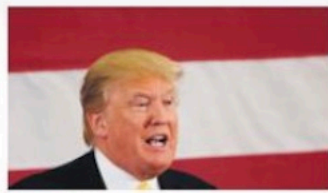




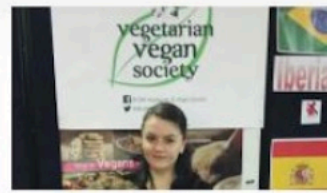
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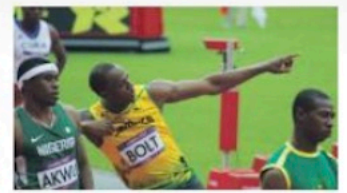
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THE PRINT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF QUEEN MARY STUDENTS' UNION

THEPRINTNEWS.CO.UK

WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2017 - ISSUE 17- FREE

"HEY! HO! DONALD TRUMP HAS GOT TO GO!"

QM held its own demonstration against the controversial Muslim ban as anti-Trump protests erupt across the country

ANNA SAVAGE

On 31st January, a protest against Donald Trump's controversial Muslim Ban was held in Library Square.

President Trump signed an executive order on 28th January which has stopped all refugees from entering the US and temporarily barred people who come from seven Muslim-majority countries.

Organiser of the protest, Monty Shield, had this to say on why he decided to hold the demonstration:

"We were protesting against Trump's Muslim Ban policy and also against the UK Government's complicity in it. We were calling for the UK Government to oppose the ban and offer assistance to the refugees affected by it".

Although pessimistic about the impact of this single protest, Monty believes that the anti-Trump movement will encourage change.

"This week in London we were joined by UCL, KCL and UAL, and several other campuses, such as Warwick, Oxford, Aberdeen and others, also held similar protests.

"While we don't expect



Image - Anna Savage

the Government to change its approach to this policy just because of our protests, it is the case that mass movements and mobilisation around specific issues can force the Government to change what they are doing, and we saw our protest as part of the major mobilisation that has happened so far in response to this policy,

which also saw thousands of people protest outside Downing Street".

Concern over the rise of the Far Right and racist attacks also motivated this protest.

"The best way to change this is to challenge racist ideas openly and directly and to try to build a culture in which those ideas are

not seen as acceptable and in which people are being convinced away from those ideas. So, in this respect, our protest was an act of solidarity towards those who suffer racism and was an attempt to challenge the racism, specifically in this case Islamophobic racism, that has been a major part of the policies of the US and UK Governments..."

Adam Ansari, who helped with the co-ordination of the demo, does not think much of Theresa May's response to the executive order.

"....I am extremely disappointed that Theresa May is meeting Trump despite his divisive policies and comments. Her duty as Prime Minister is to represent the British people and society, which is multicultural. The fact that she has met Trump contradicts the harmony between people of different races and faiths in Britain".

Another student who attended the protest, Hannah Santos, hoped it would educate students about the Trump policy.

"[I am here] just generally to create awareness, because I think most of us don't read newspapers or actively try and, like, look for information... It's an easy way to let people know what's happening".

Since the executive order was implemented, protests have been held across various countries.

The ban has now been temporarily halted by federal Judge Robart and President Trump's appeal against the decision has been denied.

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“Without Valentine’s Day, February would be... well, January.”

- Jim Gaffigan

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

ANNA SAVAGE

Hello Printers, Welcome to February. Can't you just smell the romance in the air? Wait, no, that's the smell of the red beer some bozo spilled on you at the last Monday's Calling. Sorry about that.

Still, this is the month of love which means three things: cookie dough, Bridget Jones and tequila. That's how everyone spends their Valentine's Day, right?

If you didn't have anyone to celebrate the big day with, don't worry, The Print loves you. The Print loves you so much it will give you a ridiculous number of tantalizing articles for your eyes to feast on.

Want to learn about the science behind love? Like to get an exclusive sneak peek at Donald Trump's latest autobiography? Desperate to understand the allure of the anti-hero? The Print has got you covered.

Curious to know what the stars have in store for you this month? Anxious to discover what the Trump legacy could be? Keen to discover more about the Usain Bolt controversy? Never fear because, once again, The Print has got you covered.

So grab a glass of boxed wine, treat yourself to some discounted strawberry creams and enjoy issue 17 of Queen Mary's official student newspaper.

QUEENS' BUILDING FOYER AND RECEPTION RENOVATIONS BEGIN

Queens' Building Recieves the Royal Treatment

ELMIRA TANATAROVA



Image – Nayara Fakir

In suit of the library renovations, QMUL has begun refurbishing the Foyer and Reception area in our beloved architectural pride and joy: Queens' Building.

The construction is being conducted by Cuffe plc and is the responsibility of QMUL Capital Projects (who handle all construction on campus). Construction is expected to end by the middle of March,

but while the building is being worked on, the Reception of the Queens' Building has temporarily been set up at the entrance to the Octagon. QM Press Office has also informed The Print that “a temporary accessible lift is also being installed at the north end of the East Wing corridor”. QMUL also added that the redecoration isn't purely housekeeping, and the intent is to reflect the building's

effect on all members of the university: “This is a much needed and welcomed enhancement of one of our primary spaces on campus that will have an immediate and positive impact on all staff, students and visitors at QMUL”. The Estates and Facilities Team has posted signs apologising for the inconvenience and “asks for our patience while they improve our campus”.

NEWS

QMSU ENDORSING NSS BOYCOTT

The Students' Union is fighting against the new TEF framework by asking students not to participate in the National Student Survey

ELMIRA TANATAROVA

It is hard for the average QMUL student not to have been exposed to the university's promotion of the NSS – the National Student Survey – by this point, with our student ambassadors plotted around the campus and the library desktop screens flashing its logo brightly.

Similarly, it will have been hard to miss the posters dotted around with a contrasting message: “Boycott the NSS”. In that, many students may be surprised to hear that the Mile End QMSU has agreed to promote the boycott of the NSS (a campaign they will keep promoting from January 30th to April 30th), as well as the implementation of it in part of TEF: the Teaching Excellence Framework established by the Conservative government, and most especially Jo Johnson, the University Minister. Their

goal is to make sure that, in most of QMUL's faculties, less than half of their student body participate in taking the survey, thus making the data unpublishable.

Most of the boycott promotion has been via posters and handing out leaflets, with a social media presence on Facebook; the QMSU also staged a protest at the Teaching and Learning Conference which took place this month. Their main concern in boycotting the NSS lies with TEF's plan to use said survey as 50% of their evaluation of universities (along with employment data six months after graduation and retention scores), which they will then rank in a new system, olympically placing universities as either Gold, Silver or Bronze. Universities which manage to place in

Gold and Silver will be allowed to raise tuition fees for all students by inflation each year, and for those who make Bronze, by half of inflation.

Miranda Black, QMSU President, emphasises that the Union sees a problem with this money coming from the students rather than the government, and fears that this will limit many lower income family students from joining QMUL. Adam Sparkes, VP Welfare, adds that “...if we can afford to drop bombs in other countries, we can afford to educate the working classes”. Anthony Smith, the VP for Education and Student Affairs at University College London, has too expressed concerns, stating that: “There is a risk that this is going to drive a wedge between students and their institutions. They will feel their feedback isn't

being used to improve their experience, but as a vehicle to put their fees up. I'm worried about that”.

Jo Johnson, however, insists that: “The framework will give students clear, understandable information about where

the best teaching is on offer and, for the first time, place teaching quality on a par with research at our universities”.

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



Image – Elmira Tanatarova

'YES' TO NUS - WHAT NOW?

A look back at the QMSU's NUS referendum

POPPY THOMPSON



Image – QM Vote Yes to NUS

After the referendum from the 11th – 13th January, Queen Mary students voted to remain with the NUS.

Students campaigned both ways – both sides feeling equally strong about their preference – a debate was held arguing both ways, and eventually we decided to stick with it.

The benefits we receive from the NUS include “a wealth of resources and research which we use to shape our campaigns”, which was one of the strongest arguments that came from the president of the Student Union, Miranda Black. She fought in favour of the NUS because, although we give a large sum of money to the NUS each year, “we get that money back in the training that they give our officers and the deals on products that our Union gets through NUS.

The NUS also has large sums of money for which we can apply. I'm currently applying for money for a sustainability project #EasyBeingGreen”. Whilst being in the NUS, we are able to receive discounts of otherwise expensive products, such as alcohol, that Miranda does not agree we would have if we had left. She says that she wants “to be part of a movement which has fought for the rights of students [such as] Union campaigns like the LGBT+ inclusion in sport and Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment”. Although admitting that the NUS is not perfect and there are large disadvantages to being involved, she also believes that “we can only create change by being part of the movement” and, now that we have remained in the NUS, we can move forward to try and get the most out of it.

Dan Mercer, second year French and Politics student and active part of the ‘no’ campaign, agrees that we could change it but just because we stayed “does not mean that we should be complacent – the flaws of the NUS should not be ignored”. His reasoning for leaving the NUS was that “by leaving, there would have been a greater chance of the NUS actually reforming itself, realising and truly addressing its problems”.

The no campaign spread its word by sending letters to students in halls, “handing

out flyers in lecture theatres and Library Square, and receiving enough signatures for the referendum to go ahead”. Although it was a hard fight, and although the ‘yes’ campaign won by a large majority, Dan believes that it has sent a message. The reasons behind the ‘no’ campaign were that “the cost of NUS membership is unjustifiable and our Students' Union could use the savings more effectively. We believe the NUS is undemocratic and does not represent the real interests of students, instead falling victim to internal political squabbles and scandal that gave students a bad name. We could do better without it, just as other universities have; the NUS was not relevant enough to Queen Mary students as only 11% of students (across the country) have NUS Extra cards”. These problems have not gone away, but as the vote was in favour of remaining, this has to be respected and we can only go forward from here.

If you want to have a say in where the NUS goes from here, you can put yourself forward to be an NUS delegate in the Union elections. If you believe strongly either way and want to work with the NUS to be more beneficial to Queen Mary, then nominations end 15th February.

DR. TRISTAM HUNT BECOMES DIRECTOR OF THE V&A MUSEUM

From the House of Commons to the house of art and design

ELMIRA TANATAROVA

Dr. Tristram Hunt has already had an incredibly diverse career, having been a Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent and being a part of Queen Mary's School of History.

According to his profile on the QMUL webpage he, "[combines his] time at QMUL with work on TV programmes, radio series, journalism and book publications".

Being a senior lecturer in Modern British History (and teaching the undergraduate modules 'Marx, Engels and the Making of Marxism' and 'Cities of Empire'), it is almost no wonder that he has been chosen as the new director of a quintessentially British arthouse.

Having said that, his career

in politics has been at the forefront of his name, and thus the announcement was indeed met with surprise. Heather Stewart, Mark Brown and Peter Walker of The Guardian wrote, "...his name did not crop up in any of the art world gossip which generally precedes big appointments in the sector".

Of course, this move wasn't met without its criticism. Dr. Hunt's resignation as a politician has meant that the prospects of his party's victory in the constituency of Stoke-on-Trent have become vulnerable, with challenging and rising opposition from UKIP leader Paul Nuttall.

Fellow Guardian journalists, like Zoe Williams, have also gone as far as criticising Parliament in allowing such easy resignation of

"According to his profile on the QMUL webpage he, '[combines his] time at QMUL with work on TV programmes, radio series, journalism and book publications'."



Image - CentreforCities/flickr

MPs in principle, saying that it promotes "a carnival of amateurishness in which the only discernible professionalism is in the exit strategy".

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"WE NEED A DECOLONISED UNIVERSITY"

BME discussion event creates public space trying to tackle institutional racism



Image - QMSU

On the 26th January a 3-hour 'long table' event was held in Bancroft 1.15.

It's aim: to give the BME student voice a platform to be heard and inform institutional change within QMUL.

Organised by a collaboration of students, academic staff and QMUL's Engagement, Retention and Success department, and attended by students and staff alike, the event essentially comprised of a discussion surrounding issues particular to the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) experience.

Despite Queen Mary being one of the most diverse universities within the Russell Group, many Black and Minority Ethnic students often feel overlooked and excluded during their experience studying. This 'long table' event created a space in which students and staff could express their frustration, anger and concern, and work towards creating solutions to make the university more inclusive and accessible to all.

Prominent organiser and Drama student, Dushant Patel, believes that "we need to apply

constant pressure on the uni to decolonise its curriculum, its student and staff bodies, its outreach activity. We need a decolonised university that teaches (and learns) a range of worldviews and respects women of colour, migrants, refugees, queer people, working class, disabled people etc. as full and multifaceted human beings".

The discussion, which took place around a literal long table, soon became passionate, with students and staff feeling comfortable to express their pent up frustrations.

A major complaint across subject areas was the lack of diversity within the taught curriculum. Students named Comparative Literature and Drama as being particularly Euro-centric, with concerns being raised about a 24-week English module on South African Literature only containing 8 weeks focusing on works by black writers.

Attention was also drawn to the notable lack of diversity in the academic teaching staff. This is a national problem, with only 50 out of 14,000

British professors being black, and only 17 of these women. Whilst admitting that this is not a problem simply solved, one History student said that it felt like white lecturers were "always apologising" when teaching subjects such as slavery, which she thought was patronising. With no black lecturers in the History department, it seems like this is an issue that needs to be highlighted before it can be institutionally addressed.

The anger expressed at what is being taught and who is it taught by was extended to the micro-aggressions many students said they faced in the classroom. Politics student Nadia said that racist and Islamophobic comments are often passed off as personal opinion, with teachers failing to challenge them, whilst another student claimed that racism is often a taboo subject which makes it hard to tackle these comments straight on.

The evening ended with small group discussions aimed at creating concrete solutions to the institutional problem of exclusion. The suggestions included: putting policies in

place to actively attract BME academic staff particularly in the humanities, intentionally creating safe spaces in seminars, encouraging lecturers to justify their curriculum content, and making students aware of how they can actively implement change.

"The event went better than I ever expected it to", said co-organiser Nadia Hafedh, "the conversation and issues that were brought up were enlightening for all. This conversation was long overdue and I hope it will encourage more discussion on the issue and help current and future students".

Dushant Patel was also happy with the overall event, but most importantly wants to "make damn sure it's not a one-off". Hopefully this event was the first step in achieving a truly decolonised university.

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FEATURES

LONDON WOMEN'S MARCH 2017

The Print follows a member of the London Women's March, examining the motives and outcomes of the demonstration

SOPHIE MITCHELL

I am just a woman, marching in front of the world, asking it to respect her.

Never did I think that 21st January 2017 would be so globally influential.

Emerging from Bond Street station, which had just reopened after issues of overcrowding, I was immediately overwhelmed by the sheer amount of activity, colours and sounds. The sky was cloudless and blue, with the sun's vivid glare dancing off people, banners and buildings. To say pathetic fallacy was at play would be an understatement, as the atmosphere of the bright day propelled the enthusiasm and optimism of the estimated 100,000 people. The event advertised on Facebook had led me to believe 36,000 people were marching. The sheer scale of the event that unfolded was unexpected, but welcomed with open arms, quite literally. Although branded 'Women's March', the event encompassed so much more than a purely feminist agenda. The masses marched to support socialism, spark anarchism, promote environmentalism, condemn racism, reject political elitism, enhance LGBTQ awareness, and to convey despair against the inauguration of Donald Trump.

All of these causes, relevant, potent and urgent, were promoted with an infectious optimism that was evident in the faces of the marchers. The multitude of faces I saw were all different in age, race, gender, orientation and ability, yet united in their hope for an active present and an affected future. Walking alongside me, two women dressed as Victorian Suffragettes held hands with a young boy, dressed in a Victorian tweed suit. Elderly men and women marched for the inequality of times past, alongside young boys and girls marching with their parents for an equal future. The solidarity, regardless of age or any other divisive factor, was indescribably moving. The march worked to eradicate a history of discrimination, affirming that a woman's place isn't 'in the kitchen' or 'making a sandwich', it is in

the move towards eradicating sexism and inequality. The fundamental message of Feminism being equally accessible and relevant to both men and women was definitely visible during the march, as was the advocacy of Feminism encompassing all races, sexual orientations and gender identities. The march was for everyone with a voice needing to be heard,

and discrimination begs the question - will we, as a race, ever truly reach a state of total equality? Or is our capacity to divide and discriminate an inherent, innate aspect of our nature? Whilst the latter is a sobering thought, the documentable evidence from human history is evident. Even today, our present is shaping itself to become entrenched in history as a time of inequality

so aptly demonstrated through the Women's March and protests globally. Not only will this restriction of healthcare funding prevent the right of women to receive abortions, it may lead to a concerning rise in the amount of unsafe abortions carried out, by both women themselves and unauthorised doctors.

To exacerbate this, the

was further threatened by Trump through his 'immigration ban', a 90-day suspension on immigrants and visa holders attempting to enter the U.S. from seven countries of mainly Muslim religion (Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Sudan). As a direct result of this, hundreds of people found themselves stranded at airports and denied admission into the country that they call their home, the supposed 'land of the free', America. Although the public responded with vigour and potency, displaying their outrage against this blatant discrimination, Trump further acted to suspend the US refugee admissions programme for 120 days. In conjunction with this, the Syrian refugee admissions program was suspended indefinitely.

The dire consequences of these actions from Trump's presidency are prominent and developing, and will continue to divide the nation into the foreseeable future. These acts from Trump seek to threaten not only the very social fabric of a country, but the environmental and political security of the world. The implications of Trump's actions will not remain contained within the (hopefully never literal) walls of the U.S.A., they will seep across the globe through channels of media and news, spreading this regime of discrimination and hatred. This is why the Women's March in London happened. This is why countless marches happened. And these protests need to happen, as they protect the fundamental human right to express and uphold our intrinsic values and beliefs, for the benefit of our cohesion as a global population. If the world remains passive and quiet, the louder, richer, more influential voices will drown out the masses. But if the many unite in their shared belief of equality, peace and global preservation, those voices will not be drowned out.

following day on the 24th January, Trump distressingly signed an executive order allowing the completion of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, which will run from North Dakota to Illinois. The pipeline proposal has received intense backlash from activists, who have worked endlessly to conserve both the natural environment and the rightful home of the indigenous Standing Rock Sioux tribe. This move from the new American President shows a bleak future for environmental issues and climate change, with Trump showing little care for pursuing renewable energy sources and preserving locations of natural and cultural value.

More recently, the value of cultural and religious identity



Image - Garry Knight/flickr

and for those whose voices remain oppressed, overlooked, silenced.

Whilst the kaleidoscope of rainbow-coloured people and signs, marching and dancing to the sound of chants, was mesmerisingly uplifting, there was a profound realisation of how severely we remain divided as the human race. As time has progressed throughout history, the fundamental rights of all human beings have been established, fought for, and upheld in some cases. The abolishment of slavery in 1865 (USA), votes for women secured in 1920, the Civil Rights act of 1964, to name a few. Yet, however fundamental these changes were to society, the current state of inequality

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FEATURES

WHY WE SHOULDN'T TAKE EDUCATION FOR GRANTED

How the UK's education system compares to that in the developing world

DANIAL NAQVI



Image - hdpctcar/flickr

Every soul on this planet deserves an education. Every person deserves to be knowledgeable about the world around them. To be able to communicate in your own language, to be able to read and make judgments in both business and everyday life, are fundamental human rights. Many people consider education a person's chance to better themselves and improve their life prospects. But before you pipe up that school isn't for everyone, note that I have not once mentioned school. Education takes on a variety of forms. Whether that be through arts and drama, through a construction course, through a football academy or through standardised schooling and university, everyone deserves the chance to experience everything life has to offer.

Why do I think education is so important? One can understand the intricacies of the world if you know how to read and if you know how to differentiate true media from false. If you want to become more cultured, you can learn about another country's culture, politics, economy and geography with the click of a button. The world certainly is at your fingertips, if you are given the tools to be able to make use of such technology. It is through education that you can learn your place in the world and find your true purpose.

If you were British-schooled, like myself, you're probably sitting there thinking that I'm a liberal (you're right) and have no idea of the complexities of countries without a free education system. You might be right. But from my recent travels to Pakistan, I have learnt some hard truths about an education system simply in tatters.

British schooling comprises of a mix of state-run comprehensive and selective grammar schools alongside some private schools. In the UK, state-run schools are fairly adequate, with some outranking private institutions for quality of education. According to a recent Tab London article, 88.7% of people at QM are from state-run schools, showing the standard of education in state schools can lead to a university education at a Russell Group institution, once and for all proving that the bias of private-schooled children having better prospects is fading into the distant past.

Pakistan, on the other hand, is a completely different story. Parents pay a lot of money for even a half-decent school. I couldn't quite get my head round the idea that families pay thousands of rupees for education that just about makes the mark for adequacy. Given that we all pay for our education at QM, and most

of us take it quite seriously (when we have to), it seems bizarre that families are forced to fork out so early in life for their children. While I was in Karachi, Pakistan, I learnt that grammar schools are taken very seriously. Unlike the grammar schools here, in which the education is marginally better than comprehensives, in Pakistan this difference is extreme. I was told by my cousin, a student at Karachi Grammar School, that every three years he has to sit an examination to be allowed to continue at the school. Being the best school in Karachi, you can't blame the administration for initialising a rather Darwinian approach to its institution. I was told state schools do exist, but not at a standard similar to the UK.

You are probably now sitting there wondering why is this person rambling on about two countries that, even at a basic economic level, are not comparable? Well, there's no reason why the education system in the UK cannot be implemented around the world, especially in Commonwealth states.

To put further context on this argument, opportunities for British school-aged children vs. Pakistani children are far greater and accessible. This is evident through the two countries' ratings on the Human Development Index (HDI), which includes literacy rates as well as GNI per capita, measured on a scale of 0-1. The UK stands 15th globally with an HDI of 0.907, while Pakistan stands 147th with an HDI of 0.538, last recorded in 2015. This shows a clear indication that the two countries are far apart on the development hierarchy. But is it too far to think that the education system of the masses in Pakistan could possibly evolve into a similar infrastructure available in the UK? I think not.

The inspiration for this article comes from my fascination with the Footpath School near

ChenOne in Karachi, Pakistan. A concept so simple, it's pure brilliance. Its design creatively utilises space, in a way that would leave an urban planner speechless. Surrounded by an overpass above, roads to the left and right, the Footpath School truly embraces its natural environment. Visible only by the yellow and black bars enclosing children, the school has multifunctional purposes. A school by day and a homeless shelter by night. Perfection. And it's free. Despite formalities of registration and wearing a blue uniform, education is free and runs off donations from the public passing by in cars. That's right, initiatives like this survive off the goodwill of the Karachiite population.

In this case, it's fair to adopt the global culture idea to describe education. Regarding Pakistan, there is still a clear east-west migration pattern. Students often travel to the UK or USA for university. Not because higher education is poor in Pakistan, but because they have become inspired to return to Pakistan to be able to make an impact on the world they grew up in. Although my family is originally from Pakistan, our spatial geographical distribution shows how education can lead to global opportunities. I have

family in the UK, USA and Hong Kong, which proves my point even more.

But is it all doom and gloom for Pakistan? Possibly not. It's clear Pakistan has some catching up to do if it is to ever reach the standards set in the UK. But initiatives such as the Footpath School actively attempt to reduce the disparity levels in Pakistan, possibly leading to better life chances and the opportunity for Pakistan to rise in the HDI rankings in years to come.

Although I have only looked at the UK in comparison to Pakistan, there is no reason the lessons learnt from Pakistan cannot be applied to other Asian nations, as well as African or South American ones. Education finds those who are lost and stays with the people who don't care for it. Having education means you have a voice and I think it's just enough that everyone be given that chance.

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Image - Steve Jurveston/flickr

FEATURES

NO MORE HEROES ANYMORE

As the face of the modern day hero is continually changing, should we be worried about the influence of anti-heroes?

THEODOR DEBRUNNER-HALL

Nowadays it seems that every male hero in TV and media is far from actually being a hero.

There is a modern obsession with the flawed protagonist that commits unspeakable acts or, at the very least, is always rude and sarcastic. Superman is boring, people now want a darker, grittier hero. This has gotten to the point where characters that would traditionally be a villain have become the actual heroes, convincing audiences to root for the heinous and nefarious.

The popular trope of the violent, unstable, (almost always) male anti-hero engaged in crime has been around for a long time. However, it really kicked off into the mainstream with the success of The Sopranos. Telling a story from the perspective of a cruel, vindictive, manipulative mob boss and delving into his emotional state was, at the time, extremely innovative and new. To make someone so villainous actually three-dimensional and more than just a caricature of evil was a fresh approach. For many, Tony Soprano's struggles with the changing face of the world embodied a sentiment of dwindling traditional masculinity in the modern world. Tony was cheered on as he killed rats and expanded his empire, despite being far from a lovable character.

It's easy to understand why people would cheer on Scarface's cocaine empire or Tyler Durden's violent antics – these characters typically ooze

a charisma and confidence that flatters to deceive. When they embellish their acts of violence and volatility with cool quotable lines, it's hard not to sympathise with them and view them as heroic badasses that so many boys in one way or another aspire to be. It's practically a rite of passage

these characters is to identify with and support bona fide psychopaths, abusers, rapists and murderers. Take Heisenberg for example. If, by the end of season 4 even, you still were on board the Walter White train, you were supporting someone that had left his best friend's lover to

“The way so many young men idolise these proto-masculine characters completely misses the point of their depiction. These characters serve more as cautionary tales than role models...”

as a teenage boy to hang up a poster of Scarface or Fight Club (the author of this article had both). Most recently, the Netflix show Narcos told the story of the real-life monster and mass murderer Pablo Escobar and no one that watched it can honestly say they enjoyed it for the blonde DEA agent trying to catch him and be morally pure. No, it was Pablo that transfixed us with international drug trade and brutal war and assassination. Indeed, the author has a mugshot sticker of Pablo on the very laptop he's writing this on.

The problem is that to identify with and support

die, sexually attacked and then mentally manipulated and abused his wife, killed 5 people by hand and many more indirectly (making killers out of more innocent people), and that does not even take into account all the unseen damage of cooking and dealing crystal meth in the first place. And yet, at this point many were still cheering him on, hoping he'd somehow get away with it. Where this became particularly poignantly noticeable was in the public reaction to Skylar, his wife. As soon as her character stopped bending to her husband's will and supporting his delusions of grandeur, the



Image – Garry Knight/flickr

internet turned on her and people started viewing her as tedious, annoying, and a bad wife. Consider the implication there: to be a bad wife is to not meekly stand by and let the epitome of repressed

Fight Club is not about embracing your masculinity and beating your peers to a pulp, but rather about striking the balance between extreme animalistic masculinity and being a slave to a commercial world that doesn't allow for any self-expression.

However, none of this is to take away from the quality and appeal of these characters. On the contrary, many of them are some of the best television and film ever made. The Sopranos and Breaking Bad are widely revered and lauded by critics and public alike and to say they don't make for great television is practically blasphemy. It is fully to the creators and actors' credit that they are able to convince audiences to root for traditionally villainous characters.

Where the problem lies is not in the telling of these stories, but rather in an undifferentiated and basic reception thereof. When consuming media it is vital to be able to take a step back and try to view it through an objective lens rather than blindly glorifying and rooting for villainous anti-heroes. The message of these narratives generally goes far deeper than just telling a cool story about a cool criminal, but sadly this nuance gets lost all too easily, blinded by charisma and a numbness to violence.

The way so many young men idolise these proto-masculine characters completely misses the point of their depiction. These characters serve more as cautionary tales than role models, most of them ending with their death or downfall in some form or another. The underlying moral of something like Breaking Bad is not that “cooking meth is badass, dude”, but rather it is the tragic descent of a good man into evil, seduced by power and his ego. Similarly,

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COMMENT

THE GREAT DEBATE

WHAT WILL THE TRUMP LEGACY BE?

THE ORANGE SCARE

ALICE SIDGWICK

What do a witch hunter of the 1950s and the leader of the free world have in common?

A lot more than you would think. History has developed a pretty uniform opinion of Senator Joseph McCarthy. The man led the crusade against communism in the American government in the 1950s and is widely credited with creating the “Red Scare”. McCarthy was a paranoid bully, who built his successes on lies and wanted to clean up Washington DC. Remind you of anyone?

It would seem that Trump himself is aware of the

THE GREAT REPRESSION

JORDAN SMITH

As a self-identifying eco-socialist, it is quite clear that I would never see eye-to-eye with President Trump, but I have to admit, I was one of those fairly optimistic “oh maybe he won't be as bad as everyone is making him out to be” kind of guys.

However, the first week of the Trump presidency has already undone years, even decades, of human rights and environmental protections that many activists and politicians have dedicated their entire lives to winning.

On Monday, Trump launched an attack on women's rights, but don't worry, he didn't grab anything this time – instead he signed

similarities he shares with Senator McCarthy and isn't particularly concerned with letting the public know. He hails the paranoia of the Cold War as a period of American history that needs to be emanated. “In the Cold War, we had an ideological screening test, the time is overdue to develop a new screening test for the threats we face today.” In the same speech, Trump championed parallels between the current climate and the Cold War, arguing that “we couldn't defeat communism without acknowledging that communism exists – or explaining its evils – we can't defeat Radical Islamic Terrorism unless we do the same.”

The man who made Trump is the same man who aided McCarthy. Lawyer Roy Cohn was brought to the attention of McCarthy after his prominent role in the 1951 Rosenberg espionage trial. During the trial, Cohn encouraged a witness to lie in his testimony, and as a result the Rosenbergs were given the death sentence. Cohn was so pleased with his work that he would brag about his influence over the ruling, even claiming that the death penalty was imposed based upon his personal recommendation.

The trial inspired McCarthy to choose Cohn as his chief counsel. After McCarthy's downfall, Cohn resigned from the Senator's staff and began a

successful legal career in New York. Just seventeen years later, Cohn represented Trump in a countersuit against the government after they accused Trump of refusing to rent out his apartments to black people. It was the beginning of a beautiful friendship. At a party in the early 1970's, Cohn introduced a young Trump as the kid who is ‘going to own New York someday’. Although Cohn died from AIDs in 1986, his former lover Peter Fraser states he still hears Cohn in Trump's speeches, “that bravado... if you [say] it aggressively and loudly enough, it's the truth.” Cohn's forceful and deceitful methods of getting the result he desired – which clearly worked for

him and McCarthy in the 1950s – obviously making the man who is president today.

Viewing Trump's campaign in this light, the parallels with McCarthy become even clearer. Trump's campaign was riddled with personal attacks (Megyn Kelly, Rosie O'Donnell, Jon Stewart, Bill Clinton, Ted Cruz, etc.) that ran in the same vein of the ones that made McCarthy's crusade against communism famous. Both used lies in order to win power, with Trump claiming Mexicans are flooding into America when more are leaving than arriving while McCarthy shot to fame after falsely claiming to have a list of 205 known communists within the government.

See if you can guess if McCarthy or Trump said the following, “our job as Americans and as Republicans is to dislodge the traitors from every place where they've been sent to do their traitorous work.”



Image – DonkeyHotey/flickr

skills pushed Pena Nieto too far and the meeting has since been called off. Is this evidence of Trump taking America back to an (unintended?) state of international isolationism?

The next few months are uncertain, but we are likely to see more attacks on minority groups. Attorney General appointee, Jeff Sessions intends to reintroduce the controversial First Amendment Defence Act (FADA) which will allow discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community on religious grounds. Gay rights, like those of women and immigrants are already being threatened, and our Conservative government appears to care very little about this.

What we are currently seeing in US politics is a corporatist coup: an undoing of the historic beacon of democracy, liberty and right; all in the name of profit and unsustainable ‘growth’.

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an Executive Order to restrict Federal funding for NGOs which promote or carry out abortions abroad. This move will have its greatest impact on women in developing countries and therefore will affect women of colour disproportionately, giving the Trump administration's policy an undertone of racism. It also seems like a step towards a ban on abortions in the US, something that Trump has voiced his support for. Alarm bells should be ringing already.

The first week also saw a continuation of Trump's dismissal of the world's

scientific community regarding Climate Change and saw him sign an Executive Order allowing the go ahead for the Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipelines: no shock here considering his close links to oil industry groups. But these actions go beyond undermining decades of environmental campaigning. The complete disregard for indigenous Native American land and culture feeds even more into the inherent racism of the Trump administration, placing profit and greed before heritage and sustainability and jeopardising future generation's energy security.

Finally, the infamous Wall got the go ahead on Thursday, with Trump still determined to make Mexico pay. The question everyone is asking is “how”? Any tax on Mexican imports into the US is likely to have a limited impact as Mexico is likely to retaliate by raising prices, leading to a trade war. President Trump was optimistic at the beginning of the week about improving relations following a scheduled meeting for the end of January with President Pena Nieto in which he had hoped that things would “get better”. But Trump's lack of diplomacy

COMMENT

TO THE LEFT, TO THE LEFT

It's time those on the Left of politics took a long hard look in the mirror

MUHAMMAD DOMUN

Complacency and arrogance are the bane of the Left.

It's a shame what was a very strong movement is now a damp squib, a mere façade of what it used to be. The Left needs to take a hard look at itself. Take the situation in the US: I have to say it really pains me to call Hillary Clinton left or even liberal, some of the most conservative backbenchers will have less regressive policies than Hillary, and that's a fact.

Hillary was the epitome of complacency and arrogance, she was a mere continuity of

what was happening, pro-cooperation and hawkish, I mean the woman did not even prepare a concession speech. Look at Michigan, a state that was regarded a safe seat for Clinton, held by Obama by almost a 10% margin, Hillary lost. Why? Because she was so confident that she was on the 'right' side of politics, and anyone could beat Trump. But the lesson learned was that if you promise change it doesn't really matter who you are because people will vote for you. Trump went to Flint, Michigan and said: "Once the water in Mexico was undrinkable and cars

were made in Michigan, now the water in Michigan is undrinkable and cars are made in Mexico", a vacant rhetoric but that is how you gain votes.

The Left needs to realise, pertaining to be on the right side of history or holding a moral high ground is not enough. Demonising and vilifying anyone who disagrees with you creates an atmosphere where people like Trump flourish because no one is challenging anyone's views and they're stuck in their own self-righteousness. Recently, a Trump supporter was punched in the face, which was surprisingly condoned by the left. How on earth is it okay to punch someone in the face for whatever beliefs they hold. Disagree with someone? Punch them in the face, I mean this rhetoric is what Islamist extremists used for the Charlie Hebdo shooting. The Guardian was writing articles debating whether it's ethical to punch a Nazi, because lets arbitrarily tag Nazism to a man so we can justify someone physically assaulting him. You lose the minute you start using violence, because you're playing their game and the most brutal will win, whatever you stood for is now out of the window because you're simply no longer credible.

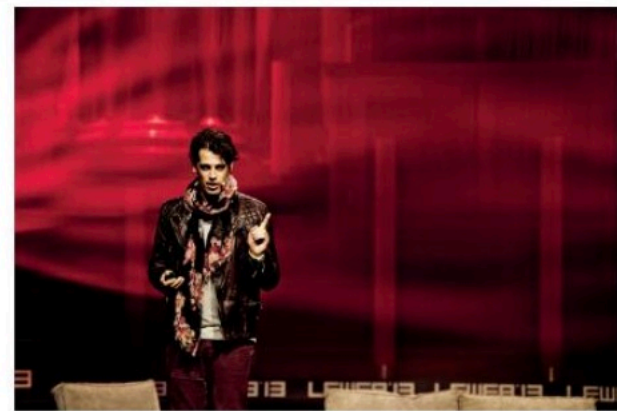


Image - OFFICAL LEWEB PHOTOS/flickr

Similarly, the students of the university of Berkeley burned private property and rioted in protest of a right-wing provocateur speaking on campus, this is the epitome of fascism. He has the right to speak, that's freedom of speech, but then leftist media came out in support of the riots, how idiotic is that. Immediately after the riots, Trump tweeted that this was an infringement of freedom of speech, and as much as I hate to say it he is right. There are no debates, no one is questioning the other side, we have forced campuses, a place where traditionally ideas and thoughts were questioned,

into becoming "safe-spaces". Everyone who disagrees with the Left is either a racist, misogynist, xenophobe, a basket of deplorable. How on earth are you expecting to change the minds of people when you're insulting them? Silencing someone's illiberal view is illiberal. The Left needs to get off its moral high horse and start giving some real alternatives.

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

"Demonising and vilifying anyone who disagrees with you creates an atmosphere where people like Trump flourish because no one is challenging anyone's views..."



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COMMENT

'PLEASE MAKE US VISIBLE'

Why we could all benefit from better representation

HARRIET CORKE



Image - mxmstryo/flickr

The Oscar nominations are being praised for their increase in diversity.

But back in the world of British TV, things are quite different.

The latest series of BBC's Sherlock had been met with allegations of 'queerbaiting': a term used to describe the inclusion of homoerotic

subtext purely to increase viewing figures. Fans claimed that the series trailer - in which Sherlock says 'I love you' - and the writers' statement that the finale would 'make history', led them to believe that a sexual relationship between Sherlock and John Watson would be confirmed. The absence of this led to anger and confusion from fans, who

expressed disappointment at once again being denied LGBT representation.

This is not the first time that the writers have been criticised: accusations of queerbaiting and misogyny have plagued the show for a few years. But, personally, this is the first time that I've considered these issues carefully. Perhaps it's because - as a white, straight,

cis woman - I am pretty well represented.

But if that's the case, why am I even paying attention to this lack of representation? Why should I care when I'm barely affected?

Well, let's think of it this way. You don't have to be a minority to realise that TV shows can be pretty bland. Most follow the usual formula: a heterosexual romance, often between two white protagonists. It's almost as if these stories come pre-packaged with every romantic trope you can imagine - and liberally decorated with minority stereotypes.

In a world where most of our knowledge about others comes from media, what exactly is TV telling us? By erasing minorities from big media platforms like television, writers show that they would rather guarantee ratings through "safe" shows, rather than improve their inclusivity.

Even when we see protagonists that defy the norm, they are let down by poor writing. In examining the women of Sherlock, we see that the writers are unable to create strong female characters. Irene Adler, for example, is more than a match for Sherlock - yet as the series progresses she is reduced to a mere romantic interest. This

is all the more disappointing when we remember she identifies as a lesbian, meaning the writers missed an opportunity to create genuine LGBT representation.

Diversifying television would open up the potential for a greater variety of projects that would reflect the multiculturalism of our society. But, more important than that, is what it would mean for minorities themselves. Many young people are so desperate for representation that they cling onto hope, making conspiracy theories even when they know that the writers cannot see the value in their views. The creators and actors of these shows even laugh at them, mocking the very idea that a protagonist who is a person of colour, or non-straight romance could ever seem credible on mainstream TV.

The demand is there - but where is the supply? Maybe it's up to us, the viewers and writers of the future to spread this message, so that we might finally get the representation we all deserve.

If you would like to write for the comment section email comment@theprintnews.co.uk with your ideas

THE SAFETY NET

Alberto Smith muses on the shallowness of modern society

ALBERTO SMITH

Never before has man been able to communicate with such ease but truly connect with such difficulty.

The ascendance of social media has signaled the demise of empathy and with it perhaps humanity as we know it. Just as the telephone signaled the end of distance as a limiting factor of communication, social media has signaled the end of reality. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter allow us to keep in touch with friends and acquaintances wherever we go, yet there is a cost to this social revolution.

Their invasive webs become a new dimension of interaction, corrupting the

minds and lifestyle of all who succumb to their burdensome worship. However, I should stress, this is not the theme of an Orwellian novel and Mark Zuckerberg is no 'Big Brother'; instead this is the plot of a Shakespearean tragedy and we, humanity, are the doomed protagonist. After all, in our quest for popularity whether posting a tweet in the hope of gaining numerous favourites or seeking to maximise Tinder matches, we are all draining the lifeblood of reality from society and therefore ourselves. We can all too easily seem supportive, enthusiastic or even suggestive at the click of a button but how often does this show of support

materialise into physical action? The safety net of a great number of friends on Facebook creates the façade of companionship and yet many people feel so alone. This 'click society' has led to an unprecedented simplification of human interaction and in turn, a popularity contest of which there is no winner.

We are so far removed from the effects of our actions that our sense of morality is irreversibly flawed, treating our fellow citizens as products which can be rated and discarded at will. As we are continuously subjected to brutal images and articles depicting the lives of others we have developed a sense

of false consciousness of their problems. Yet with this persistent exposure to the atrocities of the world instead of becoming more compassionate, we are in fact more removed and further numbed to the brutality of life with every viewing. This 'Hyper-Normalisation' of rudimentary content has forever changed our capacity for empathy, though we may

"... we are all draining the lifeblood of reality from society..."

not have felt the raw emotion of suffering ourselves, we feel a growing disdain and disinterest for the problems of others, due to our surface level exposure of the worlds issues at the touch of a mouse. Though the Internet age should have hailed a world of camaraderie, it has created a world of lonely individuals, united only in their conformity to the systematic marketisation of emotion. However, the extensive use of filters is perhaps societies greatest misfortune. The widespread use of filters to

improve images has radically changed societies perception of beauty, presenting us with standards that can never be realised.

This false aestheticism has set society up for an almighty fall; the impossibility of replicating this perceived perfection creates inflated expectations and aspirations that no-one can live up to because put simply those

standards do not exist. Social media is increasingly an echo chamber of positivity; rarely are negative experiences shared. This creates a sense that others are living perfect lives, something which is simply not true. This further enshrines a false hierarchy of aestheticism, popularity and societal value. Societies greatest sickness has forever been its failure to empathise and without substantial change perpetual depression is inevitable.

COLUMN

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

VEGANUARY,
MORE THAN JUST A NOVELTY
A fresher take on Veganism

CHARLOTTE WHITTAKER

CONgratulations to all the Veganuary Veterans who successfully spent 31 days abstaining from meat and dairy! I'm sure that during January your skin was clearer, you had much more energy and you generally felt much healthier and happier. However, what I'd like to know is how many of you, as soon as midnight struck on February 1st, delved into that forbidden bar of milk chocolate you've been staring at since New Year's Day. But most importantly of all, I'd like to know how many people started Veganuary and got a few days in before thinking "sod this; I'm having a cheese toastie for lunch."

Whilst Veganuary may seem to many like a fun challenge to partake in primarily to test one's self control, the underlying cause of Veganuary is to prove to those meat-eating sceptics that yes, it is possible to live a comfortable

life without consuming animal produce. The 31 days served to inspire participants to cook meat free dishes, switch to dairy-free alternatives and, overall, introduce the wider public to a more ethical and healthier lifestyle. I sincerely hope that all those who completed Veganuary didn't dive straight back into consuming beef burgers and cow's milk and fried eggs. To those who did, here's a reminder of the extensive benefits of being a vegan:

The animal industry is ultimately terrible for the environment. The production of soya, a cheap and rich source of protein used to feed animals, is directly responsible for deforestation with 5.6 million acres of land being used for soya plantations in Brazil.

3.5 billion humans could live off the food that we feed to livestock instead. A plant based, vegan diet is better

for humanity as food could be more fairly and evenly distributed.

Vegans are scientifically proven to be less likely to develop numerous diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, due to the lack of consumption of cholesterol and saturated animal fat.

Animal agriculture is a heavy contributor to climate change due to the releasing of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere through factory farms. According to PETA, the Environmental Protection Agency has found that "animal agriculture is globally the single largest source of methane emissions".

To put it simply, being vegan is just all round more ethical. Why would anyone want to consume dead animals when there are healthier alternatives which didn't cause any loss of life?

Whilst I do miss ordering a takeaway pizza and eating



Image - Helen Alfvegren/flickr

cookie dough ice-cream, all it takes is a quick look at PETA to remind myself of all the ways I'm helping society by choosing to abstain. Cravings are natural but easily beaten due to the delicious alternatives available at all major supermarkets. Plus, London is literally the easiest place to be Vegan ever. (Trust me, just go to Camden.) So to all the Veganuary Veterans, why stop at January? To all those meat eaters or vegetarians, why not give it a try now? It's never too late. If you can be vegan for one month, you can be vegan forever.

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SCIENCE AND TECH

THE POWER OF LOVE

A force from above, or something a bit closer to home?

ALEX RICHARDSON

At a time when hatred and anger is so prominent throughout our society, Valentine's Day is a chance to remind ourselves of how much we love each other.

Despite what the headlines may say, love is all around us: from platonic love shared with your friends to something more romantic with a special someone. Being able to love and cherish one another is often described as being one of the defining characteristics of being human. But at the heart of it, what really causes us to fall in love?

Hook

It turns out that the process of falling in love can be split into three rough stages. The first and perhaps most acknowledged of these is lust: being physically attracted to another person. Lust is a remnant from our evolutionary past, the leftovers of a hard-wired desire to find a mate for the continuation of our species. Two familiar hormones, oestrogen and testosterone,

are major influencers when it comes to lust, alongside the neurotransmitter dopamine. They are both important in men and women, with similar concentrations being found in the brain during this stage. It can take as little as four minutes for your body to decide that it is attracted to someone, with appearance, actions and the sound of their voice being the most influential factors. If only the rest of the stages were quite that simple...

Line

Stage two of falling in love is attraction, also known as being 'love struck'. At this stage, you may find it difficult to think of anything but the object of your affections, be it a man, a woman or your morning cup of coffee; potentially resulting in a loss of weight and sleep. Your brain will be full of dopamine, a neurotransmitter with similar effects on your brain to cocaine and amphetamines, as well as serotonin, a natural antidepressant, and adrenaline. The more you think of your true love, the

more of these chemicals are released, meaning your brain gets hooked on them rather quickly.

Sinker

The third and final stage is attachment, which takes over from the attraction stage as a relationship becomes more settled. Attachment, as far as your body is concerned, is about cementing the relationship to make it a perfect environment for children to develop.

fact, it plays an important role in building friendships as well. Smell?

There is however an outsider involved when it comes to falling in love. Pheromones are chemicals released by men and women alike that act as nature's way of ensuring you're a good match. People are much more likely to be attracted to someone if they subconsciously find their pheromones pleasing, as their

body thinks they would make a good mate. Pheromones are also biological indicators of being genetically similar: people who are related release similar pheromones, helping to prevent problematic genetic

defects down the line.

However, pheromones can be misleading and problematic. At the height of lust, it can be very difficult to tell if there's something there, often a result of each other's pheromones calling upon some of our more animalistic instincts. They can also be imitated by chemicals found in perfumes and colognes, which may or may not be a good thing.

Love, therefore, is not a magical force caused by Cupid and his bow and arrow, but is instead something much more complicated. It does not discriminate between race or gender, but instead follows decisions made by your brain. These may or may not be subconscious, but what is important is that they are real. Love is a very human reaction and not something to be ashamed of, so share your feelings of love, don't keep them bottled up, and forget about the hate and anger that the world wants us to see.

"It can take as little as four minutes for your body to decide that it is attracted to someone..."

AI,
OH MY

Artificial Intelligence is no longer the stuff of science fiction. In fact, it's already in your home...

ADNAN SALEHIN

Have you ever thought about Skynet from the Terminator movies or HAL from 2001: A Space Odyssey becoming real? We might soon be on the verge of developing artificially intelligent software which could be just as powerful as these villainous, intelligent machines or could even surpass them. Should we be worried about intelligent machines taking over the world? Or are the concerns being exaggerated?

What is Artificial Intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence is a term used to describe

systems that can mimic human behaviour and perform tasks that are partially or fully human-like. Some of these tasks include speech recognition, speaking, facial recognition, etc. The best way to build AI is by using a system called Machine Learning and using hardware in a special way known as an Artificial Neural Network.

Weak AI:

This type of AI already exists! You don't need to have human-level intelligence in a system to have it classified as artificially intelligent. Weak AI is AI that can perform specific tasks. These systems

are only good at the tasks they are designed to perform and nothing else. Digital personal assistants and automated customer service systems are examples of weak AI in use today and are very effective implementations of AI. We often undermine weak AI, but Google's DeepMind has recently developed an AI system called AlphaGo which managed to beat Lee Sedol, the best Go player on earth. This proves that even weak AI is capable of surpassing human intelligence in some cases.

Strong AI:

When thinking about AI, we usually think of strong AI. These are systems that would be able to perform several complex tasks rather than just one or two. They would be able to mimic human behaviour, or even surpass humans, while performing several general tasks such as speaking, controlling a spaceship or recognising people and their voices. Fundamentally, to be in this category, the system must be able to think and behave like us or better than us.

This type of AI does not yet exist but will possibly do so in the future. Skynet and HAL are examples of strong AI.

Future Prospects:

If AI does indeed reach strong levels in the future, we could face some problems. Some influential people, such as Stephen Hawking and Elon Musk, have warned against

the use of AI for weapons and dangerous tools. They are right to do so because we cannot let human lives be wiped out by an artificial software. That would be unethical and risky, to say the least. These concerns have cast a shadow of darkness around artificial intelligence and some think that its development should be halted for our safety. This approach, in my opinion, is completely wrong. Stopping the development of AI does not stop its misuse. Because of the amount of data collected online, even AI systems available today could be used in a threatening way. The collective voice of the scientific community supporting the further development of AI will

only benefit us as time passes. What should be carefully regulated, however, is the way we intend to use AI.

Scientists strive to invent something new and powerful, but it is up to us to decide if we use or misuse it. Nuclear power is a prime example of this, as we can use it for electricity supply or for bombs. I believe the future of AI is bright and hope that we get to see strong AI in our lifetimes, something which is highly likely. All we must do is keep it on a leash in terms of its capacity to cause harm. If we can direct the capabilities of strong AI towards inventions and problem solving, we might even make a huge leap in technological progress.

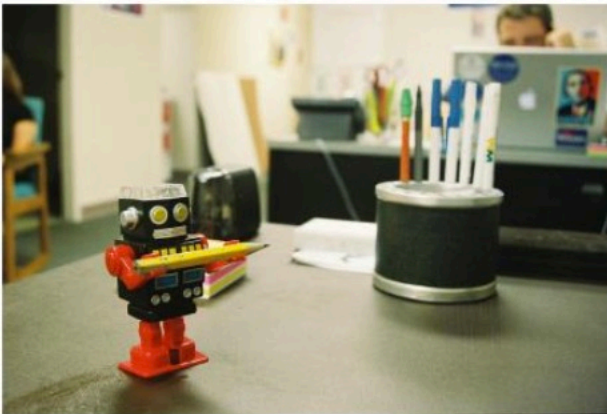


Image - Mathew Hurst/ flickr

SCIENCE AND TECH

TRULY *!&?@*#!

Research shows people who swear more are more honest (and it's not just a load of b*llocks)

LIAM PAPE



Image - Danielle Scott/flickr

Good news, serial swearers: researchers from Hong Kong, the Netherlands, the US, and the UK have found a correlation between the use of profanities and honesty. The findings, published in Social Psychological

and Personality Science in January, showed that in three experiments there was a link between the uses of blasphemy, crude language, sexual references and a person's integrity.

Dr David Stillwell, a lecturer at Cambridge University and a co-author of the paper, said: "Swearing is often inappropriate but it can also be evidence that someone is telling you their honest opinion. Just as they aren't filtering their language to be more palatable, they're also not filtering their views."

The study consisted of 276

people who were asked to write down their favourite and most commonly used swear words, as well as how often they swear and through what medium (whether speaking, texting, emailing or other form of communication). The participants were then asked to take a test to determine how much they lie.

In addition to this, the language from over 3.6 million Facebook status updates was analysed. Researchers recorded the amount of foul language used in each post and then looked for the common lexical choices associated with deception.

Finally, they examined

data on profanity from the United States, comparing it to the level of trustworthiness state by state. Those in New England, such as Connecticut and New Jersey, with a high profanity rate also rated highly for integrity, whereas southern states such as Georgia and South Carolina were on the opposite end of the spectrum.

In all of three experiments, more cursing equalled more honesty and nobility. So, next time you are trying to convince your flat mates that you didn't eat their food, or next time you're writing an essay with dubious 'alternative facts', remember to be a complete potty-mouth - it's science after all!

"Swearing is often inappropriate but it can also be evidence that someone is telling you their honest opinion."

WILDLIFE WATCH

Which animals are at risk of extinction in 2017?

FRANKIE CENCI

The pangolin, usually found across Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, is the world's most hunted species.

An estimated 100,000 are captured from their natural habitats each year, shipped to East Asia where their meat and scales are in huge demand. As a result, the pangolin has been added to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of animals threatened with extinction, as a precaution to protect the species. Charities such as Save Pangolin, founded in 2007, have been supporting the conservation of these animals around the world by raising awareness. The saddest part is that this species may become extinct before most of the world has even heard of it.

Another species under threat is also the world's fastest - the cheetah. It has seen a huge reduction in numbers with

only 7,100 left in the wild, half of the amount in 1975, according to a study published by the Zoological Society of London in December 2016. These numbers are expected to decline further by over 50% in the next 15 years. This reduction in the number of cheetahs can be attributed to poachers who wish to display their skin, and their cubs are also targeted by traffickers who go on to sell them to wealthy customers in the Middle East. Another key factor is the destruction of their natural habitat, meaning food is scarce and starvation common.

Closer to home is the hedgehog - in the 1950s the UK population was thriving at 35 million, but today that number is below one million. More research into the exact cause of the decline is needed, but it is likely that habitat loss and the poor placement of new roads and houses have a

"The World Wildlife Federation and the Zoological Society of London recently released a report predicting the loss of two-thirds of all wild animals by the year 2020."

big part to play. The Guardian estimates that over 10,000 hedgehogs die each year due to road traffic accidents. In an attempt to restore the number of hedgehogs, a project called Hedgehog Street has been created which helps to create wildlife walkways in which hedgehogs can travel safely between places.

The World Wildlife Federation and the Zoological Society of London recently released a report predicting the loss of two-thirds of all wild animals by the year 2020. This figure has been created using data that shows a decrease in wild animals of 58% between 1970 and 2012. The main reasons for this decrease are the destruction of habitats due to deforestation and desertification, along with pollution which will cause an increase in natural disasters such as long-term droughts and forest fires. Due to pollution, sea temperatures

will also rise which will cause problems for predators in fragile climates, such as polar bears. In addition to this, poaching and unsustainable fishing means that over 300 different species are being eaten into extinction.

What can you do? There are many ways you, as an individual, can help. One way is adopting an endangered animal. There are many opportunities to do this, for example, from the WWF website where you will be given monthly updates on how your animal is getting along. Alternatively, if you don't have the money you can always volunteer your time to help clean a local beach or local park.

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

SCIENCE AND TECH

WHY YOU SHOULD BOTHER WITH CONSERVATIONAL BIOLOGY

Biodiversity has a multitude of practical uses, as Matyas Bubna-Litic explains

MATYAS BUBNA-LITIC

It is not impossible to live in a world without much biological diversity.

Many parts of the world lack diversity in plants and animals simply because the conditions to survive in that environment are very harsh. This may be a desert or a tundra, where cold winters and dry summers only allow certain survival strategies to thrive. Indeed, even people can live in those places. A typical human may have a few dozen sources of energy; we have no need for the vast variation there is on Earth. Why should we protect diverse ecosystems when we must tackle famines, resource shortages and decreasing amounts of living space? Well, perhaps the most popular argument for the protection of biodiversity is a moral one. We share this planet with other species and it is our duty to not wipe most of them out. Another argument is biological

research and observation of wildlife, as biologists see this as crucial. Although it may not interest someone who dismisses the value of examining different forms of life, I intend to present a different line of reasoning.

Biodiversity is Valuable in Medicine and Technology!

As far as I am aware, most cultures throughout history used plants for medicine. Although this archaic tradition may seem redundant in modern medicine, the truth is we still rely on chemical compounds that come directly from nature. "Of the 252 essential chemicals that have been selected by the World Health Organization, 11.1% come from plants, and 8.7% from animals" (Marques 1997). The implications of losing the diversity in plants and animals around the world is putting future medical research at

risk. Through evolution, nature finds solutions to many problems and some revolutionary medicines, such as drugs against cancer like camptothecin and colchicine, substances against malaria and countless others, were only discovered thanks to examining obscure lifeforms. Eliminating species means eliminating sources of medicinally significant chemicals. It is not only the chemicals though - plants, fish, birds and insects all had to solve mechanical challenges and have all evolved solutions which may be exploited by engineers and innovators to move forward technological advancement.

The 6th Extinction?

Exploiting chemicals and mechanisms for our use has a limiting factor, that being the number of different types of species i.e. biodiversity.

Lately there is a great deal of talk about a possible anthropogenic (human-caused) sixth extinction - the follow-up to the main five extinctions in the history of complex life. Of course, loss of species is emotionally upsetting, but extinctions are natural, driven by evolution. The rate of extinction is however increasing due to overfishing and clearance of rainforests. The trouble with removing one species from an ecosystem is that many others may soon perish. Think of all the species-specific parasites which may have some interesting biochemistry for us to exploit. Furthermore, the former mass extinctions were usually caused by extreme changes in climate and the effects of climate change may soon kick in. Presumably they will not be as disastrous, but it is another factor to worry about.

How to help?

The prospects seem bleak and a high degree of extinction is probable because of the expansion of human settlements and need for resources. There are however multiple scenarios and there is a lot of room for improvement. An essential action that must take place is communication between scientists and advocates of biodiversity and politicians in countries like Brazil, China and the US to take conservation seriously, as the destruction of biological diversity will mean a slowdown in technological and medicinal advancement. Supporting the actions of institutions which campaign for conservation is important for the sake of humanity's wellbeing.

PAKISTAN'S POTENTIAL POPULATION PROBLEM

Pakistan is completing their first population census since 1998 and this is why it is important

DANIAL NAQVI

Pakistan is a troubled nation, fighting off politically contentious issues for decades whilst still trying to preserve national peace and serenity.

There has been no formal census in the last 19 years, meaning demographics have been calculated merely off guesswork and unofficial observations for far too long. With an expected population rise of 60 million people, will Pakistan finally get its act together and prove the end of a cycle of misrepresentation that the nation is ready to leave behind?

Previous censuses

Much like the history of Pakistan, the national census has had an equally forgettable past. Since the last census, in

1998, political issues in 2000 delayed plans till 2008, where a lack of preparation postponed measures to 2012. Despite a census being conducted in this year, officials threw out results for unreliability due to not including homeless children, transgender and other groups.

One might then question the validity of entrusting a government to conduct such a large-scale mission, especially with the controversy around 2012's results. There is an alternative. The NADRA is a database that holds information on citizens who hold a Pakistani passport and national identity card, including ex-pats. Problems start with basic issues, such as accessibility being near impossible. This method leaves the destitute unaccounted for,

so evidently the NADRA isn't remotely possible to use for a national approximation, as it excludes marginalised sections of society.

Why the census is so important

It has been nearly 20 years since Pakistan's citizens were documented. The national head count stood at just over 132 million people, and with an annual growth rate (1981-1998) of 2.69%, it is evident that Pakistan has grown to much larger capacities than in the late 20th century. Interesting figures such as an urban population of 32.5% are likely to have grown with the urban sprawl of Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore. It is somewhat hard to take much from this information, but the

2017 results could provide a key insight into how a country subject to political turmoil over the last 20 years has evolved.

In official global rankings, Pakistan has been the 6th largest country, in terms of population, for the last decade. For a country ranking top ten with its population, its economic performance falls below expectation. The fundamental issue here is not utilising the workforce and not engaging in global trade markets. This, combined with political instability, has prevented the growth rate of the economy. Perhaps the results of the forthcoming census will act as a 'wake-up call' for the government that, despite growing numbers of people, the nation has not moved forward unlike its neighbours China and India.

The 2017 census intends to alleviate all of Pakistani's concerns. For the first time there is an inclusion of people who consider themselves transgender, a movement welcomed by many liberal Pakistanis and critics worldwide. The Trans Action Group, who protest for transgender rights in Pakistan, estimates that 500,000 people would certify themselves under this category. The Pakistani government has introduced a new social policy since the last census that hopes to improve

education and women's rights. Many critics expect the 2017 census to make the government accountable for its implementation of this social policy, with hopes for improved results on social indicators.

What will the study show?

Official predictions put population numbers at 195 million, with fluctuation around 190 million for the last 5 years. The annual growth rate is expected to drop too. From 1998-2011, the predicted rate was 2.13% and this is suspected to fall by 0.1% when results arrive. Unsurprisingly, the urban population percentage stands just under 40%, which correlates tremendously with rural-urban migration patterns in the big cities.

With locals estimating population numbers reaching over 200 million, with an estimated population of 23 million in Karachi alone, is it possible that Pakistan is falling into a social downturn? More people and less money per person? Despite a bleak outlook, Pakistanis are optimistic that March 2017 will bring a sense of hope that has been truly lost for more than 19 years.

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THE GUILLOTINE

I. M. Peach Elementary School, Washington D.C.

Name of Student: Donald John Trump

Grade: 3

Teacher: Paul Ryan

Donald is a lively, enthusiastic student who always makes his presence known. Unfortunately, he can be very disruptive and sometimes even abusive towards his classmates. Donald needs to concentrate more on his work instead of belittling his peers, as he is in danger of being held back.

He also needs to stop wearing his bathrobe to class.

	Subject	Grade	Teacher Comments
1	Reading	D	Donald's reading ability is good, but he has a very short attention span. He can't concentrate long enough to read anything beyond 140 characters.
2	Writing	D	Donald is a good writer, but he often makes things up. Hopefully this is just a phase.
3	Speaking & Listening	F	Donald is a very enthusiastic contributor in every class. It is his listening, however, that lets him down. He tends to not take others' ideas on board, and has been known to call his classmates 'losers and haters' if they disagree with him.
4	Mathematics	E	Donald struggles with math. I am still trying to teach him that 10 + 4 does not equal one million billion dollars.

Image - Eric Wüstenhagen/ flickr

ASSOCIATE STUDENT 'NOT AS INTERESTING AS ANTICIPATED'

As if things couldn't get any worse...
HARRIET CORKE

It's only two months into 2017 and things are already going wrong for the inhabitants of 11 Creed Court, who have discovered that their new American flat mate is not the person they thought he was.

The student, known only as "Jake", was initially described as 'pretty cool' by his fellow students. Things quickly took a turn when they discovered that he is in fact 'pretty average'.

'I found his college stories interesting in the first couple of days', said one anonymous Creed Court resident, 'but after

"The cause is thought to be Queen Mary's abolition of the ISO (Interesting Students Only) policy, after finding that no student anywhere met the requirements."

that I kinda stopped listening. They were like longer, more monotonous versions of what I'd done the week before'.

Another said she lost interest 'the minute I found out he was from Nebraska'.

The discovery that associate students are in fact just ordinary students with different accents has become a common problem in recent years. The cause is thought to be Queen Mary's abolition of the ISO (Interesting Students Only) policy, after finding that no student anywhere met the requirements.

The students of Creed Court have expressed regret at this. 'If only the policy was still in place, we might not be dead inside'.

Their one consolation, they say, is that he didn't vote for Donald Trump.

Edit: It has since been established that Jake voted for Harambe. He has been suspended from his flat pending an investigation.

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE READY FOR THIS BELLY

Forget about Brexit, time the media focused on something important: Beyoncé's pregnancy
KYLE MAYHEW

It was a cold Wednesday evening and I was doing what any self-respecting, broke London student does... I demolished a pot of Häagen-Dazs. Please, no judgment; January is now over and it is finally once again socially acceptable to begin eating terrible food. Memories of my chaotic January were slowly fading away into the abyss and dreams of summer came to the forefront of my mind and then, without any warning, the notifications began rolling in – "TWINS".

The Internet was overcome with shock, surprise, and joy. These notifications were of course in reference to the great Beyoncé Giselle Knowles-Carter, who just announced to her millions followers on Instagram her incredible news that she and Jay-Z are expecting twins. Not only did she give us Lemonade, but she now graces us with (in addition to Blue Ivy) the future Destiny's Child 2.0. Quite frankly, we all needed a bit of good news in our lives since "You-Know-Who" became the leader of the free world. Executive Order anyone?

In a world where the far right are emerging just as quick as Usain Bolt at the Olympics, we all need some hope. We need to look to a true leader who knows how to use their power

"Quite frankly, we all needed a bit of good news in our lives since 'You-Know-Who' became the leader of the free world. Executive Order anyone?"

for the greater good... and this legendary diva gives us just that.

Here's hoping that we have a little President Knowles-Carter in the future, but in the meantime, while we contemplate the exciting news amongst rapid speculation that the birth of the twins will be streamed exclusively on Tidal (other music streaming services are available), I am going to open up another pot of Häagen-Dazs, find my credit card and buy that Tidal membership once and for all.



Image - Bigotes de Gato I Fotografia/flickr

HOROSCOPES

- Aries

Beware of falling down rabbit holes – they contain fake news.
- Taurus

It's too cold for you to go on a chivalric quest right now. Why not stay in and spend some quality time with your page?
- Gemini

I hate to tell you this, Gemini, but you're the subject of another prophecy. Look out for a wizard on a trapeze under cover of darkness – he will explain all.
- Cancer

Contrary to popular belief, you are not the Übermensch. Keep trying – you'll get there.
- Leo

Still looking for your Romeo/Juliet? STOP. STOP IT RIGHT NOW. IT'S NOT GOING TO END WELL.
- Virgo

If you hear a strange rumbling noise in the night, don't worry. It's just Big Brother snoring as he takes a break from watching you.
- Libra

If your friends are on your back about your behaviour, just blame it on the Oedipus complex. They'll understand.
- Scorpio

Just because you keep a diary, does not mean you will discover you are heir to the throne of Genovia. Your handwriting might improve though.
- Sagittarius

Home is where the heart is. Especially after you bury it under the floorboards.
- Capricorn

The stars tell me you will be like the Invisible Man this month. Personally, I don't see it.
- Aquarius

You will have a serious argument with your loved one. Retaliate by faking your own death and framing them for your murder.
- Pisces

Starting this month, there's a chance that you may be stranded on a desert island for twenty-eight years with no one but a cannibal and the shelves you built for company.

SATIRE

THIS BOOK IS GOING TO BE
HUGELY!

Extracts from Donald Trump's latest autobiography

MADDIE TYLER

Donald Trump. Whether you love him or hate him, he's definitely...something. The Print have managed to get hold of a chapter of Trump's soon-to-be-released and highly anticipated (?) autobiography Riches to More Riches: My Journey to the White House.

"Although I've only been President for a short while, I think it's fair to say I've already secured my place in history as the most loved. I'm a fresh face – I'm what the people of America want.

"The country has never been more unified. The Women's Marches brought people from around America and around the world together. No, the marches weren't against me – I brought

these people together. My presidency has united the country. We had an unbelievable turnout for the inauguration – maybe even record-breaking.

"I'm the most successful businessman the world has ever seen, so I told myself 'Donald. You need to give the losers a chance – try something new'. And that's when I knew I wanted to get into politics. I knew what I wanted, so I went out there and grabbed it by the p...pared. You know, the Spanish for wall. Yeah. Nobody builds walls better than me. And you know who'll pay? Mexico. Mark my words. We need to prevent another 7-Eleven... I mean 9/11.

"My father's small loan of a

"I'm the most successful businessman the world has ever seen, so I told myself 'Donald. You need to give the losers a chance – try something new'."



Image - Michael Vadon/flickr

million dollars is not how I got to where I am today. It was through blood, sweat, tears and extreme wealth determination. The point is that you can never be too greedy. You want something? Take it.

"The United States of America have never been more united than they are right now. That's a fact. And anyone that disagrees is a hater and a loser.

"I am the all-American president that this country needs to make it great again. Watch out America – The Donald is here and he means business".

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

THE SECRET DIARY OF THERESA MAY, AGED 60 AND A QUARTER

No one ever said being Prime Minister was easy – but Theresa May's diary reveals it's harder than we think

HARRIET CORKE

Due to recent world events, such as Brexit, the refugee crisis and the rise of Trump, excessive grovelling has become a necessity for politicians.

Theresa May is no exception: insiders say that the Prime Minister is 'exhausted' from having to stay up all night trying to make various world leaders like her.

Being British, this is not an easy task.

The Print has exclusively obtained an extract from Mrs May's diary. It serves to highlight how much she must sacrifice to keep this great country in the 'Adequate' books of our friends and allies. We hope that you, like us, will weep when you see the hard work our Prime Minister does on her (and possibly our) behalf.

6th – 7th February
Hours grovelling: 15 (v good)
Hours being good PM: 1 (v bad)

Hours stalking Donald Twitter: 4 (v necessary)

7am: Woke up and had breakfast with Philip. Polished leather trousers ready for trip to Parliament later.

9am: Rang Angela Merkel; have to grovel to her practically every day now, ugh. Think our relationship is getting better the more I call – she actually spoke to me this time!!

11am: Continued grovelling, this time with François Hollande. Seemed a bit distracted; said he was deleting spam emails from Marine Le Pen.

1pm: On my way to Houses of Parliament for cabinet meeting. Have tweeted about what I've been up to: hopefully now Senpai will notice me!

1:20pm: Back home – kept meeting short as everyone wanted to go to Wetherspoons.

2:25pm: Still don't think Senpai noticed me. Still, had a good afternoon gossiping with Enda Kenny and Beata Szydło on WhatsApp. Grovelled a bit but kept it to a minimum in case they tease me about Brexit again.

2:50pm: Donald texted and says he's going to call me in 5 minutes! Finally – Senpai noticed me!!

3am: Microwaving some dinner after 12 hours of grovelling to Donald. We really are a great team – I think he's a talented, charismatic, world-changing leader, and he acknowledges that I myself am also a leader. Mutual respect between us has been established from day one; long may it continue.

3:10am: Just remembered I have to be up at 7am tomorrow. Ugh!

3:30am: Had a quick look at the

news before bed and apparently Donald wears his bathrobe round the White House?! Who could have guessed?

4am: Finally off to bed. Have written schedule and put bathrobe out ready for PMQs

tomorrow.

4:30am: Can't sleep; monogramming bathrobe.

4:31am: Just realised it's the perfect time to grovel to Malcolm Turnbull! Hopefully Donald doesn't find out...



Image - DonkeyHotey/flickr

SOCIETIES

QM FASHION SOCIETY IS TRENDING

What's hot and what's not judged by last year's Best New Society

BIANCA BALUTA

This year started with our first welcome social where we presented our society to our 50 new members and giving them the chance to meet each and every one through speed meeting.

This was a success as our new members instantly clicked and shared their ideas for the society. Members of the committee also introduced themselves and highlighted the timeline of exciting socials and skills session to come. After the meeting, we went for pizza and mulled over the group's ideas together. We also announced the winner of our design contest who went home with a Topshop voucher and free membership to the society.

The next event was a drinks social, which was then followed by a trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Our group of photographers applied their new photographic and perspective skills to create a beautiful album which can be found on our very own Facebook page (facebook.com/groups/QMSUfashion).

December saw our photographers, stylists, models and bloggers (fresh from skills sessions!) practice

and collaborate to create some stylish content for the society. We were helped by Somewhere to, a non-profit venue provider, who offered us two hours in one of their new Holland Park locations. The blogging team is now working on a collaboration with the CUB magazine and the styling team has since then promoted two on-campus vintage fairs in collaboration with University Vintage Fairs.

Our plans for the next semester include a shopping trip (which will include a stop at the delightful Selfridges on Oxford Street), a fashion related movie night in collaboration with the Green Society and 2017/18 committee election night.

During the year, the society also gained four new ambassadors, who promote the society and cement its on-campus brand. We also welcomed a new communications representative who will be in-charge in ensuring that both our on and off-campus events run smoothly. Social media has been a growing brand distribution tool for us – we now have over 650 members following us on Facebook and over 350 on Instagram. This



Image - QM Fashion Society

will allow us to promote our future events to an even larger audience.

Fear not, though; we intend to grow greater still. Find us at: Email: qmsufashion@gmail.

com Facebook: QM Fashion Society Twitter: @QMFashionSoc Instagram: qmfashionsoc Tumblr: www.qmfashion. tumblr.com

Become a member: www.qmsu.org/groups/fashion

LGBT+ SOCIETY CELEBRATES PRIDE WEEK

Lucien Cross talks LGBT+ visibility and liberation through vibrant events and more – “Gayser Tag”, anyone?

LUCIEN CROSS

Over Pride Week (6th – 10th of February), the QM LGBT+ Society coordinated with the student's union in offering ten events for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students on and off-campus.

We started the week with a stall in library square offering information about the upcoming events, giving non-members an opportunity to find out more about LGBT+ people and our community at Queen Mary. Each day we held a different social event celebrating each different demographic in our society: Lesbian Lunch, Gay Gathering, Bisexual Brunch, and Trans Tea. These were all well-attended and were a safe space for people to make friends with other Queen Mary students.

We had our most successful round of free HIV testing with our associate charity Positive East in Ground on Tuesday. This was followed by the Literary Inspirations Evening where students could share pieces of poetry and prose that meant something to them as an LGBT+ person. We had readings that ranged from Elizabeth Bishop to RuPaul Kaur to traditional Welsh hymns. Our society plans to hold more events in this style where LGBT+ people can share their own pieces of work. This week marked the 30th anniversary of Mark Ashton's passing, the founder of Lesbians And Gays Support the Miners (LGS) and an important part of queer left-wing history.

Our most popular events included “Gayser Tag” and a



Image - QMSU

screening of the film “Pride”, which is a film that encourages cooperation and mutual support between minorities and liberation groups. We had 20 people attend our laser quest event and received a lot of positive feedback on this alcohol-free outing, making it another event we now intend

to repeat regularly. A night out to Dalston Superstore, a gender-neutral queer bar in East London, also proved to be popular.

We gained lots of new members in our Facebook group “QM LGBT+ Society” during Pride Week. It was not only a week celebrating

political, educational, social awareness with regards to the LGBT+ but a week filled with inclusive and productive fun for the members of our society and other LGBT+ people, as well as their friends at university.

SOCIETIES

COME AND AVOCUDDLE

The Vegan and Vegetarian Society talk Cowspiracy, tasty non-chicken and dairy-free social fun

HANNAH GRANGE SALES, HARPREET PADWAL, IZZIE MORGAN AND RORY MCDONNELL



Image - BLQM Vegan and Vegetarian Society

Being a relatively new society, founded a few years ago, we are here with the aim to inform and enlighten students about the world of meat free - and potentially dairy free - products.

We do this by bringing people together and organising various events with the purpose of socialising with new people, taste good veg*n (vegan and vegetarian) food, and, most importantly, raising awareness about the heart-breaking treatment of animals in the meat and dairy industries.

We dedicate time organising fun events for anyone who is part of our society, or anyone wanting to join us. We organise pot-lucks: a social where everyone brings a piece of food - vegan, please (*happy face*) - and shares it around! Sometimes we screen documentaries and movies, ranging from Cowspiracy to Spirited Away. This is a great opportunity to interact with Vegsoc and committee members, and simply have fun.

As mentioned earlier, events with other societies are organised. This semester we are hoping to join up with more societies, including Baking society and QMSALAW (Queen Mary Student Association of Lawyers for Animal Welfare), to host events with them. We will also organise trips to veg*n restaurants. This includes going to the 'Temple of Hackney', a vegan fried 'chicken' (we still can't believe it's not Chicken) shop. We look forward to seeing you at these events - member or not.

We believe that advocating for ethical treatment of animals is of great importance - on and off campus. An inquisitive individual may ask: why? Animals are kept in heinous conditions on factory farms - so heinous that it would break your heart. Don't worry, we aren't forcing you to go vegan or vegetarian. We just want to raise awareness about this on campus by inviting animal welfare organisations.

Last December, we had the privilege of having 'Animal Equality' come to the Mile End campus and provide

an immersive experience of factory farm life (which by the way is unsustainable to the environment) - the iAnimal experience. The iAnimal experience used virtual reality to better understand the life of an animal in a factory farm, allowing users to see first hand the life of livestock in an Industrial farm. This semester, 'Animal Equality' will again come to campus. So, come and visit us!

Being vegetarian and vegan may be tough at times, but believe me, it will go a long way in reducing the suffering of animals and being more sustainable. We all want that, don't we? For anyone wishing to go vegetarian, or potentially vegan, you don't have to give up your favourite food (personally, I like cherry and almond brownies). There's an animal free alternative for most of it.

If you want any advice, you can always approach us for help. For further information, please visit our Facebook page, 'BLQM Vegan and Vegetarian Society'. We look forward to seeing you in the future!

QUEEN MARY TALENT SHOW 2017

Do you have what it takes to be Queen Mary's freshest talent?

SIMONE SURESH

Calling one, calling all! Yes, even you in the back. We see you! Walking around Queen Mary we are all quite aware of the different characters who fill our lecture halls and seminar rooms. What we want to know, however, is what lies beneath the surface. Ever wondered what secret talents your classmates have, or have a talent yourself that you would love to perform? Consider this event your moment to shine.

From musical acts, stand-up comedy, poetry slam, group performances to funky dances! We aim to bring together people from different Schools, students and lecturers alike, as a way to encourage communication and interaction between the disciplines—all in the name of FUN. However if the word fun in itself does not seem appealing, the first place prize is £100 CASH followed by £50 CASH for the runner up.

Now for a little more about your hosts —Material Science & Engineering is an academic society which promotes and supports the development of current students as well as those who are interested in the subject. For those who

are a little unsure as to what "Material Science" entails, fear not. It's predominantly the application of concepts from physics, chemistry as well as engineering disciplines to improve the quality of life by increasing the efficiency of the products we use.

We run events which encompass the academic as well as social elements of university life. Our aim this year has specifically been to encourage engineers to think more about their creative and entrepreneurial sides. Highlights this year have included talks by industry leaders at Instron who gave students an insight into graduate schemes at the company. In addition, we have also given away tickets to TEDxEastEnd and hosted several fundraising events: from our 'Curry&Rice' on those gloomy Monday afternoons in library square to the Christmas social at Kitchen Pizzeria. It is safe to say we are not your average academic society.

The talent show is also being hosted by Engineers without Borders (EWB) whose aim is to work on projects both in the UK as well as internationally. These projects aim to change the way students and future

engineers contribute to real world applications.

If you think you have what it takes to win QM Talents Show 2017, you can find us on Facebook (Queen Mary Material Society) for details about the audition dates and times. Membership to our society is only £3.50 and if any of the events sound of interest to you, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

The finale of QM Talent Show will be happening on the 17th of March 2017 in the Arts 2 LT. Auditions for the Finale are being hosted on the 16th and 17th of February in Engineering 2.09.

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

£100 CASH PRIZE

QUEEN MARY TALENT SHOW

AUDITIONS

Thursday 16th Feb (2-3pm)
Friday 17th Feb (3-5pm)

Engineering 2.09

Queen Mary University of London
Students' Union

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SOCIETIES

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PUBLIC

QM Pro Bono Society members share more than just their legal knowledge

ZE-EIE WONG

Who We Are We are a student-led non-profit organisation with over 250 members. The Society focuses primarily on increasing access to justice and understanding of various areas of the law by engaging members in volunteering, fundraising and networking opportunities.

What We Do 'Pro Bono Publico', meaning 'for the good of the public' is at the heart of the activities we organise. Our society comprises 10 departments, each of which endeavours to provide students with a variety of opportunities to contribute to society.

Our Departments Charities

This department works with local charities through regular volunteer placements and fundraising events. Notably, we organised a Winter Ball in December 2016 where over £2000 was raised for the Whitechapel Mission. We also have strong links with City and Hackney MIND as well as Whitechapel Mission.

Human Rights Aiming to encourage students to recognise the importance attached to human rights, we organise placements and case-work projects for students to gain a practical

understanding of what human rights entails for individuals and the communities they live in. This includes events such as research placements with Amicus-ALJ, summer placements with legal non-profit organisations in the United States and a Sixth Form Human Rights Moot in collaboration with St Paul's Way Trust School.

Street Law

This department aims to provide support, education and guidance to our immediate community. We have partnered with Tower Hamlets College (THC) to organise sessions designed to inform and engage sixth form students interested in pursuing a legal career. We have links with local organisations such as the Tower Hamlets Community Church and the ELT Centre. In addition, we are partners with the national domestic violence charity, Refuge. Through a variety of fundraisers, speeches and inspirational lectures we continue to support Refuge, whilst increasing awareness about the issue of domestic violence. Additionally, we have created a unique internship programme with this organisation, which focuses on reviewing legal aspects of their fundraising activities.

Placements

The Placements Department provides opportunities for students to shadow and assist solicitors from various high-profile City law firms at free legal advice clinics. We currently collaborate with five partner firms, namely, Reed Smith, Berwin Leighton Paisner, Dentons, Clifford Chance and DLA Piper and aim to give our members a growing range of opportunities to gain legal experience.

International Placements

This department strives to provide members with opportunities to undertake pro bono placements on an international level, for those who wish to expand their notions of pro bono work whilst promoting independence and broadening their world view. We currently offer summer placements with various legal organisations in Cyprus, India, Ghana, Hong Kong, Kenya, South Africa, Singapore, Uganda and the United States.

Green Law

This department intends to inform awareness of, and a hands-on participation in, environmental issues. Our members volunteer at the Whitechapel Mission, City and Hackney MIND, and we also work with the Holy Cross centre. A key event to look out for is our annual second-hand

law book sale where students can get core law textbooks at reduced prices. Half of the proceeds from this sale is donated to charity.

The Advocate

This department aims to encourage students to engage with current legal affairs and issues and express their opinions on them through the written word. The Advocate produces several digital publications throughout the year and aims to foster greater legal awareness through shedding light on legal issues that our students are passionate about. Our latest issue features an exclusive interview with careers consultant, Karen Watton. Our publications can be found at <http://issuu.com/theadvocatelegalnews>

Health Awareness

This department focuses on the well-being of the students and self care. This year, the Health Awareness department organised an art therapy session, where students had the opportunity to learn about mindfulness through painting and experience the benefits of using art as a means of coping with stress.

Member Development

This department focuses on fostering connections between students and their prospective future employers. We

organise events that provide students advice on matters such as career development, organisation of studies and CV enhancement. Most notably, we hold an annual Speed Networking event, sponsored by Norton Rose Fulbright where law students have an opportunity to interact with legal professionals from different law firms and ask them any question they might have about the legal career. Some of the esteemed law firms that have participated include Norton Rose Fulbright, Berwin Leighton Paisner, Linklaters, Reed Smith and Herbert Smith Freehills. We also recently organised a talk on alternative legal careers with speakers coming in from companies such as Ofcom, the Financial Conduct Authority, the Fairtrade foundation and Barclays.

Where to Find Us

If you would like to find out more about our departments and keep up with our events, please feel free to check our social media links.

Website: qmpbs.weebly.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/QMPBS>
Twitter: @QMPB
Instagram: queen_mary_probono
Snapchat: QMPBS

THE NEXT STEP FOR A 'GREENER' QMSU

Your first ever Sustainability Officer will help build a bright green future

JORDAN SMITH

The success of Team Green during last year's Student Union elections has brought about a brand new and extremely exciting opportunity for students who are interested in environmental activism.

For the first time, Queen Mary Student's Union will be getting a fully elected cross-campus Sustainability Officer thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Queen Mary Young Greens who you voted onto Student Council in 2016.

This is a significant step forward in committing both the Union and the University to evaluating, and consequently reducing, our impact on the local environment. It will also aim to empower students to have an even louder voice for their ideas on how Queen Mary and The Barts and London can become even greener and even

greater!

The role will create a specific space for student interests to be represented at the Universities Environmental and Ethical Group. The group meets once a month to ensure that the activities of all departments of the union are meeting the standards and values that we as students believe in. Before we took this action, there was no commitment to have student views represented in the group and thus this motion has strengthened the democracy of QMSU by giving students more opportunities for participation and representation.

It also gives the elected student the responsibility to work alongside the President of the Student's Union in campaigning on key environmental issues, organise accessible events and provide sustainability

awareness training to enhance your career opportunities. All of these will be of great benefit to future student campaigns in this area, accelerating the great achievements made by the QMBL Fossil Free campaign which last year successfully lobbied the University to divest more than £500,000 from fossil fuel companies, meaning your money is no longer being invested in unsustainable, dirty energy.

The motion, which was proposed by QMYG Lewis Williams and seconded by other Young Greens Laura, Josephine, Rob and Lucy, had previously failed to pass back in April, but Climate Change is such an important issue to us all that we simply would not give up on putting pressure on QMBL to take this issue seriously. Lewis said that "we felt that QMSU could be working harder in order to

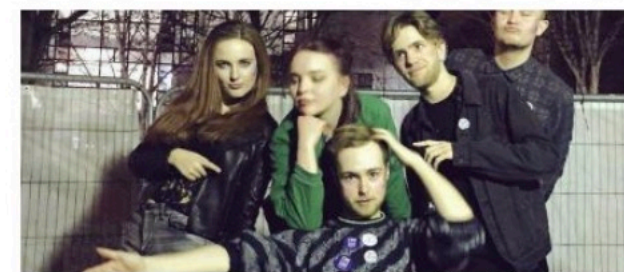


Image - Queen Mary Young Greens

become more sustainable. I re-proposed this motion, modifying it to become a cross-campus position and taking on board some of the critiques from other council members who voted against the motion at the last meeting."

"The motion passed without a single vote cast against it. As the proposer, I hope that whoever runs for and is elected into this role will continue to

push both the university and union into becoming more sustainable, in innovate and engaging ways."

If you think that you have what it takes to represent student's views on environmental issues then why not run in this year's Student Union elections by filling out a nomination form which you can pick up from The Hub.

SPORT

BATTING FOR BADMINTON

Grab a racket, grab a shuttlecock and try one of the funnest sports around

ADNAN SALEHIN

Ever since I started playing badminton, when I was about 5 or 6 years old, I have always been attached to the sport in one way or another. I played at school, at home, practically anywhere I got the opportunity to play. This is why the first thing I did at freshers' fair was to find out about the QM Badminton Club and speak to the club's committee about ongoing activities and available memberships. I found out that they had a keepy uppy competition going on at freshers, where the person with the highest score at the end of freshers' fair would win a badminton racquet. At that moment, I was actually looking to buy a racquet for myself to play badminton with the club. I found this to be a good opportunity to test my luck at the competition. When I enquired about the existing record score, I was told that it was around 130. I had 3 tries to try and beat the existing highest score and hope that no one else was able to exceed

my lead. On the first go, I dropped the shuttle at 110. The second time, it went worse and I dropped it at 40. I was beginning to lose faith at that point. But, I still had one more chance, so I took a deep breath and started again. I crossed 130 this time and was ecstatic about it. But, I kept calm and continued to increase my score. I had to get a decent gap so that I did not get beaten by someone else later in the day. To my surprise, I was able to keep the shuttle up for a really long time, to the point where my hand actually started to hurt and I had lost count. When I finally dropped the shuttle, and asked the club's official referee what my score was, she exclaimed that it was 451! I was overjoyed when I was awarded the racquet on the final day of fresher's fair. I was extremely motivated to improve my badminton skills. So, I did not need any invitation to sign up for the badminton club's intermediate membership.

“...the first thing I did at freshers' fair was to find out about the QM Badminton Club and speak to the club's committee about ongoing activities and available memberships.”

This membership allowed me to train with a coach every Sunday with a small group of players, as well as play casually in social sessions. I enjoyed each and every one of the sessions, they were very different from the social sessions. Everyone was more focused on improvement and training themselves. The coach was very helpful and always gave the best advice on self-improvement and practising strategies. I believe I have learnt a lot during my time practicing there and I couldn't have done so on my own. A few weeks later, I was notified by the club's president about a new vacancy – the role of a badminton activator. It was a volunteering role that was aimed at engaging more students with badminton. As I am passionate about badminton myself, I felt that I could motivate others around me as well and speak about my attachment to badminton. I applied for the role right away and was soon accepted

after I had attended a brief interview. A few weeks after that, I received an invitation to attend a training session for badminton activators at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes. It was an amazing experience and I learned a lot about badminton activities that are not limited to just regular playing sessions. Different methods of practice and fun versions of the game were introduced in the session. I met a lot of other activators from different universities all over the UK and learnt a lot about their badminton clubs as well. My badminton experience at QM Badminton Club has been breath-taking. I have met a lot of new people who are even more passionate about the sport than I am and I feel right at home with them every time I go to play. I believe playing badminton can teach us a lot and is an activity that everyone should experience at least once in their lives.

NO ONE LIKES US, WE DON'T CARE

Despite the best efforts of Lewisham council, Millwall will remain at The Den

ANNA SAVAGE

Flicking through a box of childhood photos while I was home, I noticed a recurring theme. Almost every picture in which I feature, I was wearing at least one article of Millwall FC's team kit. My family's photo albums could be donated to the club for historical significance, their kit appears so frequently. I have been going to The Den since I was three. I would sit at our door, scarf in hand, and wait for my Dad to take me to the match. I would get up on the seats and scream 'Richard Sadlier Ooo Ahhh' at the top my lungs, Dad would lament about the Old Den and, on one memorable occasion, I managed to get a train full of rowdy Wall supporters singing the Wall version of 'Que Sera Sera'. Some of my happiest childhood memories were

made in that football ground which made hearing that the team may relocated feel like a personal tragedy. Lewisham council announced plans to implement a compulsory purchase order, buying up pieces of land which surrounds The Den. This led to the Millwall Chief Executive announcing that the team may have been forced to relocate to Kent despite being based in the London borough for over 100 years. The council stated that the aim of the plan was to regenerate the area by building over 2000 new properties. The Guardian uncovered that the foundation at the centre of the project, The Surrey Canal Sports Foundation, had been told in 2014 to stop making false funding claims that pushed the scheme forward but they continually claimed to pledge £2m

until January 2017. Sir Steve Bullock, mayor of Lewisham, heads the foundation and it is backed by an offshore-resisted developer, Renewal,

which has attempted to buy land that belongs to the club. Both organisations deny the allegations but it feels a little too coincidental. When it looked like the Lions would be forced to leave London, the backlash forced the CPO to be dropped. Notable supporter, Danny Baker, wished caner upon those involved. I think what is most upsetting is that the evicting of Millwall FC was attempted in the name of “regeneration”. This club has been a part of the Lewisham community for over a century. It supports a number of London based charities such as Peckham Foodbank and London Taxi Benevolent Association of War Disabled. Millwall Community

Trust engages with various community projects, most notably they work aiming to rehabilitate local young offenders using sporting workshops through the London Premier League Kicks programme. Thankfully, the roar of the fans was enough to ensure the club could remain in Lewisham. Once again I can grab my Millwall scarf, head down to The Den and scream the famous Wall anthem of one syllable, ‘MIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII’. That cry will echo around the ground much like it echoed around the Lewisham council office.



Image – Matt Brown/flickr

SPORT

BOLSTERING BOLT

The fastest man alive has had to return a gold medal from 2008 after a teammate was found guilty of doping

RACHAEL GRIFFITHS

“Triple-triple” track and field and nine times Olympic champion Usain Bolt has been stripped of one of his nine (yes, nine) Olympic gold medals after one of his 4x100 teammates recently tested positive for a banned substance. All four members of the Jamaican relay team have thus been disqualified; the gold will subsequently be awarded to the silver medallists of the relay, Trinidad and Tobago; Japan will be upgraded to silver; Brazil to bronze. The ignominious list of the fastest men in the world to fail a drugs test grew last month when a 2008 sample of double Olympic champion Nester Carter was retested, and was found to contain traces of an energy-boosting substance known as Methylhexanamine. This stimulant has been prohibited on the World's Anti-Doping Agency since 2004. Yet, this news is all too common in the high-profile drug scandal sport that is athletics. Bolt himself however, is now the only one out of six 100m

runners not to have been found guilty of doping, but whilst the Jamaican athlete stayed clean, his rivals have fallen. Fellow Jamaican Asafa Powell served a six-month ban for banned stimulant use; American Tyson Gay “I think I've still accomplished a lot – it hasn't changed what I have done throughout my career...” tested positive for anabolic steroid use and Justin Gatlin has been banned twice after failing drugs tests. Tension grew between Bolt and Gatlin after the latter excitedly told celebrity gossip website TMZ before the Rio Olympics, “I'm going to win!” (He didn't). Bolt first sprinted onto our screens in the 2008 Olympics, winning Jamaica's first Gold medal of the games and later

breaking both world and Olympic Records in the 100m and (now redundant) 4x100 relay. Carter, the sixth fastest 100m runner of all time, ran the opening leg of the relay, aiding Jamaica storm to victory in a then world-record of 37.10 seconds. The London 2012 games only substantiated the athlete's success as Bolt sprinted into Olympic immortality by becoming the first man in history to defend the 100m and 200m sprint titles, breaking his own Olympic record in the former, and also winning gold in the 4x100 relay. Bolt won three more gold medals at the Rio Olympics at which he garnered the accolade “tripe triple” from commentators after winning medals in the same three events in three Olympics games. Jamaican sprinter Nester Carter did not compete in the summer Olympics after news emerged that the athlete's samples were among the many to be retested using latest scientific techniques to ensure no drug cheats

attended Rio. Carter had been fighting to clear his name, but the International Olympic Committee confirmed last month that he had tested positive for a prohibited substance. Bolt, 30, recently told The Gleaner that this Olympic medal loss should not tarnish his legacy. “I think I've still accomplished a lot – it hasn't changed what I have done throughout my career”. He added it was “rough” to give back one of his medals but that there is not animosity between Carter and himself. “Nester and I are still friends. We came up through the ranks in high school, so we're still friends, I really don't have a problem with Nester”. Bolt has also said he will not allow this situation to detract from his farewell season, aiming to retire after the World Championships in London this summer.



Image - Nick Webb/flickr

WHY I'M EXCITED FOR TENNIS IN 2017

The future of tennis looks very bright

RUBINA NAHAR

With the early exits of Andy Murray (4th round) and Novak Djokovic (3rd round) in the Australian Open there was much excitement in the build up to the final in Melbourne. Most tennis fans were hoping for a fairytale ending, a final between Roger Federer, one of the greatest players to grace the tennis court, and Rafael Nadal, the undisputed “king of clay”. They didn't disappoint. A five set thriller, in the final set Rafa was a break up, but somehow (a couple of stunning back hand slices!) Roger dug deep to get the win. It's incredible to see the sheer strength from both players after significant time away from tennis. Roger, out since Wimbledon last year, rolled back the years, playing some of his best tennis in a long time. Rafa's injuries aren't a secret, early exits in majors have been a big problem from the Spaniard. However, his sheer strength over a couple of five set matches shows that his injuries may finally be behind him. What a stage that sets up for the French Open. The defending champion, Novak Djokovic; world number 1, Andy Murray; Australian Open champ, Roger Federer and the man with the most French Open titles, Rafael Nadal will all compete, for the first time since probably 2012/13 each player will be up there for the win. Could this be the return for the “Big Four” in tennis? Who knows. Stan Wawrinka and Milos Raonic may have a thing or two to say about that. It's also going to be an interesting year in women's tennis. Serena Williams, after

her epic win over her sister, Venus in the Australian Open is back to world number 1, pushing Angelique Kerber off the top spot. She's now beaten Steffi Graf's 22 Grand Slam haul, and is one short off Margaret Court's record. Could Serena win all four majors this

year? I would not put it past her. We could have four different grand slam winners in men's tennis. Serena could possibly win the calendar grand slam. I'm excited for what's in store for tennis this year.



Image - Ian Gampon/flickr

“[Serena Williams has] now beaten Steffi Graf's 22 Grand Slam haul, and is one short off Margaret Court's record.”

SPORT

SPORT 2017

The New Year means another year of monumental sporting feats and events

SHAKIR HUSSAIN

2016 was an exciting and unpredictable year in sports.

Leicester won the Premier League, causing pandemonium across the world. They won the title ahead of wealthy Premier league giants such as Manchester United and Arsenal only a year after promotion, making this an unprecedented accomplishment in modern times. This was for the people of Leicester beyond their dreams; a fairy-tale moment, one that will live the test of times as generations tell this story to the next.

Everyone loves an underdog story. Stories like this give everyone hope that anything is possible. It shows that money is not a deciding factor but hard work, passion and discipline is most important. This is the real beauty of sports and we hope to see more moments

like this in 2017.

A big negative of current times is how sports is becoming less accessible as the greed of TV companies mount. Sky Sports and BT Sports are monopolising sports between themselves. All sports used to be on terrestrial TV before Sky came around. This means less exposure to those sports which is a massive concern. With subscription prices expected to increase, something has to give in 2017 to ensure that being a sports fan does not have a price.

We want to see the barrier between fans and sports shatter. Increasing prices in sports have alienated many fans from their game. Especially in the Premier league, a lot of loyal supporters just can't afford to go anymore. Atmosphere in the stadiums have consequently suffered when it should be bouncing.

These clubs and TV companies need to remember that fans are the backbone of sports.

Cheating has no place in any sport. The current doping scandals in Athletics have damaged credibility. It is a sad predicament that many fans of both Athletics and Cycling cannot enjoy their sport without speculating whether the athlete has cheated. More must be done to counter doping to clean our sport so everyone can enjoy it once again.

A positive highlight of last year was Conor McGregor who is arguably one of the biggest names in sport right now. McGregor's charisma and aura has attracted millions of new fans to MMA, myself included. McGregor is an elite talker and fighter who has captivated the world with his performances in the Octagon. Personalities like McGregor add intrigue

"We want to see the barrier between fans and sports shatter. Increasing prices in sports have alienated many fans from their game."

and more characters like him can only be good for sports.

Fans need more heroes to get behind. Andy Murray, Lewis Hamilton and Anthony Joshua are the best around in their respective sport. They inspire the youth to be the next Andy Murray and this will mean a new generation of elite sportsmen.

Sports are most enjoyable

when you can dream, when you have heroes you strive to emulate, when the games are fair and accessible to everyone. I hope that 2017 will be a great year for sports fans.

Would you like to write about your sport club? Email sport@theprintnews.co.uk

FAME, FORTUNE AND FERRARIS

Football will never be the same

DANIAL NAQVI



Image - thearticblues/flickr

Britain is football-mad. Even if you tried, you couldn't escape this cornerstone of British culture. It has its roots in being accessible to the masses. That working-class lad who saved his pennies from a hard week's work could always

find release standing in the terraces with his best friends, beer in hand and singing at the top of his lungs. That's what I used to know as football. Has this tradition dissipated? Is football becoming more elitist day-by-day?

Investment in the Premier League could explain why the culture that we all know and love has evolved. Teams such as Chelsea and Manchester City go at loggerheads trying to spend more than each other in the summer transfer window. It's battle of the bank balances rather than flair and tactics. I'd like to rename the transfer market to the human roulette. It's only appropriate. Why? I understand, players being sold from club to club for a large sum of money have the responsibility to perform. But, the demands set for new arrivals stretch to being inhumane in some cases. These football players are human after all. The pressure from fans, coaching staff, club board and the media, can all be too much for players to adapt instantaneously.

As a result of overspending on players, clubs have been forced to inflate ticket prices to prevent bankruptcy. To see

a home game at Chelsea, for example, starts at £52 each but if you take into account the average ticket costs of £30, and consider harsh times due to less disposable income and more expensive living conditions, it's hard to get the weekly allowance to stretch. Compared to Bundesliga in Germany, where the cheapest ticket at a game could cost as low as £10, it's easy to see why British fans complain.

Is this a sign of changing times and changing desires of players who enter the game? I spoke to two Queen Mary FC players; second team central midfielder, Abdulhadi Mehdi and first team captain, Jason Lynch, about their reasons for playing the beautiful game. Both have had desires in the past to pursue professional football, but life priorities prevented these opportunities from materialising. Abdulhadi told me, "not having to work in something I don't enjoy"

was one motivation for the professional dream, while Jason acknowledges the "financial benefits" and a "comfortable lifestyle" but shares the same nuance as Abdulhadi, "the opportunity to do something you love every day". For these two accomplished players, money may help decisions but they are not the fundamental key to why they play football.

I don't think it's fair to say that money is on the minds of every aspiring footballer these days. But it is clear, that the passion that drove Abdulhadi and Jason has long been replaced by the possibility of six-figure salaries early in a player's career.

You can read more sport articles on our website, theprintnews.co.uk/category/sport