



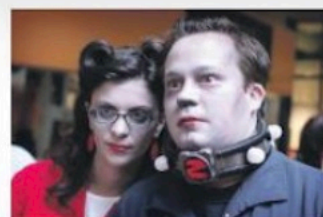
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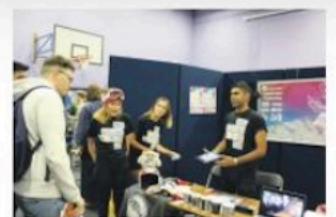
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# THE PRINT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF QUEEN MARY STUDENTS' UNION

THEPRINTNEWS.CO.UK

THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2016 - ISSUE 14- FREE

## STUDENTS NOT SUSPECTS: A QMSU DISCUSSION

The Print attended QMSU's talk on the government's anti-terrorism strategy, Prevent

THEODOR  
DEBRUNNER-HALL

On the 22nd of September, around 50 students gathered in the Mason Lecture theatre to listen to a presentation and take part in a Q & A about Prevent, one of the government's counter-terrorism strategies that has led to much controversy.

In the education sector, the strategy is based on a system of reporting so-called "suspicious behavior" on the grounds of criteria set out by teachers and professors after having a short training session.

Prevent has been widely criticized and accused of inciting islamophobia.

The NUS and QMSU are actively combatting and rejecting the scheme. This event looked to raise awareness and understanding for what Prevent is and why it is being rejected by some academic institutions.

Representing the NUS, Shelly Asquith spoke first, highlighting examples of incidents where Prevent had failed and led to unfair discrimination of young Muslims. President of the QM Islamic Society Akiqul Hoque spoke passionately about what he views as a culture of fear which is leading to the demonization of Muslim students in



Image - QMSU

Britain.

Guest speaker Rahmaan Mohammadi discussed how Prevent has affected him personally. While he was in school, he was reported to Prevent and had police come to his door and talk very aggressively to his family because he had worn a pro-Palestine badge. Particularly eloquent and collected, especially considering his relative youth, Rahmaan

emphasised the importance of educational institutions encouraging rather than restricting free speech.

He also heavily criticised the idea of "British values". He is convinced that Prevent is both principally and practically drilling a toxic form of racism into educational institutions and made his point in a most compelling manner.

QMSU Vice President

Welfare, Adam Sparks, had this to say on the student response to the talk,

"The event raised some interesting discussion. From what was discussed [and] from what I saw, there was pretty much unanimous agreement that Prevent is unacceptable."

Adam has been openly critical of the government's strategy,

"Frankly I think before Prevent there was not a huge demand for a system to monitor students, and after Prevent I don't think there should be either.

"It is our job to hold [the government] to account and shout about it when they introduce legislation which is institutionally racist and Islamophobic."



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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

ANNA SAVAGE

Hello Printers, Welcome to Issue 14 of The Print, Queen Mary's Official Student Newspaper. As the long Autumn nights draw in and the weather makes the price of a cloak room seem reasonable, The Print is here to give you an array of interesting articles to purloin of a night in. Feel free to enjoy with a cup of coffee or cocktail, wherever the evening takes you.

As Halloween approaches, the paper has taken a turn for the spooky. Clowns, talking horses, Donald Trump, The Print is certainly getting into the spirit of the season (minus the Pumpkin Spice Latte, it gives us the sugar shakes).

The Print is dedicated to providing a platform to allow the students of QM to get their voices heard. This issue, we have an extremely thought provoking piece on male mental health 'Rapping Through Depression'. In light of QMSU's recent talk Students Not Suspects, one Queen Mary student provided their take on the discussion for the comment section. Those are just a couple of examples of the great content that has gone into this edition. I would list more but I am rapidly running out of space thanks to enormous amount of articles that were submitted to us.

Perhaps the article that makes me proudest as editor

is 'Commuting', part of our brand new column 'A Fresh Perspective'. First year is full of transition and as the craziness of Freshers' Week dies down, adjusting to university life can be pretty daunting. If you're a new student and keen to write about your experience of joining Queen Mary, get in touch with our Comment editors.

I do hope you enjoy Issue 14. An incredible amount of hard work has gone into getting this edition together. As always, many thanks to my team, their dedication makes all this possible.

Print Out.

## MILE END LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION

ELMIRA TANATAROVA

Queen Mary's Mile End Campus library is currently undergoing major construction work. Mostly contained to the first floor, building work in this section of the library commenced during the summer and is due to finish this month. The hope is this part of the area will be improved with the creation of new study areas and teaching rooms, including a specific study area for post-graduate students. QMUL hopes to create a learning environment that is open and comfortable for all students.

The library has set out aims which it wishes to meet as result of the construction:

- Provide more toilets
- Improve ventilation and air flow
- Improve archives storage conditions
- Provide a new computer room
- Provide an additional post graduate study room

- Provide a flexible learning and teaching space

Students have had mixed feelings about the effects of current construction on their studies.

Aisha and Yasmin, Comparative Literature students, have commented that there have been "No difficulties, only questions about when it will be done." They enthusiastically look forward to the addition of new study areas: "It'll be so much better, it's always packed."

Ondine, a Biochemistry

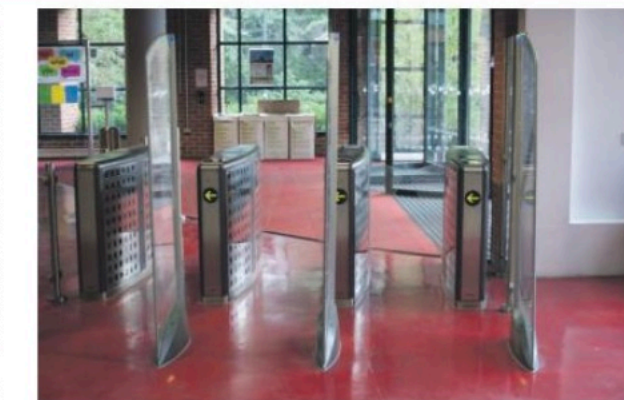


Image - Davey Brett

student, has a different angle: "I'm glad it's actually happening, but I wish it'd been done over summer. It's something to look forward to, though, as I'd struggled to find enough seating and studying areas last year during exam time."

In terms of the new study center for Masters students, Nasiruddin and Shoab, Chemistry Masters students, while excited for the prospect of a new study area for post-graduates, argue that "We know why the construction's being done, but it has made the library disruptive; there are no computers anymore. There aren't many facilities around the campus to study, in general, and they could've finished it over summer."

"We didn't even know there was construction happening," Drama and English students, Max and Phoebe said respectively. "It sounds like it could be inconvenient, but we haven't been bothered by

One of QM's libraries is getting a major renovation

## NEWS

## PACE TRIAL DATA RELEASED

Raw data from Queen Mary's controversial PACE trial has now been made public

ANNA SAVAGE AND POPPY THOMPSON

PACE was a five year trial conducted by researchers from Queen Mary University of London and King's College London to investigate the effectiveness of treatments for ME and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

£5 million of public money was used to fund the trial. In 2011, it was announced, in the medical journal The Lancet, that Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT), with graded exercise therapy, was an effective treatment for CFS. It was presumed that the raw data must have indicated that psychotherapy and exercise could significantly reduce symptoms patients suffer. A Freedom of Information request asked for the release of the data and now, after QM's appeal that the material couldn't be successfully anonymised was rejected, the data has now become available.

In October 2015, David Tuller, who has a doctorate in public health, has been a health reporter and lectures about public health at Berkley University, wrote an analysis

of the trial and highlighted some serious scientific flaws. He pointed out that the definition of 'recovery' was so poor that a patient could have shown to have worsened on two or four measurements and leave having 'recovered' a year later.

Writing for the Guardian,

Matthees, who requested the release of anonymised raw data from the trial, about the "recovery" controversy,

"The revised 'recovery' criteria overlapped with trial entry criteria for severe disabling fatigue, and one-third of those who met all the revised 'recovery' criteria still

percent of patients improved with the use of CBT and medical care but 59 percent was the figure which featured in the journal. Of those who only received medical care, only 10 percent improved in comparison to the 45 percent that was previously stated. Those receiving exercise in

results from CBT and GET – both confirmed as safe – than they do from pacing or medical care alone."

Having finally been able to view the data himself, Mr. Matthees had this to say, "...considering that CBT and GET do not lead to meaningful improvements to any objective outcomes, these therapies should not be promoted as 'rehabilitative'."

"Perhaps most disappointing of all has been the effort required, and the prejudice faced, when trying to resolve the controversy over 'recovery' in the PACE trial."

*"Only 21 percent of patients were shown as improvers in the graded exercise group compared to the 61 percent that was originally published."*

Professor Peter White, co-investigator of the PACE trial, discussed the definition that was used,

"...by recovery we mean recovery from a patient's present episode of illness – which is not necessarily the same as being cured, as someone might fall ill again."

The Print spoke to Alem

met broad criteria for chronic fatigue syndrome."

Now the data is available it can be compared to that which was published in The Lancet in 2011. Only 21 percent of patients were shown as improvers in the graded exercise group compared to the 61 percent that was originally published. 20

addition to medical care did not improve significantly more than those not receiving extra care.

Professor White still maintains that the treatment recommended by the trial will improve the health of a patient,

"Whichever way the data is viewed, patients get better

If you would like to read more about the PACE trial visit [theprintnews.co.uk](http://theprintnews.co.uk)

## QUEEN MARY HIT BY EMAIL PHISHING SCAM

QMUL students sent phishing emails claiming to be awarding educational grants but really trying to access personal banking details

ELMIRA TANATAROVA

Over the past couple of weeks, university students have been targeted by a "phishing scam" claiming that they are entitled to an Educational Grant.

QMUL students reported that a link accompanying the email led them to an official looking site which demanded private information such as: address, bank account details, National Insurance Number and even mother's maiden name. One student commented that the site was cleverly disguised to make it appear as though the message really was from Queen Mary:

"...they were taken to a spoofed website which appeared like a genuine website of their bank, where they were asked to type in their online banking login credentials."

QMUL students have commented that they themselves or people they know very nearly fell for the scam:

"They target vulnerable students struggling with money, and the fact that it was sent as a QM email made students trust it. The email telling students not to respond to the scam was sent out quite a few days later, too."

-Usman, John, Luka and Rayan, (Economics)

"There was no warning about these kinds of emails, and the response wasn't really quick enough. Of course, they weren't aware of it, but these are the kinds of things they have to be aware of. I know someone who'd put in all their details and only on their own accord reached out to Queen Mary before they'd submitted anything."

-Roshi (History and Politics) and Wajihah (History)

Queen Mary is not the only university to have been hit by such a phishing scheme, other institutions across the country have both been warned of and spoke out about such email, in particularly the University of Glasgow. Measures have been

*"They target vulnerable students struggling with money..."*

evidence to suggest any system has been compromised in this instance. A message was sent to all students warning them about the scam and providing them with advice on how they can protect themselves online, including details of our cybersecurity training courses."

The City of London

Police have given QMUL students guidelines on how to interact with phishing scams, emphasising first and foremost the need not to reply to the email or interact with it or any links it may carry. The BBC News, upon reporting the story, have also advised that any suspects be emailed to [phishing@slc.co.uk](mailto:phishing@slc.co.uk).



Image - Nayara Da Paixão Fakir



## NEWS

# SCHOOL OF HISTORY LAUNCH PUBLIC HISTORY UNIT

The project aims to get students and the general public more engaged with the past

ANNA SAVAGE

This year, Queen Mary's own School of History has launched brand new project entitled QM Public History Unit. The group defines 'public history' as "...anything that involves the widest possible interpretation of history."

Chair of QM Public History Unit, Sam Amos, discussed the aims of this new group in a more detail with The Print.

"The Public History Unit brings world class speakers and historical discussion into the wider domain. This is a project funded by the QMUL School of History aimed at increasing community engagement, interaction and outreach. The Public History Unit is looking to engage with LGBT history month, the charity Everyday Muslims, local museums

*"The Public History Unit brings world class speakers and historical discussion into the wider domain."*

and Amnesty International to bring history into the classroom and public domain."

The Public History team plans to put on six events throughout the year, centring on getting Queen Mary students, students from the University of London and the general public engaging with history.

Their first event of the year featured QM's own Professor Gareth Stedman Jones and Dr Tristram Hunt MP discussing Karl Marx. Afterwards, the audience were able to participate in a Q&A session, touching upon the relevance of Marxism in 21st century British politics.

Their next event will feature a lecture on 1980s Britain from historian Dominic Sandbrook. Sandbrook has written extensively on British cultural history and presented programmes on the subject, most recently 'The 80s'

for the BBC,

Interactive lectures are just one way the group hope to get the public more engrossed in the past. The unit will also be launching a brand new history based magazine called 'The Source'.

The magazine will include interviews with academics, book

reviews and blogs and essays written by students.

Chair, Amos, was keen to emphasise that all our welcome to get involved with this project,

"Participants from all interest areas are welcome to join and participate in the debates, lectures and publications."

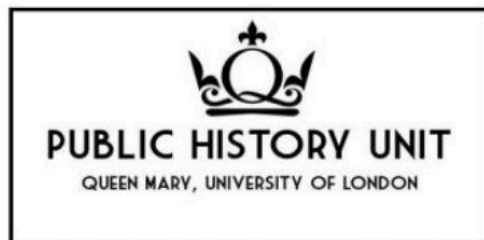


Image - Queen Mary University of London Public History Unit/facebook

## QUEEN MARY AND ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK WORKING TOGETHER TO FUND ACADEMIA

QM and the IDB have created a new PhD scholarship scheme that will co-fund up to 30 students from up to 57 countries

ELMIRA TANATAROVA

Queen Mary is pairing up with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), a financial institution whose purpose is "to foster the economic development and social progress of member countries and Muslim communities." Following the creation of this partnership, QMUL and the IDB have now set up a PhD scholarship scheme, available to candidates from the 57 countries that are members of the IDB (ranging from Southeast Asian Malaysia to South American Suriname) which will let QMUL co-fund students' PhD careers for the next five years.

Support for tuition fees, domestic and housing allowances, travel costs and a "dedicated research allowance" for about four years will be a part of this. This project lets people explore the different fields of doctorate degrees ranging from QMUL's Faculty of Science and Engineering, the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science, the

*"It is clear to see that the project has the potential to be very enriching to the local area."*

School of Engineering and Materials Science, the School of Mathematical Sciences and the School of Physics and Astronomy. This will also be a part of IDB's "Merit Scholarship Scheme for High Technology", which annually lets 10 PhD students practice their degrees at the QMUL Faculty of Science and Engineering.

With Queen Mary being located in Tower Hamlets, an area with a rich and vast Islamic Community, it is clear to see that the project has the potential to be very enriching to the local area. Both QMUL and the IDB have released

statements about the PhD partnership scheme:

"We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Islamic Development Bank. We are confident that our new scholars will contribute positively to the lively and interdisciplinary research environment here at QMUL, and enjoy the high-level

support offered by our Schools, Institutes and the Doctoral College. The multinational nature of these scholarships will also have a wide-ranging and positive impact on our work internationally". - QMUL

"This agreement will offer talented researchers from across our member countries a strategic opportunity to

build research links, gain new knowledge, and significantly enhance IDB's efforts to contribute to the human resource development of member countries. We look forward to working with QMUL to produce a pool of high-calibre scholars who will guide human development policies in their home countries upon their graduation". - IDB



Image - Davey Brett

## FEATURES

# THE ART OF FORGETTING

SOPHIE MITCHELL

The Print aims to give you a leg up into this new year of Uni, examining psychological studies into the concept of memory, and unveiling how we can learn to manipulate

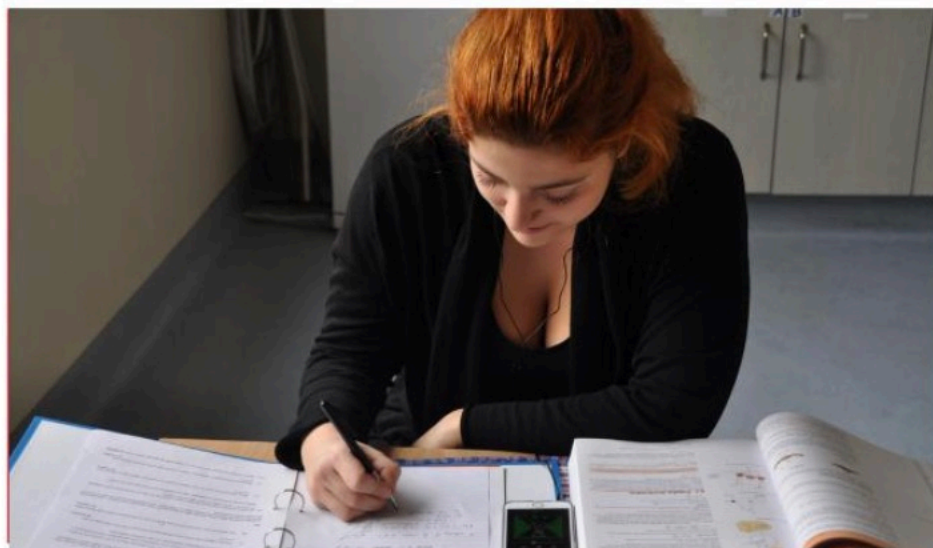


Image - Nayara Fakir

As University students, we are compelled to retain as much information related to our field of study as humanly possible.

Naturally, this leads us to become extremely competent at forgetting said information. Whether its because your flatmate keeps interrupting you asking to borrow your milk, or that strange scent in your kitchen keeps wafting into your room; most of the information we learn escapes from us. But why does it happen? Is there any way it can be prevented?

The psychological study of memory has been around since the beginnings of civilisation. In 5th Century BC, the Ancient Greeks acted as pioneers for the expansion of memory; utilising mnemonics and rhymes to aid with memory retention. Whilst these retention techniques are still commonly used today, memory studies have advanced far enough to identify the science behind forgetting. A breakthrough occurred in 1960, when American psychologist L. Postman discovered the existence of 'retroactive interference', an idea which suggests that learning new

information can displace and overwrite existing data in our minds. So, next time you're losing fragments of your soul and consciousness at 4am, reading page after page of new textbook information, try to keep this in mind. As your mind processes new information, previously learned facts can be displaced and forgotten. Further, cognitive psychologist Miller produced a now famous study in 1956, known as the 'magic number 7 (plus or minus two)' experiment. In this research, Miller provided evidence for the capacity of short term memory, concluding that the

average adult can hold between 5 and 9 items in their short-term memory. For Miller, information is organised into 'slots' in our mind. If information is 'chunked' together and related, then it can fill one slot, therefore leaving more available space in the short term memory.

I know this all looks rather bleak and suggests that you'll never remember more than seven things at a time, but fret not. Displacement is ultimately inevitable, but the key to retaining information is repetition. In order to keep a segment of information in your memory, the best ways are to: A) Repeat the process of learning the information every day/week/month. Whenever you feel it necessary. And B) Linking the new information to an existing fact/thought in your mind. Whilst both of these methods are effective at preventing displacement of important facts - method B is particularly interesting. By creating a psychological link between new information and existing information (through a song, quote, memory, picture, or feeling), there is a higher chance of the newly learned information being

recalled correctly.

So, the next time you're sweating the night before an exam, try blasting some tunes, and replace memorable song lyrics with facts. When you recall the song in your head during the exam, it might just work. (Disclaimer: if it doesn't work, don't sue me).

Another notably study into the mystery of memory improvement was carried out by German academic Hermann Ebbinghaus in 1885. By conducting a series of experiments focused on the recall of nonsensical information through association, Ebbinghaus discovered that approximately nine hours after a set of information is learned, more than 60% of it is lost. Whilst information slipping away from us almost seems inevitable, Ebbinghaus devised several ways in which memory can be improved:

**Understanding:**

Meaningful memories are remembered for approx. 10x longer than meaningless ones. Therefore, associating facts with events and emotions, and truly understanding what the content means, will ensure a higher chance of correct recall.

**Recollection:**

Recalling information you've stored is essential. Twenty four hours after information is retained; two-thirds of it is lost. Repeating learning over a long interval of time helps avoid this - so put your

*"Displacement is ultimately inevitable, but the key to retaining information is repetition"*

knowledge to practice in every day life, and it might just stick around a bit longer.

**Repetition:**

Interestingly, information learned at the start and end of a study session is most likely to be recalled. To avoid the information learned in the middle of a session slipping away, always recap what you've covered.

**Relaxation:**

The 'zeigarnik effect' suggests that information is more likely to be recalled if it experiences interruptions. Therefore, taking frequent breaks in studying will assist in memory retention. See this as an excuse to have an hour of study, then take yourself off into another dimension of thought; go grab a sandwich. Slip into a relaxing lull of existential despair. Then go back for another hour session. Apart from creating the beautiful acronym, 'URRR', these four methods mentioned above should prove useful when tackling noble foes such as essays, deadlines and exams.

But, if you do forget things, as we all inevitably will, don't be too hard on yourself. Each memory is different, and the human mind today still exists as an unknown metropolis of possibility waiting to be unlocked. As Harvard's Professor of Psychology, Daniel Schacter, says: 'We don't want a memory that is going to store every bit of every experience. We would be overwhelmed with clutter of useless trivia'. So, as long as you can remember your name, you're doing just fine.

Want to write for the features section? Email our features editors at [features@theprintnews.co.uk](mailto:features@theprintnews.co.uk)



## FEATURES

# RAPPING THROUGH DEPRES-

**In the aftermath of World Mental Health Day, Theodor explores the relationship between hip hop and mental health.**

THEODOR DEBRUNNER-HALL

A few days ago Kid Cudi (née Scott Mescudi) checked himself into rehab after suffering from depression and recurring suicidal urges.

In a heartfelt note addressed to his fans he spoke in a manner that resonated with many that suffer from depression themselves. The symptoms of depression and the ways it manifests itself are so often gravely misunderstood. He speaks of the shame, the fear and the feelings of helplessness. Despite his relative dwindling relevance as a musician his note caused such a stir across social media, his honesty and openness being lauded by fans and fellow musicians alike.

Many men that suffer from depression or similar mental health problems will tell you that one of the hardest things is admitting and addressing your troubles in the face of a toxic masculine culture that supposes that to have such an intangible, indefinable illness is to be less of a man. The danger this stigma poses is apparent. With no outlet to fight their demons and no support thanks to a bogus concept of masculinity a shocking amount of men find they can only turn to suicide. In the UK alone, 6233 men committed suicide in 2013, with that number rising year by year.

*“One of the hardest things is admitting and addressing your troubles in the face of a toxic masculine culture that supposes that to have such an intangible, indefinable illness is to be less of a man”*

Think of a musical poster boy for mental health and the picture that comes to mind is a pretty bland one- white guy, probably with a beard, crooning in a falsetto voice over the soft tones of a bluesy piano or a quiet guitar. Somewhere along the line however, rap seems to have become one of the main musical vessels to address or discuss mental health issues, helping to destigmatize the dangerous idea of depression equating to weakness.

Hip hop and mental health have long shared a troubling and somewhat complicated relationship, particularly for men. As a genre that in large parts is driven by braggadocious arrogance and traditional masculinity it is easily understandable how this can reinforce precisely those “be a man” stereotypes that are oh so harmful for depressed men. Alternately however, precisely this type of message can also reinforce the practise of self-love. Many hip hop artists, particularly more and more in recent years, have spoken more or less openly about their struggles with mental health. Be it Eminem’s depression and paradoxical social anxiety contrasting his lyrical brashness and anger, Kanye West’s depression that he has discussed in interviews, or most recently Kendrick Lamar’s lengthy and repeated discussion of depression and self-hate in his lyrics, depression has become a relatively common and respected theme in hip hop.

An infuriating point often brought up is something I like to call “the Gatsby paradox”: in The Great Gatsby, Jay Gatsby seemingly has everything a man could want, and yet is still plagued by sadness. All around him, almost no one seems to understand. Similarly, many seem to disregard or laugh off the idea that a globally successful, rich and in many ways blessed man could still suffer from something as “benign” as mental illness. This is yet another perception of male depression that is completely off the mark. Mental illness is not necessarily something visible, something apparent. Particularly in men raised to repress their emotions, it can even be the opposite, that those that seem at their happiest and most gleeful to the outside are far from it on

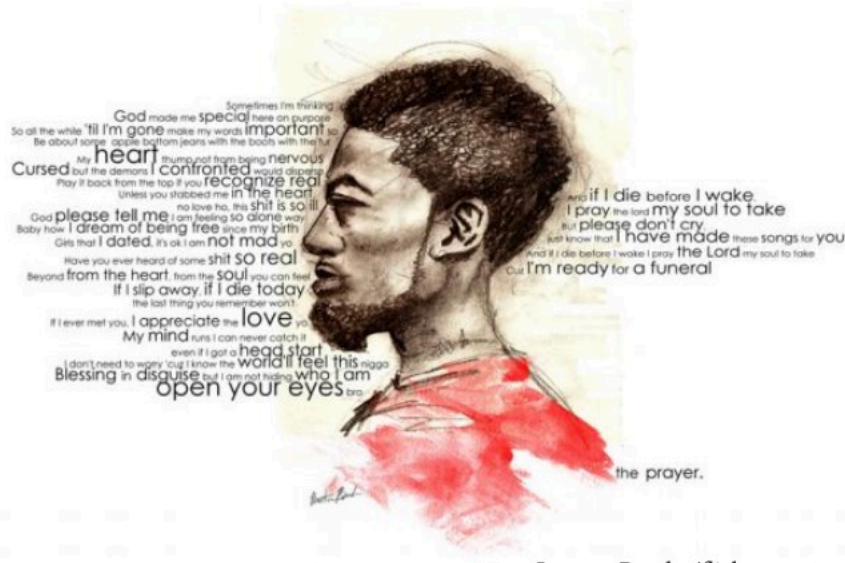


Image - Bender/flickrw

*“destigmatize the dangerous idea of depression equating to weakness”*

the inside (or paraphrased, mo’ money mo’ problems). From my own experiences I always found that when I was in the deepest slumps of my mental health troubles was when I was perhaps most active on social media and making the most jokes in my everyday life. Appearances deceive, and this seems to rarely be truer than in modern musicians.

Hip hop as an art form lends itself to a direct honesty and the expression of emotion in a complex and differentiated manner. It’s nothing new to describe suffering through rap. Honest accounts of despair and feeling hopelessness are common themes throughout the history of hip hop, but what is important now is that these feelings and emotions are being called what they are- serious mental health issues, often based on traumatic life experiences.

What I found to be most striking in Kid Cudi’s note is how much, despite our incredibly different life situations I felt there was so

much I identified with in his account. The feelings of shame, letting down others, and not showing yourself enough love, sound exactly like something out of a conversation with my therapist. Although I myself was never even that much of a fan of his music, in that short text I felt he was speaking out of my own heart. Precisely this effect is why this kind of honesty from celebrities matters; it shows those that struggle with these issues themselves that it’s okay to acknowledge your own weakness and do something about it. Celebrity voices and representation matter more than ever in the social media age.

*“This kind of honesty from celebrities matters; it shows those that struggle with these issues themselves that it’s okay to acknowledge your own weakness and do something about it”*

Bit by bit, men like Kid Cudi or Kendrick Lamar are shifting the perception and altering the discourse around mental health. Through their own honesty they are giving young men a voice to recognise and understand, helping them not feel like less of a man for having a perfectly natural illness. They take sad songs to being about more than merely heartbreak, but rather personal stories and demons that so many can empathise with.

For these reasons I want to laud the honesty and bravery of those like Kid Cudi that open themselves up to the public, helping to break the taboo around men suffering from mental health issues. In one particularly poignant part of Kid Cudi’s note he writes “Ashamed to be a leader and hero to so many while admitting I’ve been living a lie.” What he has not realised here is that merely this note make him so much more of a leader and a hero than he was before.

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## FEATURES

# ARE YOU REMOTELY INTERESTED?

**Can Drapers really beat a cosy night in with your favourite TV shows?**

BRIGID HARRISON-DRAPER

If you’re reading this, it’s most definitely too late. The finalists of the last ever BBC production of The Great British Bake Off have been announced and sadly it wasn’t your spaghetti hoops on toast that caught Paul Hollywood’s eye.

Many of us will have happy memories sitting at home with a brew, dunking a digestive and watching onwards as several bakers stress over the flapping filo, drizzly double cream and of course, the infamous baked Alaska. But when you move to University it all changes, Brigid Harrison-Draper examines the rise (baking pun) and fall (baking pun again) of the TV viewing experience at University and why sometimes, it’s just best to live in your kitchen.

You’re sat in the kitchen being sociable when one person strolls in, TV License paid for of course, and suggests one should watch GBBO in the kitchen. Minutes later you’re making a shopping list that includes items such as desiccated coconut, fromage fraise and those weird little grapes that they put on top

of cakes in restaurants that you’re too scared to eat incase its just for decoration. Watching GBBO can bring everybody in the flat together, you get your ovens pre-heated and soon enough Paul Hollywood is round judging your buns and giving you ‘that look’. The phenomena that is The Great British Bake Off has sparked a wide range of university students investing in the show and hosting socials based around GBBO, after all we do all love a slice of Paul Hollywood, sorry, I meant cake.

But it can be hard for people to simply enjoy the viewing experience at university, when they are simply used to watching TV with their family. Take University Challenge for example, a programme which I for one grew up laughing at the elongated answers, struggling to understand the concept of why someone would study rocks at a higher educational level and completely envying the knitwear of the contestants. But when I came here it wasn’t the same, nobody would give me £5 if I got 3 questions

*“The Great British Bake Off has sparked a wide range of university students investing in the show and hosting socials based around GBBO, after all we do all love a slice of Paul Hollywood, sorry, I meant cake.”*

in a row right like my dad did, nobody would laugh if I shouted out ‘Shakespeare’ for every literature answer and nobody certainly understood my excitement when Paxman announced that the music round would be a selection of popular music. I came to the sad reality that nobody shared the same passion I did for something I held so dearly to my heart. But who cares! I moved onto something else me and my flat mates shared a passion for, and that came in the form of a certain man with glasses...Mr Louis Theroux. From now on I will

be spending a lot of time sat in the kitchen playing Louis Theroux’s Wild Weekends on repeat until someone hears and joins in.

Coming to terms with the fact that some TV shows are simply to be enjoyed with by a family seems to hit hard during the first few weeks of university but when you realise that you can all share a love for one thing that can result in a flat night in and not spending a ridiculous amount of money on a single vodka and coke, well that does make one remotely interested.



Image – Nayara Da Paixão Fakir

Every fortnight the Union's four elected Executive Officers go on tour to you to hear what you think about your course, the University, the Union and what you think needs to be improved.

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Queen Mary University of London  
Students' Union



## FEATURES

# HUMAN RIGHTS THREATENED BY HUMAN WRONGS

## The Print examines the current state of global human rights

SOPHIE MITCHELL

What in the world is happening to human rights? Where in the world is it happening?

Many of us find it easy to turn a blind eye to current affairs; ignorance is bliss after all. But in today's society, the world can't move a muscle without it being played over TV, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. In one sense, this distracts us from the outside world – instead enveloping us in an artificial bubble that has full influence over our way of thinking. Although this level of social media involvement can be viewed as degenerative, it has some benefits. Due to this degree of societal involvement, it is now more difficult to walk around wearing a cloak of apathy. Instead, layers and layers of social media activity effectively wipe away any indifference – informing almost everyone as to what is happening on a global scale.

BoxEyes are being opened to what is going on around us, here is a glimpse of what they see:

### 1. USA Police Shootings

Police brutality, corruption, racial and sexual inequality are but few major issues facing the global force that is the USA. Whilst seemingly one of the most developed countries, both economically and socially, the states are not without fault. Over the past year, the 'Human Rights Watch' organisation outlined their concern regarding the "gulf between respect for equal rights and law enforcement's treatment of racial minorities", following the infamous killing of the unarmed black teenager, Michael Brown, carried out by a white police officer. Currently, the number of citizen killings at the hands of the American police force from June 2015 until now, stands at 664 – and counting. This number is staggeringly high compared to the USA's rival in terms of social development; the UK. England and Wales, having a smaller population of approximately 56.9 million compared to the USA's estimated population of 316.1 million, experienced 55 police

shootings in the last 24 years. In the USA, 59 police shootings occurred in the first 24 days of 2015. These statistics illustrate the severe problem posing a section of the American police force. To this date, the USA have not established a clear database to record the amount of civilian fatalities caused by police shootings – this needs to change.

### 2. Russia's LGBT Community Under Threat

being detained for proudly brandishing a rainbow flag in March 2015, to police detaining a gay couple for their 'love wins' flag in June 2016 – Russia's grapple for sexual and gender identity equality remains an unsolved and turbulent issue. Yet, it is clear from Russia's removal of homosexuality from the official list of mental illnesses in 1999, that the country is undergoing slow, but hopeful, LGBT rights progress.

grossly unfair trials; Detainees faced torture and other ill-treatment '...' authorities arbitrarily restricted the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly". As a result of this conflict, approximately 400,000 civilians have been displaced; including 100,000 people living in the capital.

### 4. Brazil's Prison Prejudice

In wake of its recent Olympic spotlight, Brazil has gained global attention as a

Perhaps one of the most chilling accounts of human rights violations manifests itself under the term 'child marriage'. A barbaric and outright cruel act – it was officially outlawed in India under British colonial tenure in 1929. This new law prohibited the marriage of a woman under the age of 18 for Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, and other religious sectors of India; excluding the Muslim community. India's approximate 170 million Muslim population claim exemption from the law, due to their following of the personal Shariat Law. Despite the 1920 legislation, UNICEF's 'State of the World's Children-2009' report revealed that 47% of India's women aged 20–24 were married before the legal age of 18, with 56% marrying before age 18 in rural areas. Evidently, the act of child marriage is often carried out discreetly between families and traditional groups, thus preventing the children affected from being helped by law.

Whilst preventable factors such as poverty, gender inequality and traditional practices act as the main causes of child marriage; the consequences are severe. The forced marriage of a girl in childhood marks the beginning of a cycle of degeneration: powerlessness, poverty, ill health, and restricted rights to education. The mental effects are evident, yet physical impacts of poor sexual health and a high mortality rate in childbirth serve to exacerbate this violation of human rights.

It goes without saying – the few current human rights violations mentioned here are by no means the most important, or most severe issues in the current global climate. If this article were to cover each and every country and their human rights violations – it would likely end up becoming a giant tome matching the proportions of the bible. Although this article covers only a small selection of current global issues, its role in educating and encouraging involvement is clear.

The first step towards global change is awareness.

### 5. India's Child Marriage Epidemic

*“The first step towards global change is awareness.”*

With a profound soviet history weighing heavily on its shoulders, Russia today faces several social issues. One of which is their state of sexual and gender inequality. Currently, in Russia, same-sex couples remain excluded from the same legal protections that are available to opposite-sex couples. To exacerbate this, Russia has no existing laws or regulations to prohibit discrimination or hate crime regarding sexual orientation. As a result of this lack of legislation and slow pace of social development, the country has experienced a high volume of discriminatory crimes against the LGBT community. Whilst inequality reigns as a global issue, Russia particularly feels the impact of this prejudice; evident through the implementation of The Russian Federal Law “for the Purpose of Protecting Children from Information Advocating for a Denial of Traditional Family Values”. This governmental act is otherwise known as ‘the anti-gay propaganda law’, approved by the State Duma in June 2013. This clear perpetration against the human rights to freedom, regardless of sex, gender or orientation. Russian President Vladimir Putin signed this outdated and socially corrosive law on 30 June 2013.

From a peaceful activist

### 3. Egypt's Social Power Struggle

The Human Rights Watch organisation has described the human rights crisis in Egypt as its “most serious in modern history”, but is perhaps one of the least publicly discussed issues. The human rights of Egypt's citizens are at genuine risk. This occurred as a result of political turmoil repressing the basic freedoms and human rights of its citizens. Egypt's status of leadership and power is in turmoil: Since the Muslim Brotherhood was ousted and Adel Fattah al-Sisi replaced Mohammed Morsi as Egypt's president, the public have been rendered divided. Those who supported Mohammed Morsi have been subject to numerous attacks, and even murders, at the hands of security forces using violence to quell protests. A haunting example of this occurred in July of 2016, when a protest by supporters of ousted former President Morsi resulted in seven murdered, 260 seriously injured, and 400 arrested. Each being a civilian expressing their right to protest against their seemingly unjust leadership. Amnesty International sheds further light on this situation, claiming that “executions were carried out following

developing country climbing up the economic ladder. Yet, behind the golden light of the Olympic games, Brazil is undergoing a social struggle for the fair treatment of adults, and children, who experience imprisonment. In a country where torture is, as Human Rights Watch states, a “chronic problem”, the overcrowded prisons of Brazil breed violations against the human right to be free of torture. A darker light is cast upon this issue, as the Guardian reveals that approximately 20,000 children – undoubtedly more unrecorded – are detained in Brazil. The prominence of criminal gangs and activity in the country has led to the Brazilian prison population increasing by 161% from 2000 to 2014 to reach 607,000 inmates in June 2015. This mass of inmates are concentrated into dirty and unsafe prison facilities, built to cope with half the current number of inmates. The impacts of prison overcrowding are evident – with sexual abuse, violence, drug activity and disease plaguing the majority of the countries' prisons. Rioting by inmates against Brazilian police officers is an increasing issue – yet the violation continues.

## COMMENT

# THE GREAT DEBATE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

## FOR... How the grammar system gives more children from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to grow

ANGIE NOCK

When I heard that the government was proposing to overturn Labour's 1997 ban on the creation of new grammar schools, I practically jumped for joy.

For me, increasing the amount of grammar schools, particularly in poor areas, is a fantastic idea. However, it didn't take long for me to notice that my enthusiasm wasn't shared by everyone.

In my view, grammar schools provide the perfect opportunity for poorer children to receive a standard of education that is equivalent to, or in some cases better than, private schooling. Instead of paying, you have to pass a test, a system that really worked in my favour. The area where I grew up is one of the poorest and least-educated in England, and the three comprehensive schools nearest to my house all had pass rates of around 30% (A\*-C including English and Maths). Luckily for me, I went to a grammar school in the next town along with a pass rate of 99%.

Admittedly, there are flaws in the system, but I generally find the arguments against grammar schools unconvincing. Firstly, I will never understand why so many left-wingers are anti-grammar school. Yes, they are selective and arguably “unfair”, but they do benefit working class children. Frankly, when a left-wing politician moans about grammar schools when they themselves, or even their children, have been to private school, I can't help feeling a slight sense of irony.

It is certainly a problem that children from richer families may be more likely to pass the entrance test. Parents who can afford private tuition are able to essentially train their children to pass the exam. However, I know plenty of people, myself included, that got into grammar schools without being trained up beforehand. The government have even suggested that grammar schools introduce a quota system for the intake of poorer children, which would be a good way of

*“In my view, grammar schools provide the perfect opportunity for poorer children to receive a standard of education that is equivalent to, or in some cases better than, private schooling.”*

combatting that issue.

Another problem is that children develop at different rates. A child that isn't ready for grammar school at age 11 might be ready three years later. However, if there were multiple opportunities to take the entrance exam, a child could enter a grammar school at a time which suits them best.

I'm not advocating a return to the grammar/secondary modern system, but we have to admit that comprehensives aren't always

that great. In a perfect world, the comprehensive system would give every child the opportunity to succeed, regardless of class, background or ability. But at the end of the day, it doesn't. In many areas, particularly more deprived ones, the comps just aren't up to standard. More grammar schools would mean better education and more social mobility for working class kids and, in my view, that can only be a good thing.



Image: JackPeasePhotography/flickr

## AGAINST... Grammar schools are elitist and changes prevent Britain's school system from settling

PATRICK LITTEN



Image: Policy Exchange/flickr

Grammar Schools – an issue we thought had been put to bed years ago.

After now six years and two new school types, the Conservatives have (without mandate) decided to create new Grammar Schools. This is a viewpoint condemned by a majority of the educational establishment, from policy writers, head teachers and teachers themselves.

Grammar schools are, to make a conservative argument against them, anti-choice. Rather than a parent having the opportunity to choose between several schools in the local area, there is now only one ‘good’ school and it chooses you. This not only makes all the other local schools worse, but it means that if you don't get in the only options for education are private – which most people can't

*“After now six years and two new school types, the Conservatives have (without mandate) decided to create new Grammar Schools.”*

afford – or a worse school. It's a restriction of the market. Compare that with the example of London, where inner city comps used to be clichédly terrible, but are now the best comprehensives in the country – to the extent where to bother paying for a private school is to be mugged off. Competition between schools with a similar base has driven up standards, results and the quality of life of their pupils.

Secondly, you have the issue of a massive life choice at the age of 11 – aside from the issue of pay-to-win extra tuition (11+ tuition makes up a fifth of all extra tuition spending), where the selection is simply biased towards richer pupils. Three quarters of the poorest children don't achieve the grades at the 11+, 97% of the richest do. This is not because rich children are smarter, this is because wealth, and the stability it brings, helps in exams. Except, Grammar Schools only help improve the grades of the richest 5% of pupils and children from the bottom half of income actually do worse there.

As a side issue, why can't we let

the school system settle? We've had the massive expansion of Academies and Free Schools and there are still issues with those, let alone taking the time and effort to set up more schools to serve the wealthy middle classes, as Grammar schools serve.

We know Grammar Schools don't work. Far from being a Billy Elliot “I don't want to go down the mines” way out for children, they, however nicely you say it, brand 11 year olds as failures. School is supposed to be a great social leveller – you should go to school with people of every class and background, and sending the rich kids off to another school with nicer facilities is not how you do this. I accept that it is important to separate by ability, but do it within schools. People develop at different rates, let the playground be the mix it's supposed to be.

Would you like to write a Great Deabte piece? Email [comment@theprintnews.co.uk](mailto:comment@theprintnews.co.uk)



## COMMENT

# PREVENT: A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Jacob Kishere attacks the shortcomings in NUS' Prevent strategy

JACOB KISHERE

For an event addressing the consequential issue of radicalisation and the government's strategy on it, the use of air quotes throughout this event was cavalier; littered with reference to "so called radicalisation", "so called violent extremism" and "so called Islamism".

Students Not Suspects goes far further than appearances, challenging notions widely held within both scholarship and among those fighting against Islamist theocracy globally. Namely that Islamist ideology exists. More than just targeting problems with Prevent this blasé attitude toward extremism reflects the increasingly post-modernist, morally relativist stance of the left towards Islamism since the failed war on terror began.

The examples presented

demonstrated problems in educating thousands with Prevent's strategy to safeguard against radicalisation, something more nebulous than say child abuse. However, remedies to prevent would include moving from police to community based intervention, better training, focusing on Universal rather than British values and more civil rights oversight- not a rejection of safeguarding in principle. Instead the NUS hold Prevent and the government in contempt, willing to use hyperbole and portray Prevent as a Machiavellian 'racist' and 'Islamophobic' attack on student activism. Reference to the Channel guidance reveals Prevent inherently rejects "any single route to terrorism" and says "Outward expression of faith, in the absence of any other indicator of vulnerability, is not a reason to make a referral".

The NUS's position demonstrates a careless lack of understanding; to quote NUS VP, "I reject the term Islamism, it is a lazy term invented by the western media". After being cited the 6,000 European jihadists who have joined ISIS she re-asserted: "I fundamentally disagree with 'Islamism' being a political desire to implement Islam... Students coming together wanting a prayer room, so they can practice Friday prayer, is that Islamism? I don't think so. And actually I do think there are loads of other factors that are causing radicalisation."

Asquith went on to point to a number of NUS favoured casual factors; western foreign policy, lack of education, poverty and Prevent itself.

The panel refused to even accept a contemporary working definition of Islamism and proposed no fit for purpose replacement initiative apart from changing foreign policy, looking at student debt and youth centres etc. The speakers were however, keen to point out they weren't counter-terrorism experts. Clearly.

If engaging in historical enquiry, they would've been able to trace the roots of Islamism to post-colonial ideological movements from the Muslim Brotherhood to Hizb ut-Tahrir and today the Pakistani Taliban and IS. Islamism at the core is the desire to impose any form of Islam on society, though typically denoting a fundamentalist interpretation of the texts. Since there is no consensus on the nature of

a caliphate or implementing Shari'a in Islam, to conflate this authoritarian Islamist stance with the Islamic faith is a grave injustice, achieving the opposite of what the student representatives are fighting for.

Pointing to false flag causes not only strips jihadists of ideological agency in their contempt for liberal secular values, but ignores the vast research canon which debunks many of their baseless causal assertions (Jihadists come from pre-dominantly middle class, university educated backgrounds).

Despite their good intentions, Students Not Suspects reveals more about the shortcomings of the NUS on extremism than that of Prevent.



Image: QMSU

# IS YOUTUBE REALLY OVER?

The website's demonetization policy suggests its popularity is actually restricting the content available

ANNA SAVAGE

Sexually suggestive content, inappropriate language, presentation of controversial or sensitive issues.

These are just a few examples of the kind of material that could affect your income if you are using Youtube.

Long gone are the days when Youtube was just an obscure video sharing website with a small but tightknit community. Now, Youtube has over 1 billion users watching hundreds of millions of hours of videos. As its popularity has grown so has its appeal to marketing agencies.

Wonder onto the site and you will see a multitude of ads on the screen. Click on a video a yet more commercials will be displayed. This content no longer brings in audiences; it brings in consumers making it a valuable asset to big business.

Despite Youtube's popularity, it isn't bringing in the revenue one might expect. The Wall Street Journal revealed that, despite accounting for about 6% of Google's overall sales last year, it didn't con-

tribute to its earning. Its \$4 billion revenue (2014) was not enough to offset the costs of content and equipment and allow the website to produce a profit. It's essentially breaking even, which must be concerning for an organisation as large as Google.

Perhaps this is why Youtube has become so concerned with 'advertiser friendly content'. Content makers such as Philip DeFranco, ETC Show and Comic Book Girl 19 are just a few of many more Youtubers who have seen the demonetisation of some of their videos.

There are a multitude of reasons why a video may lose its ability to create revenue and these include:

Sexually suggestive content, including partial nudity and sexual humour

Violence, including display of serious injury and events related to violent extremism

Inappropriate language, including harassment, profanity and vulgar language

Promotion of drugs and regulated substances, including selling, use and abuse of such

items

Controversial or sensitive subjects and events, including subjects related to war, political conflicts, natural disasters and tragedies, even if graphic imagery is not shown

I can understand that businesses would be apprehensive about their brand being associated with seemingly controversial material. These guidelines, however, are far too restrictive. How can Youtube based news outlets make enough money to continue to make material when discussing controversial events such as war and natural disasters prevent monetisation? This is essentially a form of censorship and far removed from the creative freedom Youtube previously stood for.

What's even more concerning about this story is that these changes have been present for quite a while but only recently have creators been made aware of them.

DeFranco produced a revealing exposé on the matter after one of his videos was not allowed to be monetised because of excessive use of bad

*"This is essentially a form of censorship and far removed from the creative freedom Youtube previously stood for"*

language. After contacting Youtube to try and understand what he thought was a new monetisation policy, he was shocked to discover said policy had actually been in place for quite a while. What has changed is that Youtube now notifies its users by email that their videos have been demonetised. This means that several videos could have had their ability to generate revenue removed without the maker ever being made aware.

Since these revelations, #YouTubeIsOver has been trending across the internet. While the channel might not be dead, its commitment to ensuring that new and emerging talent has a platform to freely express itself just might be.

Would you like to write for comment? Email [comment@theprintnews.co.uk](mailto:comment@theprintnews.co.uk) with your ideas!

## COMMENT

# CLOWNS:

## NO LONGER A LAUGHING MATTER

The clown craze that swept America has made its way over here but what does it tell us about today's pranking culture?

FARHEEN AKHTER

With Halloween fast approaching it is difficult to deny that we all love a good prank.

Putting on a strange mask, jumping out in front of your friend and giving them a little fright is comedy gold. What isn't funny is putting on clown make up, harassing strangers, jumping on top of cars and pretending to kidnap children.

The line between light hearted jape and abuse is being blurred and we must question how this has happened and how we can fix it.

The whole clown craze began in South Carolina where locals claimed to have seen someone dressed up as a clown luring kids into the woods by

offering them money. Since then almost thirty-nine states and various other towns and cities across the world have reported clown-related incidents. Apart from being morally questionable, the current clown craze reveals a lot about prank culture and how, at the expense of a cheap joke, police time and resources are being wasted. The fact that the police are forced to check pranks for real threats reveals a major issue. This mass prank hysteria could provide genuine criminals with a platform to harm the general public.

It is clear to see that prank culture has evolved with the society it belongs to. Part of the reason why this craze has developed into a prank epidemic is arguably because of the impact of social media.

With the blink of an eye rumours of the latest craze are spread and before you know it each corner of the world is participating either by performing or spectating said craze. One quick twitter search and you will find a number of pages dedicated to this clown outbreak. The vast reach of social media makes it is easier to immerse oneself into seemingly questionable trends because the mask you hide behind allows you to touch every corner of the globe.

The nature of pranking has changed considerably with the internet generation. Young people in particular are exposed to the weird and the wonderful and encouraged to position themselves within trends, without realising the real life danger and inconvenience it

may sometimes cause. While at times this flow of information proves to be extremely useful, sometimes we witness the spread of trends that everyone would be better off without.

Like most fads this will soon subside but, for now, if you see someone in a big colourful wig and wearing a red nose, it may be best to steer clear.



Image: Eli Christman/flickr

# DO SOME LIVES REALLY MATTER MORE THAN OTHERS?

BECKY CRAWFORD



Image: DVIDSHUB/flickr

From police brutality, to terrorist attacks, to the refugee crisis, in today's global socio-political climate it is common to hear of disputes concerning how some lives appear to be worth more than others.

The basis for this sentiment usually stems from the acts of governments and authorities who seem to treat certain portions of society differently,

or the Western media who often lack balance in their coverage of world events.

In November 2015, after the terror attack in Paris in which 130 people died, Facebook was littered with the tricolour flag. The world's shock, horror and sympathy was clear for all the world to see. Eleven months later, when Hurricane Matthew kills 900 people and destroys 90% of south Haiti,

the people of Facebook half-heartedly ask where the filter is, yet with the resignation that comes from expecting nothing better. #PrayforHaiti trends on Twitter, but is used just as much to question why Haiti isn't featured more prominently in the media (even as much as Florida which suffered a death toll of 15).

Some may argue that such events cannot be compared. After all, Paris was struck by an act of terror not nature. A disaster in Hurricane Alley doesn't have the shock value like an explosion in the land of liberty. And, practically speaking, we can't have a Facebook filter for everything.

Still it seems odd that, in a world where more migrants have drowned in the Mediterranean this year than the number who died due to the sinking of the Titanic, the media seems far more concerned with the Kim Kardashian robbery.

## Unsurprisingly, there is no Facebook filter for the 900 killed by Hurricane Matthew in Haiti

*"It seems odd that, in a world where more migrants have drowned in the Mediterranean this year than the number who died due to the sinking of the Titanic, the media seems far more concerned with the Kim Kardashian robbery"*

I'm not saying that such an event should not be covered. I just want the coverage to be a little more balanced. Whilst we passionately debate #BlackLivesMatter vs. #AllLivesMatter, maybe we need to take a look at the world and wonder if #AmericanLives, or #WesternLives matter most of all.

It is unlikely that Haiti will get the Facebook filter that its sympathizers are clamouring for. But would that really be a fair representation of the horror? Until the world learns to differentiate between the places 'we care about' and those from which we only expect more doom and gloom, feel free to #PrayforHaiti. Perhaps one day their voices and their stories will be heard.

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## COLUMN

# A FRESH PERSPECTIVE: COMMUTING

Danial Naqvi learns about the stress and pressure that with getting involved in university life and managing a commute

Danial Naqvi



Image: Hernán Piñera/flickr

I'm nineteen and I'm a fresher. I'm also commuting for my three years here at QM. Freshers' Week and commuting are not two things that tend to go hand in hand but I, and many others, have been able to strike a balance. I've never been so immersed with train times and calculating the best route home but now, it's just second nature.

You learn a lot in Freshers' Week but commuters get a real sense of the importance of time management. For those who live in halls, it's hard to appreciate

the strain of commuting. Most say it's merely sitting on a train, but it's the humidity on the tube, the stress of possibly missing the train. All the trials and tribulations that come with commuting make it the most stressful, but also the most exciting part of the university experience.

I'm proud to call myself a Londoner but, I didn't realise how oblivious I was to the lack of infrastructure that connects the south to the north of the river. Coming from Sidcup, a town on the border between South East

*"You learn a lot in Freshers' Week but commuters get a real sense of the importance of time management."*

from Sidcup because I was nervous of what to expect. I'm certainly no clubbing pro but you'll never know unless you try, so for everyone who has yet to have a night out in London town I would recommend giving it a go.

As fun as the nights were, I still had a mission to get home. Given I don't drink alcohol; the task was made a lot easier. I indulge in Uber, the logic behind this being I'm not spending money on accommodation, so I can use my maintenance loan elsewhere.

Unlike those who live in halls, commuters have to choose the nights they go out to carefully in order to avoid possible travel issues and unexpected costs. From trains to clubbing, the emotions I felt during the first two weeks of university can only be compared to an aeroplane flight; up and down and full of nerves.

I made friends, found a new family and thoroughly enjoyed my fresher experience. Yes, it's hard commuting, but you get used to it... and are still able to experience all university has to offer.



Image: Martin/flickr

London and Kent, the odd trip to London town was a treat, whether with friends or family, and I quite enjoyed those journeys. But, when you have to reach a lecture or a tutorial, sitting on the tracks for five minutes with trains being delayed left, right and centre eats away at your anxiety.

Before university, I had never been clubbing nor had I been out at night till the early hours, so immersing myself in the university culture of clubbing was a tad daunting. It's true, on the first night, the UV Paint Party at Drapers, I nearly got off the train

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## SCIENCE AND TECH

# HORSING AROUND: CAN WE REALLY TALK TO ANIMALS?

Science shows that horses can now dictate their fashion choices

SIMON MUNRO

*"On sunny days the horses would ask for their blankets to be removed but when the weather was windy, cold and raining, they asked for them to be on"*

Scientists from the Norwegian Veterinary University have recently published their paper suggesting that horses can use symbols to communicate the preference of wearing a coat or not. Through training it was found that all of the horses in the study were able to communicate with the team.

#### How did they do it?

The team of scientists worked with a professional trainer to teach 23 horses, of differing breeds, how to communicate. Firstly the horse was taught to bring itself and place its mouth (when muzzled) on a board. This was achieved by awarding the animal with a slice of carrot.

On the board was a horizontal and a vertical bar which the team chose to represent whether or not the horse wanted a blanket on or off. The horizontal bar would represent blanket on, and

vertical represented blanket off. A no change symbol was later added.

This process included hot and cold challenges to test the understanding of the horse, and what it was selecting. This combined the association of thermal comfort, the symbols on the board and the action of the blanket being taken on, off or no change to their current status.

#### The results

After two weeks, a horse was able to signal if it was too cold or too hot by approaching the board and asking for the blanket to be appropriately adjusted. All twenty three of the horses were able to do this without being prompted by the team or a trainer, suggesting this was done by their own motivation.

What excited the team was the statistical evidence that showed the actions of the horse were weather dependent. On sunny days the horses

would ask for their blankets to be removed but when the weather was windy, cold and raining, they asked for them to be on. This indicated the horses understood how the actions of the board resulted in their thermal comfort and were able to communicate their preference based on that. Dr Mejdell, who led the study stated "I think our study adds to the knowledge on horse

The horse was able to subtract, multiply, divide, work with fractions, tell time, keep track of the calendar, differentiate musical tones, read, spell, and understand German. Initially it was thought that his owner and trainer Wilhelm von Ohsten was communicating with the horse some way. However, when other people would question the horse it was able

to get the correct answer.

A team of scientist's discovered that the horse was detecting changes in facial expression and posture of the questioning person. These changes were caused by the building of tension and the horse would stop tapping (counting) when it detected the emotion.

Another recent study discovered that horses were able to distinguish between happy and sad human facial expressions. This is thought to be caused by the domestication of horses, moving from the wild to a pet.

#### Future research

Research into domesticated animals has been generally limited to cats and dogs, however the training technique used in Dr Mejdell's experiment has potentials to find out more about horse's cognition.

With stable funding research it will hopefully continue its galloping progress.



Image - Karsun Designs/flickr

cognition - about what horses are able to learn and how they think."

#### Is this the first instance of horse cognition?

Clever Hans was a name given to a horse in the early years of the 20th century that could seemingly answer maths questions by tapping its hooves, until it reached the correct number.

*"After two weeks, a horse was able to signal if it was too cold or too hot by approaching the board and asking for the blanket to be appropriately adjusted"*



SCIENCE AND TECH

# BALDING: NO NEED TO PULL YOUR HAIR OUT!

15% of men will have moderate hair loss before they are 30, but what actually causes balding?

DIVESH PRITHVIRAJ

Cruel, is it not? Brushing a hand through your head of hair to be left with several strands in your hand, most of which is the result of genetics – a “balding gene” to be more specific. But behind it all what exactly contributes to the weakening of the hair fibres?

By investigating dermal papilla cells (DP cells) scientists have identified potential mechanisms by which baldness occurs. A form of protein known as transcription factors found in the DP cells may cause the production of weaker hair fibres.

What are dermal papilla cells and how are they linked to hair follicles?

DP cells are found at the base of the hair follicles which protrude from the dermis (the deeper section of the skin) to the surface of the skin. Similar to every cell in the human body they require nutrients

and oxygens which is supplied by blood vessels. Although they have several roles in the skin, the dermal papillae are especially important for controlling the events which occur during hair formation and growth. DP cells produce growth factors which regulate the three major steps:

Anagen: the rapid growth of the follicle (in particular the hair root) which takes place over 2-6 years approximately, however this time frame differs between individuals.

Catagen: the end of Anagen lasting about 2 weeks which ultimately forms a mature hair.

Telogen: the inactive phase of the follicle where the hair formed in Catagen becomes fully keratinised and mature.

Exogen: In this stage, the hair cell detaches from the hair follicle in the deep layers of the skin. This causes the

hair to break off and fall out. During this process Anagen begins again

How exactly do DP cells contribute to balding?

Researchers have discovered that the presence of negative growth factors which affect the dermal papillae can actively encourage a balding scalp. DP cells taken from balding scalp hair were found to have been severely damaged due to high levels of oxidative stress, the major factor being reactive oxygen species (ROS). ROS can be formed when cells are exposed to high levels of oxygen and can affect the release of transcription factors needed for the growth of a hair follicle. This could disrupt the transitioning of the hair follicle between the Anagen and Catagen phases, producing weaker hairs which die prematurely. Constantly creating weak hairs means that they are being shed at a faster rate to being made. This causes a

progression of hair loss and balding.

Current Progress

At this point in time, research has given us an insight into a possible cause of balding from a genetic point of view, however there is still more we have yet to fully understand. Hopefully, the discovery of them could pave the way for

further scientific research into targeting transcription factors and stopping ROS destroying hair fibres. Alongside this prospect, there are also many alternative treatments available nowadays ranging from hair ointments to laser hair transplants. As research develops and we learn more about the balding process it is only a matter of time before balding becomes a thinning issue.

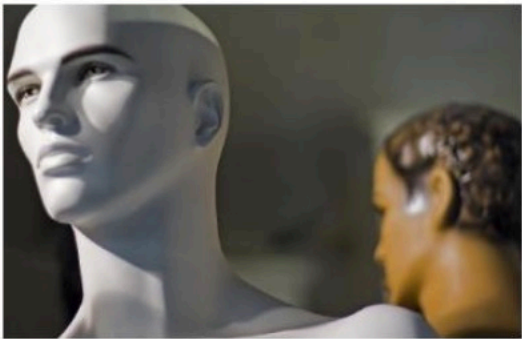


Image: Horia Varlan/flickr

# HIV TREATMENT SUCCESS

UK drug trial provides promising results in fight against this disease

ELLIE EVANS

A British man suffering from HIV is one of the first of 50 people to complete a trial for a new treatment aimed at combatting the disease, resulting in it becoming undetectable in the man's blood, creating hope for a potential cure for the life altering disease.

Treatments for HIV have long been the subject of intense scientific research, but the nature of the disease itself has always been the most difficult obstacle to overcome. HIV, or human immunodeficiency virus, works by infecting and ultimately killing the very cells that are designed to protect the

body from infection. CD4 cells, a type of white blood cell, send signals alerting the immune system to the presence of intruders such as viruses, but these are hijacked by the HIV virus, which uses the cell's own machinery to replicate itself and then spread throughout the body. This results in a deadly combination of the disease not only being ignored by the immune system, but being replicated by it.

Current HIV treatment, known as antiretroviral therapy or ART, uses a combination of drugs to treat the infection and

control the disease to a level that allows the patient to live a longer, healthier life with reduced risk of transmission. The medicines used work by preventing replication of the virus and hence reduces the level of HIV in the body, thus allowing the immune system to recover to the extent of being capable of fighting off other infections. Without this treatment the immune system will become severely damaged and the infection progresses to AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, where life threatening illnesses such as cancer occur.

The new treatment, a product of a collaboration

between five of the UK's leading universities, focuses on a two stage mechanism. Firstly the patients are given a vaccine which increases the immune system's ability to recognise and destroy HIV-infected cells, before they are given a second drug called Vorinostat which activates any dormant, and hence previously unrecognisable, infected cells in the hope that these are then located and killed also. Therefore the aim of this treatment is to eradicate all traces of the virus, as dormant cells have previously proved incredibly difficult to tackle.

There are some sceptics

of the new treatment, particularly due to the claim of the virus being undetectable in the blood, as this is often achieved by ART due to its lowering of the HIV concentration in the body. This infers that the real result will only be obvious when the antiretroviral drugs have worn off, although others believe that targeting and killing the dormant HIV cells is the key to a sustainable cure as these are the most difficult and often the ones that remain in low levels after ART.

SCIENCE AND TECH

# AUTOPHAGY: HOW YOUR BODY EATS ITSELF

Meet the winner of the 2016 Nobel Prize in Medicine

SIMON MUNRO

Yoshinori Ohsumi has won the 2016 Nobel Prize in medicine for his ground breaking study in autophagy. Since the discovery in 1990, autophagy has become a key concept in molecular biology and medicine.

What is autophagy?

The term derives from the Greek words auto (meaning self) and phagein (meaning to eat). This idea of self-eating was first seen in the 1960s, where cells could destroy particles inside itself using membranes.

These formed sac-like structures called vesicles that are then transported to a recycling centre called a lysosome, where the contents of the vesicle are degraded.

The process of autophagy has been so key to medicine, that prior discoveries to Ohsumi have also won Nobel Prizes. The identification of

lysosomes in cells won in 1974, with the gained understanding that large components of cells could be degraded in the vesicles. The vesicles were now coined autophagosomes.

In 2004 the Nobel Prize for Chemistry was for the discovery of protein digesting processes which was thought to be occurring when a lysosome binds to a phagolysosome.

Ohsumi's Experiments

Ohsumi began his research looking at the same process in yeast cells, observing the vacuole – the lysosome equivalent in yeast. Yeast cells are very easy to study compared to human or animal cells, and are therefore used as a model for humans. The vacuole contains sugar stores, and through starving the yeast cells, should cause the degradation of the vacuoles by the use of lysosomes and autophagosomes. Viewing the vacuole after starving, Ohsumi

observed a large accumulation of the autophagosome within 2 hours. The great significance of this is that he had now developed a method to which the process of autophagy could be identified.

Ohsumi and his team now took this method and investigated which genes are essential for the process to occur. He stated that if the autophagy genes were disabled the accumulation of the vesicles in the vacuole would not occur when the yeast cell was starved.

By adding chemicals that caused mutations in the yeast DNA, Ohsumi was able to identify all of the genes responsible for the process and their functions in the mechanism within a year.

What was the significance of this?

It soon become abundantly clear that an almost identical process occurs in humans.

“Yeast cells are very easy to study compared to human or animal cells, and are therefore used as a model for humans.”

Scientists were able to identify many key physiological processes that used autophagy, such as rapid production of energy, which is an essential response to starvation and stress.

Ohsumi's discovery has led to discovering that autophagy kills bacteria and viruses that have entered a cell, as well as destroying damaged proteins and cell components, thus preventing diseases. This process is key as it acts as a quality control mechanism, if a faulty protein is produced it is destroyed.

A number of diseases have been identified as a disruption

to the autophagy genes. Mutations cause genetic disease and are associated with type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease and many other illnesses that affect the elderly. These genes are now a potential site for new treatments and will soon be the targets for treatments.

Autophagy has been known for the last 55 years but Ohsumi's desire to understand the process and discovering the genes has accelerated the speed at which future treatments will be made available. Professor Yoshinori Ohsumi is the deserved winner for the 2016 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

# HAPPY HOME, HAPPY YOU

Pioneering new research at QMUL investigates the effect that environment has on immune response

ELLIE EVANS



Image- Joel Winston

Ground-breaking new research conducted at Queen Mary has provided evidence of a possible link between environment and immune system activity. The research, conducted by the university's William Harvey Research Institute, found that even the most basic of changes to a mouse's living environment over a short period of time resulted in a significant change to their immune system.

The experiment involved one group of mice being housed in a standard cage with only sawdust and nesting material, and another group in a wider cage with wood shavings and toys such as running wheels and coloured tubes. The mice were contained for two weeks in the standard and 'enriched' surroundings before their T-cells, involved in the body's immune response, were extracted and examined.

T-cells are a type of white blood cell that play a pivotal role in the mouse's immune response, and those within the mice in the 'enriched' environment were found to have changed significantly, showing an increased amount of signalling molecules related to immunity. They were also

“The research... found that even the most basic of changes to a mouse's living environment over a short period of time resulted in a significant change to their immune system”

noted to have shown to have boosted activity in 56 genes, most of which are involved in fighting infections and the immune response. Lead researcher Professor Fulvio D'Acquisto said “This effect is remarkable because we haven't given them any drugs, all we've done is change their housing conditions.”

The study has opened up possibilities for incorporation of environment into improving a patient's wellbeing, alongside more traditional forms of treatment. However, researchers have acknowledged that despite the initial promising results, further research is required before any definite conclusions can be drawn, particularly in relation to the effects on human immunology.

Have you got an idea for a science and tech article? Don't forget to join 'The Print Contributors Group (2K16/17)' on Facebook.





write something  
**PRINT**eresting.

# THE GUILLOTINE

Union President declares satire section "banging"





SATIRE

# MOVE OVER GOD -TRUMP BLESS AMERICA

**Xenophobia, dodgy hair, a pinch of rhetoric and billions of dollars. Do presidential campaigns sound like Heston Blumenthal recipes to anyone else?**

ADAM HUNTER

How do you become President of the United States? Well, you have to be American, or at least keep the Birthers off your trail if you aren't, and you'll probably need some spare cash – let's say \$1 billion. Now that's sorted, how do you convince Americans you're the person to run the country? The answer is rhetoric – a sort of fancy wrapping paper for your words of wisdom. However, this tradition of gaining support through intelligent, skilful oration coupled with elegant policy explanation is currently being revolutionised by our dear American cousin: Donald Trump.

Trump's idea of rhetoric is to come across as being as useful as a wet towel. But then again, at least the shoddy presentation matches the shoddy interior. He likes to say exactly what he's thinking, something politicians really aren't used to.

In simple terms, he's just spinning relatable home truths that even the most casual bigot can agree with. He's called Mexicans rapists, threatened to ban Muslims, and apparently he isn't a massive fan of women either. 'At last', they rejoice, 'an ordinary multi-billionaire who understands the real me.'

You see, Trump doesn't need to awkwardly hold a baby until it cries to make people like him, nor does he have to explain his policies. And you know what, we should thank him. He's

the most effective tool we've had against racism in history. Think about it, he repeatedly gathers all the racists off the street in multiple cities as they flock to hear his speeches. Minorities all over the country can't wait until The Donald turns up in their state: it's a holiday from ignorance and intolerance. If only there was a way of making that thing on his head live with enough current to zap all the bigots like flies.

With Trump, sure, you get a botched form of gift wrap that didn't make the quality check and gets sold at half price in your local supermarket chain. But at least he doesn't pretend. And besides, it was either this, or a bankrupt farmer from a parallel universe moaning

about the good old days in a mid-Western bar. Your choice.

All I can say is lucky you, America. Lucky old you...

Think you're funny? Write for the satire section. Contact the editors at [satire@theprintnews.co.uk](mailto:satire@theprintnews.co.uk)



Image - Gage Skidmore/flickr

# BREXIT FOR BANTER

**In a bizarre sequence of events, Ben Sutherland discovers that UKIP is an even bigger joke than previously thought**

BEN SUTHERLAND



Image - donkeyhotey/flickr

This week Nigel Farage held a press conference outside of his home in Bromley in which he claimed that the UKIP party was created because of a bet he made with co-founder, Alan Sked in 1991. He said in a speech that 'the party was just for banter' and that the party was simply a joke that 'went too far'.

Nigel insinuated that it was largely the fault of the public, and the overall message of the speech was that he could not understand why the support base had not left years ago after seeing such a shambles. He made occasional references to some of the many incidents that have come to light over the years. Some of which included: December 2014, when Nigel

**"The party was just for banter"**

blamed immigrants for traffic on the M4, the time Bob Geldof tried to topple the banter king with his crude UKIP protest on the Thames, and of course most recently Steven Woolfe brawling with Mike Hookem, a fellow member of UKIP.

Diane James, the recent interim party leader, confessed on the same day that she was also in on the joke and, over the 18 days of her leadership, struggled with the pressure of

the secret. She admitted that she 'couldn't get up on the podium with a straight face' and often exploded in bursts of laughter, forcing her to resign after just two and a half weeks. However, she showed some remorse saying that she 'couldn't escape the overall feeling of guilt'.

Alan Sked elaborated on the bet story, claiming he said he'd give Nigel a fiver if he could get the U.K. to leave the E.U. Alan referred to Nigel as 'an absolute mad man' and expressed disbelief in the fact that he had actually completed the feat. When questioned about whether he had given Nigel the money in question, he simply responded 'no comment'.

SATIRE

# GARDENING TIPS WITH JEREMY HUNT

**You've learnt to take care of yourself (a bit) now learn how to take care of some flowers from everyone's 7453rd favourite Oxford graduate**

HARRIET CORKE

Step 1: Decide what flowers you're going to plant. Choose whichever ones you like – as long as they're not foreign. The N RHS wants homegrown, British flowers from now on, please. Just leave those other ones to grow in their own country.

Step 2: Make sure you've got the right gardening tools. If you lose yours as often as I do, you might want to ask a friend to lend you some. I often borrow from my elderly neighbour Mrs May – her whole cabinet is full of them.

Step 3: After a hugely inflated waiting time, you're ready to start preparing the ground. To do this, take a gardening fork and relentlessly hack at the ground until it's a shadow

of its former self. People will say things like, 'Jeremy you're ruining everything' – but you're actually being firm and authoritative. Just ignore the criticism, I do!

Step 4: Time to get planting. Dig yourself a hole and shove a bulb inside; repeat until you've dug yourself so many holes that it's impossible to escape.

Step 5: At this point most people would advocate lots of sun, water, and possibly some extra nutrients to help them grow. I, on the other hand, prefer a different approach. Sure, you can do all those things, but don't stick to it 100%. Even when people from the NHS – sorry, RHS – tell me that I'm responsible for killing everything I touch, I like to let nature take its course. And, sure enough, when the flowers are full grown they're fine! Some of them are a bit limp and occasionally die of neglect, but at least they're homegrown: and that's what really matters.

Want to know more? Buy my manual Jeremy Hints – which is out now and features some hilarious stories about removing parasites, making cuts, and tree surgeons (not real surgeons, luckily!) I'm sure it's available in your reputable campus bookshop.\*

\*Surprisingly Jeremy, it isn't. Our loss I guess.

# HALLOWEEN HEARTACHE

**In a last-ditch effort to improve the nation's morale, the government makes drastic changes to one of the country's favourite holidays**

MADDIE TYLER

It's fair to say that 2016 has been a shocker of a year. Not only has this year brought the official end to our childhoods with the deaths of Alan Rickman and Gene Wilder, but we have also had to come to terms with Britain's departure from the European Union. Don't even get me started on Great British Bake Off – the wound is still too fresh.

The people that decide all of the "very important stuff" in the UK have decided that 'enough is enough' and our poor, fragile hearts have endured enough pain and torment (at least until January) and have begun implementing precautionary measures to ensure that the remainder of 2016 runs as smoothly as possible. The first of these proposals is the banning of couples' Halloween costumes, effective immediately.

Recently ranked as the "Number One Shit Thing about Halloween", it is not difficult to see how couples' costumes beat both vandalism and "getting a disappointingly small amount of trick-or-treat candy" to the top spot.

Cringe-inducing matching outfits and props are being cleared off shelves and will reportedly be recycled as fuel for next month's Guy Fawkes Night bonfires up and down the country.

Although it may be good news for anyone with PDA-phobia, it means only one thing for local fancy-dress shop owner Steve; bad business.

'I was counting on Halloween to flog my surplus Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood mask sets,' says Steve, wiping the cobwebs from his till as a tumbleweed rolls past the front door. 'I'm just glad I didn't order the Chris Evans and Matt LeBlanc set.'

It is reported that anyone

found in possession of a couples' Halloween costume by October 31st will have their Christmas-jumper-wearing privileges (both ironic and un-ironic wearing) revoked.



Image - Nathan Ruper/flickr

# HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Suspend your disbelief this month Aries, and take a chance on a superstitious hunch you wouldn't usually listen to. On a completely separate and unrelated note, we recommend shaving one eyebrow off.

TAURUS

Tell someone close to you how much you appreciate them. Sure, you may not know that stranger on the bench next to you (yet), but they probably need reassurance anyway.

GEMINI

Tired of everyone making jokes about your "two-faced nature"? Turn the joke on them. Grow a second face. Who's laughing now?

CANCER

We're not trying to be the cause of conflict in your life, but you should ask your best friend who has been stealing all your pencils.

LEO

Stop stealing pencils, you weirdo.

VIRGO

Neptune is dim in October, so be extra bright to make up for it! This includes, but is not limited to, wearing fairy lights around campus, dying your hair neon green, and trying not to put metal cutlery in the toaster anymore.

LIBRA

Light pollution in London means we can't see your stars for this month Libra. That's a shame. They would probably say something really witty and insightful at a time when you really need direction in your life. Oh well.

SCORPIO

This month you're a scorpion. Sorry, I don't make the rules.

SAGITTARIUS

Make sure to check all your sandwiches for spiders carefully. It only takes one time.

CAPRICORN

Don't worry about your friends Capricorn! You know they're never gonna give you up. Never gonna let you down. Never gonna run around and desert you.

AQUARIUS

As the young moon grows close to Venus, so do you to your heart's desire. Seriously Aquarius, stop being a baby and do something about it.

PISCES

Just stop it Pisces. I mean it! Just, just stop it.



SOCIETIES

# COMMUTING WITH A TWIST

## QMCS MAKES TRAVELLING FUN

A society that tackles the negatives of traveling to and from QM is exactly what you need

ALEX BIRCH & ALEJANDRO

For many students, commuting can be tough. Travelling to university every day in a crowded city can be physically draining. Commuters can often feel at such a disadvantage when it comes to getting integrated into university life and finding their own social friend groups, with opportunities to meet new people appearing to be much more limited than for the lucky freshers who get to live in halls.

For those who have watched movies which portray university life, partying and socializing seems to be available at all times of the day, so you can understand the hype that surrounds coming to university. Living off campus, you can feel as though you are missing out on this whole

atmosphere. Fortunately for all you commuters at Queen Mary, that's where Queen Mary Commuters' Society comes in.

Founded in 2014 by three inspired women, QMCS is here to stay! In its first academic year, QMCS won "Most Improved Society of the Year," holding events such as a Thorpe Park trip, a Sky Garden trip, Cultural Food Nights and many others. These are all events we, the current committee, will be replicating in this academic year with the addition of new and niche events such as playing Laser Tag, going Go-Karting and attending a Pillow Cinema.

This academic year, QMCS has already made an impact, with three exciting events so far, most recently trampolining

where commuters got a chance to take their minds off their studies at Better Extreme in Barking with a session including trampoline basketball, dodgeball and a chance to take on each other on the battle beam! It was fantastic seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones as we continued to build as a society and as a community.

Most of our members commute from all over London (and even outside London), so if you feel like you're struggling please come join us. From Wood Green to Croydon we have a wide diversity of members, so don't be shy! The average commute of a student at Queen Mary is 45-60 minutes long, which can really drag so why not make it worth it, stay out,

avoid the rush hour and join us for a nice dinner out!

Ourselves, the current President and Vice-President, Alejandro Mantzalos and Alex Birch, have made a promise that this year the society will focus more on celebrating the diversity our society offers as well as exploring London, seeing as not many commuters properly get the chance to. So whether it's the precision of our Events Officer Aziz Koc, the discount our Treasurer Marri Decano gets you, the perfect photos our Media Officer Selin Batz takes, or the promoting our Publicity Officer Joyce Yeung provides, we are working hard to make sure that commuters make the most of your time at Queen Mary!

If you want to find out more,

check out our Facebook group: Queen Mary Commuters' Society (QMCS) for all things QMCS. We can't wait to see you all soon!

Want to write about your society? Email us at [societies@theprintnews.co.uk](mailto:societies@theprintnews.co.uk)

# OXFAM SOCIETY TACKLES POVERTY AT QM

With topics ranging from gender inequality to water sanitation, this society is dedicated to making a difference to those who need it the most

SAVENA SURANA

Who are we?

Oxfam Society was created in March 2016 by a few students who wanted to ensure that the fight against poverty was brought to Queen Mary. We are aiming for students, one of the most powerful yet overlooked bodies of people, to use their time and voices to aid those who aren't as fortunate as we are. This is why you're going to be seeing us across campus, aiming to raise awareness of the many issues that are neglected in modern media, in an attempt to make the world a fairer and more equal place. From the Yemen Civil war to the issues in South Sudan, we want to ensure that Queen Mary students have their voices heard and are adequately informed on the aspects of poverty that are not discussed as frequently as they should be.

*"This is why you're going to be seeing us across campus, aiming to raise awareness of the many issues that are neglected in modern media, in an attempt to make the world a fairer and more equal place."*

What do we have planned?

This year we aim to hold a range of fundraising events to raise money for the causes Oxfam work on, especially

their emergency appeals. With the recent Haiti Earthquake, money raised by Oxfam will go towards rehousing the thousands who have been left homeless by Hurricane Matthew. Just £35 is enough to purchase hygiene kits which can stop the spread of infections in temporary camps. Oxfam will also be working on proving long term provisions, so look out for our upcoming Halloween-themed fundraiser to help those who have suffered from this natural disaster.

Thanks to our amazing committee consisting of engineers, geography enthusiasts and others, we have a cracking line up of socials planned as well! Starting with a pub crawl in early October which will end in the student staple that is Mondays Calling (and potentially involving a 'Spoons breakfast or two as well).

We hope that those who get involved with Oxfam feel that they are not only supported by the charity itself but also by the committee.

At the end of the day OxSoc is about you, the students, because when we put our minds together we can really come up with some brilliant ideas to make a difference.

To purchase membership please visit: <https://www.qmsu.org/groups/OxfamSoc/> and follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Queen-Mary-Oxfam-Soc-443461279196676/?fref=ts>



Image - Jean David Eynard

SOCIETIES

# POLDON IS BACK ON THE SOCIAL SCENE AT QUEEN MARY

After a long break, the Polish Society has returned and is now stronger than ever

KATARZYNA KMIECIK

You may not be familiar with the name yet, but you surely know that there was a new pit-stop at the Freshers' Fair held during the Welcome Week, QMPOLDON. Our catchy new title stands for Queen Mary POLish society in LONdon, but don't get me wrong: first things first, our doors are open to all nationalities.

With £3 yearly membership we are not only offering a pass to our monthly meetings and conferences but also a great opportunity to create friendships and gain a new sense of belonging. As a matter of fact this society has been reborn after a year of informal socials, due to the commitment of the founding members to give people an insight into

*"Our catchy new title stands for Queen Mary POLish society in LONdon"*

our culture and the Polish community living in London. After a lot of brainstorming, we are proud to announce that we are back on our feet exciting programme that was introduced to all members and non-members at an open event that took place on Thursday 6th of October 2016.

Trust me, there's a lot going on. Starting from culture-themed dinners, academic summits and associated meetings with other Polish Societies in London, to exclusive high-fashion hoodies. And believe me, there are way more areas that we cover.

Frustrated with Brexit and its consequences? Need help

*"This society has been reborn...to give people an insight into our culture and the Polish community living in London"*

with your course? Or just somebody to talk to, party and eat good food with? You'd better call QMPOLDON.

Have a society you want to publicise? Email the Societies Editors at [societies@theprintnews.co.uk](mailto:societies@theprintnews.co.uk) or head over to the contributors page on facebook.

# WHY JOIN QMUL HISTORY SOCIETY?

HistSoc gives a head-up on socials, academic events and more

MEGAN JOYCE

The History Society kicked off this semester with our annual Pub Crawl which saw us visit some of the East End's most notorious pubs. With a DIY banner (courtesy of some dedicated members) we drank our way through Whitechapel.

As we entered October we set out on our 'Museum Mile' trip, visiting some of London's best museums within the Holborn area. Exploring Victorian prints at the Cartoon Museum and weird human anatomical specimens in glass jars at the Hunterian Museum (weird, we know) we were able to explore London in the best way possible - free of charge.

Another trip we are running is a visit to Bletchley Park on the 22nd of October, which will include a tour of the code breaking site where Alan Turing (or Benedict Cumberbatch in 'The Imitation Game') designed his famous Enigma machine. Both of these trips are for anyone and everyone who enjoys history!

Alongside these social events each month QMUL HistSoc puts on a guest lecture event, discussing topics from the First World War to the US

*"The HistSoc isn't just for history-obsessed individuals (although all are welcome) - we want to have the chance to show people that history is about so much more than just studying the past."*

talking about her book and the fall of Anglo-Saxon England. If you prefer modern history, then you should come to our speaker event with Dr Reuben Loffman from QM's very own history department who will be discussing the life of Joseph Mobutu and the legacy of his rule in the Congo. Or join us for our event run with QM Equality where we will be talking to Sue Finch, an activist from the Women's Liberation Movement, who caused a public stir with other members in a 1970 Miss World pageant at the Royal Albert Hall. Professor Barbara Taylor will also be joining us and all of our speaker events are followed by a food and drink reception.

One thing HistSoc is famous for is our (student friendly priced) trips abroad - Gdansk, Leipzig, and this year to Krakow in Poland. You will have the opportunity to be immersed in Polish culture on this 5 day trip, with the chance to visit famous sites such as Auschwitz and the Gestapo Headquarters.

The HistSoc isn't just for history-obsessed individuals (although all are welcome) -

we want to have the chance to show people that history is about so much more than just studying the past.

Everything we see in our everyday life is shaped and influenced by history - so

what better way to celebrate that than by joining our society!

Like our Facebook page for upcoming events Or tweet us @QMULHistSoc

Image - Queen Mary History Society







**SOCIETIES EXCELLENCE AWARD**

**Get your society on the map and start earning some rewards for your hard work. Beneficial for all affiliated societies, big or small!**

Download the pack → Develop your society → Enjoy free rewards

**Possible Rewards**

- Access to student designers & photographers
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- Money towards developmental activities
- Priority Fresher's Week bookings

[www.qmsu.org/societies/excellence](http://www.qmsu.org/societies/excellence)

**Queen Mary University of London Students' Union**

# THE POWER OF SPORT

Daniel Naqvi

**M**aking friends is hard, especially as a teenager going into university where we're all glued to our phones.

To be able to practice and follow most traditional sports, people need to meet and converse. Therefore, in this day and age, sport may be the only outlet for people to remain truly social. Given this, the ideas of societies at universities reignite the idea of community which seems to have been lost along our digital revolution.

During school, conversations would normally stretch many days and weeks on a topic such as the Rugby World Cup, the Ashes, the Ryder Cup or the Champions League. I remember being friends with someone during school solely based on the rivalry stipulated by the football clubs we followed. University brings people together but doesn't connect them, connections are made through networking. These groups could be short term or long term but it's the fact that they started in the

*"The medium of sport offers a passage of speech between fans"*

first place which shows the power of sport.

In the UK and in London especially, football is a large part of the culture. Whatever your background, everyone has some connection to the game. Just the other day, during fieldwork, I was involved in a debate about the value of Eden Hazard's service to Chelsea and the recent loss to Arsenal in the Premier League. Conversation before the realisation that football was a common ground, was, to say the least, non-existent. Now there was a natural interest; conversation flowed and relationships started to be built.

Rajashree Choudhury once said, 'sport brings people together' and there is no statement truer than this when university starts. The saying that 'everyone is in the same boat' during freshers' week means that initial encounters are often awkward and silent. The medium of sport offers a passage of speech between fans. Reasons for this vary from person to person, but the prevailing opinion relates to the pure reality of sport. Whether you watch a football, rugby or cricket match, you are watching something true and unbiased and anyone watching can develop their own opinions solely on what they've seen, not what they've been told.

The world is connected through a culmination of sports and disciplines every four years, where the Olympics provides an opportunity for nations to display their best picks. It is one of the only televised events that bridges conflict of race and religion. Respect and equality top the list of Olympic values, which should be the same in wider



Image - Jun/flickr

*"University brings people together but doesn't connect them, connections are made through networking"*

life, but the power of sport to highlight these values shows its true importance. That's why I think once sport is mentioned, there isn't a hostility between people; just a general understanding of the

appreciation about sport in general.

Relationships shift both space and time; sport just has a hand in starting this life process.

## A FAN OF THE FANS

**Why being a fan of sport is just as much fun as playing**

Rayna Sidhu

**T**he great thing about sport is that there are so many ways to immerse yourself without ever getting your hands dirty (or your muscles aching).

Being a fan of any sport is exciting, and speaking as a huge football fan, it's something that isn't limited just to university.

There are so many reasons to try being a spectator if playing a sport itself doesn't appeal to you. Firstly, it's a great way to meet people. Talking about sport is a guaranteed icebreaker and

you can meet some unlikely friends when you share such a strong common interest.

Watching sport is also a great stress-reliever, just as playing is. For many people, going to watch their team play regularly is an outlet to not think about the many stresses of life, from deadlines, to working, to trying to find a new series to watch on Netflix (because we've all had that panic at never being able to find a show as amazing as Breaking Bad or House of Cards). It can be said that when you become very invested in a team, it can be more stressful than relaxing

to watch them play, and this is also an asset in itself.

It might sound like an exaggeration but the emotional balance you need when you love a sport and a team is unparalleled. It can teach you a lot about patience and commitment; skills which are accredited to both players and fan-bases alike.

Finally, watching a sport supports hard work. Particularly at university, going out every now and again to support a Queen Mary team will be much appreciated. Our sports students train very hard all year to be some

*"You'll meet new people and it's a fun way to forget about deadlines and exams"*

of the best and if you enjoy the sport why not show them some support? Sport at Queen Mary is everywhere, and very easily accessible even when not played by a society. An example of this is the staff versus students' football game in the history department, which has become a staple of the end-of-term. It's worth going along and seeing some of your lecturers and fellow students lose their minds over the competitiveness of the game. Again, you'll meet new people and it's a fun way to forget about deadlines and exams.

Sport has a huge spectrum of participation, and it doesn't have to be about you playing to fully appreciate it. If you have an interest, even in the back of your mind, it is well worth exploring; especially in the diverse city of London.



## SPORT

# WHY I LOVE QUEEN MARY SNOW SPORTS

The President of QMSS tells us why you'll just love their diverse and fun society

IDA DJURSAA

Going to a big university in a big city can be lonely if you're not part of a society that provides you with a natural way of making friends.

When I started at Queen Mary two years ago, I lived far away from campus and I found it quite difficult to make friends other than the occasional 'hi, how are you?' in seminars. I'd been skiing a few times with my college and loved it every time, but I hadn't considered joining any clubs or societies at university. I started going to the QMSS socials and every time I was met by friendly faces and people who wanted me there. I finally decided to go on the skiing trip and I had the best time! Last year I was

social secretary and this year I was lucky enough to be elected for president. If you had asked me two years ago, I would never have dreamed of being on committee!

Our big event every year is our Christmas ski trip. This is a week of skiing, partying and making memories for life. This year we're off to Alpe d'Huez in the French Alps with Wasteland Ski and it's going to be our biggest one yet. We can't wait! Apart from the ski trip, we also have an established race team that competes on a regional and national level. If you're interested in racing for us, we would love to have you – all you need to have is confidence in your turns. If

you have never skied before, we run beginner's lessons in England before the trip, but you can also book lessons on the trip. Every year, we have people who have never skied before, and they always have a fantastic time! For more info on the trip, socials, training, lessons and videos from previous years, please see our Facebook page or our website [www.qmssnow.co.uk](http://www.qmssnow.co.uk).

Although Queen Mary Snow Sports is a ski and snowboard team, we take care of each other and welcome anyone from any background. As cringe as it sounds, we allow for each other to grow on an individual and athletic level. We have a lot of internal jokes,



Image – Jean David Eynard

*“It is so much more than a sports club. QMSS is a family.”*

but no one is ever judged or bullied. That is what I love about QMSS. We're proud to be one of the biggest clubs on campus with numbers increasing every year. Even if you have never considered skiing before, you can come to our socials and decide if you like us enough to try it! If you're interested in joining our club, all you have to do is come to socials and pay the standard membership fee (£20).

Hope to see you sometime soon – winter is coming.

Would you like to write for Sport? Email [sport@theprintnews.co.uk](mailto:sport@theprintnews.co.uk) for more details.

# A NETBALL PERSPECTIVE

Gabbie Mahal tells all about what it means to be part of Netball at QM

GABBIE MAHAL

When I first came to Queen Mary I was a bit nervous joining netball club because it seems a bit daunting trying to make it into a team where the girls are already really good friends.

However, I was pleasantly surprised. I couldn't have been more comfortable from the get go: at trials everyone at the club was so welcoming and friendly and made the all Freshers' feel comfortable. There is a space for everyone at the club, whether you want to play competitively or just for fun.

We were also all invited to 'session', which takes place on Wednesday, where we play

drinking games and attend the infamous Hail Mary. This is the best Drapers night! The netball girls don't drink lightly and like to have their fun, which is another reason why I love the club so much (getting used to downing red beer was tough!). It's a great society because we know how to be serious whilst playing netball, but can let loose when we need too. The netball girls also take fancy dress very seriously: everyone puts in 100% effort and I've seen some of the best costumes at session.

We play matches Monday and Wednesdays and train on Tuesdays. We play various teams from universities in London: from Kings to travelling to Essex University.

One of our home grounds is the Olympic Copper Box Arena – pretty impressive! I'm sure it's one of the best home venues compared to most universities.

Another event that everyone looks forward to in the year is Merger (an annual tournament between Queen Mary and Barts). Every club takes this seriously and passions run high. We all want to beat Barts. It is one of the best days you can be part of. You will get nervous but it's also really fun. Obviously after all the matches are played we head off to Drapers to unwind and go to the Merger after-party where the result is announced. In my first year we were winners of

*“I couldn't have been more comfortable... everyone at the club was so welcoming and friendly”*

the Merger Cup – honestly it was one of the best feelings after putting in hard work for the whole year.

After exams we have tour. The netball girls all go abroad for 4 days for one big holiday. This was definitely one of the best holidays I have ever been on. There were 33 girls in Zante

during my first year. We all stuck together, went out and just had a good time. It was the best way to top off my first year of playing netball and this all carried on into second year where we welcomed the new Freshers' to the club. When I leave Queen Mary in summer, netball is definitely one of the things I'll miss most!