MP's were like himself.

Furthering this, Rees-Mogg had some surprisingly lax views on whether a politician's past matters so much. He claimed that it needs to be "contextualised and balanced", and said that social media is such a huge part in the lives of young people to-

Image - Mile End Institute / Twitter

day that this needs to be taken into account. He joked that "people of my age who are relatively new to social media, need to understand that people of a younger generation have put everything onto social media. Do we really want to elect people who, at the age of 12 decided that they wanted to be politicians, so never put anything on social media that could come back to haunt them?"

Regarding revitalising Conservative party membership, Rees-Mogg expressed that he believes the party needs to focus on giving "oomf to the local party as you need some invigoration, some excitement, and an energy about it".

As usual with the 'In Conversation With...' series, Philip Cowley asked Rees-Mogg what advice he would give for a young person desiring a career in politics. Rees-Mogg replied that perseverance is key, and that "you have to keep on throwing your hat into the ring again and again until people get bored of throwing your hat back at you".

Read more about Jacob Rees-Mogg's visit to Queen Mary on our website: www.theprintnews.co.uk/

QUEEN MARY'S NIGHT-OWL STUDENTS

LIAM PAPE

Data analysed by The Print showed that the Mile End library was busier at 1am than it was at 9am on around two thirds of the time in late 2017.

Since September, the Mile End library has been open 24/7 and this data shows that students are utilising the new opening times – to an extent anyway.

Some nights, such as 10 December, you would find over 100 more students in library at 1am than you would at 9am.

The data showed that on 42% of days from mid-November to mid-December, the library was still busier at 2am than it is at 9am.

The Mile End library tends to be busiest at 3pm with an average of 906 people using it between the period examined. The highest number of people in the library was reported at 3pm on 11 December when 1187 people were in the building.

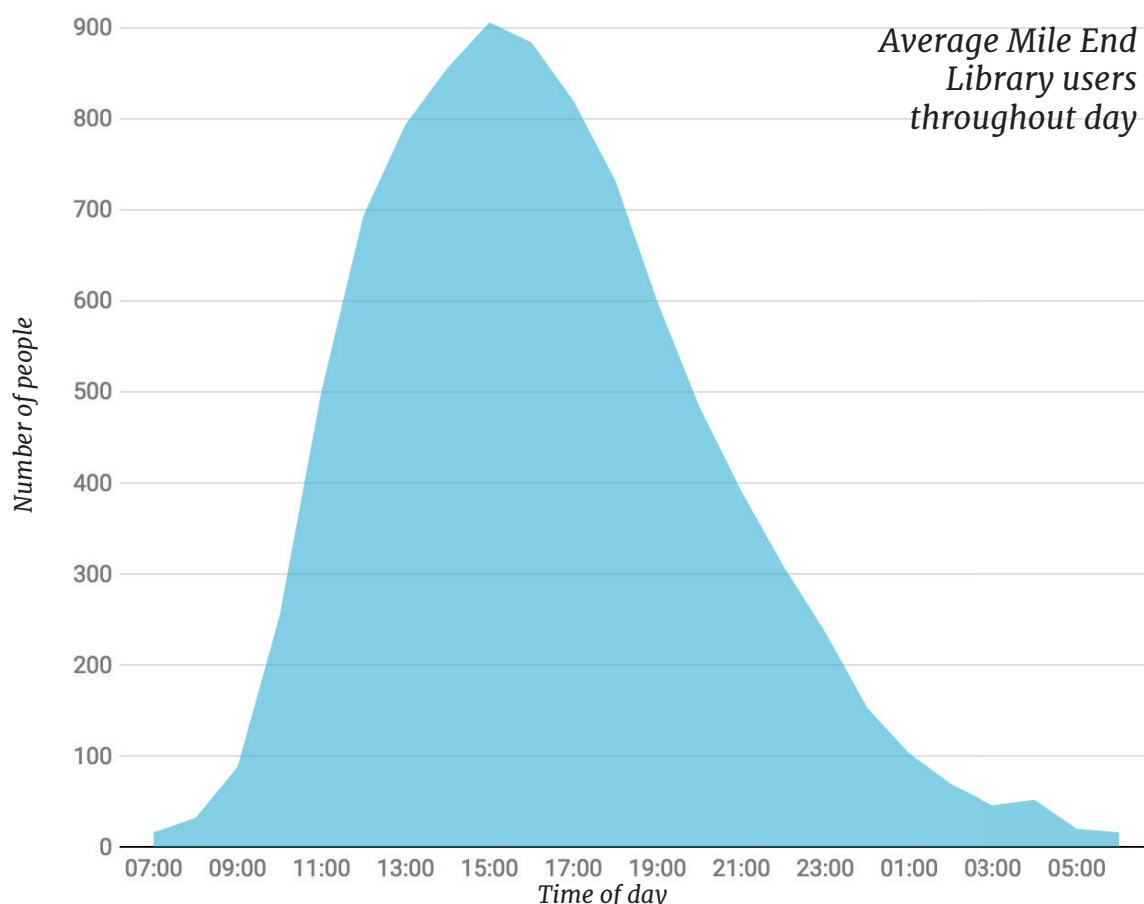
However, over this period, an

average of only 20 people used the library every night at 5am and a measly 16 at 6am.

One student we spoke to commented, “Even though not many people seem to use the library in the early hours of the morning, the fact it is open at that time is good because it acknowledges that students have dodgy sleeping patterns at university and allows them to be productive, if they want to be, in the early hours of the morning.”

As the number of students studying at Queen Mary keeps growing, opening hours of the Mile End library have been expanded in attempts to ease the demand for study space.

In the last couple of weeks, refurbishment of the Hive East, now called The Nest, was complete. This was also done to increase study space at Queen Mary as the redesigned room now caters to the needs of students and should encourage more students to use it as a space to work.



SOCIETY ENDORSEMENT BANNED IN SU ELECTIONS

Bye bye by-law ten?

LIAM PAPE & MAARIYAH DAWOOD

After years of motions, debating and proposals bouncing between Student Council and the Board of Trustees, society endorsements of Students' Union election candidates have been banned.

The decision was finalised in June 2017 when the Board of Trustees voted to pass the by-law. The subsequent SU election campaigns in February were the first widespread elections where this regulation took effect.

Previously, society-endorsed candidates stood at a huge advantage. This was particularly so if they received the support of the Islamic or Law societies, who have over 500 members between them, or any partisan society which has scores of politically engaged students.

This old system was scrutinised by Student Council on many occasions, mainly due to the lack of transparency. At the Student Council meeting in April 2016, Will Atkins, then Vice President Bart's and The London, wrote in his motion proposal: “The process that surrounds the way some student groups endorse candidates is non-transparent.

The current endorsement system is not working in the best interests of student democracy.”

Over a year after that original proposal, the issue was taken to the Annual Members Meeting (AMM), where all students are able to vote, in May 2017. The motion here argued that candidate endorsements by societies should be allowed. However, “the Union should set up a working group that focuses on candidates' welfare during the elections and also how best to actively and transparently engage societies and sports clubs within the election process”. This motion passed.

Will Atkins pushed another motion at the following Student Council meeting in June 2017, where he argued that from a welfare perspective, endorsements can be damaging: “Candidates that fail to receive endorsements from big societies feel that they are unable to win, and may also feel that these endorsements are decided before the election period has begun”. With ten in favour, seven against, and five abstentions, the motion passed.

The Board of Trustees ratified the by-law amendment, noting that they should not seek to undermine Student Council by not passing it and that the previous motion that passed at the AMM in favour of society endorsements could be overruled as many students had left the university when the vote took place.

The amendments to article 5.4 of by-law 10 details how student groups cannot use their grants or subs account to support candidates' activities, nor can they endorse candidates through their mailing list or social media accounts.

Individual committee members of student groups can still support candidates. However, this must be in a completely personal capacity.

Due to the nature of the democratic process at the Students' Union, the issue of student group endorsements was not put to bed and at the AMM in February 2018 it was decided that the Students' Union should hold a referendum on the issue.

Danial Mohamed, Mile End Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Rep, originally pro-

posed a motion calling for student group endorsements to be reinstated. He argued that student groups engage a large number of students and have democratically elected committees, hence these groups should be allowed to state which candidates best represent their interest.

However, a procedural motion was brought forward to put the issue to a campus wide referendum by Lewis Williams, candidate for SU President in this year's elections. This procedural motion was subsequently passed.

Queen Mary Students' Union by-laws state that a referendum must be held within

12 to 25 working days of the referendum being called, and requires 500 votes for it to be valid.

However, the referendum will only be advisory and not binding as it involves changing the Union by-laws. This will require ratification by Student Council and the Board of Trustees.

The referendum will take place from 27-29 March 2018.

For The Print's full coverage of the 2018 Students' Union elections, go to our online election hub www.theprint-news.co.uk/category/elections.



Illustration: Kav Rodrigo

FEATURES

"A BAPTISM OF FIRE FOR THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION"

WILL MARTINEAU EXPLORES THE POSSIBILITIES OF BECOMING A PRISON OFFICER WITH UNLOCKED GRADUATES

WILL MARTINEAU

Whilst considering the economic and existential dread of a post-university life, the opportunity to work in a prison is not at the forefront of students' minds. One Reform League recently deemed prisons, 'a blood-bath of assaults, suicides and self-harm', whilst in 2016, there were 65 assaults in prisons on both inmates and staff per day. Yet, according to charitably funded Unlocked Graduates, the answer to this crisis is young and educated graduates, such as ourselves. With recruitment critically low and the need for effective reform becoming more apparent everyday, Unlocked offers a two-year graduate scheme that will throw our schooled and skilled selves into the heart of the crisis as Band 3 prison officers. Whether we're willing to answer the call is another question.

The problem must be solved somehow. Natasha Porter, Unlocked's CEO, told The Print: "You never get somewhere that has this many socioeconomic disadvantages in one location". Over half of the people entering prison have the literacy skills of an eleven-year-old, 49% of the women and 23% of the men are diagnosed as anxious and depressed, almost a quarter of adult prisoners have been in care at some point in their lives, and 44% of adult prisoners reoffend within only one year of release. Yet, no matter how noble the cause, considering the popular image of unintelligent and even sadistic prison officers joining their ranks seems a nightmarish prospect. Natasha is more than aware of this unsavoury image. She not only wants to improve the system, but the visibility of the officers themselves. Imani, who joined the scheme's first cohort in 2017, conceded that, 'to some, my job as a prison officer is just to keep "criminals away from the public",' when in reality, 'at any given moment I can be expected to perform the roles similar to those of social workers, police officers, security guards, nurses, carers and sometimes even a therapist'. In accordance with

this multi-faceted role, Natasha describes prison officers as, 'negotiators, investigators and social workers'.

It may be that further emphasising the obstacles which face the scheme's participants hardly makes the prospect any more inviting. But Imani believes that, 'without these challenging moments, I would not be as resilient as I am now. I believe that once you can cope as a prison officer, you can do any job out there!'. Certainly, the closer we come to graduation – and the larger the real world looms – we could all do with a little more resilience. Unlocked Graduates is a baptism of fire for the millennial generation. Furthermore, on the cynical side of things, it's a baptism of fire that not only pays better than many graduate jobs, with salaries of up to £30,064, but also vastly improves participants' employability. Although the scheme includes a compulsory, bespoke Masters in Leadership and Custodial Environments, employers will be most attracted to those key skills garnered during the day-to-day of the job: prioritisation, decision-making and relation-building all within the stress of a prison environment. Think on that next time an interviewer asks you how you overcame challenges in the workplace.

Although there is currently a need for more prison governors, and Imani is intending to continue working to a more senior level, Unlocked does not actively encourage participants to remain within the prison system. Schemes such as these take our universities' best and brightest on a two year tour through the public sector, whether that be social work or teaching. However, one criticism of these kind of schemes is that they treat the sector as a careerist stepping stone. The ten-year-old scheme Teach First in particular has been criticised due to its low rates of retention in comparison to those teachers emerging from PGCEs, despite the latter requiring less funding from the government.

Natasha herself was amongst

the first cohort to emerge from Warwick University, and although she no longer works within the education system, it was realising education's importance that led her to set up Unlocked Graduates. As a result, becoming a prison officer through the scheme is far removed from the usual training. Participants will undergo an intensive course that covers a wide breadth of expertise, ranging from Special Education Needs

visibility, of understanding why prisoners are where they are, and confronting the privilege that has kept many of us out of the same situation. Natasha is not alone in this sentiment. A great deal of government, as well as private, funding has gone into the scheme and applicant rates are high. It is a job unlike any other. For those of us who are disillusioned by an interminable future of boardrooms and dress down Fridays, working

changed for the better. Applicants need a 2:1 and must also pass a fitness test. The process is competitive and by including roleplays and a compulsory visit to a prison, it not only aims to test the participant, but to give them a taste of what they're entering into. Despite these obstacles, the prospect of a challenge, of gritty work and one of the largest problems in the country to solve, the allure only grows. For those of us dread-

"Unlocked's cause is pinned on visibility, of understanding why prisoners are where they are, and confronting the privilege that has kept many of us out of the same situation"

to dealing with mental health issues. The criticisms levelled at Teach First are fair, yet the effect of making individuals, such as Natasha, realise the socioeconomic gulf of education in schools across the country cannot be underestimated. Schemes like these bring graduates who would otherwise sail into corporate jobs face to face with the realities of society's foundations and the systematic problems that reside there. This attitude is epitomised by giving participants the opportunity to write a well-informed policy paper at the end of the two-year course.

Unlocked's cause is pinned on

alongside life's harder truths for a greater cause (all whilst securing an entry into that interminable future if you so wish) begins to take on a surprising allure.

Being a prison officer requires a 37 hour week, 17% of which is antisocial, and although you will be placed in a prison with at least five other participants and a Mentoring Prison Officer, you must be prepared for challenges. In Imani's words: 'The smallest of events can alter the whole day, turning an 'average day' into a rather unique one.' Accordingly, the scheme looks for resilient individuals who have a genuine belief that the system can be

ing a future of feeling our backsides grow slowly number in office chairs, Unlocked Graduates may be the unexpected alternative.

Unlocked Graduates is now registering interest for applications to our 2019 cohort, beginning in July 2019. Please visit their website '<http://unlockedgrads.org.uk/>' for further details.

Imani took part in a panel discussion at QMUL on the 8th of March as part of International Women's Day. Organised by the Equality in Leadership Society, the event discussed the experiences and diversity of women in the workplace.

TRAVIS ALABANZA SHINES AN HONEST LIGHT ON TRANS RIGHTS

WILL MARTINEAU

On January 22nd, Queen Mary's Public History Unit hosted performance artist, writer, poet and activist, Travis Alabanza. Travis has published books of poetry, toured theatre shows across the country, exhibited works in the Tate, and, as a gender nonconformist, prefers to be referred to by the pronoun 'they'. Consequently, their talk in Arts Two concerned trans rights and the 'Trans Tipping Point', a term first coined in Time in 2014.

Unlike other speakers, Travis actively encouraged their listeners to audibly agree or disagree with the arguments they made. Thanks to this more open style of speaking, as well as their lighthearted and comedic self-deprecations, the auditorium was frequently busy with applause. Such attempts to lower the barrier between listener and speaker was demonstrative of Travis's argument.

From the start of the talk, Travis explicitly stated that they desired neither to sum up trans history nor to represent a whole demographic. Accordingly, their definition of 'trans' was a personal one: Not to adhere to the gender you were given as an infant without your consent. The idea that gender is separable from a person's anatomy, let alone that it involves one's consent, continues to remain a radical proposal in comparison to other liberal frontiers, such as third-wave feminism and gay rights. Yet, Travis's informal style, characterised in frequent, cynical self-mockery – 'I'm saying this because it's dramatic and I want to hold your attention' – was a far cry from the self-righteous, 'special snowflake' preaching often displayed in the media's portrayal of trans people. A

great deal of the talk concerned problems of representation, which Travis termed, 'Only show, no tell'. True to their self-aware oration, Travis confessed with a grin that they repeated this particular phrase because they liked the sound of it. In relation to the 'show' of media portrayals, Travis listed 'The Times' writer Janice Turner's headline, 'Children sacrificed to appease trans lobby', and last year's discussion over gender-neutral changing rooms. In July 2017, controversy was stirred when Travis was refused entry to a women's changing room in a Manchester branch of Topshop and subsequently tweeted about the event. In reaction, headlines in papers, such as 'The Telegraph' and the 'Daily Mail', insinuated that women-only changing rooms had been abolished due to Travis's complaint.

In truth, Topshop's changing rooms have been gender-neutral since July. Furthermore, there is no record of transgender people causing harm in a changing room. Such a response in the media, sug-

The argument that those identifying as trans are presented negatively by popular media is supported by correlations between mainstream depictions, such as Caitlin Jenner appearing on the front of 'Time', and negative experiences on the street for trans people. To host a rich and famous MTF (male-to-female) as a representative for a whole demographic further cements the opinion that trans rights is a privileged issue when in reality this is a group that permeates all boundaries of class and income. Negative experiences even include being heckled as a paedophile, which Travis experienced three times at a recent show at the Royal Exchange. As the statistics currently stand, two out of five trans people have experienced violence in the UK. The source of this abuse is exemplary of the problem that many of those who criticise Travis on social media for his identity are white, middle-class women, not the working class and uneducated demographic, often labelled the intolerant majority by media outlets.

“Two out of five trans people have experienced violence”

gesting that Travis's comments alone could cause Topshop to change its policies, leads some of us to believe that large chains are willing to bend to the demands of a single individual. Reducing a nationwide cause to the hands of one person often relegates that cause to the corner of a privileged few, rather than equality for all.

The key to understanding the gulf between those who identify as trans and their critics is greater transparency. Speaking to the audience, Travis used their hosts, the Public History Unit for whom research is essential to understanding a topic, to demonstrate their argument: 'Has anyone done research past the articles they've read about trans people?'. It's a lack of



knowledge that maintains transphobia, which in itself is caused by a lack of visibility: 'If people do not see us how can they understand us?'. This is partly due to cis-gendered individuals writing the majority of articles about trans groups and it should be stated that I am myself cis-gendered.

Image: Blanca Gonzalez Alba

ing), often undergo far more abuse than those who 'pass' as the opposite sex. Whether someone agrees or disagrees with Travis's statements, it's essential that we educate ourselves beyond the sensationalist headlines. Perhaps in the future, individuals like Travis will be invited to Queen Mary to talk about subjects other than their identity.

Travis Alabanza's upcoming events and their debut poetry book 'Before I step Outside (you love me)' is available from their website: <http://travisalabanza.co.uk/>

For more features articles visit <http://theprintnews.co.uk/category/features>

COMRADES CAFE



MELISSA OWENS

Looking for a another place to get caffeinated and work on revisions or catch up with friends? There's a new coffee shop in Mile End that's calling your name. The International Comrades Coffee Shop opened in mid-October of 2017. Located right around the corner from Mile End Station, next to Mile End bus stop A, it's in a prime location for university students and commuters alike. They serve a variety of drinks, including coffees, teas, and hot chocolate, as well as light meals and snacks, in-

cluding fresh pastries and their increasingly-famous toasties, with new menu items coming out all the time. Comrades also caters to vegan/vegetarian diets, offering soy and oat milk for any drink and vegan-friendly foods, including four flavours of lunch rolls and several pastries.

The first question many people ask is, 'Why Comrades?'. No, they aren't communists. They do, however, believe in the philosophy of comradeship: equality and respect for everyone involved in the

creation of each menu item. This means top-notch coffee and chocolate from Union Hand-Roasted Coffee, which ensures both quality and equality in every stage of production. International Comrades also supports several other independent businesses, including the London bakers who create the tasty vegan rolls, the sausage rolls that are handmade in Somerset, and pastries and bread from a bakery just up the road.

In addition to being a prime caffeinating and hang-out

spot for QM students, International Comrades also employs several students, offering valuable work experience, fair and equal pay, and a positive work environment that supports rather than inhibits their studies.

International Comrades can be found on Google maps, or, coming from campus, simply by crossing the intersection and taking a right on Burdett road. Come in for a hot drink or a bite to eat while you study!

FEATURES

MY BIG FAT HALAL BLOG'S SUCCESS

ANNA MCKIBBIN

Ayesha Razak recently won a Student Enterprise Award for her blog, My Big Fat Halal Blog. Looking over her blog will make your mouth water with the colourful, eye-catching pictures and thoughtful articles.

When The Print asked her about the origins of My Big Fat Halal Blog, Ayesha traced her blog to the beginning of

and halal food travel guides', and is doing so successfully. She is encouraged by the increasing number of resources now available to people searching for halal food.

Ayesha manages to regularly update her blog with quality content and pursue her studies as a medical student with apparent ease. Yet, she is still a full-time student and she has admitted that it is diffi-

is instrumental in discovering new and exciting halal options across London. Not only does she use Instagram as a tool to fuel her blog content, but it also serves as a vital platform to reach out to her almost 31,000 followers.

Indeed, Ayesha attributes much of her success to her close relationship to her followers, communicating with them like they are her friends. She is particularly proud of creating a welcoming 'home for an entire halal community'. Scrolling through My Big Fat Halal Blog's Instagram confirms this, as Ayesha responds to many of the comments with thoughtful and charming replies.

There is an assumption that students exist on instant noodles, pasta and baked beans. But Ayesha disagrees with these stereotypes. Ayesha mentioned her own love of baking and cooking to argue that students do not get enough credit for their culinary abilities. The fact that My Big Fat Halal Blog contains so



Image: Anna McKibbin

many delicious recipes is evidence that students can cook and is an encouragement for those who can't.

My Big Fat Halal Blog is a lovely, hunger-inducing collection of food recommendations. Ayesha has a personable writing style, inviting the

readers to explore the lively variety of halal foods available on their own doorstep.

<http://www.mybigfathalal-blog.com/>

“Social media is instrumental in discovering new and exciting halal options”

her university career. The idea rose from a general sense of frustration in the lack of halal food options in London. For such a food-oriented city, there seemed to be a shocking lack of options for Ayesha and her friends. Ayesha is now in the business of writing up 'restaurant reviews, recipes

cult to keep up with university and the blog at times. However, her passion is evident and motivates her to juggle both commitments with composure.

She is aided by what she refers to as her 'trustworthy weapon': Instagram. Social media

STOP FUNDING HATE: WHY CONSUMER BRANDS HAVE MORE RESPONSIBILITY THAN WE THINK

FLORA MEDFORD

Themes of inclusion and acceptance have been all the rage recently, most notably coined by big companies in a bid to promote themselves as ethical and progressive. More often than not, these clumsy attempts at feigning ethical values are transparent, revealing that their actions do not often line up with the values they publicly celebrate.

One more subtle inconsistency that does not align with their promoted values, is where they advertise and, therefore, where they invest their money. In August 2016, the movement Stop Funding Hate began to discourage brands from advertising in tabloids that promote 'divisive hate campaigns', such as The Sun, The Daily Mail and The Daily Express.

Before we can understand this movement's purpose, we need to understand what they mean by 'hate', and why this is associated with these three

newspapers, as this claim itself can cause division. In 2015, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights released a statement referring to "decades of sustained and unrestrained anti-foreigner abuse, misinformation and distortion". Even Queen Mary has had its own experience of this debate - with the recent ban of the sale of these three tabloids on campus and the backlash that followed, with many calling it an attack on free speech. While the decision of whether these publications should be allowed at all is still a divisive topic, Stop Funding Hate's angle on the issue is firm and clear. The website tagline reads:

"Many of these advertisers have strong ethical stances on other issues: on discrimination in the workplace; on their supply chains; on their role in their communities. But when it comes to choosing which publications they fund with their advertising

budgets, their own ethics and values have often been ignored. Until now".

So yes, it is completely a company's prerogative to fund these headlines. However, it only becomes problematic when the companies start to endorse values that don't align with the values promoted in many of these tabloids.

For instance, take Tesco's 'Everyone Welcome' Christmas advert which, in an attempt to be inclusive, featured a Muslim family. This received a lot of backlash on social media, many deeming it a threat to the sanctity of seasonal advertisement. The Daily Mail's reporting on this issue demonstrates this perfectly, with headlines such as: "People who claim Muslims won't integrate are furious they might enjoy Christmas"; "Backlash at 'racist idiots' who blasted Tesco for including Islamic family in their festive advert". The writer's intention to divide and pit the

two groups against one another is undeniable. You need look no further than the comments section for evidence of this. However, it seemed these same pious Christians didn't come out in quite so much force when Jesus Christ was replaced with a sausage roll in the Gregg's Christmas advert, receiving only 390 comments in comparison to the Tesco article's 904.

Even though Tesco published a confident comeback to this hate on Twitter, I'm not so quick to put Tesco down as an 'ethical' and 'inclusive' brand when they are still regularly advertising in all three of the newspapers whose headlines suggest that everyone is most certainly not welcome.

As Stop Funding Hate draws light on these inconsistencies, the list of companies that actively refuse to advertise with questionable tabloids is growing. In particular, 'ethical' brands who do not want to be accused of their monetary ac-

tions not lining up with their supposed values. For instance, The Body Shop have stopped advertising in the Daily Mail, stating that: "We have always supported human rights - it is part of our 'enrich not exploit commitment' - and when an editorial stance seems to go against that Commitment, we consider seriously whether we will support it". Some companies steer clear of the whole debate by not advertising in the press at all in an effort to keep the messy and divisive world of ethical beliefs at arms-length. Although Tesco is just one example of a company acting paradoxically, there is a whole host of companies that still advertise in these newspapers, the most surprising being NHS England, Comic Relief and even the UK Government.

THE BROWN WAY

Investigating the psyche of the South Asian community, The Print aligns culture with mental health

MAANSI KALYAN

Shame. It's a word that motivates silence and implies a fear of being caught red-handed. It's a word associated with doing something wrong in this day and age, and of fearing for your reputation in the event that you're found out. For it to define the discourse surrounding mental health in the South Asian community, then, explains first and foremost why so many of my ethnicity suffer in silence.

Mine is a society that is dependent on reputation above all else: before any action is taken or any word leaves the mouth, the question 'log kya kahenge?' ('what will people say?') is asked repeatedly within us. In fear of judgment, resultantly, I have seen so many of my peers and relatives limited in decisions that would, to the British public who have never lived our lifestyle, seem petty beyond words. In fear of ridicule, I have experienced firsthand the suppression of mental turmoil that'd appear incredibly irrational to those who have never considered their own kin to be an obstacle.

Living with mental health is difficult for everyone, but imagine being unable to express your feelings out in the open. Depression, anxiety, eating disorders, OCD: the list of illnesses that debilitate our daily lives without inflicting so much as a bruise on the skin is endless, but imag-

ine sacrificing treatment and foregoing a chance of recovery because you are crushed by the family name and the thought of its potential debasement. 'Time For Change' themselves corroborated the existence of this ordeal in a survey conducted in 2010, which found that those of South Asian origin 'had a distinct experience compared to members of other communities' when it came to the subject of mental health, with the report concluding that the notion was rarely even discussed 'because of the risk it posed to a family's reputation and status'.

Stigma towards mental illnesses exists worldwide in large abundances, and every sufferer at some point will have naturally felt trapped because they're at the mercy of preconceived prejudices; but those who share my ethnicity find themselves in a darker prison cell, I'd argue, because their diagnoses has the ability to destroy every stable structure in their lives. Coming from a culture that is as deadly as it is beautiful, that has been known to historically endorse honour-killing and oppose divorce in order to save face, I can say with certainty that it's not the disorder itself that differs the South Asian's experience to the Caucasian's, but the hoard of possible familial humiliation - the consequence of daring to rock the boat - that inevitably transpires alongside the disorder.

Having been born and brought up in Britain, I've always been

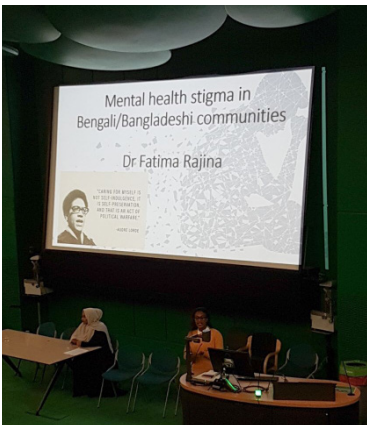
surrounded by this encouragement of discussion and honesty. We are told that it's important - brave, even - to seek help. In stark contrast, however, you're indoctrinated as an Indian that there is valiance in going it alone. Refusing to disclose any truth that'd distort the veneer of perfection your family have spent years smoothing down is as implied as it is heroic: we see it in movies and television, we read about it in our history books and hear about it in idle gossip that putting the collective before your own happiness is gallant. And so we set our own mental needs aside in support of a 'everything is okay' attitude. So, a discussion? No chance. A confession? Not in a million years. Lips stay shut with the knowledge that anything out of the ordinary will sabotage not only your status but that of everything you call their own, with the further incentive of some invisible reward for seeing trauma through without complaint.

Whereas more and more people in the West are speaking out about mental health, then, the South Asian community finds itself completely frozen in time. Too many Indians and Pakistanis have refused to accept they are sick and vocalise this sickness knowing of the rumours that'd spread like wildfire with such a declaration.

Priya-Alika Elias wrote in a particularly hard-hitting article about this subject that

she'd always thought honesty about inner battles was 'the white way' - 'the brown way', on the contrary, was one of secrets and 'stoicism'. The brown way was whispering the name of the antidepressants I'd been prescribed to the A&E nurse when I was sick over Christmas; preparing a wealth of excuses to dish out to family-friends to weakly explain my exhaustion; and blaming drastic weight loss on 'A level stress'; and these are a mere three instances out of many I'll never forget because I knew it was counterproductive to fib, but knew with equal intensity of the consequences my family would have to face if I didn't fib.

I am outspoken, liberal, and address controversy head on, but it was just two months ago that I began to seek professional health and told my parents I was very sick - that's a full seven years of hiding myself away because, despite my characteristics, the thought that my ranking on the Indian leader board was drastically dropping refused to dissipate. Presently, I am actively fighting my illness, but alongside it the shame that I've been made to feel because of declaring it out loud. I have been told that my condition only exists because I'm not religious enough, that taking medication proves I'm weak, that I shouldn't even be publishing this article because 'what will people think of you?', but having lived in an accepting university environment for four years I am



now aware that - and, sorry for the cliché - it's only in admitting and challenging our weaknesses that we grow. It's difficult to be both an Indian girl and a sufferer of ill mental health, but an old-fashioned societal taboo cannot dictate me forever.

We foster a thirst for pride and honour above self-care in the South Asian culture: if the former are put on pedestals, where does that leave the latter? Where does chasing something so fickle leave the truth of our wellbeing, the truth of our minds and the thoughts manifest within them? The problem is that anything that might upset the traditional workings of Indian society is looked down upon, and that mental health is seen to be the frontrunner for such destruction - the solution lies in abandoning the superficial, in ceaselessly speaking out about the uncomfortable.

And 'log kya kahenge?'. Screw 'log'.

Recovery: I choose you.

TINDER

Unpopular opinion: I hate dating apps. They're just sad. Maybe I'm refusing to acknowledge that we now live in a world where human interaction cannot take place without algorithms, profiles, and a lot of swiping. Obviously, using a dating app is a lot easier than asking a boy or girl out in person but since when was love (or sex) supposed to be easy? The notion of seeing a person across a crowded bar and asking for their number will be an alien concept to the next generation. When children ask their parents how they met, what are they going to say? "I saw your mother's holiday pic from last summer with the girls and I thought, "damn girl, u hot" so slid into her DMs with a dick pic." I think not!

HI...GIRLS PLAY FOOTBALL TOO!

I am sick and tired of women being judged as less athletic just because they are women. Women are just as capable as men at playing sport - we have a national football team, rugby team...need I continue? The women's league is just as intense as the men's team, if not more. People need to stop making assumptions that the men's team is tougher solely based on the fact that they are men and more commonly broadcast. The media needs to present both leagues in an equal light; there is the same amount of talent in each.

BAN THE BLOCK

You begin research for an assignment, but as soon as you click on what looks like a helpful website...NOPE. CONTENT BLOCKED. You were just trying to see how cells reproduce...but apparently that's inappropriate. You were just trying to understand the point Aristotle was trying to make...but, of course, that's not allowed. The amount of beneficial websites placed on the blocked list is inexcusable. I promise you, I am not plagiarising ANYTHING. If teachers can hold students accountable for having valuable research, then they should ask their friends over at IT services to stop blocking valuable content.

100 WORD RANTS

CURATED BY KERRY MAXWELL

STRIKES

14 days of strikes by the UCU protesting pension plans represents a failure of Universities UK to negotiate. Students will potentially miss 14 days of tuition through no fault of their own. A strike is the last resort for staff. Commercialisation has turned university education into a prepaid product costing £9250 a year. The strike means we may miss out on a sizeable proportion of that product. Surely the university will owe us a partial refund. Queen Mary have said once they know the full impact of the strike "we will be better able to consider how to respond."

COMMENT

HAMILTON: THE CHOC-ICE OF MUSICALS

The famous musical 'Hamilton' has been applauded for its BME representation - but is it really ethnically inclusive or just a huge sham?

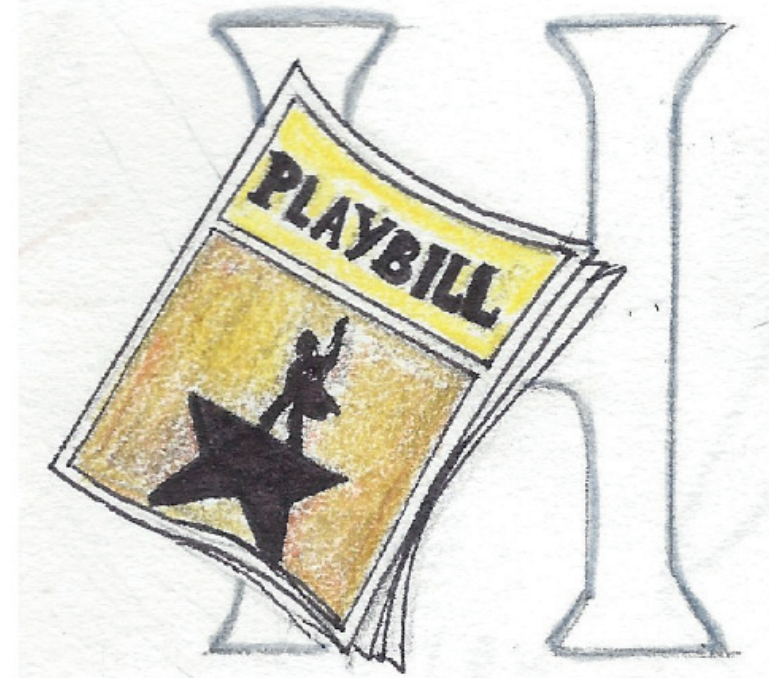
KATHERINE BUTTERFIELD

Picture this: you're in the audience to see 'Hamilton': an American musical' live. You sit down, and start reading your Hamilton programme (seriously, you paid £130 for these tickets and they want you to fork out another £5 for a book?). With joy you see that the cast is comprised mostly of individuals from BME backgrounds: you're glad because there is a distinct lack of minority roles in theatre productions. You've hyped yourself up, because you're keen to see this new, updated take on the American Revolution. It's been sold to you as a retelling of the tale in a race-conscious, inclusive way.

And yet, you look around. The people sat either side of you are white. You crane your neck around to see the rest of the audience, and they also are predominantly white. Even you, yourself, are white. "What the hell?" You ask yourself, "how is it that a musical so clearly aimed towards bringing the minority voice into dominant narrative, through traditionally black styles of music and the

Take an example: Washington and Jefferson were both slave owners, however one is presented as a villain, and the other is presented as a hero. For Jefferson, the fact he owned slaves justifies his villainous portrayal, whereas Washington's complicity with the institution is nicely brushed aside in favour of unblemished hero worship. If this were played by both white characters, the underlying narrative would not change. Washington would still be a hero, as is the dominant narrative, and Jefferson the villain. Except, the main problem, is that if this were played by white characters, it would not be hailed as progressive, but quite the opposite. The recasting is used as a gimmick to hide the hypocrisies of the traditional account of the American revolution that Lin Manuel-Miranda has beautifully regurgitated into lyrical format.

Whilst of course this was done in good intentions, what Miranda has done is repackage, or remarket, the traditional narrative (which consists of the exclusively white-only



only mention slavery through the mouths of historic white actors as either a method to liken them to the audience (as with Hamilton and his so-called abolitionist tendencies) or to vilify a character (as with Jefferson, and "whatever you do in Monticello"). This excludes black voices and genuine black experience, and erases the very relevant aspect

Illustration: Kavisha Rodrigo

financial benefits gained from slave-holding. Furthermore, 5% of soldiers fighting in the revolutionary war were black. Surrounding each cabinet battle, there would have been a slave in attendance. The American Revolution is not just a white story, it's not that simple. To justify the fact that

Miranda think she had nothing of worth to say?

"no amount of casting people of color disguises the fact that they're erasing people of color from the actual narrative." - Lyra Monteiro, Historian.

Just because it's performed by minorities, it doesn't necessarily change the underlying erasure of black voices from the American Revolution. In fact, by falsely presenting it in this racially groundbreaking way, it is diverting attention from the very real need to contextualise and retell that particular tale in a more inclusive and critical way. As James McCaster writes, "How many one-percenters walk away from Hamilton thinking that they are on the right side of history simply because they exchanged hundreds of dollars for the opportunity to sit through a racialized song and dance?". Is Hamilton giving an easy pass to a highly problematic history? My guess is - yes.

But of course, that doesn't mean one can't enjoy the musical itself, nor should it ne-

"Hamilton frames itself as new, refreshing and revolutionary regarding the way it portrays race- yet it actually pushes the voice, worldview and values of the status quo, or dominant class"

multi-racial casting, has only attracted a crowd of middle class, middle-aged white people?".

Let me shed light on this phenomenon:

Hamilton frames itself as new, refreshing and revolutionary regarding the way it portrays race- yet it actually pushes the voice, worldview and values of the status quo, or dominant class. When it comes to Hamilton, I'm arguing that all it does is simply repackage the same traditional white narrative of the American Revolution into a consequence-free multicultural package which middle-class whites can enjoy without feeling guilty about the whole, y'know, slavery part.

struggle for 'freedom' from British rule), by making the more problematic aspects of the narrative "okay" because they're played and presented by POC actors, making it a tool for the rich bougie audience who pay extortionate amounts of money to watch and feel better about the fact that the historical figures it deifies were racist, hypocritical slave-owners!

The multi-racial casting is provided as a substitute for actually granting a platform to the black voice of the time. This is key to the traditional narrative of the American Revolution; to sustain the narrative of the glory of its actors and the personal battles they fought with each other as the driving force. They

of slavery and the pivotal role it played in the revolution.

In counter to the above argument I have had people tell me, and this is a direct quote, that adding original POC characters "would add literally nothing to the story? Hamilton IS a white guy and the influential people in his life are all white - of course it's going to be a white narrative! there's nothing wrong with that?".

Okay, so slavery and the threat of its abolition as a trigger has been identified as a driving factor in the revolution- a fact sorely missed in this musical. Not only this, but the successes of almost all the main characters in the story were built directly or indirectly upon the

there are no historical black characters in the musical itself, with the claim that it's a "white narrative", is actively erasing the experience of the 400,000 or so black slaves that were being held in America in that period in history.

Genuinely, just digest this: not one historical black figure had a line. Not one. In pretty much every scene in this play, there would have been slaves or black members of society in attendance. Yet none of them speak so much as a word. Slavery is mentioned as something that is just happening in the background, but realistically it was a crucial factor driving the very events in the play. The only named black historical character mentioned (in passing and as a gag) was Sally Hemings. Did

gate it's incredibly important, positive message about immigrants, especially given recent political developments in America. Yet, when listening to the piece, one shouldn't exchange enjoyment for questioning its problematic nature. Only by identifying the issue can it be tackled at all. Maybe then, when they inevitably make a psycho trap album about Andrew Jackson, it might actually include the historic minority voice.

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THE IRONIC SYMBOLS OF BRITISH FASCISM

DON'T LET THE FAR RIGHT OWN THE RIGHTS TO PATRIOTISM

SAYWAH MAHMOOD

Across the West, moderate parties are in trouble. In Germany, America, and Britain (worryingly, the list grows), right wing populists seem to be scoring a string of victories. This includes Trump's election and the Brexit vote. What we generally associate with right wing parties tends to be nationalism – extreme nationalism. If I said a far right demonstration was going to take place here, you might imagine a sea of Union Jacks and St George's flags, openly derogatory chants, and of course, a token ethnic minority. It's a similar picture in other countries with their respective flags and symbols. Commonly, the vast majority of the British public seem to be scared of showing their patriotism, in fear of being called a racist or xenophobic. Very rarely do I see a Union Jack or a St George's cross displayed in the vicinity of people's houses, or anywhere on campus for that matter. Apparently, nearly half of

he is the patron saint of Georgia, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Aragon and Catalonia. He is also revered by Muslims and Christians in Palestine. I really don't think you could get more multicultural if you tried. You really don't hear the far right talk about this side of him, do you? I hope you can see how important it is that we all, young and old, should learn about him and really give him the celebration he deserves so he that he isn't weaponized by the far right.

What about the Union Jack? Just look at the visuals; it's the Cross of Saint Andrew (Scotland), that's overlapped by the Cross of Saint Patrick (Ireland), overlapped by the Cross of Saint George (Wales is indirectly represented through the cross of St George, which represents the former Kingdom of England, which included Wales). It is literally a union on a flag. If everyone started flying union jacks, or St George's flags (or your own respective flag), then I feel

“the British public seem to be scared of showing their patriotism, in fear of being called a racist”

young people in Britain don't know the British national anthem (I'm quite weary of polls but that sounds about right). Rightly, most people don't want to be associated with far right/fascists; however, you don't realise how the very symbols they use, can be utilised against them to water down their divisive rhetoric.

Let's start with St George: putting up the St George's cross or getting overly excited about St George's day has for some weird reason become associated with being far right and racist. Of course, far right parties in England use these symbols to 'unite' their members. I say weird however because St George was probably born in Turkey and his mother was Palestinian. As well as being England's patron saint,

that far right parties would lose their appeal. If everyone's flying their respective flags, then the parties lose their distinctive quality, if you can call it that.

So reader, how do we reclaim these powerful symbols? Well, fly your flags with pride and not just when the football or some other sporting event is on. Side note: It would look so cool if we had different flags flying in campus, like a budget UN. Sing your anthems and celebrate your national holidays like St George's day with pride. No matter what your ethnic background, religion etc. these things make us aware of our shared national identity. (Plus it would really confuse the far right if you start doing what they've been doing for a long time).

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE:

IT IS COMING TO THE END OF MY FIRST YEAR HERE AT QUEEN MARY, WHERE I HAVE BEEN NERVOUSLY ANTICIPATING WRITING THIS ARTICLE

GEVITHA ANBARASU



While I wish that the days of being a fresh, new uni student hadn't passed by so quickly, I am beyond excited to start my second year. But just like a segment of Jimmy Fallon's 'Thank you Notes', there are so many things to be thankful for!

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities I was given, such as being able to attend a prestigious university for starters, and being able to the university through the paper. I have managed to go through weeks of readings, assignments, and lectures without physically breaking down. Most importantly, I have been incredibly thankful for the people who, throughout my seminars, have subconsciously broken the barriers of fake smiles and small talk, so as to make me feel more comfortable.

Like all first experiences, university was a tough experience too. At first, I could almost feel a dark cloud of misery hanging over my head. Speaking

to new people who traveled from all corners of London, who had different dialects and spoke various languages opened my eyes to the diversity of people that QMUL housed. It made me miss the routine of people I saw on a daily basis, until I realised we all were on the same path of discovery. Whether commuting to university, or live on campus, being a part of the QMUL life was definitely something worth participating in.

University has provided me with the freedom that I knew I couldn't get elsewhere. Moreover, the surreal atmosphere made me forget all the things I missed. Every day brings the smell of chicken and chips as I walk from Mile-end station, across the road to the smell of coffee beans mixed with the goodness of spices and Peri-Peri sauce from Nandos. The sound of frustrated grunts, noisy phone calls and bike bells help me cherish every minute of my hour-long journey, and when the sadness that would creep into me every time

I sent a 'miss you' message to my best friend hit me, I knew that these are all the struggles of being a university student.

And yet, getting to be a first-year in a university of my very own choice has taught me to first accept that you can either choose to reminisce about your past, or you can work towards a happier future, especially towards the future of your time at QMUL.

While I believe that my second-year and definitely my last two years will be just as exceptional, I can't help but feel a bit nostalgic of my school years, of how I am almost 19 and how the people I miss most are growing up too.

Like all experiences, my first year is almost at an end. So as you wake your sleep deprived selves in the morning, know that you will not be the nostalgic, free spirit, first-year always. But in fact (as cliché as it sounds) your time at QMUL will be over before you even know it.

In the latest episode of **Queen Mary Questions**, we put the questions Print readers submitted to **Yasir Yeahia**, President of Queen Mary Students' Union



Watch here: www.theprintnews.co.uk

COMMENT: THE COLUMNS

KERRY'S CORNER

KERRY MAXWELL



'Colourblind', or racist? There's a difference

Recently, it's come to my attention how more and more people are promoting a "colour-blind" approach to life.

My Facebook newsfeed is full of mums posting how "my baby doesn't see colour", people declaring that they "just don't register race" and, my personal favourite, how "we're all the same race really. You know. The Human Race".

And my god it's pissing me off.

Immediately, I'm going to state my privilege. I'm a white young lady. I grew up in a very white town. For my entire life, I've been provided with a sense of security, be it economic, social or educational. Even if I've ignored it, it's always been available. And I'll admit, I was not always aware of the ways in which I was entitled and at a certain point, I would have argued that I was not. You see, when you're young and light-skinned, trapped in a town full of people just like you, you grow up naive. Doors inevitably open up for you and due to the ease with which I could move through certain spaces, I assumed the same opportunities afforded to me were the same ones afforded to everyone else.

Of course, I was wrong.

I'm interested in discussing race because everyone I know who is white and liberal is scared to do so. It dawned on me that the reason we don't talk to each other about race is because it's a minefield to which no one has the manual. We have an avoidance issue on our hands! We're a nation avoiding the elephant in the room. We don't like to bring up issues of race because, basically, no one wants to be labelled a racist. Yes, it's uncomfortable. Yes, sometimes it's hard to talk about. But not talking about it is a problem. More specifically, it's a problem to do with white privilege.

It's the statements I have quoted above which pretty much epitomise the status of white privilege in the form of colour-blindness. Stating that you don't "see" race, that you don't "register" it means you can't possibly be racist, right? Erm, no. When you don't "see" race, you're ignoring race. And that itself is racist. Being colour-blind does not make you open-minded or accepting.

You don't register race? You don't see it? Then you aren't acknowledging the very real ways in which racism has existed and continues to exist, both in individuals and systemically. By professing not to see race, you're just ignoring racism rather than solving it. It's a way for white people to subtly brush issues of race under the rug in an attempt to unburden themselves. Colour-blindness allows white people to point to racial advancements, such as school integration and affirmative action (seen as heavily positive intervention in the West), as proof that racism itself is obsolete. Meanwhile, the role that institutional racism plays in determining access to good quality education and career outcomes is completely ignored. It permits white people to pretend that racism isn't the urgent problem it once was.

And I'm calling it bullshit.

SUPPORT STRUCTURE

JACOB FINLAY



The Nostalgia of a Columnist

Is this the end? It could well be. As I sit writing this, it is still a cold evening at the beginning of February. However, I am informed by my editor that by the time this issue of The Print is on campus, it will be (a probably still cold and rainy) March. Usually at that point, the wild student begins turning their thoughts to summer, facing final deadlines from spring term, preparing for the onslaught of summer revision by getting their early panic attacks out the way, cramming weeks of seminars into all-night writing sessions, and finally venturing into that mysterious building known as the library. It may seem like ages until the end of term for you readers. However, for me, this issue also signifies the (almost) end of this column. This will be the penultimate physical issue of The Print this year, and while I am sure these incoherent ramblings I call a column will continue online after the last issue, (or at least in my head after The Print rip the opportunity to write them from my cold dead hands), this represents a moment of reflection for your favourite columnist.

Personally, I have always found it difficult to try and understand what happened in a year at university. They always go so fast and there seems to be no order and reason to why things happen. The end is also difficult to mark – as people finish and start to go back home at different times. It's not like school where everyone celebrated the end of term by drinking to forget together. How do we mark this occasion (that is, if you want to mark it at all)? I think the key, personally, is to take it slowly. Rather than being overwhelmed that another year is over, just relax in the feeling of actually submitting that final essay or finishing that last exam. Don't immediately worry about what you're going to do next. If you want to go out and celebrate hard, that's great, but equally wanting to take time to be alone and absorb it all by yourself is fine. You've put in the hard work and deserve not to stress about that. Thank you to anyone who has kept up with this column. I hope that this and any other advice I gave out this year was helpful – after all, what is a column if not a support structure. See you next month for the final one.

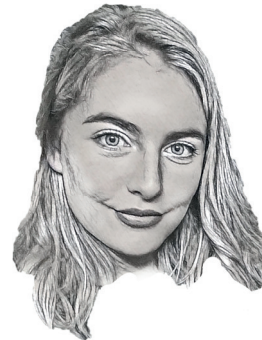
We don't live in a "post-racial" society, not while racism is so thoroughly ingrained in our social structures and institutions. By claiming that you don't acknowledge race, you are imposing your whiteness on everyone as a default standard of sameness. You are negating the experiences of anyone who is not white, thereby suppressing critically important narratives of oppression. Once you view everyone through a colour-blind (white) lens, you deny the realities faced by non-white people and fail to recognise any injustice.

So why do the white people I encounter not like to talk about race? Why do they claim to be colour-blind? Because promoting colour-blindness is easy. It eliminates the need to recognise and discuss extremely uncomfortable realities.

However, I think it's time for the naïve white people in my life to realise that by claiming not to "see" colour, you are stripping people of a fundamental aspect of their identity. So, I want to encourage them to be brave. Have the tough conversations. Acknowledging race doesn't make you racist. Pretending it doesn't exist, however, is a different story.

MILLIE'S MUSINGS

MILLIE PRITCHARD



When you're stressed about being stressed

I'm sat here with four essays due in a week's time, on books I have yet to read. I guess you could say I'm stressed.

The funny thing about stress is that I always put myself in situations which induce it. I have had a month to do these essays, and I could have come up with a strategy to conquer one a week to make the load more manageable. Alas, I am a flawed human being that procrastinates for a living and, in my ostrich-like ways, I bury my head in the sand to ignore the impending deadlines floating ominously on the horizon. And that works for a while, until the deadlines are no longer on the horizon, but within arm's reach.

Sadly, subconsciously, I don't view the thought of being stressed as a catalyst to spring myself into action to tackle a workload which I know will become more overwhelming the more I put it off. The only thing that really springs me into action is pressure. When there is such a short timeframe to do something, I might have a little cry and hate myself for a while, but I do always end up getting it done (to varying degrees of success). 'Diamonds are made under pressure!' I whisper to myself, as I rock back and forth in the corner. The debris of crumbs and wrappers of cereal bars litter the floor around me, and my frantic-like state is further apparent by the untamed mass of hair shoved into something that may slightly resemble a bun, as well as the designer bags under my eyes.

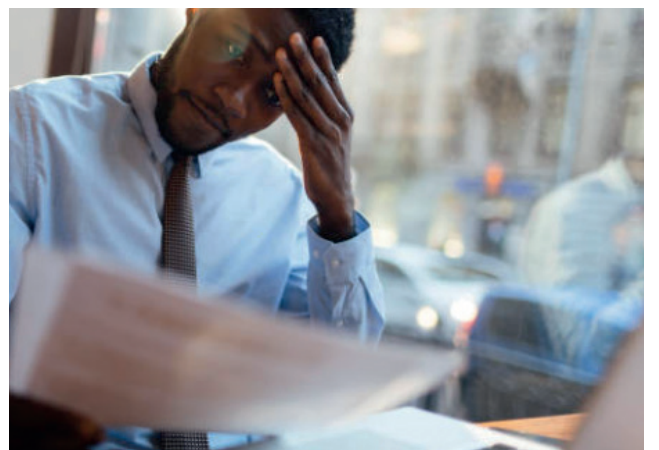


Image- iStock

Obviously, being in this state of mind every time numerous essay deadlines happen to coincide is not healthy. According to UniHealth, 82% of university students struggle with stress and anxiety. In my very millennial mindset, I often bring humour into discussing my sometimes-dark feelings. Although this is a way many people deal with things, it is also important that you talk to someone if you do feel like things are a bit too much for you to deal with on your own. The NUS found that of students who admitted in a survey that they had struggled with mental health issues, 54% said they would not seek support. Universities have support services for your benefit and they can help you in regards to anything, such as skills in time management, or even discussing your emotions and dealing with them. Don't feel like you have to suffer alone...and maybe don't leave those four essays till the last minute.

COMMENT: THE COLUMNS

CAPTURING CULTURE

GABRIELLE AGYEI



Are we just social slaves?

Queen Mary is home to more than 20,000 students of a multitude of ethnicities, upbringings and much more. It's an odd environment because despite such differences, we're brought together at relatively similar points in our lifetimes with one purpose: to obtain a degree level qualification. Looking back on my first year, I think of the anticipation and my eagerness to begin this new and exciting stage of my life. Yes, ultimately university is about receiving a high level of education, knuckling down and studying. But a huge part of it also comes from a social standpoint. Many of us come to university with the hope of meeting new people, expanding our social circles and leaping into the life of young adulthood, independence and personal growth.

Arguably, one could think of university as a kind of social group. We're all here for the same thing, subject to late nights in the library, full of frantic typing as we scramble to meet our deadlines and dreaded 9am's. You may also be a member of a society: Book Club, Food Society, Football, the options are endless. In both these scenarios, you're a member of a collective and there's a sense of belonging that comes with this. One can converse and work with people of a like-minded nature who share similar interests. But at the same time there may be a kind of expectation that comes with such groups, of behaving in a particular manner or even following the actions of others. In some cases, particularly within sports, the concept of the 'initiation' is heavily prevalent and one may be expected to complete tasks in order to become a part of the 'group'. In these various groups, we are different people and so my question is: in such social situations do we lose what makes us individual?

It's important to note that there are two types of groups: 'primary', those of a close nature where we feel a sense of belonging; 'secondary', describing large and impersonal groups. It may be that we are more individual in primary groups (such as with close friends and family), because we feel the freest to express our true selves. With my mum and sister, I am always uncensored and genuinely myself. Here, we are the most comfortable to debate and challenge values because we have been wholeheartedly accepted in these environments. However, it can also be said that within some friendship groups, many follow the cues of others in an attempt to 'fit in' and feel a sense of cohesion. In many friendship

circles (this may be truer at a younger age), there tends to be a dominant figure who leads the rest of the group, setting up the accepted norms and values. It appears that our understanding of 'individuality' can fluctuate depending on the leader and group type we find ourselves in.

The concept of the 'social group' cannot be addressed without thinking about 'group conformity'. Defined as 'the adherence to group norms and standards', this seems to be the clearest type of behaviour opposing the idea of the 'individual' and sense of personal freedom. The old question of whether you'd 'jump off a cliff just because your friends were doing it' fits perfectly with this social behaviour. This need to follow others' actions when in a group can be explained with 'reference groups', which we use as a measure to judge the behaviours of others as well as ourselves. What we define as 'normal' stems partly from this, with such feelings intensifying the more strongly we relate to the group.

What can be gathered from this discussion is that our behaviour is in a constant state of flux. The way one behaves in a work setting will completely differ from being around friends you have known for years. This doesn't mean that we are somehow completely different people, but rather that, as humans, we are complex and ever-changing. What's amazing about us as people is that we're multifaceted creatures, we are able to adapt and mould to the various situations we find ourselves in. Such ingenuity allows us to thrive in a plethora of situations, but it can also have its downfalls.

In a university environment it can feel convenient to mask your true nature and instead play the part of who we're 'expected' to be. You feel as if you've always got to be up for a night out, forever smiling and putting on a brave face because that's what everyone else is doing. In my experience, the best and most authentic experiences are born out of the times you are being the truest version of yourself. Our behaviour may change in different social scenarios, but what makes us individual, the true essence of who we are, should never be hidden. When in an art class you may flaunt a creative, completely uninhibited side of yourself and in a seminar an intelligent, deep-thinking nature. These are both completely different but somehow the same because they are you. If you are completely genuine, no matter the situation, your 'individuality' can never be lost within the 'social group'. So, are you just a social slave? I think that's something only you can answer for yourself.

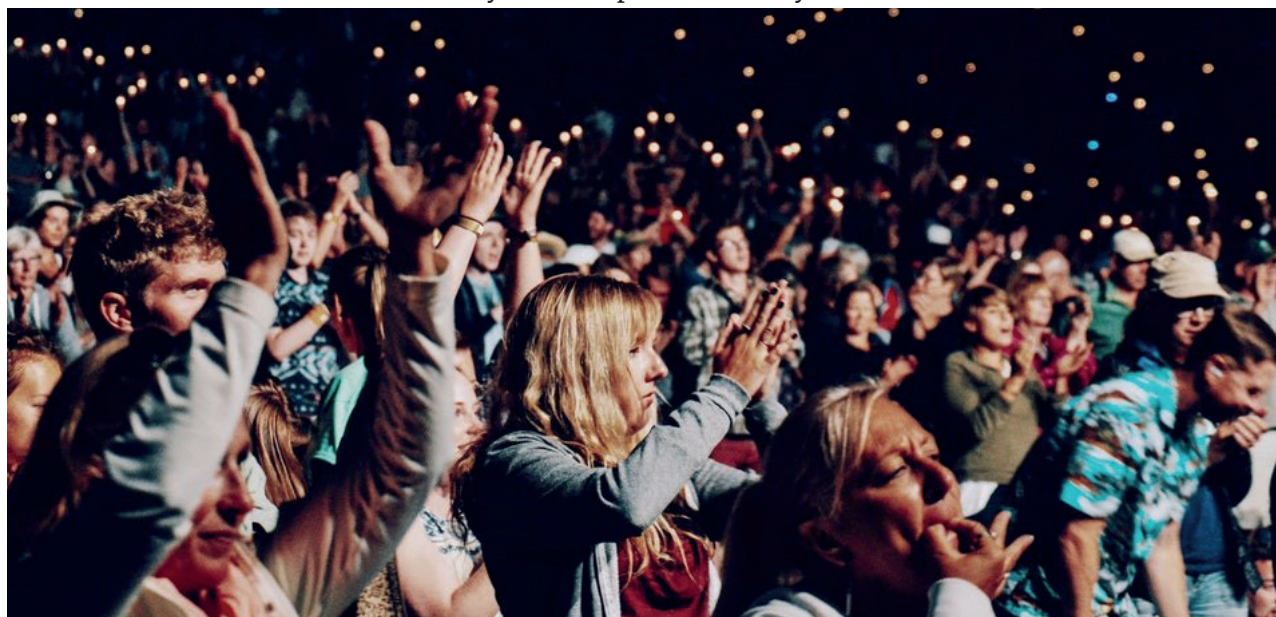


Image- Unsplash

AMERICA UNRAVELLED

JOEL CHANDLER



USA tax cuts: hindering the next generations

With the passing of the Republican tax cuts increasing the deficit by an astonishing \$1.5 trillion (and a vast majority of that going to the super-rich), one must consider the impact on public services and ordinary people. In one of the reddest states in the country, Oklahoma, the possible future of the United States is on display.

Around a third of public schools in the state have been forced by budget cuts to shorten their working weeks to just four days. This, of course, is having a hugely detrimental impact on both students and teachers, who are resorting to working in part-time retail jobs to make ends meet. This is a fiasco you expect in a third world country, not the richest in the history of the world.

"It is yet another example of the GOP serving their donors and not their voters"

This is not the only example of the impacts of the savage cuts on education spending, which have been centre stage nationally and internationally. Teresa Danks, a public school teacher in the state, was spotted panhandling for school supplies on a freeway. This should be music to the ears of Republican lawmakers as they have set out to absolutely decimate the public school system from day one. President Trump's appointment of Betsy DeVos as Secretary for Education screamed this from the rooftops. The heart-warming part of this story is that she received vast donations from members of the public, proving the American people, and any sane person for that matter, do not agree with these policies, and think it despicable that schools and staff members are having to go to such lengths to ensure that the children of the state still receive an education.

It is yet another example of the GOP serving their donors and not their voters. Oklahoma was the state which voted most overwhelmingly for Trump in the 2016 general election, and it is bearing the brunt of the GOP's draconian policies. It is important for both the people who voted for Trump and the GOP to admit they were wrong and to fight back. For those who didn't vote for the GOP, they need to overcome their differences with the other side and fight with them. Trump and the Republicans prosper in a divided country, that much should already be evident.

COMMENT

AZIZ ANSARI AND THE DANGER OF THE NO-YES NARRATIVE

MADELEINE GOODE

The last few months have seen sexual assault allegations mounting against male celebrities. This news is inescapable; the accusations of Hollywood men, as well as the news stories that follow them, seem to be pouring from women across the UK and America. Beginning with the atrocities of Harvey Weinstein, these allegations span from outcries of pedophilia against actor Kevin Spacey and Republican politician Roy Moore, and sexual assault allegations against the likes of James Franco and Ed Westwick. It seems there is no end in sight to victims speaking out against these high profile men. Notably, among the accused is Asian-American actor and comedian, Aziz Ansari.

In an interview with babe.net, an unnamed woman has spoken about going on a date with Ansari, saying that it was 'the worst night of my life'. Having met the comedian at the Golden Globes, the two had exchanged phone numbers, and they had gone on a dinner date, after which she went with Ansari to his apartment. The woman speaks about how Ansari 'probably moved my hand to his dick five to seven times [...] he really kept doing it after I moved away'. She says that she felt 'violated' by his behaviour.

This story is reminiscent of a narrative which plays out in a lot of romantic and sexual versions of fiction: the toeing of the line between assault and consent. This is the narrative of female indecisiveness, and



male persistence as a form of flirtation, or even verbal foreplay. Picture it: they're on a date, the man wants to take things further, the girl says no, he keeps kissing her and looking deeply into her eyes, and eventually she realises that of course she wants to go home with him, of course he is charming.

Can't picture it? I'll give you some examples. In the popular romance movie *The Notebook*, Noah won't take Ali's 'no' for an answer when he asks her on a date. So he climbs up the ferris wheel she's on and hangs off it dangerously until she agrees. She can't say no — he could fall to his death. Ryan Gosling plays this character with devilish charm; we are wooed by his eccentricity

but more importantly by his knowledge that 'she is the one', he knows this immediately and so persists despite her protestations. Of course, when she does date him, and they fall hopelessly in love. The narrative of male persistence is triumphant.

In *Blue Valentine*, Dean meets Cindy at an old people's home, then sees her on a bus later on. He pesters her on the bus until she agrees to walk with him, because he believes she is special, that there's something about her. In *Friends*, even after the breakup of Ross and Rachel, Ross continuously sabotages Rachel's love connections, laying himself out as the only viable option. Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* sees a man wear down

an independent woman until she falls for him. I could go on and on.

What does this have to do with Aziz Ansari? In these stories, the girl says no, usually multiple times, before finally saying yes. This is crucial. The notion of women liking to 'play hard to get' so as not to seem too forward, is hugely damaging to dating morale on both sides. As women, we are encouraged not to give it all straight away, to make the man work a little bit to win us — whether that's physically or emotionally. Young men therefore may assume that a woman being cautious, avoiding their touch, moving away from them, perhaps is a sign that they must work

harder. This is the crux of the issue when it comes to the account of Ansari's behaviour. He finds her to be stiff, not totally relaxed with the sexual energy he's giving off, and so perhaps he takes that as a cue to try harder. This is in no way excusing his behaviour, but I find that once you start to notice this behaviour in popular fiction, it's hard not to see it.

Ansari's behaviour signifies much of the behaviour that our favourite romantic heroes have. She says no, he tries harder. Even after the woman has moved away from him repeatedly, and has told him she's not interested in sex, Ansari persists, moving her hand towards his penis, pushing his fingers down her throat, with the attitude that maybe this time she'll succumb. Growing up as young women, we're taught to find the persistence of men flattering, their wisdom infinite. In these stories, he always gets the girl. Aziz may simply be following the pattern, believing in the power of persuasion. He knows she's uncomfortable — as all the men in these narratives do, by the way — but simply pushes himself into her space until she's eventually comfortable with it. Or at least, that's the intention. Unlike the girls in the stories, this woman saw through his sexually authoritative stance and took it as her cue to leave. Truly, it is time we all saw through this bizarre and culturally cultivated mode of flirtation.

"UNIVERSITIES EXIST TO FORM AND TO CHALLENGE, NOT TO SPOON-FEED"

CALEB THOMAS

The freedom of expression, to debate and discuss ideas, is an integral part of our democracy. It is terrifying to imagine where we might be as a society if we were to stifle our cherished notion that thought and speech ought to be freely expressed. What would the world look like if we never challenged our views, if we silenced those with whom we disagreed?

Yet we have societies affiliated with Queen Mary calling

for speakers to be 'no-platformed' or banned from campus. This is absolutely unacceptable. Universities exist to form and to challenge, not to spoon-feed. Through our exposure to different people and ideas we learn and develop our own views. Curtailing free thought and expression and restricting debate are antithetical to the core function of universities within society. Moreover, how can one claim to champion diversity while attempting to root out ideological diversity and to silence

opinions that are different?

Free speech is not selective; allowing only certain values or notions to be heard is not free speech. Free speech means allowing others to express ideas that may be unpopular, or ideas with which we may disagree. These ideas may challenge us — and we should certainly be free to debate them — but if we shut ourselves off from different opinions, how will our own opinions grow and evolve?



Diversity of opinion is important to our campus — and every university campus — but without the freedom to express those opinions, the benefit of that diversity is lost. So use your freedom of expression to challenge ideas with which you disagree, not to attempt to prohibit them.

LIFE OF A THIRD YEAR

ABBIE SEDGEMAN

Many people claim that the third year will be the hardest, the most boring, and have the heaviest workload, especially when you study History. This was not the case for me; the workload seems similar to previous years, except now I know what I'm doing and how to work to the best of my abilities. I got involved in more societies, volunteered, became the Head of Station for QMTV and started working for the Students' Union as a member of their Venues

and Events team. Somehow though, to my surprise, third year has easily been my favourite. Through my job, I met those "forever" friends that everyone always says you make at university, and have perfected the balance between social life, procrastination and frantic essay writing.

My three years at Queen Mary have been better than anyone could have told me, and, by throwing myself into SU volunteering schemes I found my passion for teaching. Throughout my time at

QM, my career plans bounced from doing a law conversion course, to journalism, to law again, but it was not until I started tutoring through QMSU's Homework Club that I discovered how rewarding teaching could be.

This year, I gained a level of confidence I never thought I could achieve, and this is thanks to the sense of community fostered at this university. I remember in my History in Practice module in my first semester at QM, we had to give a group presen-

tation and I was so nervous that my hands shook violently enough that reading my notes was an impossible task. A few weeks ago, I gave a presentation for my dissertation module at a different university in front of a class of near strangers. Not only was I not nervous, but I confidently presented without so much as a shake. This would have not been possible without my experiences at QM and teaching a class of thirty judgemental children suddenly does not seem quite so daunting.

I ran a media outlet in my third year, presented a radio show on Quest Radio called 'In This Year', and made a circle of friends I couldn't imagine being without now. Nobody wants university to end, and if I could relive my third year I certainly would, but thanks to Queen Mary, my job and my new best friends (that's right you can't escape me even after I graduate) I feel prepared and excited to take the next step.

THE NOSTALGIA OF IMPENDING GRADUATION

SOPHIE MITCHELL

SOON TO BE GRADUATE, SOPHIE MITCHELL, REMINISCES ON HER TIME AT QUEEN MARY, EMPHASISING THAT IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT REALLY COUNT

One of my most prominent memories on going into first year at Queen Mary was the constant uttering of — "university will be the best three years of your life". I dismissed this as cliché rhetoric, used primarily to ease the transition of moving away from home. Upon recollection, three years later, I can now confirm that these words were, in fact, true. It has been the best three years of my life, and I know the majority of my peers would agree.

What people didn't tell me is how fast it would go, and that before I knew it, I'd be propelled into the real world, whilst still maintaining the mentality of a first year (which proves difficult to shake). I'm not here to spread horror stories about how fast life comes at you, and how the three or more years of your degree will flash by you before you know it. It's an inevitable reality, but there's definitely a certain beauty in it. Each year is so profoundly different from the next. Different challenges, different faces coming and going, the city around you existing in a state of constant, colourful flux. Each year has its own collection of traumas, successes, and nostalgic moments that undoubtedly form the person you are.

In reminiscing on my three years, endless images are



conjured in my mind. Things that you experience in your daily life at Queen Mary, and pay little credence to, end up staying with you as tenderly affectionate memories. I think I'll find myself missing a peculiar collection of things — the close brush with death every time I hurl myself into a gap in the rotating library doors at midday, the feeling of crowd surfing as I battle through Bancroft at 11am, walking into a lecture late with a coffee and being 'that person', walking through library square and inevitably seeing faces I know, waiting in Ground for an undeniably average coffee that will make me happy regardless, walking along Regents Canal in the sunlight, reading the strange

names of canal boats, feeling like a baller any time I walk straight onto a tube before the doors close, seeing each different part of London as little individual towns, turning round the corner as I come out of East Gate and 9 times out of 10 bumping into someone, seeing who'll be the first to bolt across the road outside uni, walking on the lawn of the Queen's building and living with minor guilt for five seconds, being endlessly disconcerted that the people I share my university with are the ones posting on QMC, failing week upon week to resist the unknown thrall of drapers and its perpetually sticky floor, seeing chicken bones strewn across the pavement everywhere from Mile End to

Image: Blanca González Alba

Whitechapel... those are a few of the menial, everyday moments that have come to create what I know to be studying at Queen Mary.

When I first came here, admittedly I didn't know much about the university, and completely underestimated the impact it would have on my life. Of course, we all joke about campus being 'in ends', drapers being dire, the village shop being daylight robbery, and the library being nothing short of a zoo — but every criticism has just turned into an area of knowable fondness for me.

If you're in first or second year, you've still got a while to

go yet. The only advice I can give, as obvious as it may be, is to just get yourself involved in what Queen Mary is. Societies, Student Media, the Student's Union; all of these are entrances into a wider community that comprises the university, and within it are some genuinely lovely people. Just get stuck into it, don't worry too much, take chances, try to overcome nerves, join societies and speak to people (they aren't always awful), but ultimately; enjoy yourself and the opportunity you've been given.

I'll be going on to work as a policy advisor for HM Treasury, or to drift off down another unknown trajectory post-graduation. Either way, I'll always carry a fondness for Queen Mary that I never expected to have. We're all just genuinely lucky to be here, and there are innumerable opportunities lying before us. Sometimes, it does take being at the end of your degree to look back and appreciate everything it has done for you. If there's anything I ask of anyone reading this — it's that you take a moment to reflect on every experience you've had in your degree thus far. Appreciate it, learn from it, and let it give you optimism for the future.

THE GUILLOTINE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl, who slept through seminars and watched most lectures on Q-Review anyway, OUTRAGED and DISGUSTED that striking lecturers will not be teaching.

QM President says he is yet to take death toll of students following KFC's announcement they have ran out of chicken.

Tabloid writers outraged as students stand idly by and let free speech prevail on university campus. (Read full story online)

Following success of Culture Secretary Matt Hancock's app, "Matt Hancock", which allows the public to connect with him, apps launch in App Store named „Colin Bailey“, „Tim Bale“, and „Yasir Yeahia“.

In effort to lose youth vote completely for the Conservatives, Jacob Rees-Mogg starts preparing leadership bid.

Lecturer who accidentally went to wrong room but did her whole lecture anyway says she now knows how it must feel to be a writer for CUB.

Queen declares colonisation of North America, claiming, "this Trump guy has proved that the US experiment has failed"

Queen Mary Baking Society forced to sit through talk from Amber Rudd in Universities minister's drive to increase free speech on University campuses. Group president says, "she didn't talk about cakes or biscuits but I still heard a lot of things which sounded half-baked".

"It's amazing how Democrats are sucked into the Russia collision lies pushed by the liberal fake news media", says Texan who believes Obama was born in Kenya.

Scientists revive Adolf Hitler from the dead; LBC offer him a hour long afternoon slot.

Londoners express dismay at Sadiq Khan's plan to shelve garden bridge. "Now London will never have a garden bridge" says Vauxhall resident. "Ahem!" explain locals in Mile End.

PRESIDENT TRUMP IS DEMOCRACY'S "FINAL BOSS TIER", FINDS BROOKINGS INSTITUTE

KATHERINE BUTTERFIELD

Recent research conducted by the American Brookings Institute has found that Donald J Trump, 45th president of the United States, is the direct equivalent of the final boss for World of Warcraft, Argus the Unmaker.

Richard Beller, spokesman for the institute said: "Democrats are the LAN party protecting democracy from its ultimate destruction, orchestrated by the level 350 world boss Donald Trump".

"For years, America's democracy has been under threat from the scourge of darkness (corporatocracy). Only now, has America's final boss revealed himself as multi-millionaire retail tycoon Donald Trump".

Beller says that America's democratic institutions are under threat from Trump's special attack, namely his "disregard for procedure".

The research concludes that if America can overcome Trump, a hundred years of peace shall rest over the land of the United States.

Chuck Schumer is the Democratic party's team leader. However, he is facing several threats from both within and without his party.

Schumer says: "We had an assist from some of Trump's denizen underlings (establishment GOP), such as Sen. John McCain. However, we learnt that the reason he was captured in 'Nam was because he's an absolute pussy when the going gets tough."

Schumer has accused the establishment GOP of helping Trump with his counter attack, the 'Numes Memo', which dealt -50 damage to the Democratic party in early February.

"What's more," Schumer says, "We've been getting assists from the social democratic wing of the party, but they're just a bunch of chaotic neutrals."

He adds: "Bernie Sanders keeps doing the fucking 'Lee-roy Jenkins' thing when we're attempting to use our Russia probe strategy."

In response, a spokesman for the social democratic wing said: "They're hitting too hard on the tank attacks. We have no healers, no mages and no

bards to keep up mana."

The Print, after consulting with several WoW nerds and US politics freaks, has interpreted this as: the democratic party has no other values or strategy than to take down Trump with their Russia attack.

Despite this criticism from members of the party, the final boss battle has been predicted by The Seer (CNN) as to take place when Lord Mueller of the DoJ releases his scrolls of investigation.

Here at The Print, we can only pray for an assist from God. This is unlikely, however, as He was last seen attempting to reach level 99 fishing on Runescape.

QUEEN MARY TORIES CELEBRATE PENSION CUTS

OLIVIA MESCE

The few Conservative members at Queen Mary University have planned two weeks of 'non-stop' partying during the strikes, in order to celebrate the pension cuts.

Lecturers' pensions are set to face a £10,000 a year loss across many UK Universities. In order to combat this unfair decision, the majority of employees have staged a strike. Whilst most students stand in solidarity with these individuals, the Tory minority (which exists in hiding for safety reasons), are overjoyed. Nothing pleases these sadistic students more than economic cuts.

The Print interviewed one of these 'right-wing warriors' who, beaming with excitement, told us: "Finally, the Universities have had a day off smothering their students in bubble-wrap and fighting for world peace, and acted like the money-making business they should!"

Confusion circulates regarding what they mean by 'non-

stop partying', as one cannot imagine a Conservative knows how to smile or enjoy themselves. The leaked Spotify playlist for the party has revealed interesting song choices, ranging from Gary Barlow to Kate Bush, and has even included the banned 'Blurred Lines' 26 times, out of spite.

The University has so far received over 1000 complaint letters about the strikes. A Print insider revealed the Queen Mary Conservative Party spent two hours working out the maths behind how much money they will lose in lesson time, in order to demand an exact refund for their fees. Classic and expected behaviour.

Students that are happy that the £9,000 a year they spend on their university education is going to University bosses instead of going to the people that actually teach them, truly embodies what it means to be a Tory. (OK. That's enough. Ed.)

CORBYN TO HIRE LIAM NEESON'S CHARACTER FROM 'TAKEN' TO FIND LABOUR'S MISSING BREXIT STANCE

KATHERINE BUTTERFIELD

Image: Wikipedia



Leader of the Labour party, Jeremy Corbyn, announced today that after several months of an absent stance, he has hired 'Taken' character Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson) to search for his missing Brexit policy.

Ever since the 23rd of June 2016, Labour's policy has been reported as missing - and the police are yet to make significant leads on its whereabouts. Whilst there have been rumours that the missing policy might finally be found in some undefined "transition period", experts have remained sceptical on any possible release.

Today's announcement will certainly bring relief to those

who had presumed the policy dead.

Mills, who is a former government operative, according to sources has a "very particular set of skills", "skills he has acquired over a long career". The Print has been unable to acquire a detailed history of the man, but reports suggest he has over 270 minutes of experience in jumping out of cars, shooting people, killing people, and finding people.

At the event, Mills spoke directly to the culprits "I don't know who you are. I don't know what you want. If you let Labour's policy go now, that'll be the end of it. I will not look for you, I will not pursue you. But if you don't, I will look for you, I will find you, and I will kill you."

Jeremy Corbyn, in response to the final comment, audibly gasped, which has stirred such rumours that he himself has kidnapped the policy. But such is only hearsay and rumour, which The Print certainly wouldn't condone.

FROM ETON TO HARROW, ENDLESS DIVERSITY IN PARLIAMENT

ABI BLAIN

This month I was lucky enough to spend a week interning at the Houses of Parliament. Excited and nervous, I went off to perform the tasks deemed too dull for even the lowest ranking parliamentary staffers to complete, for absolutely no payment at all.

Highlights of the week included taking in the £400,000 tree installation at Portcullis House and eating three-course meals for less than £7 at one of Parliament's six subsidised cafes and restaurants.

But enough about the many great and important ways to spend taxpayers' money!

On beginning my week at

Parliament, I was met by a seemingly endless barrage of white men. While, on the surface, this may appear to be the typical, homogenised composition of an unrepresentative parliament that we're always hearing about in the news, you would be sorely mistaken to make this liberal snowflake-kind of judgment. Parliament was in fact littered with the kind of diversity that should make any young voter beam with pride. There were old white men, young white men, white men wearing suits, even white men wearing jeans; how youthful, how progressive!

I met a Conservative MP's staffer and, on discovering that he was from an area not

too far from my own, decided to ask him which school he went to in order to see if I could establish some common ground. He went to Eton. No common ground to be established here, and what a Westminster cliché! I felt dismayed, but not to worry. Another staffer swiftly turned round and confirmed not all who work in Parliament passed through the hallowed halls of Eton. Rather controversially he confirmed, he was a former student of Harrow.

See, there really is a great wealth of diversity and inclusion in our great British political institution.

HUGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS MISINTERPRET THE MEANING OF SHAG WEEK

OLIVIA MESCE

This Ambrose sexual health clinic, at the Royal London Hospital, have reported a huge increase in patients following Queen Mary's SHAG week. Apparently, many students have confused the misleading name to be a week of encouraged promiscuity instead of its real meaning, 'Sexual Health and Guidance'.

The week, ran by the SU welfare representative, commenced on the 5th February. Its primary purpose was to encourage safe sex and inform students about a variety of sexual health issues and importantly, consent. Yet unfortunately, this surpassed many students' mental capacities, who presumably just saw the clickbait title. The testosterone-fuelled males of Queen Mary clearly did not need the extra encouragement that this

week justified them, as their rampage did not even wait for Monday's Calling! Print insiders, hiding in the library, overheard excessive flirting from 9am - and one couple of horny students was seen suspiciously rushing off to the gender-neutral toilets.

The Student Union is said to be incredibly disheartened that their week, aiming for increased knowledge on sexual health, ended up with more students than ever contacting an STI. The ignorance of students, using the week to justify their increased sexual prowl, was the cause of this. Many rival sports teams even competed for the highest numbers of 'Shags' during 'SHAG Week' (the winning tally can be found online).

Queen Mary's counselling service has been inundated

with appointments from 'disturbed' cleaning staff working in the halls. Apparently, some students were so disoriented from their heightened endorphins, that they forgot to lock their bedroom doors. The Print interviewed one of the cleaning staff, who prefers to remain anonymous, who told us she is "mentally scarred" by the scenes she saw. She even commented on the difficulty in removing certain "stains" from surfaces. Hopefully, the University will provide adequate recovery treatments for all staff affected before they have to take matters into their own hands and strike. The last thing this University needs is another strike. Then again, perhaps horny freshers could do with boycotting their involvement in Student Union events they don't understand from now on.

THE REALLY BAD ADVICE COLUMN ILL-ADVISED IONA

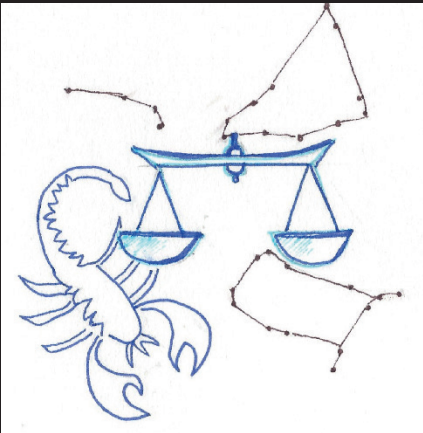
Anon: Help! I really want to fuck my lecturer. I can't get over this BURNING URGE, what should I do?

You know babes, most people would tell you to get over it. Most people would say "he, or she (but let's be honest, he) is too old for you". Most people would remind you that he probably doesn't fancy you back, and that it's just a passing phase, and it's only natural that you should develop a crush on someone you respect, girl. But I am not most people, and so I say: fucking go for it bitch! You goddamn Weinstein that 40 year old married man with school aged children like you fucking MEAN IT. Did someone move a plant pot near you? Make your move!! And if you get kicked out of uni? Fucking WORTH IT BABES: you got some professor-

rial crunk, some PhD, that 10-minute lecture and a private seminar. If you know what I'm sayin'. So what if he's old? I'm sure that means he's got some experience in the bedroom, and you DEFINITELY shouldn't question why a mature man with a stable career would actively pursue a woman the age of his daughter. There's no reason why Woody Allen's 'Manhattan' can't be foreplay, you saucy minx. So my darling: shoot for those stars! And when you're facing your friends', your parents' and school's crushing disappointment and abject disgust, just think of me screaming "YAAAAAS QUEEN YAAAAAS" and get your thang learnt.

HOROSCOPES

Illustration: Kavisha Rodrigo



Aries

For the first time in a while, you'll start feeling like yourself again. But don't be feeling it too much. We both know what's hidden under the floorboards in the basement, Karen.

Taurus

Unsure where your life is headed? Well neither am I, so sit tight sailor and join the fucking club.

Gemini

Cars are a negative influence upon you this month. Stay away from all cars, as they will have a undesirable impact upon your aura, the stars shall... Hey, I see you crossing that road! Stop! Oh yeah, I should go fuck myself, should I? Well get run over, see if I care! This is what I get for loving you, you heartless monster!

Cancer

Kind hearted: that's exactly what you're not.

Leo

Move over, that person you hate: this month is your month if you're a leo! But if the person you hate is a leo, then I'm sorry- you both lose.

Virgo

Everything, as usual, goes completely fine for you.

Libra

Kibbutz will be your word of the month, as you become a radical socialist after reading Animal Farm. But when you're picking those hippie commune olives in three months' time, wearing nothing but a hair shirt and some soy boy shoes: remember you're contributing to the 50 years long colonisation of Palestine. Marx would be ashamed.

Scorpio

Actually, that one above might have been a bit harsh, so like: Scorpio, you're an absolute G. Keep doing what you're doing, become a Giraffe if you want. You rock.

Sagittarius

Time is a concept we created to try to make sense of a universe we can never possibly, truly comprehend. And when you think of yourself in the grand scale of humanity, and then you think of humanity as one of the many life forms of the earth, and then you consider the earth in the context of an infinite universe, you feel so, so very small and insignificant. So car jack that guy, because you don't matter.

Capricorn

Only one day of the month shall be complete shit for you. The rest will be your average, daily grind, kid crying on the bus kind of shit.

Aquarius

Seriously though, just brush your tongue, man. It doesn't take much. Just brush your tongue and your breath won't smell like I just got ingested by Jabba the Hut. Fucking just do it, man.

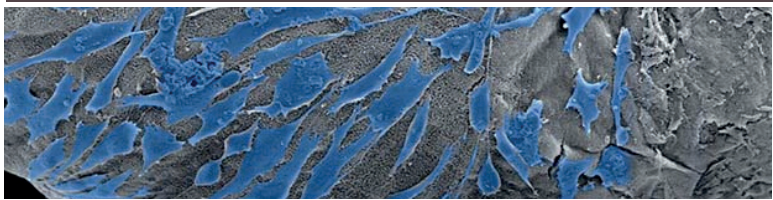
Pisces

Pisces... pisces, pisces pieces. You've been... *hic* such a goddamn, a goddamn- yeah a god- good friend to me ... *hic* and so, like, hear me out... *hic*... w-w-w-wait .. take my... drink *vomits in mouth* youchgurhghr, hhhhhurrrrrgggghh pfffcchh *spits out vomit* I can't-t rememeber whaaaat I was... goin g.. to say.. *hic* HEY! Why'd you take my drink you fuCKER? I'll *hic* fight you,... *hic* bitch.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

QUEEN MARY RESEARCHERS DEVELOP NEW BIOFABRICATION TECHNIQUE

ALEX RICHARDSON



QM researchers lead by PhD student Clara Hedegaard have developed a technique allowing researchers to use cells and molecules from natural tissues to create biological structures. The process involves placing structures into a bio-ink, a material that simulates the conditions inside an organism, allowing cells to grow as if they were in their normal environment. In the past bio-inks have had a very limited capacity to stimulate the growth of desired cells, however by using multiple molecules that are able to self-assemble into organic structures, this limitation can be overcome. This new technique allows researchers to investigate how cells behave inside the body, and to investigate how conditions such as cancer or immune system responses may change this behaviour. Clara Hedegaard explained in the press release that "This method enables the possibility to build 3D structures by printing multiple types of biomo-

lecules capable of assembling into well-defined structures at multiple scales. Because of this, the self-assembling ink provides an opportunity to control the chemical and physical properties during and after printing, which can be tuned to stimulate cell behaviour". The level of control provided by this technique is on a molecular scale, allowing both microscopic and macroscopic control over the features of the structure. This gives researchers the ability to create structures very similar to tissues or organs through self-assembly, which could have potential uses in future drug testing and regenerative medicine. The study was performed alongside researchers from the University of Oxford's Fluid Dynamics Laboratory and the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and the paper was published in *Advanced Functional Materials*, a leading materials science journal, on 15th February 2018.

LARGEST MAGNIFYING LENS IN SPACE

NATURAL SPACE TELESCOPE ALLOWS ASTRONOMERS TO VENTURE FURTHER THAN EVER

MÉLISSA M AZOMBO

A team of international scientists witnessed the largest effects of gravitational lensing on record, from Hubble Space Telescope.

Earlier this month, astronomers from the University of Hawaii, Manoa reported the largest instance of gravitational lensing to date. Gravitational lensing is nature's telescope. It is an effect predicted by Albert Einstein and confirmed since the solar eclipse of 1919, which magnifies the image of an object in front of the source, due to the bending of light by mass, due to gravity. The magnitude by which this phenomenon occurs depends on the mass of the object bending the light.

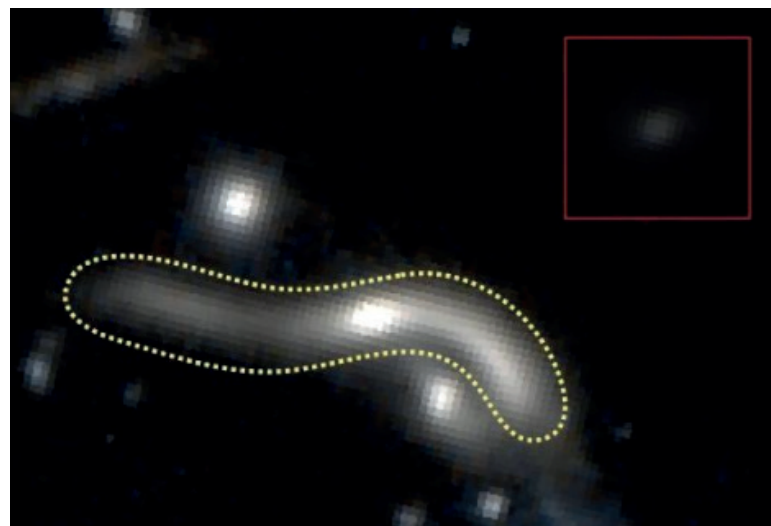
This discovery marks the biggest instance of this phenomenon, suggesting a large mass behind the object in sight. In fact, the team of researchers were observing a sample of huge clusters of galaxies when they found a distant galaxy called EMACIJ1341-QG1, which was magnified by a factor of 30 due to space-time distortion caused by the massive cluster EMACIJ1341.9-2441. Elbing, University of Hawaii research team leader explains "This discovery stands out, as huge magnification provided by EMACIJ1341[.9-2441] allows us to study a very rare type of

galaxy".

Enormous structures bound by the force of gravity like galaxy clusters act as big magnifying lenses in space all the time. So, it is no surprise that this galaxy cluster led to this effect - but the amount by which it did, was.

Researcher John Richards

of University of Lyon added "The very high magnification of this image provides us with the rare opportunity to investigate the stellar populations of this distant object and ultimately, to reconstruct its distorted shape and properties." This gives scope for greater understanding of the origin and evolution of distant galaxies in our Universe.



A Distant Neighbour: Galaxy EMACIJ1341-QG1 discovered by scientists. The yellow dotted line traces the boundaries of the galaxy's gravitationally lensed image. The inset on the upper left shows what EMACIJ1341-QG-1 would look like if we observed it directly, without the cluster lens. The dramatic amplification and distortion caused by the intervening, massive galaxy cluster (of which only a few galaxies are seen in this zoomed-in view) is apparent. Image: Harald Ebeling, University of Hawaii, Institute for Astronomy.

HIGH-TECH WINTER SPORTS

WHAT DOES AN F1 CAR AND A BOBSLEIGH HAVE IN COMMON?

ALEX RICHARDSON

Not every country chooses, or can afford, to fund their Winter Olympic team particularly well. For example; Czech athlete Ester Ledecká, the gold medallist in Pyeongchang of the women's super-G (a downhill ski slalom event) had to compete on skis she borrowed from American Gold Medallist Mikaela Shiffrin. But even between those who are competing with their own equipment, it is still far from a level playing field - with recent advancements going far beyond the introduction of carbon-fibre ski poles.

You may have noticed that more and more athletes have been wearing full-body suits this year, especially in disciplines such as skeleton and speed skating. These suits are similar in design to the full body swimsuits worn back at the Beijing Olympics in 2008,

and work by 'smoothing' the athlete's body, which helps reduce drag and consequently allows them to go faster. The advantage provided by the full body swimsuits was enough that they became a necessity to be competitive in the sport, with American swimmer Michael Phelps considering boycotting future competitions where they were allowed because they were so anticompetitive. At over £400 per suit, for something that would only be usable for a few races at most, is too hard to swallow for many nations and so in the end the decision was made in 2010 to ban these swimsuits from the Olympics. Currently, the suits worn by Winter Olympians are allowed, although there are some members of the sport beginning to argue that suits worn by some countries, including team GB, are far too good to be permissible.

Another example is the bobsleigh, a sport originally invented by strapping together two skeleton sleds to make an ice-toboggan, which has benefitted immensely from increased funding in the last few years. Bobsleigh manufacturers have used techniques and equipment ranging from aerospace wind tunnels to the high-tech data logging systems found in F1 cars, which allow the teams to amass a huge wealth of data as the sled moves down the track, such as the vibrations felt by the sled and the velocity it is moving at. This information is then sent wirelessly back to the team on the side, allowing for instant feedback for the team. Such technologies are not allowed to be used during the Olympic events themselves, but most of the benefits would be made by using them during training anyhow. These systems cost millions of pounds to develop

and implement, and the high-tech facilities that are used to make it possible cost even more. Relatively few countries in the world are able to undertake such research, let alone be willing to put forward the funding for it.

Is there something that could be done about this? In theory, the International Olympic Committee could standardise the equipment used, although this could prevent some countries from competing at their full potential. It may also be anticompetitive in the manufacturer space, as equipment options become greatly restricted, which would have an effect beyond the Olympics themselves. After all, why bother spending the time and money buying and getting used to expensive equipment from Company X if one of the largest competitions in the world does not even allow it? A limit on the amount of fun-

ding allowed to be used on development could be implemented, but this would be very difficult to impose. It would likely be in the form of a means-tested funding system for nations that cannot afford it, which would either prove to be a large strain on the International Olympic Committee's already limited funding, or require richer nations to essentially crowdfund their competitors' teams.

The answer to this problem is not one to be taken lightly and is something that has been getting more and more attention in the last few years. Maybe by the time the Winter Olympics head to Beijing in 2022 there will have been some improvements in this area, which hopefully can increase accessibility to winter sports as a whole.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY: WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

"I SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST BUT MY PARENTS DIDN'T... I TELL MY STORY BECAUSE THE NEXT GENERATION NEEDS TO KNOW." – HENRY SCHACHTER

CHARLOTTE RUBIN

Henry's parents moved from Poland to Germany years before the war. He was born in Berlin in 1939. That same year, his family was forced to return to Poland after Hitler expelled the Poles from Germany. After Kristallnacht, Henry's father decided they needed to leave Nazi-occupied territory. They went to Krakow, where they managed to get forged documents. Their German nationality helped them, and from Krakow they fled via Germany to Belgium. This year, the QM Jewish and Israel Society was proud to host Henry as our Holocaust Remembrance Day guest speaker on Thursday January 25th.

Henry's story, like so many others, is built upon luck and other circumstantial factors. There were myriad moments where everything could have gone wrong. This can be illustrated by a tiny anecdote out of Henry's life. During the family's journey to Belgium,

Henry was barely a few months old. They were supposed to cross the Ardennes in a van with 18 other people when baby Henry started crying. The smuggler told them that Henry's noise was too big of a risk for the other refugees, so he left Henry and his mother alone, and promised to return to come get them. He left, and the two waited there for hours. Luckily, the smuggler eventually came back and took them across the border. He could have just stayed away and have left them there to die, but he didn't.

They then moved to Brussels, where they experienced about a year of calm before the German invasion of May 1940. At this point, Henry's parents tried to flee to Britain through the Pas-de-Calais, but ended up getting stuck in Calais. Sounds familiar? That is because this is still happening, and yes, that is an explicit reference to the 2014 refugee crisis. Regardless, Henry and his family went back to Brussels



and went into hiding for six months.

His parents then decided to place him with a Christian Belgian couple. Henry remained under their couple's care until the end of the war. Whilst he was in hiding, his parents were captured by the Gestapo and deported to Auschwitz. They would both perish in the Holocaust. His mother died, much like Anne Frank, in Bergen-Belsen just a

few days before liberation. His dad was shot in an escape attempt, following the news of near-liberation.

'A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic' – Joseph Stalin.

Henry's tale is just one of many, but it is an ever important one. The Holocaust is a collection of stories – when the stories become irrelevant, so do the facts. Each year,

fewer and fewer survivors are able to share their experiences, and that is precisely why it becomes more important to highlight and record them. As the European Jewish Congress president Moshe Kantor said, without the direct memory of Holocaust survivors being passed down through the generations, there is an imminent danger society will forget, and forgetting leads to the repeating of history.

TEAM QM AT UNI SLAM 2018



Last month saw the UK's National Poetry Slam and Summit, Uni slam 2018. During this event, a team of 4 QM students came together to compete and perform against 22 other universities from UK and Ireland. They held the University's name high as they passed the preliminary rounds with flying colours and were 1 of the 10 teams to qualify for the semis. Battling it out against the Universities of Birmingham, Manchester, Exeter and Strathclyde at the semis, their journey came to a halt as they came fourth place in the bout, which saw them finish 6th out of the 23 universities to participate.

Uni slam 2018 was the fifth national slam in the series. UniSlam is the UK National University Poetry Slam & Summit bringing together teams of poets from university communities across the UK and Ireland to take part in a comprehensive programme of development workshops and to compete in one of the most exciting slams in the British spoken word calendar. Spoken word poetry has sparked interest among novice writers as it encompasses elements from writing and theatre, and is

cathartic for the writer as well as the reader. It tackles issues such as mental health, abuse, sexuality and racism through performance and demands to be heard.

UniSlam uplifts the voices and stories of young people, providing a platform for them to be heard on a national level. We champion the importance of creativity in learning and the rights of young people in the UK. UniSlam offers creative and professional development to the next generation of literary talent through our workshops, talks and masterclasses led by industry experts and professional artists.

UniSlam was founded in 2013 at the University of Birmingham. Since then, it has grown into a 2 day long event, providing artistic and professional development for participants. It is funded by Arts Council England and o2 Think Big and supported by Apples and Snakes, Writing East Midlands, Roundhouse, Curve and Beatfreeks. Toby Campion, the organiser first became involved as a competitor – he took part in the competition as coach for the Edinburgh team in 2013, which they ended up winning. The competition was

then hosted at Edinburgh and following that he took over organising the event.

The 3 day event was held at De Montfort University, Leicester and culminated with the beautiful youth poetry showcase and finals at CURVE theatre, Leicester. The finals were hosted by Kat Francoise and judges included celebrated names in the spoken word industry like Vanessa Kisuule, Rob Auton, Kayo Kumukanda, Alice Watson and Bridget Minamore.

The team from Queen Mary comprised of four undergraduate students from various disciplines. Rhoda Manu, Mahima Tyagi, Fathima Zahra and Fatmah Alreem hail from SLLF, SED, SBCS and SMD respectively. The team was put together after auditions held at the Mile End campus, followed by two weeks of preparation by coach and mentor, Keith Jarrett, a renowned poet from London.

When asked about their experience at Uni slam, they reiterated the collective chant 'The point is not the point, the point is the poetry'.

SOCIETIES

MUSICAL TALES

CLARE BARTHOLOMEW

Image - Gary Schwartz

The QM Music Society is a popular society with well over 200 members composed of both students and staff. Each week we run many rehearsals ranging from Orchestra and Choir to A Capella and JAM Group. We regularly represent QM outside of the university - volunteering for charities and giving special performances at schools including the local St Paul's Way Trust School. Students can audition to gain Music Scholarships at QM, as well as London Chamber Orchestra (LCO) Scholarships, enabling involvement with the LCO Music Junction Programme, teaching music to children at outreach schools culminating in an annual concert at Cadogan Hall. Furthermore, we have members representing QM within the prestigious University of London Orchestra and Doctor's Orchestra as well as multiple bands, often formed here at QM. We have developed links with musicians across the UK including the LCO, East London Music Group, Shadwell Opera, Spitalfields Music Festival and recently NYJO, the National Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Of course, the Music Society can be heard regularly across campus playing for events and raising awareness for campaigns such as RAG and This Girl Can. We hold many concerts each term and with Ed Nesbit, our Composer in Residence, we are often able to premiere new works.

Our next concert is Musical Tales held on Friday 16th March at 7pm in The Octagon. The Music Society are combining forces with the East London Music Group to bring to life a series of tales told through music. The programme is to include The Firebird, Siegfried Idyll and a premiere of Robin Haigh's 1936: An East London Uprising, inspired by the Battle of Cable Street.

The Firebird was Stravinsky's first large-scale orchestral composition and one of the first distinctively 20th-century style works. It was a breakthrough piece for Stravinsky who gained instant recognition as one of the most powerful composers of his era. Tasked to create a ballet based on Russian fairy tales, Stravinsky met with choreographers

who demonstrated scenes and dances, whilst the composer took notes and improvised melodies on the piano. Completed in 1910 the recurring folk themes narrate the story of two famous Russian legends: Kashchei the Immortal and The Firebird. The story of Prince Ivan, a prince seeking to free his princess, imprisoned by an evil wizard and the story of a majestic firebird are intertwined seamlessly creating this magical ballet.

Siegfried Idyll was composed by Wagner as a declaration of love to his wife Cosima. Composed after the birth of his son Siegfried in 1869, this piece can be described as a symphonic poem written for chamber orchestra. The tuneful melody depicts sunrise and birdsong with a gentle German lullaby echoed softly on the oboe. Written as a true tribute to his wife many of these themes are believed to hold vast personal significance between the couple. Wagner organised it to be performed for the first time as Cosima awoke on the morning of her birthday. It was intended to remain a private piece however financial difficulties



forced Wager to publish the score making it accessible for public performances.

Robin Haigh is a modern London-based composer with a particular interest in dramatic and operatic work. 1936: An East London Uprising was commissioned by the East London Music Group as a tribute to the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street. The theatrical work portrays the events on the day of The Battle of Cable Street, a key date in anti-fascism history and a significant victory against the far-right. However, with over 175 people injured it is certainly not without considerable mourn. Today a large mural

depicting the battle stands in Cable Street with a red plaque commemorating the incident. With inspiration taken from this historic day the reflective music will add contrast to the concert programme.

If this sounds like something you would be interesting in attending, tickets are just £3 for students and £7 for non-students. All tickets can be purchased here: <http://www.music.qmul.ac.uk/concerts-events/items/musical-tales.html>

RED CROSS ON CAMPUS

CAROLA BIGOGNO



Red Cross on Campus is a very special society, affiliated with the British Red Cross, which makes us part of a large and international network of university volunteers across the UK and worldwide.

As a university society, we mainly focus our attention and efforts on awareness campaigns. Recently, we organised an extremely informative and insightful workshop by Mohammed Leily, a Syrian refugee currently studying Medicine at the University of Southampton. It is so difficult to fully understand the journey and struggles of a refugee-seeker, but listening to Mo speak first had was an amazing experience. He led

several activities which engaged all those who attended, and answered all the questions asked about his experiences.

Another huge part of what we do as a society is First Aid. At the beginning of February, a delegation of 15 QMUL students from a variety of courses took part in an emergency first aid training, which upon completion, granted them with 3 years of internationally qualified status! The feedback from those that took the course was extremely positive, as "the training runs in a very serious way but in a friendly environment, without the pressure of remembering everything or the fear of failing", one of our students said.

For those of you interested in volunteering, we also provide great opportunities, which are offered through the British Red Cross itself. All of our members are registered as University Volunteers and Community Reserve Volunteers, and can be called to action whenever a crisis is faced. For example, several of our members volunteered at the Grenfell Relief Centre, following the tragic fire last summer. They supported those who had lost their homes, as well as volunteers and workers. We are able to log our volunteering hours and find several exciting volunteering opportunities through the British Red Cross' vInspired portal for students.

At Red Cross on Campus, we are very proud and excited to be part of such an incredible organisation — the largest humanitarian organisation in the world. If this sounds like something you would be interested in doing, or share belief in the Red Cross' motto, 'refuse to ignore people in crisis and provide help to everybody in need', then don't hesitate to contact us and get involved!

Find us on Instagram and Twitter: @qmredcross or email us at qmulredcross@gmail.com

UNICEF SOCIETY ON CAMPUS



MERIAM ARIFA

UNICEF was established in 1946 to ensure all children after World War II are protected. Some people don't realize how dangerous the world we live in is; where children constantly face violence, hunger and are even forced to flee their homes. Children are denied education, dying of easily preventable diseases, and sometimes are even unable to access clean water. UNICEF aims to ensure that all children are protected, educated, and vaccinated.

As an on-campus society, we organise events which help fundraise in order to provide a better life for these vulnerable children, and also campaign to help UNICEF raise money to ensure governments keep refugee children safe. So far this year, we have saved over 900 children around the world,

and are ranked 2nd in London in terms of funds raised, and 8th in the UK, which is an amazing achievement! With your help, UNICEF can continue to protect children from trafficking, provide medical care, clean water, and campaign for the safety of refugee children. We continue to replace fear with hope, and help give children their childhoods back, by always responding quickly, wherever and whenever disaster strikes. As an on-campus society, we aim to help UNICEF promote long-term rehabilitation and improve children's living conditions. So the next time you see us around, be sure to come over and say hello!

For any enquiries or if you're interested in getting involved: Facebook: www.facebook.com/QMUnicefSociety

SOCIETIES

LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR YOUR FUTURE WITH ALPHA KAPPA PSI!

ALA ED - GABAOURY

Alpha Kappa Psi is more than just an extra-curricular society - it is the oldest business fraternity in the world, founded in 1904 with over 240,000 members worldwide, with our Chapter consisting of over 40 members from a range of different backgrounds - both personally and academically. If you would like to work towards your professional development, whilst making friendships that will last for life, then AKPsi is the place for you!

Becoming a member of AKPsi will give you access to a wide range of exclusive opportunities, all of which are shaped to guide you in your professional development. We hold many workshops, such as a LinkedIn workshop to help members with creating and refining their professional profile as well as talks such

as one hosted by Marc Piano on Cryptocurrency. Within the next couple of weeks we have insight days at Barclays and Salesforce, as well as a talk on Quist-Close trusts. In addition to these professional events, we are able to send four of our members to the United States free of charge each year to attend a professional business development conference, with this year's conference taking part in Boston. Not only do these events give you a greater insight into the different sectors of the corporate world and how to go about shaping your career, but they also provide you with the opportunity to network with high profile individuals which could prove very useful in the future.

AKPsi goes beyond just providing you with the opportunity to take part in these exclusive professional events. Our emphasis on brotherhood means

that we also hold weekly social events. We have something for everyone, whether it's just grabbing food and a couple drinks or activities like rock-climbing and laser tag for the thrill seekers! For our up and coming social events

but the journey is entirely worth it! We hold weekly meetings within which you learn about the rich history of the fraternity to prepare you for a test and interview which are part of the process of becoming a member, all whilst

A core value of AKPsi is service, so in addition to all the impressive opportunities you are exposed to, we also give members the chance to give back to society. After reading week we will be holding "AK-Pie" in Library Square, where

"Becoming a member of AKPsi will give you access to a wide range of exclusive opportunities"

we will be holding a weekend getaway with the AKPsi Chapter of Manchester University as well as a Black-Tie dinner providing everyone with an excuse to dress up and look their best!

Becoming a member of AKPsi is definitely a commitment,

making lifelong friendships with the members of the Frat. Becoming a member does not only provide you with exclusive events but also the chance to be part of a substantial and prestigious alumni network, helping you to make ties all over the world.

our members will be getting pied in the face to raise money! Whether you're just interested in 'pieing' someone in the face or you would just like to help us raise money or even would like to find out more about the fraternity be sure to check it out!

KICK START YOUR CAREER WITH QM BANKING AND FINANCE SOCIETY

Are you struggling with deciding your career path or finding trouble going through the application process? Want to expand your network in the banking industry?

We're a student run society with committee members going through similar challenges. We're here to organise many exciting events and talks to keep you motivated and guide you to find the right career path for yourself.

cally the banking sector of the industry.

Our society holds weekly events focused on specific topics within the banking sector, and monthly events with professional guest speakers who share their experiences during their journey to guide you. Many even offer services exclusive to the society such as free sessions in mock assessment centres or even a chance to secure a summer internship or graduate programmes.

skills.

Furthermore, to help you prepare for the application process, we provide help with CVs, cover letters and mock interviews for all our members. And as mentioned, QMBFS is a student operated society so feel free to come and talk to us about any concerns you may have regarding careers or even university in general, we would be more than happy to help our peers!

"Our society holds events focused on specific topics within the banking sector"

Just because it's the Banking and Finance society, doesn't mean the doors are shut for those from other departments. If you think banking is the sector you want to get into, or if you want to get deeper knowledge into the finance department, this society is the perfect fit for you. you can find opportunities for a huge range of jobs, from Investment Banking to Asset Management, from Technology division to Sales and Marketing. We aim to get you acquainted with a variety of different opportunities within the finance and more specific-

Also, after every event we hold a networking session, and remember guys, networking is key! Talk to our guest speakers, get all the advice you need, network with your peers and you may find different pathways and options you may not know existed. Also, networking with like-minded people will only boost your confidence and enhance your skills. Thus, we also aim to help students build a professional network and provide our members with a platform to develop their interpersonal and relationship management

For any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at contact@qmbfs.co.uk

Website: <http://www.qmbfs.co.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/qmulbfs/>
Instagram: <https://instagram.com/qmulbankingandfina-cesociety>



BANKING AND FINANCE SOCIETY

QMUL BFS

SPORT

SNOW SPORTS: MORE THAN JUST A SKI TRIP

CHIARA IORIZZO

Queen Mary Snowsports is a club founded by a group of students who bonded over their passion for snowsports. Our club has developed at a rapid pace over the past few years, going from a small ski trip society to a fully established sports club. We welcome members of all skiing and snowboarding abilities, from first years to masters students and from a wide range of degrees and nationalities. We have people who have been born and raised on the mountain and people who have never skied before in their life. As a club, we aim to include everyone who wants to join at any point of the year and from any type of experience.

our ski trip, against the other ten universities present, where our boys surprised us all by winning Gold. Along with racing, we do freestyle which we have increasingly tried to promote, this year winning our first medal, achieved by one of our top freestylers. We run biweekly evenings, where anyone who wants to try freestyle for the first time or improve their skills with rails and trick can join for a subsidised session.

But what if I have never skied before? We cover that too! We run a range of lessons on both on dryslope and indoor, very cheaply, for complete beginner skiers and boarders. However, our subsidised skiing is not limited to racing, freestyle

ges are regularly updated by our dedicated media secretary to keep all our members informed on upcoming events. Our media secretary also produces all our videos and photographic content, through which you can get a taste of what snowsports is like.

We run socials almost every week, where you can come meet our committee and wonderful members. If you want to join at any time in the year from September through June, come down to our next social. Whether it's our session before Hail Mary, a house party or a curry night, everyone is welcomed to join. Our turnout this past year has been incredible and we all had the opportunity to meet so many

“Our legendary ski trip is the highlight event of the year”

The club acquired its fame through our infamous ski trip to the French Alps. However, we do much more than just a ski holiday once a year. Our race team, developed over the past four years, have achieved incredible results. We compete both on dryslope and indoor, training weekly at a very low price thanks to financial help provided by the Student Union. Our main competition in Edinburgh, the British University Dryslope championship, engages both the competitive and social side of snowsports. We spend a weekend in Scotland with 25 of QMSS' finest, among 1200 students from across the country, watching some of the best student athletes in freestyle – including GB team freestylers – and competing against the best teams in the UK. We also take part in local dryslope races near London, where anyone, of any level, is welcome to take part. Our racers, however, have outshone everyone in the Southern League at regionals, with our Board Team coming first and collecting a total of five medals individually. We were also victorious, at the inter-university race during

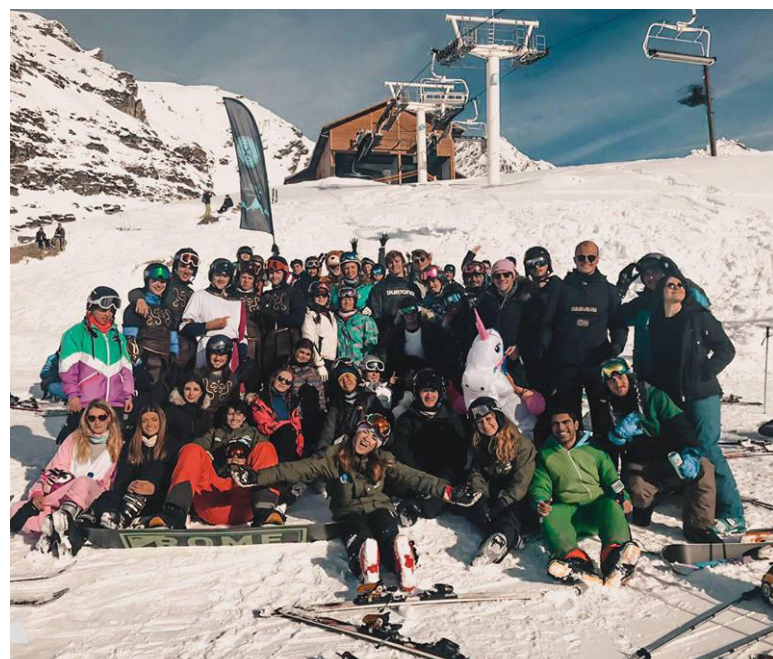
or lessons; for those who just wish to get back on skis, we offer great value recreational sessions indoor. Our aim as a club, and as part of the snowsports community, is to promote skiing and snowboarding and make it accessible to everyone, regardless of their background. Making snowsports affordable is a challenge, given the nature of the sport, but our goal is to allow students to try something new at university and to pursue a passion they thought they could not do in London.

Our legendary ski trip is the highlight event of the year; previous trip locations include Val Thorens, Val D'Isere, Alpe D'Huez, Les Duex Alpes and Tignes, which have all been home to unforgettable memories. During our most recent trip this past Christmas, we were blessed with perfect snow and weather conditions, with the most snowfall the alps have had in years. The bars were great, the skiing was better, the people were just the best crowd we could have hoped for. Where are we off to next year? Follow us on social media to find out! Our Facebook and Instagram pa-

brilliant people. We have worked on joint socials with fellow snowsports clubs from other London universities to produce the best nights out. In October, we took over Corsica Studios for an unforgettable night. Come and see what we're all about! Whether you send us a message on Facebook, an email or stop one of the committee members around campus for a chat, we welcome absolutely everyone.

GET IN TOUCH:

Facebook: Queen Mary Snowsports - QMSS
Instagram: qmsnow
Email: qmsnowsports@gmail.com
Website: www.qmsnow.co.uk



Images: Queen Mary Snowsport