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STUDENT MEDIA OUTLET OF THE YEAR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF QUEEN MARY STUDENTS' UNION

THE PRINT

THEPRINTNEWS.CO.UK

MONDAY 30TH APRIL 2018 - ISSUE 24 - FREE

"I PROMISE I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN"

RECORD-BREAKING TURNOUT AS AHMED MAHBUB DECLARED PRESIDENT OF QMSU

GRACIE BROWNING & LIAM PAPE

Following weeks of campaigning, current VP Welfare Ahmed Mahbub was announced as the next President of QMSU on 9th March 2018 at the election results party in Drapers. Starting August 2018, he will be working alongside newly elected Ella Harvey (VP Welfare), Tom Longbottom (VP Barts and the London), Redwan Shahid (VP Education), and 48 new members of Student Council.

Turnout reached 21.6% this year. This was down from last year's 26.3%, but votes cast were higher, with 5,475 compared to last year's 5,160. This is due to the student population at Queen Mary growing.

Ahmed won on the sixth round of voting, narrowly defeating Lewis Williams, Nadia Hafedh, Rakin Choudhury, and Silvano Guadagni.

Ahmed's election came days after the Jewish and Israel Society issued an official apology to Ahmed after multiple accusations of anti-Semitism.

In a statement released on Facebook on 5th March, the society accused Ahmed of retweeting and sharing posts that they believed were anti-Semitic. The statement was accompanied by three screenshots. Two were posts shared on Facebook whilst another



'Bald is Gold': Mahbub speaking to The Print during an interview in March. Watch at www.theprintnews.co.uk

was a tweet from the official page of the VP Welfare.

The original statement from the Jewish and Israel Society has now been deleted and replaced by another stating: "After carefully considering the evidence again, we have decided that our statement has crossed a line. In light of this, we want to extend our sincere apologies to Ahmed Mahbub. However, we still strongly believe that the posts that Ahmed shared on Twitter are very controversial."

In an interview with The Print immediately after being elected, Ahmed said that he's going to "do great things next year". In his manifesto, he promised to fight for student accommodation for all first-year students, to lobby for increased mental health provisions, and fight bursary cuts.

Ahmed is currently the VP Welfare and said: "There are still a lot of things I want to complete and I want to make sure I can do them well". In

the Queen Mary Questions interview with The Print last month, he discussed how he had been working on bringing a mental health app to Queen Mary, and increasing awareness around how students can report hate crime.

The position of VP Welfare will be taken over by Ella Harvey, who said that she is "all about sexual health and mental health" in her interview with The Print. She added, "I can't wait to deliver all promises".

Ella won in the first round of voting with 1410 votes.

Her manifesto focuses heavily on getting more provisions for mental and sexual health at Queen Mary, as well as increased support for when students are transitioning between academic years.

Redwan Shahid was elected as the new VP Education a few days after the scheduled results announcement due to an SU investigation into fellow candidate Muhammad Faizan following complaints. These complaints, however, were not upheld.

In the end, Shahid won on the sixth round of voting when he beat Deanna Lyn Cook. Faizan was knocked out in the fifth round.

Redwan has pledged to increase study accessibility and space for students, improve the BME experience at Queen Mary, and expand the open-



For full coverage of the 2018 Queen Mary Students' Union elections including videos, graphs, highlights, and interviews go to www.theprintnews.co.uk/category/elections

ing times for the Whitechapel and West Smithfield libraries, amongst other policies.

As the only candidate to run this year, Tom Longbottom was elected as VP Barts and The London. He wants to ensure there is competition for the position in next year's elections.

Tom said, "I am confident that next year, we will have an amazing BSLA board and amazing student council. I look forward to working with them."

His manifesto pledges include more sustainability, the BSLA staff role to increase welfare provisions for students, and creating a BSLA Alumni newsletter.

When candidates for all full-time and part-time positions were announced in mid-February, there were 37 positions with two or more candidates running, (continued on page 3)

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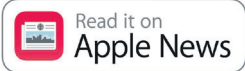
SPORT

The success of the QM Angels

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“It’s easier
to ask
forgiveness
than it
is to get
permission”
~ Grace Hopper

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

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

LIAM PAPE | @papermail7

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Well done to everyone who has contributed to The Print over the course of the last six issues. The work we have put in to the seemingly endless cycle of writing, editing, proof-reading, designing, and distributing has been given recognition in the form of the Student Media Outlet of the year award from QMSU.

Our news show that we’ve been releasing over the last year on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram also picked up the award for Best Broadcast. So, congratulations to everyone who presented an episode of that or was involved in the production.

Thank you to everyone who has supported The Print this year by either picking up a copy of the paper, reading us



online, commenting on social media, sending us feedback via email, watching Mile End in a Minute, or listening to The Print Podcast (available on Apple Podcasts and SoundCloud). It is due to the support of students, that we have been able to grow this year and play about with different forms of media.

Since the last issue, Kerry Maxwell and Millie Pritchard have been elected as the next

co-editors of The Print. Over the course of the next month or so, they will be hiring a new editorial team so if you are going to be a Queen Mary student next year and fancy getting some journalistic experience under your belt, you should apply for a role (listed in the madhead, left). For more details on applying and for the full list of positions available, visit www.theprintnews.co.uk/get-involved

CORRECTION: In issue 23 of The Print, it was stated that Ayesha Razak had won a Student Enterprise Award. This should have said she had been nominated. The award ceremony had not taken place yet.

QM’S GENDER PAY GAP REVEALED TO BE 15%

AAMINAH AKRAM

Queen Mary has openly committed to tackling gender inequality following the mandated release of their gender pay gap report.

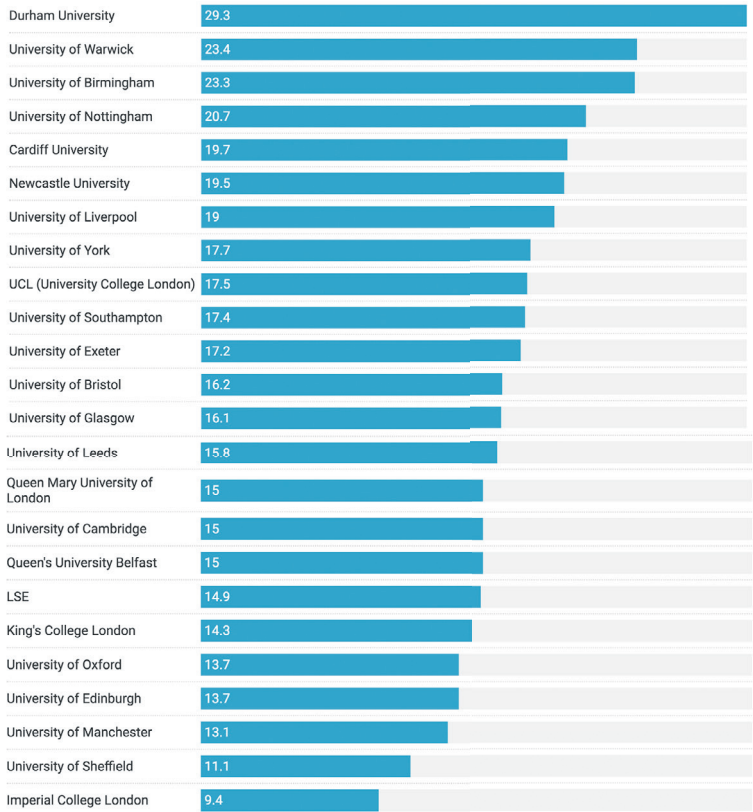
In the report released on the 28 March, key information was listed on the pay gap between male and female employees. Queen Mary has confirmed that they intended to ‘conduct further research and reporting to understand better how we can equalise the proportions of male and female staff at every level.’

The report outlined the pay of males and females in quartiles. Female employees in the upper quartile (receiving the highest pay) make up 35.7% of the workforce while their male counterparts make up 64.3%.

Whilst men in the upper quartile outnumber women, the opposite can be seen in the lower quartile. Here, women account for 64.2% of the workforce whilst men make up 35.8%. Evidently, there are more females in the lowest pay grade than men. Queen Mary suggests this is due to women populating the roles of cleaning, catering, residential services and general administrative jobs.

The proportion of males and females receiving a bonus was also released. Male staff members who received a bonus (including ones from the National Clinical Excellence Awards) was 12.3%, whilst

Russell Group Universities - Median Gender Pay Gap (Percent towards men)

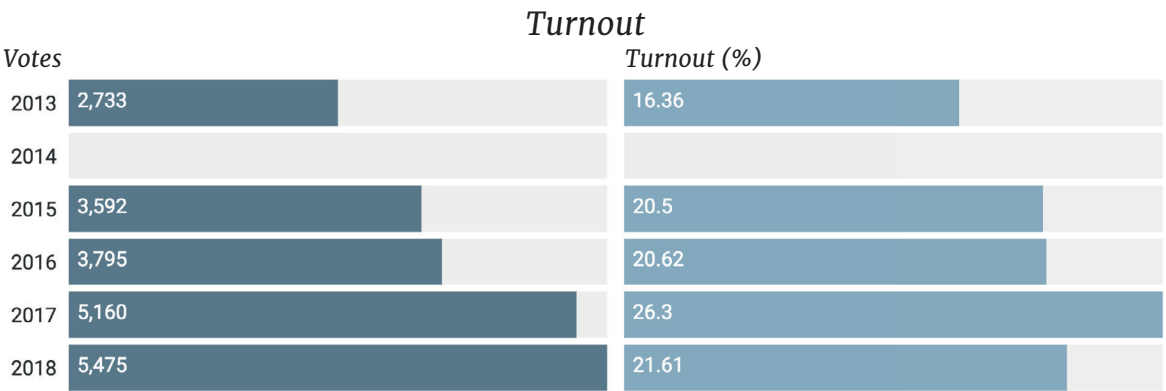


Source: Financial Times, UCL, BBC, University of Glasgow, University of Edinburgh

the percentage of females was 6.4%. If the National Clinical Excellence Awards is excluded from the overall percentage, female employees who received a bonus was 5.6% whilst male employees were 3.3%.

Future aims proposed by the university include helping more female staff members

apply and receive the National Clinical Excellence awards, a review of the flexible working policy, a review of the policy for bonus payments and formalised family friendly working practices. All these aims are set with the intention of creating an equal workspace for men and women.



No data available for 2014. Turnout % for 2018 is provisional.

(continued from front) and 11 positions where there was either only one candidate or no candidate at all. The five positions with no candidates were immediately re-opened.

The number of candidates running this year was higher than it has been for the last two years, with over 120 students wanting a position in the Students' Union – over 75 of which were female.

Most of the votes cast, 4,389 specifically, were by students based at the Mile End campus. There were only 992 voters from the Whitechapel campus, and 53 from the Charterhouse Square campus.

Female voters outnumbered males at 3,081 votes to 2,393

votes.

Roughly 43.6% of votes cast were from students studying Humanities & Social Sciences, followed by Science & Engineering (34%) and then Medicine & Dentistry (30%).

When this is broken down, the highest number of voters from an individual department was the School of Medicine and Dentistry, with 734 voters. Biological and Chemical Sciences came in second (503 votes), followed by Engineering (448 votes).

Additional reporting by Aaminah Akram, Gevitha Anbarasu, Sophie Mitchell, and Liv Mesce



Above: Tom Longbottom makes his acceptance speech

GREEN PARTY REPORT LAUNCH DISRUPTED BY POLICE

ELMIRA TANATAROVA

The Octagon occupation saw many students and staff coordinate events in its space. One such event was a visit from deputy leader of the Green Party, Amelia Womack, and Georgia Whitaker, the Young Greens Officer.

The speakers were planning on sharing information from their latest report, titled 'The Fair Pay League 2018.' Womack and Whitaker were half an hour into their presentation and Q&A session with the students at the occupation, when seven policemen and a member of Queen Mary Management entered, stating that someone was spotted with a knife entering the Octagon.

After they had assessed the situation, it became apparent that no danger was present, and the seven policemen left the campus in their two police vans.

Some students believed this was a deliberate attempt by University Management to discourage Amelia Womack from speaking; she was not submitted through the university's speaker vetting system before the visit. However,



ver, a spokesperson for Queen Mary told The Print, "the police were not called by university management".

The statement from Queen Mary went on to say: "The booking process, which covers health and safety, insurance and licensing issues, applies to all Queen Mary events. In this case, it was not followed, and that is a concern which was raised at the time."

The report presented by Womack and Whitaker presents shocking statistics about the state of university pay disparity across the country. They discussed the Young Greens' goal of instating a 10:1 ratio between the highest and lowest paid staff at the university. In terms of fair pay, they ranked Queen Mary 13th worst out of 117 institutions,

Image - QM Young Greens with the highest paid employee earning £285,829, and a total of 37 staff being paid £140,000 – five of those being women.

Womack and Whitaker have high hopes from pursuing this report, and are inspired by student activists all over the country: "You have to make sure everyone's armed with the statistics, putting this on the national agenda, organising campaign packs, and mobilising student activists on every campus. There is a correlation between student activism and fair pay. I hope that gives you some sort of inspiration." In advising students to pursue activism, the two said: "Keep probing. You'll often find something completely flawed. Keep asking about that."

QMSU ELECTIONS: THE RESULTS

Cross-campus part-time roles:
Student Trustee – Megan Annetts & Zakaria Rob & Yousof Fazelpoor
Dental Society President – Ameen Hussein
Welfare Representative – Sophie Hoque

Commercial Services Officer – Joe Vinson
Women's Representative – Alice Scholfield

Student Council Chair – Sara Miah
Disabled & SLD Representative – Pinelopi Stavrou

Student Media Officer – Vinny Sandhu
Volunteering Officer – Issmaeel Ansari

Sustainability Officer – Josie Holden Wilby
Vice President London – Harris Nageswaran

Trans Representative – Lily Baker
Vice President Barts – Jack Juckes

Mile End part-time officers:
Sports Officer – Bridget Cullinan

Women's Representative – Sama Deen
Societies Officer – Veda Kudva

Welfare Representative – Shamima Akter
RAG Officer – Zoe Caster Tai

Volunteering Officer – Zoe Malik
BME Representative – Giulia Olayemi

Sports Officer – Nikol Dimitrova
LGBT+ Representative – Caitlin Gordon

Societies Officer – Adnan Hassan
Allied Course Representative – Jade Dhaliwal

RAG Officer – Adrianna Wisnia
International Representative – Nadya Alfardan

BME Representative – Adina Shire
Postgraduate Taught Representative – Chowdhury Syife Uddin

LGBT+ Representative – Kate Smith
Faculty Representative Dental – Imaan Karmani

International Welfare Representative – Sameyia Syed
Faculty Representative Clinical – Nabilah Yunus Mayat

International Education Representative – Nikita Rochani
Faculty Representative Pre-Clinical – Eva Phillips

Disabled & SLD Representative – Hasan Habib

Additional non-representative officers:
Secretary – Jonas Schlautmann

Science & Engineering Faculty Representative – Eathan Plaschka & Sabrina Hoque
External Affairs Officer – Ruari McGowan

Humanities & Social Science Representative – Jasmine Shahi & Yueqing Gao
Engagement Officer – Hussian Al-Jabir

Entertainments Officer – Laurence Gardner & Nadia Howard

Barts & The London part-time officers:
Gozo society President – Marie-Sophie Gomm
Alumni Officer – Jennifer Lok

NEWS

OCCUPATION OF OCTAGON COMES TO EVENTFUL END

UNIVERSITY ISSUES NEW PROPOSAL FOR BURSARY CHANGES

LIAM PAPE & ELMIRA TANATAROVA

Over 30 Queen Mary students recently spent 33 nights occupying the Octagon in the Queen's Building in protest of cuts made to student bursaries.

After multiple meetings with management, three of which involved the Principal of Queen Mary Colin Bailey, the Occupation came to an end.

Occupiers say that as a direct result of their occupation, £260,000 has been put back in the pot for bursaries for both 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 for those in the £15,000-£30,000 bracket. Bursaries given to those in the £0-£15,000 will remain as normal, although there was never a question of that changing.

As well as reinstating money to the bursaries fund, Occupiers also say that they have made the university commit to creating more data sets which assesses the impact of bursaries for low-income students.

Ella Harvey, occupier and the next VP Welfare for QMSU come the next academic year, says the university admitted that the data from the Undergraduate Finance Survey which underpinned the decision to cut bursaries, was "too opinionated" to be used to justify bursaries. As a result, they are going to do another survey. "The new survey will be more data-driven, and I will

be monitoring this next year to ensure it includes quantifiable evidence for how mental health is impacted rather than the original justification they used. They justified cuts to bursaries because students who were low-income did not drop out - even though the data to back this up only included students who received the bursary so of course they didn't drop out."

Colin Bailey, Principal of Queen Mary, said that the decision to reduce bursaries came from government pressure. "The current guidance from the regulator, based on sector-wide research, recommends that universities place more funding into retention, student success and widening participation ... rather than bursaries because they feel that the research shows that you get more impact putting money into the other three areas."

On April 26th, Colin Bailey issued an updated proposal to the bursary system. He proposed "any new home undergraduate student starting in 2018 or 2019 from a household with an income of less than £20,000 per annum will receive £1,700 per annum, and any student from a family with an income of between £20,000 and £35,000 will receive £1,000 per annum". He also reassured existing students that their bursaries will not be changed.

Household Income	2017-18	Pre-Occupation	2018-19
£0-£15,000	£1,571	£1,700	£1,700
£15,001-£20,000	£1,571	£750	£1,700
£20,001-£25,000	£1,571	£750	£1,000
£25,001-£30,000	£1,256	£750	£1,000
£30,001-£35,000	£1,256	£0	£1,000
£35,001-£42,600	£1,256	£0	£0

Currently, students receive £1,571 per year if their household income is £25,000 or less, and £1,256 per year if their household income is between £25,000 and £42,600.

Occupiers took control of the Octagon, the university's most prized room in Queens' Building, on the 12th March and the Occupation lasted until 10th April. Original demands from the occupiers included: reverse bursary cuts; Colin Bailey to release statement of solidarity; Bailey to join strik-



ing staff at the picket; release gender pay gap and diversity data, and make university finance more transparent.

On 28th March, Queen Mary did release their gender pay gap and diversity data. However, any organisation with over 250 employees was legally required to report their gender pay gap by 5th April 2018 or else risk facing a hefty penalty (see page 2).

In a recent interview with The Print, Colin Bailey said he did not join the picket line and publicly support the striking lecturers because he was talking to UUK, USS, and the government, and if he made a public statement, "all those doors would have closed". Bailey says, "it would have been the easy thing to do" but Queen Mary would have then been "put in a box".

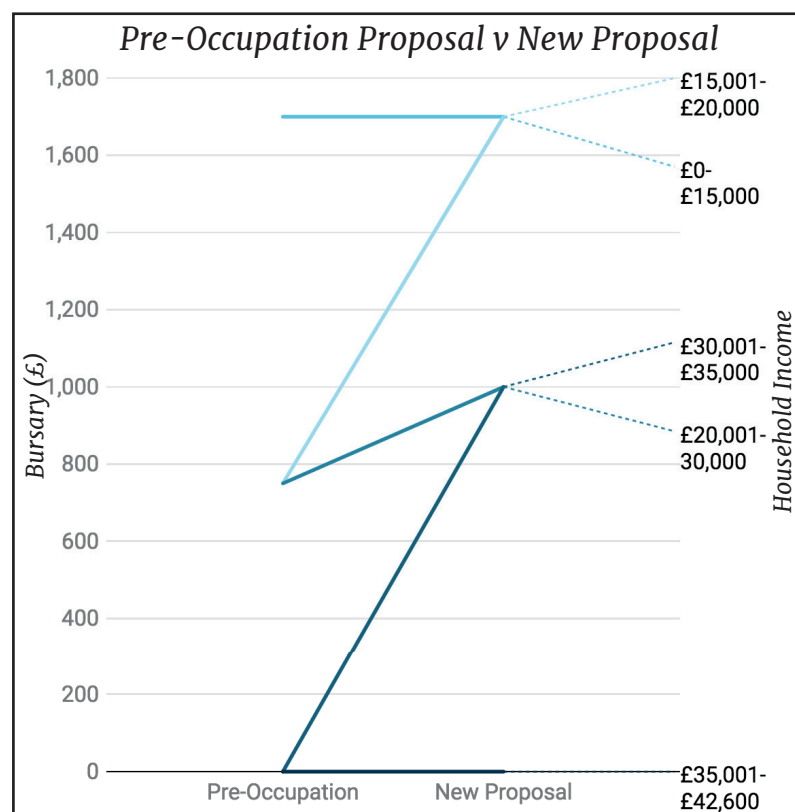
In a statement read at the end of the Occupation, occupiers said: "We have proven, once again, that students have the power to take control of the university and bring about real changes".

"More than four hundred members of staff at Queen Mary and more than sixty Members of Parliament have signed open letters to Principal Colin Bailey in support of our occupation, and hundreds of students and supporters have signed our petitions."

"The last month has been an unprecedented period of solidarity between staff and students. From the picket lines to the Octagon, we have stood

together and pushed each other forwards in our shared fight against the commodification of education. But we have also spoken together, organised together, cooked and dined

didn't know as I've only been here seven months. If they would have given me a week, I would have looked at it, come to a conclusion quickly, addressed it, and told them basi-



together, danced and sung together, and, by disrupting the university's ordinary operation, we have learned together."

However, Colin Bailey wishes that the students came to see him before occupying. He said: "If they would have come to see me, I could have done a lot more. They could have highlighted the issue - because I

cally what I'm going to do and then, if they weren't happy, then go for an occupation." Colin went on to say: "I wish I could do more with bursaries right across the board. I've got friends who have got three or four kids going to university and they're really struggling. It's hard work and it's hard work for students as well."



POLITICS STUDENT STANDS AS COUNCIL CANDIDATE IN NEWHAM

LIAM PAPE

Queen Mary student Joshua Garfield is standing as a Labour candidate for Stratford and New Town in the upcoming local elections on May 3rd.

Joshua joined the Labour party in 2010 at the age of 15 under Gordon Brown and has since participated in internal campaigns and helped canvas in local elections. He has been involved in campaigning for Labour for a long time, as his family was always active in the party.

Born and bred in Newham, he decided he wanted to run to be a councillor after the dramatic shift in Newham politics in 2016 when the incumbent councillor of 23 years was challenged by Rokhsana Fiaz. Joshua says, "I liked the idea of working on a far more radical, exciting, and inclusive manifesto."

He applied in August 2017 to be a Newham councillor candidate, however the process was delayed until the end of February – approximately four months after every other borough had selected their Labour candidates. He was then long-listed by the Stratford and New Town ward and then the members voted for him.



Politics student, Joshua Garfield

According to Joshua, if you ever mentioned the borough of Newham to anyone on the national Labour stage or even London Labour stage it was met with a sigh and an eye roll because of the way Newham has been run for a long time. He says, "It hasn't been the most democratic. It hasn't been the most open. It hasn't been the most inclusive or welcoming which is why, as a teenager, I focused my attention to the national and London level – rather than just on Newham."

In 2016, there was a campaign to get a trigger ballot against the incumbent directly elected mayor, Robin Wales. Joshua explained, "The campaign ex-

ited me because we would be able to choose who we should select as our mayoral candidate for the first time since 2002." Joshua said that he never left the Labour family however this was the catalyst that got him back involved in Newham politics.

After a lengthy campaign and a legal battle, the vote for an open selection won by a landslide. The contest eventually came down to the incumbent, Robin Wales, and Rokhsana Fiaz, a councillor for Custom House. Joshua worked on Rokhsana's campaign. "It brought all shades of the Labour party together," he said. "In some places you'll read that it was some sort of Momentum takeover – but it wasn't. If you looked at the makeup of her campaign, there were members of Progress, Labour First, neither – as well as people who had been in the party for over a decade and people who were new to the party. It was honestly one of the unifying campaigns I've ever been involved in." After a two week campaign, Rokhsana made the selection.

Joshua says part of the reason for Rokhsana's success was down to the people of Newham being keen to have a choice – something that they had not had before. Robin Wales, the previous mayor, had been council leader since 1995 and mayor since 2002 so had run the borough for Joshua's whole life.

Newham is unique in the aspect that it has a directly elected mayor with a cabinet rather than council leaders. This system is one that has not been adopted by most local authorities as it tends to encourage independent governance and a lack of accountability. However, Joshua is confident that Rokhsana will run the borough in a way that involves residents in the decisions that need to be made. "She can breathe new life into the party locally and make it more outward-looking and forward-thinking."

Rokhsana is planning to hold a referendum on whether Newham should continue with the directly elected mayor or opt for a council leader system.

Joshua admits that the Labour party in Newham is one that is in need of more scrutiny. Newham is often dubbed a 'one

party state' because almost all 60 of the council seats are almost always won by Labour candidates. Joshua acknowledged, "We are a safe Labour borough but you should never take the electorate for granted."

Housing is by far Joshua's largest focus as there are not enough genuinely affordable homes in the area. Newham currently has the highest level of homelessness in the country which, according to Joshua, "is a disgrace since it was the borough that hosted the Olympics only six years ago." Most of the people without a home sleep in the Stratford Centre however Joshua says the Carpenters Estate, where he grew up, has been derelict for some years now and there are homes there that are fit to be inhabited – even if it is just a temporary measure.

As for the plethora of modern high-rises that have shot-up

"There are families who are scared to let their children out of the house. This is something I want to change"

around Stratford in the last decade, Joshua thinks the companies building them should be providing a lot more for the local community. "We've gone from a Stratford where nobody could ever imagine it being unaffordable or a place where you couldn't be housed, to a place where local residents have been pushed out. The area has been improved but at a large cost."

"If the private sector want to build, they have to get permission from the local authority, and at the moment they are making a fortune – you can see that from the speed at which they are building. Local authorities do have the power to demand more from them, to demand more resources, to demand higher business rates, to demand more social housing, to demand more affordable housing."

Joshua's rationale is: if private sector developments are bringing more people into Stratford, then they also need to make provisions to provide more schools, GP surgeries,



Joshua (third from right) canvassing in Stratford High Street with fellow candidates, Nareser Osei (third from left) and Terry Paul (second from right)

youth services, and resources to accommodate for everyone. "The profit they are making is ludicrous and all we're asking is that they skim a little bit off the top."

Youth safety is another priority. When we interviewed Josh at the end of March, there had been a stabbing in Newham only the day before which had been the 12th stabbing in London that week. In 2017, 22 young people were stabbed

Hackney is spent wisely. There are teams who specialise in gang violence and prevention of young people joining gangs. There are teams who specialise in substance abuse. And there is a health and wellbeing team which I am a part of and we specialise in PSHE and sex and relationships education. There are also youth hubs across Hackney which young people can use free of charge where a whole variety of workshops are held from songwriting to dancing. Youth crime in Hackney has decreased and youth crime in Newham has increased. These teams, hubs, and workshops aren't the only measure of prevention but they are a massive one as they offer young people a choice."

"If a young person has struggles at home, and is struggling at school, and the school – being stretched – can't offer any other provisions, it doesn't take an expert to figure where that person is likely to turn. There are families in Newham who are scared to let their children out of the house and this is something that I drastically want to change."

As for his take on student politics, Joshua says, "It definitely interests me and I've always voted in the elections but I think mature students, of which I am, are overlooked a lot of the time. Maybe this is something future Students' Union candidates should consider?"

We asked Joshua about his higher political ambitions beyond being a Newham councillor. He rather frankly stated, "Right now, I'm looking forward to representing the residents of Stratford and New Town if they choose to elect me in May. That is 100% my focus."

The local council elections are on 3rd May 2018.

in Newham alone. "Although the causes are quite a few intersecting issues, one thing Newham could do far better on is their non-mandatory youth provision." By this, Joshua means youth services that central government do not dictate that councils have to provide such as outreach programs, youth centres, and workshops.

As well as being a student, Joshua is also a youth worker in Hackney. Where he says he has seen first hand, that early intervention does prevent young people from being drawn into crime and "gives them the informal skills to make far better choices and achieve what they want to in life."

"Hackney and Newham are neighbouring boroughs with similar demographics and similar problems. The difference is, Hackney spent almost £10 million pounds last year on their non-mandatory youth provision. Newham spent £400,000 on the same thing. The money spent in

FEATURES

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM PRIDE

ANNA MCKIBBIN

Genesis cinema recently chose to host a screening of the 2014 film *Pride*, which is fitting considering the tumultuous political climate in universities across the country. *Pride* depicts the story of the LGSM (Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners) who endeavoured to monetarily support the miners of the Welsh town, Onllwyn, in the midst of the miner's strikes of 1984. *Pride*'s depiction of what the BBC described as the 'most bitter industrial dispute in British history', is fitting as last month students were faced with discerning how best to support those lecturers that are striking in order to protect their pensions from devastating cuts.

This screening of *Pride* was followed by an enlightening panel hosted by the Lesbians and Gays Support Migrants activist group. This panel featured two men who were members of the original LGSM in 1984. These men set an important example for how politically active individuals can support strikes today. Both men agreed that their moti-

vation for supporting the strikes was largely political, the members of LGSM were tied together by their opposition to Thatcher's Conservative government. Indeed, many of the members for LGSM were socialists - yet this is largely ignored in the film. One of the panelists - Gethin Roberts, jokingly admitted that the only two things banned from being mentioned in the film were 'fisting and communism'.

The panelists further explained their motive for getting involved in the strikes by describing their 'revulsion' in light of the government's attempt to starve the miner's back into work. The panelists admitted to feeling a deep sense of injustice in response to Thatcher's treatment of the miners, they reject the film's depiction of LGSM as a group of charitable philanthropists - they were first and foremost a political group empowered by a deep sense of injustice.

Ultimately, the 142,000 miners who participated in the strike were ordered by the National Union of Mineworkers to return to work. The mining

communities who populated these British towns were financially devastated. The year of miner's strikes concluded with a decisive Tory victory, and tragic unemployment in mining communities. Yet, despite the fact the mining strikes are generally considered a devastating failure, the panelists only encouraged the audience to politically engage with their surroundings. Dave Lewis, (the other member of the panel), defiantly reminded the audience 'Don't let the bastards grind you down!' Roberts echoed Lewis' call for action. Indeed, Gethin Roberts went so far as to boldly challenge the venue's questionable moral standpoint in regards to the treatment of their employees. Roberts rightly referred to Genesis' refusal to pay their staff the London minimum wage. It was clear through the whole panel that these men refuse to dilute their opinions or compromise their morals. The argument of the film and indeed of the real members of LGSM who were interviewed, is that winning a fight is not as important as challenging that which is immoral.



Image - IMDb

While the film documents a specific moment in queer history, it has something relevant to say about how people today fight for justice. In a revealing interview, Mark Ashton - one of the characters in the film, argues that 'one community should give solidarity to another. It is really illogical to say 'I'm gay

and I'm defending the gay community but I don't care about anything else...' This film proves that even when a community appears to have nothing in common with you, we each have the responsibility to identify injustice and support those going through hardships.

IS ETHICAL FASHION FASHION-FORWARD?

GABRIELLE AGYEI

What is ethical fashion? Most of us are used to shopping on the high-street or online, only concerned with looking for the best deals and the hottest trends. We think of fashion and clothing as a form of expression and with that comes a focus on the aesthetic rather than the origins of garments. The materials used in our clothing are just as important. We should feel good in what we wear but also feel good about wearing it, and Kotaka is a brand realising this very thing.

With an ever-increasing desire for consumers to know where their clothes are coming from its no wonder that there's a growing interest in ethical fashion. Many clothing factories tend to be located in poorer countries that often use toxic chemicals and large amounts of water. And with an estimated 170 million working under child labour, many employed by the textile industry (UNICEF), this way of producing clothing is both harmful to the workers involved and the

environment. Affordable, everyday brands such as Primark have been associated with the former and there is a desperation for change. Kotaka is the very thing we need to work towards achieving it.

The student run clothing brand aims to spread awareness and understanding of this type of fashion. Ethical fashion, characterised by sustainable methods of manufacturing, designing and sourcing clothing (Ethical Fashion Forum), puts the process behind producing garments at the forefront. When we think about large brands producing relatively cheap clothing one thing that lacks is a sense of transparency. Rarely do we know how under what condition their clothing is made but brands like Kotaka whole-heartedly take this into consideration, creating garments that are ethical.

With high quality and sustainability as core values of Kotaka, you may be wondering how they manage to pull it all off. They work with Teemill to produce products in the UK that are of a high quality

and sustainable nature. Not only are garments made using ethically supplied organic cotton, their low-waste printing technology and renewable energy powered factory make their product cycle highly sustainable. The environment, well-being of the people needed in the process, and of those working to farm and source the required materials, are all taken into consideration. Kotaka stands for something concerned with more than just material success. They are a brand that have nothing to hide about their process; they're honest and more of this is needed in the industry to ensure the prosperity of all people involved. Events such as Fashion Revolution week and the recent UK enforced bottle deposit scheme are evidence of a constantly growing awareness. Fashion Revolution Week, taking place from the 23rd to the 29th April 2018, is a campaign calling to question the transparency of brand's supply chains with the hashtag #imadeyourclothes. Like Kotaka, they believe in fashion that is environmentally and socially sustainable; pro-



of that more than ever we are demanding an openness when it comes to manufacturing.

Clothes are more than just clothes. Yes, they allow us to express ourselves and feel good in our own skin but that's not the only power they hold. The finer details that we tend to skirt over like the type of fabric used, the energy sources powering the technology and factories, and the location they're made in all play a

factor into the final piece. People's lives are affected along the way and the environment is changed, things Kotaka acknowledge through every garment. These impacts may be a little more important than the one your new Topshop piece has to your self-esteem.

If you're interested in Kotaka and their products find them on their Instagram and website!

A SENSE OF NOSTALGIA: GRADUATION, ENDINGS & NEW BEGINNINGS

GRAB THE KLEENEX, LOOK THROUGH YOUR FIRST-YEAR PHOTOS, HAVE A THINK ABOUT ALL YOUR NEWFOUND RESPONSIBILITIES AND WEEP. (THEN GET BACK UP AND FINISH YOUR LAST ASSIGNMENT)

LUCY SOFRONIOU

For many of us – including myself – graduation is fast approaching and undergraduate life will soon be no more. Fresher's week doesn't really feel like three whole years ago now, does it?

Long gone are the days of induction lectures, Dominos discount vouchers and signing up to an unrealistic amount of societies (that we may as well have never joined). Whenever I find myself coming to the end of something – the end of the year, the end of colle-



about what those fundamental three years has taught us academically – though that's undoubtedly a lot – but also about what it's taught us about ourselves. Three years is a long time – 1095 days, actually. 156 weeks. 26280 hours. I'm sure you get the point, so

them. I started first year two days after my dad's funeral and when I look back and compare myself today, to who I was during that turbulent first year, I almost feel like a different person. And I'm sure that's also true for everyone, seeing as we're all constantly experiencing, growing and learning:

The Gratitude List: The Unspoken Teachers & Life Lessons

1) That one assignment that you were sure would single-handedly ruin your overall module grade but was in fact, your best work.

Real life lesson: Never underestimate yourself. Or the power of blagging.

2) Scanning a packed library and eventually finding a seat.

Real life lesson: Despite how swarming your chosen sector of work, you will eventually (hopefully), find a vacancy.

3) The post-Drapers/Bancroft-stairs/Central Line induced breakdown – or any other breakdown – that made you realise that you were in control.

Real Life Lesson: The way we feel and the way we think is usually entirely within our control. If you don't like it, it's changeable.

4) The two-hour seminar that you had to sit through every week, thanks to a regrettable module choice.

Real Life Lesson: This too, shall pass. Good and bad, happy and sad...

5) The endless amount of unrealistic expectations set, the failed daily routines that you promised you would implement into your life (usually after every semester break).

Real Life Lesson: Nothing has been or ever will be perfect and our expectations are not always attainable. And so let the cliché quote of the century

stand proudly here...'just do your best.'

6) Minding the gaping gap between college and university

Real Life Lesson: Change is all around. And despite how odd it feels at first, you can and will leap, accept and adapt.

It's odd to think that in a short while, life as we know it will be completely different. Some of us will be going into postgraduate study, some of us into the world of work and some might be figuring out their paths. But regardless of where you're going or where you've been, the fact that you're reading this means that nothing was big enough a deal to keep you from keeping calm and carrying on. While you may think that you've a lot to prove to yourself, whatever the future holds, you've probably already proven a lot. So here we are. If we look back with fresher-tinted glasses, we'd see that we've come a heck of a long way. That's the unspoken accolade that comes with graduation.

Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end – Seneca

“They're all things that shape you, regardless of how we initially perceive them”

ge, the end of a really good series (lame, I know), I can't help but feel nostalgic. And I don't think I'm alone on that, especially when it's as pivotal a moment as the end of university life. It's not so much

I'll end there. The real point is, that within that time, a myriad of things can happen; life-changing things, minor things and also in-between things. But they're all things that shape you, regardless of how we initially perceive

IN CONVERSATION WITH LADY HALE OF RICHMOND

ANNA-ALEXIA KOTSAKIS

One of the greatest barrier breakers in the legal profession is Lady Hale of Richmond, President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. She is the first woman to ever achieve that position. In fact, Lady Hale has quite a few firsts as she was the first woman appointed Lord of Appeal in Ordinary and she defied a series of odds from the time when she decided to study the law.

She was invited by QMUL's ELSA on the 19th of March, to give a talk in which she decided to highlight three different issues: what she wished she knew when she was a law student, what the decisions of the Supreme Court mean, and the

diversity in the legal workforce.

Lady Hale grew up in Yorkshire and she was the first student from her school to ever attend Cambridge University which at the time had 21 schools for men and 3 for women. When she decided to study the law she was not discouraged by her teachers. “At the time to study law you needed for your father to have been a lawyer, otherwise it seemed pointless, but I am grateful to my teachers for encouraging me to do it.” She went on to outline a series of barriers to the law she had not been aware of as a law student. She was of course referring to the unequal and unfair treatment of women, which still persists to-

day. Lady Hale is still facing those unfair quotas today as a Supreme Court judge. Explaining that inequality is still a long way from being alleviated. “From last year we have doubled the percentages of women in the Supreme Court. From one woman, we now have two. Funny how percentages can be deceiving,” she added with a smile.

Lady Hale went on to talk about the importance of the decisions of the Supreme Court by expounding that the ones picked for adjudication are cases that refer to a constitutional issue that affects a large percentage of the people, with one case in particular which proved to be a landmark in the Brexit climate; the Miller case.

The advantage of the Supreme Court is that 5 minds coming together to make a decision are better than 3, as found in the Appellate Court, which is why they need to be as diverse as possible. “The lack of diversity matters. Big decisions ought to be decided by a group of people reflective of society,” Lady Hale elaborated and then added “and if you cannot persuade the rest of the judges, you can always dissent” causing the students to erupt in laughter.

Finally, she received several insightful questions. When asked if she found it easy to balance her work and personal



life she took a moment before replying. “I would like for your generation to think that work/life balance should be an issue for both men and women”. When asked about any advice she might have for current law students she again took a moment before saying “work hard and efficiently.” Her presence was calming but also vigorous, at the age of 73 she has two more years before her retirement from the bench, there is no doubt however that she plans to keep driving social progress forward.

FEATURES

YOU AND YOUR PORN

THE PRINT CHECKS UP ON THE UK'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH PORNOGRAPHY

WILL MARTINEAU

Pornhub, the largest pornography site in the world, has released its 2017 'Year in Review'. The majority of users were American, the UK maintained its second place spot, with India and Japan not far behind. Every country contributed to the site's average of 81 million visits per day. Other stats may surprise readers. "Hentai", an animated genre of porn that ranges from images of Japanese school girls to supernatural orgies (in which consent is often dubious), was one of the most highly searched terms of 2017, and beaten only by "lesbian".

Many of us are unwilling to discuss our relationship with pornography. But even if we are not eager to face the facts, the producers of pornography are. Services, such as Google Analytics, are now constructing from users' data – in the proud words of Pornhub Insights – 'an accurate picture of the demographic makeup of our visitors, including their gender, age and even interests'. Of course, this data collection is somewhat in the interests of Pornhub's users; tomorrow night the site's "Recommended For You" section might reveal something right up your alley. Yet, individuals need to realise that even

year, an AI company will begin scanning the site's five million videos (and counting) in order to identify each video's pornstar(s), each stars' characteristics, such as hair colour, and the various elements of the act, i.e. position and fetish. This is excellent news for professional pornographers looking to spot anyone trying to break copyright law, but not so fantastic for those stars who never meant to become stars, or have since regretted it. If the data being gathered was used unethically, it could be an easy gateway for any individual trying to find an 'ex-star' who does not want to be found. Pornhub has plainly stated that it intends to remain vigilant on the subject of revenge porn, as well as allowing women and men to remove those videos in which they feature. Yet, with any technology that gathers online data, such as facial recognition, the flip side is not so much a possibility as an inevitability. Fears like these are far from extinguished since the AI company hired by Pornhub has chosen to remain anonymous.

Another surprise comes in the existence of Pornhub Cares which, quite appropriately, raises money for both testicular and breast cancer charities.

had little interest in categories such as 'teen', but consistently pursued older women in categories like 'milk'. Women, generally seen as less libidinous than men, comprised almost a quarter of the visits to the site and made up a third of visits to Pornhub Gay's pages. There was also a 30% drop in activity on Christmas Day when users chose family and friends over strangers on the screen.

Furthermore, Pornhub Gay has been praised by some due to its reassuring effect on young homosexuals, especially men, who may feel less alone upon encountering an abundance of unapologetically gay material. By answering demand with supply, and by openly celebrating Gay Pride, Pornhub has helped to reduce intolerance towards the LGBTQ community. A 2014 survey by The Observer reports that not only do Britons have a more liberal attitude towards homosexuality since 2008, but that 28% of the sample said pornography actively affects their sex life. Some couples stated that porn helps them think of new ideas in the bedroom, as well as reassuring both partners that any fetishes on their mind are perfectly normal.

That being said, the survey, conducted by Opinium, reported an overall reduction in sexual satisfaction from 2008 to 2014, despite the increased use of online pornography. Whilst porn became more and more portable and accessible – in 2014, over half of videos were being watched on a tablet or phone – Britons were becoming less sexually active. Instead of an average of seven times a month, we had sex only four times a month. Furthermore, one in five men felt dissatisfied with the size of their penis in contrast with one in seven men in 2008, possibly as a result of 'Big Dick' making it into the most popular categories on Pornhub. It is unfair to blame these changes on pornography alone, yet considering the time we spend as a nation on Pornhub, let alone other sites such as Brazzers and YouPorn, it would be the height of arrogance to believe it has no effect on us.

One of the more prominent fears surrounding porno-

graphy is its presentation of unrealistic sex as natural and normal. In her 2010 book Pornland, Gail Dines brought up the common assumption that anyone who attacks porn is attacking sex: 'One can be a feminist who is unabashedly pro-sex but against the

of children under the age of 16 have seen porn. Of this group, 50% of the boys and 40% of the girls thought that this was how adults have sex.

Of course, they will have to learn the truth one day. As of last year, three-quarters of

"teach children that real sex tends not to occur between the plumber and the nymphomaniac housewife"

commodification and industrialization of a human desire [...] The pornographers have done an incredible job of selling their product as being all about sex and not about a particular constructed version of sex'. One year later, Robert Jensen's Stories of a Rape Culture described pornography as: 'A world in which women were younger, more sexually active and more expressive than men; women were frequently depicted in subordinate positions [...] and sexual contact was usually between strangers'.

Various groups and individuals will dismiss these criticisms as purely academic, feminist generalisations. There are, after all, various female friendly videos on Pornhub and other sites which do not adhere to the criteria laid out above. There's also the popular category of amateur porn, which tends to focus on couples in trusting relationships, and Jensen's depiction entirely excludes sex outside the heteronormative sphere. Nonetheless, if readers are willing to take a quick trip to Pornhub now, the likelihood is that at least a handful of videos which greet them on the main page will include in their titles words such as 'punish', 'blackmail', 'reluctant' and 'force'.

But we all know the difference between real sex and pornography don't we? According to a 2017 survey by UKCCIS (the UK Council for Child Internet Safety), children do not. Whether they are actively searching for it or encountering it in the form of pop-ups, 65%

British parents wanted children to be taught about pornography in PSHE (as to the quality of these lessons it is hard to predict), and 86% wanted lessons in consent. These desires alone serve as an indication as to the current failings of the sex education system and a subsequent ignorance of safe, consensual, everyday sex in the younger generations. Although it is impossible to prevent children from encountering porn, it is possible to offer the alternative: teach children that real sex tends not to occur between the plumber and the nymphomaniac housewife.

It is extremely difficult to measure how much of an effect pornography has on our actions and attitudes. For some individuals, a regular trip to Pornhub may improve their sex life, for another it may worsen it, whilst for many it might have no effect at all. Certainly, if someone finds their sex life dissatisfying, the main responsibility must fall on their shoulders and not porn's, just as it would if they were to commit a crime, sexual or otherwise. All the same, when one in five women in England and Wales have experienced sexual violence and Pornhub's top most viewed video in the UK is 'Scared Stepdaughter gets Fucked While Wife Sleeps', I would argue that more research is needed into porn's effects, especially seeing as we appear to have no intention of giving it up anytime soon.

"individuals need to realise that even whilst they are alone in the dark with their laptops, various elements of their identity are being captured"

whilst they are alone in the dark with their laptops, various elements of their identity are being captured. And no, turning on Private Browsing or Incognito does not hide you or your IP address from these statistics.

Fortunately, the more personal details of Pornhub's users' lives, i.e. your name and your mother's mobile number, cannot legally be identified without consent. That's not necessarily the case on the other side of the screen. This

It's also creating videos accessible to those with hearing and vision difficulties, helping to save the whales and the pandas, and in 2016 it offered a \$25,000 scholarship to women pursuing an education in STEM. Even those of us who vehemently oppose pornography should not demonise Pornhub, not necessarily because of these charitable acts, but because Pornhub Insights educates us on our usage. For example, the 2017 Review revealed that older individuals – despite the lecherous cliché –

COMMENT

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE:

GEVITHA ANBARASU

MONEY MONEY MONEY -
THE STRUGGLES OF STUDENT SPENDING

One of the hardest things to control as a first-year is how much money you spend. If you are like me and love to spend money on outings with your mates, then it can be pricier than you think! But, resisting the urges to spend is probably a huge struggle, especially as a student living on campus.

While I love to spend money on makeup, clothes, and food, you know, the usual... I find

guilty for spending money I earned, on me! (This usually happens while tears flow past my cheeks into my food while taking a bite).

I grew up with parents who constantly lectured me about the process of money, and there isn't a day that goes by where I don't hear the infamous phrase 'money does not grow on trees...' (I don't know if this is a thing, but Asian parents feel like they lose a limb after seeing your bank sta-

properly teaching me the correct ways to save? Now, call me a hypocrite but I regularly save the money that I earn from my part-time job, but it is a huge difficulty walking past these freshly changed mannequins holding items that are to die for! So, did school or whatever qualifications beforehand fail to notify us of the proper way to use our money? (I still wait for the day where we use Pythagoras theorem, rather than how to divide your earnings for the month, let alone saving it)

As a first-year student, spending has been a regular difficulty. You meet people who have money to eat out every night, and then there are those who struggle to find new reasons to cover the fact that they are a little short for that meal out. I don't blame you. But, I am doubtful as to whether all these tips and tricks we see are actually helpful to saving money. Oh, and most importantly, parents are no help either with their constant 'you are gonna screw up' faces or stern voices that you would rather

"I can't help but wish we had a crash course in saving our money"

drown out because you already have enough problems to begin with. It is a vicious cycle. I mean, don't get me wrong, budgeting comes easier to me as I can calculate if I have money for that meal out or that fabulous new (probably 8th) pair of jeans. However, this is a struggle for many others especially dividing the money you need to pay rent for your room on campus and to sort out food so you don't die at the end of the week. This budgeting and saving, is it really worth it in the long run?

The thing is, being a student comes with new difficulties but money definitely tops that. I can't help but wish we had a crash course in saving our money, or whether saving our money is even worth it. I mean, we want to live the next three years without regrets so who gives a damn about budgeting? I'm sure this is a

question on most students' minds.

Nonetheless, like all periods of our lifetime, student life has never lived up to its glamorous name (as I have been saying in the past few issues) during my first-year in QMUL, but it has taught me skills I definitely couldn't learn elsewhere, especially with money. So, have fun with your money while it lasts, but when you're skint, it's a struggle to force yourself not to buy anything, especially when it gives you happiness (we all know I am talking about food...).

Remember, if you are in need of some help to manage your money, talk to someone on campus, I'm sure there are people for that. Meanwhile, spend wisely!



"I find something I really want, I buy it, and then I feel incredibly guilty for spending money I earned, on me!"

myself wallowing in self-pity for not being more careful about my spending habits. The process follows that I find something I really want, I buy it and then I feel incredibly

temed). But I can't help my feelings when I think; why was I not warned about this beforehand? Should I be angry at myself? Should I be angry at the education system for not

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! Email: comment@theprintnews.co.uk

"NEW MUSIC IS SHIT"

Many people assert that a bygone era like the 60's just had more good music. I definitely agree, but I'd just like to point out that for every Beatle or Rolling Stone, there are five bands that nobody even remembers. For every Nirvana in the 90's, there are five or six generic angry rock bands. Don't start criticising the music of our generation if you cannot formally review every artist of previous times. Furthermore, don't say that "real music is dead" when the likes of Liam Gallagher are still producing fantastic music.

PRE-RIPPED CLOTHES

Ok, so what's with all the rips in clothes? As in pre-ripped jeans and holey t-shirts? At the end of the day, if I'm wanting to spend money then I want to pay for a full garment. I'm down with genuine 'wear and tear' - no one wants to get rid of their favourite socks (even if they are a bit worn) - but how is the fashion market capitalising on such a stupid idea? Why pay more money for less material?



PUBLIC TOILETS

Any person that tends to live on the awkward side understands that it is a paradox. Although one might be comfortable as an awkward person, they still want to avoid an awkward situation. This paradox manifests itself for me in public toilets. If a restroom is occupied when I arrive, I do not wait outside the door, because I am terrified of that horrible interaction. They have just finished what I am about to start. What do I say, if anything? Do I nod? Shake hands? (SIDENOTE: NEVER SHAKE HANDS). Instead, I hide by the sink and wait.



WHICH IS THE BEST 'STAR WARS' FILM?

I'm old enough to know what I'm talking about when I say "The Empire Strikes Back" is the best Star Wars film of all time. We have new locations, heroes being tested, Hoth battle scene, asteroid chases, Vader's choking rampage, Bounty Hunters, the original Yoda, space slugs, Han getting the only girl in the galaxy, Vader sitting at a dining table (how did he eat?), Lando's surprise betrayal, a great Lightsaber showdown between Luke and Vader complete with the best revelation and plot twist in movie history! Number V is untouchable. Fight me.

STRIKES

Posting anonymously, because I feel like I'm the only one on campus who is PROPER pissed off with these strikes. I get the point; I just don't see how we are the rightful means to the end. I pay so much money per academic year and have lost nearly a month's worth of teaching. To compensate, surely I have every right to use the university facilities I require (and pay for!!!) without getting abused. How the hell is this fair? It's not as though I have done anything wrong. I'm not happy. How can I be the only one who feels this way?

COMMENT: THE COLUMNS

KERRY'S CORNER

KERRY MAXWELL



Should my degree be cheaper? I study English, come on!

Last week, on the 'Home gals' group chat, I found myself comparing timetables with my soon-to-be-Doctor and nearly-qualified-Engineer friends. Now, as an English and Drama student, I never once have kidded myself into thinking that my contact hours would rival those studying science degrees. However, the realisation that I have to attend university only eight hours a week while still handing over the same £9000 a year as those with fewer free periods than we had in sixth form was a little flabbergasting.

The number of contact hours obviously varies depending on your degree: I mean, if I was in uni all the time no doubt I'd be showing up to lectures on texts I wouldn't have had time to read synopses of, let alone the originals. By contrast, most of a medics' learning will take place in lectures and seminars. So it makes sense. But should arts students be paying to subsidise the cost of science degrees?

If the world were a simpler place, I'd say no. In theory I think that students should pay fees correlating to human contact time rather than loaning an incredibly expensive seat in the library (which is nearly always impossible to find this time of year!) However, if they were cheaper, would our arts/humanities degrees be valued (even) less by a society already largely favour of those in the STEM fields? Besides that, the scope for certain degrees then becoming elitist would increase tons.

A recent study conducted by The Times Higher Education concluded that courses such as Law and English cost less than £5000 a year to fund, whilst the most expensive (Medicine - who'd have thunk it?) is just under £24,000. It would take the surplus of two "cheaper" degrees to cover the cost of one medic. Philip Hammond has mentioned lowering tuition fees to £7500 and PM Theresa May has agreed to freeze them at £9250 (for now). But their focus is hardly on subject imbalance, given recent controversies over vice-chancellor's salaries (and that's a whole different article.) As such, some fees would still go towards subsidising others'.

Of course, this isn't just to say the surplus is not just created by one degree to be absorbed by another. We have to look at higher education through the capitalist-business-like lens university culture now is. For example, international students are charged enormously for the 'pleasure' of studying in our rainy land, and profit margins on most research departments lie firmly in the red. It could be argued that if we're okay with all this and don't question our university culture, (strikes aside) we have no business becoming aggy over the subject divide.

So, what's the answer? Ideally, the abolition of all fees would be nice. Realistically, though, I'm not sure there is a perfect answer. As long as we're paying for tuition, it looks like some of us will be paying more than we should. That said, I don't think we should ever advocate a system which makes certain degrees the preserve of the ultra-rich and elite.

So...has anyone heard from Corbyn? Maybe he could help us out.

SUPPORT STRUCTURE

JACOB FINLAY



IT'S CRUNCH TIME!

I'm out, I'll admit it I've got zero ideas for a column today. At least zero ideas that I think would be enough to read. Usually, when I write these columns I try to look at the things which might be bothering students and then write a support structure advice piece which might best answer their concerns. But if I'm being candid (which of course I always am in this sympathetic advice column), today I can't remove myself from my own experience, this column seems to be just another looming deadline.

As we reach the crunch-point at the end of the year when many students leave their accommodation to permanently move to the library, writing a column on time can seem like a minor concern, compared to a dissertation that's supposed to be the crowning achievement of a degree, and a bevy of other essays seemingly thrown in there for laughs by our striking lecturers. The quandary of these assignments is however much the same as this column. Should I take pride in my work and try to make it original and with great effort? Or rush through to make the deadlines pulling together the most-thin points to build an article like a tower missing Jenga Blocks.

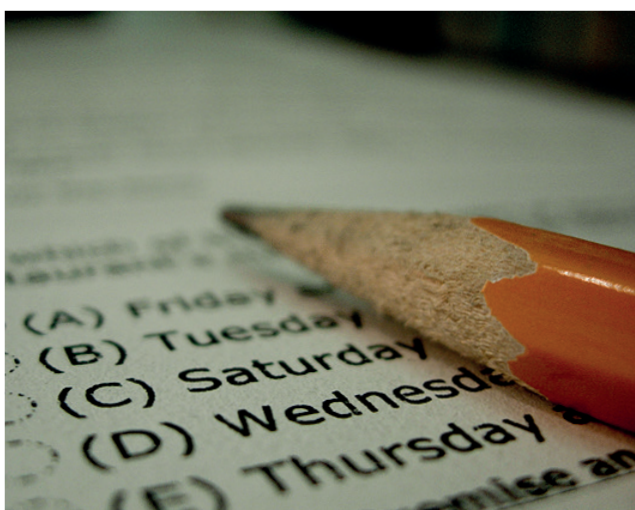


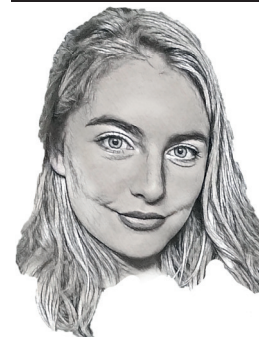
Image - Wikimedia Commons

For so many of us at university, deadlines mean our work is never really an expression of what we've learnt on our courses or what we can do at our best, so much as an expression of what we had to do with the time available. Somewhere in an alternate universe there are a series of brilliant columns fleshed out, and written with time and care, entertaining the masses of QMUL students with thoughts on wittily relevant subjects I can't even possibly imagine, although one of them is definitely a 400-word treatise on the stupidity of changing the name of the hive only to choose the nest.

So, what to do? Unfortunately we live in this reality, where my personal advisor once bluntly told me that a piece of academic work can be either perfect or finished, but not both (clearly lecturers suffer from this problem as well). Here, we're paying to suffer these deadlines, so perhaps we shouldn't get so worried about them, once they have past I usually forget my essay completely. Like this column, everything passes eventually, don't worry about doing university work perfectly because it won't last forever.

MILLIE'S MUSINGS

MILLIE PRITCHARD



A Reflection on my Second Year at University

There is a particular scene in one of the best movies of the 21st century, Mamma Mia!, (don't fight me on this) that always brings me to tears. Bride-to-be Sophie is helped by her mother Donna to get ready for her wedding, and they share an extremely emotional duet of ABBA's 'Slipping Through My Fingers.' Although it is a song which describes a mother's sadness at her daughter growing up too fast, I feel as though we all can connect to the main apprehension of not being in control of time and feeling as though your life is moving at lightening speed right in front of your eyes.

So, I wouldn't liken my emotional response to the end of second year as the exact same as my response to this scene, which usually involves me trying to keep it together on the sofa as my lower eyelid twitches to keep the salty tears from spilling. But, I definitely will look back on certain moments of second year with an immense fondness, similar to that of my first year. Whilst my first year of university was full of anxiety and dread at certain points, especially in the first term, I feel as though I found my flow quicker this year, despite the increase in workload. I had a lot of ups and downs with my living situation. This includes moving into a Travelodge at one point so we had access to hot water. But you just learn to laugh when life presents you with a certain set of circumstances - me and my flatmates definitely chuckle when we think about trying to run a bath with a kettle and a bunch of pots and pans.

"This was the path I was going to go down, and now I'm on this path, I feel somewhat lost"

The funny thing about university, is that all my life I had known it was going to be something I did. Ever since I was young, my Mum had instilled in me that this was the path I was going to go down, and now I'm on this path, I feel somewhat lost. I thought it was going to be an experience which lasts a lot longer than it feels like its lasting, and those supposed 'best years of your life' are, to quote ABBA, slipping through my fingers. Despite this somewhat sombre conclusion, I am actually firmly looking forward to my final year at Queen Mary, in which I will fill with friends, books, and a whole lot of laughter. I hope you all do the same!

COMMENT: THE COLUMNS

CAPTURING CULTURE

GABRIELLE AGYEI



Are university years really the best of your life?

The whole social construct of university is something that's always seemed strange to me. Essentially thousands of students, all from different walks of life, are placed together on a campus and expected to figure it out. Yes, most of us chose to be here of our own free will but that doesn't take away from the potentially overwhelming and surreal experience of it all. I'm sure many of you were subject to the old 'university will be the best years of your life', and from those who've graduated 'I wish I could go back to the good old days' etc. There's a reputation created by friends, family and even the media that the 'university experience' will somehow transcend all others in our lifetimes. Is this really the case?

I can say I've had my fair share of ups and downs across my two years at Queen Mary. With students drawn from different upbringings, nationalities (162 to be exact) and backgrounds it's to be expected. University was one of the first times I explicitly met and experienced people who had such opposing views to my own. We tend to spend the vast amount of our teenage years surrounded by friends we've known for what feels like forever, and our family who essentially shape us as humans. Through them the fabric of who we are is formed: our moral compass, values and to an extent personality. In relation to this we find our place within the family dynamic, we learn the kinds of behaviours that are to be expected, accepted and intolerable. Moulding ourselves around this allows us to position ourselves comfortably within this structure; we feel at ease knowing who we are within this little world.

University is the opposite of this known comfortability. Being thrown into a completely new environment with different rules and expectations is thrilling but can also be a shock. Whilst some thrive others may recoil and take a little more time to settle in. So often we hear about the amazing parts of university life, the nights out and long conversations with flatmates after dark. The not so great parts, stress, homesickness and debt, are

what we tend not to hear so much of. It is unrealistic to say that every moment of your experience has or will be perfect. Much like life, we take the good with the bad and this, paired with a sense of independence and freedom, is what for me makes university such a great experience. Only here is it acceptable to sleep all day and be up all night. We have access to over 200 societies and the opportunity to form new passions and develop existing ones. The tougher times, paradoxically, elevate the 'university experience' because they make you stronger. In these situations, we're really able to find out who we are and how we deal with not so ideal.

In 2016, 49% of young people in the UK were going onto higher education (The Guardian) with the number of 18-year olds being accepted to university rising by 1.5% (UCAS). This just goes to show that our desire for the 'university experience' is ever increasing. Whether motivated by the ambition to gain a high-quality degree or to be apart of campus culture and its social life, one cannot dispute the fact that many young people are actively deciding to make university a part of their journey. These unique years of our lives are whatever we decide to take from them and whether that's a fulfilling experience during the time you're there, or a distinct life lesson you take away once you've graduated, they're each exclusive to us.

Simply put university nurtures independence and individuality. Your university years may be the best, the worst or somewhere in between. Either way they'll be life changing because they're a part of the fundamental years that shape the person you are today. It seems farfetched to argue that university will mark the greatest period of your existence because experience is subjective. They could also be formative, enlightening.... The list could go on, and what about the years after university? Could it be the best years have only just begun?

For more comment pieces,
go to www.theprintnews.co.uk/category/comment



Image - Unsplash

AMERICA UNRAVELLED

JOEL CHANDLER



This week's special election in Pennsylvania's 18th District made it clear as day that this year's midterms are going to be catastrophically bad for the Republican Party. The Virginia governor's race and the election of Doug Jones in Alabama were indicative of this, but now any doubts have been cast away. However this is not the only reason why this special election is so significant, it also has huge ramifications for 2020.

But firstly one must consider the impact on congress later this year if the numbers from PA-18 hold up. If they do, then huge Republican figures in the house, including the Speaker Paul Ryan, are almost certainly going to be voted out of office. For example, polling show that Ryan's Democratic challenger, Randy Bryce, is only six points behind him. This is made worse by the fact that this data is six months old, meaning it is likely that it is even tighter now. Essentially the special election in PA has laid down a marker, if the President won your district by twenty points or less in 2016, you are in trouble.

“The people who elected Donald Trump in the first place are starting to turn on him”

I did some research into county by county voting during the 2016 election, and the results are simply staggering. Four congressional seats which are up for re-election in NY alone are areas (currently held by Republicans) in which Trump won by less than twenty points. However it isn't just Republicans in blue states which should be worried. Kansas' 3rd district is up for election and Trump won it by just a couple of points in 2016. This means it is likely the Democrats will pick up seats even in the reddest of states. The midterms will drastically change the landscape of the House, and it is looking increasingly likely that the Democrats might retake the majority, thus landing a huge blow to the President's agenda.

The second serious consequence of the special election is the fact that suburban, rust-belt voters, the people who elected Donald Trump in the first place, are starting to turn on him. The 18th District is prime rust-belt territory and it borders arguably the most conservative state in the nation, West Virginia. If Trump is losing or has indeed lost his base here, his re-election hopes are gone. These are the people who put him over the top in 2016, in states like Michigan, Wisconsin and of course, Pennsylvania. This special election may be the very first indicator that President Trump is already on the way out.

COMMENT

COMING TO TERMS WITH THE LECTURERS' STRIKE

JAMIE GORDON

The industrial action that took place last month was unprecedented, and it will set a precedent going forwards. Not only did tens of thousands of staff walk out across 65 universities, but as the most large-scale walkout by university staff ever in the UK, its outcome will undoubtedly set the tone for the direction of future policy.

After quite a bit of thought, I decided to support the strikes. It may seem a bit late in the day, but I came to this conclusion by agreeing with both the cause that the action was pursuing, and the course of action being taken to achieve those ends. Admittedly, striking was not a practical option, nor was it one that intimidated or naturally inspired a great deal of support outside of the groups being affected. In this context, it put students under increased pressure. With fees increasing incrementally and exams looming, it was perhaps a natural response to bite back at the immediate cause of lost teaching time – the walk-out by staff. When discussing the industrial action, some of my peers argued that negotiations, petitions

and protests would have been preferable, yet were unable to do more than canter around the reality that these means had already been exhausted and that the situation had escalated to a point where backing down would be fatal for either camp. Both sides were at loggerheads, with the government and relevant parties facing both fiscal pressure and the need to face off subliminal question-marks surrounding strength of leadership. In opposition, unions, staff and students fought not only to protect lecturers' pensions, but on a larger scale, to push back against a growing trend of cuts against education, which was and will increasingly come to jeopardise the quality of academia in the UK.

Ultimately, I think we could not afford to do anything less than strike. A harsh reality anyone seeking to oppose government legislation will face, is learning that aside from having extreme lobbying power or exercising direct democracy, the only effective form of leverage a group can exercise is practical opposition. In this instance, that practical opposition was being effectively delivered via

widespread strikes, picketing and occupations of university facilities, built upon cooperation between staff and students. This cooperation was widespread, with University College Union members supporting students in the occupation by supplying essentials and hot food when possible. Students were also involved in communications with the National Union of Journalists, National Union of Teachers and being an integral part of organising protests and online campaigns. Whilst sceptics have reminded me of the disruptive nature of the strikes, I would say this is indicative of their success. They have not yet achieved their goal by any means, but the fact that the UCU had rejected the first deal offered by Universities UK shows that they not only had confidence in the scale of their support, but also intended to go the distance. This was not a protest, it was a concrete rejection of injustice.

I say 'we' in regard to strikes because despite the best efforts and divisive rhetoric of individuals such as the Universities Minister Sam Gyimah, the interaction between university staff and students is natu-



Image - Chris Hurley

rally built upon cooperation. Lecturers, among other staff, have an almost quasi-parental role in the lives of their students, offering not only support but teaching skills and providing the next generation with the necessary tools for academic and professional life. As such, the responsibility of fighting the corner of the UCU and its members should fall upon all of those involved in academia. In the same way that university staff help us gain the skills and qualifications necessary to pursue our ambitions in later life, should we not try and help them protect their basic needs? In an effort not to sound quixotic, I urged readers to look at the implications beyond the short-term inconvenience they were being caused. Morally, the motion of abandoning the Defined Benefits Scheme for pensions is reprehensible. It is not as if these cuts were a new phenomenon – of course cuts have occurred across different sectors in recent years. But what some may not know is that two cuts to lecturers' pensions and a real-term pay cut of 20% have already occurred since 2009. In short, the Defined Contribution Scheme that was being contested, will see some staff lose over 60% of the pension they were led to expect when they began working. To put this in more tangible terms, your average Queen Mary lecturer will be £10,000 a year worse-off with these changes to the Universities Superannuation Scheme – the largest private pensions scheme for UK universities. That roughly equates to the same loss as going on strike for five years straight, without pay. This new scheme is designed to be more financially viable on the basis that it is subject to changes in the stock market, which is ironic considering lecturers' wages have always fallen short of being in line with other market forces, such as inflation. The irony goes beyond prophetic and almost into the realm of the ridiculous when one learns that at the same time as pension and pay cuts, the executive of the USS has received a pay rise of 17%, and two of his co-workers are now on over one million pounds per year. While much of what

I have said thus far is either my own unchecked rhetoric or hypothetical statistics, what I hope a reader can take away is the solidarity behind a cause on one side, and a lack of evidence demonstrating a concern for the quality of academia on the other side.

In practice, one must remember that university staff are here to help us as students but are also here to work. As with any form of employment, one seeks an appropriate income and a pension that will sustain them in their old age. What one must also remember is that academics often choose this occupation, not out of necessity, but out of a genuine interest in sharing their expertise in a field, often alongside another occupation that allows them to exercise this expertise. It should be impermissible that a situation arises in which such talented individuals are put off of entering into academia in this country. It is little surprise that the UK welcomes swathes of students from around the world, into a sphere with access to such high-quality teaching. But this will not continue if talented individuals are greeted with the prospect of cuts, long hours and impoverished retirement. The idea that these cuts are occurring under a guise of good business and financial feasibility is beyond laughable. One need only take a few moments to realise that the UK economy is built upon tertiary and quaternary sector employment and ultimately, highly skilled business, research and service labour. Such an economy is only viable with a population that is well-educated by the best individuals in their respective fields. This will not be possible with current measures of short-sighted and ham-fisted fiscal retrenchment.

In a poor attempt at paraphrasing one of these skilled individuals I have discussed, a university is a community of scholars and students, not a ruthless business. Learning and the sharing of ideas should be at the forefront and defended at any cost.

In the latest episode of Queen Mary Questions, we put the questions Print readers submitted to Ahmed Mahbub, VP Welfare of Queen Mary Students' Union



Watch here: www.theprintnews.co.uk

TALKING BODIES

MILLIE PRITCHARD

Long story short, I tried to put on a pair of jeans that I own the other day, they don't fit anymore, and now I feel shit.

I have always been an insecure person, and in my insecurity, I thrive off validation from my peers or even from strangers around me in order to feel a sense of security (in both an online and offline world). My main insecurities revolve around what people think of me, in regard to the way I look, and the way I come across. In terms of the latter, I am a particularly headstrong, passionate individual, and I feel as though there is a fear attached with that, notably related to the fact that I am a woman, which makes me worry about coming across as too strong, or too much to deal with. But, alas, that is a topic for another article, as I wanted to discuss my relationship with body image, and how it is inherently bound up with my compulsion to compare myself to others.

I lost weight last year after unknowingly eating better and I managed to squeeze my thunder thighs into a smaller pair of mom jeans (which, if you know me well, is my signature). I cannot even de-

scribe to you how I felt when I did up the top button in the Topshop changing rooms... just completely and utterly elated. It sounds silly, now, that the number on the label being just that tiny bit smaller had such a drastic impression on my mood. Before this, I was a firm believer in the 'fake it till you make it' technique - acting as if I didn't care about my size/weight so I wouldn't end up caring about it. The sense of achievement I had felt by buying a smaller size of jean made it apparent that it hadn't worked, but I have only realised that now, a year later, where I have returned to the size I was before, the size I naturally am. It seems insignificant. ONE size, that's all? What happened to that 'body positivity' movement I was once so passionate about and involved with? I have been in a funk about it for weeks now, and how I feel bad because of the weight gain, but also bad about the fact I feel bad about it.

Most people, it seems, tend to have a complex relationship with body image - a relationship that is sometimes good, and sometimes bad. My recent flair up of negativity surrounding the way I look is 100% linked up with compa-

ring myself to other people. I think we are all, to a certain extent, guilty of this. Whether it be someone landing a big promotion, when you feel like you're stuck in a dead-end job. Or maybe your friends around you are in relationships, engaged, or starting a family, and you feel as though you're lagging behind. Or maybe you have some beautiful women in your life and you feel insecure because you think you aren't as beautiful as they are.

I am surrounded by so many gorgeous ladies in my life, and I compare myself to all of them. I feel horrendous admitting this, and about how I have a raging jealousy inside me when I think someone looks so much better than myself. When they don't seem to have love handles, a tummy pouch and cellulite. When they seem to live and breathe the gym. When the extent of their relationship with carbs is their eyes gliding past it on restaurant menus and heading straight to the salad section. I wish I could be that person, but I know that with my current state of mind, I'd be doing it for all the wrong reasons.

"It sounds silly, now, that the number on the label being just

that tiny bit smaller had such a drastic impression on my mood."

The thing is, that although I view everyone around me as completely perfect in regard to their bodies and their attitude towards health, everyone has their own issues that they deal with. I open up to my friends about feeling as if I'm ugly and fat, and they have all felt the same way at some point in their lives! As cringe as it is to say this - society is built up on trying to make you feel terrible about your body, so they can sell you the next detox tea, the next anti-wrinkle cream, the next waist-trainer. A negative body image is a huge selling point for companies, that's why Instagram has been reduced to a forum for ex-contestants from Love Island to tell you about a device that can whiten your teeth after a single use. 'The Girlguiding Girls' Attitude Survey' in 2016 found that around 40% of girls aged 7-21 years old were unhappy with the way they looked. When I read this statistic, I was actually shocked, but not because it seemed too large, but it actually seemed too small. So many women around me feel the brunt of the desire for women to be perfect. It made me

wonder if there is a certain taboo in admitting that you are unhappy with the way you look? Or is this just my inner-pessimist coming out?

One's relationship to body image is a complex one. Your relationship to body image fluctuates as much as the shape of your actual body. Body shapes change continuously overtime naturally - things happen: methods of birth control change, mental states change. If your body is not exactly the way you want it to be, feel free to change it if you want to, but make sure it is for the right reasons. Your worth does not equate to how small a size you fit into, and it doesn't relate at all to the way your friends look, and whether you believe yourself to be less attractive. Everyone has their own demons, and everyone will constantly feel as though someone is better than themselves, it is human nature. There are so many more important things for you to worry and concern your time with. Besides, your body does some pretty incredible things regardless of its size! Your body is your home, and you should always fill your home with love and respect. Above everything, it is important to be kind to yourself.

TO LESBIAN WITH CLASS: ADVICE FOR LESBIAN STUDENTS

JULIA SMITH

It is often a challenge for gay students of female gender, or of any gender, to navigate through all the advice columns on the internet. However, this guide is brief and covers three categories - with one recommendation for each category: having a night out, dating, and finding support if needed.

1. Going out

Well, if you weren't lucky enough to pick up a copy of The Print, you would have probably gone to Ku Bar only to see yourself surrounded by persistent men, most of whom are heterosexual tourists. Do yourself a favour and stay away from the whole G-A-Y scene, will you? If you're a classy individual who's been in the library all day, reading Darwin's Origin of Species for breakfast and Woolf's Mrs Dalloway for lunch, I'm sure you need to sit somewhere with ambience and far from the madding crowd, somewhere you can sip at your Raspberry Cosmo without being harassed by irritatingly loud music. If so, then SHE SOHO is for you. Located

at 23a Old Compton St, it's a safe place to sit down and unwind or socialise. Quick tip: try going there on your own in order to enjoy not being bothered by anyone and fully de-stress, or, if you're interested in socialising, go there with a friend, as you'll find out most clients of this classy bar are sitting in pairs (so it's not a dating scene). The music is just loud enough to splash a bit of life on the underground bunker-style walls, and you can actually talk and listen to the other person. And if thou hast decided to get devastatingly blotto, Friday and Saturday nights after 10pm, for only £4 or so, the DJ plays the most vivacious, utterly marvellous records for a rather polite crowd.

2. Dating

Class and dating rarely go together in this butler-less age. But if I had to recommend a dating app, it would be FEM. I dated five individuals from this app last year and it felt like I was jumping out the frying pan and onto a wok, then to an oven (the middle

section), then on the back of my phone when it's charging, and then to those thingies that they use in Ground Café to press and cook the paninis. They were disastrous! But what matters is that I actually went on many dates with actual people. The app isn't fully free, but fret not! Give it a week and you'll be matched with someone. You can send

"Class and dating rarely go together in this butler-less age"

'Hi' to people for five coins, and considering you earn fifty coins each day, it shouldn't be a problem. There are also chatrooms and I found the Local one very helpful, as you can just let people around you know that you exist by just saying 'hi'. I wouldn't waste my time in chat rooms though. There are quite a lot of people with various interests, especially couples looking for 'playdates'. Word of advice: just turn the offer down politely if you are not into this

sort of thing. Unfortunately, there are glitches in the system and sometimes you can see messages from individuals who are male. The app is altogether very unstable. Oh, and then there are fake accounts and fraudsters. And did I mention the ads? Nonetheless, FEM is the best of a bad bunch and worth a cursory look.

3. Support

Now on a serious note, if you are feeling down, anxious, lonely, lost, confused, or are dealing with distressing issues, my advice is that you, first and foremost, talk to your tutors, and if it's overwhelming and urgent, to your GP. Meanwhile, I would strongly recommend you have a look at these two websites (<http://counselling-directory.org.uk> and <https://www.psychotherapy.org.uk/find-a-therapist>) and find yourself a lovely the-

rapist. You can find all sorts of methods of psychotherapy, from Freud to Jung to CBT and Art Therapy. The fees are between £40-70 per 50-minute session and many of them offer concessions for students for as cheap as £15-30 per session. I cannot emphasise enough how life-enhancing having a therapist can be (plus, you can say my therapist, like my maid and my accountant). In addition, there are LGBT+ support groups run by each Council in London. I have used Camden LGBT Forum in the past and the confidential and compassionate service they provide is exceptional. At the cost of sounding like your parent, I have to tell you this with genuine care: if you feel unwell, ill-at-ease, anxious, depressed, lonely, etc, even if you don't know what is causing it, just reach out to support groups. We are all paying tax so you are looked after. Spend your money on your health, my child.

SATIRE

THE GUILLOTINE

WE CREATED A FAKE SU ELECTION CANDIDATE AND CAMPAIGNED FOR THEM TO BE PRESIDENT

OLIVIA MESCE

In the run up to the Students' Union Presidential elections, the talk on campus was nothing short of dull and predictable. Small talk evolved from "Cold today innit?" to "Who are you voting for?". Both questions erupted an equally boring and short lived conversation. All of a sudden everyone in library square was claspng a manifesto and channeling their inner Lenin, as they stood tall on the smoking bench and belloved their policies through a megaphone. Their heads were held high and they slept well at night knowing the future of the world could be in their hands.

Here at The Guillotine we decided to test just how involved and politically active everyone was pretending to be and we did this by spending a full day campaigning for a fake candidate to be President of the SU. We created some ridiculous policies, neatly presented on a poster, and set about asking people what they thought and if they would vote. I wish I could write that the majority of students at Queen Mary are too intelligent and invested in the Students' Union and laughed us away in a dismissive manner, but of course, that was not the case. To put it lightly, if this was 1930's Germany, there would be a large amount of students here raising up their arm into a Nazi salute, other than about two of the people we spoke to. Everyone else was a conformer and agreed.

(Disclaimer: the policies we created are totally not harmful and do not have any similarity with those of Adolf Hitler, it was just a crass comparison).

After long deliberation and hours on google translate we came up with the name 'Emily Hamis' for our candidate, which actually translates to

"False Rival" (if both words are translated separately and in very different languages, clearly not just pretty faces here at 'The Print'). The manifesto went something like this:

- Library to become a shoe and sock free zone, a recent study in California has shown this increases studying ability as students revise better when feeling 'Zen'.
- Decrease work load by making sure Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are made free from teaching.
- Make extra study spaces available in empty corridors, broom closets and bathroom stalls.
- New Recycling policy- If you don't recycle your rubbish, you're forced to eat it.
- Build a play area for students; Emily believes it is unacceptable that we are the only Russell Group without monkey bars and a sandpit.
- Introduce 'enrichment day' once a week with activities including fishing in the Regent's Canal, cookery lessons at The Curve and abseiling down Pooley house.
- Stop calling Queen Mary a University and instead a 'Learning Community' to avoid negative assumptions.
- Focus on getting better training for QMUL starting by applying Mucci's for Gordon Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares.
- Allow puppies access to



Above: Coming clean about the spoof campaign at The Print's Satire Soirée in March

Students' Union services – "it's absolutely disgusting that the SU is taking such an anthropocentric stance on who has access to its services. It's exclusionary and speciesist"

- Launch an investigative committee into finding exactly what the purpose of CUB magazine is.

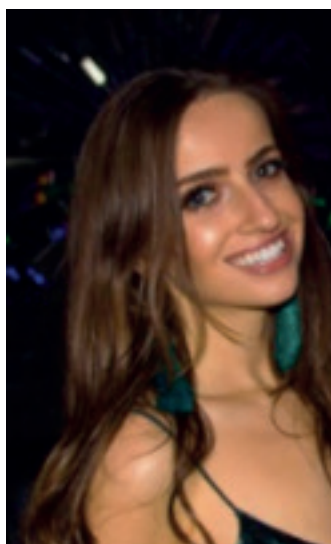
We had a lot of fun reading out these policies to naive and unsuspecting students and were left truly amazed that out of around the 30 people we asked, only one disagreed that forcing people to eat their ru-

bish if they don't recycle was a good and fair measure. This one person did get rather angry and call 'Emily' a tyrant.

We also particularly enjoyed watching perplexed and confused faces as we listed every day of the week as free from teaching, one girl literally counted the days on her hand to check. No one even questioned the ridiculous idea that "We are the only Russell Group to not have monkey bars or a sandpit", everyone appeared genuinely intrigued that "LSE has monkey bars in their SU". The best part of the campaign trail had to be getting one of

the candidates running for a sabbatical position (who shall not be named) to agreeing to vote for Emily Hamis... not like he'd been at the hustings with the real candidates just the week before!

If anything, this fake campaigning didn't only look bad on the students of Queen Mary for being gullible and ignorant (there was so many posters around campus with the real candidates faces on) but it confirmed that myself and Katherine, as editors of Satire, are astonishingly good at chatting shit.



VOTE EMILY HAMIS SU PRESIDENT!

'MAKE ME THE QUEEN OF QUEEN MARY'

**VOTE ONLINE AT
QMSU.ORG/ELECTIONS
FROM THE 5TH-8TH**

NEWS
IN
BRIEF

OLIVIA MESCE

Rugby Lad Knighted For Political Activism After ‘Occupy’ Spoons Every Night This Year

Boris Johnson Reveals All In Skimpy Thong Bikini Whilst Holidaying In Tenerife (pg.3)

Russia Continue Doing Whatever The Fuck They Want

Topman And H&M Collaborate On New Line Of Holocaust Themed T-shirts

Man Arrested In Sheffield For Penetrating A Yorkshire Pudding In Public

Meninists Win And Finally Get An International Men’s Day, Taking Place On April 1st

Police Initiate Search For Missing Man Named Colin Bailey

Woman creates twitter just so she can tweet “I want to die” every time she has an assignment due.

Dixy Chicken Buys Out Muccis

RECENT GRADUATE WOULD LIKE
TO THANK SPARK NOTES, GOOGLE
SCHOLAR AND THE CTRL+F
FUNCTION FOR HER DEGREE

KATHERINE BUTTERFIELD



Above: A stock image of a person looking stressed | Image - Pinterest / APU.EDU

Recent politics graduate, Anna (22), has come forth on Facebook to thank those who really helped her through her degree.

In her recent post on the online platform, she wrote: “I can’t honestly emphasise enough how much I owe my 2:1 bachelor’s in politics to these three things. “Spark notes,” she continued “which translated Hobbes into English for me.”

“Google scholar, which would always find me a substantiating source, even if it was from a failed PhD candidate publishing under a third rate university like Iowa State.”

“And the ctrl+f function, which allowed me to easily search for buzzwords within a 90 page source, meaning I thankfully didn’t have to read it all.”

For more FAKE NEWS visit:
www.theprintnews.co.uk/category/satire/

AN EASY TO FOLLOW, 5-STEP GUIDE ON
HOW TO BEHAVE AT YOUR LOCAL CAFÉ:

EMMA KEELEY

An easy to follow, 5-step guide on how to behave at your local café:

Before you go... Prepare yourself – in order to succeed, an essential component is your mood and attitude. Without making your superiority evident to the workers in this way, the actions below will not have the desired effect or certify that the experience will be everything you hoped for. There is no better way to ensure this than to read the news in depth (a personal favourite is to read the news from the point of view of someone you disagree with).

Take your dog for coffee! Not everyone likes coffee, granted, but your dog sure

will enjoy the smell of the café, and its tail will wag into anything breakable in a 5-meter radius. This ensures your entrance is noticed by the workers, and that you will get special treatment.

Ask for a decaf, soya milk (extra hot), triple shot mocha. The complexity and uniqueness of the coffee, along with a small smile directed towards the line of customers out the window, will guarantee that you will be remembered and spoken about.

Can that be in a take away cup, but to sit in?

Ah yes. Once you have your coffee, specify what kind of cup you want it in – a busy person like you needs to be

ready to go places at a moment’s notice! Sip and enjoy.

Relax, kick back, stroke your dog, and enjoy your decaf, soya milk (extra hot), triple shot mocha. You deserve it! All your hard work has paid off.

BONUS: if you got this far, congratulations! But for a bonus round, remember to always complain about the coffee, even after you’ve left the shop. Express your displeasure loudly, and make sure to demand for the manager’s number. The barista will make you a new coffee free of charge, and welcome you back the next time you feel inclined to take your dog for a short walk.



Image: Blanca González Alba

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

STEPHEN HAWKING: A BRIEF HISTORY

ALEXANDER RICHARDSON

On March 14th 2018, Stephen Hawking passed away at the age of 76, having lived a life over three times longer than predicted after his diagnosis with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in 1963. Throughout his life Hawking made several significant contributions to Physics, wrote successful popular science books such as 'A Brief History of Time' and made many appearances in modern culture including The Simpsons, The Big Bang Theory and Star Trek: The Next Generation.

Hawking's scientific works at first focused on the field of Physical cosmology – the study of the origin, structure and evolution of the universe. His PhD thesis attempted to theorise when gravitational singularities, known as black holes today, would form; work which he continued with fellow cosmologist Roger Penrose, Hawking's inspiration for his thesis, after his graduation.

In 1970, Hawking then postulated what would become the second law of black hole dynamics: the event horizon of a black hole can never get smaller. These four laws set out to solve the problem that the existence of black holes would violate the second law of thermodynamics, one of the most important and fun-

damental theories in physics. Hawking's second law however caused a problem: that according to quantum physics, information about particles entering a black hole would be destroyed, known as the black hole information paradox.

To solve this problem, Hawking alongside Jacob Bekenstein theorised in 1974 that black holes emit Hawking-Bekenstein radiation, commonly called Hawking radiation. A consequence of this radiation is that the mass of a black hole will gradually reduce over time, resulting in them shrinking and vanishing, in contrast with the second law of black hole dynamics. This process is expected to occur more in smaller black holes, with large black holes as observed today being predicted to lose insignificant fractions of their energy through Hawking radiation. Hawking radiation has yet to be observed due to the effect being too small to observe directly.

In 1975, Hawking took a post as a reader in gravitational physics at Cambridge, where he supervised 39 successful PhD students and was elected the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics. This is considered to be one of the most prestigious academic posts in the world, with other holders including Isaac Newton, Charles Babbage and Paul Dirac.

The book 'A Brief History of

Time', written in non-technical terms to appeal to a broader audience, was written by Hawking and published in 1985. The book gives an overview of the field of cosmology, from the origin and development of the universe to the search for a unifying theory of everything in physics. The book has sold over 20 million copies worldwide, staying on The Sunday Times bestseller list for a record 237 weeks, and has helped inspire millions about the universe.

Hawking was also very vocal with his personal views about politics, religion and the future of humanity. He was a long time Labour supporter who repeatedly praised and defended the NHS and other universal health care systems, to whom he maintained he owed his life. He also was very vocal about the dangers of creating a superintelligent artificial intelligence, stating that creating a superintelligence "[...] would be the biggest event in human history. It might also be the last, unless we learn how to avoid the risks."

Hawking was still working on physics upon his death. His final paper 'A Smooth Exit from Eternal Inflation?' discussing the possibility of finding evidence of the existence of a multiverse was in the process of further review at the time of his death.

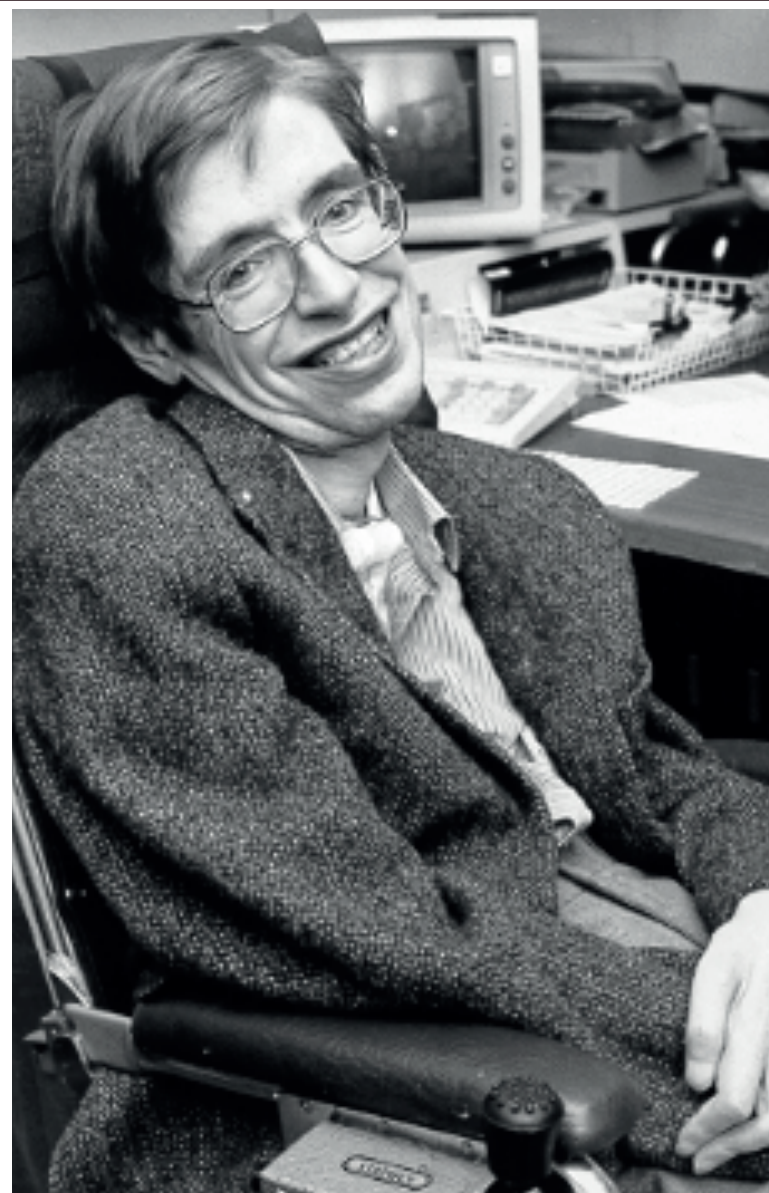


Image: Wikipedia

BIOHACKING: THE LONG ROAD TO CYBORGS

ALEXANDER RICHARDSON

Have you ever thought that you were limited by your body? That the capabilities of the human body could be increased with electronics? If so, you're not alone. Across the world 'Grinders' are people who have decided that cybernetics are the answer and are implanting electronics into their bodies.

Grinders fall under the umbrella of DIY biology, a movement that has been around since the late 80s, where individuals are doing biological experiments, often in the realms of biohacking, as a hobby or for business. The individuals often have little to no formal training in biological science, introducing concerns that unethical or harmful experiments may be performed without the correct supervision.

The grinder community push the boundaries of what is safe

and legal by implanting electronic devices beneath their skin. Some devices are very small, as small as a few millimetres in diameter, whilst others are bulkier, reaching the size of a pack of playing cards or a small smartphone. To prevent the device from causing issues inside the body they are surrounded in 'bio-proofing' materials, which adds considerable bulk to the implant. The devices are then often installed by the patients themselves and can result in heavy bruising and infections and results in an obvious lump beneath the skin.

The functionality of the devices is currently very limited. Some will be able to measure blood temperature or pulse rate, others may be RFID tags or NFC chips, enabling the user to interact with electronic locks and switches. Recently an Australian grinder took the chip from his contactless travel card and implanted it

into his hand. The chip was still scannable by the station card readers and allowed him to pay for his travel with his hand, however he was fined by the New South Wales transport authority for travelling without a ticket.

This is not the only time an implant has brought legal problems to the user. The metals and batteries used in the implants may show up in airport security scanners, resulting in some very awkward conversations. They could also potentially be used by criminals to smuggle electronics in or out of restricted areas, or to facilitate crime. For example NFC chips inserted into the hand are almost undetectable by humans, but can be used to communicate with nearby phones allowing full control by a remote, unauthorised user.

There is of course the problem of longevity. Most implants

have no way of generating power whilst inside the body, meaning when the battery runs out they must be removed. The batteries usually last at least several months due to the low power nature of the devices, however this greatly reduces their appeal. Batteries are also not the safest of devices, so extra care must be taken to ensure that if one does leak, that it does not harm the user.

So whilst a cyborg super person may still be decades if not centuries away, it is possible to look on and see the fiction slowly turn to reality. Maybe in a few years this will be as ubiquitous as smartphones? Until then however I cannot recommend that you try this at home, unless you know exactly what you are doing.

“People have decided that cybernetics are the answer and are implanting electronics into their bodies”



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'WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE EGYPTIANS?'

QMUL EGYPTIAN SOCIETY MARKS SEVEN YEARS SINCE #JAN25 EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION

MAARIYAH DAWOOD

QMUL Egyptian Society commemorated the seven-year anniversary of the Egyptian revolution with a panel event on Thursday 25th January in the Fogg Lecture Theatre.

The event was titled 'Whatever Happened to the Egyptians?', taking its name from the popular book authored by Egyptian economist Galal Amin, and explored the trajectory of Egyptian politics and society since the 2011 revolt. People took to the streets to protest against the authoritarian regime of the president Hosni Mubarak, inspired by similar events in Tunisia as part of a series of uprisings across the Middle East known as the Arab Spring.

Mubarak was overthrown and Mohamed Morsi was elected as the president in 2012. However, Morsi was removed a year later following protests calling for his resignation and a coup d'état led by then Minister of Defence and now the current President, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

The questions posed to the speakers were to what extent did the revolution fail, and what the way forward is to a better Egypt.

Khaled Fahmy, professor of Modern Arabic Studies at Cambridge, kicked off the panel and declared that 'today Egypt is more abysmal and darker than 7 years ago', arguing that there are an

unprecedented number of capital punishment sentences being passed than ever before in Egyptian history, with thousands of people behind bars and presidential candidates forced to resign or disappear. 'Not even under Mubarak was it so abysmal', Fahmy lamented.

Fahmy noted that there was some merit to the work of Asef Bayat, author of 'Revolutions with Revolutionaries', who argued that the 25th January revolution was not radical enough in its outlook and lacked clear ideas of how to seize power, reform the economy or build a credible political movement but said this should be situated in a wider historical context.

Fahmy's speech was at times doubtful about what the revolution had achieved, but at times hopeful. He stated that original ideas on issues like gender relations and

"The most dangerous thing about authoritarianism is it is done under the guise of a better and noble cause"

city management arose out of the revolutions. 'These are the single most set of important ideas to be put forward in Egypt since Nasserism. January 25th is still having a momentum'.

Dr Nancy Okail, Executive Director of the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy, spoke next and began by reflecting on a moment seven years ago when after initially

being excited about the revolution, she started shedding tears when she saw people taking pictures with and glorifying the army as 'saviours of the people'. Having worked in the Ministry of International Development to survey the impact of foreign aid, she had seen first-hand how much the army controlled matters. However she declared that it was the wrong question to ask whether things were better under Mubarak. 'The most dangerous thing about authoritarianism is it is done under the guise of a better and noble cause: promoting democracy and stability during the War on Terror. This is a dangerous framing in narrative as it legitimises what the regime was creating'.

Dr Okail went on to explain how Mubarak was able to extend and hold on to his power for so long, and how Sisi was doing the same. She ended her speech by noting the

importance of the international arena during the revolt, and how Obama praised the Tahrir Square revolutionaries as being on 'right side of history'.

The last speaker, Hesham Shafick, a PhD candidate in the School of Politics, called the 25th January a 'sad day' which he did not want to romanticise, but the war was not lost yet. He argued that the revolution is still being spoken about today, and that the Occupy and anti-austerity movements took their cues from the Egyptian revolutionaries. Shafick disagreed with Fahmy that the revolution lacked proper organisation, pointing to labour strikes and factory meetings that proved other. 'The answer to whether the revolution failed lies in what you consider a revolution to be'.

The panel was followed by a Q&A session to round off what was a very thought-provoking evening.



QMUL EGYPTIAN SOCIETY

SOCIETIES

FORMULA 1 IS NOT JUST FOR THE BOYS: THE WOMEN OF QUEEN MARY FORMULA STUDENT

KATARZYNA ADAMSKA

Though it has been over 40 years since a female driver entered a Formula One race, there is a growing number of women involved in the engineering and operations areas of motorsport. Who knows, maybe the future of F1 will no longer be male-dominated? The history of women in Formula One (F1) is not a long one. In total, there have been five female Formula One drivers, but only two of them have actually qualified and entered a race at a Grand Prix. Maria Teresa de Filippis was the first woman ever to compete during the 1958 and 1959 seasons. Fifteen years later, Lella Lombardi entered the total of seventeen races during the 1974, 1975 and 1976 seasons and is the only woman to have scored points in the World Championship.

Many of you have probably wondered why female drivers are still so rare. Could gender-based stereotyping be to blame? That would be a natural first guess as in the past F1 was often considered a man's sport. In fact, Maria Teresa de Filippis got banned from the 1958 French Grand Prix after the race director said that: "the only helmet that a woman should use is the hairdresser". The truth is, motorsport is one of the only sports in which women can compete on the same level as men, and any presumptions or beliefs that girls are not physically or mentally able to drive competitively are just simply not true.

However, the times are changing as currently women occupy important roles in the world of Formula One. In 2012, Monisha Kaltenborn became a team principal for the Sauber F1 team, which made her the first woman in the history of the sport to fill that position. The list goes on: Claire Williams is the deputy team principal of the Williams team, Gill Jones is Red Bull Racing's head of trackside electronics, the senior strategy engineer roles for the Sauber and Sahara Force India teams are occupied by Ruth Buscombe and Bernadette Collins respectively. Also, more women get behind the wheel as development and test drivers.

Showing that motorsport is a viable career option for young women became a mission of such organisations as 'FIA Women in Motorsport' or 'Dare To Be Different' founded by a former British racing

driver Susie Wolff. Apart from providing training, mentoring and organising networking events, they promote the involvement of women at all levels of motorsport and as a result create role models for the next generations of female drivers and engineers.

The Formula Student competition is an example of how university students around the world are encouraged to pursue a career in F1. Organised by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) and backed by industry and high-profile engineers such as Patron, Ross Brawn OBE, the competition aims to develop enterprising and innovative young engineers whilst encouraging more young people to take up a career in engineering. In this competition, teams have to design and build a single-seat racing car to be tested in a variety of static and dynamic events. In addition, each team delivers a business presentation to a panel of judges, who act as representatives of a manufacturing firm, to convince them to invest in the team's race car business.

We are very proud to say that our own Queen Mary Formula Student team is the Best Newcomer of 2017 in the UK. Currently, we are working on our second car ever and looking forward to this year's competition at the F1 circuit in Silverstone.

We would like to introduce you to the women of Queen Mary Formula Student. Even though we are the minority of the team, we all share the same passion and work towards a common goal, which is building an awesome racing car.

Tasha Wrigley is a first year Aerospace Engineering student who joined the Marketing team in September 2017. "I've always watched F1 and used to help run a car club, I've messed around with cars with my dad from being 9". Tasha is also on the Go-Karting team of the University and would like to pursue a career in motorsport after leaving University.

Kasia Adamska is a second year Electronics with Music and Audio Systems student and joined the Marketing team in January 2018. "From a very young age I've been struck by the aesthetic values of sport car design. I think it is fascinating how technolo-

gical development affects the functionality and gadgetry of cars." Being a part of Formula Student encouraged her to consider a career in motorsport.

Nina Mangold is a final year Film Studies and Drama student and joined Queen Mary Formula Student in September 2016 as Head of Marketing. As a head of department, she is responsible for managing the Marketing team and making sure that everything we do is consistent with our brand image. Her interest in racing started with playing the Need For Speed series and a Colin McRae Rally PC game. She also did a summer internship at an Aston Martin branch in Switzerland in 2016 and joined Formula Student to get some insight into race car engineering.

Kristiina Saarinen is a third year Film Studies student who joined the team in September 2016 as Deputy Head of Marketing. She said that: "there's no particular moment when I became interested in motorsport, since motorsport, especially Formula 1, have always been part of my life as I grew up in a family that watches every F1 race and follows it

with great interest." Kristiina is not considering a career in motorsport at the moment but (cliché alert) with life you never really know.

Anjali Bhatt is a MSc Aerospace Engineering student who joined the Suspension team in February 2018. She is responsible for designing upright and performing load calculations of the suspension system. Anjali became interested in F1 during the second year of her undergraduate degree when she was part of a Formula Student team at her former university. Later on, she would like to work in the aerodynamics departments of formula car companies.

Ranmini Paranawithanage is a first year Aerospace Engineering student who joined the Drivetrain team in September 2017. She has assisted her father in mechanical repairs and learnt a lot from his professional skills. During her work experience at the British Airways Engineering Base and Terminals she familiarised herself with aspects within a car such as hydraulic braking systems. Taking part in Formula Student provides Ranmini with an insight into the parallels of aerospace

structure and automobile systems, which can later be applied when pursuing a career in motorsports.

Uvena Yogarajah is a first year Aerospace Engineering student and joined Queen Mary Formula Student in September 2017 as a Chassis team member. "I became interested in Motorsport due to the engineering and design behind the incredible speed and ability of the cars. Also, by seeing how the technologies used refine the expectations of future cars."

We are proud of our diverse team consisting of 17 different nationalities and 21 spoken languages. As our members study a range of degree subjects across the university, each member provides the team with their own personal skills, creating a distinct work environment. Queen Mary Formula Student has more women on the team than ever before and we are hoping to increase this number even further in the coming years. To all the girls reading (and boys too): why not join us in September 2018?



QM Formula Student winning at the Society Awards in March

QMUL MEDI: INSPIRING THE DOCTORS AND DENTISTS OF TOMORROW

DAVIDA COMMEY

QMUL MEDI is a newly-affiliated society which has been running successfully throughout the year by applying the 'one-event-a-month' rule with external and internal speakers taking part. We aim to help graduates get in to medicine and dentistry by providing the required insight into what these courses entail. This was achieved through various networking opportunities with healthcare professionals to help students in securing relevant medical or dental work experience. We have hosted several medical and dental-related talks, debates, and activities to enhance student applications.

MEDi held 6 academic events hosted by medicine representatives. Our meet and greet event was highly anticipated as we invited Dr Aaminah Verity, a volunteer doctor who

had recently spent six weeks in refugee camps on the Greek island of Chios. After completing an MSc in Tropical Medicine and International Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Dr Verity now works in A&E in London. She discussed why she chose medicine, her pathway, her specialty and the realities of working as a doctor in the NHS. At the end of the event, members were able to network with Dr Verity to ask about medical work experience.

The next event held was a Dental Talk in collaboration with the Biomedics Society, one of the largest biological and chemical science societies. By working with the Biomedics Society, we were able to get both undergraduate and graduate dental students from Barts and the London. At the event, members were in-

formed of what it takes to get into dentistry, and advice on getting into the field and sustaining motivation throughout. The panel discussion also reviewed dental work experience, improving manual dexterity skills and life as a dental student.

MEDi collaborated with QMUL Biochemical and Pharmaceutical Science Society for the Insider's Perspective on Medical School event. We had a group panel discussion of 8 medical students from UCL, KCL, Imperial, Warwick, and Barts medical school, consisting of a mixture of students who entered medicine as school leavers, or undergraduate students having a science or humanities-related degree. This event provided aspiring medics with invaluable insider information on medical school application and their experiences, student

life, course structure specific to their medical school, and general advice and tips. Our penultimate event was 'Life as a Junior Doctor'. We invited two speakers; a Foundation Year 2 Junior Doctor at Ealing Hospital, and an NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Cardiology at Hammer-smith Hospital, Imperial College Health Care. The doctors spoke about the trajectory of junior doctors, the junior doctor strike, pros and cons of the NHS, getting into consultancy, and general advice and tips on medical school applications. This was an extremely insightful event as students were able to see what life after medical school entailed.

Our last event 'Want to Ace your Medical Interview' was an interview simulation event with medical students acting as an interviewer and interviewee. The interview sim-

ulation was opened to the audience, and feedback was provided on what answers were deemed good or bad. A series of common medical questions were asked to the panel, and individual panel members discussed how they would approach the questions and how to prepare for an interview.

MEDi is a great contribution to campus life because it fulfils the needs not met by other societies, such as supporting students with aptitude tests required for medical school entry GAMSAT, BMAT, and UKCAT through crash courses, as well as interview simulations. MEDi was nominated for 'Best New Society' this year and is unique in the fact that our events cater for students from all degree backgrounds to get into medicine or dentistry.

DIVE INTO FINANCIAL MARKETS, INVESTMENT BANKING OR TRADING WITH QUEEN MARY'S TRADING AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY

CHRISTIAN HIRSEKORN

Want to explore areas such as Asset Management, Investment Banking, Private Equity and Alternative Investments? Or learn how Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning is changing the finance industry? Or just join a friendly and fun community of like-minded finance enthusiasts?

The academic year is coming to an end and Queen Mary Trading and Investment Society (QMTIS) is looking back on a very successful year. As the biggest and most active

events with guest speakers from various prestigious investment banks, asset managers and alternative investment firms. Our topics this year ranged from CV workshops, insights into corporate banking, investment banking, Venture Capital & Start-ups, Proprietary Trading, Emerging Markets, Prime Brokerage, Private Equity, Asset Management, Asset Allocation and Economics and Tech.

Just before the Christmas Break we hosted the Economics Ball together with the Economics Society. The event was a full success with more than 100 students enjoying



experience the life of Sales, Sales-Trader and Traders on a trading floor. We also brought in the UK Chief Economist from Nomura who talked

Team has developed their own trading simulator game which you can find at <https://qmtistrader.com/>. They're still working on it, so give it a shot and leave us some feedback so we can improve it! They're doing some great projects and research which is being published on www.qmtis.com. By the way, they're looking for some keen and passionate members of their team. tech@qmtis.com, so get in touch if you're interested!

The mixture of our weekly events, learning through projects in our sub-divisions, our mentorship programme and our established network prepares members well for their careers. QMTIS members have been successful in securing internships and roles at various firms such as Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan, Citi, UBS,

Credit Suisse, RBC Capital Markets, BlackRock, BNP Paribas and Nomura. However, it's not just the careers focus that makes us a strong society. It's our passionate and driven members who go the extra mile.

We're looking forward to the next year and are hoping to welcome and inspire new members for QMTIS.

Check us out on Facebook, our website, Instagram or email us at enquiries@qmtis.com

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

Website: www.qmbfs.co.uk/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/qmulbfs/

"We were nominated for "Society of the Year" and "Best Event of the Year" at QMSU Societies Awards"

finance-related society on campus with more than 300 members, we expanded our extensive network across the City and have been sponsored by Bank of America Merrill Lynch. We were nominated for "Society of the Year" and "Best Event of the Year" at QMSU Societies Awards after having held more than 25

the black-tie event including 3-course dinner, DJ and live performances. (Check out some pictures on our Facebook page)!

In February, we hosted a full-day Trading and Capital Markets Masterclass in collaboration with the Economics Society. Students could

about Britain's housing market and had an 'Insight into the Private Equity Industry' session with alumnus Tobias Richter from Providence Equity Partners.

Members not only benefit from our events but can also join our various sub-divisions. For example, our growing Tech

SPORT

QM FRESHERS TAKE CHEERLEADING BY STORM

NICOLE WRETHAM

Queen Mary Angels is made up of 3 teams and almost 100 members, ranging from absolute beginners to more advanced athletes who have been with the club for years. This year has been an immensely successful year for the club as a whole, with the Elite level 5 team, X5, winning 2 gold medals, the advanced level 3 team, Aurora, winning 2 silver medals, and the all-girl Freshers team, Princesses, winning 2 gold medals! Cheerleading at QM is more than just pompoms and chants, the teams work hard all year to put together two and a half minute routines that they take to Regional and National competitions for a panel of judges. These routines are made up of gymnastics, dance and stunting — lifting people in the air. There are no “try outs” required to join QMA, as the club is open to everyone who wants to join, regardless of experience. This year, the entry level team, Princesses, is the biggest QMA has ever had, made up of 38 girls, all of which were new to cheer when they joined in September!

The first competition was a regional competition called, Legacy Cheer and Dance, ho-



sted in the nearby Copper Box Arena on Sunday 18th February. Unfazed by nerves, a large crowd and an intimidating panel of judges, Princesses performed a near perfect routine, hitting their stunt sections faultlessly, and finished off with a sharp, flawless dance. Their blood, sweat and tears paid off as they won themselves 1st place against 5 other teams. Flying high off of their success, Princesses trained hard over the next month to increase the difficulty of their routine, and ensure perfection. The second competition was a national competition, the ICC British Open, hosted at the Nottingham Motorpoint Arena. At 6am on Sunday 18th March, QMA travelled to Not-

tingham for a full day of cheer. After supporting X5 and Aurora, Princesses took to the mat at 6:30pm and performed an amazing routine, even more perfect than the last. Their confidence and enjoyment radiated from them, and the support from the crowd was unbelievable. No one thought it possible that they could top their previous routine, but somehow, they did!

Princesses won their second 1st place of the season, hitting zero, — meaning they performed a perfect routine without any deductions — a truly amazing achievement. Furthermore, they beat 10 other teams to the top, in the most competitive cheerleading division! Princesses captain,



Polina Pogudina, spoke to The Print about these achievements, “I could not be more proud of my team this season! They all are new to the sport and have been working extremely hard with the best attitudes. We could not have succeeded so much without our head coach, Clare Winder, who choreographs our routines and with lots of patience, teaches us the skills from scratch! None of this would have been possible without the rest of QMA, their constant help and encouragement for the Freshers.”

QMA will finish their brilliant 2017/18 season next week as they travel to Telford for the British Championships, their biggest competition yet,

where Princesses will aim to maintain their undefeated title, Aurora will go for GOLD, and X5 will compete for a bid to the European Champions, where they hope to return for a second year to take first place!

If cheerleading sounds like something you would like to learn next year then stay up to date with the club on social media, ready for the next season in September!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/qmangels/>
Instagram: @qmangels
Email: qmangels@googlemail.com
YouTube: QueenMary Angels

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.

With this being the last issue of the uni paper this academic year, I thought I should take the time to raise awareness about an urgent issue. West Ham, Fulham, Barnet and Leyton Orient have all been written about but this

Dagenham and Redbridge FC

time, i’ll be talking about Dagenham and Redbridge, a club who may not be around much longer.

At the start of the year, major investor and Director, Glyn Hopkin resigned from his role at the club which has seen cash in short supply for the East London side. West Ham are even playing a friendly against Dagenham in March to raise some much needed money. The issue is urgent for a club who have seen success in previous years. Only 8 years ago the Daggers were in League One under the experienced figure of John Still. Still returned to the club in 2015 and has steadied the proverbial ship which has continued to sink however.

Currently sitting in 11th after a fine start to the season, the financial troubles have shrouded the club of late, with just 2 wins in their last six games.

Gate revenue is crucial for a club’s survival; I urge those who have the time to make the short trip to Dagenham and hopefully partake in helping the club survive.

Games coming up

Dagenham only have one more match in this season’s Vanarama National league. On the 21st of April, the Daggers face fellow mid-table outfit Maidenhead United.

Although it won’t be the most exciting match in theory with the game a dead rubber as neither side have anything to play for, these games do sometimes throw up the best score lines. With nothing to play for, both will be fairly relaxed and it’s this atmosphere which might see some questionable defending on display! Unfortunately for the home side, the goals will most likely come from the visiting ‘Magpies’. Morgan Ferrier’s return

to Borehamwood has left Dagenham light upfront, so expect United’s Harry Pritchard to be the player celebrating come matchday.

Seats and prices

Dagenham have four stands you can position yourself in for a match; the ‘Terrace’ which is standing costs £10, the Family Stand which is seating costs £10 or you can go in the Carling Stand which is slightly more expensive at £15. The final stand is the A13 Steel Stand which also costs £15, however this also houses away fans. These prices are for concessions so please remember your student ID when buying on the day!

Travelling to the game

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Stadium will not take you too long to get to from the university cam-



Image – Wikipedia
pus. From Mile End station, take the District line via Upminster, and get off at Dagenham East, which should take around 25 minutes. When you have left the station, go left and walk straight for around 5 minutes along Rainham Road. After this, take a left into Victoria road which will see you arrive at the stadium.

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