



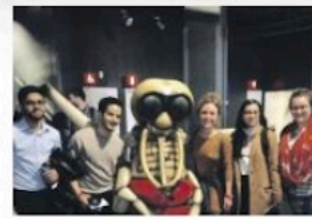
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THE PRINT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF QUEEN MARY STUDENTS' UNION

THEPRINTNEWS.CO.UK

WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2017 - ISSUE 16- FREE

FREE SPEECH PROTEST GARNERS NATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE

Free copies of The Sun were handed out to challenge the SU's ban on the sale of tabloid newspapers on campus

ANNA SAVAGE

On Tuesday 10th January, members of Queen Mary's Free Speech Society handed out 250 copies of The Sun as part of a #FreeThePress campaign.

This was a response to QM Student Council's decision to ban the sale of The Sun, The Daily Mail and The Daily Express on campus, stating that they "[advocate] hate speech". The motion was passed by 14 students.

The distribution of The Sun around QM has attracted national media coverage with The Telegraph, The Independent and The Huffington Post all reporting the story.

The handout took place in various locations around QM but mainly at the QMSU Building and the Library where, one student reported to The Print, tensions were particularly high.

The Print asked Queen Mary Free Speech Society committee member, Emily Dinsmore, why the group decided to distribute copies of The Sun,

"We did the protest for two reasons. Firstly to contest the ban of the sale of The Sun, the Mail and Express, as we had received a lot of messages from students [who are] shocked/disappointed by the decision and we wanted to show that we were making a stand against it. Secondly this was about supporting the #FreeThePress campaign and defending press freedom, which is under threat with proposed new press



Image - Emily Dinsmore

regulations - Leveson Part 2 and section 40."

When asked what the society hope comes from the protest, she said,

"The result we want is just to continue to defend free speech and a free press on campus and to get other students involved, too, in understanding the importance of these basic, fundamental freedoms. If we can gather enough support to overturn the ban, that would be ideal."

Laura Potter, Student Council Welfare Representative and

the proposer of the paper ban motion, had this to say on the demonstration,

"First of all, it's really good to see students getting involved with SU politics, making their voice heard and engaging with campaigns. However, I'd be concerned about the extent some of the protesters care about free speech rather than winding people up. You could even ask why aren't they also campaigning on the government's Prevent strategy which directly targets free speech and threatens

Islamic students? They can campaign all they want, but they've deliberately conducted themselves both online and offline in an incredibly inflammatory way. Slamming papers down on tables is hardly an indication of a student demand for The Sun. Most of the papers ended up in bins."

Queen Mary Students' Union President, Miranda Black, responded to the protest, emphasising that the ban could be repealed,

"I think it's good that we

have active students who protest for what they think is right, but students were misinformed that they'd been completely banned from campus. If students want the Union to start selling the papers in our outlets again, a motion will have to be written for Student Council or the All Student Meeting in March where all students can vote."

Queen Mary is not the only university to ban the sale of these newspapers. City, University of London and Plymouth University have also prohibited The Sun, The Daily Mail and The Daily Express from being bought at any of their student union venues. City have gone further with their ban than QM by forbidding the papers to be on campus at all stating,

"...there is no place for the Sun, Daily Mail or Express (in their current form) on City, University of London campuses or properties."

At Queen Mary, you are still able to have and read any one of these papers on campus.

The Print also contacted The Sun for comment and a spokesman from the newspaper said,

"These young students deserve enormous credit for defying their peers and standing up for free speech and the ability to take an informed decision about what one reads, rather than have it dictated from above. This stand is even more impressive when you see the disgusting hate and abuse they've suffered on social media as a result."

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Any views expressed in The Print are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the paper, the editorial team, Queen Mary Students' Union or Queen Mary, University of London.

"January, month of empty pockets! Let us endure this evil month, anxious as a theatrical producer's forehead"

- Sidonie

Gabrielle Collete

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

ANNA SAVAGE

Hello Printers, Welcome to Issue 16 of The Print, the official newspaper of Queen Mary's Students' Union and welcome to 2017. It was an extremely exciting end to the year for The Print as we were featured in the Guardian Students' article on the top student stories from 2016.

In the midst of all the gift wrapping, mulled wine drinking and pigs in blankets eating, our editors and contributors have been working faster than Father

Christmas' pastry chef to create some brand new articles for you all to sample.

Queen Mary hit the national news over the Christmas break with the removal of a plaque mentioning King Leopold II of Belgium. The story caused much discussion around campus and you can read all about it in both our news and comment sections.

Read on further and you can take a tour of Bowie's London, learn all there is to know about British wrestling and read about why our university has worried the solar system.

Flick through the pages a little more and you can look at the importance of by-elections, get to know what some of our university's societies have been up to recently and read The Print's exclusive interview with Theresa May's trousers.

In the new year, the term 'new me' often rears its head. Well, you'll all be pleased to know that The Print will be doing what it's always done and that's provide the students of QM with fascinating articles and a platform to voice their opinions.

NEW GENDER-NEUTRAL BATHROOMS OPEN AT MILE END LIBRARY

After being under construction for a number of months, the second floor of the library is now open

ELMIRA TANATAROVA



Image - Nayara Fakir

It has been long awaited but, after a number of months of construction, the Mile End Library has steadily been gaining new spaces.

In November, a new silent computer studying area, aiding students with an additional 35 spaces, opened with "improved lighting and desktop USB charging facilities."

Another addition made to the library as part of the 1.5 million project has been the opening of gender-neutral bathrooms on the first floor. Queen Mary Students' Union led initiative to implement more gender neutral bathrooms. The idea has long been on the agenda for the SU, with discussions

over the topic dating back to the 2012/2013 academic year, when QMSU petitioned for our existing gender neutral toilets in the Hub as resulting due to the fact that:

"In the...Queen Mary, University of London Equality Survey 1 it was found that 3.7% of the respondents declared living in a different gender identity that the one they were assigned at birth. Another 4.4% chose the "prefer not to say" option to that question... students commented that one way in which to improve LGBT student experience was to provide "gender free toilet facilities".

The aim of gender neutral toilets at Queen Mary is to align with the university's

'Overall Equality and Diversity Objective'.

"Queen Mary will ensure that all staff and students work and study in an environment free of discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and have access to equal opportunities. QMUL will actively promote equality and diversity".

As an act borne out of the need to make our study spaces as inclusive and comfortable as possible to all QMUL students, new post graduate learning spaces and learning spaces have also been added.

The library and its staff are "...delighted to be launching a range of new features to improve study space and facilities at the Mile End Library."

NEWS

QMSU SUCCESS WITH 'FREEZE OUR FEES' CAMPAIGN

The Union recently succeeded in halting the increasing of tuition fees for home and EU students

POPPY THOMPSON

Last year, the government announced that the upper limit for university tuition fees would increase to £9,250 after soaring from £3,000 to £9000 in 2010.

Parliament has now overturned the cap which would have prevented the cost rising further. It has been estimated that at the current rate (2.8% rise per year) in the next few years tuition fees could reach over £10,000 per year.

Queen Mary Student's Union, in response to this,

kick-started the 'Freeze our Fees' petition in an attempt to stop the university from raising fees further as it creates elitism and leaves students with crippling debt before they have started their careers. The campaigning consisted of meeting with the Queen Mary senior staff on a number of occasions which gave them a chance to speak out against the increase in fees, face to face with the people who would decide this.

On 7th December 2016 the Union announced their campaign had been successful and ensure fees would not rise

for home and EU students, both incoming and continuing, but the same could not be said for international students.

Below is the full statement from the Union Executives:

Win! We have some very exciting news for you regarding fees...

As a direct result of the Union's recent "Freeze Our Fees" campaign, tuition fees will not rise for current home & EU students who are continuing at the University. This is a major win and the Union strongly welcomes this change in decision made by QMUL.



Image - QMSU

Your signatures, your views and your voice have made this change happen and helped to underline the strength of feeling about this issue. In total over 1700 signatures and hundreds of additional comments were received. Thank you to all students who participated by signing the petition and taking part in this campaign. You made this change happen.

Going forwards we will continue to work with the University to discuss other impacts in relation to fees and wider changes in the higher education sector.

Your Executive Officer Team
Miranda, Will, Adam & Sumeera

Universities are currently deciding whether to take part in TEF2 (Teaching Excellence Framework year 2) the aim of which is to provide a list of qualities to judge a university by, especially the quality of teaching students are receiving. If the university in question is awarded a good TEF2 grading it would affect how much the university could charge for tuition fees as if they are awarded a gold, they would be allowed to put university fees higher in future years.

Would you like to write for our news section? Email news@theprintnews.co.uk

LEOPOLD HAS FALLEN

Queen Mary quietly removes plaques that commemorated colonialist King Leopold II, responsible for the deaths of millions



Image - Nayara Fakir

BECKY CRAWFORD

Queen Mary has chosen to remove plaques commemorating King Leopold II of Belgium due to 'ongoing refurbishment work' rather than as a result of the petition to remove it.

In June 2016, an online petition was launched by QM's Pan-African society, to 'remove and re-contextualise' two plaques that commemorated

King Leopold II displayed in the People's Palace and the Queens' Building on the Mile End campus. They argued that the Belgian king was 'a genocidal colonialist responsible for the death of an estimated 15 million people' and that Queen Mary should not commemorate 'figures of the past whom were complicit in colonial exploitation, genocide and mass murder'.

In July 2016, Emma Bull, Director of Student Services, notified the Pan-African society that the plaques had been removed as part of refurbishment work to the Octagon Library.

Leopold II was king of Belgium from 1865 to 1909. He was the founder and sole owner of the Congo Free State, a large state in central Africa. Here he established a regime of slave labour in the collection of ivory and the production of rubber, and under his regime, human rights abuses contributed to the deaths of at least 10 million Congolese people.

The plaques seemed to proudly proclaim an affiliation with King Leopold II, one of which read, 'Foundation Stone of this library was laid by His Majesty Leopold II King of the Belgians June 25th 1887'. However, QMUL had no historical connection with the Belgian king, other than that he visited Mile End in 1887.

This formed a significant part of the Pan-African society's argument for the plaques to be removed. They tweeted, on 21 Sep 2016,

"In July 2016, Emma Bull, Director of Student Services, notified the Pan-African society that the plaques had been removed as part of refurbishment work to the Octagon Library."

'Who was Leopold, what were his crimes, and what is his association to QMUL? #LeopoldMustFallQM'.

The official statement, that the plaques were removed due to building work rather than as a result of the petition, seems to be an attempt on behalf of QMUL to avoid the controversy surrounding what has been termed "The Cecil Rhodes Effect".

In 2015, students of Oxford University campaigned for the removal of a statue of Cecil Rhodes, a colonialist exploiter of the southern African region, claiming that his white supremacy values did not warrant celebration. Oxford University refused to succumb to the pressure, with the vice-

chancellor Louise Richardson saying that she thinks the statue should stay.

The QM Pan-African society were not only campaigning for the removal of the plaques, but also their re-contextualisation. Their petition included a suggestion of a space on campus 'dedicated to the history of colonialism and imperialism, where the two Leopold plaques can be relocated and permanently housed' to encourage discussion and debate concerning Black history.

The plaques have currently been placed in an archive.

FEATURES

BOWIE'S LONDON

A journey through the Starman's city

ANNA SAVAGE

January 10th 2016, the day Ziggy went back to the stars. When the Thin White Duke put out his last cigarette and Major Tom floated round his tin can no more. The loss of David Bowie is still difficult to comprehend. His many alter egos made the singer into an almost mythical creature, a man with a never-ending array of characters he could use to tantalize the world with music.

It's quite a strange feeling losing an idol. I spent my teenage years screaming Suffragette City at the top of my lungs and referring to my Dad as Ziggy whenever he picked up his guitar because he played it left hand. I adored Bowie and, as corny as it may sound, he really was a hero of mine. His poetic lyrics and extravagant dress filled me with a sense of wonder but more than anything, his courage to defy convention inspired me to, at least try, not care so much about what people think.

QMTV have commemorated the first anniversary of Bowie's death by taking a tour of the various London spots which helped the man shape his unique sound and most iconic looks. This journalist was lucky enough to tag along and wonder through the city that the late great Bowie once called home...

Bowie's Childhood

We began our journey at 40 Stansfield Road, Brixton. It was here, on 8th January 1947, that David Robert Jones was born. Long before he became the enormous star we all know of today, he lived here with his father and mother, John and Peggy. They moved to Bromley in South London when David

was six.

It was so touching to see the multitude of tributes left by the property. So many thanking Bowie for inspiring them, showing them a young boy from Brixton could go on to be a global phenomenon.

Bowie's Big Break

Our next stop was No. 7 Denmark Street in London's West End. Now a Flat Iron restaurant, this used to be the address of the La Gioconda Café. David Bowie would often visit the venue with his friend Mark Feld, future glam rock star Mark Bolan, where

they would listen to records and dream of their future careers in music.

Stroll a little further down the street and you'll find the spot where Ralph Horton, Bowie's first agent, gave the singer his big break. He urged the singer to adopt a more mod image and got his single "Can't Help Thinking About Me" into the charts at #34.

It was strange wondering down this street, thinking how different it must have been when the young David Jones hanged out there. It's sad that this café, which had played host to some of the UK's most creative artists, is now just a memory. Just a blue plaque to mark what once was.

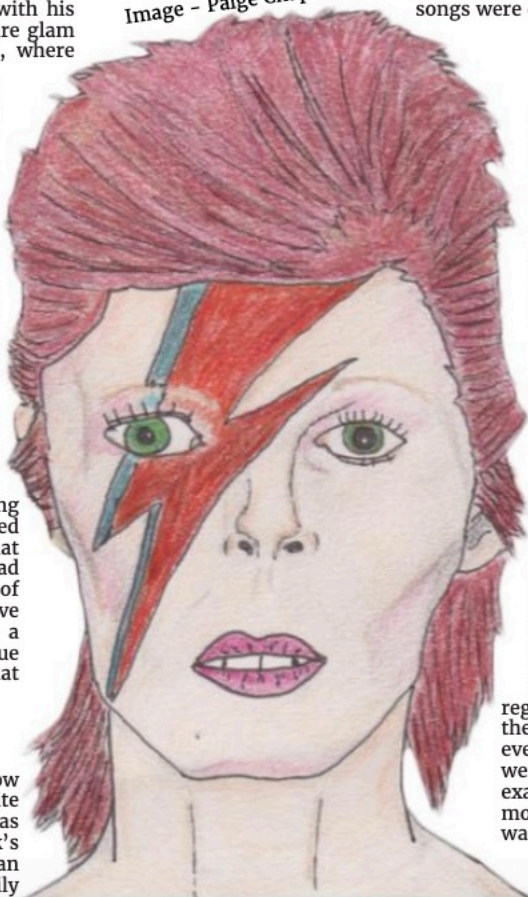
Bowie's Look

Just a stone's throw away from the site where Bowie was discovered is Pollock's Toy Museum. It is an independent, family

run museum which houses various Victorian toys, puppets and optical illusions, all of which inspired the artist's image. Specifically, his look the Blue Clown from the amazing music video for "Ashes to Ashes".

It was incredible to actually visit the spot which influenced one of Bowie's characters, trying to understand the creative process of such a unique performer.

Image - Paige Chaplin



Bowie's Sound

After seeing the museum, we ventured off to Trident Studios. This is where Bowie recorded some of his most iconic records, including "Space Oddity", "Hunky Dory" and the "Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust".

I was positively giddy peeking through the window of the studio and seeing the late singer's albums lining the walls. I stepped back, almost in awe, able to visit the place where some of my favourite songs were created.

Bowie's Ziggy

Arguably, no alter ego of Bowie's is more famous than Ziggy Stardust. We went to Heddon Street to see the location where the Starman landed. The street where Bowie posed for the album cover of the infamous "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars".

For my 18th birthday, my parents bought me my first record player along with that album. The story of a bisexual alien superstar was like nothing I'd ever heard before. It's regarded as one of the greatest records ever made and we were able to see the exact spot where this most infamous figure was born.

Bowie's Changes

We had visited the site of Ziggy's birth so we hopped onto the tube, journeying to the place of his death. On 3rd July 1973 at the Hammersmith Odeon, now the Hammersmith Apollo, Bowie announced that Ziggy was gone. The news shocked his fans all over the world.

Little did they know their beloved icon would use the death of Ziggy to create even more characters which would live in musical infamy.

Bowie's Legacy

The final stop on our tour took us back to Brixton. Opposite the tube station you'll find a beautiful mural commemorating the famous singer. Painted by James Cochran in 2013, it's become a sort of shrine, a place for fans to gather and remember their hero.

Many had congregated to pay their respects to the musical legend on what would have been his 70th birthday. We were all united in grief, sharing stories of what David Bowie had meant to us. The influence he had on our lives and the pain we all felt that he was no longer here.

The Starman may have returned to the sky, but the mark he left on the world, and London in particular, will forever live on.

Don't forget to check out QMTV's video "Ziggy's Guide to London", available on their Youtube Channel.

Special thanks to Paige Chaplin, Emma McMullen, Priya Nirmal and Linnéa Borg for helping to put this article together.

FEATURES

THE DARK SIDE OF THE WEB

Silk Roads, Assassination Markets and Doxing- navigating the jungle of the Dark Net

ANGELICA HILL

The World Wide Web is a comforting 24/7 reservoir of knowledge, an accessible source of assistance and entertainment. My younger siblings see it as a basic human right. The Deep Web evokes a contrasting and threatening image of unknown predators, paedophiles, and thieves. Yet the two are really just two sides of the same coin.

The Deep Web (sometimes and misleadingly called the Dark Web) describes all the parts of the Internet that cannot be picked up by regular web browsers or search engines, such as Google. It makes up more than 99% of the Internet. Some of this is purely technical and specialist communications; including court records and medical databases. It is there simply because the Internet is too large for search engines to cover. But it also includes the Dark Net - a place where identities are intentionally hidden and special software or authentication is required for access.

We all know (but often forget) that whenever you log into the internet your IP address, and many of your personal details are logged, meaning that everything we access or post may later return to haunt us. The record is an indelible one (even on Snapchat). This fact is at the heart of many tech business models - you pay for Google and Candy Crush with your data rather than your cash. Many of us are happy to live with this. But the mass surveillance by the US and British governments, highlighted in recent history by Edward Snowden, demonstrated the Orwellian potential. For political dissidents and freedom fighters in totalitarian regimes this is particularly problematic. This is why the US Navy created a means to communicate information securely and anonymously in the mid-1990s using The Onion Router, TOR, which enabled untraceable and anonymous communications. If you are a victim of abuse or a corporate whistle-blower this could be one of the only ways to reach out for help. Now run by a free, worldwide, volunteer project, it comprises more than 7,000 relays that encrypt and route traffic

randomly across multiple Tor nodes.

Yet, more than most well-intentioned initiatives, this has been hijacked by those who most value anonymity in the West: criminals and terrorists. The Dark Net now hosts all manner of illegal market places - forums such as the Silk Road where information, products, and services can be freely advertised and exchanged with little fear of repercussions or accountability. As one marketplace is shut down,

The correct time of death for the former Chairmen of the Federal Reserve, Ben Bernanke, might have earned \$56,000.

This prize would not however have been paid in dollars. A major challenge for criminals on The Dark Net is how to receive their ill-gotten gains in real money, without revealing their identity or whereabouts. For most, the answer has been Bitcoin, the cryptocurrency of the Dark Net. Using blockchain technology,

should serve as a further warning never to share any information big, or small, not only on the Dark Net but on the Internet more broadly.

It is easy for a seasoned hacker to hack into your laptop, smartphone, or tablet. Easy to gain access to all your photos, texts, emails, and communications. This may make you feel uncomfortable, however the prospect of a random person seeing your holiday pics from the South of France, or the text exchange

cyber ecosystem through education.

The dystopian vision of ubiquitous surveillance peddled by Snowden raises legitimate worries in a world where the next US President appeared to threaten to monitor mosques and deport millions. But a world in which all communications were invisible to law enforcement, a world like that of the Dark Net, holds its own risks and nightmares.

We live an increasingly digital life. The perpetual struggle between those that seek to exploit this for nefarious, or simply disruptive, reasons and those that want to leverage advances for the wider good of mankind, will continue. With the growing pervasiveness of the Internet of Things, with all manner of devices connected to the internet, we will doubtless see more ransomware, data thefts, and kinetic cyber attacks. A "white-hat" hacker recently demonstrated the ability to remotely hack into and take control of a Jeep driving at 79mph on the highway using only his laptop.

There is nothing unique or especially scary about the Dark Web. Like fire, or the gun, or the Internet it can be used for good or bad reasons. With many causing havoc and destruction via the web, users must be extremely wary. Any information can be used against you in the hands of a troll. There are plenty of people out there more than happy to exploit that information and humiliate you just "for the lulz".



Image - Nayara Fakir

others proliferate, competing for credibility and market share in a grotesque counter culture mirror of Ebay capitalism. Drugs, weapons, fake identity papers, child and bestial pornography, snuff films, sit alongside mountains of hacked email addresses, credit card numbers, passwords and hacking tools.

One such Dark Net site is "The Assassination Market", punters predict and bet on when well-known politicians or celebrities will die. The person who makes the correct prediction gets all the money in the pot. This chilling game invites the participants to at least consider the option of making the prediction come true - a thinly veiled suggestion of assassination.

where there is no central control: value is transferred between individuals without any traceable trail. As it becomes a more mainstream international currency (as people forget that it lost most of its value overnight last year when it was hacked), Bitcoin use will no longer be inherently suspicious and this challenge will be mitigated.

Doxing, found most regularly on amateur porn sights, such as /b/, is where users try to encourage the "camgirl" to reveal her face, her name, age, any information that could be used to trace or track her. Once any information has been let slip the users work together to piece together her identity, saving the pornographic images she has shared. This

between you and a friend arranging a coffee may not seem all that bad. However it is just as easy for many hackers to do the same with government and corporate computers and technologies, which is a much more foreboding and threatening prospect.

The recently announced new UK Government National Cyber Security Strategy describes cyber attacks as an equal threat to national security as international terrorism. They created a new National Cyber Security Centre and an additional 1.9 billion pounds of funds to support a strategy designed to deter cyber threats, defend British computers against them, and develop a greater national

If you are interested in learning more about the Dark Web, its history and its many mysteries I would recommend you read both *The Dark Net* by Jamie Bartlett and *Dark Territory: The Secret History of Cyber War* by Fred Kaplan.

FEATURES

DRIVING "HOME" FOR CHRISTMAS

As many students spend most their time away from where they grew up, the idea of "home" becomes more and more complicated

THEODOR DEBRUNNER-HALL



Image - Jim Larrison/flickr

At the family dinner table on the 24th of December, I push my face into my palms in frustration for what feels like the 50th time someone made the conversation political. In the background I hear yet another damn Christmas song. It's all getting a bit much for me really.

Christmas is a strange time to be a student living away from your childhood home. Coming back never quite feels the same, and being away doesn't exactly feel better.

For a lot of people, Christmas isn't all Ho Ho Ho and merry festive cheer. The forced atmosphere that demands joy and happy emotions isn't something unhappy people enjoy faking, on the contrary the feeling of obligation to be happy can have the reverse effect. Especially if you're somewhat of a general cynical grinch (like the author of this article), Christmas is often at best uncomfortable. A lot of that is to do with visiting your childhood home, so tightly associated to Christmas.

I've found there to be a frustratingly large amount of truth to the

cliché that the grass is greener on the other side. At university you'll find yourself missing what you may still consider "home", but the minute you arrive there you may realise that it no longer feels like home. Your old routines and habits no longer matter, the owner of the corner shop you frequent doesn't recognise you anymore, your teenage room feels like a relic of pubescent naivety you've outgrown. Perhaps the most heartbreaking part is what can happen with your teenage friends. As you grow up and change, so do they, and it's not rare that they change in a completely different way, rendering your friendship somewhat awkward and unsustainable. That's not to say that's always the case, but I am sure this applies in at least some cases to every university student that moves away from home.

Your childhood home can give you a sense of structure—after all, it is harder to sleep in until 3pm and live off a diet of crisps and fried chicken when you're fully aware that your family is judging you and you feel the need to convince them you have indeed become a

yourself not only in the eyes of others but also in your own. More or less everything in your life is thrown in the air, ready to be reformed and reinvented.

As one might expect, this opportunity also comes with a more problematic and difficult side. This lack of established foundation shapes an insecurity, as no one knows where it all may lead. Ask yourself this, how many people do you know that know precisely where they will be and what they will be doing in merely a couple of years? This insecurity makes it difficult to fully

acknowledge and accept your adopted university city as a real "home". Why even get settled in and build foundations when it's impossible to say that you'll still be there in the near future? It is exactly this sense of uncertainty that makes the feeling of alienation from your childhood home so very scary. Every man and woman seeks to have a home, a safe haven of security, and during student life old havens seem to evaporate while new ones always seem uncertain and prone to fall apart at any time. What's new is scary and what's old isn't

the same, a perpetual catch-22.

And yet, after all my complaining and self-absorbed whining about how hard it is to return to a loving family and a safe home, as I sit here writing this article in my flat-share in East London I find myself yearning to be back where I was two weeks ago. I want to be getting annoyed at the incessant repetitive Christmas music, I want to be getting passionately frustrated at someone for bringing up politics at the family table, I want to be sat in my room looking up at my teenage-boy-cliché Scarface poster. In a way, that feeling and that desire will never go away and where I grew up will always remain home. I also know that my new home likely won't last, at least in the way it is. But, for now, the best I can do is to embrace these supposedly greener pastures and make the very most of where I am. That's all any of us can do until we work out where we truly belong.

"During student life, you learn not only about your subject but also about how to handle everyday life in a functional and (relatively) healthy manner without the support (as well as restrictions) of family guidance."

If you would like to write for features email features@theprintnews.co.uk



Image - Robin Corps/flickr

FEATURES

THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING, WHEN WILL WE?

How climate change is visibly affecting the UK

SOPHIE MITCHELL

It is an undeniable truth that the global climate is currently undergoing a rapid and fundamental change.

The terms 'climate change' and 'global warming' have been thrown around like hot potatoes for several years now, creating a momentary panic of an impending apocalypse, then silence. It appears as though a large portion of the general public have either lost interest in the escalating threat of climate change, or worse, they never cared at all. It is overwhelmingly easy in today's society to just close the blinds, turn on the TV, and be drawn into the lull of modern entertainment, abandoning any care for the outside environment. But informing yourself and taking action is far more rewarding than dwelling in ignorant bliss.

It is becoming increasingly evident that weather systems in the UK are transitioning, with heavier rain, warmer weather and temporal seasonal change amongst the most rapid and prominent alterations. The structural framework of the UK may not be

equipped to cope with these seasonal changes, as has been made evident through the recurring incidents of flooding in England, Scotland and Wales. The Climate Change Committee (CCC) provide the estimate that if average global temperatures 'rise by 4°C', flood damage to the UK's infrastructure is expected to double, 'even assuming the Government continues to invest in flood defences'. To exacerbate this risk, the CCC further acknowledged that an 'extra one million UK homes would be exposed to a high risk of flood damage', opening up possibilities of homelessness, lower welfare, and loss of income for those directly affected. The recent influx of heavy rain and flooding across the UK has drawn the attention of the Chairman of the CCC's Adaptation Sub-Committee, who states that the Government's National Adaptation Programme has recognised 'flood risk as one of four key areas for urgent further action', adding that 'the Cumbria floods highlight the problem that is likely to become more severe in the decades ahead'. However, although the money invested in flood

defences by the government will work towards adapting to future floods, the main focal point of action should be mitigating climate change at its root cause; human behaviour. Alongside the increasing risk of flooding, climate change will further impact the UK through escalating

temperatures. This trend is becoming increasingly visible, particularly this winter, as there has been an almost complete lack of frost, with the with the 'UK average temperature during December hitting a record-breaking 8C, which according to the Met Office is about 4.1C above the long-term average – beating the previous record of 6.9C set in 1934' (The Guardian). This is a rising cause for concern, as the increasing temperatures this winter have acted in correlation with the increased flood risk.

But what can be done? In 2009, the UK Climate Projections report that average annual temperatures would rise by 2–5 degrees by 2080, an estimation which was based on a "medium emissions scenario", assuming human consumption and energy needs to remain at an average level. In order to reverse this temperature change, it would involve a reversal of human consumption patterns – from small scale homes replacing appliances and practices for more energy-efficient sources, to large scale countries making the transition from cheaper energy sources of oil and coal, to the sustainable future of renewable energy sources.

Whilst the anomalies of temperature rise and flooding in our weather system are often dismissed

as natural fluctuations, it is now becoming visibly evident that these climate alternations are becoming more and more consolidated, with temperatures falling outside the range of natural variability. So, whilst we sit at home every winter, 'dreaming of a white Christmas', it is perhaps worth reflecting on the fact that this is a quickly fading reality. Our environment, flora and fauna will be the first to react to this new global shift, as species struggle to adapt to seasonal change disrupting habitats, migration and the food chain. Adapting to climate change through technological and architectural advances can only take us so far, and the only real solution is to mitigate this problem through habitual change and education. Whilst that option is by no means simple, it is preferable to being left with no option at all.

'Only when the last tree is cut down, the last fish eaten, and the last river poisoned, will we realise that we cannot eat money'. – Native American proverb (Oxford English Dictionary of Proverbs).

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COMMENT

THE GREAT DEBATE

Was QMSU right to ban the sale of The Daily Mail, The Daily Express and The Sun on campus?

YES...

WILLIAM SORENSON

Firstly, this is not censorship. By claiming this is censorship you have to be prepared to actively deny the existence of other right wing newspapers being sold on campus. You're still free to buy the Times, you're still free to buy the Telegraph. If these alternatives are not being suppressed, surely it's apparent that this is not censorship of views?

Instead, what has been passed is the refusal by the SU to contribute to the pockets of writers, editors, and other associate journalists that have been involved in, to say the least: countdowns until

NO...

PATRICK LITTEN

The Students Union, with little announcement, banned the tabloids The Sun, The Daily Express and the Daily Mail from being sold on campus, citing a desire for solidarity and to stop funding hateful discourse.

This is, in my opinion, censorship. Whilst I will grant it is not the burning of books, the imprisonment of journalists or the banning of websites, that you can still carry it on campus without fear of persecution and that it is accessible from many of the shops nearby, it is still censorship. The British Board of Film censors has a rich history of refusing classification for films it considers not fit for public consumption, meaning it will not be shown in cinemas without changes. Owning the film is not a crime, you can get it sent in from a more accepting country, but it's still censorship. It's not just governments that censor. The same goes for these papers.

underage actresses were legal to sleep with (see Emma Watson's daily countdown in the Sun), accusations that vast swathes of our Muslim population sympathise with terrorists (see, the Sun, and then see the Sun's apology on page 2), and actual editorial based bullying leading to the suicide of a transgender teacher by the Daily Mail (as reported by Lucy Meadows' coroner.)

These actions, these decisions, these knock on effects, are why these papers are no longer being sold on campus. Because they aren't

just an accumulation of views. They are far, far more dangerous than that. They don't seek just to express a view, they do so in a manner that has ended the lives of, and endangered our most subjugated members of society. When the Mirror, the Guardian, or the Independent find themselves at the focus of a UN Statement condemning their contribution to rising rhetoric of division and hatred, or start fascinating themselves over barely pubescent teenagers, I'll reevaluate my comfort that they're sold in my name. But

until then, we should all be sickened if our student union engage in the proliferation of such writings, or actually finance them by stocking them in our shops. And I can't support that. Of course - these papers are being financed elsewhere. And you're free to buy them from there. But not in my name.

The views of these papers are still welcome on campus, subject to how welcoming you find a little bit of active discussion. Why wouldn't they be? We remain a university student body capable of fantastic discourse, as such

the papers aren't being torn from your hand by the QMUL SS. Feel free to bring your red top of choice to the courtyard. No one cares. I'll start a newspaper reading book club with you if you really want. But don't for a second try to claim that the opinions expressed within the pages of the Mail, Sun, and Express, are being silenced - not to mention that a quicker fix to silence them would be through Eduroam.

We should absolutely aim to be as apolitical and all encompassing as possible as a union. But for the union to try to profit on the back of the media that functions at the expense of the same students we claim to represent is not only redundant, but profoundly harmful.



Image - Eric E Castro/flickr

reputation and the reputation of the students who graduate from this course. It is already happening nationwide, as our generation gets called snowflakes who live in echo chambers and can't accept opposing debate. Our university being added to this phenomenon hurts our prospects, and for what? A commercial ban that prevents the few contractors who buy these papers on campus spending money on campus, to rest the minds of a few in our student council.

The Student council is welcome to have its own individual views and beliefs, but keep them individual. You can't, from a position of institutional power, push your beliefs on others by attempting to curtail debate by restricting the sale of things you don't agree with. It isn't in the spirit of university, in the spirit of academia or in the spirit of open and free debate.

motion that enacted this ban asserts the right of Students to "have the power to not finance nor facilitate hateful discourse". We already have this power - don't buy it. For an individual to stand against what they do not believe is encouraged, for a group with all of the political power in the Union elected on a turnout of 25% to unilaterally ban political viewpoints they disagree with is a suppression of debate.

Queen Mary is well known for its politics department. This ban damages that

"We are capable of reading views that can be considered extreme and drawing our own conclusions."

COMMENT

2016: MILLENNIALS WORST YEAR SO FAR?

Some of the worst that 2016 had to offer

DANIAL NAQVI

What a year! 2016 is done and dusted. It's history and some might say they're glad. I'm not too sure. Millennials and 90s babies are raving for the start of 2017. Hoping the new year brings new beginnings and less heartache. New Year. New Me. I remember being told that the 21st December 2012 would be the last day on Earth, according to the Mayan calendar, and maybe it should've been. Granted there has been some horrific events in 2016, but is it really the worst year most of us can remember?

Let's talk celebrities. The life-blood of our daily entertainment. The people we look up to and aspire to become.

David Bowie. Alan Rickman. Terry Wogan. Johan Cruyff. Ronnie Corbett. Prince. 2016 has taken some great names from us. Most shockingly of all, whilst in the last gasps of the year, when we thought all the misery had stopped. George Michael is announced dead too. Entertainment will never be the same. Our culture of television, radio, music and sport has never been so dismantled. I find taking comfort in the fact that most of us don't know these people directly, signifies that we can mourn their pure excellence without being deeply affected.

On death, let's reminisce about the 8th November 2016. The death of the USA, some would say. Donald Trump became president-elect and

leader of the free world. Every time I contemplate such a thought, I have to take a pause and take a step back. It doesn't seem reality. But let's not laugh at the Americans, we have our own problems. Not Andy Murray's rise to the top of the tennis world rankings, or Great Britain's second place finish in the Olympic Games, reaching the highest medal tally to date. I could be talking about England's performance in the Euros, but I'll leave that there. Ah... Brexit. That day in June that evoked national outcry and Sadiq Khan labelling London as part of the EU. Unimaginable scenes.

I would like to take a moment to remember the deaths of innocent



Image - Ann Althouse/flickr

men, women and children through natural disasters and terrorism exploits. The climate is changing at an extraordinarily rapid pace and we can't seem to keep up. For whatever reason, terrorism is on the rise. Our maniac world is getting more and more psychotic by the day. Peace is on the distant horizon, much like a mirage.

Appreciate your place in the world. You are alive and healthy, on a global comparative level. You are in the capital of one of the greatest and strongest nations.

Your life is pretty good. So, yes, 2016 has been terrible from an international standpoint. But, from where I'm standing, we survived such a cruel year and we're still here. As they say; you only live once.

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IN DEFENCE OF THE CINEMATIC UNIVERSE

Why there is still room for singularity in a world of franchises

ANNA SAVAGE

Who would have thought, all the way back in 2012 when the Avengers first Assembled, Marvel would push almost every production company in Hollywood into panic mode, scrambling to put together some kind of all-encompassing framework to link all their content.

Some have argued that Marvel have opened a kind of Pandora's box in their quest to establish the Marvel Cinematic Universe. That their actions have meant a plethora of movies are being made which

are so desperate to establish a universe that the films themselves lack originality and forces film to think so far ahead they often fail to stand on their own.

I must admit, to some extent I do agree. Despite the headline of this article one can't help but notice that the frenzy Marvel created has led many movie companies to hop onto the universe bandwagon. DC's keenness to create the DC Cinematic Universe led to disappointment after disappointment with Batman vs. Superman and Suicide

Squad. The crew of the later film were given only 6 weeks to write a script because of DC's eagerness.

Even the OG of the cinematic universe, the MCU, has taken some flak for lacking originality. Edgar Wright famously quit as director of Ant Man because he struggled to work within the confines of the Marvel machine.

They certainly have their flaws. Still, I believe this latest Hollywood trend has its merits.

The reason the MCU became so popular was the time Marvel took to build their characters before thrusting them all into a movie together. The company lost many of its namesakes when it was close to bankruptcy in the late 90s. Iron Man was hardly the poster boy of Marvel Comics but once Robert Downey Jr later took on the role, he has become the face of the company.

They waited four years before putting multiple characters in the same film. You could sit down and watch all the movies of Marvel's Phase 1 and enjoy each without feeling the need to watch the Avengers movie. Often links to future films in the universe are popped into a delightful after credit clip so

"The reason the MCU became so popular was the time Marvel took to build their characters before thrusting them all into a movie together."

the core plot of the film is not overshadowed.

Pixar links their films subtly, using reoccurring companies and hidden images to create delightful Easter Eggs for a viewer to discover. They allow the audience to create their own theories of how their film universe works.

Star Wars is the most recent example of how effective a cinematic universe can be. Star Wars is undoubtedly one of the most beloved movie franchises of all time. Fans were nervous as Disney announced it would be launching a multitude of anthology films with its acquisition of Lucas Film.

And then along came Rogue One, a Star Wars film that wasn't a Star Wars film. Yes,

it cleared up some questions from the first movie and had plenty of nods to the original source material but it could easily stand alone as an exciting space action film. It had a grit and violence which allows it to be judged and enjoyed on its own merit and as part of the greater Star Wars story.

The cinematic universe model has its problems but can, and has, produced a very interesting movie going experience. When placed in the right creative hands, it can allow the audience to become totally immersed in a brand-new world whilst also being free to come and go as they please.



Image - Chris/flickr

COMMENT

RADICAL OR NOT RADICAL?

Overuse of the term has M. Dorum questioning just what radical means

M. DOMUN

From Pep Guardiola having a radical approach to tactics in football to Sarkozy arguing that the Burkini compliments radical Islam.

The words radical, radicalism and radicalisation remain some of the most overused, and in all likelihood misused, words in politics and media today. Stemming from the late Latin word Radix, the word radical originated in the 14th century, meaning ‘of or having roots’. The political sense of the word which refers to changing from the roots was first recorded in 1802. In 1817, the term Radicalism was coined by the celebrated thinker Jeremy Bentham in his ‘Plan of parliamentary reform, in the form of a catechism’. Being a radical was never a bad thing, one is seeking to reform something by digging deep into its root, because we all know trimming the foliage on top is quite temporary. It’s the appropriation of it that adds insult to injury.

Fast forward to 2016, the term radical and its nuances have been arrogated in the most juxtaposed ways, radical conservatism to start with, how you can change something whilst trying to keep it the same is beyond me. Currently in British politics, contrary to popular belief, it’s not so much of a bad thing to be regarded as a radical albeit which side of the fence you stand on does matter. For one, the late Geoffrey Howe was celebrated as a quietly spoken radical by George Osborne, whilst our previous prime minister David Cameron was urged to be ‘more radical’ when regarding a few of his reforms, you know, like calling for a referendum to settle a party dispute. Yet, Labour MPs are very scared of portraying themselves as such, why? Maybe because the Tories have three more years in power whilst Labour are still reeling from a series of blunders starting from say, the 2015 general election, being down on the polls despite the

CARRIE FISHER: SO MUCH MORE THAN OUR SPACE PRINCESS

The world mourns another fallen star, but do the social media posts really capture her legacy?

FARHEEN AKHTER

When the world heard the devastating news of Carrie Fisher’s death, tributes, reactions and condolences started pouring in. A true icon of our time, it was heart-warming to see Fisher remembered for so much more than just her role in Star Wars.

Many remembered her as a spokesperson for mental illness and addiction. This is not surprising, considering that she even called herself ‘Joan of Narc, patron saint of addicts’. She spoke widely and openly about her bipolar disorder in a time when society was not ok with mental illness.

Before celebrities became advocates, before articles were written, and before awards were handed out for issues such as mental health awareness, she always spoke about addiction and mental illness bluntly without any sugar coating.

She once stated, ‘I am mentally ill. I can say that. I am not ashamed of that. I survived that. I am still surviving it, but bring it on.’ She was a woman with mental illness who refused to be painted as a hysteric. Her honesty about mental illness is what many people, especially those who also suffer from mental illness, remembered about

“For some reason calling May or Osborne radicals resonates strong leadership, whilst calling Corbyn a radical insinuates crazy leftie.”

current government being a complete cock-up and Blairites just generally being worried that they will be painted as Corbynites.

For some reason calling May or Osborne radicals resonates strong leadership, whilst calling Corbyn a radical insinuates crazy leftie. Similarly, on the very wrong side of radicalism you have the likes of ISIS and Iran, who last time I checked do not really like each other. Yet they are still portrayed as radical as it seems a perfect umbrella to place their vicious authoritarian approach. Indeed, the decision to name the process of a British Muslim becoming sympathetic to ISIS as radicalisation and one who is a supporter a radical to the Islamic faith, seems horribly problematic as you are figuratively endorsing ISIS’ utter erroneous assertion that they represent Islam. However, it seems that this may just have slipped the mind of the government’s

think tanks as the Government policy ‘Prevent’ mentions radicalisation no less than one hundred and eighty times. If you are that type of radical, then you should be de-radicalised, whatever that means.

Then there’s those who have appropriated the term as they are unwilling to admit that they are merely trimming the foliage of the real issues through their policies. The wrong type of radical that calls for more austerity, the type that cuts down homeless services only to see homelessness rise by 50%, or the type that gets doctors to report their patients for signs of extremism. Surely that’s not what radicalism is. But, if it is, does anyone know how to de-radicalise a government? Asking for a friend.

If you would like to write for comment don’t forget to join our contributors group on Facebook!



Image - Tom Simpson/flickr

thing. I’m in a business where the only thing that matters is weight and appearance. That is so messed up. They might as well say get younger, because that’s how easy it is.’

During the later decades of her life, Carrie Fisher became better known for her persona than her actual achievements, and this was something that was overwhelmingly present in her tributes. Her unique personality shined through in every interview she did. Her sharp wit, intelligence, fun-loving personality and the fact that she was incredibly

funny, were some of the many wonderful characteristics pointed out by friends, family and fans, with a lot of people saying that was what they would miss the most.

Of course many remembered her for her much beloved role as Princess Leia in the Star Wars franchise. But what was great to see, as a Carrie Fisher fan as well as a Star Wars fan, was that one role did not end up defining her as a person. Her legacy and her accomplishments both on and off screen are multifaceted, and this was undoubtedly portrayed in her tributes.

COLUMN

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE:

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS... BUT CAN’T WAIT TO BE BACK IN LONDON

Aliya Arman reminds us what it’s like being home for Christmas for the first time, and how the excitement soon wears off

ALIYA ARMAN

I never really understood the saying ‘there’s no place like home’ until I realised the luxury of having heating, fast Wi-Fi, working hot water, and hot meals for free.

As much as I love being at university, and living in London, there is a limit for how long you can keep up wearing two jumpers, a hoodie, thick socks and a hat to keep warm. Once you get through your final lectures and seminars, and saying bye to friends, you start feeling excited to return back to your home town. All I was looking forward to was going back to the South Coast and catching up with mates on university/work/ gap year stories; walking down the seafront with my dog; and visiting all my favourite spots again. It’s Christmas, I feel festive, nostalgic and ready to celebrate in a city that I’m proud to call home.

But the rose-tinted glasses soon come off. The realisation that your essay deadlines are coming up hits you. The wait

until the second instalment from student finance becomes unbearable. The glares your mum hits you with when you refer to your university house as ‘home’. The struggle to organise a date with your friends on a day where you’re both free. The whinging from your family to tidy up your room becomes tiring. After overindulging from the day I arrived (did I mention how great it is to not eat pot noodles like it’s one of your 5-a-day?), all the way until the end of the crimo limbo to the start of 2017, I soon realised that the boring, uneventful city I was so desperate to leave on results day is still that same boring, uneventful city.

In my head, spending 4 months at university meant that there would have at least been some changes to my home town, to the point where my family would have to tell me all about the exciting new things that had happened whilst I was away. Maybe there’d be a new shopping centre? In reality, it’s more

like walking through town and bumping into your college librarian; vaguely wondering if that boy you just walked past was the same boy who was in your maths class in Year 8; and noticing that a shop on the high street has gotten a new sign. Everything was as painfully ordinary as I had remembered it to be. It felt as if I only left for the weekend. But there were some perks to being back at home, like now going to Spoons and being grateful of the fact that I don’t have to pay extortionate prices for drinks like in London. Or that I didn’t need to take a tube every day because everything was within walking distance again.

Maybe it was because my brother and I had fallen out after a heated game of Monopoly, but I started thinking about how the first semester in my first year at Queen Mary has been a lot better than I ever anticipated. It’s only once I left Mile End that I really understood why I loved being there – it’s the

independence, friendships, nights out, and memories that came with it. Christmas gave me time to reflect on all the weird and wonderful things that had happened in my first term, and appreciate them even more. Even though I do love being at home, the

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SCIENCE AND TECH

CAN SNAKES CURE A BROKEN HEART?

How a Burmese python could help your old ticker

SIMON MUNRO

Certain diseases of the heart can lead to decreased blood pressure which can be detrimental to your health.

Using the Burmese Python as a research model, new treatments are being designed which may be useful for providing treatments for the diseases.

Why snakes?

After eating a large meal, pythons need to be able to digest their prey, which they will have eaten whole. In order to do this, large changes to the anatomy of the snake must occur. The gut of the snake doubles in size, increasing the production of digesting enzymes.

These processes require a larger amount of blood and oxygen, meaning an increase in blood flow is necessary. To

do this, the snake increases the mass of its heart by 40% within 48-72 hours of eating, thus increasing blood pressure. This occurs through the cells of the heart increasing in size and volume, hence causing the

these changes. They are likely produced by the digestion of the python's food. It causes the upregulation of certain genes in the heart muscle cells. This leads to the cells swelling and increasing in size, therefore

“Tests have begun investigating the effects of this plasma mix on mice. The results have showed that the heart did increase in size. This could hold the key to potential treatments for heart failure...”

increased size of the heart.

How do these changes happen?

It is thought a mixture of fatty acids is responsible for

making the heart larger. It's a pretty rapid process as no cell division or differentiation takes place.

When the snake is fasting the heart size returns to its original dimensions. A study

proved that these changes were the result of injecting a fasting snake with the correct mixture of the acids and observing the change of heart size.

To test this prediction, scientists extracted the mixture of fatty acids and injected them into other animals. They observed an increase in heart muscle compared to the control samples.

A large change in heart size is often associated with fibrosis, a process which causes the heart to become stiffer, meaning it is harder for the heart to pump blood. However, this change was not observed in the snake hearts. Instead, there was an increase in the expression of genes responsible for muscle

the massively increased levels of fats cause deposition of the fat in the body which can lead to blockages in blood vessels, strokes and heart attacks.

This does not happen in the snakes as the breakdown of fats in the heart increases massively. This means there are no fat deposition in the heart reducing risk of heart disease. The process lowers blood fat levels, and provides large amounts of energy and for muscle contraction and muscle fibre synthesis.

Is there a future in humans?

If a similar increase in heart tissue size was seen in a healthy human, this would cause serious cardiac illnesses. In humans, the increased muscle would cause an increased oxygen requirement for the heart which would, in turn, increase the risk of a heart attack.

Tests have begun investigating the effects of this plasma mix on mice. The results have showed that the heart did increase in size. This could hold the key to potential treatments for heart failure, and heart diseases which have caused death and weakened hearts. By increasing the size of the heart, it could be possible to reverse the formation of disease. However, due to the rapid action of the snake extract, it is thought it's medicinal benefit will be only as a short term means of increasing heart efficiency.

contractions, explaining why the heart contraction became stronger.

Isn't fat bad?

Yes, under normal conditions

NEW YEAR, SAME OLD ME

Why your resolutions are doomed to fail

ELLIE EVANS

With the New Year comes a fresh set of ways we are determined to improve our life, whether it be losing weight, stopping smoking or even something as simple as drinking more water.

Yet most of us will never reach our goal, let alone start it, despite the countless motivational Facebook posts or abundance of new gym memberships. Research from the University of Scranton shows that only 8% of people who have made a New Year's Resolution will be successful – but why?

Firstly, the timing, if you've waited months to make a change to your life and pinned it all on a specific date, chances are you weren't that determined to do it anyway. The resolution in itself is the highest form of procrastination, waiting

until a predetermined date to overhaul your life just because others do it will set you up for failure from the very beginning. Some may think the instance of multiple people making huge changes will help foster a network of support and success, but the reality is an even more intense environment of pressure that maximises feeling of failure when the inevitable occurs.

Secondly, the nature of New Year's resolutions tend to be hugely unrealistic, with people promising to do things they would never normally – all under the pretence of 'reinventing' yourself in the new year. This problem is exacerbated by the outlandish goals of our friends and colleagues, as well as strategic marketing around this time from various sources, encouraging the ludicrous phenomenon.

Joseph Luciani, a psychologist specialising

in self-coaching, believes that, for many of us, making resolutions backfires in ways we don't even realise. After a few unsuccessful attempts to stick to them we are left with a feeling of failure which makes it difficult to feel we are living up to our intentions in other ways too. In other words, we are setting ourselves up to feel like failures, resulting in us feeling pretty low about everything else in our lives that might not be going as well as we hoped. He believes this also discourages us from setting new goals later in the year, leading to a cycle of non-changing behaviour and persistent bad habits throughout!

Although, there are ways we can make our resolutions more realistic and increase our chances of actually completing them: firstly by starting as early as possible, not just leaving the goal until the 1st of January, removing the

procrastination element and the pressure as the date comes around.

Secondly, setting smaller goals that builds up to a big achievement, for example adding a workout a week instead of committing to the gym every day or going for

a daily walk to build up to a marathon. Setting a more realistic and achievable goal will decrease the chance of you failing at the first hurdle, along with the pressure normally felt while likely culminating in you actually completing your resolution!



Image – Alan Cleaver/flickr

SCIENCE AND TECH

QUEEN MARY ACADEMICS HONoured BY THE QUEEN

Three of our university's researchers have been named in her majesty's New Year honours list

ELLIE EVANS

A group of academics from QMUL will receive honours from the Queen for their services to healthcare research, with two awarded an appointment of Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) and another an appointment of the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

Sarah Murray, of the Institute of Dentistry, will receive an MBE for services to oral health, while Professors Jack Cuzick and Kam Bhui, both of the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine, receive CBEs for services to cancer prevention and screening and mental health research and care respectively.

Professor Cuzick was the first researcher to show the effectiveness of the drug tamoxifen in the prevention of breast cancer, and later the effectiveness of aromatase

inhibitors again in breast cancer prevention which can reduce incidence by over 50%.

He described it as “a great honour to be recommended for such a prestigious appointment...particularly important for the recognition it provides of the need to develop preventive therapies to tackle cancer before it occurs”.

Professor Cuzick has also developed a model for assessing breast cancer risk and led work on cervical cancer screening.

Professor Bhui, who has published work on a range of psychiatric topics such as the impact of culture and ethnicity on mental health, and co-founded his own mental health charity 'Careif', said he is “delighted and humbled at this honour for services to mental health research and care, and work with charities.”

Sarah Murray, a leading

“[I am] delighted and humbled at this honour for services to mental health research and care, and work with charities.”



Image – Reading Tom/flickr

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CHRISTMAS STUFFING

Divesh Prithviraj explains the science behind the infamous festive snooze

DIVESH PRITHVIRAJ



Image – Brian O'Donovan/flickr

examined further, a chemical called L-tryptophan was found in their systems and is suggested to be the ultimate mastermind behind our festive sleeping.

L-Tryptophan – what is it and how does it cause sleepiness?

Tryptophan is an amino acid which serves as a building block for proteins. It can't be made by the body so it can only be obtained from eating tryptophan-rich food – one of which is turkey. It travels to the brain where it is then used to make numerous substances.

One of these is serotonin, a chemical which influences a person's mood and feeling of relaxation. When levels of serotonin are high, a person will feel calm while lower levels are associated with conditions like depression.

Another substance synthesised from tryptophan is melatonin, also known as the sleep hormone. As the name implies, it is involved in regulating our sleeping pattern and its production is

highest from midnight until roughly 8am, causing us to feel greater fatigue at these times.

Does it cause sleepiness?

It was previously thought that Turkey had elevated levels of tryptophan. However, studies have shown that the levels of tryptophan in turkey are similar to those found in other types of poultry. This means that there is no elevated risk of snoozing with turkey; in fact, other meat can induce a similar effect of sleepiness.

Scientists have further proposed that tryptophan by itself does not have a strong enough drive to alter serotonin levels. Other substances, such as carbohydrates, must be present to provide a sufficient additive effect to induce tryptophan's conversion into serotonin and melatonin.

If we were to visualise this, tryptophan is a big molecule and to get into the brain it needs to pass through the BBB (the blood-brain barrier). The problem is that the BBB only lets small substances through

and big molecules need a protein transporter to carry them across the BBB. However, most of these are occupied carrying other substances into the brain. Carbohydrates essentially free up more of these transporters allowing more tryptophan molecules to enter the brain and induce sleepiness.

What can we conclude?

So is turkey the culprit when it comes to over-sleeping? Not exactly. Currently, not enough research has been conducted to establish a proper link between turkey and excessive sleepiness. It is possible that all this sleepiness could simply be the cause of having a lot of food in such a short space of time, slowing down our digestive process. When you add the lack of stress from not going to work and some alcohol, this concocts a cocktail of calmness, lethargy and relaxation. All this results in a well-deserved afternoon nap!

SCIENCE AND TECH

IS SANTA'S MISSION REALLY IMPOSSIBLE?

Alex Richardson explores some of the issues that arise for the man himself on Christmas Eve night

ALEX RICHARDSON

The story goes that a man ordained in a bright red suit, with the help of his army of elves and his nine faithful reindeer, sets out on Christmas Eve with the most ambitious mission of the year: to deliver presents to every good boy and girl around the world. However, there are rumours that this in fact just a myth! What does science say about this?

What does Santa's mission involve?

To be able to work out how feasible his mission is, it is important to understand just what his journey would entail. There are approximately 2 billion under 18s in the world, of which around 30% celebrate Christmas. This leaves us with 600 million

presents to deliver, a much more achievable number. The number of stop offs that Santa must make is even less: with an average of 2.3 children per household Santa has just shy of 260 million households to visit.

Luckily for Santa, time is on his side. Due to the Earth's rotation Christmas Eve night lasts around 32 hours in total, giving Santa much longer to deliver his presents. This therefore means that Santa has to visit 2300 households per second, a rather impressive number.

How fast would he have to go?

Assuming that all of these households are evenly distributed across the Earth's land masses, Santa would have to travel nearly 200

million kilometres throughout the night. This means that Santa would have to travel at speeds of over 1700 kilometres per second, or 0.5% of the speed of light. This would make Santa the fastest object in the solar system, so fast that he would be able to escape the gravitational attraction of the Sun. This however would mean that Santa would have some rather large down force problems – he wouldn't be able to stay on the planet. He would need a force of 450kN, one that is 46000 times stronger than the force of gravity, to keep him from flying off into outer space. To travel this fast whilst carrying over 600 million presents, Santa would need several million reindeer to pull his sleigh, far more than their known population allows for.



Image – Bart Fields/flickr

Whilst travelling at 1700 kilometres per second however, Santa would begin to feel rather warm due to the friction of the Earth's atmosphere. In fact the amount of heat energy released would be enough to vaporise Santa, his sleigh and his reindeer army from existence.

So how does he do it?

There is simple way for this to all be possible. If Santa enlisted the help of a few friends, reducing the amount of presents each Santa would have to deliver, not only would this mean that Santa could avoid certain death from overheating, but he might not overdose on alcohol or the

predicted 100 trillion calories of mince pies.

In fact, Santa has many helpers throughout the world. By current estimates, there are over 200 million of them, each delivering presents to their children bringing happiness on Christmas morning. Whilst some may skip on the bright red suit or the bushy beard, their mission is one and the same.

So whilst the story of an epic journey with flying reindeer seem impossible, the spirit and intent of Santa's story is present across the world. And be grateful to Santa's helpers as after all one day it could be you.

RACING TOWARDS EXTINCTION

Cheetah numbers plummet to all time low

ELLIE EVANS

A new report published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences estimates that only 7100 of cheetahs species remain in the wild, calling for them to be reclassified from vulnerable to endangered.

The study shows that cheetah population has almost halved since the last comprehensive count across Africa which put it at 14,000, and that the species have been reduced to just 9% of their previous range.

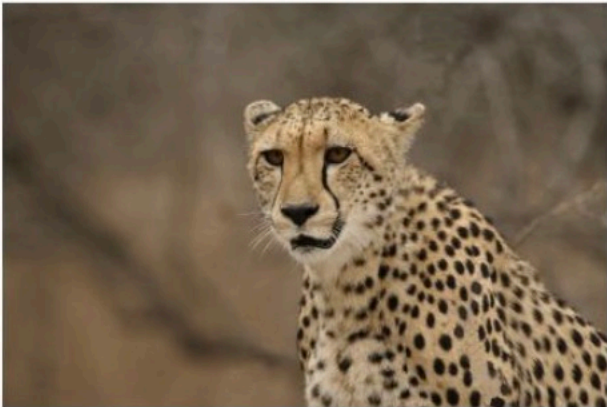
Dr Sarah Hunter, the report's lead author, said "Given the secretive nature of this elusive car, it has been hard to gather information on the species, leading to its plight being overlooked".

Once found across Africa and much of Asia, the big cats are now confined to only six countries in Africa: Angola,

Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, with the species now extinct in Asia and existing elsewhere only in a small isolated community of around 50 in Iran.

Known for their title as the world's fastest land animal, reaching speeds of up to around 60 miles an hour, the cheetah's decline has become a concern for wildlife groups across the globe. The threat was previously underestimated

Image – DIVA007/flickr



due to the focus mainly on groups within protected areas, says the study, but the focus is now needed on those living outside these.

The cheetah's need for large expanses of land to roam has caused much difficulty for the species as much of its habitat has been developed by farmers and bush meat hunting has reduced abundance of prey. Coupled with the increasing demand for cubs on the black market, predominantly from Gulf States, the species faces an array of threats which have all contributed to dwindling numbers.

Conservation groups are urging the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to change the species' status from vulnerable to endangered in order to help increase funding for conservation efforts and draw more attention to the urgency

of the situation, particularly from African governments.

There have been increased efforts recently to combat the trade of cheetah cubs, particularly the trafficking from Africa to the Middle East, with governments agreeing to put new measures in force to suppress use of social media in advertising these animals, and the United Arab Emirates introducing new regulations in the ownership of endangered animals. It is hoped that once the fragility of the cheetah's existence is truly recognised, governments and charities may join forces to prevent yet another life on Earth from existing no more.

Fancy writing for science and tech? Emai scienceandtech@theprintnews.co.uk

SATIRE

THE GUILLOTINE



Image - Eric Wüstenhagen/ flickr

SATIRE

WOMAN POSTS ‘NEW YEAR, NEW ME’ - SUPRISED TO FIND SHE HAS NOT CHANGED

It appears that posting about your New Year’s resolution on Facebook and buying a NutriBullet in the Christmas sales isn’t enough

MADDIE TYLER

As the clock strikes midnight and Big Ben announces the beginning of 2017, Facebook is inundated with statuses promising “Facebook culls” to say goodbye to “all those fake friends”, ones claiming 2016 can “do one”, and the classic “2017 is MY year”. Of course, we’ll ignore the fact that time is actually a concept and just an arbitrary, relative scale of measurement and give these people the benefit of the doubt.

When Angela posted her status on New Year’s Day over a hungover breakfast – “New Year, New Me. 2017 will be my year #feelingblessed” –

she was surprised when she remained exactly the same as she had been before posting it. Despite joining her local gym for the first time since last New Year’s Day, swearing off junk food and alcohol as part of her New Year’s resolution, and posting about both on Facebook to show she was really serious about it all, nothing had changed. Angela was still sitting in front of Love Actually in her pyjamas with a chicken chow mein and a glass of wine, comforting her recently acquired Christmas food baby. At 2 in the afternoon.

Angela didn’t understand. She had bought all the latest

fitness gimmicks, her new NutriBullet was sitting on the kitchen counter (still in its packaging, but it was in the kitchen at least), and she had announced her new 2017 persona on Facebook – so where was her Fairy Godmother and her Cinderella-style transformation?

What? This wasn’t enough? A pro-active lifestyle was also necessary? Actual change? Ugh.

With that, Angela deleted her status, put the NutriBullet in the cupboard (behind her vegetable spiralizer from last year), and got her tub of Ben and Jerrys out from the freezer. Self-improvement could wait until next year.

THIS ARTICLE IS DECLASSIFIED

A letter explaining the Student Union’s recent action on the tabloids

BEN SUTHERLAND

Привет Comrades, I greet you from the Socialist Republic of Queen Mary with great news! Our wise, democratic leaders have announced that they have freed us from the burden of critical thinking and the hideous free market that allows the decadence of personal choice. They have accomplished this magnificent feat by banning the sale of the Daily Mail, Daily Express and The Sun, and now we know that with the abolition of these papers, the presence of the treacherous ‘right’ will completely dissipate

from our campus. This motion was decided by our benevolent leaders with a majority of a staggering 14 student representatives! Праздновать, they carried the heavy burden of this decision because, as we know, the students and their sensitive minds cannot handle such a weighty decision, neither do they possess the ability to control their emotions when exposed to an opposing point of view.

Now we know which papers deviate from the party line and can thus avoid bringing

“Our wise, democratic leaders have announced that they have freed us from the burden of critical thinking...”



Image - Nana B Agyei/ flickr



Image - Eric E Castro/flickr

them on campus. But fear not миленький comrades, if you still wish to waste your allowance on such literature, you are welcome to purchase it off campus and bring it onto the premises... but rest assured, brothers and sisters, stop and searches would have surely been carried out campus wide if the cost of enforcing them wasn’t too high, but we should still thank our leaders for allowing such freedom. The Student’s Union wishes to honour the memory of the Great comrade Stalin, who also championed

editorship and the banning of literature. In the near future your union will continue to challenge the idea of a campus that promotes a culture of free thought, the sharing of ideas and in particular, civil debate!

That is the end of this communication. Always remember, comrades, having the wrong opinion can land you in a lot of trouble!

до свидания сейчас

Commissar Sutherland

QUEEN MARY BANS THE SUN

The rest of the solar system is on red alert

LIAM PAGE

After years of discriminating against those with a certain skin tone and leaving many more extremely heated or with a pounding headache, Queen Mary’s Student Council has voted to ban the Sun.

The Sun, which causes many to wince if they try and look at it for too long, has already been banned by City University and there are many more blackspots all over London. Instead of letting students decide for themselves whether they want to wear sun-cream or not, Queen Mary Students’ Union will bring in a blanket ban. This is a decision that many have called ‘bizarre’.

The Print has reached out to the Sun for comment. However, we have been unsuccessful at making contact, on account of it being 93000000 miles away.

Meanwhile, the bans have ignited a raging online debate. Even fictional character Jonathan Pie weighed in on Twitter, tweeting, “Next up: book burning!” However, experts say book burning is not a viable option, as it will not be able to replicate the Sun’s potent heat and energy. Many more are arguing that banning the Sun is an unimportant decision anyway because students will still be able to access it off campus.

Some students, particularly male ones, are displeased that the hot contents frequently

found inside are no longer available. Dejected undergraduates told The Print that they will now be searching for other sources of that sizzling stuff that made the Sun so appealing. Looking at hot pictures of Jordan on the internet will be where many will start*.

It is unclear whether Queen Mary will try and ban other stars in the solar system. Mystic Meg is keeping a close watch, just in case.

*The country of Jordan. Naturally. What else could I mean?

Think your life is a joke? You should write about it. Email satire@theprintnews.co.uk with your submissions.

THE WRONG TROUSERS

Read The Print’s exclusive interview with the Prime Minister’s most controversial garment

ANNA SAVAGE

It was a Thursday afternoon when I finally saw her. We had been corresponding for a while but setting up a meeting had proven rather difficult to organise. My interviewee’s frequent attachment to the lower half of Britain’s most powerful figure meant her schedule was often quite full. Thankfully, the impossible happened. Theresa May started wearing Adidas jogging bottoms about the house to appear “more down to earth”, so my guest believes, and suddenly she was available.

We agreed to meet in a quiet Westminster bar. The only other customer was a rather sullen looking political pundit, nursing a neat whiskey and slowly eating his hat. The most popular dish on the menu, according to the waiter.

I sat anxiously waiting for about 10 minutes, wondering whether my skirt would cause offense when suddenly she arrived. I was momentarily blinded when the light from the opening door hit her chocolate leather surface and hit my eyes. She clearly waxed for the occasion.

She requested a duck feather cushion to sit on and, once seated, lit a cigarette with a crisp £20 note. I tried to say that it was illegal to smoke in public spaces but she merely cackled and threw the still-lit note onto a rare Turner landscape that was hanging on

a wall close to us.

She ordered us a bottle of Salon each and, after a couple of glasses, we were able to discuss her recent exposure in the press.

Why did Theresa decide you were appropriate attire for that controversial interview?

“My interviewee’s frequent attachment to the lower half of Britain’s most powerful figure meant her schedule was often quite full.”

She never listens to me. I told Theresa she should just wear a pair of jeans, thought jeggings were a bit of a stretch. They’d show her more relaxed side; I swear, sometimes she’s only slightly tense. But oh no, it had to be me. She’d look cool, like a maverick. That would get the voters relating to her.

Well (puffs cigarette), I’ve

been called a lot of things in my time, but no one has ever called me relatable. I’m hardly the poster child of austerity, am I? If only she had been posing for a Waitrose ad, I would have been up for that.

What’s it been like being thrust into the public eye like this?

I won’t lie, it’s been a struggle. I always prided myself on being an individual. Now I find out the company has sold out of me. Now every yummy mummy from here to West Oxfordshire will be out in a pair of me, looking for organic yak cheese and Joni Mitchell CDs.

Ugh, and I can’t even walk to the local haberdashery without someone calling me posh or over-priced. She’s started wearing Adidas tracksuits now you know? To make her seem more down to earth. What do people want from me? For heaven’s sake, I’m a pair of chocolate brown leather trousers, I’m quite aware of how po---

It was then that I had to stop the interview. Nicky Morgan’s handbag came rushing into the bar. The two became embroiled in a scuffle. The political pundit tried to reassure me by predicting no harm would come to either of us. I was struck by a shard of zip and the pundit was rushed to hospital, suffering from wounded pride.

SATIRE

HOROSCOPES

Aries

Everyone scoffed when you said ‘New Year New Me’. Maybe it’s time to show off your shapeshifting prowess.

Taurus

All your unwanted hairspray will be put to good use.

Gemini

You have many questions – but the universe doesn’t have all the answers. Google does though.

Cancer

Go out and talk to people. All those hilarious bad puns are going to waste.

Leo

You’re genuinely looking forward to James Bunt’s new album.

Virgo

Time for you to change. Steal the identity of the person you’re really jealous of and live as them.

Libra

Time to release your inner dancer. Just not on the tube like last time.

Scorpio

Congratulations! You are one degree warmer this month.

Sagittarius

This month will be full of fun, laughter, and running from the law.

Capricorn

This moth looks hectic so celebrate Valentine’s Day, April Fools’ Day, Halloween, Christmas and New Year right now. It’s better this way.

Aquarius

Stay inside. Trust us, it ain’t pretty out there.

Pisces

Luckily for you, excessive sleeping is the hot trend for 2017.

ADVERT

20 NOMINATIONS 17

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

LEAD YOUR STUDENTS' UNION, REPRESENT STUDENTS AND GAIN SKILLS THROUGH VOLUNTARY OR PAID ROLES. FROM ACTIVITIES OFFICERS TO WELFARE AND EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES, MAKE THE UNIVERSITY AND UNION DO BETTER.

NOMINATE YOURSELF NOW.

NOMINATIONS OPEN
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NOMINATIONS CLOSE
4PM WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.QMSU.ORG/ELECTIONS

Queen Mary University of London
Students' Union

SOCIETIES

NEW YEAR, NEW SOCIETY?

AGA STEPHENSON



Image – Jean David Eynard

January means that Qmotion will be full of eager freshers and Monday's Calling might be remotely close to reaching capacity (for the first and last time in 2017).

But as February rolls in you'll find those gym memberships will have been neglected,

committed to the past along with your failed Dry January attempt.

Instead, you should focus on making your New Year's Resolution a simple and practical one: become a member of a society. Push yourself a little and step INTO your comfort zone. The great thing about Queen Mary is just

how many different clubs it has to offer, and the number of societies is constantly expanding – there's no shortage of students with obscure interests, who want to start something new and original. No matter if you're nerdy or not, you're bound to find people just like you.

Doubtless at the beginning you'll struggle to remember a plethora of names, but after a week or so you'll know most of the faces and you'll be experiencing university in a completely new way. Societies give you a wide circle of friends from outside your course and year. Frankly, this was the thing I found most refreshing when I joined cheerleading – the typical law student career talk was nowhere to be heard; similarly, when I started writing for The Print, I met a group of people with a common love for news and words, a starting point which led to food, banter, and completely unrelated conversation topics.

This does not mean societies don't provide you with career-

With Refreshers Fair just around the corner, make your New Year's Resolution one you can actually keep – join a society.

“The great thing about Queen Mary is just how many different clubs it has to offer, and the number of societies is constantly expanding..”

enhancing opportunities – quite the opposite! Very often, academic societies will organise guest lectures or drinks receptions with eminent professors and prospective employers. Additionally, in large sports or academic societies you'll find people in the year above you who've already learned the ropes and can give you advice on the modules you're currently taking, how to write essays, recommend useful textbooks and talk about their experiences with applying for summer internships, tips you'll find invaluable as the

exam season approaches. And most importantly: become passionate about something. Returning to uni in January, it's all too easy to start slipping back into your old fresher habits of sleeping through the day (especially since you probably didn't do much over the Christmas break). Finding something you're interested in and discussing it on a regular basis will give you week some much needed routine and structure, and will be a fun distraction from the bleak reality of the piles of coursework you've accumulated over the holidays.

ROLLING WITH FILM SOC

Lights, Camera, Action: get updated on what QM Film society are up to this term

ISABELLA MACLEOD

Do you enjoy films? Talking about films? Watching films? Then come and join the film society.

This society is for every kind of film fanatic, studying film is no requirement. We are just a group of friendly people with a common interest and who come together to watch and talk films. Films screened last semester include The Witch, Mullholland Drive, and Trainspotting, all voted for by film society members. That's right—if you join our society, you will have an active involvement in the creation of our events that included a fancy dress screening of Rocky Horror Picture Show.

Other events to look forward to this semester include a chance to try your hand at predicting this year's

Academy Awards with a prize of the closest guess; there is a multitude of screenings to vote for. What's more, our runaway hit charity fundraiser from last year is back again: a 24-hour Worst Movie Marathon, which is exactly what it sounds like. Twenty-four hours straight of terrible films, last year's films included gems such as Jaws 4, Birdemic, and The Room.

The film society isn't just about screening films, however. We have visits to the Prince Charles Cinema planned and once a month we come together just to talk film: films in the cinema, classic films, and even just a film someone saw recently—any topic is welcome—as long as it's about film! We are also active with other societies and often host joint screenings, some of which have included

The Crying Game with the LGBT+ Society and Love and Basketball with the Afro-Caribbean Society. Don't worry if you missed them; we have plenty more planned this semester.

If any of this has caught your interest, you can find us on Facebook as 'QMUL Film Society' or on the QMSU website as 'Film Society'. Membership is £5 and for that you can get free entry to most of our events including cinema trips. So come along and join the fun!

Read more about QM's societies on our website, theprintnews/societies



QMUL FILM SOCIETY

Image – QMUL Film Society

SOCIETIES

GENETICS : THE NEW SOCIETY IN TOWN

Besides a trip to Darwin's house, Rachel Rajesh tells us the latest about the newest academic society in the block

RACHEL RAJESH



Image - QM Genetics Society

The Genetics Society is a new addition to the Queen Mary Students' Union and was set up to provide a platform for students who study genetics or are interested in the dynamic and exciting field revolutionising biology.

Kicking off the year with a meet and greet session gave many students the chance to meet Committee Members as well other students who share a love for genetics. This was followed by the first formal event of the year where we spent an enjoyable evening at the Science Museum in South Kensington. Students were able to take part in a series of engaging activities that helped to develop their understanding of many modern-day diseases. HIV and Malaria were two of several diseases that were

studied over the course of the evening. This trip proved to be a remarkable hit with many students. 'The trip proved to be an experience, a rich and entertaining time off from my hectic working schedule', added a second year Biology student.

A trip to Darwin House took place which gave students an insight into the life and research of the famous scientist, Charles Darwin, whose contribution to scientific literature changed the face of biology and continues to shape our understanding of the natural world. The trip offered many exciting opportunities, including the chance to visit the gardens that inspired Darwin and to see the rooms where he worked on his masterpiece, *The Origin of Species*. The Genetics Society

was delighted to host this event, and we were glad to have many students join us for a pleasant day in the beautiful Kent countryside. The lush greenery surrounding Darwin House was also a must see for students interested in sightseeing.

To be a part of the Genetics Society, please pay your annual membership fee. You can pay over the counter at the Students' Hub, or through the Queen Mary Students' Union website. If you have any queries, feel free to contact any of the Committee Members. Lastly, please don't forget to like our Facebook page, so you are notified of upcoming events. We look forward to seeing you all in the future!

ARGUE YOUR WAY TO THE TOP

From private discussions to public debates and inter-varsity tournaments, in Debate Society your voice will be heard

URMIKA MANI AND PETER WHITEHEAD

So, why join us at Debate Society? (I mean, other than the obvious 'I'm in my second year and my CV desperately needs something that makes me sound clever'?)

Well, a few reasons spring to mind. Probably the most crucial one is the fact we offer weekly training in British Parliamentary Debating. Now, this may not sound entirely relevant, but most likely you'll find yourself having to speak in public; regardless of which field you go into, odds are you will be dealing with clients or giving presentations. Sure, you may not be shouting 'Point of Information!' at your boss anytime soon – nor would I recommend trying it, to be honest – but our training will probably make you considerably better at speaking publicly, and boost your confidence in your ability to do so.

We host public events, free and popular amongst all members. So far, this academic year our public debates have included a discussion about the controversial 'Prevent' strategy (in which we had the President of the Muslim Association of Britain and a member of the Quilliam Foundation speaking) as well as a debate regarding whether Winston Churchill deserves to be on the new 5 pound note. We have many more debates coming up that will follow suit in 2017, so keep an eye on our Facebook page!

We also offer free entry and transport to inter-varsity debating tournaments, such as LSE and Cambridge – and we ensure you've had the training to be able to hold your own against other elite institutions. One of the highlights of our year was taking part in the Cambridge inter-varsity tournament, which provided

invaluable experience and an opportunity for us to network with other debaters from institutions such as Ivy League Universities. We have also partaken in other tournaments in Universities such as UCL, with many more coming up very soon. This includes our very own tournament on February 4th, which will be the event of the year. Obviously.

If you're not keen on entering tournaments but would still want to share your views, we're also in the process of setting up a website. This will be a place to voice your opinion and engage in discussion with your peers, with pieces from students to be uploaded on a rolling basis, so message our Facebook, or sign up to receive our newsletter by emailing qmdebate@gmail.com if you want to write for us.

So why not sign up for debate? You might enjoy it. And you'll have something



Image - QMBL Debate Society

super impressive to tell your parents. They'll be much more likely to lend you money if you sign up. (Hopefully)

Would like to write about your society? Email societies@theprintnews.co.uk

SOCIETIES

A COMMUTER'S STORY

How a budding fresher went from society member to the First Year Representative of the Commuters' Society

DANIAL NAQVI

The first semester of the first year of university, for most, is the hardest three months of academic transition.

Add one heaped teaspoon of commuting from South East London and the desire to maintain a social life, and you will find yourself more than a tad stressed.

Yes, it was hard. Yes, I considered dropping out. And yes, I did consider going on the accommodation list. I have been determined to persevere with it all, except I changed course, dropping a module that I couldn't comprehend. How did I get through all this cow manure you ask? Well... I found a family in the Commuters' Society.

Finding people who understand the extent and the strain of commuting every day has been an enormous help. It helped so much that I can't even begin to describe. The first meet-up was the best in my opinion. Before university had even started, I knew about fifteen people that I could call

friends. Granted, now I speak to three or four of them on a bi-monthly basis—but that's not the point. The ingenious idea to provide an event for commuters to meet before university even starts not only shows the power of social media but the initiative of a committee, which I was more than happy to join.

Everyone has their reasons for commuting, and for most second and third years, it's because QMUL kicked them out of student accommodation. First years hold a different story: some are international students living in the UK but still not qualifying for home fees, so the added cost of living in London is too much to bare. Others found that the best universities for their field are in London, the list goes on. For me, I am the latter—London is the best place in the UK, as I see it, to study Geography. Learning about people's stories, makes you appreciate how lucky, in many ways, commuters are.

Saving thousands of pounds... still unlikely the money would go on anything productive however.

It still amazes me how I became First Year Representative of the Commuters' Society. It just happened. Yes, I had an interview, but I'd rather that not be discussed. I became such good friends with some of the committee members, and they were looking to expand their scope. The committee now has Barts reps, for both first and second years. This addition is brilliant; it means we can be more in-tune with the needs of Barts students.

So what's to come? Well... we'd love your help to make the committee better connected with its members. We've got some exciting events planned such as cultural food nights, which I have been told by our members as our best success this year.

What are you waiting for?

Everyone is welcome. Looking back at the start of term, I never could've imagined being a part of the committee, but it shows that you'll find your family no matter how or where.

Email societies@theprintnews.co.uk if you would like to write about your society



Image - Queen Mary Commuters Society

THE ELECTRONIC FUN YOU'RE MISSING OUT ON

The Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Society, a community of development and creativity

SAFIA KHAIRI

In a world full of opportunities, the Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Society will give you the tools to create a better world through technology.

On a weekly basis, we hold workshops in Bancroft building, which are designed to teach AIRS members through hands on learning. The workshop attendees are given sheets which provide them with step-by-step guidance, helpful hints and

things to look out for.

The workshop learning is based on Arduino (for those of you who are not in the know, this is a microcontroller-based kit which allows us to build complex robots and a variety of intricate electronics projects).

In our recent workshop series we were working on setting up LEDs that gradually light up as the light from their surrounding environment starts to fade.

Building systems like this is a fantastic experience as it provides the opportunity to set up a real electronic circuit based on a schematic diagram, as well as coding skills in Arduino's IDE – integrated development environment (or, to use simpler words, a tool for users to code and instruct the way in which the Arduino operates). Besides LEDs we play with buzzers and motors too, which inevitably leads to our members having some

'electronic fun' during the session.

Besides workshops, AIRS also organizes a range of social and academic events. One of the recent outings was a movie night; we got together on a Friday evening and watched "Doctor Strange" at Genesis. More fun stuff is coming up, including a 'Social and Showcase' event and a guest lecture from Dr Kaspar Althoefer, a professor in Robotics and Intelligent Systems and current head of CoRe (King's College London's Centre for Robotic Research).

As a community, we constantly support our members by encouraging them and giving them the skill-set to explore the realities of the fast-moving world industry

of robotics and artificial intelligence. The reason why AIRS is so good at meeting its members' expectations is that we give them an endless supply of the one thing that we all need: the enthusiasm to invent!

There is also much room for improvement and further development, and we are eager to hear feedback. This year we are very enthusiastic about making AIRS a better society for all our members, and are more than excited about its future prospects. Happy innovating!

"The reason why AIRS is so good at meeting its members' expectations is that we give them an endless supply of the one thing that we all need: the enthusiasm to invent!"

SPORT

SPORT FOR THOUGHT

How joining a sport society could help you achieve that New Year’s resolution

RAYNA SIDHU

New Year’s resolutions can be a chore. In the excitement of welcoming in the New Year you said to yourself (or even worse, said to other people) that you were going to start afresh. But by the second or third day of January, it already seems impossible. Well, if your resolution had anything to do with getting more involved at university, getting fit, joining a society, stepping out of your comfort zone or meeting new people, you can achieve it with sport at Queen Mary.

Not unlike September, there will be another Freshers’ fair in January, which is aimed at spring semester study abroad students. But like any event at Queen Mary, however, it is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about a sport on campus and signing up. Understandably, this is a tricky time of year to add more commitments to your bursting academic

calendars, but it is important to remember that all clubs are made up of students, too. Clubs will stop competing in time for exams and training will be minimal in the run-up too. It may also be a helpful stress-reliever to be part of a sport: a welcome break from essays and revision.

A common concern students have about joining a team halfway through the year is about fitting in. It’s natural to assume that friendship groups would have been solidified and you may feel like an outsider. The most positive thing about sport at Queen Mary is that everyone is exceptionally welcoming. Like anything new, joining a sport society will take time to adapt to, but you will not struggle with feeling like the other members are keen for your involvement.

Alternatively, if you don’t feel quite like joining a whole new society, the sessions run at QMotion are also a great way to get involved and get

“The most positive thing about sport at Queen Mary is that everyone is exceptionally welcoming.”



Image - Jean David Eynard

fit. It is worth checking out the QMotion website or the Student Union website to get an idea of what’s on and what you might like. Many sessions are pay-as-you-go meaning that there is no commitment but still the same avenues to meet new people.

New Year’s resolutions are daunting but don’t have to be abandoned. At Queen Mary there are always people around to encourage you to try something new or pursue something you love. Try a new sport this year: it might help make your 2017 worthwhile.

BRITISH WRESTLING BOOM

Why now is the time that you should become a pro wrestler

SHAKIR HUSSAIN



Image – Christopher Paquette/flickr

British wrestling is absolutely booming. WWE have recently announced a tournament for the first ever WWE United Kingdom championship which will take place in Blackpool on the 14th and 15th January. According to wrestling legend Triple H

this will “serve as a launching pad for a WWE weekly show produced here in the UK”. This coincides with the return on ITV of the famed series ‘World of Sport’ which ran in the 1980’s and will showcase the best of British wrestling once again. The return of British pro wrestling on TV

will give greater opportunities and exposure to the talented wrestlers we have here in Britain. This platform will help turn British based prospects into the next William Regal or The Dynamite Kid.

This evolution of British wrestling is staggering from what was available a few decades prior. The British wrestling scene was a handful of independent wrestling companies providing a small number of events. With a very limited number of shows in the UK, there was little opportunity for British based wrestlers to develop and show their potential.

This has changed due to the rise of independent promotions such as Insane Championship Wrestling, Progress Wrestling, and Revolution Pro Wrestling. This has provided a platform for people in the UK passionate about wrestling to make a career doing what they love. Britain has recently been described as ‘The Hotbed’ of pro wrestling.

Most people now know that professional wrestling

is staged fighting; where a performer portrays a larger than life character working in unison with an opponent to get the crowd emotionally invested in the match. Wrestling is a combination of athletics and theatre providing a platform to showcase a performer’s creativity, a wrestler chooses the style of wrestling, the moves including finishers and the character they want to play.

Wrestling has progressed so much in the last decade. No longer do the main event wrestlers have to be 6ft4, and 300 pounds as seen with the current WWE world champion AJ Styles who stands at 5 ft 8. Athletic ability, charisma, passion and how innovative a performer is determine how well they do.

The progress of women’s wrestling in particular cannot be understated. Women are judged on their hard work and talent and less so their appearance. The wave of popularity for MMA superstar Ronda Rousey emphasised that women are of main event

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SPORT

LONDON PREMIER LEAGUE TEAMS:

A FACT FILE

If you’re new to football culture in London, Danial’s got all the basics covered

DANIAL NAQVI

Football or soccer – whatever you call the beautiful game, it is indeed the eighth wonder of the world.

For as long as you live and study in London, you need to get to know the facts. There is no room for contesting that football involves throwing the ball and touchdowns; it’s all about the Premier League here.

If you didn’t know, the six London Premier League teams are Arsenal, Chelsea, Crystal Palace, Tottenham Hotspur, Watford and West Ham. Let’s look at them individually.

Arsenal is just like marmite: you either love them or hate them. The ‘Gooners’ are some of the truest fans in the Premier League, but from Arsene Wenger’s armadillo jacket to Jack Wilshere caught

smoking, drama is always round the corner. Statistically known for finishing fourth, Arsenal fans receive plenty of joyous banter. Topics as such include failing to win a trophy for 9 years as well as never having won the UEFA Champions League.

The mighty ‘Blues’, Chelsea, are located in West London and have a mischievous foundation. Their owner, Roman Abramovich is known for speculative activities such as big budget transfers that don’t live up to expectation. Chelsea last won the Premier League two years ago and won the Champions League for the first time in 2012. But from the John Terry sex scandal to medic abuse allegations, Chelsea, like Arsenal, are never too far from the press.

Crystal Palace is South

“There is no room for contesting that football involves throwing the ball and touchdowns; it’s all about the Premier League here.”



Image - Ronnie Macdonald/flickr

London’s answer to a Premier League contender but is far from perfect. Finishing at a meagre 15th place in the season prior, The Eagles never cease to amaze onlookers with their ability to consistently finish low in the table with not too much going wrong. Quite fascinating.

Tottenham Hotspur, commonly referred to as Spurs, are much hated in the Premier League. It’s just a sad fact. The rivalry they have against Arsenal will never die out and will shock any football newbies. You won’t find very many people willing to say they’re Spurs fans; they hide away from the public eye. I don’t blame them. They are on the rise though, with England starlets such as Harry Kane and Dele Alli alluding to upset for other London fans in the near future.

Watford: included for being within the M25 ring road. They only re-entered the Premier League a couple seasons ago, and have some quality players, but just never gel together to form a cohesive offence against the league heavyweights.

West Ham fans are on top of the world. The London Stadium became their home this season, but unfortunately the home results haven’t quite lived up to the billing. Fans will also claim the World Cup victory is theirs because of Bobby Moore... bonkers, right?

It’s up to you to get involved with football politics at QMUL, just know this; football is universal and you’ll be respected for whatever club you support. Just don’t let it be Spurs... please.

JOIN AN OAR-SOME SPORT

Get to know Queen Mary’s Rowing club

Penny Mittonette



Image - Queen Mary University of London Boat Club

Queen Mary’s Rowing Club has been around for a while, since 1910 in fact.

We have a long and proud history as the one of Queen Mary’s most established clubs and have a heritage of

producing some of the finest oarsmen and women. Some of our rowers have even gone on to be Olympians, with two making up part of Sir Steve Redgrave’s gold medal winning crew in the 1986 Games in Los Angeles. However, in that 106-year history it is unsurprising that we, like the tide of the Thames, have had high and low times. Most notably and recently was a small incident that saw an amateur recreation of Titanic. That being said, our performance has not been hindered and we are moving upward once again thanks to our dedicated committee.

We take great pride in our club both on and off the water. Queen Mary’s success over the course of the past three seasons has been undeniable. Last year the Women’s First XIII won the Allom Cup 2015 in their

category as did the Men’s First VI. Both teams saw success in the annual race against King’s College Cambridge, with the women earning a clear victory. Our novices have also been impressive. They were placed a close second in the 2016 Novice Head, and placed third in Fresher Sprints 2015. This season has been no exception for success. Following a short period off the water, the Novice men returned to come first at Fresher Sprints 2016 in their category, with the women coming second in both of their races.

With great success comes great celebration. Our reputation precedes us when I say that we take our socialising as seriously as we take our training. From formal dinners, pre-race crew meals and pos race blow outs, we

cater to all social needs. After all, morale and unity are vital in performing as a crew.

Rowing is a unique sport. It is not easy to pick up a sport in university and become a professional by the end of their degree. Anyone can try their hand at it, there is no prerequisite. Your fitness, like your technique, can be improved. We train for competitions, both national and local, aiming to provide a platform to not only get fit but also to represent the university. We understand that it can be a demanding sport, which is why we have two teams of casual and competitive rowers. To get involved, ask to join our fresher page ‘QMULBC freshers 2016-17’, and get in contact with the Novice Captain.

SPORT

AIMING TO PLEASE

President of QM Archers tells you all about the exciting sport of archery

RUSHAN VELLANI

Whether on holiday or whilst flicking through videos of Rio 2016, chances are that you've probably been exposed to archery at some point. Recently, the adventures of Katniss Everdeen have certainly brought archery closer to the public eye. Whatever level of exposure you've had to the sport so far, Queen Mary Archers are here to help anyone wanting to take their next steps into this exciting and varied sport.

We all know the basics: big springy stick and string shoots smaller pointy stick. This is true, but there are a huge number of different bow and shooting styles that anyone can master. The type we teach to our beginners is known as "recurve". This gets its name from how the tips of the bow curve away from the archer. Some archers shoot this type of bow without any sights, learning instinctively where their shot will go (think Katniss!), while others

use Olympic style sights and stabilisers for pinpoint accuracy and the best scores possible. We even have archers who choose to use the traditional wooden bows and arrows, for the authentic historical experience.

While these are all technically different, the principles are the same: good form, patience and bucket loads of concentration. Whatever style calls to you, we guarantee that launching arrows into the air and hitting the target is a great feeling. Archery teaches you to be both independent and a team player; only you can make the shot, but the support from those around you makes the process easier and much more enjoyable.

Our recent successes at competitions from both our 'Novice' and 'Experienced' archers prove our commitment to getting our members competition-ready. All of our new archers have qualified for the BUCS national fixtures due later this semester and we

"Whatever level of exposure you've had to the sport so far, Queen Mary Archers are here to help anyone wanting to take their next steps into this exciting and varied sport."

are incredibly proud of their dedication and success.

Queen Mary Archers pride ourselves on accessibility. Anyone can come along and learn this wonderful sport, and hopefully ignite a lifelong passion. All the equipment needed to get you started is provided, including brand new bows and arrows. Plus, advice on what to buy is always available should you want to take archery further. We train on Tuesdays and Fridays,

9:00am to 12:00pm, in the QM Motion Sports Hall. The first session is free and a year's membership is only £28. Find us on Facebook by searching QM Archers. Come along and give it a go - you won't regret it.

Like to write about your sport club? Email sport@theprintnews.co.uk

Image - QM Archers



FOOTBALL MOURNS FOR CHAPECOENSE

After the tragic loss of the Chapecoense team, Alejandro Antonio Mantzalos Muñoz explains why football is more than just a game

ALEJANDRO ANTONIO MANTZALOS MUÑOZ

On 29th November 2016, the world was struck with the news that a plane carrying 81 people had crashed with only six survivors.

This plane was transporting Brazilian football team Chapecoense, who were travelling to their first domestic final in their 43-year history. They were a team who in just 7 years went from 4th division to the top, qualifying to the final of the 2016 Copa Sudamericana, the second most prestigious award in South American football.

As a fan of the game,

words cannot describe the immense impact this had in the footballing world. I can't help but imagine if this had been my team, Real Madrid. It is incomprehensible to understand how every Chapecoense fan feels.

The following words are from one fan out of countless: "It was at the age of five that I watched my first football game. It's been 16 years that I have been in love with the game, and it will be infinitely more. A game that truly brings out the very meaning of the word passion. Passion that drove me to run up and

down the street in Ayia Napa, wearing a Spanish flag, when Iniesta won the 2010 World Cup. The passion that spurred me to jump fully clothed into a swimming pool when Spain won the Euro 2012, and cry when Ramos equalised in the 2014 Champions League. It was, is and always will be

"It is incomprehensible to understand how every Chapecoense fan feels."

passion".

As the unfortunate news sinks in, many are wondering about the future of this humble team from Chapeco. Atletico Nacional, the team due to play Chapecoense in the Copa Sudamericana final, asked the South American Football Confederation to award the trophy to Chapecoense, which was granted on the 2nd December. The proceedings will be donated to the families of the deceased.

Elsewhere in Brazil, directors of Coritiba, Corinthians, Palmeiras, Portuguesa, Santos and Sao Paulo have all

pledged to help Chapecoense by loaning players for free, and have petitioned to the Brazilian FA to make sure the club are not relegated within the next three years. The directors said that "working together, we, club presidents of Brazilian football, wait for the club's return to compete in the highest competition of Brazilian football. When rivals come together in the aid of a common goal, no feat will ever be greater".

The rest of the world has reacted too. French football giants PSG have informed FIFA that they will donate £40million to Chapecoense. Other European clubs have

been rumoured to do the same.

In the wake of such sadness the footballing world has come together. With rivalries set aside and support offered from teams worldwide, Chapecoense have the glory they were destined for. Their fairy-tale rise ended in tragedy, but they will always be remembered. This wasn't just a club; this was a family. We remember Chapecoense as the fighters they were.

Football will always be more than just a game. Here's to the "Furacão do Oeste": may the champions rest in peace.

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