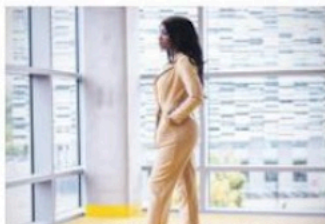




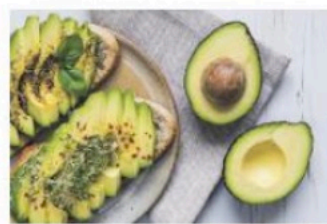
SPEAKER OF THE COMMONS VISITS QUEEN MARY
PAGE 6



INTERVIEW WITH 'THE APPRENTICE' CONTESTANT
PAGE 9



RED NOVEMBER AND VENEZUELA
PAGE 11



AVOCADO HOUSES
PAGE 16



CITIES OF THE FUTURE
PAGE 20

THE PRINT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF QUEEN MARY STUDENTS' UNION

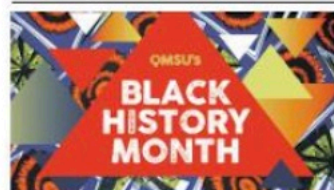
THEPRINTNEWS.CO.UK

FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2017 - ISSUE 21 - FREE

STUDENTS' UNION CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

THIS YEAR, QUEEN MARY OFFICIALLY CELEBRATED BLACK HISTORY MONTH FOR THE FIRST TIME

AAMINAH AKRAM



October marked the 30th anniversary of Black History Month in the UK. During this month, Queen Mary proudly came to together to celebrate diversity, culture and inclusivity. Staff and students all united to do their bit in highlighting the history and contributions from people of African and Caribbean descent.

October saw a wide range of events to mark Black History Month; from film reviews to debates and parties. Noteworthy events included the screening of Oscar nominated 'Hidden Figures', which was organised by the faculty of Science and Engineering. The film shines a light on the incredible work done by women of African and Caribbean descent in NASA operations. Similarly, the School of Politics and International Relations held a screen-

ing of the documentary, 'The Upright Man' to showcase the political innovation of Thomas Sankara, the former president of Burkina Faso.

The School of Business Management also got involved in the action by hosting a 'long table' open discussion to support students of a black and minority ethnic background with their future career prospects (more on page 5). The number of different schools involved in Black History Month highlights the readiness of staff and students to do their bit, and to celebrate the significant contributions from people of African and Caribbean descent.

Other events held throughout the month included a BHM Dance party held on the Whitechapel campus, and a series of talks on race equality. The desire to celebrate Black History Month was not only limited to the walls of Queen Mary, however. The local council, Tower Hamlets, also held a wide range of events to celebrate the month. More can be found on their website.



The success of the month can be argued to not have been possible without the dedication and passion of Mary Ojo, Vice President for Education at Queen Mary Students' Union. Ms Ojo, however, attributes a large proportion of the success to involvement of several societies such as African and Caribbean Society, Pan African Society, Decolonising QMUL, Unite, and Equip Africa. She also remarks that success was

held in the movement being run like a campaign, stating: 'BHM was successful because it was a campaign. I organised it aligned with union aims and based on union research. Consequently, I had a goal and that was key. If I didn't establish why I was running BHM from the very beginning, it would have been difficult to pull it all off'.

Image: Mary Ojo

To ensure similar events are held for future students, Ms Ojo is working on a motion to pass through student council; this will ensure that it is union policy to organise a Black History Month campaign every year. With this in mind, Ms Ojo hopes next year events can beat the success of this year.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FEATURES

Is 'Love Actually' actually good?

Page 8

SATIRE

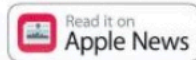
How to live in Queen Mary rent free...

Page 18

“*Shy bairns get nowt*”

~ Lucy Halligan
(amongst others)

Facebook: ThePrintNews
Twitter: @ThePrintQM
IG: @ThePrintstagram
www.theprintnews.co.uk



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 Print is created by students and the publication retains all copyright of design, text, photographs and graphics, along with the individual contributor. The Print's layout was designed by Molly Lattin.

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



When you're done reading this, recycle it.

COMMENT

Kerry's Corner: Stop attacking me for liking Christmas
Page 12

SPORT

Queen Mary Netball Club
Page 24

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Liam Pape

DEPUTY EDITOR
Sophie Mitchell

DESIGN EDITOR
*Maria Tarnacka
Maliha Okera*

ONLINE EDITOR
Angie Nock

COPY EDITORS
*Zara Ali
Adam Roney
Louise Fligman*

NEWS

*Elmira Tanatarova
Poppy Thompson
Gracie Browning
Aaminah Akram*

FEATURES

*Will Martineau
Lucy Sofroniou
Anna McKibbin*

COMMENT

*Kerry Maxwell
Gevitha Anbarasu*

COLUMNISTS

*Joel Chandler
Alasdair Dow
Daniele Accurso
Gabrielle Agyei
Millie Pritchard
Jacob Finlay*

SCIENCE AND TECH

*Alexander Richardson
Jorge Diaz*

SATIRE

*Katherine Butterfield
Olivia Mese*

SOCIETIES

*Nicole Wretham
Simran Singh
Maariyah Darwood*

PHOTOGRAPHY

Blanca Alba

CARTOONIST

Kavisha Rodrigo

MARKETING

Pooja Zaveri

NOTE FROM THE DEPUTY EDITOR

SOPHIE MITCHELL

editor@theprintnews.co.uk

I'd like to begin by saying, Congratulations. In picking up this issue 21 of The Print, you've made a commendable choice. Whether its to pass the time before your next lecture, or to gander at the contemporary state of affairs on campus, I hope that this flimsy collection of pages will expand your mindset in all kinds of exciting ways.

Here at The Print, we're consistently reaching to incite debate on campus, educate about current affairs, and just to get people thinking. It's easy to get trapped in your own university bubble — but to step outside of that, and use your unique perspective to interpret the world around you, that's what we value most. To foster such an environment, we promote the freedom of our writers to publish their views, even if they may be challenging, controversial or unpopular. Universities as institutions have been under scrutiny as of late, regarded as 'echo-chambers' and regressive 'safe-spaces' where views and thoughts cannot be discussed and nurtured. This is exactly what we want to work against.

The Print is a platform where students can explore their own opinions, share them with others — all with the end goal of just thinking a bit deeper about the world around us. Whether a writer's views are

left, right, up, down, funny, nostalgic, critical, analytical, satirical, or outright absurd, we believe it is only fair to invite a kaleidoscope of perspectives. Sure, they may be proven wrong, or they may be proven right, or it may remain forever undecided. That's the beauty of debate.

For the healthiest dosage of this kind of material, visit our Comment section, where in this issue, Gevitha Anbarasu leads a powerful insight into the 'white-washing' of recognition events such as The Globes. Alongside this, the selection of '100 word rants' curated by Kerry Maxwell will be sure to get your critical side revving.

Other pieces in this issue worthy of note (whilst it's all quite special) are Gabrielle Agyei's article on 'the power of the print'. Found in the Comment section, Gabrielle's writing vividly illustrates the necessity of newspaper publications in printed form — 'Not only does the writing tell a story, the printed copy of it does too; it tells your story through the way it has interacted with the world when you picked it up and made it your own'.

In the Science and Technology section, Jamie Gordon's contemporary and intriguing discussion on 'eco cities and the developing world' hits

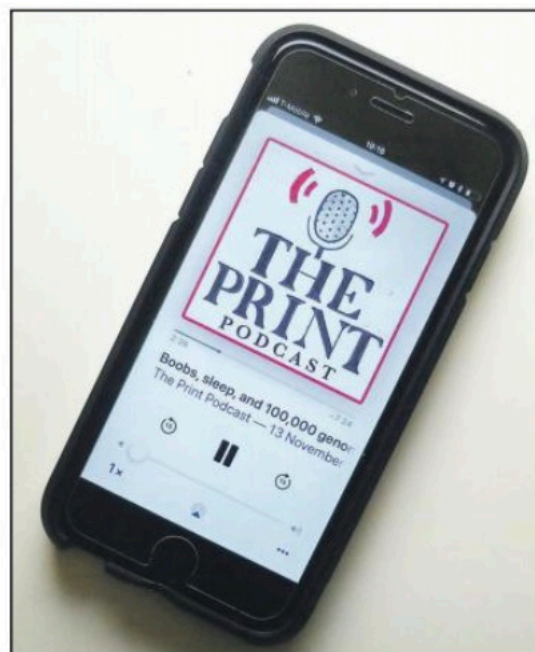
close to home. His evaluation of the role technology will play in modifying the way global megacities will cope with population growth is essential for considering the trajectory of cities such as our own, London.

Finally, I have to give particular mention to Katherine Butterfield's additions in the Satire section. The article on the 'cliché girl' is nothing short of hilarious, and will undoubtedly sprinkle some brightness on your day. Alongside this, Katherine's insightful satirical horoscopes are sure to have you dreading your hypothetical future (in case you weren't doing that already).

Thank you to all of our writers, design team, proofreaders, and everyone who is involved with The Print. We appreciate your effort immensely, and hope you and all other readers enjoy this issue 21 of The Print.

If you're stuck for gift ideas this season, you can always slip this paper into someone's stocking — we hold no liability for how that will turn out for you.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

LISTEN NOW:
THE PRINT PODCAST

Sophie Mitchell, Deputy Editor of The Print, discusses with our writers three of the most intriguing stories from the latest issue of The Print, in our new monthly podcast.

The first episode of The Print Podcast is out now in which we discuss how the Uni Boob Team are raising awareness about breast cancer around campus, how good sleep is key to good health, and the 100,000 genomes project.



Subscribe on Apple Podcasts or listen here:
www.theprintnews.co.uk/printpodcast

NEWS

LONDON UNIVERSITIES BRING
MENTAL HEALTH ONLINEUNIHEALTH APP TO LAUNCH TO HELP UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS DIGITISE MENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT

ELMIRA TANATAROVA

UniHealth, a content consultant firm whose aim is to “supply turnkey digital solutions for all your health and wellness content needs”, has recently published a report which reveals worrying statistics. When it comes to the mental health of university students, the report states that “8 in 10 university students in the UK admit to experiencing stress and anxiety and almost half (45%) have feelings of depression. Even more worryingly, three quarters of students admit they don't ask for help because they're embarrassed, they don't know where to find it or they think it's a waste of time”. Because of this, they have been reaching out to universities over the UK, like QMUL, with their proposition: “The report into UK students' view of university wellbeing support, high-

lighted this need for different types of wellbeing support. For example, nearly a third (28%) of students said they'd prefer to receive support via private messages sent through social media... students are looking for support in different ways, on their time and where they want”.

Daphne Metland, director of UniHealth, posits that while more face to face support seems to be the increasingly popular call to treating students' mental health, “students are digital natives, so they are on their phone all day, every day — that's why digital support works. Messages that include videos, pictures and GIFs, can be delivered to students straight to their phone via social media messaging — these have much more of an impact and, unlike email, almost all (98%) are read with-

in minutes. For those that need extra support, frequent small messages act as ‘nudges’ towards behaviour change, offering advice, information and reminders — they can be a ‘still small voice of calm’ in the busy, buzzy world of starting university”.

Alexandra, a Biology student says: “I think it's a great idea, because I'm sure many students wouldn't actually see someone face to face if they needed to just because that's how we are. However, there's a need to make sure it's accessibility doesn't compromise its value, because mental health is a very personal and contextual thing”. Elie, studying English Literature also adds that: “I think it could work great if it empowered the users to take charge of their situation. If it's useful enough to provide insight

into symptoms of mental illness and the courses of action one could take if so, as well as maybe links to local doctors and clinics that can help out with this, then it could really benefit a lot of struggling students and Queen Mary”. Our VP Welfare, Ahmed Mahbub, comments that: “When having to access help in a visible place, questions about whether people have seen you visit, whether they will tell people you know, and whether they'll think less of you will often come to mind...This lack of privacy turns away vulnerable people who may be going through mental health issues...I therefore highly welcome a web-based system of reporting mental health concerns and it was one of my main things I hope to deliver during my time as VP Welfare”.

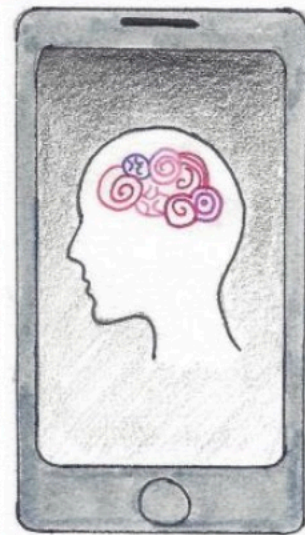


Illustration: Kavisha Rodrigo

QUEEN MARY STUDENTS ATTEND FREE EDUCATION
DEMO IN CENTRAL LONDON

WHAT DO WE WANT? FREE EDUCATION! WHEN DO WE WANT IT? NOW!
WHAT DO WE WANT? FREE EDUCATION! HOW DO WE GET IT? TAX THE RICH!

EMMA KEELEY AND JAMIE GORDON

Seven years on from its inception, NCAFC — in partnership with Momentum — brings London the next chapter of activism, in opposition to the marketisation of UK universities. At the official press conference for the demonstration, it soon became clear that while all speakers drew upon different experiences and perspectives, they were united and in no way ambiguous about their purpose. They campaigned for universal free education and maintenance grants for students across the UK — ‘from the cradle to the grave’.

Whilst tuition fees were the basis of the discussion, panel members did not hesitate to address a wide range of issues faced by both students and university staff. Government actions were attacked from two distinct angles — from a moral standpoint and on practical, policy-centred grounds.

Panel members Ana Oppenheim and Hasan Patel put forward

the idea that much of the establishment discourse regarding higher education is morally reprehensible. The former reminded the audience that education is a right. The latter then talked of how this generation are bearing the brunt of policies of fiscal retrenchment — which are deemed necessary because of the mistakes of past generations. He then rounded off his speech with a more general statement, that we live in a system “run by the few, for the few”.

In regard to specific shortfalls in policy, Momentum representative Rida Vaquas criticised the government for increasing tuition fees, whilst failing to fully investigate or publicise more findings from reports on tax havens such as the Cayman Islands. UCU representative Rhiannon Lockley then drew upon personal knowledge, recounting an instance where a student was evicted from their flat because

of the Bedroom Tax; and how the UK could be at risk of an academic brain drain, with lecturers and professors becoming increasingly overstretched and underpaid as time goes on.



Panelists Hansika Jethani and Rhiannon Lockley made particularly compelling cases on the plights of minority groups in UK universities. Jethani began the discussion by raising issues experienced by international students, such as the lack of financial support, the uncertain and bureaucratic process of applying for visas and the fact that international students are often made to

leave the UK upon completion of their degree. The press conference was, overall, a warning about the decline in numbers of part-time and nursing students, and a pooling of ideas in pursuit of common goals.

The actual demo for Free Education was attended by multiple QM activists and social media. Additionally, it was supported by our VP for Education, Mary Ojo, who saw both the moderate and extreme ends of the London anarchist movements.

After speaking to a few participants, a clear idea of the goal of the protest was waged: although not meant to emulate the extent of the 2010 protest, strong emotions were present, with one participant noting that this was “to keep the demand alive rather than letting it slip off the agenda”. Opinions were wide ranging; however, and it was found that the main tendency was towards the extreme left, with Marxist and Anarchist ban-

ners of all types present.

Although this was called a student movement, there was a strong emphasis on the relations between students and the working class. When asked, a member of the Worker's Liberty Solidarity told us that the barrier between students and workers was becoming increasingly precarious, as so many students are forced into a work-study life.

Some of the slogans which appeared in force during the protest included “liberation not marketisation”, “free education funded by expropriation”, and the usual chants of “no ifs, no buts, no education cuts”. The general atmosphere was one of excitement at the students relating to everyone around them: this, however, led to a feeling of exclusion for those who walked by as casual observers, or those who came to ask questions but found themselves assaulted by the strength of opinion of the participants.

NEWS

BIOMEDICAL CONFERENCE AT QM

MARIA MOGOLLON & SHIU WANG CHAU

On Tuesday, 14th November 2017, a bio-medicine careers workshop, including a talk, “From Biochem PhDs to Entrepreneurs,” and a careers discussion panel, was held for biomedical science students in QMUL. Led by Maria-Victoria Bermudez and supported by Shiu Wang Chau – both biomedical undergraduates – the workshop introduced the needs and opportunities present in the healthcare and biotechnology industries, allowing students to consider their professional development and readiness for employment.

After recognising a lack of discussion regarding career opportunities, Maria created an evening workshop to equip students with knowledge of available career paths after graduation, illuminating the preparation and skills required to attain them. The workshop allowed students to gain unique perspectives on unorthodox career paths, and with the help of Dr. Colm Ryan, delivered first-hand knowledge of the journey to entrepreneurship from a scientific background. Guest speaker Dr. Colm Ryan, CEO and co-founder of Reagent Genie and its three brands: Assay Genie, Antibody Genie, and ELISA genie, began

the workshop by delivering a presentation on his career progression. Dr. Ryan described his personal experience in transitioning from a PhD to a sales job, to eventually establishing his own company. With over 7000 products distributed world-wide, Reagent Genie and its proprietor recently became one of the top 10 successful biotech start-ups in Ireland. The presentation from Dr. Colm served to present students with real-world knowledge of the biotechnology industry from the perspective of a successful entrepreneur who began in science. Dr. Colm’s talk provided useful information, such as the benefits of a PhD in entering the biotech industry, and ways to recruit investors when starting a company.

The second half of the workshop was a discussion panel on combining medicine and research, with panelists Dr. Colm Ryan, Madeleine Hart, Asifa Islam, and Erato Antoniou. Shiu, a first year biomedical student, moderated the questions. Questions from the audience prompted much-needed conversations about medical school applications,

BIOCHEM PhD TO ENTREPRENEUR
- A CAREERS WORKSHOP

QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
Tuesday 14th of October - 9:30 am
For more information contact Dr. Viji Draviam

AssayGenie ELISAGenie AntibodyGenie

PhD applications, application schedules, volunteering, internships, software skills, and general preparation for the future.

As a biomedical science student and through her links with MEDi, Erato Antoniou helped to shed light on the realities of medicine. She says: “MEDi is a relatively new society that aims to provide graduates an access into medicine and dentistry, by supplying the required insight into

what these courses entail. Our society achieves this through networking opportunities with various healthcare practitioners to aid students in securing work experience in the medical field.” Students considering medicine may also consider joining this society to help them prepare for medical school.

Madeleine Hart, a PhD student who previously worked in an NHS genetics laboratory, provided input from her experiences, from how she secured the position to its benefits when applying to and completing a PhD. She says: “My experience within a genetics diagnostic lab was very important for me to get onto my PhD programme. It

not only gave me laboratory experience, but it also drove my interest in research, allowing me to be certain in my decision to pursue the PhD.” The panel later moved on to a comparative discussion of careers in research and healthcare, and the demands students may face in these career paths. Asifa Islam, a former clinician and current PhD student, spoke about her transition from medicine to

research, including her motivations for doing so. She says: “When choosing a career, it is important to fully understand what the job requires of you. For example, if you choose the medical profession, ask yourself questions like: ‘Can I work long shifts and erratic schedules? Can I witness trauma and death on a daily basis and still be empathic and smile at my patients?’”

Dr. Viji Draviam, senior lecturer and Maria and Shiu’s academic advisor, emphasised the need for students of all years to start thinking about their career path as early as possible. Dr. Draviam has been a strong advocate of students taking the lead in organising talks, interviews, and discussions on career choices, plans, and hurdles.

This is the first of many coming career workshops held for SBCS students. The goal is to provide information and guidance so to make well-informed decisions about their futures, allowing exploration of opportunities they otherwise may not have known. To fully support biomedical student careers in QMUL and beyond, Maria and Shiu are preparing a website resource of meeting highlights and videos.

THE SU WANT TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO NAP AT UNI

LIAM PAPE

At the Student Council meeting in November, a motion was proposed which would ask the University for the implementation of napping pods, or a general napping area somewhere in the university.

This motion was proposed in response to welfare concerns tied to the 24/7 library on the Mile End campus and the risk that students would be overworking themselves. Ahmed Mahbub, Vice President Welfare, says that provisions for napping would “ensure students aren’t overwhelmed”.

However, as Harris Nag-eswaran, Welfare Representative for Barts and The London, pointed out, “If students are at a stage when they need a nap, they’re probably not getting enough sleep anyway”.

We can now proudly call the QMSU a fully-accredited Living Wage Employer. If you wish to find out more, please visit the Living Wage Foundation’s website.

However, not all responses to this proposal were critical of it. It was pointed out during the meeting that people are already napping in the library, so the university may as well provide official provisions for it, rather than students taking up valuable desk space.

The University of Manchester, the University of Warwick, and Teesside University, amongst others, have all introduced napping pods with success.

“Oh, why not?”

The pods themselves have a rotating visor to provide privacy and are able to play soothing music, however can only be used for 20 minutes at a time. They do not come cheap either, the University of Edinburgh reportedly splashed out £10,000 for their napping

pods. The motion read at Student Council suggested an alternative to paying the high prices; simply providing general napping areas.

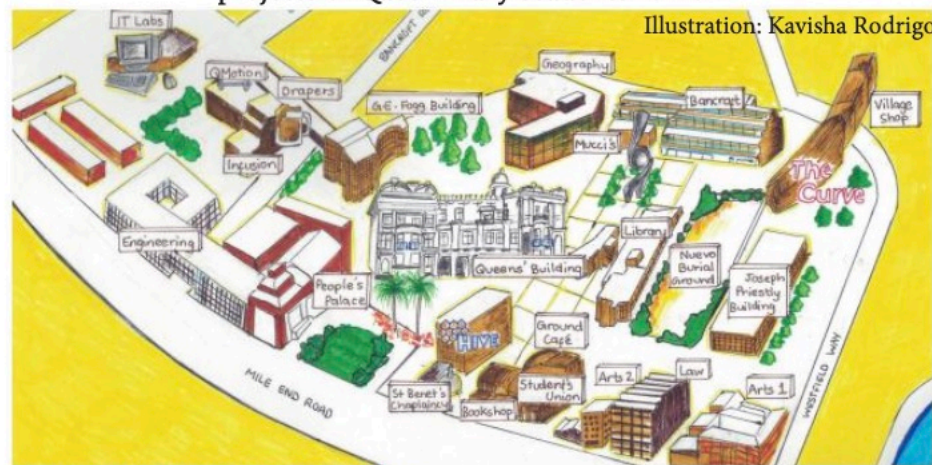
A ‘40 winks workout’ session was also proposed in this motion, to be ran during exam season. This is where students could go to a dark room and partake in a nap run by an instructor. This has been proved to help with memory, focus, and blood pressure.

After detailed discussion, the motion was referred to the welfare zone committee so that it could be discussed further before an actual vote takes place. Even if the motion does pass at the next Student Council meeting, there is no guarantee that napping pods (or even a napping area) will be introduced, but the Students’ Union will begin formally lobbying for these.

NEWS

STATE OF THE UNION

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



Source: Student Council Meeting, 14 November 2017.

The SU has launched their zero tolerance campaign to tackle all forms of bullying and harassment. President of the Students’ Union, Yasir Yeahia, says they are “trying to be as holistic as possible”. Yas has also recently visited the University of London’s Paris Institute.

Issues relating to safety on the Whitechapel campus have been brought to the SU’s attention. Rough sleepers, who earlier this month were squatting outside of BLSA building and “harassing students”, have since “been removed”. The SU is planning a safety awareness campaign as they plan to help address the issue of homelessness in Tower Hamlets. Rakin reports that his weekly video bulletin has been a success so far, as has a survey about student-led projects on BL campuses.

Thursday 16 November marked the start of Islamophobia Awareness Month. The

SU hopes to shine a light on how to tackle the causes of Islamophobia, discuss mental health issues surrounding it, and work with Queen Mary Against Prevent (as well as other societies) to make the awareness campaign a success. A motion was passed at the Student Council meeting in November which will see Islamophobia Awareness Month officially observed by the Students’ Union every year. Also, the Study Well campaign launched on Thursday 16 November in Library Square.

Planning has also commenced at the SU for Chinese New Year celebrations. Sabbatical officers and members of the SU are having meetings with people who work in libraries at Queen Mary to find out the positives and negatives of the libraries being open 24/7. The student-staff liaison committee is being restricted so that it is more accountable on the academics’ side. The new plan will be presented soon. The SU is speaking to companies, helping to seek out employment opportunities – especially for graduates.

MEAT-FREE MONDAYS, CONSENT WORKSHOPS, AND BIODEGRADABLE STRAWS: LATEST STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

ELMIRA TANATAROVA

The student council meeting on November 14th brought with it much news. It also brought promise of change, and demonstrated the successful collaboration of our newly elected sabbatical officers.

Eight amendments and motions were discussed, six of which were passed, one of which was taken to AMM, and another to the welfare zone. These results introduced the Union’s commitment to the elimination of single-use plastic straws from all venues before the start of next academic year. Also, Meat-Free Mondays will be extended to the whole month of January to re-launch the scheme. Moreover, the Union are making it

compulsory for two members of each student organisation committee to go to student organisation tailored consent workshops. Furthermore, the council has committed to commemorating Islamophobia Awareness Month every year.

Of much contention was the motion to limit voting power for the positions of LGBT+; BME; Women’s and Trans Representative to be elected only by self-identifying members of said liberation groups. One member said: “Without sounding aggressive, I don’t care what cis white men think about what I have to say. This motion is about giving power to groups that don’t hold the same privilege they do.”

However, it was then proposed that this motion be discussed at AMM, which gave rise to concerns that this would be counterproductive to the very aims of the motion in itself. Despite this, 14 members voted to move the motion to be discussed at AMM, with 10 voting against the motion, and 2 abstaining. A large part of the debate revolved around straddling the line between sustainability and profitability, as Barts-based members in particular expressed their concerns that the Griff Inn doesn’t do as well as Mile End cafes and shops. Overall, the meeting was lively with debate, ripe with new initiatives, and buzzing with the anticipation of future discussions yet to take place.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT HOSTS ‘BME SUCCESS BEYOND QMUL’

SBM takes steps to narrow the gap between students and staff communication by tackling issues of diversity, the attainment gap, and inequalities at QMUL

ELMIRA TANATAROVA

QMUL’s School of Business and Management (SBM) held a long-table discussion entitled, ‘BME Success Beyond QMUL’. This was a student and staff event chaired by Business and Management students, Yara Lorena Malalane and Sudipita Karmaker. The aim was to tackle discrepancies between the QMUL student experience and opening up a dialogue with the staff. Amber Swaby and Nadia Yahya Hafedh, of Decolonise QMUL, were at the forefront of organising and facilitating the event; they ensured it would take place in their discussions with staff and SBM students alike. While held predominantly by the SBM, staff and students from the School of Economics and Finance, the School of Engineering and Materials Science and the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film were also present.

issues arose, such as Careers management, networking, union involvement and tackling problems, such as the attainment gap of BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) students at Queen Mary. These problems were spoken about freely amongst various professors, staff members and students. All chairs agreed that the event was a success and hope to organise future events to continue the discussions opened up at the long-table.

For more news from Queen Mary, visit <http://theprintnews.co.uk/category/news/>

“Event aimed at tackling discrepancies between the QMUL student experience and opening up a dialogue with the staff”

The long-table discussion enabled students to come and leave the table freely, but they could only speak as long as they were seated at the table. Additionally, paper on the table allowed students to write comments anonymously. Yara comments: “I think it’s important to have discussions particularly between different groups (staff and students); it raises awareness for what we all want and how to fix any problems and challenges we are facing. I think that only when we are being inclusive and united can we think about bringing solutions to the wider cohort of students and the university.” Different

QMSU NOW PAYS LIVING WAGE

The London Living Wage is now paid to ALL QMSU staff, following successful campaigning by students

GRACIE BROWNING

What is the London Living Wage? It examines the actual costs of living in London. It also means that students are considered to have the same living costs as someone older in full-time work. This is not represented in the minimum wage and is voluntary for employers. Hence, this is a huge success for the Queen Mary Students’ Union; the hard work of those employed in the Union, Drapers, The Village Shops, Infusion, Ground and the Learning Café is being rewarded with good wages.

Why has this only just been introduced to the QMSU? It hasn’t. Some student employees have already been

introduced to this. The main focus in recent years has been ensuring that student staff are also receiving a living wage. Introducing the London Living Wage for everyone has therefore been a work in progress. At the Annual Member’s Meeting in 2015, the motion was passed to set a target for all student staff to be receiving the London Living Wage by 2018. Clearly, this goal has been exceeded, thereby showing everyone’s hard work and effort to achieve this.

'ORDER!' IN MILE END

SPEAKER OF THE COMMONS, RT HON JOHN BERCOW MP, VISITED QUEEN MARY IN NOVEMBER AS PART OF THE MILE END INSTITUTE'S EVENTS. HERE'S A RUNDOWN OF WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT THE SPEAKER SPOKE TO PROF. PHILIP COWLEY ABOUT



GRACIE BROWNING

Image: Mile End Institute / Twitter

The Speaker and Philip Cowley spoke for approximately an hour and a half, making light humour of political affairs. The audience were also allowed to pose questions. To begin, with, the Speaker mentioned that at Queen Mary, we are one of 20 Universities that allow the Parliamentary Internship module for SPIR students (School of Politics and International Relations). He spoke fondly of QMUL, mentioning that "this is a great university, whether you measure it by research excellence, by teaching excellence, or by the gold award it won". He praised the "tremendous ethnic mix" and the number of international students attending, a sure sign that the efforts of QMUL to transcend the stereotypes of Russell Group Universities is being noticed and praised.

Moving quickly onto Cowley's last question for Mr Speaker, they spoke about what Bercow thinks is the most important piece of advice that he could give to a young person looking for a career in politics. This was potentially the best piece of advice I have heard yet, beyond the typical 'get involved with your local party' rhetoric. "Do something else before you go into Parliament" said the Speaker, justifying it by saying that it will make you more well-rounded as an MP in the future and will mean you will

be more likely to be assigned a constituency to run in.

He also mentioned that if he were to start his career again, he would have specialised earlier. Specialising supposedly makes you more respected as an MP, as you can show passion about one particular subject when it's most important. This connects with his answer on what the best speeches have been since he became Speaker. He mentioned Alison McGovern's "eloquent, passionate and well-informed" speech, pleading for a major enquiry into the historical verdict that the fans were to blame for the Hillsborough disaster. Mr Speaker said that during the speech, "you could hear a pin drop". It seems that the speeches which are close

perspective. He mentioned his membership to the Monday Club in the 1980s (a far-right-wing pressure group on the fringes of the Tory party), describing it as an act of "stupidity, folly and lack of self-awareness".

The impact Bercow's Speakership has had on the House was also spoken about. He admitted that he was "naturally quite strong and authoritative" and "abrasive", but tried to better himself by introducing humour and "teasing" members into being quiet. They also discussed how he has allowed the length of PMQ's to increase to allow more questioning of the party leaders and give the back benches greater chance to speak. In response to Andrew Neil's complaints that it ru-

mentioned that the shooting range in Parliament has been a nursery for the children of MPs. This has made it easier for MPs to find care for their children and there is now also a Committee on Representation and Inclusion. However, Bercow additionally mentioned that there is a "lot more to do" to achieve equality in the House. It's good to see that there's active work being done to support equality in Parliament.

But what is the reform that the Speaker would like to see made in the House? Top of his list was the creation of a House Business Committee which, although, as he said, "sounds dull and uninspiring", could be very important. He said that this

on the back bench and pursue his causes until the position of Speakership came up.

Bercow also mentioned his changing attitudes, meaning he doesn't idolise the same politicians (Enoch Powell and Margaret Thatcher) as he did when he was younger.

Finally, Philip Cowley asked the Speaker about the idea of Trump being invited to address both Houses in Westminster. He replied that after the imposition of the migrant ban, he was "even more strongly opposed" and that it "struck me as absolutely extraordinary" that rumours ever surfaced that Trump would be invited so early in his premiership. Even Obama didn't until a few years into his time as President of the United States. According to Bercow, "it is an earned honour" which Trump has not yet achieved.

would meet publicly to decide which matters should be debated without being ultimately controlled by the Whip's offices. Instead, these matters are currently decided by the government.

What regrets does he have from his career? Coming back onto the shadow cabinet after resigning over the imposition of a three-line whip to vote against the right for homosexual couples to adopt. This supposedly inspired the Speaker to remain

"It is an earned honour which Trump has not achieved"

to the heart of the MP's making them move the House the most.

Mike Freer's speech on the right of equal marriage was the other most moving that the Speaker mentioned, which he described as "a very brave, a very personal and a very powerful speech". This demonstrates that, although Bercow may have held some controversial views and voted against equal marriage rights in the past, his experiences and career truly changed his

ins his last ten minutes of his Daily Politics show, Mr Bercow jokingly said that he "couldn't give a flying flamingo" what he thinks.

A member of the audience asked the Speaker what he has done to discourage sexism in the House since he has been in the post. It is now supposedly an "instinctive sense that I do not want to be calling... six men in a row" and tries to allow more of a balance. Although not directly his responsibility, he also

LIFTING THE VEIL ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IN AUSTRALIA

IN THE WAKE OF AUSTRALIA LEGALISING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE, THE PRINT INTERROGATES THE PROGRESS OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY ACROSS THE WORLD, REVEALING HOW FAR WE'VE COME — AND HOW FAR WE ARE YET TO GO

SOPHIE MITCHELL

In many ways, the contemporary world is a kaleidoscope of inequality. Granted, when comparing today's society to that of past times, it is clear that monumental progression has been made. With the rise of the LGBTQ, BLM (Black Lives Matter) and Feminist movements, society has taken vital steps towards a more egalitarian existence.

Australia's vote to legalise same-sex marriage has an essential role to play in this wave of societal progression; on Wednesday 15th November, results published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics revealed that 61% of their population voted to allow same-sex marriage. Confetti showered the streets of Melbourne as exalted supporters celebrated together in the wake of the vote reveal. A sea of rainbow flags, glitter, ecstatic smiles and tears — the crowd reflected a vision of positivity and defiance in the face of homophobia and inequality. The Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull, shared his perspective on the vote following the result, claiming there to be an "overwhelming" majority in favour of 'yes'. He called for the legalisation to be enacted before Christmas.

In Turnbull's words: 'they voted 'yes' for fairness, they voted 'yes' for commitment, they voted 'yes' for love'.

However, beyond the surface of glee and elation surrounding the vote lies a more sinister reality: an astounding 38% of participants in the survey actively voted 'no'. In making this decision, 4,873,987 Australian citizens believed that the basic right for two members of the same sex to marry should not be allowed. These voters were given a platform on which to demonstrate that they are offended by a stranger's preference on whom they should love. This, in itself, is problematic. The fact that an issue as clear-cut and fundamental as equal rights was put to a public vote is undeniably worrying for many. The public should not have to vote on whether a certain sector of society are (dis)allowed equal rights — it should be a given. By a similar token, if there were to be a UK referendum on whether redheads are allowed to marry each other, it would be dismissed as absurd and unwarranted. Whilst this analogy is amusing to consider, the point still stands. The demographic who voted 'no' demonstrated a clear act of homophobia, intolerance and ignorance. They are also living proof that altho-

ugh the fight has seemingly been 'won', it is far from over.

Commenting on this historically significant vote, Trina Andariel, a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and holder of Australian citizenship, expressed that 'it's a win on the ground for many folks, but there are a lot of queers who are still expressing dissatisfaction with it. Not least because it seems like conservative by-laws may still come into effect, restricting rights to same-sex couples'. Trina emphasises an important point here: the legalisation of same-sex marriage does not entail the unrestricted freedom of the Australian gay community. Many still face subjugation in the form of 'conservative by-laws' and the prejudice of the 38% 'vote no' demographic. Expanding on her perspective, Trina adds that, 'marriage is not the last bastion for queer folks in Australia. This took too long and had as much fucking around as possible. No one wants to take the credit for fixing an issue that might mess around with swing voters in conservative seats. Many Australians still don't take this as a civil rights issue'.

The first legal gay marriage in the world took place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on April 1, 2001. Nearly seven-



Illustration: Kavisha Rodrigo

teen years later, Australia is only just following suit, whilst the UK only legalised same-sex marriages as late as 2013. Yes, these legislative acts are progressive and undeniably important, but they are all occurring fundamentally too late. Including Australia, only twenty-three countries in the world have currently legalised same-sex marriage, with few others supporting civil partnerships instead. Some countries hold particular rules, such as Mexico, where same-sex marriage is only legal in particular jurisdictions. When examined from this perspective, it is disheartening to consider the extent to which the world still turns a blind eye to marriage equality.

Thus, whilst the legalisation of same-sex marriage in Australia undoubtedly warrants celebration and positivity, it also serves a higher purpose: to raise awareness of the prolific inequality and toxic homophobia ever-present in societies across the globe. The legalisation of same-sex marriage is a fundamental step down a long and turbulent trajectory. A base level of human compassion is the only requirement for supporting and believing in a cause as monumentally important as same-sex marriage and the LGBTQIA+ movement.

STUDENT MONOPOLY

WHAT WILL IT MEAN IF STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO TRANSFER TO DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES IN 2ND AND 3RD YEAR?

LUCY SOFRONIOU

Lets cast our minds back to A-Levels (or the equivalent if you're an international student) and the time of personal statements and grade requirements. And if you can't remember far back enough, they were the days before assignments, the impossible crossing on Mile End Road and the spacious, cool Central Line. All jokes aside, we are lucky to overcome all of those obstacles and to study at Queen Mary. But, some students do not always want to stick to the institutions they've chosen to pursue their higher education at. And in some cases, where they have not attained a place

at their first choice, they opt for another university and come to be disappointed with their experience.

Get out of Jail Free

Recently, UCAS has announced that it is working on plans to alter the application process to allow students to search for second and third-year availability on their chosen course. This could allow students to switch to different universities in their second and even third year, who for example, may feel like they have made the wrong choice or a 'trading up' to a university higher up in the league table — a common

theme in postgraduate study.

The Battle of the Universities

While this move may be a welcome change among students and will undoubtedly make the application process far less daunting, universities will be feeling the pressure. This is due to the fact that admissions offices that work tirelessly to welcome new students could see them gradually disappear as their course progresses. And the fear is that inevitably, institutions would be losing their students to rival universities. Nick Hillman, director of thinktank, said: 'When Birmingham University went

public about the fact it was going to make unconditional offers to students there was an outcry in the sector, but then lots of other universities quietly followed suit...It is possible that some universities might start aggressively advertising that they will take good second-year students. Again there would be criticism, but others might then follow.'

Do Not Pass Go, Do Not Collect £200

And while the move will have institutions at the edge of their seats, there are claims that not giving students a chance to transfer is unethical. In support of this view is The Sutton Trust, a charity specialising in disadvantage in education. They believe that sixth formers who are not as financially able as other students may opt for the wrong choice and want to change when given a chance to build on their confidence. Chief Executive

Lee Elliot Major said of the matter: "We want high-achieving students from poor backgrounds to go to the place that is right for them. For some that might mean going to a good course locally. But we worry that many tend to go to the university down the road rather than considering options further afield".

Aside from the back and forth between the pros and cons, what this decision essentially boils down to is the preference of the student. After all, they will be the one to shift their entire life and to spend a large chunk of time — and money — on education. So if they are not getting what they had hoped from their experience, shouldn't they be able to change that? Or should the system stay the way it is? Either way, in an inevitably adapting world, it's time for the education sector to roll the dice.

FEATURES

THE DAILY MAIL'S DAILY FAIL

GEMMA COLLINS HELPED ME SUE THE DAILY MAIL - YES, SERIOUSLY

KATIE BEVAN

In an age of ever increasing social media use, the means of spreading news and stories is being redefined. Consequently, content which goes 'viral' on platforms such as Twitter and Facebook is gradually being seen as more significant by newspapers, and they're keen to get their hands on whatever footage they can, as quickly as they can. Alas, this doesn't always mean that they have the rights to the material that they're publishing.

October 22nd saw BBC Radio 1 take over the SSE Wembley Arena for their annual Teen Awards – a show designed to celebrate the achievements of several young people branded as 'teen heroes' who have done incredibly inspirational things, and packed full of performances from the biggest names in pop music and teen culture. (Admittedly it is also a show designed for an audience of 14 to 17-year-olds, so I can confirm that there are advantages to being the person who always gets asked for ID). One of the celebrities lined up to present an award was none other than the queen of the meme (pronounced: mem-ay), Miss Gemma Collins of 'The Only Way Is Essex'.

If eduoroom's poor service meant that you were un-



Image - iStock

able to see the entertainment headlines, then you may have missed that the 'GC' fell off the stage after announcing the winners of the 'Best TV Show' (spoiler alert: that guy from the Blazin' Squad was ready to collect the award). Living up to the stereotype of blogging millennials, as soon as Collins had taken to the stage I was poised and ready to film her 'Hello Wembley!' moment, completely unaware that I'd be the one to capture the Daily Mail's desired footage.

After having regained composure following the reality star's not-so-graceful fall, I took to Twitter (@katiebevan) to share the video and soon had notifications for several hundred retweets, likes and replies. Sandwiched

my footage before asking my permission, as well as after I had declined the right for them to use it, on their article – which also happened to be the first result on Google if you searched 'Gemma Collins'.

"I highlighted their infringing of copyright and asked for the video to be removed instantly"

Once I was alerted to the misuse of my footage, I highlighted their infringing of copyright and asked for the video to be removed instantly, as well as requesting a £50 donation to the charity 'Help

Refugees'. If they possess that money to spare to licence videos then surely they have £50 to give to charity (which they most certainly do). This reply was ignored, as was my direct message to the account, and so my communication moved to e-mail. Having exchanged twelve e-mails with the Editorial Manager of the MailOnline, including further frustration as I was falsely told that the footage had been removed, we came to an agreement over 48 hours after the clip was first used by the website.

A £50 donation to 'Help Refugees' was successfully secured alongside the removal of my footage and name from their website, and 'personal compensation' was granted which saw a further donation of £150 to the charity on my behalf. A drop in the ocean for the Daily Mail, but a considerable donation for an incredible charity and a moral win for a student who is passionate about the media and its presentation of current affairs.

Thank you for being so extra, Gemma Collins.

IS 'LOVE ACTUALLY' ACTUALLY GOOD?

ANNA MCKIBBIN

It's that time of year again. Everyone is wrapped in scarves – trains, flights and buses are booked home and Michael Buble's brassy Christmas tunes hang over us. With the lead up to Christmas comes a harrowing debate over a star-studded, British classic. Some call it heart-warming and thoughtful, while others claim it is overrated, sexist and predictable... but the question remains; is Love Actually actually a good film?

Buzzfeed has posted multiple articles detailing the problems concerning this long-standing Christmas classic. In 2015 they published an article '22 Reasons Love Actually is not a good movie', while in April of this year they posted a similar article entitled '17 Fucking Infuriating Things That Happened in Love Actually'. The article raises excellent points

by exploring the various ways men throughout the film undermine, over sexualise and ignore the female characters within this romantic comedy.

Natalie, as the plucky assistant to the Prime Minister, is repeatedly referred to as 'fat' after being sexually harassed by the American president. Later she inexplicably apologises to Hugh Grant's Prime Minister for the President's misdeeds. Andrew Lincoln's Mark selfishly proclaims his creepy infatuation for Keira Knightley's Juliet, which is falsely argued to be the height of romance by romcom fans worldwide. Colin Firth's character Jamie exploits the power over his Portuguese maid by initiating a relationship with her. The whole film is told from the male perspective and the women who assert their agency, independent from the male characters in their lives – like

Emma Thompson's Karen, are left unfulfilled.

Critics of the film also point to the film's overwhelming number of stars and storylines. While Emma Thompson and Bill Nighy deliver convincing portrayals of their respective characters, many other stars are swallowed into the display of mediocre performances.

On the other hand, Love Actually is packed with heart-warming moments. Jamie's proposal to Aurelia is undeniably delightful, the climactic performance of 'All I Want for Christmas' is effortlessly fun, and the Prime Minister's passionate and unrealistic defence of the UK in a fictional press briefing inspires a unique sense of patriotism in me. Love Actually's simple charm can be perfectly summarised in the final montage of real-life airport re-

unions – the film is emotionally satisfying and totally void of deeper meaning.

"Love Actually is ultimately a mess, but an enjoyable one"

The film is also rightfully praised for presenting different versions of loving relationships. There are countless examples of romantic relationships within the movie,

yet the dynamic between Liam Neeson and his stepson was accurately described by Bustle's Amy Roberts as 'the purest relationship of Love Actually'. Laura Linney's character, Sarah, chooses to dedicate herself to her mentally ill brother rather than pursue a romantic relationship, while Billy Mack's relationship to his manager is equal parts ridiculous and refreshing.

Love Actually is ultimately a mess, but an enjoyable one. The overbearing masculinity which defines so much of director Richard Curtis' work is hard to ignore and the plot is often distracted by the sheer number of storylines – yet the film is utterly delightful. Despite its many problems, Love Actually feels reassuring and shallow... like all Christmas films should.

FEATURES

"I COME FROM A FAMILY OF STRONG WOMEN"

THE 23-YEAR-OLD 'THE APPRENTICE' CONTESTANT SHARES HER JOURNEY TO BECOMING THIS YEAR'S 'ONE TO WATCH'

CHARMAINE MANDIVENGA



Last week I sat at the top of Bancroft with shaking hands, and I called Joanna to conduct my first interview. If you haven't been watching this year's series of the 'The Apprentice' then you must be living under rock, or I haven't cornered you and 'convinced' you to watch it...yet. There is a reason for my obsession though, this cycle is proving to not only be entertaining but I have vested interest in one contestant in particular: Joanna.

Even though the digital marketing manager is the youngest contestant, as an alumni of a fellow Russell Group university, she has shown herself to be more than a formidable opponent. She is graceful, poised and isn't afraid to speak her mind; everything a young woman like myself wants to be!

In our 30 minute conversation, I ask about her background, her journey to 'The Apprentice', and if she had any advice for young women looking to go into business after university. As you will see, my interviewing style is more Wendy Williams than Oprah

Winfrey (to borrow from one of my favourite professors).

So, you went to Newcastle university, what did you study?

"I studied Politics. But I discovered by the time I was about to finish the degree was, you know at the end of uni you start looking at jobs. I was looking at the civil service etc. and it just wasn't exciting me. So, I thought to myself maybe I love the topic of politics, discussing politics and learning about politics but not necessarily working in it. I've got a massive interest in it though".

What was your goal then after you decided you didn't want to go into politics?

"My goal, at that moment in time was to work in the corporate world. When I actually finished my degree, I started to pay more attention to the business world. I knew that eventually I wanted to set up a business, but I didn't know necessarily when it would be. I actually thought it wouldn't actually happen until was about 25/26. I wanted to allow

myself to go into the working world, understand business, then set my own thing up. When I finished the politics degree, I was actually offered a scholarship to do my masters for free in International Business. But in the September that I would have started, I got offered a really good job".

That sounds really interesting, what was the biggest lesson you took away from being at university in general?

"The biggest takeaway... I would say individuality is really important. Going to university doesn't necessary present you as an individual out in the working world, because there are so many people that do come out with 2.1's and firsts, etc. Anything that you can do to build your own character, know yourself, do extracurricular stuff, I think all of that is always helpful doing into the working world. You should try to build knowledge outside of the course as well as the degree itself".

Is going to university something that is synonymous to your family? Do you have siblings that went to university?

"No, I don't. So, in Gambia, which is where I'm from, I've got aunts and uncles that went to university there but in terms of going to university, I'm the first person who has gone to university in the UK. That is quite a big deal".

That's amazing! So, who was that you looked up to when you were growing up ad setting up your path?

"My biggest influence are the women in my family. There's always kind of a joke that the women run the show, every single one of us is a strong character. When I look at my goddaughter now (my cousin's little girl) it's like, it's in her blood. So, in terms of who I looked up to, it's the women in my family. More so because of their confidence, their willingness to speak their mind, stand in their own truth and go for whatever issues may come their way. So I think all

the women in my family have been a massive influence".

I can definitely relate. You must have a lot of support at the moment then, do you watch the show together?

"I always watch the show with my mum even if I know that it's going to be a bit of a cringy episode. I think it helps as well because I watch the show at the same time as everyone else and when you're on there it is 16, if not 18 hour days. Everything is filmed. So much happens and there so many decisions to be made so imagine cutting that down into a one hour show. Sometimes you're not sure which bits they're going to include in the edit, or how things are going to look or be portrayed. Sometimes it's just as much a surprise to me when I'm watching it. So, I always watch it with my family, I think that's really important. So, you don't take it too seriously or take something too much to heart".

Do you have any advice for young people looking up to you?

"I think the most important thing is individuality. You don't necessarily have to know what you want to do. There is such a thing as transferable skills and trying to get other skills to help you with that end goal. Any steps that you take in terms of a stepping stone, any skills that you acquire will always show your work ethic for your next step. For me it was things that I actually did outside of uni that helped me. When I was a college, I decided I wanted to learn sign language and I did a night course for one evening a week. Just go out and do extracurricular stuff because even if you don't decide to set up your own business, any employer that looks at you will look at that as character building. I would say venture out as much as you can".

"Any steps that you take in terms of a stepping stone, any skills that you acquire will always show your work ethic for your next step"

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

FEATURES

THE VIRGIN MARY IN THE GRILLED SANDWICH: A BETRAYAL OF EVOLUTION

WILL MARTINEAU

In 1994, Diana Duyser of Hollywood, Florida, took a single bite from her grilled cheese sandwich. She then placed this said sandwich in a clear-plastic case, carefully protected by cotton balls. Mrs. Duyser said that during the ten years that this sandwich sat on her nightstand (before Vegas bought it for \$28,000) it protected her from harm. Because it wasn't a sandwich. It was the Virgin Mary. If in doubt, Google about, and you tell me if that there in the Kraft American cheese isn't a somewhat biblical-looking lady.

This is one of many instances of pareidolia, a psychological phenomenon that finds familiar patterns in random data. Other famous examples include the man on the moon, tea leaves, playing that latest Radiohead song backwards and hearing the Communist Manifesto, or looking up at the sky with a loved one and seeing your future children in the shapes of the clouds. A simple test is to draw a rudimentary face and watch how a couple of

thoughtless lines can generate either a sad, angry or happy expression.

The scientific explanation behind our eagerness to elicit meaning from mess goes back, of course, thousands and thousands of years. Once upon a time, humans were the snowflakes of the animal kingdom, and it was essential that, amongst other aces, we harboured the ability to tell another creature's intention in less than a second's observation. Not only did this include potential predators and prey but also a fascinating skill at interpreting the contours of wildlife. We are all natural pattern finders.

Although this is still a useful skill when it comes to negotiating pay rises, break ups and hostage crises, our pattern-finding these days tends to be less frequently used than it is abused. From kitchen appliances and architecture to automobiles, designers and advertisers craft their own, rudimentary faces. Studies have revealed that men are

more likely to buy a car if it looks pissed off – a cursory look at any recent BMW model serves as evidence – whilst women supposedly enjoy the comfort of friendlier, less conceited-looking cars. Like a Mini.

This exploitation of gender stereotypes is one of many manipulations of our ancient ability. Perhaps the most worrying is its tendency to lead even the dullest, most rational of people into gambling addictions. What's your lucky number? Don't ever play on a Sunday. Wear the sweater nan knitted you if you want to win big. Why? Because it worked a couple times in the past decade. Well, surely more than just a couple. In 2001 the comprehensive US study, "The Potato Chip [it's a crisp guys, we call it a crisp] really does look like Elvis!" discovered a disturbing facet of pareidolia. This was the impulse to remain loyal to previous interpretations of the data, even if the data underwent significant, randomised changes. This fidelity to a previous association

– imagine one day you win big at the slot machines right after you bought a White Russian at the casino bar – leads many gamblers to believe that there are omens which, on the surface arbitrary, prophesise a rise or fall in fortune.

This inclination is not to be viewed as a weakness particular to gamblers or only certain groups of people. Such a view is not only discriminatory but also blinds us to our own superstitions. For instance, an unpleasant encounter with someone who adores Elton John may lead us to hate Elton John, despite the bitter-sweet beauty of Tiny Dancer. We're now venturing into the realms of cognitive association, but the study of pareidolia goes a long way to explain why we find these associations in every single corner of life. It explains the science behind a great deal of superstitions, from black cats to feng shui, and arms us with the knowledge to deconstruct these omens when they become a danger to ourselves or others.

“exploitation of gender stereotypes is one of many manipulations of our ancient ability”

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

If you would like to get involved with production or presenting, email: editor@theprintnews.co.uk

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



COMMENT: THE COLUMNS

A RUBE WITH A VIEW

ALASDAIR DOW

Remember, remember 'Red November' (and Venezuela continued...)

If, like me, you cannot help but read propaganda selotaped to lamp-posts, you will be assuredly aware that, this month and last, many intended to celebrate the centenary of the Bolshevik coup d'état of October/November 1917* (they call it a 'revolution' to imply a level of popularity it never had, even, as it happens, among many Bolsheviks). If we have still more in common, you will wonder what there is to celebrate about the opening act in the unbearable tragi-comedy of collectivist power in the former Russian Empire and, latterly, over Eastern Europe. Not to mention the eventual spread of the 'revolution' throughout the world. Perhaps you too regret the first decisive step towards the age of totalitarianism taken by an intellectualist oligarchy, replete with historicist fantasies about inevitable 'laws' of human development, yet laws which they, paradoxically, through conscious organisation and the seizure of power, had actively to facilitate the victory of.

tonomous human nature and freedom on the level of the individual by making a God of economic conditions (Marx), and without which 'insects' cannot be squashed, nor millions of peasants reduced to primeval mulch.

Yet the scourge of revolutionary Marxism is not confined to the past. China, North Korea, Cuba, and, perhaps most significantly in light of the huge enthusiasm for it in the last two decades, Venezuela, are all tributaries of, and will chart their courses from, that regrettably deep ideological basin. So, in lieu of the centenary's celebration, what better way to remember the terrible power of 1917, than to remind ourselves why revolutionary Marxism is nothing to be celebrated in its 2017 incarnation either.

In my last column, I placed the self-confessed 'inspiration' which the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition draws from the example of Venezuela in the context of the reprehensible political patriotism expressed by alienated leftist intellectuals and activists (by no means always the same thing) for foreign tyrannies since the dawn of the Soviet Union. I concluded that this was a cause for some concern to the United Kingdom, and some challenge to the moral and political reputation of the Labour leader and his programme, given that thanks to the 'Bolivarian Revolution' initiated by Hugo Chavez, which the Right Honourable Mr. Corbyn quite correctly identifies as a legitimately socialist alternative to Western capitalism, Venezuela has become, to the immiseration and coercion of its people, an economic basket-case tending towards ever greater authoritarianism.

Enter: the Queen Mary Marxist Society (QMMS), from which the column received a somewhat vituperative, but, to be fair, at least moderately empirical rebuttal entitled, 'Setting the record straight on Venezuela'. I direct you to peruse it at your leisure on 'marxiststudent.com', in the hope that you enjoy your first visit to that particular website as much as I enjoyed mine. In essence however, the writer identifies four areas which, because of the revolution, and according to some highly inadequate statistics (the last three categories do not account for anything beyond 2008), justify inspiration in

contrast to what is happening in their British equivalents: i.) Housing; ii.) Education; iii.) Poverty (and inequality); and iv.) Healthcare.

The argument then lurches forward to 'what's happening in Venezuela today' (exactly 'what' is unspecified), to claim, magnificently, and without any substantiation, that responsibility in fact lies with the failure of the revolution to 'rid Venezuela of capitalism altogether', and with the 'oligarchs' who therefore continue to 'sabotage' the economy, not with the 'socialist measures' the revolution has pursued. Apparently, it continues, the revolution was not brought to its 'necessary conclusion' by Chavez, and his successor, Nicolás Maduro, is deservedly chastised for his readiness to 'capitulate and compromise', inviting further 'aggression from the capitalist class'. So, it is concluded, 'Corbyn is correct, we should be inspired by...the Bolivarian revolution...inspired to deepen and extend the socialist revolution in Venezuela and internationally' (my italics).

I will first deflate some of the misleading factual claims. Then I will argue that, in any case, to adopt such a surface level of analysis fails to comprehend the self-destructive nature of the chavista model. In fact, a properly holistic approach demonstrates beyond doubt that the parlous state in which Venezuela finds itself has everything to do with the 'socialist revolution'. A reality which no amount of hollow, ominous jargon about saboteurs can obscure. Indeed, tempting as it is to dismiss such Marx-speak as naïve prattle, it is only fair to deal with political opponents as if they mean and fully comprehend the implications of what they say, which in this case, is to occasion their moral condemnation: is it not rather hard to stomach the criticism of Maduro as a 'compromiser' when he is currently locking up his political opponents? We may only wonder exactly how much further the QMMS would have him go to truly secure the 'gains of the revolution'. For shame.

In terms of healthcare, the QMMS claims that from '1998-2006, infant mortality [fell] by more than one third'. This is roughly true, but why stop at 2006? Probably because by 2010, the rate had climbed back up to 15.2 deaths



Image - iStock for every 1,000 births (Source: CEDICE – used for all).

What about neonatal mortality? The same trend applies – 11.9 to 9.5 to 10.9 deaths per every 1,000, from 1999 to 2007 to 2010. Worst of all, maternal mortality increased doggedly throughout the Chavez years: from 51 to 55.1 to 69.7 deaths per 100,000 births, 1998 to 2006 to 2010 – the final low not experienced since the seventies. Finally, the relative incidence of disease, in, for example malaria, has increased dramatically since 1999, from 90.8 cases per 100,000 to 151.9 in 2007, at which point the government stopped publishing the statistics.

It is further claimed that the 'number of primary care physicians in the public sector increased twelve-fold from 1999-2007'. No source is cited. So let us consider that as of 2015, according to the Venezuelan Medical Federation, 57% of trained physicians had fled the country. This corroborates a separate report carried out at the Simón Bolívar University in the same year that 13,000 more doctors had migrated since 2009, and Claudia Vargas' 2010 study into the intentions of medical students, 39.7% of whom said they would 'definitely emigrate', and 26.9% that they would 'probably emigrate' – figures which by 2015 had risen to 59.3% and 28% respectively (Source: effectocoyo.com). Furthermore, the medical faculty of the Central University of Venezuela (UCV), recorded a yearly drop in postgraduate students between 2003 and 2010, from 1,986 to 747. The statistic lazily and inappropriately cited by the QMMS therefore fails to conceal the increasing-

ly inhospitable reality of the failing Venezuelan healthcare system for its practitioners and, by extension, its patients. But the QMMS has descended to depths of obscurantism beyond even this: the quoted figure is in fact artificially inflated by the massive influx of Cuban medical personnel following the oil-for-healthcare deal between the two states in 2000, which saw approximately 30,000 doctors enter Venezuela (Source: Javier Corrales, The Logic of Extremism: How Chavez Gains by Giving Cuba So Much).

This rather important detail, conveniently left out by the QMMS, keenly illustrates the extent to which the ailing domestic system was propped up by outside assistance. Though perhaps the QMMS is proposing an equivalent UK-Cuba deal to paper over the structural problems facing the NHS as well. In any case, what good is a doctor, Cuban or Venezuelan, if he cannot work? By 2013, of 10 major hospitals in Caracas, the nation's capital, 69% of operating theatres and 52% of beds were inoperative (Source: CEDICE). As for education, the QMMS claim that between 1999 and 2007 enrolment rates in higher education doubled. Again, it is true that enrolment has increased drastically, but this fact can only give the desired effect – i.e. 'what a wonderful world!' – when a lot of other information is left out.

See the full version of this article online: www.theprintnews.co.uk

COMMENT: THE COLUMNS

KERRY'S CORNER

KERRY MAXWELL

Stop attacking me for liking Christmas

I firmly believe that Christmas isn't just one day; it's not simply 'seasonal' or a 'holiday.' Rather, Christmas is a lifestyle choice. And believe you me, it is never too early to celebrate!

Bright, summer evenings are dead and gone, Halloween is a ghost (unapologetically punny!) and Bonfire Night...well, it's hardly relevant, really.

It might only be November, but the Christmas season has hit us – and boy has it hit us hard. You find yourself negotiating your way through precariously balanced towers of selection boxes in supermarkets and walking by stacks of wrapping paper. You then convince yourself that buying an entire cheeseboard for your tea tonight is probably not the smartest idea when you have normal, non-seasonal food at home.

I'm not ashamed to admit that I bash Christmas harder than the other reindeers bash Rudolph at the end of the song. The Christmas markets are up, the adverts are on and everything is beginning to look pretty and magical. However, I kind of feel like the only festive gal around. Every time I begin to hum a Christmas tune and try to share snapchats of Winter Wonderland, I automatically get shut down. "It's too early!", says Scrooge. "It's not even December!", says the Grinch.

But rather than shun the holiday season, claiming that an elf dies every time you switch on Home Alone, why not embrace an extra month of Christmas cheer? It can lighten up a dreary life to no end as well as brighten up your student housing. Decorations are the answer to everything: crack in the wall? Cover it with tinsel! Bulbs gone? Fairy lights are the answer! And we all know that shoving a Christmas tree in the corner will hide that damp spot no problem. There you have it: Christmas brings love, joy and masks your dump of a house.

And how can we talk about the festive season without mentioning food? The sooner you embrace Christmas, the sooner you can start skipping the gym and stuffing your face with pies, chocolate and anything 'naughty but nice'. Christmas equates to indulgence; perhaps instead of being a Grinch, you should stuff your mouth with segments of chocolate orange and hush. You additionally have the perfect justification for day drinking: Baileys at 3pm? It's Christmas.

Hang on...why am I justifying my passion for Christmas? Do you know what? To all those claiming I'm too 'extra' for celebrating Christmas a month too early...Fa La La La f*** you. Go off and live in your non-seasonal caves of wintry doom and gloom. If I want to wrap myself in sparkly Christmas lights while listening to Mariah Carey and drowning in a bath of mincemeat and mulled wine in November, I'm going to.

So please hold your arguments about how Christmas has been killed by consumerism or how you "don't really do Christmas". Stop attacking those of us trying to be festive. Take a break from fighting capitalism, embrace the excess glitter and get in the fucking spirit *adjusts pink-Christmas-cracker-crown on head*.

MILLIE'S MUSINGS

MILLIE PRITCHARD

Self-care



Bad days... we all have 'em.

For someone with mental illness, however, these bad days tend to be not few and far between. In the UK, 1 in 4 people each year will experience mental health issues. I, myself, am pretty open about my battle with anxiety and I know plenty of people around me who have dealt with or are currently dealing with mental health issues. For something so common, it is so necessary to teach the importance of **basic self-care**, something I am a **BIG** advocate for. Mental health is as important as physical health, even perhaps sometimes more so.

Here are a few ideas to try and help you turn your bad day into a not-so-bad one...

1. *Accept that it's a bad day, and take it easy on yourself.* – It can be really difficult to accept a bad day when you're having one, especially if you need to be productive. You may question why you feel like you cannot function properly, and beat yourself up about it. Acceptance really does work wonders. Mental health issues tend to ebb and flow, let yourself drift in the current a while, and take baby steps to improve your mindset.
2. *Drink lots of water.* – Keep yourself hydrated.
3. *Basic cleanliness.* – Get out of your pyjamas, have a shower, and put fresh clothes or fresh pyjamas on. Brush your teeth. Brush your hair. Moisturise. That kind of thing. Be gentle with yourself, and take your time.
4. *Have a bath.* – Linking on from the last one, baths are a great de-stressor. I tend to stock up on bath bombs or essential oils from lush to throw in. Lavender scents are especially good for calming you down if you perhaps have trouble sleeping.
5. *Go for a walk.* – Leaving the house tends to be the last thing I want to do, but going for a walk can be a good thing to clear your mind. Listen to the world around and you and breathe deeply. Ground yourself.

Something which I think encapsulates all of these tips is something called 'Mindfulness', which is a technique I learned in therapy. It is all to do with grounding yourself in the present moment, and not letting your thoughts run away with you. A good website I'd suggest is: <http://franticworld.com/>, which has some free meditations which you should practice daily.

I hope this helps,

Millie x

SUPPORT STRUCTURE

JACOB FINLAY

Tis the season to feel incredible stress

When I was first given the opportunity to write this column by the Editor-in-Chief of The Print, Liam, I told myself I would strive to make sure I wasn't just writing for my own self-indulgence. That this column would be a place not just for me to rant about my own problems, but somewhere I would bring up issues that are relevant for all students and hopefully provide some thoughts that are at least amusing if not particularly useful. I will allow those of you who have followed my writings so far – of which I am sure there are many – to judge how well I have done that in the past. However, today my dear readers I fear I must apologise in advance for some of the gravest abuses of authority yet seen in 2017 (we still have two months left so I'll give the occupant of the white house another chance to one up me). Today, I may give up my noble quest to use this position to enlighten, and instead give in to the temptation to use this column to cry-rant my own problems.

As I sit here in a third week of November, made colder only by the fact that it is apparently too early to start celebrating Christmas, I can only imagine the distant future of four weeks away when this column will be published, and I will be beyond my first deadline of the season. At this moment, it's easy come across questions such as: How on earth am I going to fit in writing these essays and continuing my dissertation work? Am I good at my subject if all my essays are just waffling to the arbitrary finish line of the word count? And, how am I going to distract myself from these problems to write an interesting column this month?

“If, like me, you’ve got through to this stage, you are probably going to make it out of here alive and perhaps even with a degree”

I have however faced these questions before. Christmas break always means deadlines for everybody. Perhaps the best way to understand University is as an endurance test, every new term brings a new set of deadlines to scrape past sacrificing perfect essays for ones that can be done in time until you've made it all the way through. If, like me, you've got through to this stage, you are probably going to make it out of here alive and perhaps even with a degree. At least we've made it through this column. Merry Christmas everyone.

Image - iStock



COMMENT: THE COLUMNS

CAPTURING CULTURE

GABRIELLE AGYEI

The Power of The Print



Image: Pexels

In a culture that is dominated by digital media, it can feel as if print is becoming obsolete. There is an ever increasing accessibility to information, with 76% of adults in the UK owning a smartphone at the end of 2016 (Ofcom). Such a statistic may be expected from those of you reading. Everyone seems to own the latest gadget, so what's so significant about such an obvious figure? Nearly 50 million people were walking around with what are essentially mini computers in their pockets at the end of last year, and this number can only have increased. With such instant access to information across the globe, one begins to question the significance of print.

When mentioning 'print', I don't just mean printed newspapers, but also literature, original art and much more. Constant advancements in technology and an increasing availability to the former online can make having physical editions seem futile. But there is something to be said of the ability to flick through the pages of your favourite book. Or feel the grainy texture of newsprint as you read the paper in the morning. These experiences are authentic and something that one cannot image being completely removed from day to day life. In no way do I mean to undermine the resourcefulness of the internet. Obtaining new information has never been easier; it sits right under our fingertips and has made staying informed and connected to the rest of the world a thing of ease. This is a privilege that should never be taken for granted.

However, I will say that whilst technology can be temperamental, print is constant and reliable. While you struggle to start up your Kindle and get to the right page of Wuthering Heights in our lecture, I effortlessly glide through the pages of my 'Penguin' edition. The library becomes a second home when internet access is made unavailable, and the free newspaper a saviour when you need some reading material for your daily commute. Print is the unsung hero of our time when so much energy is aimed towards needing immediate access to everything on-

line. It is unchanging and resilient, it will not shut down at the last second and for reasons such as this a little more appreciation is needed.

Art was mentioned previously, and this may appear a little out of place. It is not explicitly a printed media (it's created by an artist), but like the newspaper or book, vast amounts of it have become available online which similarly affects our experience with it. Looking at a piece of art via the internet completely contrasts viewing it in person. We have to consider factors such as potential distortion, discolouration, and that what we're seeing may have been copied several times prior. This drastically affects its authenticity, making it important to remember that not everything online is a true representation of the original. A credibility comes with print and originals that cannot be said for all online resources. Aspects such as this make them even more of a necessity when carrying out tasks like research; they are dependable. Security comes with owning a book or painting as opposed to feeling like you have unlimited access online. In actuality they can be easily removed, edited or modified without your knowledge or control.

Lastly, I would like to talk about the power of print in terms of its tangibility. As a writer, having your work made available on a large scale (whether online or in print) is an amazing experience. It makes your ideas and opinions available to many, and the ability to spark conversation or thought with them is reason to write. But, there is something extra special about seeing your work in print where it can have interacted with. There may be a tear on the page where you turned it too harshly, or little drawings in its corner from that time you were feeling creative. It has the opportunity to age and weather. Not only does the writing tell a story, the printed copy of it does too; it tells your story through the way it has interacted with the world when you picked it up and made it your own.

“However, I will say that whilst technology can be temperamental, print is constant and reliable”

AMERICA UNRAVELLED

JOEL CHANDLER

Dictators

Many on the left wing, ironically, give Donald Trump far too much credit. There should be no fear of Trump's perceived authoritarian aspirations. This is because the current President is incapable of concocting a plan so advanced that would result in him holding absolute power. The reason why he is so often seen cozying up to dictators is not because he necessarily wants to replicate their administrations, but simply because they are the leaders that flatter Trump the most.

In President Trump's recent trip to Asia, he was filmed laughing when President Duterte of the Philippines labelled the journalists firing questions at them 'spies'. Many on the left saw this as another indicator of Trump's dictatorial aspirations. However, one must remember that Trump's hatred of the media is derived from his dislike for being criticised, and not for being one of the key obstacles between any leader and absolute power.

Trump's childish mentality cannot be overstated, and these foreign relationships that he has developed over the best part of his first year in office are emblematic of this.



Image: iStock

On this recent trip to Asia Putin, Duterte, Xi and Dan Quang were the leaders that the President got along with best. Only one of these countries has a history of friendly ties to the US and the other three are former/current communist states with vast social and economic differences with the US. One might expect the President to conduct himself differently around leaders of such vastly differing nations, but this wasn't the case. Even after the fiery rhetoric of the campaign trail directed at China, Trump backed down as soon as he met Xi Jinping. Why? Because he flattered him. Compare this with his brittle (to put it lightly) relationship with Angela Merkel, the leader of a key NATO ally, who dared voice some concern over the way the President conducts himself, and the difference becomes overwhelmingly apparent.

The only dictator Trump doesn't like is Kim Jong-Un. While of course Trump would be justified in having a stern relationship with the country with one of the worst human rights record on the planet, it is clear to see that he simply doesn't care about that. Duterte has committed atrocities against his own people so dire that he can arguably be mentioned in the same sentence as Kim Jong-Un, and yet Trump is perfectly happy to get along amicably with him. The difference is, Kim Jong-Un has successfully ruffled Trump's feathers. It is safe to say that this is the only similarity between Kim Jong-Un and Angela Merkel, which therefore reveals the key driver behind Trump's behaviour.

Therefore, the left still believe that Donald Trump is a far smarter man than he actually is, with a well thought-out scheme to grasp absolute power in a country where the guard rails of democracy are stronger than anywhere else. Once you confront this perception, however, you come to terms with how incompetent he really is.

COMMENT

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE: BEING A NEW STUDENT

GEVITHA ANBARASU

Throughout school, I believed that being a student at a good university was the ultimatum. For some unknown reason, I believed being a university student would be glamorous. I remember seeing TV shows with these girls and guys who would receive brown paper packages, discussing how they could tell whether it was an acceptance letter or not.

Now, I do not remember results' night or regarding my university offers as extravagant. I do remember opening a small letter in a white envelope saying, 'Congratulations...'. You see, it never was as fabulous as I thought it would be, even if you go to a top university. Unfortunately, this is the same for university life.

I made the decision to go to a university near home. This seemed like a great idea up to the point where I was up at 5:45am to make sure I could shower, have breakfast and get two trains for my 9am lecture. I do value my sleep, but smelling bad trumps sleep any day. The thing about all the articles online is that they show university life as this amazing adventure, where you will be the most popular student, have 100 friends and attend events every Friday and Saturday night.

The reality of being a student is that, within the first two weeks, you will be hit head-on with a ton of assignments and almost 100 pages of reading without so much as a warning. Being a student is not at all glamorous. Yes, you can drink alcohol to your heart's content and partake in any event you

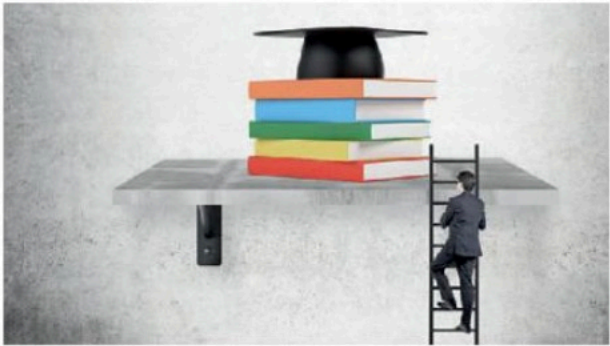


Image: iStock

want. But being a student is not easy. It is just like a full-time job. Everything you do is constantly noted.

I wonder why TV shows and films present student life as amazing. Why don't they show our generation working hard, instead of portraying how many glasses of wine we have

have learnt more than I can process. Lecturers and tutors expect you to work like a madman, with sixteen arms and two brains. Student life is where you realise you have £4.00 left in your bank account and you are wondering which pot noodle flavour you are going to have next.

But as for me, a student who lives at home, I still have to budget my money. I have to think about which events I can attend and those I can't. I still have to make time to have a social life, even though I am up to my neck in reading. I can't always spend money on clothes or makeup because I have textbooks that cost more. So as a first-year university student to others: I salute the experts! Because only we know the truth about this life and only we can warn others...

DOES WHITE-WASHING EXIST?

GEVITHA ANBARASU

The annual Academy Awards (also known as the Oscars) has just passed for this year. During this event, a variety of actors and actresses were commended on their tireless work in the film industry. Amongst the well-attributed films such as 'Moonlight', 'La La Land' and 'Fences' comes one of the most controversial Hollywood debates for the last two years. There has been quite a speculation around social media that the movies and actors commended were, for the most part, white. More than thousands of tweets and posts have ridiculed the Oscar Committee for 'white-washing', with trending hashtags like 'Oscars so white' after their awards ceremonies.

This accusation all comes down to the phrase 'white-washing'. For those of you who have not heard the term, 'white-washing' is used to describe the deliberate ignorance of another culture and assimilating to a white, western custom. In other words, unless it is white, it is not going to gain popularity. This may sound a bit rude, but I didn't write this

to censor my feelings. Why does being from a different culture, with skin that is the colour of mocha and dark hair that flows past our shoulders, inhibit us from the same opportunities as those who are white. Why does my race have anything to do with this?

You can see by the amount of awards and nominees that there was a huge majority of white people. But, what strikes me first is that it has taken so long for the public to recognise this as a problem. Being a person of a different ethnic descent, it has been established that it is really hard to gain popularity in industries ruled by the western majority, and there is no doubt in my mind that this isn't true. But, does 'white-washing' link back to people complaining over nothing, or is it a deliberate action made by the awards committees for example, to spark debate?

Alternatively, there are now a major amount of movies with leads that are played by black and Asian actors. A very good example is 'Moonlight' - produced, directed and starring

black actors such as Mahershala Ali, Naomie Harris. But as an Asian woman, where is my representation? Amongst the awards winners in this years Oscars, 7 non-white actors were nominated for acting, with only 1 Asian actor being nominated in the past 13 years. Why are asian women always portrayed in an unattractive stereotype, with clothes that smell of curry and funny accents? I could list so many Asian actresses and actors that have done well for themselves, but only one was thought to be good enough for the Academy Awards.

Respectively, there were actors of black descent nominated in every category this year as a way to eradicate #Oscars-SoWhite. While these figures are worth noting, how many of these ethnic minority actors won? It took thirteen years to nominate an Asian actor... kudodos to the committee, but how about next time you let us win one?

I never wanted to believe that 'white-washing' was a term that existed, but over time we have seen that there is nothing



Image: iStock

shutting this argument down. All I see is more white people get roles that perhaps an ethnic minority can play just as better ('Ghost in a shell')!

So, I think it is safe to say that

'white-washing' does exist, but do you choose to acknowledge it?

"It is hard to gain popularity in industries ruled by the western majority"

COMMENT

MAN! I FEEL LIKE A WOMAN: CAN YOU BE A WOMAN FOR HALLOWEEN?

KATHERINE BUTTERFIELD

Usually I write for the satire section, and upon proposing the idea for this article to a friend she thought it was a humorous set up. Honestly, I can see where she might be coming from. However, over the post-Halloween period, this is an issue which I've been thinking a lot about- and I thought, what better place is there to vent my feelings than a published newspaper?

Appropriation of culture (the idea that adoption of the elements of one culture by members of another culture is inherently offensive) is a hot button topic, with strong opinions on both sides of the argument. Has liberal political correctness gone mad, meaning that we can't appreciate and borrow from other cultures? Or is it simply awareness of agency of cultures which the West sees as novel, and appreciation that these are not costumes, but cultures with deep histories deserving of respect? I myself sit somewhere in the middle: that it relies mainly on intent. Are you wearing that culture's traditional dress as a costume, or as a sign of respect and appreciation for it? If you're at a party doing a war cry at full belt whilst wearing a Native

American's headdress and a leather thong- then you're probably not doing it right.

Which leads me on to my thoughts on my friend (male) dressing up as a woman to a Halloween party.

Halloween, as a concept, is a night in the year where you dress up as something scary. I'll concede that in recent times, the costume aspect has expanded to: fictional characters, outrageously sexy outfits and humorous costumes (think- giant dildo and vagina couples costume). So, here's my thought: is it okay for my friend to dress up as a woman, given those are pretty much the guidelines on Halloween? It should be noted that this friend is not gender fluid nor trans- but enjoys dressing up as a woman, which I'm okay with- if he's worn such clothes in everyday life or on a night out (as many identifying males and transgender women in the gay community do) this was fine. But Halloween is a time where you wear something outrageous, right?

What's outrageous about being a woman? - or worse, just a man dressed up as a woman? The question is, is he dressing up out of respect for women? I don't think he is. The very idea that being a woman (or a trans woman) is a costume to go to a party in, is really damaging. That femininity on men should become a novelty, or something humorous, is a toxic idea that I'm quite frankly not okay with.

I think a distinction should be made here: if he were to dress up as a female character, or as a female zombie, I would not be pissed off. This is because those are fictional characters, either funny or scary, right? A friend (who is on occasion a glorious drag queen) came to the party in drag, as a Bavarian barmaid. But I'm struggling to see what's funny, scary, novelty, or fictional about just a man wearing women's clothing and makeup.

Men dressing up as women has a very similar history to white men dressing up in black face. Don't get me wrong: I am

not equating them completely- the negative effects of the stereotypes created by black face were much more damaging. Yet both were used to degrade the gender or race; to portray that race or gender as inherently stupid, or humorous. Does this legacy colour my view of my friend dressing up in this way? Of course it does- yet even if you ignore this history, you cannot take away the damning contextual connotations of a woman

and her clothing simply 'being a costume'. If your white friend came to a party dressed in their usual clothes, but their face covered in black, I don't think it would have been received as well as my friend did, dressed as a woman.

But am I simply being too sensitive about this issue? Am I, as my conservative brother might call me, a liberal snowflake? Should I personally be offended by it, or should I just ignore it? Yes, it certainly pissed me off, but I wasn't injured in any physical or immediately noticeable way. Yet I believe this idea that femininity is a costume for men

can contribute to a wider, more systematic devaluation of femininity in society that has been going on for years.

It may be a novelty for you to put on makeup and heels, but for me that's regulated workplace dress: it's my every day. I wake up as a woman; I don't put on a costume. Being a woman is not funny, it is not a novelty, and it is not a costume: being a woman means half the population, it means being real people, not fictional characters. Women have received centuries of denigration, of ridicule, of systematic degrading and oppression because of their feminine aspects. Only in recent times have we managed to claw back ownership of our portrayal, and that fight is still ongoing. Only recently, have we managed to claim back femininity and reshape it as something positive and empowering, rather than something men put up with.

Given that my friend: don't you dare wear a woman as a costume.

"Halloween is a night in the year where you dress up"

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!

Gift Guide

Ok, so I know I am going to sound like a bratty bitch but, quite frankly, I couldn't care less. As often as I have been told that "it's the thought that counts" and "you should be grateful for any gift", I am sick of the same old generic Christmas presents. You know the sort: the desk cactus, maybe some bubble bath, or a box of Ferrero Rocher. I mean, is that what my entire personality boils down to? Does that sum up our relationship? The shittiest choice of chocolate on the planet!?! Nah mate, I'll sit out of Secret Santa this year.

What am I doing?

In my second year of university, with the encroaching reality of adult life, I am still clueless about the future. I'm expected to be successful, it just seems like there isn't much quid quo pro between having material wealth and volunteering for a loss of humanity. I know this much - I want to travel, explore, experience - before I sit down to my daily consumption of lukewarm monotony. Perhaps I am just staving off the inevitable, perhaps I am just entitled. I hope at least, if I cannot dent the world, I can at least make a positive impact.

Drunk Messaging

Is there anything worse than reliving the night before via drunken text messages/Snapchats/Tweets? Your head is already banging from that last Sambuca shot you knew was a bad idea, but scrolling through your phone just seems to make the headache a million times worse - and, no, it's not because the screen is too bright! Petty tweets about your ex, texting your ex, sending your Dad a message meant for your ex...it all just seemed so right last night. Well, your poor Aunt's comments on that Facebook photo suggests otherwise. *hides under duvet for the rest of eternity*.

The Dreaded Work Christmas Party

I can't be the only one who despises the Work Christmas Party. You know, pretending to actually like my colleagues when I am working is bad enough but having to spend time with them outside working hours is just exhausting. I don't like them, nor do I want to spend any more time with them than I have to. But, of course, I can't openly admit that. If I don't act like the Christmas Party is the party of the millennium and don't prepare for Staff Secret Santa like we're all preparing for the second coming, then I become the "Work Bitch." I don't want that, but I really don't want to go! Asking for a friend?

Delays on Public Transport

Public transport is probably the bane of my life, especially around this time of year. Who wants to be stood on Platform 2, abandoned in the piss-pouring rain for hours on end? Is it too much to ask for public transport to be efficient? All I want it is to just get to my destination as quickly and as hassle-free as possible but, obviously, that's no fun for the train driver/bus driver/pilot. who clearly delights in making my life as miserable as possible. Lesson to be learned: get rich quick and buy a car.



Image: Flickr

SATIRE

THE GUILLOTINE

CLICHE GIRL

KATHERINE BUTTERFIELD

Darren, self-proclaimed spokesman for the world, in the early hours of Friday morning declared ‘that cutesy girl who unsuspect-edly likes really hardcore stuff’ an overused cliché. The proclamation happened at a house party in Mile End, when in a group conversation, Melissa declared she liked death metal. Melissa, who was wearing a cardigan from M&S over a plain purple t-shirt and flare jeans, had previously been very quiet at the group meetings and only made a few very neutral, inoffensive com-ments. However, upon asking what music everyone liked, Melissa expected to shock the room when she announced her favourite band was ‘Can-nibal Corpse’. Or, that she’d seen the band twice in concert, and could sing their hit single “I cum blood” from mem-ory, if they wanted her to. After a brief period of silence, Darren stepped up. Feeling empowered by his inherently pale face and male gender, he began: “you know what, Mel-issa- who cares? Yeah, we’ve seen that shit all before”.



Image: iStock

“You go around, maybe wear-ing some adorable dress in pastel colours, and politely complimenting people on their average looks and poor cloth-ing choices. You give no con-crete opinions on anything, and then when we think we know you, the boring old ‘girl next door’, suddenly: BAM! ‘I like death metal’, or ‘I’m into BDSM’, or ‘I’m a scientologist’. Big deal, a boring trope and I think it’s just lazy personality

writing on your part, frank-ly. What a skill- and here we were hoping the cliché wasn’t true”. The other attend-ees were reportedly shocked, but in silent agreement with Darren’s harsh words. Melissa purportedly tried to interrupt, but Darren barrelled on; “And no, you’re not going to surprise me by going fur-ther- no, the fact you wank to

the series two finale of Hanni-bal doesn’t shock me, Melissa. Nor the fact you would totally still bang Kevin Spacey. You know why? I just expect it now. I see a girl who is sweet? Must be a murderer, or a psycho, or studying Comparative Lit-erature. In fact, it’s not even healthy; you people turn into, like Dolores Umbridge when you’re old so, like, fuck you”. Darren claims he was acting on instinct, that the global counter of ‘shocking reveals by cutesy girls’ hit its cliché lim-it, and Darren was simply the messenger of a universal truth. We don’t know the full story, yet we have heard reports that Melissa called Darren “a total prick” and that “being an un-justly angry white man was an even worse cliché”. She is re-portedly rewriting her person-ality in line with his expecta-tions, which are to not fulfil his expectations. Which we think is cliché, but, you know, prob-ably best not to mention it.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Another day, another morning that Theresa May wakes up in a cold sweat, heart beating erratically as she shouts “let me out!”. For a sweet, relieving mo-ment she thinks it’s all a bad dream.
- November officially re-named ‘noncember’ in honour of Kevin Spacey
- OH GOD, NOT YOU TOO *insert favourite celebrity here*
- Sir Michael Fallon MP named ‘Customer of the Month’ at Soho adult shop, Harmony
- Something about Trump... twitter... Kim Jong Un... Ah, fuck it.
- David Davis announces Brexit victory, as for the first time since talks began, EU negotiators refrain from spitting on his shoes as he enters the room.
- Student body, consisting mainly of me, says: “Please replace the water dispen-sers in the library alrea-dy, it’s been like a week”. Seriously, I can’t fill up my water bottle.

MILLENNIAL WHO CAN’T AFFORD A HOUSE, BUILDS HER OWN OUT OF AVOCADO TOAST

OLIVIA MESCE

A s we learned earlier this year, the real reason mil-lennials aren’t buying homes is because they spend too much money on avoca-do on toast... nothing to do with house prices rising 10% a year, national debt and lack of jobs. Fi-nally, someone was brave enough to stick it to the baby boomers and show them avocado on toast is worth the money, by building a 4 bedroom semi-detached house out of it. Alice Robinson, 21 from Greater London, is the genius be-hind the new project, which is ru-moured to be creating a new trend in architecture. When asked what her inspiration was for this green, toasty abode she replied “I just love brunch. I spent that much money in The Breakfast Club and Duck & Waffle that I had to do something about it. I can’t believe no one else realised the similarity between bricks and cement, and sourdough and smashed avocado before! Even planning permission agreed it was structurally sound”.

Over at The Print, we just can’t help but wonder how much time she must have spent to find enough perfectly ripe avocados (fellow brunch-geeks know how relentless that struggle can be). Yet, it seems that Alice is on the brink of an incredible new idea, housing developers across the country are begging for her to launch new projects with them. Furthermore, this week alone we have seen diamond and gold prices decrease to below the avocado for the first time in history, with the poached egg also creeping up the ladder. Legal employment in Co-lumbia has also increased as many are giving up the cocaine busi-ness to become avocado farmers. Could this be the future, univer-sity graduates moving into swish new avo-toast homes, probably in Clapham? Either way, the future is definitely green.



Illustration: Kavisha Rodrigo / Image: iStock

SATIRE

QUEEN MARY TOPS UNIVERSITY LEAGUE TABLES FOR MOST STUDENTS ON SANTA’S NAUGHTY LIST

OLIVIA MESCE

Q ueen Mary has been named the Univer-sity with the highest number of students on the naughty list, Father Christmas has revealed this week to Print insiders curren-tly stationed in the North Pole. Drapers bar and kitchen has taken full responsibility for 99% of these sinful students, with the consistent offences

rewriting the lists whenever there is a sports social, and rumour has it the whole of fo-totball and rugby are instantly written off the nice list as soon as they are accepted onto te-ams. When the news was first revealed, it was presumed the only students on the naughty list at Queen Mary would be those in the Free Speech so-ciety or the Conservative so-

than five Dixies a week, but this seems totally unrealistic.

This has sparked a huge new debate on campus, with stu-dents questioning the amo-unt of power we give to Father Christmas, when after all he’s just another old white male. In addition, his use of Na-ughty and Nice lists seems so judgemental and is be-

“rumour has it the whole of football and rugby are instantly written off”

that happen on its premises every Monday and Wednes-day. Loud and obnoxious gro-up gatherings, eating KFC on the ground floor of the Mile End Library, have claimed the other 1%. Santa has even had to claim overtime for the amount of hours he spends

ciety, yet surprisingly more of us have been disappointing the big man than we thought. We got our insider to ask for some tips in order to impro-ve our status, Mrs Claus said Santa would put more stu-dents on the nice list if they ate their five a day rather

ing deemed a form of segre-gation. Discussions aside, at least we can all agree we are happy Queen Mary has fi-nally topped a league table.

OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO IN NAPPING PODS...

LIAM PAPE

A t the Student Council meeting in November, it was proposed that the Student Union sho-uld start lobbying the Univer-sity for the implementation of napping pods. Before a vote is taken on this motion, us bright sparks at The Print have been creative and explored the thin-gs other than napping Queen Mary students might one day be able to do if pods introduced:



Image: California State University

- Open a microbrewery.
- Moan about the lack of study space.
- Pretend you are an alien and the pod is your spa-ceship.
- Hold meetings in secret where you and your accomplices can plan every detail of a commu-nist revolution.
- Die, without anyone noticing.
- Stream all seven serieses of Only Fools and Horses, plus the two Christmas trilogies, plus that skit they did for Sport Relief.
- Learning all the dance moves to every song in the original High School Musical.
- Do some work in the library with some goddam privacy for once.
- Recreate Peter Jackson’s whole whole 3 hour 21 minute expansive remake of the 1933 clas-sic, King Kong with all of your teddybears.
- Sex.



Illustration: Kavisha Rodrigo

HOROSCOPES

Aries

You’ll get a haircut this month. Is it because, due to this ho-roscope, you just realised your hair is getting just a little too long? The stars and the moons are telling you to stop thinking critically.

Taurus

Watch out for white men in positions of power this month... And the next month. And the one after that.

Gemini

Hmmm yes dear show me your palm. Yes oh I’m feeling the constellations converging over your aura, my dear- it is such a strong.. mmm feeling. I sense... you shall have great fortune this month, ahhhh! Here’s the tip jar.

Cancer

Nothing happens to you this month. Absolutely nothing. How nice.

Leo

Your sign shares a first name with famous Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy. Funnily enough, your personality shares the boring, mind numbing and waffling qualities of his famous novel, War and Peace.

Virgo

Hot dad and rumoured sex god Jeff Goldblum will visit you in your dreams this month. How did this come to be? I guess life... uh... finds a way

Libra

A quick glance at your assignments shows me you have two essays due on one day. I predict: stress, tears and extreme ne-gative fantasies about your degree.

Scorpio

You’ll start noticing who in your friend group has bad breath. Now you can’t stop noticing. You’re welcome.

Sagittarius

I guess your birthday is coming up or something. One year ne-arer to the endless, soundless void of the abyss.

Capricorn

When fantasising about what songs you’d play as a guest on de-sert island disks, you realise you have, and I don’t joke here, the dullest taste in music that has ever existed on this mortal plane. Even fantasy Kirsty Young can’t help but fall asleep to your va-nilla choices in country pop and 80s dad rock.

Aquarius

You know that guy you fancy? Yeah, you know the guy I’m talking about. Super cute, in your seminar, looks constantly high? He hates you.

Pisces

Honestly, I’ve run out of ideas. Pisces, you look like a good kid, so I’ll let you off with... your tendency to be impulsive is running high this month. Stay away from Kickstarter, Ikea and Primark. I don’t care how much of a deal that Harry Potter themed toilet plunger might be: resist!

SATIRE

BEARDED WHITE MALE SPOTTED ON THE ROOF OF FRANCE HOUSE

OLIVIA MESCE



Image: Flickr / Matti Mattila

A fat white man, with an overgrown beard and a red jacket, was spotted on the roof of Pooley House on Sunday evening. Excited residents rejoiced at what they thought was the ultimate Christmas miracle. Finally, the North Pole had heard the poor, malnourished students' prayers and came to deliver gifts beyond their wildest dreams (vodka that isn't Imperial). Unfortunately, residents didn't awake to full stockings (what stu-

dent has enough spare, clean socks in the first place?). This wasn't due to the halls' lack of chimneys, or that the milk the students had left out was three weeks out of date. Actually, the overweight old man was simply a builder, repairing a broken roof tile.

Sadly, Christmas hasn't come early but let us be honest: France House students have enough luxuries anyway.

HOW TO LIVE AT QM RENT-FREE

KATHERINE BUTTERFIELD

We all know the price of rent in London is extortionate. We know student bank balances are often pretty dire. Understandably, too many a month has been spent eating only a mixture of chicken flavour instant noodles and rice every day. So, we here at the QM Satire section wanted to come up with a few money saving tips for those on a tight budget. Here below is the definitive guide to living rent free on the QM campus.

Tip 1: Need a room? No you don't! With the library now open 24/7, you'll never need a room again. Seriously, all we think you'll need is your ID card, a duvet and a pillow. You think anyone is checking underneath the desks in the Law section on the second floor at 1am? We can confirm

they're not! Welcome to your new home. Plus, we're pretty sure there are no guidelines about sleeping in the library, which makes this activity 100% kosher. Your new home comes equipped with free internet and electricity, a complete lack of noisy neighbours and a central location. Think living under a desk might be a bit too communal for your tastes? Well, the study rooms on the second floor are rather cosy, and even have a TV.

THIRD YEAR STUDENT HAS NEVER ENTERED THE LIBRARY DUE TO HER REVOLVING-DOOR-PHOBIA

TAKIYAH DUNCAN-JONES



We've all enjoyed a giggle at the expense of someone tripping up in the revolving doors, but for some it is not a laughing matter. A third year student, who does not want to be named, spoke exclusively to the Print this week about her biggest fear: the revolving doors at the library. The severity of this phobia must not be underestimated; the poor girl has never been able to study in the library, which has had such negative consequences on her academic success.

In her interview, she explained to the Print that her fears derive from a childhood experience in her hometown.

One particularly busy Christmas Eve, the six year-old got her scarf caught in a revolving door (which she says was almost identical to those at our library). Her life flashed before her eyes. Apparently, the neck bruises lasted almost two weeks. She recalls how this 'near-death' experience even brought her closer to God.

The student has exhausted several different types of therapy, all of which have failed to ease her concerns. The most effective method she found was sneaking through the Learning Café staff entrance, yet this only lasted a week as she was caught by a pesky librarian. She even tried to start a petition through the Student

Union to ban the 'circulating-high-speed-death-trap', but unfortunately they have reached their limit on banning things for this year.

She does have a special competition for Print readers: one lucky fellow student is going to be gifted her printing credit (as she has never been able to access it). Please see the Print online for more details of how to win.

If you see an anxious-looking girl, either hogging the only working computer in Arts One or bursting into tears outside the library, please do a good deed and give her a hug. This girl needs our support.

"You'll be on your way to saving pretty much all your student loan, plus any cheeky parental donations you might have swindled"

the opposite sex walk in on me doing so. So, we've come up with an alternative: The QM gym. This fixes two problems in one: where to store your stuff, and how to keep clean. All you'll need are toiletries, a towel and a padlock for the lockers, and you'll be on your way! A 9-month membership (three semesters) is just £181! Goodbye £150 p/w + bills, and hello the high life. Plus, we reckon you'll get really buff because it's the gym and stuff.

Tip 3: Another issue are meals: how would you get them? Of course, with the money you'll be saving, you could very well eat out at Nando's every day and still save ample amounts of cash, however even the most avid Nando's fans know that might get a bit excessive (no matter how delicious that sunset burger is). Which is where the Village Shop comes in. More specifically, the Village Shop and it's free-

-to-use microwave, allowing you to heat up your co-op pre made spaghetti during opening hours! You'll be on your way to saving pretty much all your student loan, plus any cheeky parental donations you might have swindled.

So that's it, you're set to make a profit if you follow these three simple tips. I mean, sure, you might technically be homeless, but you'll be the richest homeless person on campus!

ADVERT



Do something PRINTeresting

Join The Print: www.theprintnews.co.uk/get-involved
Search 'The Print 2017/18 Contributors Group' on Facebook

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ECO-CITIES AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD

WHAT MAKES UP THE GREEN CITIES OF TOMORROW?

JAMIE GORDON

In the present day, issues of longevity, sustainability and environmental stewardship are at the forefront of both the scientific and political spheres. As such, when we examine Jim O'Neill's 'BRIC' acronym for developing countries, one must note that countries such as China and Brazil factor in these concerns whilst planning their future development and growth. Gradually, Luddite scepticism has been side lined, with technocrats being likely to play a more active role in the practical steps each of these countries take, in the future.

By definition, these countries are still "developing" – in both abstract and tangible means – and as such they are in a position to put large-scale infrastructural foundations in place. Developing countries using technology to address issues of the future is not a new phenomenon. Indeed, China has been investing in and developing ground-breaking initiatives such as the Green Wall (1977) and the Three Gorges Dam (1994) for de-

acades – the former increasing global forest cover by twelve per cent, the latter altering the Earth's rotation. Not only that, 'eco-cities' such as Curitiba in Brazil, have been present and pioneered in the developing world since the 1970s.

The term 'eco-city' is more like descriptive rhetoric than scientific classification, and is perhaps deliberately ambiguous. There is an entire spectrum of what the term 'eco-city' could encompass, the full extent of which can be witnessed within China alone. Here, the term has been applied whilst describing incremental measures, such as legislation that all new buildings must be fitted with solar panels. It has also been used within discourse on immediate, large-scale action, such as the proposed construction of Dongtan – an entirely new (and perhaps an example of a more orthodox model of) eco-city commissioned by Chinese investors in 2005. The terminology remains universally unclear and this could be because with large-scale urban

expansion having already occurred across the world, the transition can be made from a normal city to an orthodox eco-city. In the aforementioned example of Dongtan – where each component will have been specifically

countries; what is in question is the utility and scale of the technology that can be implemented. For instance, even cities that are built around being eco-friendly, technological mechanisms are not seen as an environmental panacea.

"The term 'eco-city' is more like descriptive rhetoric than scientific classification"

built and assessed through an eco-friendly lens – the process is somewhat daunting. Thus, making the term 'eco-city' more fluid perhaps makes it more universally accessible. In turn, widespread change is more likely, even if it is incremental rather than wholesale.

This is not to say that eco-cities, in their orthodox form, are far-fetched. Eco-cities are viable, especially in developing

Perhaps the best example of this would be Dongtan again, which was designed upon foundations of technology and advanced planning, but never actually left the drawing board – the proposed 2006 construction start date is still postponed to this day. In contrast, Curitiba in Brazil continues to flourish some four decades after its rebirth as an eco-city. The key to its success, however, is the interplay of tech-

nological and socio-political mechanisms. Curitiba's pastoral initiative means that its expanses of green spaces double up as natural flood-plains for the Uguacu river; its efficient Bus Rapid Transit System means the city centre is nigh on pedestrianised and the carinhos initiative means that Curitiba citizens can exchange their general waste and recyclables for food and bus tokens. By implementing these measures, Jaime Lerner – former architect and mayor of Curitiba – not only prepared the city for the transformation into eco-friendliness, but also, perhaps as importantly, he made the city's inhabitants active participants in achieving this goal.

Looking to the future, a lot can be said for the role that technology will have in finding 'green' solutions. However, no technology is perfect and no model for an eco-city will be complete without taking account of the human element in every city.

QUANTUM PHYSICS UNRAVELLED

ALEXANDER RICHARDSON

These days it seems that just about anything can be described as a 'quantum leap forward', from computers to smartphones to the fancy smart kettle that made your tea this morning. But, what does the word actually mean? Are all these new advances actually applying quantum physics, or is it just a buzzword in modern advertising?

The word quantum has a very simple meaning and origin. It comes from the Latin word 'quantus' meaning 'quantity' or 'how much?' and today is used to describe a very important discovery in physics: that nothing is fully continuous. This may sound odd, but at its core it means that there is always a fundamental minimum value for any reading or measurement we take. Since we know the value of this fundamental minimum, it means we can express the size of our measurements in terms of it.

One of the consequences of this fundamental minimum value is that there is also a minimum uncertainty in our measurements, that is we can

"Are all these new advances actually applying quantum physics, or is it just a buzzword in modern advertising?"

never measure something to 100% accuracy. Luckily for us this value is very small and has no influence on day to day life, but it means that when you look at things on a very small scale there are some very surprising consequences. Because it is impossible to be 100% certain of anything, quantum physics relies on the use of statistical probabilities to define quantities such as position and velocity. This leads to the conclusion that, until we look at something and are able to say "ok, that thing is here", it is theoretically possible for that particle to be in multiple places at the same time, and that the position we see it in is determined by the process of us observing it.

This is known as the observer effect, and is one of the most confusing but powerful discoveries in modern physics. It was made famous by Erwin Schrödinger, a physicist who expressed his dis-

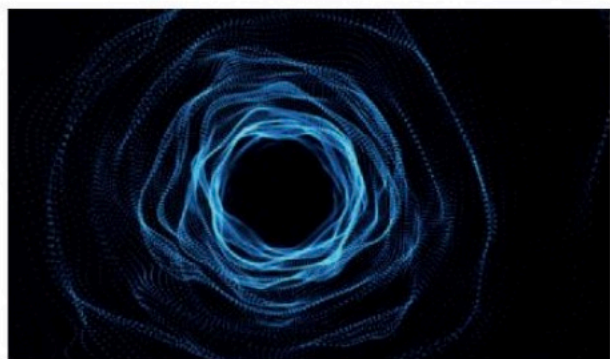


Image - iStock

taste for the observer effect by using a ridiculous example: a cat in a box. This however backfired for him and became a very good example of how quantum physics works; and is today commonly known as Schrödinger's cat.

So, what practical benefit does this have? For most people, very little. Quantum physics applies to very small, atom sized objects, not something

the size of your toaster. It does however have great importance in areas of electronics, where companies are having trouble creating better processors because quantum effects are causing unexpected problems; and in scientific research, where it can be exploited to make measurements to a greater degree of accuracy than has been possible before.

In the future quantum physics has applications in areas such as cryptography, as well as in finding the holy grail of physics: a grand unified theory, capable of explaining anything and everything in the universe. We are a long way away from this, gravity for example currently cannot be explained using quantum physics, but this is the forefront of modern physics and is seeing constant developments.

One of the most important physicists of the 20th century, Richard Feynman, once said "If you think you understand quantum mechanics, you don't understand quantum mechanics" and this goes to show just how profoundly different it is. But quantum physics isn't something to be afraid of, it is just fundamentally different to anything that physics, and the world, had seen before.

Want to read more Science and Tech articles? Visit theprintnews.co.uk/scienceandtech

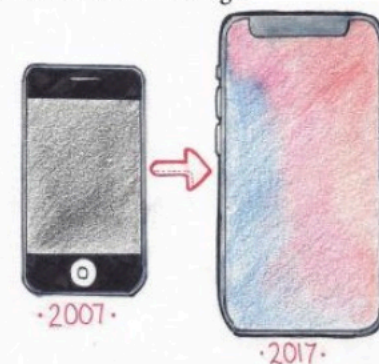
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IPHONES THROUGH THE AGES

HOW MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THE LAST DECADE?

ALEXANDER RICHARDSON

Illustration: Kav Rodrigo



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the release of the original iPhone, and in that time the world has changed quite a bit. We've had 2 new US presidents, social media has gone from something nerdy to a part of everyday life, and the population of the world has increased by over a billion. To celebrate the anniversary of the iPhone, Apple has released its most interesting iPhone since the original: the iPhone X; alongside their most boring iPhone yet: the iPhone 8. But just how much has the iPhone, and technology as a whole, changed in the last decade?

The easiest place to start is the outside appearance. The original iPhone stood out amongst

the crowd for its 3.5 inch display and lack of physical buttons for navigation and typing, and this trend of having a bigger display and less physical buttons has continued to this day. The flagship iPhone X has broken the trend again by removing the 'home' button from the front of the device, to make room for a 5.8 inch display, almost

twice the area of the original, using 18 times as many individual pixels.

You'll also find a surprise at the top of the screen of the original iPhone – the lack of a selfie camera. The 'Selfie Craze' began around 2010, 3 years after the iPhone was released, although the feature was found on other phones at the time. Whereas the rear camera, whilst present, is a far cry from the award winning cameras found on more modern iPhones: with a paltry 2 megapixels and no dedicated flash this camera wasn't particularly impressive at the time and has only gotten worse with age.

Under the hood there is lots of change as well. The iPhone X touts a processor that is over 40 times as powerful as the original, alongside 3GB of memory; a big jump from the 128MB that shipped in the original. The iPhone X also ships with 64GB of storage as standard, compared to only 4GB a decade ago. You wouldn't even manage to fit iOS in that much space.

Apple has, however, kept some things the same over the years. Until the major redesign of the iPhone 6, the battery capacity for each generation was very similar, earning the iPhone brand its reputation for terrible battery life. It was only at this point that Apple seemingly accepted defeat and began increasing the capacity, with the iPhone X touting a battery with almost twice the capacity of the original. Apple also kept a few of the sensors the same such as the accelerometer and proximity sensors, which were fairly new features to find in a phone at the time, but are now practically ubiquitous.

Connectivity is an area where phones have developed greatly in the last decade. Back in 2007 the original iPhone didn't support 3G, although it was available in competing handsets, and the 4G standard had

yet to be finalised, let alone implemented, and wouldn't be for another three years. It also didn't contain a GPS chip, used the second revision of Bluetooth, rather than the 5th by the iPhone X, and didn't support NFC or wireless charging. The original iPhone also used the old 30-pin connector, which seems rather large by today's standards, with the Lightning connector not making its debut until the iPhone 5 in 2012. The original iPhone does however have one thing that the iPhone X does not: a 3.5mm headphone jack.

Whilst the hardware of the iPhone has changed a lot over the last decade, there have arguably been even more changes when it comes to software. The original iPhone was released running iPhone OS 1, the operating system that would be eventually renamed to iOS in 2010 with its fourth major release: iOS 4. iPhone OS 1 would seem very antiquated by today's standards. Not only is the interface not as sleek and pretty, but there are glaring holes where features that we take for granted should be. There was no support for third-party apps such as Facebook or Twitter, this was introduced alongside the App Store in iPhone OS 2, there was no copy-paste

functionality until iPhone OS 3 and many applications, such as 'mail' and 'maps', were very simplistic even by 2007's standards.

There have been many changes to iOS over the years such as the replacement of Google Maps with Apple Maps in 2012, which sparked great criticism for providing incorrect directions and generally being worse (at the time) than what it was replacing; the integration of Siri in 2011, after its acquisition by Apple a year prior; and the integration of iCloud backup in the same year.

So the iPhone X is clearly far superior to the original, as is to be expected after ten years of refining the concept, but is it as revolutionary? The original iPhone was a game changer, it shaped modern technology in a way that few devices have done before, but the iPhone X is different. The iPhone X is, at the end of the day, still just a smartphone; there is nothing as fundamentally different and innovative about it compared to other phones as there was for the original 10 years ago. As much as the iPhone X is better than the original iPhone in practically every way, there is one thing it will never outshine: the iPhone's legacy.

WHAT DO NETFLIX, AMAZON, STARBUCKS AND TESCO HAVE IN COMMON?

DIGITAL MARKETING AS A KEY DIFFERENTIATOR

JORGE GARCIA

Amazon and Netflix shares are up 52 percent and 58 percent respectively through some recent days compared to the S&P 500's 15.5 percent". News like this is becoming more and more normal. In fact, many finance and business experts agree that these two technology companies will dominate the future like Starbucks, Tesco and other multinational giants. But, if there is something common to all of them, is their ability to master the sophistication that the use of digital marketing requires.

According to market research company Forrester, digital marketing expenditures in the UK are on pace to reach levels near \$21 billion by 2020. Let us try to understand how this huge amount of money is spent and how those technology and consumer giants plan their strategies.

Think about the last purchases you made. Perhaps you bought a phone, an airline ticket or simply made a reservation to have dinner in a fancy restaurant. Chances are, you consulted the Internet to read reviews, get recommendations from friends and family on social sites like Facebook, and compared the features, options, and price of the product or service before you made your choice. Today, purchases and purchasing decisions are increasingly made online. Therefore, regardless of what these giants sell, a strong online presence is necessary in order to capitalize on this trend.

This new digital landscape is impacting organisations in more than just the lead and sales generation departments, though. Experienced companies use the Internet to drive awareness and interest in what they offer, but also to convert casual buyers into brand

advocates who buy more and encourage members of their network to do the same.

Hundreds of students and future graduates like us will be part of these companies and will be required to have the capability of organizing and managing digital marketing campaigns to acquire new customers or keep satisfied the existing ones. The role of such people is key in moving the customer from one stage of the customer journey to the next, attaining clarity on the characteristics of the ideal customer.

A variety of digital marketing techniques that help us consume and spend more money on their products like:

SEO / Search marketing: What solutions is your potential customer searching for on search engines like Google, YouTube or Bing?

Content marketing: What blog posts, videos, podcasts, and so on should you create to attract and convert your potential customer?

Email marketing: Which potential customer should receive a specific email marketing campaign?

Paid traffic: Which ad platforms should you buy traffic from and how will you target your potential customer?

Copywriting: How should you describe offers in your email marketing, ads, and sales letters in a way that compels your potential customer to buy?

Social media marketing: What social media sites is your potential customer spending time on? What topics does your potential customer like to discuss?

Analytics: Who is visiting your site? Where are they coming

from? What they view most? How long they stay?

Advertising: What is the best combination of network ad programs (Facebook ads, promoted tweets, and others) that allow increasing the brand awareness

Digital marketing can still act as a key differentiator as many companies have not started to use it yet. Nevertheless, the use of digital marketing as a normal part of the selling process will be normalized as time goes by.

Even though the development stage of digital marketing is arguable, it is a fact that it will be moving towards understanding the customer in order to create even more personalized content that will build deeper relations with these customers.

SOCIETIES

QM ISOC AND BARTS MMD RAISE £63,000 AND PLACE 2ND IN CHARITY WEEK 2017

ISOC AND MMD BROKE THEIR OWN RECORD AND BEAT KINGS' COLLEGE LONDON IN ANNUAL CHARITY WEEK

VICE PRESIDENT SISTER, ISLAMIC SOCIETY

When deciding whether to sell cupcakes for £3 feels like the most painstaking decision ever, that can only mean thing!

Queen Mary Islamic Society (ISoc) and Barts Muslim Medicine and Dentists (MMD), participated in the annual Charity Week: a global initiative where universities and college Islamic societies dedicate a week to raising money for orphans and the needy around the globe. Last year, we raised a total of £62,000 and placed 3rd internationally, and this year brought new and exciting achievements and events.

From the 17th to the 29th October, ISoc hosted multiple events, from 'Overcoming Obstacles', a talk that explored the issue of mental health in the Muslim community, to the Food Festival where students enlightened their taste buds by trying different international

cuisines. Other events included a beginner's calligraphy class, to physical challenges like climbing Scafell Pike and hiking in Hastings. A range of activities were organised to cater for the diverse needs of students on campus, maintaining a key ethos of the ISoc. "The purpose of the Islamic Society is to enhance the student experience of Muslims on campus, empowering students to embrace their identity and become positive, active and influential members of society" - ISoc President.

Particular highlights this year was auctioning a cake at £8000 at the 'Big Event' dinner and breaking a new record by beating Kings' College London and placing 2nd amongst the London universities behind UCL, raising £63,108.27 in total.

Allah (God) says in the Quran, the holy book for Muslims: "Be a community that calls for what is good, urges what



is right and forbids what is wrong: those who do this are the successful ones" (3:104)

Thus, success is never restricted to events or the amount raised, but the feeling of unity among students on campus working together for a greater goal: to make an impact on the world around them. Witnessing returning and new students of different ages, races and ethnicities baking, cook-

ing or simply attending events brings a joy like no other. This is when students are no longer just students, but active citizens who are changing and transforming society and engaging with their communities for the better.

And that's what Charity Week is about: sacrificing your today so that someone across the world can have their tomorrow. Whether you decide

to shave your hair, bake, do bucket collections or drink a milkshake made of peculiar ingredients, a child has the chance to go to school because of your efforts. It is through this week and uniting under one cause that we create hope, love, security and a sense of belonging to orphans and the needy around the world.

We hope God accepts all that we do, and we encourage other students to get involved in next year's Charity Week!

Keep up with the Charity Week team on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/qmbartscw>. For more information on upcoming ISoc outreach projects, like our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/QueenMaryISoc/> or follow us on Twitter at @QueenMaryISoc

FRANCOPHONE SOCIETY: MORE THAN 'LE FROMAGE ET DU VIN'

PHILIPPINE HURET

Bonjour mes amis! As of this year, the Francophone Society has officially found its place within the Queen Mary community. In a few words we would like to introduce ourselves and invite you all to join us in our memorable events and gatherings.

Initially, we created this society to form a community not only for French speakers, but also for anyone who wanted to explore and discover a new culture. We bring together students from all years and programmes. Our aim is to promote an environment in which everyone feels comfortable.

On the social side, we organise a variety of events. Since the beginning of the year, we have arranged events to watch

football games (only when France is playing of course), a Halloween night filled with games to win tickets to a concert, and to go clubbing together. We are also one of the organisers of the event the 'European Night', in collaboration with the European societies of King's College, UCL, LSE and Imperial. A recurring event, the 'European Night' takes place in a London nightclub, where all students are welcome. The music and the good vibe ensures it is always a success for everyone. Most importantly, we organise the traditional Wine & Cheese nights, very typical of the Francophone Society.

On the academic side of things, we have a page on LinkedIn to create an alumni platform to establish a link between old and new members of the soci-

ety. In the long term, this will allow us to help each other, both by giving advice on career choices and by offering contacts within a certain industry.

If you're interested in joining us, contact us on our Facebook group. Coming up, we are organising a big Christmas Party to end the year all together. The venue is full of great surprises with games and good music. To keep it a surprise, let us give you just one hint: it's on a rooftop in East London!

Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/134364230401883/>, LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/11304501/> and on Instagram at @qm.francophonesociety



Francophone Society



SOCIETIES

SOCIETY DIARY: QUEST RADIO

HOLLY CROFT, STATION MANAGER OF QUEST RADIO, TALKS ABOUT THE RELAUNCH OF 'A NIGHT CALLED QUEST'

HOLLY CROFT

In case you didn't know already, Quest is the official student radio station of Queen Mary Students' Union. All shows are presented and produced by Queen Mary students and can be streamed online at questradio.co.uk or on our Mixcloud or podcasts. Although we're not even half way through the academic year yet, the Quest team have achieved a great deal. For example, we're broadcasting live on air every week, which is arguably a great accomplishment after the collapse of the station last year!

We soon found Urban Bar, which had the relaxed, yet trendy vibe that we were looking for. The upstairs room was perfect for our event and was ready to hire and stage. Next on the list was bands. Luckily, my brother, who studies Commercial Music at Bath Spa University and is in a band himself, was able to put me in contact with some great indie-style acts. We managed to book two great sets from Feuerhaus and Social Contract - don't forget to go and check them out on social media!

I'm incredibly proud of the sense of community that we've created at Quest this year, which certainly makes running the station much easier. Everyone is motivated and enthusiastic about helping one another in any way possible. This also sets us up well for our special 24-hour 'Questathon', a charity broadcast which we're planning for 2018.

'A Night Called Quest' has been an event which is hugely important to us. We wanted to create a night that would bring together students from both of our campuses (Mile End and Whitechapel) and would also bring live music back in a big way. Surprisingly, there aren't many band nights at Queen Mary and of course we wanted to change this, in light of our goal to support upcoming and local bands. The station had also hosted the event a few times in previous years, so we knew it would be popular with members. Of course it goes without saying that here at Quest, we love anything to do with music.

In order to make the night accessible for everyone, we ruled out campus-specific venues, such as The Griff Inn and Drapers, and decided to research other potential locations around East London.

A NIGHT CALLED QUEST.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER WITH QUEEN MARY TRADING AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY

JOIN THE MOST ACTIVE FINANCE COMMUNITY AT QUEEN MARY

CHRISTIAN HIRSEKORN



Wolf of the Wall Street, The Big Short and crashing bubbles.

Ever wondered what an Investment Banker does? What clues traders look for when trading the financial markets? Or how technology is disrupting the financial sector?

We are the Queen Mary Trading and Investment Society - in short: QMTIS. It's been some crazy 10 weeks in which we hosted about 15 events and 2 socials. If you haven't heard about us yet, it's time to find out!

We are a bunch of passionate finance enthusiasts from all kind of backgrounds. We have been around since 2008 and have an established network across the Citi and Canary Wharf. Our about 300 members come from all kind of backgrounds - economics, maths, computer science, engineering, physics, arts and more. One of the biggest misconceptions is probably that you have to study economics, business or finance to start a career in Finance. Our society is open to everyone - we always appreciate fresh ideas and input - and are looking for and generating the future leaders in finance.

QMTIS is both project and events-driven: If you join one of our various

sub-divisions, such as Equities, Trading, Macroeconomic Research or Tech, you'll be taught the basics of your area of interest by experienced committee members who have interned at investment banks, hedge funds and asset managers. You'll then work on projects, such as writing, presenting and publishing reports in meetings and our website or developing a trading simulator. On the events-side we regularly bring in guest speakers from the most prestigious firms. This gives students the opportunity to listen to their stories, ask questions and to network. We have so far brought in guest speakers from J.P. Morgan, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Barclays, Morgan Stanley, ING, BNY Mellon and more.

Some of our most exciting events were perhaps not the biggest. In October, we hosted two Assessment Centre Workshops - it helped some of our members to succeed in their interviews. We also hosted a Trading Challenge, a "AI and Machine Learning in Finance" workshop and a "Finance Meets Fashion Coffee Chat" in November. Members could win Insight Days, Book Prizes and T-Shirts.

Free pizza and free beer - WHAT? Yes! At our socials! Our alumni regularly come by to those events as well, so

you'll be able to network and perhaps find a personal mentor? We've also established a mentorship scheme to buddy you up with professionals from the industry, so you get one-to-one advice. It's never too late to join! We'll be running the scheme again in January, along with many more exciting events, such as full day trading workshops, guest speaker panels and parties.

Check out some of our upcoming events:
6th of December: Economics & Emerging Markets Panel Event (Ashmore Investment Management, Schroders and SEF guest speakers):
8th of December: X-Mas Social
13th of January: Economics Ball (3-course-dinner, with bubbly upon arrival, entertainment, photo booths, free photography, DJs and performers): <https://www.facebook.com/events/131731757543054/>

Check us out at:
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/qmtis/>
QMSU: <https://www.qmsu.org/groups/investment/>
Website: www.qmtis.com
Email: enquiries@qmtis.com

You can read more societies stories by visiting our website: theprintnews.co.uk/category/societies

SPORT

QMN PROVE THAT THESE GIRLS MOST DEFINITELY CAN

RACHEL PETERS

“You play like a girl”... hell yeah, these girls do.

They run like girls, they're as strong as girls, they're as tough as girls. They're Queen Mary Netball Club, and every Wednesday these girls kit up and fight for victory in the 'beautiful game'. Nine teams play week in, week out, united by the excitement brought by the game of agility, pace and strength.

In light of the 'This Girl Can' campaign, it would be worth demonstrating just exactly what QMN can do.

QMN First team are doing exceptionally well considering the extremely high standard of opposition they face. They currently sit middle of their BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) league table, and have every chance of making it to the top by the end of the season.

QMN Seconds remain entirely

undefeated this season, meaning they sit comfortably at the very top of their division. Their invincibility in BUCS has also seen them go unbeaten in the cup, in which they recently beat rivals, Barts, by one point last week. This very intense match saw both teams bring two very different styles of play head to head for a very close game. The first team also remain unbeaten in the cup, having recently beat St George's 44-41. Both these QMN teams show that these girls definitely can, and will, go on triumphantly fighting to the next round.

The third team are also having an excellent season, sitting in second place in their BUCS league, and having only lost one game. These girls can play an excellent game, not only in BUCS, but also in LUSL, the UoL league. Talking of LUSL, Queen Mary 4th Team sit at the very top of their division, and not only remain undefeated, but lead with a goal difference of 67. Amazing. So, Queen Mary Netball Club

produces some excellent, competitive play. But as a club, they are so much more. Five teams of the Development Squad: the Rubies, Pearls; Amethysts; Sapphires and Emeralds play each week in the QMSU league. This consists of excellent netball, girls improving themselves and others, high spirits, and a whole lot of fun. On top of this, charity and welfare is central to QMN. They are about looking out for one another, and have an adopted charity 'Coppa-Feel', which raises awareness for breast cancer. Charity work is led by the Rubies' Hannah Gaffey. The latest charitable project, '12 Days of Titmas', is extremely fun and everybody can and should get involved! Head to the 'QMUL Uni Boob Team' Facebook page for more information.

Queen Mary Netball Club are all about the fun, are all about looking out for each, and are most certainly about winning some beautiful netball. Queen Mary Netball Club show you how This Girl Can.

Image- iStock



WHAT TO DO ON A SATURDAY

DANIELE ACCURSO

WEST HAM

'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.

In the previous issue of 'The Print' I recommended visiting local, lower league side Leyton Orient. This time around, it's still local but it's the big boys. West Ham United. You know that massive stadium you see at Stratford? Yeah, West Ham play there. It's also quite a nice place to watch football.

I heard fans moaning that with the running track still in place, in between the pitch and fans, you weren't going to be able to see the action properly. Honestly, it's a load of rubbish. I sat in the higher tier of the stadium and the view was spectacular and the pitch immaculate. The whole stadium infrastructure is top quality.

On the field, The Hammers haven't had too much success. Starting the season poorly saw ex-player Slaven Bilic given the boot from the manager's position. In came

54-year-old, David Moyes. Boasting the likes of Everton, Manchester United and Real Sociedad on his CV, Moyes is a stalwart in the Premier League, having notched his 500th game in charge recently in England's top flight.

With a Premier League Side boasting a capacity of 66,000 there are always going to be tickets on general sale – as long as the fixture isn't against Premier League giants or a London derby. Thus, having checked myself this morning (21st November 2017), the following games are currently on general sale meaning anyone can buy them.

Upcoming Fixtures

Saturday 23rd December
West Ham vs Newcastle

Tuesday 2nd January
West Ham vs West Brom

As we're students, you'll be able to purchase a concession ticket which enables you to have a fairly cheap ticket for the football on display. The tickets are around £25 depending on where you sit.

I myself went and saw West Ham versus the then current

Premier League Champions Leicester City last year. With the famous East London atmosphere still in tact, with that famous song "I'm forever blowing bubbles" still sang loud and proud pre-kick-off, you'd be mad to not get yourself down to the Olympic Park.

Directions

The journey is fairly simple from campus. Catch the tube to Stratford which takes less than 5 minutes. From there, walk through Westfield Shopping Centre and you'll be a brief walk from the stadium. The walk in total is roughly 10 minutes from the stadium.

With the fixtures against Newcastle and West Brom being potential 'Six-pointers', I'll probably buy myself a ticket and get down there. Hope you all enjoy the game if you go!

For more Sport news, visit our website:
www.theprintnews.co.uk/category/sport

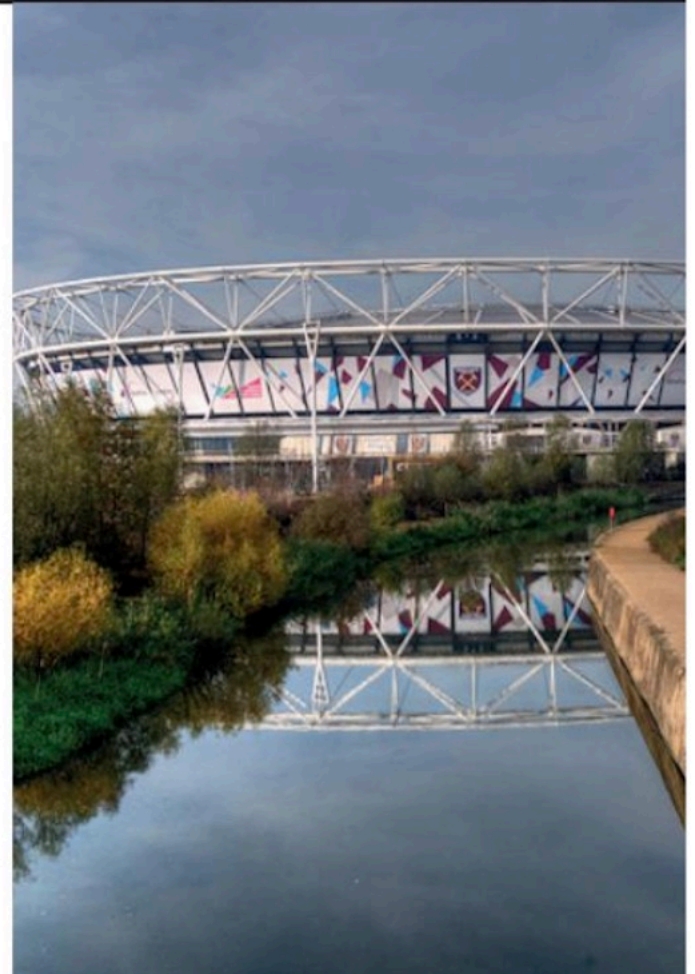


Image- Geograph