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THE PRINT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF QUEEN MARY STUDENTS' UNION

THEPRINTNEWS.CO.UK

MONDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2018 - ISSUE 22 - FREE

HIVE GETS £500K REFURBISHMENT

SPACE IN SU HUB PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS "A ZOO" UNDERGOES RENOVATION IN HOPE IT WILL EASE DEMAND FOR STUDY SPACE

GRACIE BROWNING & LIAM PAPE

Following years of requests and complaints, the Hive will now be used for Friday prayers to end the issue of overcrowding in the multi-faith rooms.

This is all part of the Hive's complete renovation which, when fully complete, will give the area a completely new look.

Initial decoration of the space occurred over the Christmas break and new furniture is set to arrive at the beginning of March.

Some are still skeptical about whether the new Hive will be a better space not only for studying, but also for increasing accessibility and usefulness.

QMSU President, Yasir Ye-ahia, recently spoke to The Print about some of what he considered to be the biggest changes in the Hive: "The right-hand side will feature movable furniture and a relaxed study area to accommodate for Friday prayers, whilst the left side will feature fitted furniture, including booths that can be booked for study, committee meetings or group work."

The suitability of the space for Friday prayers is, of course, a large theme. Yas mentioned how there have been petitions and demonstrations for the last six years to provide a more suitable and larger space for Friday prayers to take place. This will happen by moving the furniture in the Hive and splitting the right-hand section of the room with a concertina-style partition, similar to that in the Blomeley Rooms of the SU Hub. The organisation of this, along with the moving and replacement of the study furniture, is being organised with the Queen Mary Islamic Society.

Yas says: "The new space for Friday prayers is a huge success for the Student Union, considering around 500 partake in Friday prayers on the Mile End campus."

The Students' Union will be delivering communications on the timings of Friday prayers and when they will begin, which should occur in the next few weeks once a plan to safely move furniture and prepare the space has been implemented and agreed upon. For students who are not familiar with Friday prayers running times, Yas said this usually



takes place between around 12pm - 2.30pm. The Hive will not be accessible during this time or in the time before. However, it should reopen most Fridays at around 3pm.

Yas addressed concerns students might have about this. He said "There may be some confusion and misunderstanding" about using the space for prayers on Friday rather than allowing students

to study there as on other days; "we want to be fully inclusive and fully welcoming to all students... we recognise students come here not just to study".

The new furniture is due to arrive in early March, although this may be subject to change. Also to come will be tall tables along the front edge of the right-hand side of the room with plug sockets for students

Image: Blanca Gonzalez Alba who want to bring and charge their own devices.

There will additionally be fewer fixed computers in the Hive as many were found not to be working or were not used often enough. (cont. p2)

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

LIAM PAPE | @papermail7

editor@theprintnews.co.uk

Belated Happy New Year! Thank you for picking up Issue 22 of The Print – a decision I'm sure you won't regret.

Since our last issue, the Deputy Political Editor of HuffPost UK, Owen Bennett, came in to work with a handful of Print editors. Owen went through everything, from how to write different headlines for online, social media and print, to the very basics of putting a piece together and the formula he uses. He also looked through past newspapers and told us what he did and didn't like. Hopefully Owen's wisdom has rubbed off on the content in this issue.

Owen is just one of many journalists who will be coming into Queen Mary over

the next few months to work with The Print. Some are just working with editors whilst others have agreed to work with groups of contributors too. If an intimate masterclass from an industry professional sounds like something you would be interested in, ensure you join our contributors group on Facebook (just search it).

This issue of The Print is packed to the rafters with content. My personal highlights are the two pieces on the Time's Up movement on page 9. The piece by Alexia Kotsakis reflects on the 2018 women's march and accompanying piece by Flora Medford shines a light on lesser-known women's movements around the globe. On page 11, Lucy Sofroniou looks at the in-

triguing plans to pedestrianise half of Oxford Street and over the page from that are a selection of Blanca Gonzalez Alba's wonderful pictures from the London Lumiere. The full photo-essay from the Lumiere will be on the website in the coming days so keep your eyes peeled for that.

There will be a lot of content appearing on the website over the next few weeks which hasn't appeared in the newspaper. Not only will there be new episodes of The Print Podcast and the Mile End in a Minute news show, but there are lots of articles which we couldn't squeeze into this issue which we will be uploading for your pleasure very soon.

With that, happy reading!

“Contentment
is knowing
you’re right.
Happiness
is knowing
someone else is
wrong”
~ Bill Bailey

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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.



When you're done reading this, recycle it.



Above: Gracie, Yasir, and Liam discuss the Hive in the Hive | Image: Blanca Gonzalez Alba

(cont. from front) Students being able to plug in their own laptops in is deemed a more efficient use of space.

In the long-term future, Yas mentioned the possibility of portable laptops located in the Hive which could be 'borrowed' for use using a student ID card. However, these are currently just plans.

The funding for the Hive refurbishment came from Queen Mary's Estate and Strategy Boards, amongst other places. Through some "good fortune", according to Yas, the Students' Union were given some money for a redevelopment project. The Hive was seen as being most in need of this money; the space was being used very inefficiently and most students did not wish to spend time there, so they were given permission to use this money for a quick, but overdue renovation.

The final cost of the new-look Hive is unknown. However, a

£500,000 fund was approved and the SU are confident that it will remain within budget.

There was consensual agreement to hand over management of the space from the Library to the Students' Union. In terms of what this will mean for students using the Hive, Yas says that the only noticeable difference would be more advertisements, posters and logo branding, as well as

the SU coordinating the booking system of the space.

Overall, he described the project as one of the biggest successes regarding the time it took to be agreed, planned and carried out. The project also demonstrates the Students' Union's commitment to increasing available study areas and making campus a more enjoyable place for students to socialise and work.

Hive Usage Average - Second week of October 2017



Chart: The Print • Source: QMSU • Created with Datawrapper

Time of day

TWO YEAR DEGREES PROPOSED BY GOVERNMENT COULD SAVE STUDENTS UP TO £25,000

A GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION CURRENTLY IN MOTION WOULD SEE THE INTRODUCTION OF ACCELERATED DEGREES OF THE SAME QUALITY AS A TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE - BUT £5,500 CHEAPER

GRACIE BROWNING

Proposals were announced in December 2017 and the consultation is still ongoing - but if the plans are carried through, accelerated degrees would be quality-assured and hold the same value as a three-year course.

It has been estimated that if a student is on a starting salary of £19,000 a year earlier than they would be in a traditional degree, along with saving £5,500 in tuition fees, an accelerated degree could have the potential to save students up to £25,000. Savings for taxpayers from the scheme have also been discussed as shorter, cheaper degrees and higher rates of repayment would be expected.

These costs come from proposals for an increase in yearly tuition fees of up to 20% for shorter courses, but also a

reduced overall tuition cost per student of 20%. So while it will be cheaper per year to attend a traditional three-year course, overall costs (and overall living costs during the course) will be cheaper, benefiting those who are maybe less interested in the 'university experience' and more interested in completing their degree quickly and efficiently so that they can follow their desired career path.

Former Universities Minister, Jo Johnson, stated that "For too long we have been stuck with a system that has increasingly focused on offering only one way of benefiting from higher education, via the classic three year degree programme." This demonstrates the hopefulness of the proposals, aimed at increasing the availability and accessibility of higher education.

Professor Les Ebdon, Director of Fair Access to Higher Education, outlined the benefits that mature students could experience from the proposals: "Accelerated degrees are an attractive option for mature students who have missed out on the chance to go to university as a young person. Having often battled disadvantage, these students can thrive in higher education and I hope that now many more will be able to take up the life-changing opportunity to get a degree."

Gov UK's report of the consultation outlines the long-standing support and ideas for the introduction of such a scheme, noting that "there has been historic cross-party support for this policy, from Shirley Williams in the 1960s, to Labour spokesman Lord Stevenson, Roberta Blackman-Woods, Lord Liddle and Lord

Watson who all supported it in the passage of the Higher Education and Research Bill."

The courses are being trialled by some institutions on a small scale, in subjects such as Law, Accountancy and English, but for this consultation to be a success, a much wider range of courses need to be included.

However, some concerns have been raised over the proposals. Editorial Director for the Times Higher Education has tweeted looking for public thoughts on the £11,100 a year tuition fees for two-year accelerated degrees. In response, one person suggested that it is "perfect for a second degree for mature students however pretty grim for the 18-22 group developmentally." This demonstrates the concerns that could be raised over how young undergraduates

who opt for the scheme could miss out on vital time to develop, gain contacts and carry out internships. Moreover, the difficulties of adapting to university life would not be helped by the scheme. "This won't be sustainable," one person commented, "as the students will suffer higher levels of mental health issues."

Nevertheless, some do see the benefits of the shortened degree. "It is a very varied world out there" one response offered. "Whether we like it or not, some students just want, and sometimes just need, the parchment. And Universities don't have a monopoly on helping people become more socially and culturally aware."

The consultation will run until February 2018.

"WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT QM CONFESSIONS?" QM STUDENT COUNCIL DISCUSS THE ANONYMOUS FACEBOOK FORUM WITH OVER 10,000 USERS

LIAM PAPE

At the last Student Council meeting, the SU President led a discussion relating to QM Confessions and Council members' engagement with it.

Queen Mary Confessions (QMC) is a Facebook page with 2000 more likes than QMSU's page, where anyone can submit public posts via an anonymous form. The content ranges from people seeking advice and trying to hunt down the girl in fourth year dentistry with the "special eyes", to sexism, xenophobia, homophobia and outright bullying.

Members of Student Council called some of the comments posted on the page "disgusting and awful" and agreed that something should

be done. However, they acknowledged that there is not much that the university can do.

With the SU elections coming soon, one Student Council member declared, "stuff will be posted about candidates and when you see something about yourself online, you want to respond and defend yourself." However, Students' Union President, Yas Yeahia, worries that members of QMSU using the page only validates it.

It was suggested that, at the bare minimum, QMSU should publicly release a statement condemning the page.

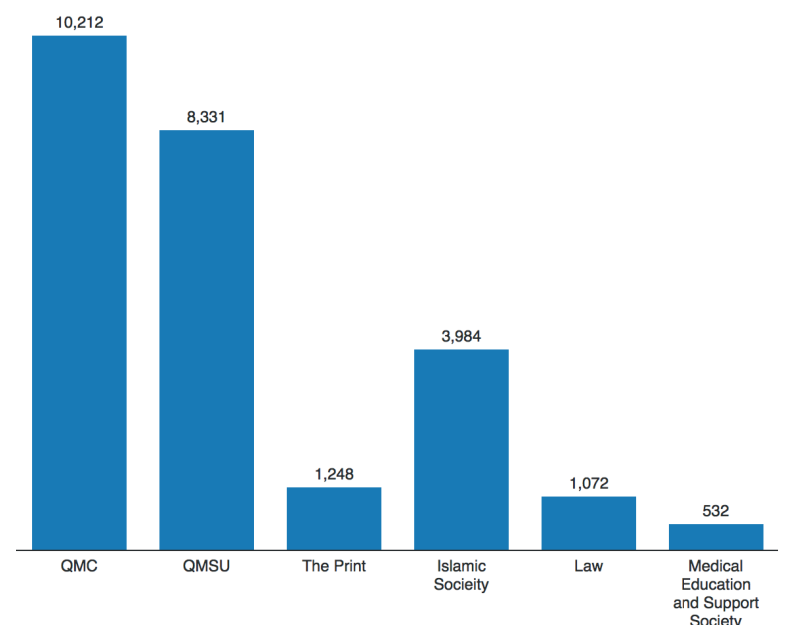
One Council member pointed out: "You [the SU] can't stop Student Council from responding on the page." Stu-

dent Council members regularly used the page to correct rumours or misinformation about Union matters.

Societies and student media outlets within the Union regularly use QMC to publicise events and internal position openings. It would be counterintuitive condemning the page if SU funded groups were still allowed to post on the page. Moreover, it would be impossible to enforce a ban of societies posting in the group because all posts are anonymous.

Even if the page was somehow shut down, it would only be a matter of days before another identical one would appear. As one Council member eloquently put it: "it is like trying to tackle the Hydra; new heads will keep appearing."

Facebook Likes



QM pages and three largest societies (membership) 2016-17

NEWS

THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE OFFICE FOR STUDENTS, EXPLAINED

AAMINAH AKRAM

The Office for Students comes into effect in April 2018. However, the new regulatory body for the higher education sector has been surrounded by nothing but controversy. The main issue was the appointment of journalist and director of the New Schools Network, Toby Young.

The Higher Education and Research Act of 2017 resulted in the emergence of a new body to regulate the higher education system of England. This regulatory body, the Office for Students (OfS), aims to regulate the rapid growth of new higher education providers such as Further Education colleges, which focus on vocational qualifications and private institutions. Currently, regulation of these institutions is divided into different bodies which is what the Government aims to change. Therefore, a crucial role of the OfS is to create a single body for all the higher education options available, creating a simplified alternative to the current regulations.

For students, the OfS intends to promote choice, highlighting all the possible routes for students aside from those conforming to the traditional university route. The OfS would also be involved in implementing any changes to tuition fees, introducing a university ranking system, and being involved heavily in relevant discussions such as issues of free speech on campus and the pay of university staff.

Even though this new regulatory body has not yet made any decisions, critics have made

their voices heard. Whilst a student panel has been established, the National Union of Students (NUS) has been kept apart for the new body, with no members being appointed into positions within the OfS. This raises questions on just how involved students will be in this new scheme. The greatest criticism, however, has come from the appointment of Toby Young as a non-executive director.

Young resigned just over a week after his appointment, after controversial tweets were discovered on his twitter account. Pamela Nash, the former Labour MP for Airdrie and Shotts claimed Young had a long history of misogynistic behaviour, as well as a disdain for working-class people. Lewd tweets, now deleted, once plagued his Twitter account. During a session of prime minister's questions in 2012, he tweeted: "Serious cleavage behind Ed Miliband's head. Anyone know who it belongs to?" Other tweets also focus on cleavage.

It was more than just tweets though: old columns Young had written in *The Spectator* resurfaced too. One which claimed a colleague left the sexual harassment policy on Young's desk following some "unsuccessful attempts at flirtatious banter." Young later hired a strippergram to surprise a male colleague on his birthday on what turned out to be Take Your Daughters to Work Day.

Despite the distasteful tweets and stories, the foreign secretary Boris Johnson called criticism of Young's appointment a 'ridiculous outcry' whilst

Michael Gove maintained his agreement over Young's appointment. However, questions should be asked on whether the correct measures were taken to ensure Toby Young was appropriate for the position.

Has Toby Young been a victim of the social media age where tweets made years ago can be used against you in future circumstances? Or has the use of social media uncovered the true nature of Toby Young and ensured an individual with such views was not appointed into a key position within the student regulatory body? Regardless of opinions, it is fair to suggest social media is becoming increasingly relevant in the political landscape, most notably seen with Donald Trump.

As already stated, Toby Young has since resigned from his position with the OfS. A Change.org petition demanding his resignation gathered more than 200,000 signatures and might have been one reason why Mr Young eventually resigned. Mr Young himself claimed he was stepping down from the position because his appointment had "become a distraction."

However, a day after Young's resignation, news broke in *London Student* and *Private Eye* saying that a eugenics conference held annually at University College London by an honorary professor was attended by Toby Young. *London Student* revealed that the conference was mainly attended by white supremacists with neo-Nazi links. Other speakers and attendees include a self-taught geneticist



Image: Hammersmith and Fulham Council / Flickr

who argues in favour of child rape. UCL is investigating the conference.

If this story broke whilst Mr Young was still involved with the OfS, the matter would have become more controversial and the OfS would have faced more criticism for his appointment.

Toby Young has since hit back in a piece for *The Spectator*, claiming he was at the UCL conference as a journalist researching information on the history of controversies provoked by intelligence researchers for a lecture he intends to give at the University of Montreal later this year. Furthermore, Mr Young

denied any wrongdoing.

Despite the resignation of Toby Young, controversy is still apparent within the OfS with some still outraged at how an individual who made such comments was deemed suitable for a position on the body.

Jo Johnson, the then-Minister of Universities has since been replaced by Sam Gyimah in the latest cabinet reshuffle. Is this a consequence of the Toby Young controversy? Mr Gyimah spoke with the Mile End Institute at Queen Mary, University of London on 18th January (full story on page 5).

"QUEEN MARY IS ONE OF THE BEST KEPT SECRETS", SAYS PRINCIPLE

COLIN BAILEY AND YASIR YEAHIA DISCUSSED WHY THEY SEE QUEEN MARY AS THE CENTRE OF LONDON



LIAM PAPE

"The University is the students" declared Professor Colin Bailey, Principle of Queen Mary University, during a discussion with Yas Yeahia, the Student Union President.

The two sat down for a video interview recently where they talked about a broad range of topics, including Queen Mary's role in the local community.

"Queen Mary is incredibly proud to be part of the east

end of London," said Professor Bailey. "But, there are a number of challenges when we look at the education, health and wellbeing, poverty, and inwards investment. This university can be key in driving the solutions forward."

Both Yeahia and Bailey praised student groups who not only work to make university life more enjoyable, but also the groups that connect with the local area. "The University needs to be porous", Professor Bailey continued, "It needs to let the local residents on to campus but also for our students to engage with the local

residents, and volunteering is one excellent example."

In terms of Queen Mary's place internationally, Professor Bailey said "this university can be classed as an anchor institution but we are also a gateway to the rest of the world." He added that Queen Mary currently has students from 162 countries and the backgrounds, traditions, and different cultures they bring are "absolutely fantastic."

"We are shaping society and the economy through our research and innovation. We need to get that message out

just to show how good this university is."

Both the SU President and the QM Principle agreed that both institutions work well together, with Yeahia claiming, "We have a really strong set of working relationships between the Students' Union and the University. By working in partnership, we are able to work on the zero tolerance campaign and tackling sexual harassment, bullying, and discrimination. It's a massive step in the right direction showing that solidarity within both sets of organisations."

NEW UNIVERSITIES MINISTER PROMISES REVIEW OF TUITION FEES

AFTER ONLY ONE WEEK IN THE JOB, SAM GYIMAH, SAYS HE RECOGNISES THE CHALLENGES STUDENTS FACE TODAY AND WANTS TO LISTEN TO STUDENTS IN ORDER TO SOLVE THEM

GRACIE BROWNING

Speaking to Professor Philip Cowley at the Mile End Institute in January, newly appointed Universities Minister, Sam Gyimah, said that there would be a review of University tuition fees.

Gyimah clarified that tuition fee reduction was not on the table as this would mostly benefit higher earners who end up paying less of their student loan back. However, he mentioned proposals for helping students financially without giving too much detail away. He talked about ideas, such as a freeze on fees and increasing the age students start paying their fees back from 21 to 25. Gyimah did not give a date for this review.

Teaching staff are also a focus of Gyimah's attention. He emphasised that he wishes to know more and hear more opinions before he decides on policy regarding universities in his new role.

Gyimah made clear his intentions to listen to students about what may help them financially. He expressed outrage at the idea that some accommodation requires students to pay a year upfront. Gyimah estimated accommodation in London cost students around £6000 a year, raising concerns that he does not fully realise the potential financial burden on students; this figure is much lower than the average cost for most London students.

Gyimah praised Queen Mary as 42% of our students are the

first in their family to attend university. He also commended Queen Mary's diversity of students as a whole.

When asked by an audience member about Oxbridge's low ethnic minority student population, Gyimah spoke of how they do not consciously discriminate but value excellence very highly. Rather than implementing quotas, Gyimah thought that teaching applicants the 'rules of the game' and preparing them for their applications is a better way to even out this issue.

the need to continue encouraging working class young people to continue with education, even if in apprenticeships rather than university. He recognised the need for other routes into careers for those who do not want to go to university, speaking of apprenticeships particularly fondly; a limit should not be put onto any young person's aspirations.

Social mobility was an important point for the minister, a theme that will probably continue throughout Gyimah's

"anything you put on social media you should be able to stand by in ten years' times"

Also mentioned were plans of a more formal tour of universities to allow him to hear from students.

A big issue of debate was the mental health of students. Gyimah discussed how the university experience could be the reason for increasing levels of mental health issues in the student population and wants this to be looked into and addressed. Within this, he mentioned the role of social media today and thinks social media companies should do more to take responsibility for the mental strain that they cause.

Gyimah spoke further about

time in this position. University, according to Gyimah, is no longer just a "privileged path," and the education system needs to cater for this.

Free speech was also discussed as Gyimah thinks the experience of attending University "should be an assault on the senses." He suggested new experiences and meeting people with different perspectives should be encouraged.

Within his priorities for universities policy, he stressed the need for "transparency" to allow students to have real choice, get value for their money, maximise the efficiency of contact time and to maximise job opportunities.



Images: Mile End Institute

Gyimah also wants to see universities specialising more and "focusing on outcomes," in particular, investment into science.

Women in science was a key area of interest which an audience member spoke up about. Gyimah responded by saying he recognises the need for an increase in female academics within the scientific field and that this will be an important aspect to be addressed. Gyimah also made it clear that he recognises the value of the arts and humanities and the need for continued research and development in all fields at universities.

When Professor Cowley asked what advice Gyimah may have for young people looking to work in a political career, he again mentioned social media, stating that if you want to work in politics, anything you put on social media you should be able to stand by in ten or fifteen years' time. Moreover, he mentioned not to look at someone and try to mimic their routes into political careers, but to find some issue you have a burning conviction about and to follow where it takes you, as there are endless routes into the field.

Gyimah mentioned how his mother was his role model and pushed him to further his education as much as possible, ending up at the University of Oxford with which he is still closely affiliated. He claimed that he and his family did not have more than a casual interest in current affairs when he was growing up, hence he did not really have political role models. However, he now admires Abraham Lincoln's ability to deliver for his country and Margaret Thatcher's strength of mind.

Overall, it seemed Gyimah provided a sensible and honest approach to his first visit to a university since his appointment as Universities Minister. He was open to opinion, suggestions and criticism. Although he did not claim to have an immediate solution to all student issues, he wants to build policy based on what students and staff think.

The full interview can be viewed on the QMUL Official YouTube channel.

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



NEWS

GOZO STUDENTS TO GET REPRESENTATION ON STUDENT COUNCIL

AAMINAH AKRAM

At the recent Student Council meeting, representatives and part-time officers discussed the representation of students at the Gozo campus.

Queen Mary's Gozo campus is located in sunny Malta and focuses on educating future medics with the same study programme offered here in London. However, Thomas Longbottom (BLSA Vice President Barts) had brought forward a motion to argue for the need for Gozo representatives in the Student Council.

Longbottom argued that while there was a Gozo President, Tara Fentiman, this role is currently a non-representative role. Longbottom explains,



Image: Berit Watkin / Flickr

it is increasingly difficult for officers in London to represent students in Malta.

Therefore, a motion was presented to place the Gozo President on the Student Council to ensure they have the opportunity to campaign and help make change within the Union.

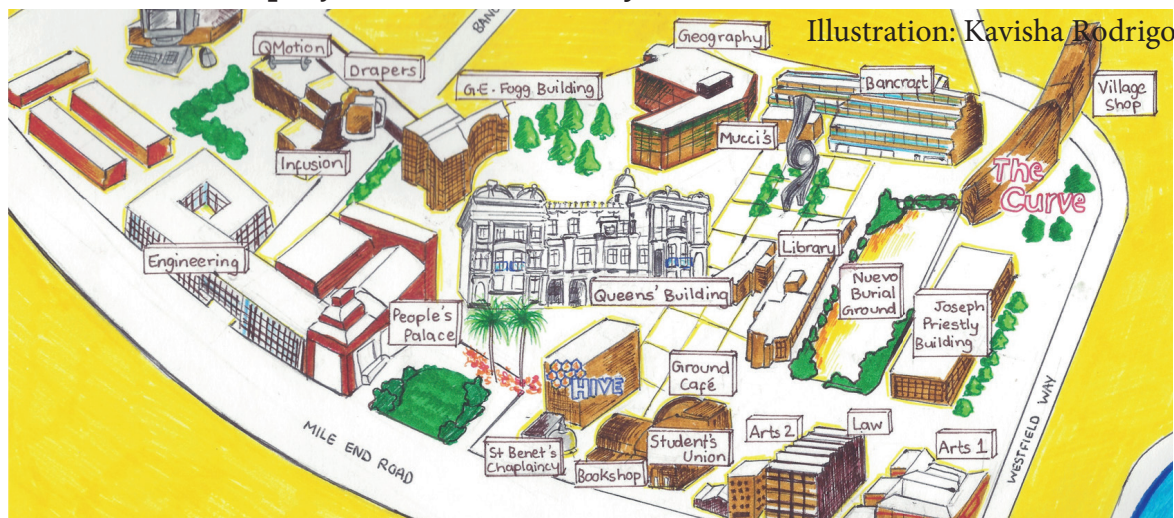
Members of the Council put forward their views, many agreeing with the motion. Opinions for the motion expressed a desire to ensure students in Gozo felt part of the Queen Mary identity despite their location and it was argued this motion would help Gozo students having a say in Union matters.

However, there was a minority who argued against the motion. One member of the Council suggested adding student representatives from Gozo would drastically unbalance the number of representatives from Mile End and Whitechapel. He went on to question whether it was right for the departments with fewer students to have more representation.

In the end, the motion passed with only three voting against it.

STATE OF THE UNION

A brief update regarding the activities and projects of Queen Mary Students' Union



Source: Student Council Meeting, 16 January 2018

SU President, Yasir Yeahia, announced that the refurbishments to the Hive building will be finished by February. The new décor will not only provide students with a modern and alternative workspace to the library, but also have more suitable acoustics to bring the noise levels down. Discussions were also held on possibly renaming the east Hive building. A popular suggestion was renaming the building after a notable and respected alumni.

Yas highlighted the commitment Queen Mary has to going greener with plans now being discussed regarding how to implement biodegradable straws rather than plastic ones around the University.

VP Barts and The London announced the petition to move the Rites of Passage ceremony to coincide with the Graduation cer-

emony had reached 1,200 signatures. This will allow graduates to celebrate both ceremonies on the same day. Rakin also announced a £30,000 grant to student sports clubs at Barts and The London.

The Vice President Education is launching the student experience survey and looking at digital resources across the university.

The Vice President Welfare aims to launch the mental health app, 'What's Up?' at Queen Mary. Still being trailed, if successful, students would have 24 hour access to the service allowing them to find information as well as seek support. The app would highlight the Union's desire to provide the most up to date and necessary help to students when it comes to mental health.

February is Asian heritage month and the Union will be holding many celebrations including events for Chinese New Year.

DONATION SCHEME TO BE EXPANDED TO WIDER STUDENT POPULATION

LIAM PAPE

At the Student Council meeting in January 2018, a motion was passed that would allow students to donate their unwanted items at the end of the academic year.

The motion entitled, "Students should donate unwanted items", proposed that students should be able to give their unwanted pots, pans, utensils, duvets and similar items to local charities.

The conversation at the meeting soon deviated to why the items should not just be donated to a place on campus where future freshers can purchase them at discounted prices instead (or get them for free).

Many Student Council members praised the idea, stating that it would be particularly beneficial to study-abroad

students. Only a handful realised that it is a scheme that already exists for study-abroad students.

If the Student Council plans went ahead, this would see an expansion of the scheme currently in place. The scheme allows study-abroad students to donate their unwanted items on 'drop off days' for future students coming from abroad to acquire at the SU's 'Re-Use Fair' free of charge.

Study-abroad students are also encouraged to donate their unwanted clothes to the British Heart Foundation at the end of term via the donation bins located around the Mile End campus.

However, The Print recently learnt that the plan to expand this scheme to all students was going ahead anyway, ir-

respective of the Student Council.

Montse Oliver, Sustainability Coordinator at QMSU said: "My aim is to have a much bigger scale of the campaign over the summer period and aim it at all Queen Mary students."

Erasmus+ Coordinator, Colleen Ann Jaycox, commented: "the donation system works really well for the international students when the switcher between the Autumn and Spring semester students occurs." Oliver added: "I set two collection days, but by the end of the first day all donations were gone."

The current system works well with the British Heart Foundation as there are some items, such as duvets and pillows, the British Heart Fo-

undation does not accept as they do not sell them in their shops.

In the Student Council meeting, there was vagueness regarding the execution of the motion in question. The proposer of the motion spoke about "a website or app where donated items could be sold at a reasonable price to new students", as well as "seeing if local charities could help with the initiative." However, none of this was mentioned in the actual wording of the motion. Regardless, the motion passed.

It is yet to be seen whether there will be any conflicts between the plans outlined in the motion, the plans discussed by Student Council, and the plans the SU already have. However, the Students' Union will go ahead with their in-

tentions, allowing all students to donate items for the use of future freshers. If students wish to donate their unwanted items to other charities, they can of course do so.

Oliver says: "The British Heart Foundation sometimes set up a fair on campus and sell things back to students at a very symbolic price that is still cheaper than buying stuff new, of course. But it is much better to get stuff completely free of charge through the Re-Use scheme."

It is clear that if the SU's scheme is to expand though, the Union needs to ensure that it is widely publicised and reaches all students; Student Council members were not even aware of the current programme or its plans to include all students.

ADVERT

20 NOMINATIONS 18

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,
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FEATURES

DECOLONISE QMUL: THE RAPIDLY GROWING SOCIETY AIMING TO INCITE TANGIBLE CHANGE

"IT'S DIFFICULT TO TALK ABOUT RACE AS SOMEONE HAS TO TAKE THE SHTICK AND ADMIT THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING WRONG" SAYS DR SADHVI DAR AT POC IN ACADEMIA EVENT

MAARIYAH DAWOOD AND ANNA MCKIBBIN

It is hard to believe that the Decolonise QMUL society only started last October. The society has already generated an impressive degree of student interest and been successfully working alongside departments to incite tangible change within Queen Mary. The Print recently sat down with the head of Decolonise QM, Nadia Yahya Hafedh, to discuss the origins of the group and what sets this society apart from the other societies on campus.

Nadia charts Decolonise QM to when she, Dushant Patel, and current SU president Yasir Yeahia were asked by a postgraduate researcher about their experiences as BME students in Queen Mary. It is only after they were asked to detail their experiences that these students realised they could use these building frustrations as motivation to seek real and lasting change in the university. Nadia and Yasir spent time starting conversations with the university while Dushant set up the Decolonise QM society. The society quickly snowballed from a few passionate students to a larger group of determined and eloquent committee members who have already seen encouraging changes to the curriculum.

Decolonise QM stands out from the average society. Rather than uniting students around a common interest, Decolonise unifies students

through the pursuit of diversity. Nadia admitted to not perceiving a discernible end-goal for the society – this is understandable as, practically speaking, true diversity is not easily attainable. Instead, the society is focused on taking noticeable steps in the desire to fight systemic oppression

“Decolonise unifies students through a pursuit of diversity”

within the university, this includes establishing a more diversified staff and curriculum.

Nadia repeatedly referenced the ‘insidious’ nature of racial inequality in our discussion, and expressed her frustration at higher education’s general unwillingness to tackle the ‘all-pervasive’ presence of racial inequality in society. She used the example of the university’s insistence on holding alcohol-fuelled official events despite the large numbers of Muslim students on campus as proof of the non-inclusive attitude of the university. Decolonise QM faces racial inequality head-on, endeavouring to encourage conversation between the staff and students. Through this conversation, the society wants to ensure that actions are made to establish Queen Mary as ‘a diverse and inclusive space both socially and academically’. Nadia wants to distance

herself from the ‘aggressive and divisive’ rhetoric typically associated with the term decolonise. Instead, she claims that Decolonise QM is an action-based, inclusive society which fundamentally resists ‘the narrative of living in a post-race society’.

When we asked her about the role of white people in a rightfully BME-focused society, Nadia reminded us that Decolonise is, as their official description says, a ‘society aiming to unite marginalised groups of all kinds (be that by gender, ethnicity, religion, disability or sexuality)’. Furthermore, Nadia argued that the systems which oppress people of colour are the systems which oppress all of us. Decolonise fights these structures of oppression by campaigning for a more inclusive curriculum. From Nadia’s perspective a more expansive academia which explores the full, contextualised history of colonialism, is a more rigorous and beneficial academia for everyone. With this hopefully more inclusive curriculum, students who have felt ostracized will feel heard and the neglected stories of people of colour will be effectively taught.

Nadia expressed her excitement to us about the prospective events Decolonise will be hosting. While there are many events yet to be publicised, Decolonise will be hosting department specific meetings for students to work alongside staff to diversify their teaching. Nadia admitted that it was still early days for Decolonise QM, but her enthusiasm for the society shone through her thought-provoking answers to our questions. Decolonise appears to be a hopeful movement in the midst of students’ general inability to change the status quo.

In speaking with The Print, Decolonise QM stated that “the purpose of Reclaim Our Space week was to make our presence known on campus through a variety of events which show what we’re trying to achieve, as well as engaging both students and staff to effect long term changes. Whilst we are fairly well known to staff, we wanted to engage more students to empower them to join us and have conversations in their schools with our help.”

Decolonise QM participated in a joint panel with QM Against Prevent on the Prevent strategy, the government’s counter-extremism strategy which critics say targets Muslim students and curtails academic expression. The society also held a discussion on the experience of people of colour

in academia. Dr Sadhvi Dar from the School of Business and Management, Geography lecturer Dr Azeezat Johnson, and Hesham Adelbary, PhD candidate in the Politics department spoke about the challenges they have come up against: “There’s a lack of interest in discussing academia as a space with borders of knowledge, where we choose what to bring into the classroom and what we leave out.”

The society is hoping to continue discussions and panels with different schools this year, by setting up meetings and working groups to tackle specific issues. Upcoming events include discussions with staff from the History and Languages, Linguistics and Film departments to discuss the diversity of the curriculum and the role of race and ethnicity in the academic environment.

“We’d encourage students to get in touch if they would like to have similar conversations in their schools, especially as staff are now more receptive to these discussions”.

Keep up with Decolonise QMUL by liking their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DecoloniseQMUL/>

or follow them on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DecoloniseQMUL>

TUTORING: THE IDEAL PART-TIME JOB FOR STUDENTS

FLORA MEDFORD

For most of us, working part-time at university is a necessary evil. With a student’s lack of experience, more often than not the jobs we are left with involve long hours, less than adequate pay and not particularly useful skills. However, last year, I discovered a job which does not require long hours, provides good pay and offers an individual useful qualifications; tutoring.

Whilst a few tutoring agencies will require some form of experience, many only ask for good grades in your GCSEs and A-levels. With most companies, the hours are flexible, so work as many or as few

as you want. As a private tutor, most students will want 1 hour of tuition a week, so you can pick up as many students as you feel you can cope with. One of the best perks of being a private tutor is the pay: you can get anything from £10 up to £30 an hour, depending on your experience and the subject you teach. Some companies also give



Image: iStock

you the freedom to teach how and what you want, so whilst making lesson plans can be stressful, having flexibility in what you teach is handy.

As for the useful skills you learn, the list is endless. In just over a year, tutoring has improved my organisational, timekeeping, leadership, and communication skills. Indeed, you will discover things you didn’t know about your own course: I’ve clarified theories I’m studying at an undergraduate level by teaching them in a simplified way to GCSE students. Above all, whilst it is a cliché, it has to be said that teaching is extremely rewarding. Private tutoring is parti-

cularly fulfilling, as you often have one-on-one sessions with students who actually want to be there, or at least understand that they need to be.

Despite the many benefits of tutoring, it does have its downsides. As opposed to working in hospitality or retail, tutoring is a big responsibility. A lot of tutees need you to take them through to their exams in their final year, so, more often than not, when you begin teaching a student, you’re in it for the long haul. This means that whilst you’re stressing over your own deadlines and essays, you’ve got the added weight of your tutees work hanging over you as well.

Also, be careful about which agency you pick: look at reviews and also research where your agency is based. I’m registered with an agency based in East London and I quickly had to start refusing to tutor students as there were so many that required GCSE English tuition in the area. However, I also work for a company based in Camden and struggle to find students close enough to where I live to make it worthwhile.

Ultimately I have really benefited and enjoyed my job as a tutor. I would encourage others to pursue, or at least consider, a part-time job in tutoring.

FEATURES

TIME'S UP FOR INEQUALITY: REFLECTIONS ON LONDON'S WOMEN'S MARCH 2018

ALEXIA KOTSAKIS

January 20th–21st, was the anniversary of the Women's March, a grassroots movement and a response to the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States in 2016. However, it wasn't contained in the US alone, and quickly became a worldwide movement against everything the President stood for. Passionate speeches by prominent figures advocated for equality for women, for the LGBTQ+, for immigration reform — but it also strayed from political agendas with a simple message: time's up.

It should be of no surprise when, on Sunday, the women and men of London took to the streets to support the Time's Up movement, which was pioneered by 300 women in various positions in Hollywood, including founding members

Reese Witherspoon, America Ferrera and Oprah (2020!). Its aim is to pour resources into a legal fund, acting as a tool for individuals that have experienced sexual harassment or assault and lack the means to bring legal action against their assailants.

Londoners have a long history of sticking up for their beliefs, and this march was no different. 2018 doesn't simply mark the second anniversary of the Women's March, it also marks 100 years since women received partial suffrage in the United Kingdom. That victory was paved with acts of violence against the protesters, their imprisonment, and with their actual lives. A century later, their fight echoed as the protesters gathered at Richmond Terrace, the crowd growing by the minute. Having had the

opportunity to attend, I was immediately surrounded by colourful and wittily written signs, my personal favourite "a woman's place is in the resistance", with Carrie Fisher's image looking down on the patriarchy. The sense of camaraderie was evident — a type of warmth flooded through the crowd despite the intense snow and cold that descended upon us. Women and men of all ages turned up to support a cause that honestly should have stopped being a cause years ago.

Amongst the notable speakers was Helen Pankhurst; Women's rights activist, CARE International and great granddaughter of Emmeline Pankhurst, the pioneer and leader of the Suffragettes in the 1900s. She confidently exclaimed that her great

grandmother would have been proud had she been able to see the march. Also present was Louise Raw, social historian who said "time is already up. It was up 2 minutes and 4000 years ago."

This year's march was centred on sexual assault, and contributed to the gathering momentum in the US over allegations such as the Harvey Weinstein case. When considering Clinton's loss in the presidential election, and how that resonates through the Time's Up movement, perhaps the legacy Clinton was meant to leave wasn't first female President of the United States. Maybe, hers was the spark that lit the fire — awakening another generation of strong women ready to fight for what they deserve. This time they are not seeking suffrage, they

are demanding fair governing, pay equality, they are reclaiming their time, they are calling out predators, and they are persistent in shaking off the narrative that they have to be lesser than men.

The need for equality advocated by the march has still a long way to go. The fact that 100 years have passed since partial suffrage should be celebrated, and we should honour the sacrifices made by those before us so we can stand here today and be able to march. But, it should also be a catalyst for the realisation that 100 years have passed, and relatively little progress has been done in equality for women. We must work harder, men and women together, to speed up the process. Let us not allow another century to go by that we are unequal.

TIME'S UP, AND HER LESSER-KNOWN HISPANIC COUNTERPARTS

FLORA MEDFORD

It is awards season in the movie industry, and the Hollywood publicity machine is officially in action. The press have been shrewd enough to highlight the current 'hot topic' which has engulfed movie stars and politicians alike: sexual assaults, harassment and inequality. Although it is an age-old issue, it is now grabbing headlines as the film industry prepares for the Oscars in February.

After last week's Golden Globes, by now you'll probably be familiar with the Time's Up campaign. Born of the Harvey Weinstein scandal and the #metoo movement, the Time's Up website tagline reads 'The clock has run out on sexual assault, harassment and inequality in the workplace. It's time to do something about it'. The unofficial (yet official) launch of the



Image: iStock

campaign was #whywewearblack, an act of solidarity in which all but three attendees of the award ceremony, were dressed in black and many sported Time's Up pins. As well as this, several celebrities brought with them female activists. Emma Watson walked the red carpet with Marai Larasi — the executive director of Imkaan, an organisation that campaigns against the violence against black, minority ethnic and refugee women. Similarly, Michelle Williams brought the founder of #metoo — Tarana Burke, who is also the senior director of Girls for Gender Equity.

In amongst all the social justice, feminism, and sisterhood, it is hard to ignore how suddenly these issues have come to the media forefront, in contrast to a few months ago when they were somewhat peripheral. Whilst my intention is not to undermine the cause, one has to acknowledge that the only reason these issues are such a hot topic is perhaps because they're set in the flashy world of Hollywood. In a recent interview with the BBC, Harvey Weinstein's former assistant, Zelda Perkins, succinctly put it: "The reason that this story has captured

"It seems the media only sits up and listens when it's a famous, beautiful, white woman telling them what the problem is."

everyone's imagination is because it involves glamorous, famous people; and because if you were trying to paint a fantasy monster, Harvey fits the bill perfectly, so it's the perfect media storm."

It seems that high-profile cases of famous women are the only ones that will sell to the public, and therefore the only stories worthy of airtime and public concern. Why is it that we only take notice of Ai-jen Poo, the director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance and co-director of the Caring Across Generations Campaign, when Meryl Streep is exhibiting her on the red carpet? Why, after 10 years of relentless campaigning, does

Tarana Burke's work only receive global recognition when Alyssa Milano brought #metoo to the world's attention? It seems the majority of the media only sits up and listens when it's a famous, beautiful, white woman telling them what the problem is.

Whilst we are moving in the right direction, we still have a long way to go with women's rights issues. I am still compelled to ask where the media attention is for equally, if not more, serious movements in Latin America. Movements such as Ni Una Menos (Not One Woman Less) or No Más (No More) are campaigns that fight against, and bring awareness to the high level of fe-

micides and acts of violence against women in Hispanic countries. In Ciudad Juárez alone, a city in northern Mexico, an estimated 1500 women and girls have disappeared since 1990. Although issues such as this are being tackled and are gaining recognition, these campaigns are up against government impunity and lack of recognition, funding, and general support. When the Cardinal of Guadalajara, a city seriously affected by these issues, is quoted saying 'The women themselves are the reason femicides happen', it is easy to determine the obstacles these women face. Whilst these issues do receive some media attention from mainly Hispanic companies, the Western media's lack of reporting on these problems needs to change.

The negativity I have expressed is subsided by the self-awareness many of these celebrities have. These women understand the magnitude of the platform they have, and they are utilising their media attention and social media presence to nudge the public's gaze in the right direction.

FEATURES

LIFE IN THE MEDICATION GENERATION: ANTIDEPRESSANTS IN THE MODERN AGE

THE PRINT QUESTIONS WHETHER DEPRESSION IS A SYMPTOM OF INDIVIDUAL BRAIN CHEMISTRY, OR IF OUR VERY SOCIETY MAY BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE

SOPHIE MITCHELL

At some point in life, whether it be in the nostalgic days of childhood, or the disorientating years of adolescence; we have all come into contact with the concept of depression. Historically, the mental health issue has been disregarded as melodrama, irrationality, or the product of a weak constitution. Today, although public understanding of mental health is improving, depression and related mental health issues are still proliferating throughout society at an unprecedented rate.

In 2015, approximately 61 million antidepressants were dispensed to people suffering from mental health issues in the UK. These drugs include SSRIs (Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors) and SNRIs (Serotonin and Noradrenaline Reuptake Inhibitors) – medications used to treat a range of mental health conditions from clinical depression and generalised anxiety disorder, to obsessive compulsive disorder and panic attacks. This amount of antidepressants taken by the UK in 2015 is double the figure that were taken in 2005, which stands at 31.6 million. This data from the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) te-

stifies to the fact that a serious issue faces our generation. Mental health is slowly but surely garnering the respect and attention it deserves – a psychological issue is no less impairing or painful than a physical ailment, and should be treated with equal attention. The NHS is responding continually to the increasing number of patients being diagnosed with depression, with the net cost of ingredients of antidepressants, before taking account of any money reclaimed by the NHS, reached nearly £285m in 2016. Approximately 9 out of 10 of all medicines are dispensed to patients that are eligible for free prescriptions, including older people and children.

But, is this drastic increase in antidepressant prescriptions due to the fact that methods of diagnosis and care are improving? Are medical opinions on depression and the brain changing, leading to increased diagnoses? Or, are the actual conditions of modern society to blame for the vastly rising amount of mental health issues in our generation?

Gillian Connor, head of policy at Rethink Mental Illness, states that: “The reasons for this increase in antidepressant

prescriptions could include a greater awareness of mental illness and more willingness to seek help. However, with our overstretched and underfunded mental health services, too often antidepressants are the only treatment available. One in 10 of us will experience depression at some point in our lives. What we want to see is people experiencing depression offered the full

“Mental health is slowly garnering the respect and attention it deserves”

range of treatments available, including talking therapies. People have to be able to access the treatment that is right for them, whether it's antidepressants, therapy or a combination of the two”.

Despite the sheer number of people suffering from depression in the UK, the cause of it still remains largely disputed. Many doctors state it to be a chemical imbalance in the brain, often spontaneous and produced by a natural lull in serotonin. However, this suggestion of a chemical misfiring characterises the brain as a kind of machine that has malfunctioned, manifesting in depression. Whilst this may (misleadingly) imply a pathological issue, many depression sufferers question whether the serotonin imbalance is spontaneous, or whether it is a psychological reaction to external stimuli in the outside world. Author Joann Hari, writing for The Guardian, reflects on his fourteen years taking antidepressants, and offers ‘the grief exception’ up for debate. This theory is used to link symptoms of severe distress, dissociation and depression to events in the outside world, such as losing a loved one, undergoing trauma or physical injury. When symptoms of depression occur in patients having experienced events such as these, ‘the grief exception’ characterises their symptoms as completely natural responses to stressful life scenarios.

Joann Hari asks ‘if you agree that the symptoms of depression are a logical and understandable response to one set of life circumstances – losing a loved one – might they not be an understandable response to other situations? What about if you lose your job? What if you are stuck in a job that you hate for the next 40 years? What about if you are alone and friendless?’. Here,

Hari poses the idea that some symptoms of modern day cases of depression may be instigated by environmental factors that can be changed, controlled, and altered for the betterment of the individual's mental health. Drawing from his own turbulent experience on medication, Hari emphasises that ‘between 65 and 80% of people on antidepressants are depressed again within a year’. This cyclical pattern, for Hari, suggests that alternative methods aside from medication may be necessary in tackling the prevalence of depression.

Between 2011 and 2012, a polling company named Gallup conducted the most detailed study to date in measuring how people feel about the most time consuming part of the day; their employment. Gallup's research found that 13% of people say they are “engaged” in their work – they find it meaningful and look forward to it. In contrast, 63% say they are “not engaged”, reportedly “sleepwalking through their workday”. Worryingly, nearly a quarter of respondents, 24%, said they were “actively disengaged” with their work life. In light of this research, and considering the high-pressure environment of academic study, office-jobs and city life, Hari identifies a lack of control as a major factor in the onset of depression. An innate trait of human nature is to feel that we have purpose, direction, and that we make a me-

aningful contribution to the world around us. If we spend the majority of our working hours disengaged in a job in which we have no control over – naturally, one would feel trapped, stressed, and perhaps depressed. The surmounting pressure of modern conditions of life perhaps call for an alteration of environment, rather than or in combination with antidepressant use. In doing

this, it is not only a chemical imbalance that will be addressed, but more importantly, a “power imbalance”.

Concluding his article, Hari makes a retrospective plea to his teenage self, who began taking antidepressants in his formative years, told by his doctor that his depression was due to a serotonin imbalance in the brain: ‘If you are depressed and anxious, you are not a machine with malfunctioning parts. You are a human being with unmet needs. The only real way out of our epidemic of despair is for all of us, together, to begin to meet those human needs – for deep connection, to the things that really matter in life’.

For more information, see these articles on antidepressant use in the UK:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/jul/05/antidepressant-prescriptions-in-england-double-in-a-decade>

<https://theguardian.com/society/2018/jan/07/is-everything-you-think-you-know-about-depression-wrong-johann-hari-lost-connections?>

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



Illustration: Kavisha Rodrigo

OXFORD STREET - LONDON'S NEW PEDESTRIANISED ZONE?

LUCY SOFRONIOU

When we think of a traffic-free Oxford Circus, our mind probably harks back to the time before cars dominated the streets. Today, the elusive sight of clear roads in the city is only encountered in the early hours. However, with plans in place to pedestrianise Oxford Circus by the end of this year, cars are set to become a distant memory on London's busiest street.

Plans to make Oxford Circus more shopper-friendly were unveiled in November 2017, with the first part of the revamp set to coincide with the introduction of the new Elizabethan line. The transformation, which is estimated to cost approximately £60 million, will see road levels raised to the same height as existing pavements. The proposal has been put forward in the hope of tackling and reducing accident, congestion and collision rates. And along with bringing clearer streets, there are hopes that the change

will heighten our chances of clearer air in the capital, answering the poor air quality concerns.

Oxford Street – officially named Europe's busiest shopping street – is said to contribute £7.6 billion to the UK economy. While many factors influenced the decision, the public experience is at the forefront of the change. Sadiq Khan spoke of the transition as “a hugely exciting moment for the capital”. He went on to say the following: “Oxford Street is world famous with millions of visitors every year, and in just over a year the iconic part of the street west of Oxford Circus could be transformed into a traffic-free pedestrian boulevard. Whether you're a local resident, a business or shop in some of the area's famous stores, our plans will make the area substantially cleaner and safer for everyone, creating one of the finest public spaces in the world.”



Image – iStock

In a public consultation last year, 60% of the 12,000 people involved supported the change. However, as is the case with radical changes, there are undoubtedly those who have met the proposal with disapproval. The Licensed Taxi Drivers Association criticised the move, arguing that the change will act as an inconvenience for passengers – in particular, disabled passengers. Uber, on the other hand, who have experienced their share of controversy in recent months have supported the move: “We share the mayor's commitment to ensuring the centre of London remains an attractive place for people to work, visit and spend their time – and that the whole city remains an area in which people want to live. We agree that traffic free areas can help meet this goal by encouraging more people to use public transport to access areas like Oxford Street, reducing the need for Londoners to drive their own vehicle into the area.” However, the benefits have not done much to

reassure residents of the area – particularly those within the Marylebone area – who are concerned about the effects that the rerouting of traffic will have. Passengers and residents have been reassured, however, that two routes that serve the area – bus numbers 139 and 390 – will be rerouted to run through Wigmore Street, Henrietta Place and Cavendish Square and that new taxi ranks will be introduced.

While the outcome remains uncertain, what remains clear is the struggle between whether we should accept Oxford Circus for its renowned charming and chaotic atmosphere or if we should adapt to what today demands of us. The plans that will transform the heart of the capital are set for completion by 2021.

A REVIEW OF BASQUIAT: BOOM FOR REAL

GABRIELLE AGYEI

When you think of the ‘exhibition’, certain stereotypes come to mind: a large room with whitewashed walls that hang traditional paintings from who-knows-when. Silence as people peer at the pieces with such intensity you're left wondering what you've missed in their brush strokes. You may be thinking something like this, but when it comes to the ‘exhibition’, the Barbican's Basquiat: Boom for real is the complete opposite.

Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960–1988) calls into question what we define as ‘art’. Many of us have come to associate it with realism; pretty sculptures and detailed paintings that make sense. They can be understood immediately and their meticulous attention to detail makes them beautiful, even grand. But what of artists who in some ways challenge this? Upon entering the exhibition space, I was immediately faced with this question. His pieces show no regard for such a limited thought process; bold lines and crude drawings that in instances reminisce childhood scribbles

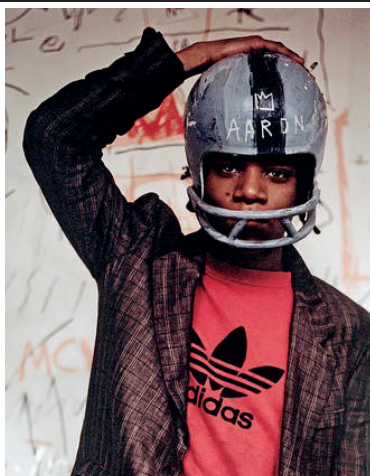


Image: Barbican.org.uk

confront you. It's brilliant and completely perplexing all at the same time, with his work seeming to express rather than explain.

The first room of the exhibition, ‘New York/New Wave’, houses a variety of pieces. From graffiti works to photography and large painted canvases one experiences a kind of sensory overload. For a minute I was left perplexed, not expecting to be thrown in so completely straight away. But that's the beauty of Basquiat's art, it's engulfing. Moving to ‘Canal Zone’, one is presented with collages and postcards that using bright pinks and

electric blues. Carefully cut out images are pasted against others, as well as interesting phrases to create dynamic and thought-provoking works of art.

One of the most notable rooms was ‘Warhol’ with Arm and Hammer II, 1984 leaving a lasting impression. Warhol has painted two large ‘Arm and Hammer’ logos onto a gold canvas. Basquiat has completely transformed one of them, painting a black saxophone musician over the image as well as crossing out the brand name. His use of strong reds, yellows, blues and the tone black against a gleaming gold backdrop is truly breathtaking. Just the rich use of colour alone left me standing in front of the painting unwilling to move. Warhol and Basquiat's styles completely contrast, and yet so unexpectedly tie together to form a striking piece of art. This piece was the product of collaboration and a real friendship. Standing there in front of that painting I felt myself smile a little. I was able to connect with it... his art made me feel.

There is something very human about Basquiat's works. They feel raw with their me-

ssy lines and unapologetic application of colours and materials. The pieces seem to move and flow, constantly changing as you look closer to reveal more detail. Works such as Ishtar, 1983 are perfect examples of this. The triptych uses vibrant blues, greens and hieroglyphics amongst figures, and on further inspection layers of photocopied drawings. There's this constant toying with images and mediums to create pieces that are almost overwhelming. They refuse to be ignored and this wild approach express a sense of freedom. This is what makes Basquiat's art, and the exhibition as a whole, so refreshing.

His work had been curated over 2 floors, and whilst walking to the upper level I was confronted with huge words forming the sentence ‘I never went to art school... I just looked.... that's where I think I learned about art by looking at it’. The breadth of his work speaks true to this as in all 14 rooms of the exhibition, various techniques and approaches could be found. Basquiat was not only painter, but played with media including poetry, music, graffiti and performance and each

room exhibited a little piece of this fluidity. As an artist Basquiat realised the need for experimentation. A sense of fearlessness and a disregard for boundaries are one of the many things to be taken away from the experience.

Even as a young artist, and having died so young at the age of 27, Basquiat's artwork speaks to the importance of truly living. Practicing during the 60's and 80's, a time of great racial prejudice (his mother was Puerto Rican and his father Haitian), he became one of the most notable artists of his time. To me, the exhibition expressed that life needs be lived in the same way Basquiat made his art: freely. Instead of trying to make sense of it all through the words of others, we must find our own language. One that makes sense to us, and gives us a voice.

The exhibition is showing from 21st September 2017 to 28th January 2018. You can find out more about the exhibition, and Basquiat, on the Barbican website: <https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2017/event/basquiat-boom-for-real>

FEATURES

LUMIERE ILLUMINATES LONDON

BLANCA GONZALEZ ALBA

Commissioned by the Mayor of London, this lighted-art exposition gives the opportunity for artists in the organizing charity, Artichoke, to expose their works all around central London.

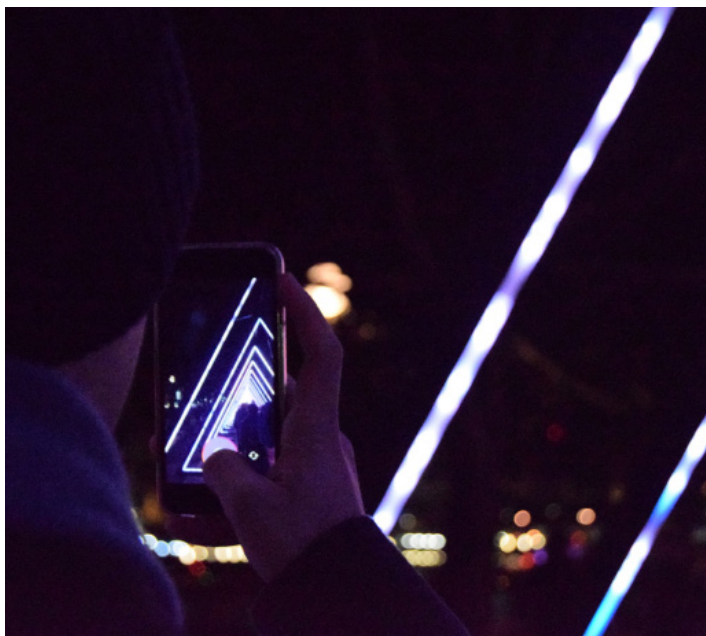
From Mayfair and Westminster, to King's Cross, South Bank and Waterloo, at 5.30pm on 18th January, the exhibition kicked off with a range of projections, neons, interactive pieces and illuminated sculptures.

I personally think this event is such a great idea because it is always good to promote art and make it available to everyone, and I believe this

Artichoke's project does both things very well. The only thing I feel upset about is the fact that it only lasts four days.

In any case, no matter how long this festival is, it will absolutely season London's streets once more, and, for people interested in photography like myself, it gives us the opportunity to let our camera play with the lights!

**All images thanks to
Blanca Gonzalez Alba**



ISLAMOPHOBIA AWARENESS:

A CYNICAL WEAPONISATION OF MUSLIM HARDSHIP

JACOB KISHERE

Last semester, as a part of new SU initiatives, Queen Mary saw an unprecedented roll out of events, panels, exhibitions, webpages and banners adorning library square promoting 'Islamophobia awareness month'. Undoubtedly the best organised and promoted SU initiative in recent years, it would be difficult not to reflect on the implications of this campaign and to what ends the current campus progressive agenda is serving.

Anti-Muslim hate crime has been on the rise in this country and rising further still. It is this dire trend that Islamophobia campaigns seek to redress, but the term 'Islamophobia' itself is far more problematic than initial assumptions. Appropriating from the language of psychiatry, it combines 'Islam' and 'phobia'; indicating

an irrational fear of Islam or Muslims. The consequence of this blurring of anti-Muslim bigotry, hatred of people, with critical stances toward Islam as a set of ideas has a number of implications. For one, it tars secular minded people everywhere alongside the worst kinds of bigots and racists imaginable. A product of the minority-majority paradigm of Muslims in the West and East, what constitutes paternalistic protection of minority feelings in one place indirectly supports the tyranny of the majority elsewhere.

With the effect of declaring skepticism of Islam in political life as bigotry, young progressives – proponents of Islamophobia are effectively selling out the people who should be their comrades. Those comrades are dissidents who stand for freedom of religion and expression both here

and across the Muslim world, and are silenced by the Islamophobia agenda. We may suppose too that secularists and atheists in Bangladesh who face the machetes of Islamist mobs with little more than pencils are guilty of Islamophobia. Ex-Muslims excommunicated from their families and communities, threatened with violence for vocalising a thoughtcrime are Islamophobes. Liberal Muslims standing for an Islam that reconciles with individual freedom and human rights, all too often labeled 'house Muslims', 'Uncle Tom's' and 'traitors' to their community, are Islamophobes. Feminists struggling under Islamic theocracy and everyday Muslims of Sunni, Shi'ite and Ahmadiyya denominations who suffer death at the hands of Islamic sectarianism may too fall foul. All of the above are at worst silenced and at best

swept under the rug by the prevailing politically charged 'Islamophobia' agenda. The opportunity to meet and break bread with many amiable fellow Muslim students during the month whilst pleasant and commendable in no way detracts from this issue.

Whilst in Britain many enjoy the luxury of blanket dismissal of such criticism under the meme of 'nothing to do with Islam' or 'that is not my Islam', they may well feel differently if they too lived under the lash of the Mullahs. Provided a vast number of voices both Muslim and non-Muslim standing against anti-Muslim bigotry and for greater Muslim representation, the choice of organisers to invite MEND onto campus was further questionable. This dubious organisation's current national head Azad Ali lost in British courts a libel case in which he

was accused of being "a hardline Islamic extremist who supports the killing of British and American soldiers in Iraq by fellow Muslims as justified." Besides vociferous opposition to all government anti-terror legislation and attempts to diminish any threat in Britain, they have advocated the demonisation of Tell MAMA, an NGO challenging anti-Muslim hate for their refusal to outright reject the PREVENT policy. Alongside this, they cast aspersions on liberal Muslims in the media, suggesting they could not really be considered Muslim.

We must come together and speak out against rising bitter communal strife and hatred of Muslims of all denominations in Britain today -- but in doing so, I for one will not be a lackey to the very Islamist and regressive elements which seek to divide us.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE:

IS GOING TO UNIVERSITY WORTH IT?

GEVITHA ANBARASU

For the past few weeks, I have been constantly asking myself if going to university was the right choice.

After leaving college, I noticed that everyone I knew or spoke to on a regular basis before, I now only speak to rarely. Even though I wish that I could speak to these friends more frequently, I realise that they are more concerned with their own lives to care about mine. Although those I have spoken to recently tell me how university is treating them well and that moving away from home was a good decision, they say that sometimes homesickness affects them. But all in all, they are having a wonderful time with their new-found freedom.

Upon speaking to my work colleagues, I have found that their only university highlight was the fact they could piss about for the first year and 'just about passing' was the ideal.

But was choosing to go to university worth it? When applying, I didn't research

options, such as apprenticeships, because I knew that if I wanted to reach my dream job, I would need a degree. Similarly, influences such as my friends and family made me understand that having a degree could put you on top of the job ladder. Ideally, that is

the main goal: to have a job. Yet, over time, I have met many people who are happy with their stages of life and haven't pursued higher education, obtained a degree or completed a course that they didn't really benefit from. So why are we adamant that university is the

only way to progress with life?

The stigma around pursuing higher education is pushed upon many students, telling us that if we needed to go far in the world, we need to pay the £9,000 and study harder than we have ever had to before –

"I knew that if I wanted to reach my dream job I would need a degree"

first class degrees aren't just handed out. However, I feel all students care more about what job they end up with at the end of the three years rather what they have learned.

Then, there is the other end of the spectrum. A daily routine consisting of a nine-to-five job that sucks all the emotions out of you. Every day you follow the same procedure and wish you were doing something you enjoyed. There's also the helpless feeling of unemployment, sitting at home wishing you had a plan B that didn't include a soul-sucking lifestyle.

My main doubt is: how important is it to go to university? Is it really all that we want it to be? Prior to my piece in the last issue about being a

student, it isn't always easy to be a university student. The assignments are too long and the readings are difficult. But are these minor struggles worth it when compared to sitting at home unemployed?

It's almost the end of my first year and even though I have felt these past few months have been quite good, I still wonder if I made the right decision. What about you?



Image: Blanca Gonzalez Alba

COMMENT: THE COLUMNS

KERRY'S CORNER

KERRY MAXWELL



The Brightest Blackout

Fashion and feminism? Well, we all knew I'd pipe up at some point!

Cynical opinions of 'Hollywood Fakery' and lazy protesting aside, I think it's fair to say that the 2018 Golden Globes was less of a fashion show, and more of a show of power. A tidal wave of 'Time's Up' pins washed across the red carpet in a sea of black – arguably the brightest blackout (literally) the gender equality movement has been splashed with so far.

It wasn't so much a question of "who are you wearing?" but more of a "who do you stand with?" It was less a competition of glamour and more of a stance of solidarity.

Perhaps Hollywood has done more in one night than Washington has done in a year, simply because it's reaching a new demographic, a new audience. The story of the past year, beginning with an inaugural speech of darker bile and greater bunk than any in my lifetime, has been the abdication and outsourcing of the moral authority that the presidency of the United States once had. And Hollywood, of all places, has picked up on it.

Actions speak louder than words, and whilst this was by no means a silent protest, the visual power of red carpet photography means that this multimedia protest will reach new levels of communicating powerful values and ideals. In an anxious moment of absent (I feel the term "shit" doesn't quite cover its full extent) leadership, Hollywood is now articulating the sorts of values that the bitter rich white men holding the reins of government won't do.

Both men and women talked diversity and gender equality. They put "hope" in our vocabulary. While these topics aren't exactly new to discussions, there has never been such a urgently resounding answer to the silence of the White House.

By no means is Hollywood perfect – time and time again it has proven to be anything but. However, what it did prove is that there is "a tomorrow of hope" (YES OPRAH, YES QUEEN!). Photographers didn't capture this season's hottest shoes, or what we'll all be wearing in Spring; rather they captured the paradoxical state of the USA entirely. It's upside down, inside out, back to front, from whichever angle you look at it from. There's make-believe in the home of politics. There's politics in the home of make-believe.

'Time's Up', Trump: better think quick.

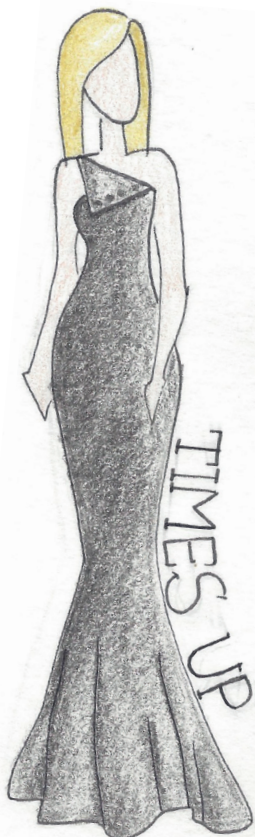
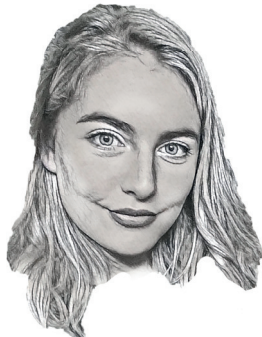


Illustration: Kavisha Rodrigo

MILLIE'S MUSINGS

MILLIE PRITCHARD



Getting through those winter blues

It has hit the time of the year that I honestly feel can be summed up perfectly in one word, 'slump.' The excitement of

Christmas and the New Year has died down, and we're all left in the debris of forgotten gym memberships and 'clean eating' cookbooks. A lot of us are longing for the sun to emerge to banish the cold and rainy weather away, (well, as much as it can be banished, with it being the UK). But for some of us, that longing is actually quite desperate, as the bad weather actually affects our mental wellbeing in a negative way.

According to the NHS, Seasonal Affective Disorder, more commonly known in the abbreviated form 'SAD', affects one in fifteen people in the UK between the months of September to April. This disorder causes people to experience major depression and/or anxiety during the colder months because of the lack of sunlight available in this period. If you're like me, and find the winter period rather oppressive, here are a list of things I've learned which may help you cope...

1. Get Outside in the Morning –

This may sound counterproductive, as well as impossible as the lack of sun is part of the reason for feeling low, but forcing yourself outside when the sun is rising (as long as it isn't being blocked by clouds) could give you an albeit small top up of the precious vitamin D we lack during the winter months.



Image - Almanac.com

2. Keep Mindful –

Introducing mindfulness into your daily routine with yoga and meditation is a sure-fire way to feel better. Yoga is something you could partake in from the comfort of your own home with YouTube videos. Or, there are many cheap classes in the local area, such as the 'Yoganest' located at St Margaret's House in Bethnal Green. Furthermore, there are many apps that you can download that offer free meditations, such as Headspace.

3. Cosy up Your Environment –

If the outside is making you feel horrendous, try and make your inside a bit more comforting. It is winter after all! Make the most of the weather by making yourself cosy. Warm blankets, bubble baths, rom-coms, candles, fairy lights – just try and make your environment nice in a way that might make you appreciate the cold that little bit more.

Hoping you all have a wonderful term ahead!

SUPPORT STRUCTURE

JACOB FINLAY



'Blue Monday?' More like Blue January

I didn't realise when I sat down today to write this article that it was a unique day. Having just come out of a month of holidays, it

seems strange that our society has marked out today (Monday the 15th of January, as I write this) as anything special. You may not have heard of 'Blue Monday' (at least not heard it used to refer to anything outside the New Order song), but for just over a decade now, the term has been used by media organisations as a way to generate advertising clicks by assessing the national mood. The term was first used by the psychologist Cliff Arnall in 2004 to refer to the third Monday of every January. This day usually features the highest number of people skiving off work every year, in what has been interpreted as a reflection of our national bleak mood. For people across the Western world, the promise of holiday cheer and the glow of New Year's resolutions have faded away. We are now faced with the coldest, shortest days, and being further away from both the next weekend and Summer holidays than we are at any other point in the week and year respectively.

"This day usually features the highest number of people skiving off work every year, in what has been interpreted as a reflection of our national bleak mood"

'Blue Monday' meant little to me: not because I was unaware of it, but because it felt no different to any other day this last few weeks. When you read this column, it won't be 'Blue Monday' anymore, but it might as well be. In fact, I'd go so far as to rename this whole month 'Blue January'. For the last two weeks, I've struggled to muster the will to get out of bed most mornings and face all the work I have to do. I have been procrastinating doing this column for almost a week now, much to my own frustration as somebody who promised themselves greater productivity as a new year's resolution just two weeks ago.

Nevertheless, I have got to the final paragraph now, and that sentiment is what I want to leave you with. In this month of Blue Mondays, it can be difficult to motivate yourself to work (especially after a Christmas that was for many of us filled with deadlines) and easy to guilt yourself for not doing any. But, that doesn't mean the work you do now isn't worthwhile or useful. In Blue January, getting anything done is a success.

COMMENT: THE COLUMNS

CAPTURING CULTURE

GABRIELLE AGYEI



Who are we?

In a London population of around 8.788 million, it may at times feel as if you're being swallowed up by the city. Home to such rich, diverse culture and a sense of constant movement, can the introvert really survive in such an environment? For years now, I've defined myself as the former. I'm not a fan of new large groups, I can barely manage public speaking and I have an affinity for diverting personal questions. I just took all these things as a given of the personality trait; in a way I felt not responsible for them. It's simply out of my control, I am simply an introvert.

After much consideration, I've come to an opinion that labelling oneself is potentially dangerous. First, how does one even measure or define personality? In my case, I seemed to pinpoint aspects that I considered to be dominant in specific situations. For example, my opposition to immediately open-up to others. For a long time, I found myself questioning this difficulty; why are some so effortlessly able to reveal all parts of themselves whilst I'm not? I've come to learn that such an abstract and complex concept can't be reduced to sometimes social unease.

If this is the case what is it that makes us, us? There's no concrete way to define personality and this is shown through the extensive research carried out on the subject. Such an emotional, varied and personal concept like 'personality' appears impossible to reduce to a clear-cut theory. In mathematics we learn that $a+b=c$. Everything has an equation, its precise and definitive whereas human emotion is not. It's messy and raw. Yes, biologically we can be explained, but when it comes to the core of what distinguishes us, our thoughts and feelings, things aren't so simple. The 20th century saw further development within the field, birthing two theories in response to this age-old question: Trait theory which defines our personalities through present and persisting behaviour patterns. And Social cognitive perspective that takes note of the links between behavioural traits and social contexts they occur in.

Thinking about personality in terms of 'traits' could be the most plausible way forward. After all people come to know us for our little quirks and re-occurring habits. I'm the friend you're bound to get a regular phone call from, whilst my sister is

renowned for her insistent lateness. These things may seem unimportant, but on a larger scale form the fundamental characteristics that sum up our personality. The theory also addresses behaviour within its context, understanding that it shifts under different circumstances. So, even in this way of measuring personality there's no concrete formula. The human response for the most part is instant and cannot be expected to be consistent. Here, personality is a thing subject to change and the theory aims to predict rather than define.

"Everything has an equation, it's precise and definitive whereas human emotion is not"

The Social cognitive perspective on 'personality' states that our behaviours are learned from those around us through observation and imitation, discussing how these interactions affect them. Ultimately, our environment has the largest impact on our behaviour; my taste in music and interest in literature and art all stem from it. Whilst we control the situations we put ourselves in, they are also what mould us. The theory more strongly argues that in some ways we are the products of our environments. It isn't just repeated behaviour that defines personality but also the social context these behaviours are performed in.

Personality isn't something that can be neatly placed; It's fluid and constantly evolving. Maybe the answer to this question is a culmination of everything discussed above. Our surroundings, the people we interact with and our responses all build who we are. Who's to say that one way of mapping 'personality' is more effective than another. In a world that's constantly evolving, and in a city like London that at times feels restless and unrelenting, there can be a need to 'define'. We have a desire to put things into tidy boxes and create a sense of order. It's convenient to categorise our responses as extroverted, introverted or any number of personality types because it's fuss free. However, in doing this we remove one of the best experiences as a human: Simply existing.

Image: Pexels



A RUBE WITH A VIEW

ALASDAIR DOW



Time is not up for our finest hour

As an unmistakably plump-formed and plummy-voiced descendant of the 1st Duke of Marlborough fills our cinemas with his imperishable oratory once more, this time in Joe Wright's much feted Darkest Hour, we relive the heroism of a bold and lonely defender of national sovereignty and representative democracy. The irresistible analogy aside, one might be forgiven for reliving something else instead. Might the summer of 1940 pre-meditate the summer of 2016? When historians come to reassess the defining moments in the story of modern Britain, the decision of Churchill's war cabinet to fight on in May, after not even a full year of war, in the teeth of France's imminent defeat and the desperate scuttle of the British Expeditionary Force through her northern parts will, no doubt, rightfully retain pre-eminence. Yet, the decision of the British electorate to leave the European Union after over forty years of membership of one form or other of the supranational club will not be far behind (that is, providing Britain actually leaves).

It goes without saying that the European Union is not Britain's 'enemy', and that it is in no way the moral or political analogue of Nazism. After all it exists, amongst other things, precisely to prevent another Third Reich, by concluding the tempestuous and near fatal courtship of Germany and France with a wedding to which the rest of Europe is cordially invited – even if some attendees have to pay more for their dinner. But, the parallel is instructive, at least in terms of explaining the vote in 2016. The viability of fundamental British institutions – our parliament, our legal system, our free civil society – was proven beyond doubt by the events which followed the fateful decision of May 1940. The notions of independence and self-government of which they are the foundation, were consequently never snuffed out of the British consciousness, to the constant and now seemingly ultimate bedevilment of Britain's participation in the project for European unity through supranational European government: the panacea for nations whose faith in such things could no longer be sustained after their dramatically different experiences of the 20th century.

In terms of the quality of the vote itself however, such reasoning is used more readily to demonstrate its anachronistic folly. Such ideas may well have proved sufficient to maintain the defense of a free Britain in 1940, but they no longer apply in the post-war world and in a 'globalised' economy. In the face of such argumentation, it seems timely to remind ourselves of the principles of 1940. The salvation of a dying and unnecessary, not to say unfree, empire aside, Britain stood then for limited government, free(er) global markets, the independence and self-determination of peoples under the auspices of international law and friendly political and strategic cooperation with the liberty-loving nations of the world. In 2016, plus ça change? Indeed, looking around the world today, one would struggle to itemise more concisely the necessities to success in the modern, globalised world. Europe is no longer tyrannised, and Britain is about to be released from what its historic defense of pre-eminently modern principles can accommodate.

COMMENT

LOGAN PAUL IS A PROBLEM. YOUTUBE IS A BIGGER ONE.

REBECCA BILLIS

A new year is symbolic of many things: fresh starts, new goals and reflection. However, I feel that 2018 has already demanded our consideration around an on-going and unavoidable issue: morality in the modern world, especially surrounding our ever-developing technology.

On the 31st December, a YouTube creator named Logan Paul uploaded a video to YouTube. The focal point of the footage was a dead man. The 'vlog' was a documentation of he and his friend's exploration around Japan's Suicide forest, Aokigahara, located on the northwestern base of Mount Fuji. Not only does this breach many of the website's censorship rules, but it also displayed a huge lapse in ethical judgement. Although only aged 21, Logan Paul's following is vast, reaching over 15,000,000 people, many of these being young teenagers.

I, like many, strongly disagree with Paul's actions. I believe that transforming another's suffering into video content is undoubtedly immoral. However, a larger issue stems beyond this single creator, and reveals the flaws in YouTube as both a platform and a company. Personally, the most shocking fact about this case was the video's promotion. The video was accessible for

over 24 hours, without any age restrictions and accumulating millions of views before Paul removed it himself. Not only was it available on the website, but it was actually featured on January 1st's trending page, thereby expanding its reach and revenue. It is estimated by analytical sources that through the use of adverts, the YouTuber may have earned over \$4,000 from this video alone. Consequently, this story represents a much

prioritise promotion to videos which keep viewers engaged for the longest watch time. The quality of the content becomes redundant and quantity reigns as the determining factor of a channel's success. Consequently, creators, such as Logan and Jake Paul, have to keep upping the shock factor of their videos in order to keep their expectant viewers engaged, making 'prank' videos which border more on manipulative than humorous.

"Whose duty is it to ensure that online content is age appropriate and morally conscious?"

larger question, one that incorporates (de)monetisation, censorship and content: what does it take win at YouTube?

The best place to begin is with the algorithms. These illusive computerised processes determine which channels and videos are promoted to viewers by evaluating their watching history. This is a seemingly harmless and efficient way to introduce new content and influencers to viewers. However, these systems are not fine-tuned; they

For example, Logan's 'FAKING MY OWN DEATH PRANK *crazy reaction!*' posted in March 2017. In this video, the YouTuber pretended to be violently murdered in front of some of his loyal subscribers, the 'logang', a group of pre-teens who were on the balcony opposite his apartment. Although received by his followers with laughs and smiles after releasing their idol was subjecting them to an elaborate scheme, videos like this raise the issue of responsibility. Whose duty is

it to ensure that online content is age appropriate and morally conscious? Is it the creator's? YouTube's? The government's? Or all three?

This clickbait method, shocking yet captivating, allows the loud and brash to succeed, leaving more nuanced or subtle creators unprompted. I'm not suggesting that this is universally the case. In fact, many large channels called out Paul's behaviour in the form of responsive videos, using the opportunity to prove that the online community cannot be defined by the actions of a few. Paul refers to the man's discovery in the video as 'a moment in YouTube history'. Nathan Zed, a YouTuber and clothing entrepreneur, responded to this by saying: 'You're sensationalising it. You're exploiting the end of this man's life just so you could have something interesting to post for that day'. It causes serious issues to become content, removing the sincerity and empathy required when approaching grave subjects, such as suicide. Put simply, it commodifies people. This egocentric attitude should not be celebrated, promoted and funded by large platforms, such as YouTube; it will continue to teach younger generations that others' sufferings, sincere experiences, cultures and histories are available sources of profit.

Some believe that Paul's behaviours have been overlooked by the company on account of him being their 'poster boy'. They have obviously pumped significant amounts of money into him as a brand and to publicly and justly punish his actions would not only be detrimental to his channel, but YouTube as a business. Although the company did release a statement, for many it was way too late. The response was formatted through a chain of tweets including the quote: 'We expect more of the creators who build their community on YouTube, as we're sure you do too. The channel violated our community guidelines, we acted accordingly, and we are looking at further consequences'.

In response, news YouTuber, Philip DeFranco, replied: 'YouTube, I am so tired of defending you. You are given one of the easiest situations, a singular, obvious, in-front-of-everyone situation. You acted accordingly... Is that in reference to you not removing the video, not age gating the video, doing nothing, letting the video stay on top trending ... which one of those things was YouTube acting accordingly?'. A question which many of us are left with, waiting and hoping that the worst predictions don't continue to play out before us.

WHO DO WE TURN TO IN A FAKE NEWS WORLD?

DANIELE ACCURSO

With Donald Trump spouting the term "fake news" during his Presidential campaign trail, the term has been used more and more frequently. However, this piece of jargon could also be argued to fit quite nicely with the current state of UK political media.

In an age where articles are biased to gain more opinionated readers or use "click-bait" headings, how can we trust the news anymore? Recently, the news broke that Arlene Foster, leader of the DUP, was dictating Brexit policy and controlling Theresa May. Honestly, what a load of old tosh. Foster was not controlling May; she rejected a theo-

retical Brexit deal as Northern Ireland, who voted to leave the European Union, would still be abiding by a majority of European Union policies, thus practically still in it! How is Foster, doing what was voted for by the people of Northern Ireland, "controlling" May? Even here at Queen Mary University, I spoke to one senior lecturer - who is a top professor I may add - about Jacob Rees-Mogg and had to correct the professor, as they were stating incorrect facts about a quote of his. How are we politically engaged students meant to continue our love of politics if we seemingly can't trust news outlets? Where are we meant to turn to for our information?

The BBC is one of the few unbiased commentators on affairs, even though they are accused of having far-left and far-right activists on debates and discussions who pontificate "fake news" 24/7. We live in a dangerous age where media, which was once trusted, is now being attacked by the public and other smaller organisations who state they hold the antidote to "fake news." Should we trust these more radical, smaller companies? Or do we continue listening to the elite broadcasters and journalists who many are now rejecting?



Illustration:
Kavisha Rodrigo

COMMENT

HAMMOND'S BUDGET SENDS A BOLD MESSAGE TO BRUSSELS

DANIELE ACCURSO

Philip Hammond, Chancellor of the Exchequer, broke a long-held political convention by announcing his budget in Winter 2017 rather than in the Spring. Yet, his budget sprung even more surprises. The removal of Stamp Duty for first-time buyers and the forecast of 600,000 new jobs by 2022 will raise eyebrows, with the consequences of Brexit still unknown.

But, it was the issue of Brexit which caught my eye. With all experts stating that a 'no deal' Brexit could be harmful for the British economy, this narrative plays into the Brussels executives' hands; they can argue that Britain should sign a Brexit deal which isn't on Britain's terms, as a 'no deal' Brexit could hurt us even more. An independent study authorised by London May-

or, Sadiq Khan, has suggested that 500,000 jobs could be lost if there is a 'no deal' Brexit. Hammond has fought back, however, making a bold statement that £3 billion had been set aside for a 'no deal' Brexit.

By setting aside this money, Hammond has shown Brussels that Britain won't be taken for a ride and are willing to leave the EU with no deal. This move has put the ball back in the EU's court: will Brussels now be more willing to accept British terms or will they continue their policy of negotiating on what they want?

No-one knows what's in store by the time we leave the EU by March 2019, and with Hammond's adventurous 'no deal' budget policy, it's certainly going to make the Brexit deal even more interesting.

100 WORD RANTS

CURATED BY KERRY MAXWELL

Has the world pissed you off recently? Fancy a bit of a moan? Then breathe your anonymous fire in our 100 Word Rant spread!

Winter Woes

This winter has been one long, continuous hurricane and I am beyond done with it. There are countless puddle-soaked socks and my poor shoes cannot take it anymore. It's cold and damp and everyone's ill and it makes me feel so sad. Bring back the sun and nice weather already!



Image: Flickr

Slang - nah, fam.

"Yo fam, we're gonna have a hellaaa lit party fam so bring, like, stuff. Yeah, yeah, no, we're gonna look at dank memes and Netflix and Chill for a while innit. Aight see ya then bois." Why do we talk like this? What is it about millennial culture that inspires us to spout such nonsensical vocabulary? The slang we use doesn't even make sense. What are "dank memes?" "Dank," according to the dictionary, means, "cold and moist"... but that's probably not what you want your "memes" — whatever those are — to be like, right? Maybe this is just another inexplicably generational thing. We can only hope it's not here to stay. LIT-erally.

Clubs

I have decided that I'm over clubbing. It's not the most enjoyable experience, is it? I can guarantee that you will all agree with me when I say there are more entertaining ways to spend my nights, which don't involve sweaty, sticky dancefloors and gin being poured all over your shoulder. Clubs are full of inconsiderate people who think that, because it's dark, they can do what they like. It's not an excuse for you to carelessly throw your half-filled plastic cup over my head, nor is it ok for you to pinch my arse. Give me a cosy night in any day!

Alarm Clocks

Doesn't waking up to the loud, ringing noise of an alarm clock every day make mornings miserable? It can be argued that alarm clocks were designed to annoy people — who wants to be startled awake by a buzz or a ring? People then have to adjust themselves out of their cozy blankets just to stop the whining noise that woke them from their dreams. There's even an alarm clock that has wheels, forcing the sleeper to get out of bed to retrieve it. Alarm clocks were designed to ruin people's mornings!



Image: Flickr

Mile End in a Minute

is a news show for the students of Queen Mary. It is a collaboration project between The Print and QMTV. The show is presented by new presenters each week, in different locations around East London. The only constant is that it is always a minute or less.



Watch the latest episode:
theprintnews.co.uk/video

Year Ends but Work Doesn't

Why do teachers still assign us work during the Christmas holidays? At this point in the school year, everyone is tired and burnt out, including both students and teachers. We think we can take a sigh of relief, but before we can even finish our exhale, teachers are already shoving more assignments and exams in our faces. We have zero energy — isn't that the point of a holiday? We do not want to do the work and I am almost certain that teachers do not want to grade it either. Why can't we just enjoy the holiday period?

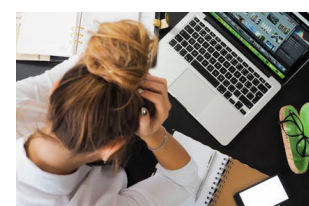


Image: Pexels

THE GUILLOTINE

HOROSCOPES

This issue we invited guest psychics Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid to reveal what is going on in your life right now.

Taurus

You're going through a tough break-up, but knowing yourself and knowing them, there's nothing you can do. Breaking up is never easy, but you just have to face it.

Gemini

Sometimes Gemini, you sound a bit desperate. Whenever anyone is all alone, you beg them to take a chance on you! We get it, you're still free.

Aries

So far in 2018, you've danced, you've jived... you're just having the time of your life! Some people think you're naive because you're young and sweet - you look only 17! But really, you're the true Dancing Queen.

Cancer

Being cheated on so many times must hurt so much. You need to make up your mind and bring it to an end. Look at yourself: are you ever going to learn? Stop losing control. Your Mum is your rock.

Leo

Leo, you waste so many emotions. You never used to be the jealous type. But now, every woman you see is a potential threat to you! Your possessive side isn't nice, cut it out.

Virgo

Money troubles just won't go away this month. You work all night and all day to pay your bills and there's still not a single penny left for yourself! You dream about getting yourself a wealthy man, but it's 2018 - you don't want to rely on a man!

Libra

Libra, you're getting lonely. You hate spending your evenings alone. Luckily, my powers tell me you're going to find a man, shortly after midnight. He'll chase your shadows away and bring you out of this darkness you're feeling.

Scorpio

You've met someone. They are very hot and they won't stop teasing you! Unfortunately, you'll soon find out they're way too young for you! Their parents probably don't even know they're out the house. Unlucky Scorpio. Legal age may be 16, but you don't want to look like a cougar/pimp now do you?

Sagittarius

You're stressing out about your History exam. You've got months left to revise anyway! Just remember the history book on your shelf is always repeating itself and don't forget Waterloo won the war. Don't be defeated, it's only an exam.

Capricorn

This month a big career opportunity is coming along but you have to take it now or you'll leave it! Now is all you get because there are no promises in the world of work so you don't want to have regrets! It's not even that big a decision, it's only a job.

Aquarius

Sometimes, Aquarius, you can be a bit of a dreamer. You use it as a coping mechanism. Believing in things like Angels and something good in everything you see just seems a bit naive. It's all just one big fantasy to help you through reality. Wake up and grow up.

Pisces

January has been filled with loss for you. You don't even want to talk about the things you're going through. You hurt but it's in the past now and you need to move on. They took it all and you're feeling so small but this is your destiny.

A LIBRARIAN'S LEGACY

In select issues we highlight tales of people from around QM. The subject of our story this month shall be Adam Bottleneck.

Adam grew up in a small house in a much smaller family. He lived only with his father, a sandwich statistician and his younger brother, Timmy. Unfortunately, his mother, a jam mulcher from Aberdeen, went missing 3 months before he was born. His father opened the door, exactly 3 months and one week after his beloved (yet slightly sticky) wife's disappearance, to a rather knobbly package placed on the doorstep. Adam's mother had mailed him 2nd class, it appeared from the Canary Islands, with the note "sorry, this should have arrived earlier but I couldn't afford priority shipping." And that was the last Adam heard from his mother for a long time.

Adam's town had only one school; in fact, it contained only one class! The teacher, a lovely elderly lady by the name of Griselda Huckstaby, would run a tombola at the start of the year to decide which level of teaching would be the syllabus that year. Because of this, Adam received four consecutive years of Grade 6 teaching, yet never completed Reception. It was perhaps because of this very odd education, that Adam was drawn to the structured life of being a librarian. His town, being very small (much like his house and his school), didn't have many books. Indeed, the only book Adam saw before he left for university was a copy of "A history of sandwiches and their statistics", as time passed down through his father's line, a line of proud sandwich statisticians. However, undeterred, he wished to be a librarian, so much so that he dreamed about the Dewey Decimal System at night, thinking of the day he'd finally leave his

small town life, tell his father that he wouldn't be going into the family sandwich business, and reach his lifelong goal.

His father, already distraught from losing his beloved wife, was on a knife edge. To add to this, the week before he learned that little Timmy, Adam's brother, had a gluten allergy. However, Adam was very persistent. When Adam's

Each librarian had their own trolley, with which to transport books to and from shelves. They realised Adam couldn't read pretty early on, and so his colleagues kindly placed Adam's face on his trolley, so he could recognise it. This brought Adam so much joy.

Adam left Mile End Library after a few years, following his father's death. As the



father gave him sandwiches to analyse to try get him interested in the trade, instead Adam would shelf them, organised by filling, and then width.

Finally his father acquiesced and allowed him to go to the University for Librarians. There were so many books in that university, that Adam was overwhelmed. He learnt all the different filing techniques, could work a reference system like a pro, and he received his first pair of glasses there, despite having 20/20 vision. After 3 years, Adam graduated from the university. And the fact he couldn't read even a word didn't come up once.

Straight out of university, Adam received a job at the Mile End Library at Queen Mary University. At first, he was disappointed by the small amount of space and books, but he learned to enjoy his time there greatly.

It was thus that we come to Adam's legacy: his trolley.

only member of the family that could effectively digest gluten, he was forced to take over his father's sandwich statistics business to support little Timmy through his jam mulching apprenticeship. He learned to love it however, and even started a family within his small town with his wife, Candice.

That was of course, before the nuclear apocalypse which decimated 98% of the earth's population.

Twenty years after that, an elderly woman, in search of fire materials, enters the wreck of the Mile End Library. She reaches the third floor, and decides to pile the books on an abandoned trolley. Looking down at its side, she sees a picture of a man. She picks it up with her sticky, sweet fingers and looks at the smiling man in the photograph. With a gasp, she whispers "£157.80, weight 2.9kg, 3 days guarantee, insured up to the cost of £1500."

JOIN THE ALT-MARY SOCIETY TODAY!

Do you walk through Whitechapel and think: "This is why I voted for Brexit"?

Do you often think the QM Confessions page needs to be more tolerant towards your views?
Have you at any point said: "You can't barrage the Farage" unironically?
Well, we have the society for you!

Join the Alt-Mary Society today, and find a place, other than 4-chan, which tolerates your opinions!

WOMEN WHO OD'D ON VITAMIN B TABLETS: "MY PEE WAS SO FLUORESCENT YOU COULD PAINT A LANDING ZONE WITH IT"

KATHERINE BUTTERFIELD

Reports have come in that a woman in the first-floor library toilets OD'd on Vitamin B tablets during the January exam period.

The woman apparently took Holland and Barrett's 'Complete Vitamin B' supplement during the first week of the semester. Whilst the recommended dose of the tablets is a stated 3 a day, the unnamed woman was seen early Thursday morning crunching down on twenty at a time. Unconfirmed reports have alleged she was also seen grinding the supplement and then snorting it through a rolled up 'Learning Cafe' loyalty card.

Vitamin B tablets have been sold as having tiredness and fatigue reducing effects. It appears the student was chugging down the supplements at the rate of a starved

rhinoceros because she hoped the attention-restoring affects would aid her revision.

Unfortunately, the only effect she felt was shock when she look down in the toilet bowl and was blinded by the sheer fluorescence of her urine. She became permanently blinded by the sight, and was found by fellow toilet-goers minutes later.

The urine itself was safely flushed by a government hazmat team wearing special protective eyewear called 'Ray Bans'.

QM staff have raised this incident in relation to their ongoing war on supplements. "Supplements will not help you study", said a representative of the university. "they ruin lives, break apart families, and cause death."

A LETTER OF SOLIDARITY TO TONY BLAIR

OLIVIA MESCE

Dear Tony,

My heart skipped a beat when you were trending on Twitter the other week. I got so scared that you had died (but also revelled in the idea that you would have a public funeral I could attend, to showcase on social media that centrist teens are alive and well). Instead, you had just been mouthing off Jeremy Corbyn on Radio 4.

Firstly, I had no idea so many people/anyone for that matter, listened to Radio 4. Spotify is literally £4.99 a month, are people really so tight? Secondly, if anyone is allowed to criticise a Labour leader its the guy who achieved that LANDSLIDE 1997 election win... I'm talking about you Tony.

You laugh in the face of anyone who says Corbyn's had a successful year, perhaps your standards are just that bit higher. I got so cross hearing Humphrys interrupt you. Does he not know who you are? A little respect wouldn't go amiss.

Facing the facts, Corbyn never did enough in the run up to the EU referendum. If you had been in charge (wow even typing that gave me goosebumps), I know you would've done the right thing, or at least turned to America and asked for them to decide, your favourite tactic.

If only everyone could stop banging on about that tiny little Iraq war, I mean it's been years! Then maybe you would get the credit you deserve. The fact he labelled you as sounding like a 'metropolitan elite' seemed utterly unfair too, you are elite in my eyes though Tony.

Lots of love,

A Centrist Teen. x

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR JACOB REES-MOGG

KATHERINE BUTTERFIELD

The opinionated MP Jacob Rees-Mogg is visiting our own dear Queen Mary on the 1st of February. We know thinking of questions yourself can be challenging task, so we've created some well thought-out and balanced questions for him. Here they are below:

- Would you abort baby Hitler, and if not: why do you hate the Jewish people?
- You've already got the old Tory don vote on lock from your anachronistic style of dress, your 19th century views on women's rights, and frankly ridiculous names of your children. To court the working class vote, would you consider calling your next offspring Vicky after the character from Little Britain?
- You have no problem filibustering the opposition's and private members' bills, seemingly just for fun. Given this precedent, it would be consi-

dered a personal inconsistency if you protested against me reading my 80,000 word Snarry fanfiction for the remainder of this event. *ahem* ...

- Scenario: you go back in time, and the only way to stop World War II is to gay marry Hitler. Would you do it, and if not; why do you hate the Jewish people?
- Have you ever even been inside a Nando's?
- If I told you "Nadia said you were peak", would you call that sentence an oxymoron, or say "it's actually nadir and zenith".
- When you found out Queen Mary is based in the East of London, you reconsidered your decision to speak, just a little bit, didn't you?



SATIRE

MELANIA TRUMP SHOWS OFF TALENTS AS FIRST LADY BY DESIGNING RUSTIC, 'EL-CHAPO INSPIRED' WHITE HOUSE ESCAPE TUNNEL

KATHERINE BUTTERFIELD

United States First Lady, Melania Trump, exhibited her little-known talent for architecture after her unfinished White House escape tunnel was discovered before the big reveal. The Secret Service discovered the tunnel late on Thursday, which we are told was exquisitely dug out by Barron and Melania Trump over the last six months.

Before becoming a model, Melania first began studying architecture at University in Slovenia – a fact unknown to most – before being scouted for her natural good looks. We've no doubt that her background in architecture definitely inspired this bold style choice!

An unnamed source has given us the hot goss on exactly how she pulled off what is sure to be this spring's hottest home-improvement trend. "She and Barron would sneak into the basement when the President retreated for his 6pm cheeseburger. She was usually pretty safe, as he'd become entranced with the pictures on the TV screens and lay dormant until morning. The entrance to the tunnel was hidden at the back of the White House bowling alley – right at the end of the lane. You had to hit a strike to trigger



Illustration: Kavisha Rodrigo

a mechanism. Really impressive stuff. Anyway, the tunnel stretched almost to the Chipotle on Massachusetts Avenue – that's about 2 miles covered!"

Unfortunately Melania was found out after Ivanka correctly deduced that the brown on her step mother's cheek wasn't just her usual Marc Jacobs O! Mega Bronze Perfect Tan Tantric bronzer (£35, Boots), but the mud from the previous night's tunnelling sesh! The surprise was ruined, and the Secret Service quickly found her late night hobby.

Fashionistas have praised not only Melania's strong show of independence in this move, but also the style of the tunnel itself. "This is clearly the late noughties inspired Mexicana motif" claimed one critic, "she's pulled off the rustic, escapee look with effortless charm, and I fully believe this could become a craze amongst suburban designers."

Another wrote, "she emerges from the tunnel, covered in dirt, and we see her brought screaming and struggling to the hands of her hubby – oh it's so mode".

In reply, one comment reads: "I'm definitely restyling my wardrobe to urchin Melania ASAP!"

LEAVE 2018 ALONE!

OLIVIA MESCE

Despite it being only January, 2018 has already had to take time off due to stress. The remarkable amounts of pressure are proving too much. I can already hear the third-year readers tutting and see them rolling their eyes as they question, for the 20th time today, how anyone can complain about stress when they have a dissertation to write.

Yet, it is our demands that have weighed down 2018 as social media has been littered with requests. "2018 better bring me success, money, happiness and true love!!!" said Sarah from Kent via Facebook. "Good riddance 2017, 2018 is gonna make my dreams come true, new year new me!" said John from Derby. Similar demands are being broadcast every minute, creating huge expectations of

"you're going to be just as lazy, unsociable and inadequate"

2018.

2018 spoke to The Print on New Year's Eve, when its stress levels were at its peak, explaining that it doesn't know how to fulfil all these desires, as it is simply a year, a new date on the calendar. A change.org petition has even been created to ban the phrase 'new year, new me'. (But as we all know, change.org is just a way for irritated snowflakes to feel like they're making a difference when in actual fact, nothing ever comes of them).

Furthermore, 2018 has been particularly concerned over

threats, such as "Watch out 2018!" from Alice, North London. Over at The Print, there isn't much we can do to help 2018 with their increased stress levels, other than to ask you readers to stop personifying a date on the calendar. Instead, why not take matters into your own hands and work hard for happiness and success, (not much you can do if you're unlucky in love, sorry). Let's all stop relying on a new year to miraculously transform our lives and face the cold hard truth: you're going to be just as lazy, unsociable and inadequate in 2018 as you were the year before.

WHAT KEEPS QM RUNNING?

KATHERINE BUTTERFIELD



Every week we poll QM students on a random question! This week, we asked students "what keeps Queen Mary running?" Here are some select answers:

- Caffeine addictions
- Student-teacher sexual tension
- A crippling fear of peer-measured failure
- The fact that King's College only has a limited amount of spaces
- A keen sense of masochism
- The very real need to get a job
- A long history of colonialism which has structurally privileged intellectual thought originating and taught in England

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WHAT WILL THE HOME OF THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

MILLIONS ALREADY HAVE SMART HOMES, WILL YOU?

JORGE GARCIA

Getting back home and finding your place at the perfect temperature. Having the garage door automatically open for your car. Reading in bed and being able to dim the lights with a few words. Waking up to the most-recent news and weather forecasts. Technology controlled homes are becoming as real as depicted in The Jetsons. This concept is called Smart Homes, and it was one of the hottest categories of tech at this year's Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas.

The use of these wireless sensor networks has exploded in the last few years, seeing most of the technology giants betting towards it with products such as Google Home, Amazon



Image: iStock

Echo, and Samsung SmartThings. These products enable users to have total control over their homes by connecting different Internet of Things (IoT) devices to their home network. The list of IoT devices from which the user can

pick is surprisingly broad, allowing the user to create tailor-made home set-ups.

These home networks are scalable – a very basic home

network can be upgraded and improved to the point of having an extremely complex and automated one. Allowing users to create advanced customized technological solutions for their homes and only needing basic technological knowledge is one of the features that make this topic so interesting.

Looking forward, the idea of connecting Smart Homes and creating larger networks arises from the potential what currently exists and their capacity to collect data. This data could benefit and optimize consumers lives if used properly. Together with many other data gathered by governments, Smart Homes is the tip of the iceberg that is Smart Cities, which aim to create

smarter energy infrastructures in the future.

Smart homes are an exciting prospect but it will be necessary to open up our lives to the companies behind them in order to take full advantage of this technology. Privacy and IoT devices are not always intertwined, particularly when these devices start to learn about our daily habits without us being aware of it. Making use of such devices means knowing and accepting that our habits, interests, and privacy data might be collected; which is something that may not sit well for many.

THE STRANGER TECHNOLOGY OF CES

THE WEIRD AND WACKY TECH SEEN AT THE CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW 2018

ALEXANDER RICHARDSON

The Consumer Electronics Show (CES) is held in Las Vegas every January and over 4000 companies attend to show off their experimental prototype technologies, which often are slated for public release within the following 12 months, alongside gimmicks built to grab people's attention, like a giant computer keyboard. However, a lot of the devices found at CES are just downright weird, so here is our list of the five strangest devices that were brought along this year.

A fan blade TVs

For years now it has been possible to display an image by having some LEDs taped to a wheel or a fan blade, but the Hypervsn display shown off at the show takes this concept to a new level. By having hundreds of LEDs per fan and carefully aligning them together, it is possible to create a display the size of a wall using this technology. The product is targeted at advertisers, which makes sense as it is certainly a head turning experience, but at a starting price of \$3000 per fan I doubt it will be appearing on Mile End road any time soon.

An airbag for your waist

Yes, you read that correctly. The Hip'Air is a fluorescent, hip mounted reusable airbag that is designed to activate if it detects you falling. With falls being the number one cause

of injuries for elderly people, the Hip'Air hopes to reduce that by absorbing up to 90% of the impact. In theory, this sounds like a great idea. But the Hip'Air is, however, very bulky and unlikely to be concealable, so its appeal amongst the public is likely to be small.

Especially after they've read the \$800 price tag...

Sony's intelligent robotic dog

Some readers may remember AIBO, a series of robot dogs released by Sony between 1999 and 2005, that were marketed for domestic use. At the time, they were the most advanced consumer robotics available, but massive breakthroughs have been made in the world of robotics in the last 13 years. AIBO has, however, returned with upgraded sensors, motors and artificial intelligence. The use of AI will allow AIBO to learn from its surroundings and develop its personality, but the monthly subscription required for this learning will likely reduce its adoption rate.

Kodak's entry to cryptocurrency

Apart from being surprised that Kodak was still in busi-

ness, there is much to be confused by with Kodak's venture into the cryptocurrency world. Not wanting to miss another digital revolution, Kodak is releasing the KODAKCoin, a blockchain backed cryptocurrency based on Ethereum. The coin is designed to be used to

protect the intellectual property of photographers and make the licensing of photographs much easier, although these could just be excuses to jump on the cryptocurrency bandwagon. As a result of this announcement Kodak's stock price rose by 90%, although how long this will last remains to be seen.

A smart bathroom

"Hey Alexa, turn on the shower." Bathroom manufacturer Kohler has developed an Alexa-enabled bathroom, allowing you to use voice commands to turn on the shower, control water temperature or even to flush the toilet. You can also create personalised presets to simplify the experience, handy for those early mornings. The whole idea sounds rather creepy... but who knows, in 20 years time this could well be the norm.

"The whole idea sounds rather creepy ... but this could be the norm"

QM LINGUIST PROFESSOR LINKS YODA'S LANGUAGE TO HAWAIIAN

COURTNEY WYNTER



Image: iStock

While little is known about Yoda's background, a linguist from QMUL has discovered that the popular Star Wars character's language is closely connected to the tropical island of Hawaii.

David Adger, a linguistics professor at Queen Mary, has applied linguistic principles used by humans to understand the language of Yoda, known as 'Yodish'.

Previous research in linguistics has found that when we learn a new language, we use the rules of our native language to help us acquire the new one. This process is referred to as 'Transfer' and according to Professor Adger, Yoda "[transfers] his native language when he speaks English".

"Everyone knows Yoda sort of talks backwards", Professor Adger says. "When I say 'Luke is strong with the Force', 'Luke' is what linguists call the subject of the sentence and 'strong' is part of the predicate. When Yoda says the same thing, he puts that part of the predicate first, so he says 'Strong Luke is with the Force!'".

The rule of putting the predicate before the subject is a distinct feature of Hawaiian, which Professor Adger uses to suggest Yoda's native language is Hawaiian.

"So now we know, if Yoda ever came to Earth, he'd probably spend Christmas in Honolulu!"

SOCIETIES

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR VISITS QUEEN MARY

EMMA KEELEY

The Jewish and Israel Society at Queen Mary invited the current Ambassador of Israel, Mark Regev, to the UK to speak at a hushed event on Monday 27th November.

The event took the form of a discussion, with Professor Eric Heinze of the Law Department leading and inviting the audience to put forward any questions on a topic of their choice. Themes ranged from the greater Palestinian question, growing Israeli relations with neighbouring Arab states and the subject of Lebanon as a satellite state.

It took place in the ArtsTwo Lecture Theatre amid tight security. The location was revealed only three hours before the event, bags were kept in a separate room and no electronic devices were permitted. This is likely due to previous occasions on university campuses, where visits by Israeli officials have sparked unrest.

The discussion kicked off with Professor Heinze asking a few questions to set the stage. His focus seemed to be to avoid questions which dove head-first into the biggest controversies, possibly to allow the audience to draw inspiration from his questions to

push further into the debate. Unsurprisingly, it became a theme within this discussion for the Ambassador to refute all claims against Israel, such as the one that Israel is racist, or that some Israeli actions have been less than morally righteous.

“being so convinced that one’s own point of view is correct blinds one to how other points of view arise”

The Ambassador often responded in a convoluted manner. At times, this helped put the question into context and enhanced the point he was attempting to make. Yet at others, it left the audience confused as to where he stood on a particular issue. This was arguably a tactic to pull the audience away from more polarising subjects which could spark a more heated debate.

Professor Heinze continued by

asking about possible distinctions between laws of equal opportunity, regardless of ethnicity on paper, and when they are implemented in real life. Regev was adamant that Arab-Israelis play an active role in society, as do Christian-Arabs. He notably omit-

ted Palestinian-Arabs, and when pressed to comment on their place in society, Regev instead turned a slightly (but fundamentally) changed question back to the audience: “Why have Palestinians refused to agree to Partition Plans since 29th November 1947?”. This diverted attention from the question of race and sparked the next part of the conversation.

Equally present was the theme of blame and the importance

of avoiding the placement of blame on one nation or event. Regev particularly highlighted throughout the discussion how wrong it was for countries, such as Lebanon, to claim that their status as a young state is the root of their current problems, or even to place full blame on the UN for creating “lappy resolutions”. He cited resolution 1701 as an example of an idealistic resolution that failed to go to completion. Paradoxically, Regev himself was unequivocally blaming someone for the majority of the ongoing conflict in the area: Palestinians.

When asked about Israeli settlements and lack of agreement regarding the Israeli-Palestine question, Regev firmly reiterated that this was due to the governing body of Palestine. He represents the Israeli government’s view that the lack of solution in the region is completely due to Palestine’s refusal to compromise in a Partition Plan. Placing blame entirely on the other side exemplifies a double standard regarding the placement of blame by Regev. But what else should be expected when two groups are at war and one side is asked whose fault it is?

Throughout the discussion,

Regev was quick to answer, forever ready to fire against criticism and defend his country in all situations – with one crucial exception. The final question of the evening was: “Why does Israeli right on the land supersede that of Palestine?”. The first moment of silence of the evening, and when the answer came, it was vague and, as expected, in the form of a question. “Are the Jewish people entitled to self-determination? Is the Israeli state recognised by its neighbours?”. Whether or not this was all Ambassador Regev had to say, or if it answered the question at hand, this was where the discussion was closed off due to time constraints.

Ultimately, this discussion taught me one thing above any other: being so convinced that one’s own point of view is correct blinds one to how other points of view arise. Mark Regev was a calm and composed figure for the duration of the event and answered questions as a true diplomat, putting Israel above other states. However, he ventures one step further by refusing to admit there is at least one other valid point of view regarding many issues discussed at this event.

QMUL LINKS SOCIETY: WE LEARN TO SAVE LIVES, WOULD YOU?

Let’s be honest.. humans. We all just love attracting trouble, but what happens when trouble gets to you? Well, we’ve got you covered! QMUL LINKS is a unique combination of a very dynamic Mile End based society, and a St. John Ambulance (SJA) operational first aid unit. As part of the nation’s leading first aid charity and as a society, we believe that everyone who needs first aid should be able to receive it from those around them, and that no one should suffer for the lack of trained first aiders. Together, we aim to help teach the student community vital skills that could one day genuinely save someone’s life (or help another university student who has had one too many to drink).

Through several events, including our weekly Wednesday sessions, and our inventive fundraising events (e.g CPR-athons), we make learning first aid as fun as it gets! QMUL LINKS teaches our members all sorts of aspects of first aid, from executing CPR and using AEDs, to treating burns (for all you accident-prone cooks

out there), we cover all the basics that anyone could find useful (especially university students). Everyone can agree that lectures are more than enough of an exceptional learning experience here in QMUL, so to spice things up, we plan some of our sessions... a little differently. Watch out for zombie night, special guest speakers and maybe even a surprise appearance of an SJA ambulance right here in Mile End! (Hopefully for the right reasons...).

For our keen, dedicated members who want to take the extra step there is also the possibility of joining the unit, where students are able to volunteer for SJA as qualified event first aiders. In this role you’ll be given the opportunity to contribute at a variety of events including football matches, marathons, fireworks displays and all sorts of other events, big or small. Volunteering for SJA is a great opportunity to put your skills into action (pro tip: just make sure you’re not too quick to assume that it’ll be a “quiet” duty).

SJA volunteers have the



opportunity to take on a wide-range of extra training, becoming radio controllers or even trainers themselves. Additionally, if you’re super, super extra, with enough hard work and experience, first aiders will have the choice to get even more training to qualify as an advanced first aider! From there one can join the ranks of the ambulance crews or even the cycle response unit! So, who knows? You might be driving one of SJA’s very own ambulances one day!

But of course, as university students, not everything we do is first aid (or is it?). We have plenty of socials scattered throughout the year such as our annual laser tag events, curry night and who can forget our post-session hangouts at Spoons! We even have joint socials with other LINKS units from other universities around London.

So truth be told, we’re a pretty cool society. Not only do we share our ways of handling the intoxicated and the sick, but we also try our best to be

the difference between a life lost and a life saved.

So find us on the QMSU page (<https://www.qmsu.org/groups/stjohnambulance/>) Join us in our Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7704508222/> or search for QMUL LINKS) And to learn more about SJA, check out their Youtube channel! (<https://www.youtube.com/user/stjohnambulance>)

Learn how to save a life, join QMUL LINKS!

BRACE YOURSELF: JAW-DROPPING NEW DENTAL MAGAZINE LAUNCHES

"BRUSH YOUR TEETH TWICE A DAY," SAYS EDITOR

LIAM PAPE

A new dental magazine edited by students at the Barts and London recently published its first issue.

'The Dental Mirror', edited by James Coughlan, has features on the fizzy drink tax and dental contract reform, as well as satirical content.

Editor-in-Chief, James Coughlan, launched the magazine because he believes that there is a demand for a dentistry magazine at BL. "The dentistry degree is very focused and prescriptive, with only a small amount of scope to study areas that particularly interest you, so we felt that there was a niche to be filled by giving people an outlet to explore things they find fascinating", James told The Print.

Initial feedback suggests that 'The Dental Mirror' is going down well with non-dental students also. James thinks this is down to their coverage of topics which affects the wider student population, such as whether to give HPV vaccines to boys, as well as issues surrounding gender equality, economics, and politics.

With the first issue boasting a circulation of 200, the team of three editors, six writers, and two designers, are very proud of what they have created. Coughlan said, "Starting from scratch with a small team meant that we had to not only learn how to do everything from the finances to the graphic design, but also recruit writers, illustrators and designers. We took longer than we had originally hoped

for, but we wanted to make sure the first issue was a really high quality, and I think we succeeded in that respect!"

As well as creating a magazine, the editors also realised that they needed to create an identity; defining styles of writing and design choices. James is thankful for the dedicated team, as well as the support of Christine and Aisha at the Students' Union who helped them overcome issues in the creation process.

The cover of the first issue has a striking red background and a large blurb with the headline "Pulled out of the EU" accompanied by an image depicting a tooth with the union flag on it being pulled out by a pair of pliers.

"As well as creating a magazine, the editors needed to create an identity"

"The front cover is something that I am really chuffed about," James declared, "Henry Vowles (who designed the logo) and Nadia Nateghian (who did the illustration) made it look amazing."

Copies of issue 1 can be found on both the Whitechapel and Mile End campus as well as the dental hospital waiting area.

You can like The Dental Mirror on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thedentalmirror/>

THEATRE SOCIETY CELEBRATES SHAKESPEARE

DANIELLA HARRISON



Although April is widely considered as the month of Shakespeare – due to this being the month he both was born and died in – February is the month which Queen Mary Theatre Company dedicates to the Bard.

Putting on eight performance festivals a year, including taking shows to the world-renowned Edinburgh Fringe, and boasting over 200 members, Queen Mary Theatre Company (QMTc) is Queen Mary's largest society dedicated to creating and celebrating quality theatre. Every year, the company produce a festival of work which is inspired by William Shakespeare, but this

year, we're doing things a little differently.

In addition to producing our usual pair of fantastic productions, we are collaborating with Queen Mary Shakespeare Society to host some fantastic events which tie into the festival, including a talk and film screening. Shakespeare Society is currently in its second year, and specialises in events related to Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Just this year, they've taken a trip to the Globe, hosted a talk about Hamlet, and performed a sell-out production of The Taming of the Shrew.

So – what's coming up? Well, to kick off the month's events,

we have a social which not only launches the festival, but welcomes back old members as well as new. Whether you're an associate student, someone who wasn't involved last semester, or an avid fan of Shakespeare, this is the perfect opportunity to come along, meet the societies, and find out what else is happening this semester. Of course, the night will involve drinks and nibbles, followed by a good old boogie at Monday's Calling if you so wish. Full details are TBC!

Next up, the ShakeSoc are hosting a film screening of the 2012 production of Twelfth Night starring Stephen Fry in the Alfred Hitchcock Cinema on the 1st of February. Following this, both societies are collaborating on a Platform event (7th February) which sees directors of QMTc's productions discussing their approach to Shakespeare and his relevance within theatre today. The discussion aims to be an open one and encourages everyone to participate if they so wish. As well as talks, there will be film clips and scene readings to make for an informed and entertaining discussion.

On the 9th of February both societies join together for an evening of revels in the Pinter

Studio for the second 'Night of Mechanicals' event. The event has anyone who would like to come forward as directors staging a short scene from Shakespeare on the night with a group of actors (again, chosen from those who attend the evening) in a short space of time. The event was highly successful and great fun last year, and is a great way to meet people or try your hand at directing if you've never done so before!

Of course, the big finale of the month are the performances themselves. Taking place over the 17th and 18th of February, audience members will see two fantastic productions: Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, directed by second-year student Rachel Jermy, and *Don Lear*, directed by third years Eloina Haines and Chris Field. Both performances are set to be brilliant, bold, and a celebration of the theatrical afterlife of Shakespeare, as neither of the productions are Shakespeare's original texts.

In addition to this, for the first time in recent QMTc history, we have commissioned three live art pieces. These pieces will be less theatrically traditional, and stretch the boundaries of what can be considered

of a performance in some way, as well as using Shakespeare as a stimulus in some way. 'Becoming the Witch', created by Will Reid, is a dance/physical theatre piece which explores the image of Lady Macbeth; 'I am the Man?', created by Joseph Winer in collaboration with the performers, is a piece which explores the idea of mistaken identity situations in Shakespeare in a world in which the social construct of gender does not exist. Finally, 'Elsignored' is an audio tour and human exhibition which explores the cultural memory of Hamlet, and is created by Jasmine Bullock, Emily Redpath, and Daniella Harrison.

As you have read, there are loads of exciting events and performances taking place over the course of the month, and we welcome anyone and everyone to join in – whether that be to participate in platform event, direct a short scene, or to simply be an attentive audience member. We are really looking forward to all of these events, and can't wait to meet everyone!

For more details of the QMTc/QMS Shakespeare Festival, visit our website for details: www.qmtc.co.uk

SOCIETIES AND SPORT

QM YOGA SOCIETY: NAMA-SLAY

STEPH BECKER

The QM Yoga Society was created in January 2017, but has found its feet this academic year. We recently elected a new committee, and are working hard to bring exciting events to all our members! Our society is open to everyone, from beginners to the more experienced yogi, and yoga is something that you can continue throughout life.

Yoga is a great way to exercise, improve flexibility and to embrace mindfulness – as well as make friends. There are so many reasons to start practising yoga – it can even help to relieve stress when you're bogged down with deadlines and exams!

We run weekly classes on a Wednesday afternoon which are free for our members and

are run by our president, who is a qualified yoga instructor. In addition to classes, frequent workshops can assist you in working towards goals such as the splits and headstands, no matter how far off they may seem! We also hold regular socials and events, such as our recent collaboration social with the QM Vegetarian and Vegan Society at 90 Degree Melt.

Monthly excursions to a variety of yoga activities are available at a discounted price, and have recently included activities such as Anti-Gravity Yoga and Hotpod Yoga! January's monthly excursion is Disco Yoga – the chance to take part in a yoga session with a live DJ, glitter station and a cocktail or mocktail after all the hard work!

We are currently organising our first yoga retreat abroad, set to take place in June, and give our members the chance to extend their practice and enjoy some much-needed time on the beach.

If you'd like to be part of the #yogang, we'll be holding taster sessions on the 24th January. You can also look up our society page on the QMSU website, and keep up to date with us on our Facebook and Instagram pages!

QMSU Society Page: <https://www.qmsu.org/groups/qmulyoga/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/qmulyoga/>
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/qm_yogasoc/



WHAT TO DO ON A SATURDAY

DANIELE ACCURSO



'What To Do On A Saturday' aims to provide you with information of where to go so planning a day out is one less worry for you. So, sit back and relax – hopefully your monthly footballing fix will be sorted with my help.

Welcome back everyone! Let me firstly say well done to all of us getting through another term at uni, especially those in first year. Before the Christmas break, I wrote about visiting West Ham United; both fixtures were cracking games, including a 94th minute in the West Brom match.

However, this month I'm recommending that we leave the East London setting and go across this magnificent city to West London. No it's not Chelsea (you'll be lucky to ever get a ticket). Rather it's

their local rivals, Fulham FC.

A quaint little club along the Putney river, Fulham are a club which ooze class. Having found themselves in England's second tier for a number of seasons now, it is Slaviša Jokanović job to guide The Cottagers to the promised land. Last season's semi-final defeat in the playoffs were tough to take but the SW6 club seem to be back with a vengeance.

A slow start to the campaign had many questioning whether another top seven finish was possible. Recently however, the squad have their "mojo" back. Highly rated youngster Ryan Sessegnon has found returned to form; 2 goals and 1 assist against Ipswich a few weeks back has again made him a target for many top English sides. Seasoned pros Stefan Johansen and Tom Cairney have also been contributing to goals in a side which has a realistic chance of a top-seven finish minimum.

Games coming up

3rd February 3.00 KO vs Nottingham Forest
17th February 3.00KO vs Aston Villa

Fulham currently 8th, Villa sit in 4th whilst Forest languish down in 15th. At the time of writing this, before their

FULHAM FC

home fixture against Burton and away match to Barnsley, "The Whites" are currently 5 unbeaten and should be looking to extend it to 7 with two winnable games coming up. So, the Aston Villa fixture will mean even more as both sides look to cement themselves in those precious play-off places.

Seats and prices

When I have been to Craven Cottage, I have sat in the Johnny Haynes stand; the seats are wooden which bides into the rustic, family feel surrounding the club but legroom is on the sparse side unfortunately. As Craven Cottage is a fairly small ground, the view from any of the stands is pretty spectacular. If you want to sit next to the away fans, you can sit in the Putney End stand, a 18-21 year old ticket is £25.00. In the Johnny Haynes stand the price varies

between £25.00-£35.00 for 18-21 year olds whilst in the Hammersmith End Stand and Riverside Stand the tickets are priced at £25.00.

Travelling to the game

From the Fulham FC website – "The closest station to Craven Cottage, Putney Bridge is approximately a 10 – 20 min walk from the stadium. Exit the station, turn left and follow the road (Ranelagh Gardens). Walk through the underpass into Bishops Park. Follow the path through Bishops Park, along the river until you reach the stadium".

From Mile End, take the Hammersmith Line via Wimbledon and you will arrive at Putney Bridge without having to make any changes. This tube journey will take you around 40 minutes.

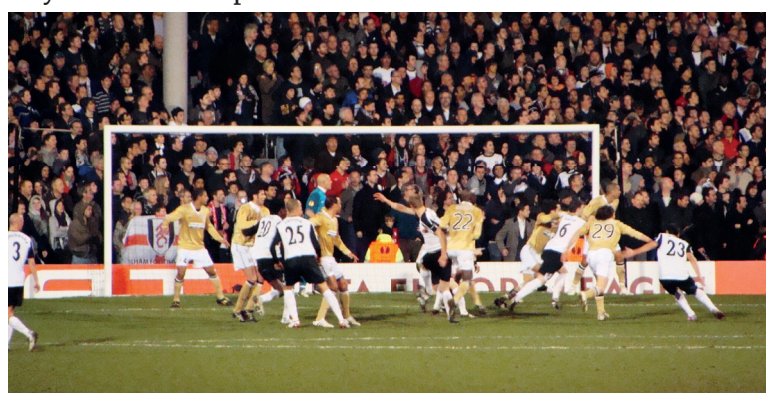


Image: Wikimedia Commons

SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT:
EQUALITY IN
LEADERSHIP

The Equality in Leadership society passionately strives towards making an impact in the creation of an equal workplace for everyone. This society promotes gender equality in workplaces, as well as equal opportunities for minority ethnic groups, the LGBT+ community and others suffering from unequal access to opportunities. The President, Kajal Kandeth, has dedicated herself this year "to build on the society's great work in the past towards building a fairer, more equal workplace. With QM being such a diverse environment, we want to see this reflected in our group."

Equality in Leadership believes that the root issue of inequality lies in the lack of fruitful discussion on the topic and by stimulating such discussion, the society hopes to make a positive impact across Queen Mary. As a society, we encourage dialogue and work relentlessly towards creating a more equal workplace through the various activities and events hosted throughout the year. This includes the annual workshops held with Gwyn Day and giving members top-class advice on how to secure vacation schemes and training contracts. EiL also fundraised alongside UNICEF in a recent bake sale. Throughout the year, the society plans to host various events including: panel events, coffee discussion sessions and much more!