



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Application stats reveal 20% race gap

Abla Klau
News Editor

More white students have received offers at the University of Leeds than Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) applicants, according to figures obtained by *The Gryphon*.

The statistics revealed that 'of the number of BME students applying, only 42-44% of BME students were offered an undergraduate place' between 2010 and 2012. In contrast, over 60% of white students were offered a place.

The findings also showed that it was

less likely for BME students to obtain higher degree classifications. According to the most recent figures from 2012 to 2013, 84% of white undergraduates obtained a 1st or 2.1 degree in contrast to 68% of BME students.

LUU's BME campaign coordinators Johnny Philomen said, 'We believe that at least part of the problem must lie within the admissions departments of universities, and that they should actively challenge cultural biases they may have. Involving more BME staff in admissions processes may go some way to addressing this problem.'

In a response, the University's Equality & Inclusion Manager Maria Pervaiz said, 'the percentage of BME undergraduate students registering at the University has increased from 12% to 14.2% over the last four years. This is not to say we don't have an issue at Leeds, however we need to take a step back and analyse the number of BME students applying and accepting first before looking at the impact on admissions data.'

Non-EU students were not included in the data.

Scamming uncovered: victims share their ordeal

● 'I'm now thousands of pounds in debt'

● 'I trusted them'

Jake Hookem
News Editor

Victims of a million-pound fraud scam have spoken to *The Gryphon* about 'an easy way to make money' that has left them 'thousands of pounds in debt'.

Since initially reporting on the issue on 10th October, *The Gryphon* has since learnt of the scale of the scam – perpetrated by a firm which called itself 'JBI Systems'.

The company is thought to have changed names several times over the years in which it operated, but *The Gryphon* understands that students at Leeds taken in by the scam dealt with the company under its 'JBI' name.

The company offered students the chance to make £50 by signing up for phone contracts.

The acquired phones would then be passed on to JBI Systems, who would then process them and lend them out to business users for a fee. Any bills then incurred on the contracts were to be paid to the victims in advance of their phone bill.

However, in May this year, the company stopped making the payments to the victims, but the phone bills kept coming in.

The Gryphon spoke to one victim of this scam, who said,

'I realise how naïve I was, but it was a friend of a close friend who suggested the idea to me, and I trusted them.

'I initially got £300 and thought it was great, but after a couple of months payments stopped, while my bills just kept on coming. I'm now thousands of pounds in debt.'

'They told me that it was legal, an easy way to make money. They pushed the idea of being able to get money now and how you could no longer be drowned by student debt.'

Once the students had signed up, they were encouraged with a further £50 for each other person they could recommend to get signed up.

However, not all victims feel the same.

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Editor's Letter

This issue of the Gryphon is dedicated to Black History Month. Black history does not begin and end with Atlantic slavery. It spans all areas of the globe, encompassing royalty, ancient Nubian pyramids (which predated Ancient Egypt by several hundred years), great inventors and artists, and a myriad of cultures, languages and religions. However, over the centuries, Black history has been suppressed, misrepresented and whitewashed. Exhibit B, the controversial event at the Barbican which was ultimately shut down, springs to mind as an example of the way in which Black history can be reduced to troubling representations. Who gets to tell our histories? How should they be told, and which parts? Even now, there are huge gaps in the history we are taught in school, with too many children growing up unaware of the contributions Black and diaspora communities have made to society.

But it is important to look to the future, as well as the past. We must make sure that forums exist for Black and other ethnic minority students to share their ideas, and bring fairer representations of themselves to light, as well as working towards the equality that people have fought for. There are still inequalities and prejudice in the world, and we as students must continue to strive towards a society in which BME people are respected, and their achievements are recognised and celebrated. Groups such as the LUU BME Students Campaign exist to do that.

Johnny, Wandia and Naomi

BME Students' Campaigns Coordinators

Tweets of the week



Louise Mensch
@LouiseMensch

hope our Speaker is paying attention to Canada's Sergeant-At-Arms. Shouldn't be a mere bureaucrat. Should be armed.

Mensch's take on the tragic news from Ottawa. We presume she doesn't mean John Bercow here.



John Prescott
@johnprescott

I never knew Mike Read had a criminal record. I do now #ukipcalypso

Still got it.



Andrew Brooks
@tastebod

Oh, no. Dreadful news. Miranda Hart calls time on BBC sitcom.

None of us in Gryphon HQ can work out if this is serious.

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Features ~ Ruby Lott-Lavinga, Brigitte Phillips and Vickie Hesketh

Comment & Debate ~ Philipa Williams, Ella Griggs and Ella Healing

Science ~ Alice Hargreaves-Jones and Michael Owen

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FOOD HYGIENE RATING
5



Edward Boyle to get a major refurb



Sam Lewis ©

Valeria Popa

The University of Leeds is planning to spend more than £200m on several building refurbishments mostly starting next year.

A large amount of this estimated figure is to be spent on refurbishing the Edward Boyle Library, which will boast new facilities such as larger teaching rooms and more flexible study spaces.

Following a survey conducted among students from the University, the refurbishment project also aims to fix current problems with the heating, lighting and ventilation systems in the library.

A user of the library who wished to remain anonymous told *The Gryphon*, 'I suspect the Edward Boyle Library achieved its environmental targets by never turning on the heating no matter what.'

The plan also includes better digital infrastructure and the integration of the Skills@Library, VLE and Portal teams into a new 'Skills Zone'.

Edward Boyle is not the only building set to be refurbished. A public auction will go take mid-February 2015 to find a contractor for the renovation of the Leeds University Union building, with the works planned to finish by December 2016. Most offices will remain operational during the refurbishment.

This is one of the largest development projects that the university has undergone since the 1960s. An investment of £375m has already been made on capital projects with major constructions including the Liberty Building and The Edge, which cost £12m and £20m respectively.

£10k

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

Student shoppers have been offered a cracking opportunity to win £10,000 by correctly guessing the code to a cash-loaded safe at the Merlion Centre.

The competition, which offers one lucky winner the chance to a 'debt-free, stylish, student lifestyle', is the centre's biggest ever student giveaway.

Participants must break the six-digit code, encrypted by an independent adjudicator, to be in with a chance of claiming to prize.

Merlion Centre Manager Susan Mendoza said, 'Our competition is the ideal opportunity for us to welcome our existing young

shoppers back as well as attracting new students into our shopping centre for the first time'.

She added, 'After choosing their six lucky digits, everyone who takes part in the challenge will take the potentially life-changing walk over to the safe in an attempt to enter the winning combination in their quest to get their hands on £10,000.'

However, students have been urged not to get too excited as the chances of winning are literally one in a million.

Head of Mathematics Professor Alastair Rucklidge said, 'The Merlion Centre will almost certainly be able to hang on to their £10,000.'

The competition closes at 4.30pm today.

Uber move to Leeds

Phil Mann
Associate Editor

Controversial car hire service Uber is to file an application with the City Council to start operating in Leeds, amid protests from licensed drivers.

The firm, established in 2009, has rapidly expanded its business and now operates in over 200 cities worldwide.

The service uses a downloadable app, through which users can order and pay for the taxi service.

However, Uber's expansion into an already crowded market has led to protests from licensed operators that the company is not a legitimate service, and is not abiding by the guidelines that 'traditional' operators are bound by.

Taxi drivers belonging to the trade union Unite held a picket in Kirkstall to

highlight the concerns of members, who felt the service to be unregulated. Uber has faced similar protest in the past, when drivers brought congestion chaos to central London.

Uber however resists the contention that it is not conforming with regulations. The company boasts of stringent background tests. Leeds City Council has also said it will deal with the service in the normal way in which firms are licensed.

Speaking to *The Gryphon*, Fourth year Physics student Michael Owen said, 'Uber is great. The app is so much easier to use rather than booking in the normal way. Whenever I've used it, it's been really efficient' He added, 'If it comes to Leeds and is good value, I'd definitely use it over the current private hire companies.'

Campus Watch

News from campuses around the country

St Andrews foam fight

Hundreds of St Andrews University students attended a mass foam party in the school grounds this week. The event was part of a 600-year-old ritual at the Scottish university. The annual foam fight is held on 'Raisin Monday' in honour of the end of 'Raisin Weekend'. The weekend sees senior students inflict initiation tasks on their new recruit of first-year students.

Emily Willson

Southampton bottles it

A student at Southampton Solent University had to be rescued by firefighters after getting her head stuck in a bottle bank.

A friend bet the female student £10 and a Big Mac that she couldn't fit her head into the hole during a night out.

She eventually managed to free herself with the help of a fire service worker.

A fire service spokesperson said, 'I imagine she was looking for more drink.'

Greg Whitaker

Pussy Riot at Cambridge Union

Russian feminist and political protest band 'Pussy Riot' is to speak at the Cambridge University Students' Union in November.

The group were sentenced to two years in jail in 2012 after performing a 'punk prayer', calling on the Virgin Mary to 'put Putin away'.

A Cambridge spokesperson said, 'This is very exciting news, especially for an institution that tends to invite old, white men.'

Charlotte Mason

King's SleepCoat to help the homeless

Innovative students at King's College London have developed a 'SleepCoat' for the homeless. The project was inspired by a society president's work with the homeless in Alaska. He said, 'We don't want to promote sleeping on the streets but we do want to offer an emergency service'. A prototype is being made to be handed out across London's homeless shelters.

Emily Willson



Leeds crime rate falls



West Yorkshire Police ©

Munya Saati

Crime has fallen by seven percent in the past year, *The Gryphon* has found.

Statistics for Leeds Inner North West show that 6,449 crimes were reported between January and August 2013, compared to just over 6,000 for the same period this year.

The most common crimes in the student area are anti-social behaviour and burglary.

Burley is the region's crime hotspot, accounting for 17% of offences in the area, with Headingley reporting 15% and Hyde Park 10% of crime, according to latest figures.

West Yorkshire Police recently announced that the county's overall crime rate had fallen by 4% over the past year, with house burglaries down by 15% and

448 fewer thefts from people.

However, the statistics show that sexual offences are on the rise nationally.

PhD student Rehan De Motte, whose house was recent burgled, told *The Gryphon*, 'I do feel safe in Hyde Park, but now we make sure that the doors are bolted and the windows are closed. We haven't had any problems since then'.

The University's Police Liaison Officer PC Matt Guy told this paper, 'We need people to come forward about crime and believe that the Police will take it seriously. It's never anyone's fault that they are subjected to crimes like assault'.

PC Guy advised, 'Plan your journey. There's night buses and taxi services, walk on a main road where it's well-lit, be wary of your surroundings, and you are going to be safe'.

Students warned of phishing scam

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

The University has warned of a notorious phishing email scam after students at another institution were targeted by fraudsters who obtained their bank details.

A message displayed on the Portal last Wednesday read, 'We have become aware that a sophisticated phishing scam, concerning an email that appears to be from Student Finance England, has tricked some students at another University into divulging both personal and financial details'.

The news comes after students at York University became victim to a fake email they believed to be from the loans company.

Speaking to *The Gryphon*, Head of IT Services John Grannan explained, 'We subscribe to a central service which alerts us to any phishing emails, which we can then block'.

He described phishing as 'an on-going

battle', adding, 'Nothing is 100% secure, but we do take data protection very seriously here'.

This newspaper understands students are regularly targeted by phishing scams, with several cases of fraudulent Student Finance England emails reported within the last few years.

Mr Grannan said, 'Phishing is big business. If you email 10,000 people and ten reply, you can make a lot of money from those ten people'.

According to Action Fraud, students can be deceived by emails sent around the three main loan instalment dates in September, January and April.

Fourth-year English and History student Hannah Woodhead told *The Gryphon*, 'I have received fake emails pretending to be from SFE. I think it's really disgraceful that it's still a problem after a year'.

The IT Help Desk advises, 'Neither the University nor any other reputable organisation will ever send you emails asking you to input, confirm or validate account and/or personal details'.

LUU Amnesty stage anti-torture protest

Lucy Connolly

Leeds University Amnesty took a stand for human rights on Friday, with blindfolded students demonstrating methods of torture in the Union.

Seven students took part in the demonstration, wearing red blindfolds and holding instruments such as drills, irons and hammers that are still used for torture today.

The society aimed to highlight the existence of torture in 144 countries.

Speaking to *The Gryphon*, President of LUU Amnesty International Wil Hutton, explained, 'We hope the protest will get a response from students and make them more aware that torture still exists'.

Although torture is illegal throughout most of the world, procedures such as electric shock, sleep deprivation and

forced suffocation are still used in countries such as Morocco, Nigeria and Uzbekistan.

LUU Amnesty International has brought attention to several high-profile cases, including that of Ali Aarras, a Belgian-Moroccan extradited to Morocco on terrorism charges in 2010. According to Amnesty International UK, Mr Aarras was electric shocks to the testicles, suspended from his wrists and burned with cigarettes.

Second-year Law student, Jo Bullivant Clark, who took part in the protest, said, 'The thought of other human beings being subjected to torture gives me the chills. Being free from torture is yet another thing we take for granted. I think it's our obligation to speak out against it'.

An LUU Amnesty anti-torture petition has attracted 163 signatures.



Rachel King ©



Woman spiked in nightclub

Suhail Dhanji

A Police investigation has been launched after a student claims her drink was spiked at Mission nightclub.

The first-year Business Management student was taken to hospital by her boyfriend who was concerned when she began acting 'out-of-character'.

The student had been attending the Full Moon event at Mission last Thursday when it is believed her drink was tampered with. She believes the intervention may have happened with when her group of friends bought a pitcher to share.

An officer who assisted the woman said she displayed effects similar to those of ketamine.

Speaking to the newspaper, the student, who wished to remain anonymous, explained, 'I've only been in Leeds a short time, but I've never known anyone who's had their drink spiked'.

This paper understands bouncers had searched clubbers at the door. However, Police are currently working to identify a male who was seen acting dubiously in the nightclub.



The University's Police Liaison Officer PC Matt Guy told this paper, 'Drink spiking is rare. However, there's easier access to legal highs nowadays which can be used to incapacitate people'. PC Guy added, 'We are seeing more reports of this from members of the public'.

Union Welfare Officer Freya Govus told this paper, 'It's awful to hear that this

has happened. If anyone else has concerns about their safety or needs support, please contact our Advice Centre'.

Students are advised to avoid leaving drinks unattended and stay with friends on nights out.

The Gryphon contacted Mission for a statement but did not receive a response in time for printing.

Phone scam revealed

"They were like us, taken in by the idea of easy money"

» Continued from front page

Describing the running of the organisation, one said,

'I believe some did know what they were doing, but others only knew to an extent that what they were doing was not legal but had no idea of what the extent was.'

'They were like us, taken in by the idea of easy money. I do not believe that they knew the full situation and were not told everything by their superiors at JBI Systems.'

It is thought over 1000 students nationwide were scammed, and some victims have been critical of the way in which phone companies have handled their cases.

The Gryphon also learn that those preyed on by JBI Systems would often return the phone to the company without knowing any of the details of the contract, meaning that when trying to contact the phone provider they had no knowledge of which phone contract they actually wanted to cancel.

When asked how JBI Systems dealt with the problems, a victim said,

'All they had was a "customer service" email, which just kind of told us what we wanted to hear. It said things like "you're on our list of priority accounts" but nothing ever came of it, neither did an apology.'

The Gryphon understands that this week approximately 50 students have been interviewed by police as part of a nationwide effort to gather information. It is not thought any of the students interviewed in this round were treated as suspects.

Union debates Free Education

Abla Klau
News Editor

Students have gone head to head this week in a Union debate about whether education should be free.

Six panellists took part in the discussion on Wednesday, tackling issues such as government spending, apprenticeships and the affordability of studying for a degree.

The debate comes following Germany's decision to scrap tuition fees in all universities starting this academic year.

LUU Education Officer Tom Dixon, the debate organiser, explained, 'I campaigned on the idea that the Union should engage people more in the national movement. NUS have their own Free Education policy and I think it's important to us as LUU to understand if our students feel the same. Obviously, having proposed the motion, it's my hope they do'.

Some students argued the Government should make education a higher financial priority, although others claimed that free university degrees may be unsustainable.

Third-year International Politics student Harry Shotton, who was on the panel, told this newspaper, 'Many young people in the UK cannot afford the rising costs of education and simply can't do the university course, vocational course, or apprenticeship of their choice'.

He added, 'Leeds University Union supporting free education would be a positive step in the campaign for a high quality education system that caters for all young Brits, helping to tackle increasing socio-economic inequality, and boost social mobil-

ity, as well as being an investment in the future of the country'.

A Fourth-year Politics student said, 'The huge increase in students going to university has created a much larger burden to the tax payer. It's surely not unreasonable to suggest that those with the ability to do so are able to contribute to the cost of university education'.



Anne Wyman ©



Uni pledge to boycott 'sweatshop' electronics

Robert Cohen

The University has become one of the first UK institutions to pledge support to a campaign promoting the rights of technology workers.

Electronics Watch is an independent organisation which campaigns for workers' rights in the technology industry, pressuring companies to improve factory conditions with European purchasing power.

The news means Leeds will have influence over contracts with manufacturers to push for better industry standards. The University joins Edinburgh as one of the first four UK affiliates of the Europe-wide programme.

Student-led campaign People & Planet has claimed that conditions in some factories amount to 'sweatshop' labour.

Twenty-three Chinese workers at PC-manufacturer Foxconn have committed suicide within the past nine years.

The group claims, 'This series of sui-

cides is a result of the desperation felt by workers due to the obscenely long hours, 'army-like conditions', ritual humiliations in front of colleagues and repression of union rights'.

One in five computers sold in Europe is bought by a public sector body such as a university.

Electronic Watch states, 'Despite the modern and clean image the industry has, the working conditions are often appalling'.

The University's Director of Facilities Management, Dennis Hopper said, 'We are committed to improving the sustainability of our supply chain and Electronics Watch gives us the opportunity to support meaningful change, in an industry that suffers from poor working conditions'.

Electronics Watch aims to begin inspecting technology factories next year.



Image: QZ ©

Breaking down the stories that matter.

The Digest.



Guardian ©

Boko Haram to bring back schoolgirls

Boko Haram has said it is to release the 219 schoolgirls it has held captive for six months.

The Nigerian government announced a ceasefire with rebel fighters following weeks of negotiations, mediated by neighbouring Chad.

The Nigerian government remains 'cautiously optimistic' about the outcome of the deal.

Boko Haram, which means 'Western education is forbidden', kidnapped the girls from a school in April. The group aims to overthrow the government and form an Islamic state in Nigeria.

Danny Anderson



Milenio ©

Paralysed man walks again after 'pioneering therapy'

A man who was paralysed four years ago has been able to walk again thanks to ground-breaking treatment.

Darek Fidyka, 40, was paralysed from the chest down in a knife attack in 2010, but after surgery can now walk with the aid of a frame.

The treatment was conducted by Polish surgeons in collaboration with scientists in London and involves the use of cells in the nose being implanted into the patient's spinal-cord to encourage nerve growth.

Fidyka said that being able to walk once more was like 'being born again'.

Hugh Baillie-Lane



Canadian Press/Marc Grandmaison ©

Gunman shot and killed soldier in terrorist attack

A soldier guarding the Canadian Capital's National War Memorial was killed in a suspected terror attack on Wednesday.

Gunfire was also exchanged inside Canada's Parliament building, where the gunman was killed after Police stormed the building.

Canada had raised its terror threat level just hours prior to the incident following a hit-and-run attack which killed a soldier and injured another.

Parts of Ottawa remained in lockdown on Wednesday. An investigation has been launched.

Danny Anderson



Life Is Savage ©

Oscar Pistorius sentenced to five years

Oscar Pistorius has been sentenced to five years in jail for the 'culpable homicide' of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp.

The killing occurred in the early hours of Valentine's Day last year when Steenkamp was shot three times through the bathroom door at their home. Pistorius insisted he thought he was firing at an intruder.

His defence had fought for ten months imprisonment, with the remaining sentence under house arrest.

Pistorius was cleared of murder, but will enter prison immediately.

Sarah Nevard

The Gryphon meets Rachel Reeves MP



Image: Phil Mann ©

Jake Hookem
News Editor

Rachel Reeves is the Labour MP for Leeds West and is the Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. She has held both positions since 2010.

On Thursday she came in to the University of Leeds to give a talk to Labour-Soc, and *The Gryphon* spoke with her after the event.

You recently agreed that there was a 'strong case' for handing control of Job Centres over to local councils, do you think this would help students after they graduate?

I think that the best thing for students is having a top level careers advice service in their university, rather than going to job centres. I think that university careers services should be properly resourced to ensure that people know about the options available for them. The problem with job centres is that they often don't have that sort of specialised support.

The policy of the Blair government was to ensure that 50% of young people went to University. Many feel that different skill sets require alternatives to university education, but the current trend is that it is

essential to finding work. As a result, it could be argued that degrees have become devalued. Do you agree?

At the moment, less than 50% do go, I think that the priority should be to ensure that those young people who don't go have proper investment in their skills and training. The vast majority of students who don't go to university get little or no investment in their skills, so what I would like to see is a growth in the number of apprenticeships and better funding for Further Education and colleges. I think this would ensure that there is an alternative to university, and that the forgotten 50% are also given the skills and opportunities that they need to build for their careers

What are you planning to do to ensure graduates find work quickly if a Labour government is elected?

This is not for graduates but I think it's important to say. To help young people, we would replace Job Seekers Allowance with a youth allowance. This would reward young people who go to college to get skills and training, rather than just getting paid for signing on. The allowance would apply for 18-21 year olds that don't have a level 3 qualification (A levels or a vocational equivalent) and would give them financial support for staying on at college. We would also like to have a compulsory jobs guarantee. This would be a promise

that any young person who's out of work for a year would be guaranteed a job that's paying at least the minimum wage, for 25 hours a week. This would last for 6 months, and would be funded by a bankers bonus tax and a restriction on pension tax relief.

Do you feel the proposed HS3 rail link between Manchester and Leeds would increase employment in Leeds?

Well, let's get HS2 out the way first! At the moment HS2 isn't due to come to Leeds until 2032 and so HS3 has no advanced proposals for it. I think the best game in town at the moment is the improvement to the links across the north between Liverpool and Hull, which would cut journey times across significantly. Politicians in the north have been working on this problem for years, but we do need to be doing more to improve the connectivity between the major northern cities. We should also work on including northern towns in rail improvements, so we can also ensure people living in areas such as Huddersfield and Halifax can get into Leeds and Manchester quickly to access jobs and opportunities.

Do you support the Leeds trolleybus scheme currently being planned?

Yes I do, but in my constituency that's not a huge issue.

How can cities like Leeds match the power and 'draw' of London as the UK's financial hub? – Do you agree with the findings of the Royal Society's City Growth Commission who this week recommended more powers for cities like Leeds?

I think that we should devolve more power to northern towns and cities. Lord Adonis has recommended devolving £30bn of funding for transport infrastructure, skills and employment funding which I think is a good idea. I think that local leaders can make better decisions for how to use that money than politicians and civil servants in Whitehall.

Given Labour's proposals to raise the minimum wage to £8 per hour to try and bridge the gap between the rich and poor, do you feel unpaid internships are fair?

Well, unpaid internships are already illegal. I know some firms still use them and that is not acceptable. I think that if you are doing a job you should be paid for it and protected by minimum wage legislation. I'm in favour of people being able to do work experience, but I think that if you're doing it for any length of time and you're expected to turn up at set times and have set tasks then you should be paid for doing the job. Otherwise, young people who have rich parents are going to have more opportunities and I don't think that's fair.



'I don't actually see the difference that Black History Month makes'

*Elorm Haligah, from youth employment charity Elevation Network, talks to **The Gryphon** about employment inequality, the importance of volunteering, and being president of Nottingham ACS.*

Naomi Anderson Whittaker

When I managed to pin Elorm Haligah down for a chat, he was just about to begin chairing The Great Debate tour, which he now runs. Now in its fifth year and with 60 dates on its calendar, the seven week event has been a great success, and is part of a plan to get students – particularly those from minority backgrounds – more into politics.

After studying Politics, Elorm worked on policy issues for various political figures including David Lammy (a Tottenham Labour MP, now planning to run for London Mayor), and Nottinghamshire's first black female Mayor, Merlita Bryan. Elorm now heads up the Midlands branch of Elevation Networks, an employability charity. As well as helping young people to find work and internships using their partnerships with firms like Deloitte, Teach First and Escada, Elevation networks offers training and leadership development programmes. They also run a Visible Women campaign to get women into male dominated industries such as science, finance and engineering.

“You're not going to damage something that you value”

Elorm advises students looking to improve their job prospects, with a focus on voluntary work; hardly surprising as he previously oversaw the development of the National Citizen Service across Derby and Nottingham. He maintains that NCS is a great way to get young people aged 16 – 17 thinking about ways to improve their communities, and to gain focus and enthusiasm. He says that the projects carried out vary hugely. I've

had some people that have renovated old people's homes. We've had some people that have raised money for charity, we've had people running a publicity campaign to raise awareness about issues going on in their area. Its attitudes like that that can actually change society.' NCS has links with the government's controversial 'big society' vision.

I am assured of the benefits, evidenced through the changes Elorm sees in the people he works with. 'I came across someone that was on our programme. He was a troublemaker. While he was on the programme, he matured. We all have talents, and we can use them negatively or positively. It was really good to see how he started to channel them and start pushing in a positive direction'.

So, are the government going to roll out this scheme nationwide? 'Eventually, it is the government's aim to make it compulsory.' Doesn't the name of the programme and nature of what's involved allude to negative connotations of punishment and community service? And, is it not just another excuse to engage in 'responsibilisation', taking away basic public services unless they are earned through 'good behaviour'? Elorm sees the programme as almost a rite of passage, similar to ones seen in other countries which symbolise the beginning of maturity. 'In the UK, we don't have anything like that. Can you think of anything?' I mumble something about proms, (although I never had one). But can social or cultural rituals of entering adulthood really be conflated with the government's national service scheme? He points out that it helps young people to mature by allowing them to leave home for a couple of weeks, working on their independence.

Elorm understands the issues with NCS becoming compulsory, but says that it is a shame that 'a lot of schools currently don't recognise it as something that is really valuable.' Although



Elorm Haligah ©

many young people were forced to do it by their parents, by the end of it they felt it was the best thing they had ever done. He adds that the NCS scheme, and volunteering in general, promotes valuing your community, which he felt was lacking during the London riots. 'You're not going to damage something that you value'.

But does a lack of valuing your community stem from frustration and disengagement with politics; as sense that

your government doesn't represent you? 'This is a struggle that a lot of young black people have. I ask them, 'are you interested in politics?' Straight away, no. Politics is like a swearword. But when you ask them, do you want a job? Do you care about the fact that your mum's not well? Do you care about the rubbish on your street? They say yeah, of course. So I say this is all politics. But people don't make the connection.'

The Great Debate Tour is a platform



Elorm was president of the African-Caribbean Society at Nottingham University in 2009/10, a position which boosted his confidence

for helping people to make that connection. It puts students 'in the same room as decision makers'. How, though, does this event work towards changing the political environment these newly-inspired people will be entering? How does it get their views to the people who matter? 'At a lot of panels, there are elected officials. Students can actually voice their opinions and concerns, and some of these MPs actually say, you know what, we need to take this into consideration.' This year, the tour culminates in a panel event in parliament, clearly this event allows students to take their views to people with influence. The Great Debate has further plans to launch a report this year, based on the views expressed. Elorm seems keen to make the tour inspire action, as well as discussion.

Elorm also notes the importance of getting involved while at university. He was president of the African-Caribbean Society at Nottingham University. It's a great way to gain confidence and network, he says. After all, 'your network is your net worth'. Often, I suggested,

it can seem daunting to put yourself forward for being a society president, but Elorm recommends jumping in. 'I was very active at university in terms of campaigns for the BME network in general, and involved in a lot of mentoring initiatives as well. This helped me to develop skills that enabled me to work with senior figures. They saw transferable skills and said, you know what, let's take him on!'

The issue of graduate unemployment comes up and we discuss, among other things, a 2012 study that showed UK BME graduates are 60% more likely to still be unemployed 6 months after graduating, and, on average, are required to send out twice as many applications as other candidates before securing a job. I suggest that these statistics make for a pretty bleak outlook. He nods and notes that affirmative action for women and other minority groups is encouraged, but not compulsory. 'Racism still exists' he says. He mentions a study done by the Runnymede Trust. 'If you had a surname like mine, you were considerably more likely to be unemployed. They did

a test and submitted applications which were completely the same, but with different names, and the [applicants] with the African or Asian surname weren't invited to interviews.

“It's really important to diversify your skillset. An essay doesn't determine your intelligence.”

'Having said that, if you look at a lot of BME graduates, a lot of them have really good jobs coming out of university. But I think sometimes, especially coming from an African background, there's a massive emphasis on academics. And that doesn't always work. It's really important to diversify your skillset. At the end of the day, an essay doesn't determine your intelligence. That is why volunteering is so important.' And it's another way to avoid internships which you have to pay for, sometimes as much as £3000.

Finally, he extols the virtues of enterprise. 'So many people could turn their passions into business. A lot of business is just a problem that's been solved'. His final advice is to students is to take every opportunity, work hard, and don't be afraid to get a job in an area which has nothing to do with your degree.

Before saying goodbye, I asked Elorm what Black History Month meant to him, and for a moment he pauses. 'I don't actually see the difference black history month makes,' he says. 'A lot of the time, and this is a flaw in the education system, we associate black history with slavery. Black History Month shouldn't be the be all and end all of our education about these issues. There's so much more. But at the same time, if we focus so much on the triumphs that our ancestors had, and the struggles they may have faced, we kind of forget what's happening today. History does affect today, but we actually need to look at what is happening now as well and that's what The Great Debate Tour is about.' ■



'So... where do you come from?'

As a black or ethnic minority student, navigating a dual or poly identity can be complicated. The Gryphon explores diversity, curiosity and equal representation on campus.

Stephanie Uwalaka

Black History Month calls for a reflection on the rich history of a range of cultures. It reminds us how much has changed and progressed, both here in Britain and worldwide, and how interwoven our histories are. For many students though, the notion of cultural identity and diversity is a complex issue.

When becoming acquainted with new people, some of the first questions we may ask are 'What's your name?', 'What do you study?' and 'Where are you from?'. At a university where people have come from all over the world to study, this last question could refer to a person's hometown, where they were born or even their heritage. This raises various other questions on how you conceptualise your own identity, the manner of the question asked and how you choose to answer it.

While abroad this summer, I was introduced to a group of friends-of-friends, and after chatting for a bit was asked 'Where are you from?', to which I replied 'London' as it's where I was born and grew up. However, I was asked again and again by the same new acquaintance I had made, and found my reply 'London' was met with a confused and unsatisfied 'Right'. I later realised they probably meant to ask where I was from 'originally', and why I have this mixture of features that make me look the way I do. I also realised I had replied with my hometown, not out of ignorance to my background, but because I felt that I had been asked the wrong question.

I later realised they probably meant to ask where I was from 'originally'

The phrasing of a question therefore is important in asking individuals about their identity. To ask 'Where is your family from?' or 'What's your background?' is perhaps a more sensitive and considerate way to respect the identities of an individual and to learn about a person, without causing any confusion in an environment where people can come from a variety of places and make others feel that their origin can be interesting to others. It's not ideal that people ask, but if they're going to ask, then it should be phrased in the right manner.

In the same way, when these questions do get asked, does this imply a sense of rootlessness? Does this disre-

gard someone's heritage? Or does this make Britain feel more like an integrated nation?

Nicole, an International Development student at the University of Leeds, spoke to *The Gryphon* about her views on ethnicity and diversity at university. 'I think that people will ask where you're from out of curiosity, but I also don't think that there's a good representation of ethnic minorities in higher education. Although I don't feel like I'm in a minority at uni, it is [evident that] there is one.'

Another student from Bradford, with a Pakistani background, said, 'It can be a bit annoying when people

backgrounds, identified themselves as British or English. The demographic of Britain is changing, and has been for decades, but British identity is still strong and prevalent in society.

According to the last census carried out by ONS, 86 percent of Britain is Caucasian, with 14 percent making up other ethnic groups. The census also states that Britain is becoming 'more ethnically diverse', but this is not reflected on university campuses across the UK.

A report published in 2013 by the Equality Challenge Unit on equality in higher education found that only 19 percent of UK resident students were British ethnic minorities, and the 'degree attainment gap was highest in England', so in 2013 it was harder for BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) students to achieve a first in their degree than other non-BME students. In addition, there has long been controversy as to the number of British ethnic minorities getting into Oxford and Russell Group universities, particularly those outside of London.

Nevertheless, according to a Race into Higher Education report, British ethnic minorities made up 11.3 percent of students at the University of Leeds in the years 2007-2008, which is small but growing. The report also states that 'the proportion of ethnic minorities at university exceeds their share of the 18-24 year old population in the UK' which rather positively reflects the presence of ethnic minorities in higher education on a national level.

The Equality Challenge Unit, a body who work to bring about long-term change and progress in racial equality in the workplace, produced Equality Charter statistics which demonstrate that more ethnic minority students (22.4 percent of them) are in taught post-graduate education. The ECU also affirm that 'all individuals have multiple identities' to account for further diversity in their findings. Not everything, especially something as subjective as identity, is black or white.

The face of Britain is changing. The world we live in is changing. With the increasing interconnectedness of people and places, we will see increasing diversity in the UK and further afield in years to come. So the next time someone asks where you're from, know that it's one step closer to the wider population gaining an understanding of the multicultural society we live in and getting to know and understand you better as a human being. Being asked 'Where are you from?' should be asked in a manner of polite curiosity and interest in order to integrate, to understand and to appreciate cultures other than your own and to begin to identify with them. ■



University of Leeds ©

ask where exactly you're from because essentially I'm British, but because I look different I'm assumed to be from somewhere else. It can feel like prying depending on how you ask, but I am happy to answer most of the time.'

We decided to go around campus, investigating how random people reacted after being asked 'Where are you from?' Most replied with their hometown within Britain, some asked 'what do you mean, background or hometown?' and some replied with their ethnicity or nationality straight away. All participants were open to answer the question.

This brings us to the question of how people choose to identify themselves. On a national scale, the 2011 National Census carried out by the Office for National Statistics was the first survey to question Britons on their national identity. The results showed that 96.2 percent of people identified with an English or British identity alongside any other ethnic identity, with 29.1 percent of those identifying as British with any other identity. So most of the population, even those from various ethnic



Comment

Academia

Remi Salisbury discusses black underrepresentation in academia

Ebola

Samuel Lewis talks about the disparity in media coverage on Ebola

Morgan Freeman

Richard Jarram looks at why Black History Month is so important

Why we must strive for academic diversity

Remi Salisbury

PhD Ethnicity and Racism Studies

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Recently, there has been an upsurge in attention paid to the higher educational experiences of BME (Black Minority Ethnic) students and staff.

This is evident in the organisation and popularity of last year's 'Blackness in Britain' conference; the subsequent establishment of a Black Studies Association, the establishment of the Black PhD Network, and increasing pressure for Black studies courses to be taught at institutions across the UK.

Inspired by our US counterparts, the UK has witnessed the 'I too am Oxford' and 'I too am Sheffield' campaigns, and events at the University of Surrey and the University of Central London.

Through events such as the forthcoming 'Is academia the place for me?' here at Leeds, this momentum must be maintained.

There is a startling underrepresentation of BME staff across universities; there are only 85 black professors across the UK and only 17 of these are women. Research and activism has begun to shine the light on the experiences of BME staff. Black academics often occupy precarious positions. Scholars describe a brain-drain, particularly in social sciences, with a significant number of scholars leaving for the US.

Those that have left have attributed their decision to experiences of racism, low career prospects and research agendas that marginalise race.

The cultural theorist Paul Gilroy suggests that 'The idea of being a black intellectual seems a bizarre oxymoron in England'.

We have to consider the messages that such underrepresentation and marginalisation transmits to students, as well as wider society. The idea that



blogspot.com

intellectualism is a white pursuit, and conversely that black life is anti-intellectual, needs to be destabilised.

This hierarchical thinking has a long-standing history that has maintained white hegemony, inside and outside of academia. To disrupt this, black role models and representation need to be present; indeed, this was a key recommendation of an NUS black students' survey.

In terms of knowledge production, we must be aware of the limitations of

We must disrupt the white curricula, the white student body that sees the black body become a body out of place

intellectual canons that silence black voices. If we assume that knowledge production is a primary aim of higher education institutions, then we must ask whether it is sustainable for education to continue to ignore contributions of black staff and students.

The racialised barriers are also evident in ethnocentric curricula. Black

voices are, too often, marginalised to issues pertaining to race. In 2009 the NUS Black students campaign found that 41% of their respondents felt that their curriculum failed to 'reflect issues of diversity, equality and discrimination'. Across disciplines, despite valuable contributions by scholars of colour, we still see core modules with reading lists made up solely of white male academics. We must consider which voices are privileged, by who and why.

The overwhelming whiteness of academia that too often leaves BME students feeling alienated and marginalised means that we need to continue to reflect on, and critique the limitations of the current system; limitations that see striking disparities in attainment and retention rates.

With education increasingly important for social mobility, and thus political representation, equitable employment and an equitable society, interventions must be made at every level. In Higher Education we must disrupt the white curricula, the white staff and the white student body that sees the black body become a body out of place.

We must challenge the system-

atic marginalisation and the institutional racism that continually sees black students reporting lower rates of satisfaction with their education.

We must also challenge the administration processes that see higher acceptance rates for white students.

Attributed to a racial bias towards British sounding names, this is particularly pertinent in elite institutions such as our own.

With all the racialised barriers in earlier stages of education, and in wider society, we must ensure that we work to improve the experiences of those students that do make it to university and hope this leads to an increase in the number of black academics. This will only be brought about by conscious efforts from the black student body. Whilst we must not obscure the diversity in experiences within the BME group, we must find spaces to discuss our shared experiences. That's why events such as the forthcoming 'Is academia the place for me?' and the formation of groups, committed to continual agitation, are integral to any progressive action.



Ebola doesn't discriminate; why should we?

Samuel Lewis
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Ebola is scary. In the past weeks, we have been repeatedly informed that it is a deadly disease that has killed, and continues to kill people on a worrying scale. What ought to be challenged, however, is the coverage by some news agencies of the outbreak.

It has been compared by some to the racist presentation of AIDS; the epidemic in the 1980s saw in a period of intense public anxiety towards a disease that had, previously, been simply a distant problem in a distant country. Ebola has been the foremost international concern in the minds of many for months now, with constant yet detached coverage of a lethal outbreak in some faraway country – a safe distance from the West. Recently, however, the Telegraph published an article entitled “Ebola fears on the cocktail party circuit”, with a picture showing two white people ‘air kissing’, demonstrating, quite clearly, where media priorities lie.

Some American news reporters

have employed a rhetoric that likens the threat of Ebola to an invasion from an enemy nation. “Ebola has landed on American soil”, the headlines scream; the outrage is palpable. In front of the White House, there have been protests by demonstrators in bio-hazard suits

“Ebola has landed on American soil”, the headlines scream; the outrage is palpable

carrying pickets declaring ‘STOP THE FLIGHTS’. When a disease is presented by the mainstream media showing almost exclusively black victims, hysteria amongst the white West seems to ensue. It has become such a widespread topic that there is even a range of Halloween costumes that have recently become available.

So why this disparity in the treatment of the disease by the media? Why is the explosion of Ebola in the public mind treated as a way to make a quick

profit and a joke by some, whilst also being lauded as the end of days? In Sierra Leone, Ebola is now killing 20 people per day, but in the West, it would seem that mocking is the appropriate reaction – that is, of course, until it finally landed on our own turf.

Constantly there are calls for more to be done. Ebola has spread most quickly in areas where people live in close proximity, as it is spread by person to person contact, and while it may not discriminate by race or nationality as to whom it infects, the coverage by the media certainly does.

As soon as a white Westerner is infected, the news seize it. By following these minority of cases closely, the media are able to build up a picture of a more immediate threat to Western nations. There have been officially only three cases of Ebola infection within the US and – whilst the disease is by no means a source of competition – with the African death toll at approximately 12,000, the media favouritism seems almost laughably obvious. In fact, many

people choose to ignore the suffering of poverty stricken countries in Africa most of the year round. For the privileged white West, we can turn off the television when a charity advert comes on and escape the unspeakable starvation and disease depicted; something which, for millions of people, is a reality that is preordained and unavoidable.

However, when a problem that affects black people in developing countries begins to threaten white people in Western countries, suddenly everyone wants to know more. Stories about disease are incredibly emotive and visceral, with daily updates of the victims and their deteriorating health.

Yet there are subtle and some not-so-subtle suggestions of blame within the stories. Thomas Duncan, a black Westerner, was initially turned away from a US hospital when complaining of symptoms. Whilst it may not be the immediate assumption that someone outside West Africa has Ebola, critics argue that a white person with insurance would have received better treatment. However, Duncan, who tragically died from the infection, faced criminal charges for suspicion of ‘intentionally exposing the public’ to Ebola.

On the other hand, white health-care workers who had become infected were flown back to Western nations for treatment. Some treated them as heroes, whilst others questioned the reasoning behind bringing an infected person to a non-infected country – surely this should also be deemed as ‘intentionally exposing the public’? When a problem is isolated to a distant and foreign community, most people are more willing to ignore it, but things become very different when the issue seems closer to home.

The reality is that treating Ebola as a hot button race issue is not as simple as saying that the coverage has been racist. There is, however, a deep distrust by some of a disease that springs up in the poorest black communities. This carries with it a wealth of rhetoric that plays on the fears of those who turn a blind eye to global suffering, and only speak up when that suffering seems as if it may become their own.



Black History Month: why it matters

Richard Jarram
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How do we end racism? By refusing to talk about it.

This is Morgan Freeman's view on socio-economic inequality in the USA, and probably why he gets so peeved off about Black History Month, as he evidently did when asked about the subject in the interview on CNN in June this year.

Who would have expected that the Voice of God, a man who could, with the music of his vocal chords, charm a snake, or untie a Gordian knot solely with the pure power of speech, would dismiss the topic of racism in such a blasé fashion.

His very superficial, and typically conservative argument runs like this: individual strength of will is the determining factor of success in life, and race is no longer an impediment to personal objectives since slavery was a quirk of the 'olden days'.

For Freeman, indulging in overtly racial discourse – as Black History Month does by focusing society's cultural lens on black history – we are only entrenching the categorical racial differences between Black and White communities that we wish to eliminate. Apparently, we create the problem of racism by talking it into being.

Firstly, this is just an invalid argument. Secondly, if this were true, maybe we should just stop talking about climate change, or overpopulation, or global terrorist threats because – well, we just create greenhouse gases and entire populations and terrorists by talking about them. Actually, Mr. Freeman's excellent turn-a-blind-eye approach reminds of my little nephew, who thinks that by wrapping his palms around his shut eyes that somehow, miraculously, myself and everyone in the

room, including the room itself, just suddenly cease to exist.

We are clearly not living in a post-racial world. Many statistical studies reveal a glaring structural socio-economic inequality in British (even more so in American) society wherein black ethnic minority groups are statistically at a disadvantage. A recent study done by the Jobs Economist think tank showed that, in 2013, black youth unemployment was at 45 per cent as opposed to the modest 7-8 per cent unemployment rate amongst the white demographic.

You cannot controvert a fact by refusing to talk about it: and that's why Black History Month is a positive phenomena.

Change is initiated by conversation. If you look at the progress of the civil rights

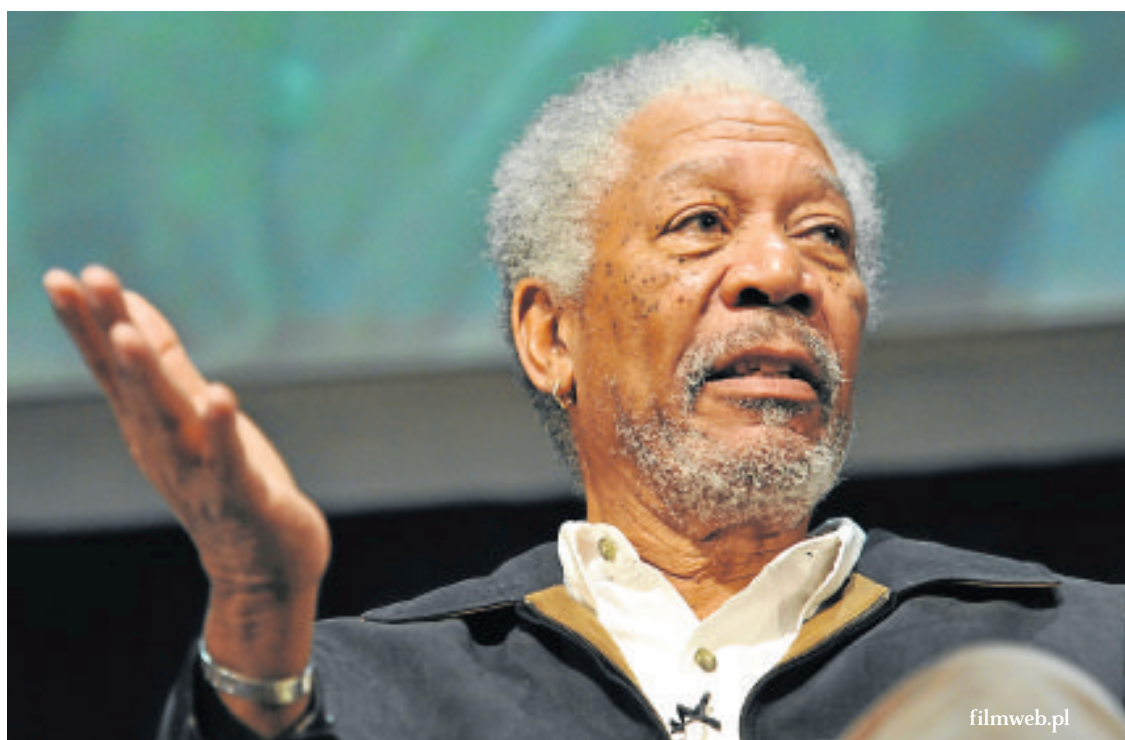
movement you'll find that the causes of emancipation began within the cultural domain, the world of discourse and representation. It is within this world that a community identity and solidarity was found. Writers like Aimé Cesaire and

Apparently, we create the problem of racism by talking it into being...maybe, then, we should stop talking about climate change, or overpopulation

Frantz Fanon, with their ideas, laid down the historical foundations upon which future leaders like Martin Luther King and Malcolm X stood.

By dedicating one month in a year to focus on cultural topics of race, you are not entrenching a racial division; you are opening up the conversation and debate from out of the academy and out into the wider public, increasing awareness of political and historical controversies, and enhancing cultural integration. I'm not personally and directly affected by the diaspora, but in virtue of being British, this narrative is just as much part of my tradition and historical identity as the War of the Roses is.

Awareness of a problem is the first step towards finding a solution. By silencing the debate, you are simply acting out the dialectical ostrich that sticks its head in the sand to win an argument.



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12,000

people have died from Ebola
so far

85

black professors in the
UK

88,000

recorded racist incidents in
UK schools between 2007
and 2011



Debate

Do we still need Black History Month?

Black History Month has been celebrated and observed annually in the UK since 1987. The month is intended to celebrate the input and presence of black individuals in this country's history, but has been met with mixed reviews of criticism and praise. This week, *The Gryphon Debate* asks if Black History Month is still relevant in modern Britain.

Yes

You're going to relegate my history to a month?

Such were the powerful and surprising remarks made by Morgan Freeman when he put forth his views on Black History Month (BHM).

Some people may say that in Britain we do not need Black History Month to the same degree as in America. It is true that the black experience differs from one country to another, especially when considering the very different backgrounds of colonialism. Ask a black Briton about their origins and they'll say Nigeria, Jamaica, Ghana etc. Asking an African-American the same question will be met with much less certainty. Black British citizens are arguably the most assimilated group in our multicultural society. So why do we still need BHM?

The purpose of Black History Month is to recognise and celebrate the contri-

butions and achievements of black people throughout history.

It is a small cry into the abyss of the past that resurrects figures that have been omitted from historical accounts. It is about honoring the legacy of those across all fields of human accomplishment, from literature to science to sport, who just so happen to be black. BHM allows us all to acknowledge a rich culture and a people of resonating influence. It displaces the idea that black history is only rooted in

“There were indeed black faces in Ancient Greece and Victorian England...”

coercion and persecution.

History gives us roots, it adds to our identity and we can draw power and pride from things that may be long gone, but not forgotten. BHM explores the fact that



Illustration: Danny Wilson

Olivia Nwabali

However, I did not know the names of Maya Angelou, Mary Seacole or Ignatius Sancho until my father gave me a book on black history. I had a list of names and yet no clue of their place in what I already knew of history or how they existed in relation to their contemporaries.

Black history should not be confined to October, quietly jammed in before the main autumn event of Halloween, but British history is irrevocably entwined with black history.

However, it is often represented through the distorting screen of oppression rather than one of glory.

As long as the mainstream history curriculum nurtures the idea of two separate narratives, Black History Month remains meaningful, enlightening and ultimately relevant to all.

No

Why should black history be confined to just one month?

Though any kind of recognition of the oppression that black people have faced throughout history is important, this is something that should be ever present in people's minds. To confine it to diminish importance and marginalise. Specifying a single month for black history suggests that for the other eleven months of the year it has lessened relevance.

Ideally, we ought to celebrate this side of our history every month.

Morgan Freeman, when questioned about Black History Month in an interview on American television, labelled it 'ridiculous'.

He ended his discussion of the topic by claiming that 'I don't want a Black History Month. Black history is American history.'

The same applies to the United Kingdom. Dividing black history from the

history of other races is segregation.

An article in *The Guardian* during last October's Black History Month was headlined 'Black History Month can only be declared a success once it's redundant'.

“If we seek an equal representation of history, we should not be narrowed into calling history 'black' or 'white'...”

The writer, Andrea Stuart, comments that, 'Indeed, much of what we designate as black history is in fact simply English history – stories we should all remember and acknowledge.'

The problem seems to be that people continue to be uneducated in all aspects

of English history and therefore 'black history'.

The fear of being politically incorrect and/or racist prevents people from discussing and therefore becoming aware of racial issues of the past.

Andrea Stuart further stated of this issue that 'slavery and colonialism is a ghost that still haunts modern Britain, because we have never fully exorcised it.'

Eager not to offend, people see a problem with raising such topics, which

1500s – the century which saw Britain's black community officially recorded. There has been a black population in Britain since the Roman Empire.

contributes therefore to the segregation of black history. It needs to be assimilated,

Sophie Bell

not separated.

If we seek an equal representation of history, we should not be narrowed into calling history 'black' or 'white'.

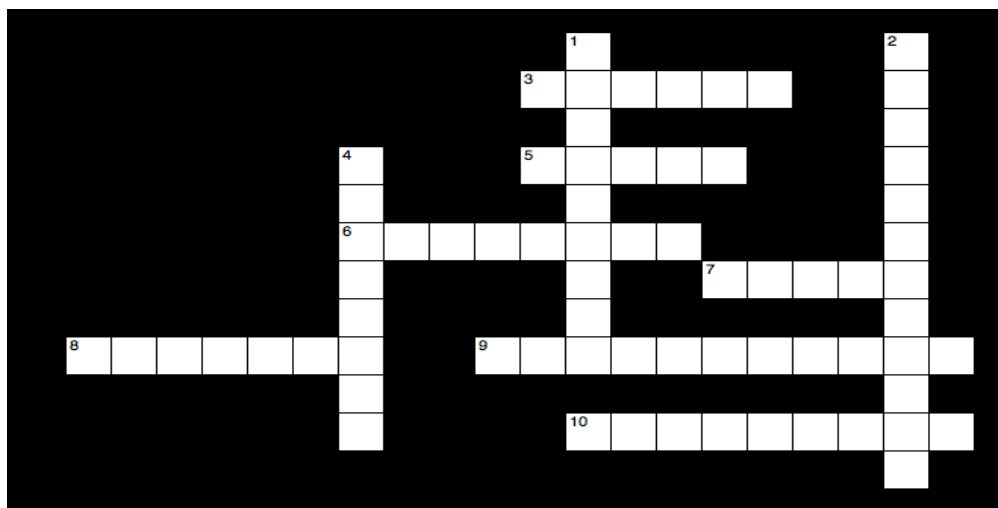
Returning to a point made by Morgan Freeman in the interview discussed, the way to get rid of racism is to 'stop talking about it'. This is a powerful argument can be applied to this debate of Black History Month.

By continuing to have 'Black History Month', we continue to name black history as something different and extraneous to the rest of our country's history. Histories of all races are equally valid and important. For all to be recognised, none should be singled out.



ACROSS

- 3 Country affected by a spate of shootings
- 5 Mobile phone brand name to be dropped by Microsoft
- 6 Ex-Radio 1 DJ criticised for releasing a promotional track for UKIP
- 7 Retail giant that has lost stock value 'equivalent to size of Jamaican economy'
- 8 Indian film set to be released and shown under police protection
- 9 This political blogger celebrates his tenth birthday this week
- 10 The Dominican-born fashion designer who passed away on Monday



DOWN

- 1 Football player under fire for undressing prematurely
- 2 Convicted murderer, released after 44 years, guilty of killing 3 police officers in 1966
- 4 Cleared up at the MOBO awards, winning four awards

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Rewilding Britain: hungry for a home



The Guardian ©

Dougie Philips

The idea of wolves wandering a windswept landscape is one straight out of a George R. R. Martin novel, an image now synonymous with the northern reaches of Westeros and the Starks of Winterfell. However, as the topic of 'rewilding' Britain has once again raised its furry head, the cinematic northern wilderness depicted in the TV series *Game of Thrones* could soon be witnessed a little closer to home.

There was once a time when apex predators, such as wolves and bears, were prominent features of a wild and untamed British countryside. But as human civilisation increased and expanded within Britain, these animals were targeted and, ultimately, eliminated from our shores. Today, ecosystems within the UK continue to experience declines in biodiversity, a situation indicative of a growing global problem. As a result, most of our large mammals and the

majority of our native forests have now been lost.

This has prompted a growing interest in rewilding initiatives as potential tools for improving the biodiversity of natural habitats. The basic principle of rewilding involves the reintroduction of formerly native plant and animal species,

guided implementation.

The rewilding of the Yellowstone National Park, which is situated in the United States, first began in 1995 when large scale carnivore restoration was implemented. The project saw the reintroduction of wolves, as well as increased numbers of grizzly bears, to control the

fauna, which would have otherwise not survived during increased elk grazing, to be successful.

Closer to home, there have been positive early re-introduction trials for numerous species within the European Union, including the likes of wolves, bears and bison. Although it is too early to tell what level of success will be achieved, these positive moves have been attributed to the growing collaborative efforts for wildlife protection experienced in Europe. These joint endeavours have, understandably, drawn attention to conservation within the UK.

Well known author, journalist and environmental activist George Monbiot has become the unofficial figurehead behind the move towards rewilding, following his latest book, *Feral: Searching for Enchantment on the Frontiers of Rewilding*, published in 2013. In a recent interview with *National Geographic* he stresses, 'By bringing back what biologists call keystone species – species that

“Today, ecosystems within the UK continue to experience declines in biodiversity, a situation indicative of a growing global problem”

to return the land back to its historic wild state. This is by no means a new concept, with its potential application in Britain previously discussed on numerous occasions during the last 15 years. However, the well documented success of the Yellowstone rewilding project, and the consequent film *How Wolves Change Rivers* has given more weight to its ar-

feeding habits of the elk population within the area. Extensive scientific research has shown that the project has been successful in increasing biodiversity, with the reassertion of a dominant predator in the area allowing local plants and tree species to re-establish. This process, known as a trophic cascade, has allowed different species of flora and



have an impact on other species and are ecological engineers, creating habitats for other species – you kick-start these dynamic ecological processes.'

His high profile support of rewilding has played a vital role in promoting the growing discussions within the UK, spreading its message to members of the public previously missed in past years. Clearly the UK has been left wanting, compared to the rest of Europe, with regards to biodiversity; a point recently highlighted in last month's Environmental Audit Committee's report, which gave the area a damning review. It would therefore be fair to suggest that Britain has excelled at talking the talk, but been found lacking in the walking department. But, as Monbiot maintains, 'Talk precedes action'.

The rewilding of Britain would focus on unpopulated areas of highland, currently low on biodiversity. Any projects

undertaken, especially those involving apex predators, would involve local communities throughout the process. This will ensure that concerns over their livelihoods and, perhaps more importantly, their safety are properly attended to. When thoughts turn to wolves and bears roaming the countryside, fear is an understandable emotion to have. However, why should we be scared of animals in their natural habitat? With a proper understanding of their behaviours, and appropriate monitoring, there is no reason why the UK cannot begin to reproduce the success experienced at the likes of Yellowstone.

As the nights begin to draw in, the words of Ned Stark become fitting, 'winter is coming', though it still begs the question: will the wolves be joining as well? ■

For more information visit www.yellowstonenationalpark.com/wolves.htm

Wolves in Britain

– After the Norman invasion, some historians write that rather than being executed, criminals would have to provide a certain number of wolf tongues annually.

– Wolf attacks on livestock became such a problem that James I of Scotland passed a law in 1427, requiring three hunts a year during cubbing season.

– King Edward I (1272–1307) ordered the extermination of all wolves from his kingdom.

– Official records state that the last British wolf was killed in 1680 although, some tales insist that one was seen as late as 1888.



An Anglo-Saxon wolf hunt illustrated in Thomas Miller's *The British wolf-hunter*

Fibre Optic Internet: Are we too slow?

Evan Canwell

Chances are you're vaguely aware of the internet. You may also be aware of words like 'dial-up', 'broadband' and 'DSL' which are usually thrown about by computer technicians, movie hackers and computer salesmen. Now there's a new term in the computing vocabulary: 'fibre optics'.

So what exactly are fibre optics, and more importantly, why should you care? Fibre optics are essentially thin glass cables that carry information in the form of light over long distances. They're the Ferraris of the digital world and currently the fastest method of transferring digital information.

Using light for communication isn't a new idea. The semaphore line, invented in 1792, used light signals at the top of a tower which could then be seen by another tower which sent the signal to subsequent towers. Just picture the scene in *Lord of the Rings* where they light the flaming beacons along the mountains and you'll get the basic idea.

Next up was the electric telegraph in 1832. As the name suggests, it used electricity to send information down metal cables and was the first system to allow messages to be sent all around the

world.

After that, things didn't really evolve at a great pace. The world seemed content with information carried by electrical cables. Then, in 1966, the world's first fibre optic cable was made and became commercially available a while later in the early 2000s.

Since then, they've become increasingly popular with most internet providers. You've probably noticed the leaflets piling up on your doormat advertising 'super-fast fibre optic broadband'.

However, any large scale improvement to the internet

networks in the developed world is slow because of the old metal cables that are quite literally entrenched in those countries. The largest fibre optic projects aren't

focused on replacing these old cables in developed countries, it's much easier to lay shiny new ones in the developing world.

Despite slow speeds and notoriously high prices, there is huge demand for internet access in Africa. There are currently 240 million Internet users across

the African continent, with this number increasing by seven times the global average between 2000 and 2012.

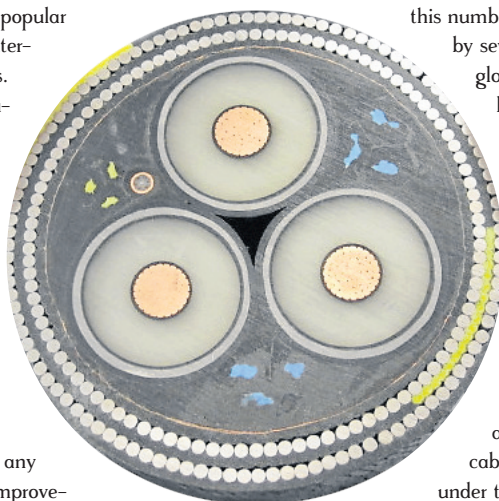
Africa (excluding Eritrea and Western Sahara) is linked to Europe, America and Asia by 16 cables running under the world's

oceans. As of 2014, a significant number of projects to lay fibre optic cables in the developing world have been completed, with many more on the way. One such project is Google's 'Project

Link', which aims to provide a fibre optic network for Uganda's capital city, Kampala. A cynic may say Google's targeting of emerging countries is a shameless drive to increase the number of people using their products. However access to the internet is a great enabler and provides many benefits such as education, new opportunities and business links. African countries have the potential to skip the developed world's Stone Age copper cables and move straight onto fibre optics, which could grant them the highest internet speeds in the world.

These days we expect everything to work instantaneously and feel outraged when webpages take more than a few seconds to load. Fibre optics provide a way for the internet to continue to work at the light-like speeds we've come to expect. Although it's virtually impossible to predict major technological advances before they happen, it's hard to see how information travelling at the speed of light could be improved.

Having endured painfully slow, screeching dial-up connections, we know there will definitely be an improvement in the way we access the internet in the future. Whatever form this may take, you can be sure fibre optics will be involved. ■



A cross section of an underwater fibre-optic cable



*The issue of racism is never far from the surface within sport, and with this week's issue commemorating Black History Month, **The Gryphon** looks at the current sporting state of affairs.*

Will racism ever be eradicated from sport?

Nancy Gillen
Comment

From Jesse Owen winning four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics – countering Nazi propaganda claims of ‘Aryan racial superiority’ – to the 1968 Olympics Black Power salute protesting against racial discrimination, racism has always been an issue in sport.

In today's diverse and multi-cultural world of sport, racism should be an out-of-date idea. Sport encompasses all ethnicities; what matters is ability. Indeed in English football, there has been improvement since the 1980s, when bananas thrown on to the pitch, monkey gestures, racist jibes by players and discriminatory chants from the stands were commonplace. Nowadays, around 25% of professional players are from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. With a more accepting society and campaigns by organisations such as Kick It Out, racist incidents in football are now few and far between.

Nonetheless, the fact that it happens at all shows that racial discrimination has not been fully stamped out of English sport. A prime example is in

2011, when Chelsea's John Terry and Liverpool's Luis Suarez were both accused of racially abusing another player. The fact that two prominent players were accused of discriminatory behaviour in the modern game shows that although progress has been made, there is still a racist undercurrent in English sport.

It must be said, however, that English sport is a considerable distance ahead of other parts of Europe in terms of the number of displays of racist behaviour and the subsequent punishments handed out. Only at the beginning of this month did a racist demonstration at a football match in Bulgaria stun people around the world. Supporters of Levski Sofia held up a banner with the words ‘Say yes to racism’ emblazoned across it, mocking Uefa's well-known anti-racism campaign, and were fined less than £8,000. If this obviously discriminatory display was a standalone event it would be bad enough, but football in Eastern Europe has been rocked with scandal after scandal, resulting in growing concerns about holding the World Cup 2018 in Russia, just as there were about Euro 2012 in Ukraine and Poland.

Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure has even suggested that African players should not attend the tournament after he was racially abused playing against CSKA Moscow last year. The carefree attitude of many

European officials intensifies the problem, with many incidents going unpunished or just simply being denied.

Racist comments made earlier this year by the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team, Donald Sterling, showed that racism in modern day sport is not just confined to football. It

appears that around the world, racism is still a problem in sport. Progress has been made, especially in England, but the fact that incidents of racial abuse are still occurring shows that more must be done. ■



Real Clear Sports ©

Does British Football need a ‘Rooney Rule’?

Greg Whitaker
Football

In a week when a statue of Arthur Wharton, the world's first black professional footballer, was unveiled at England's St George's Park, the question of racial equality in British football has once again been forced back onto the agenda.

At the beginning of last season, there were four black managers across the four professional divisions in England (Hughton, Powell, Kiwomya and Ince). Fast-forward 12 months, and at the

start of the 2014/15 season not one of the 92 English League clubs was managed by a black manager. How is this possible in a country where around 25% of professional players are black?

A fortnight ago, the Football League announced that a review into the under-representation of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) managers and coaches in British football is to get underway.

One potential solution to the problem of under-representation comes

from American Football.

In 2002 the NFL introduced the ‘Rooney

Rule’. Spearheaded by Pittsburgh Steelers’ owner Dan Rooney, the rule made it compulsory for all NFL franchises to interview at least one minority ethnic candidate ‘in good faith and with an open mind’ when looking to fill any head-coach or general manager vacancy.

It paid dividends almost immediately. Prior to 2002, in the 80 years of professional American Football in the US, the NFL only saw 6 BAME coaches. Since 2002, that number has doubled and is expected to rise season on season.

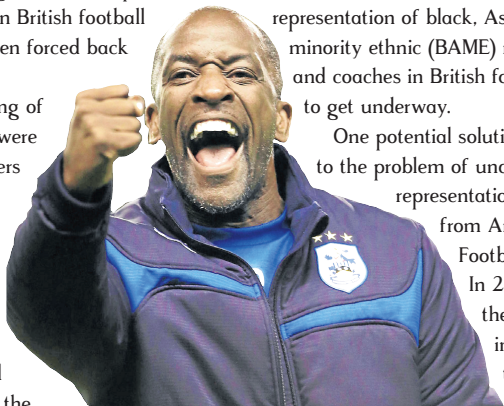
September 2013 saw Pittsburgh face Minnesota at Wembley in the annual NFL away day. In a spectacular match, it was easy to overlook that both head-coaches were black. Incredibly, this was the first time two black managers

from any sport had faced each other at England's national stadium.

Although the concept of introducing the ‘Rooney Rule’ into British football has been discussed as recently as last year, both the Premier League and Football League seem reluctant to act.

In 2011, Premier League CEO Richard Scudamore said, ‘If people are good enough, then they will get chances,’ while just last month Jose Mourinho agreed, ‘There is no racism in football – if you are good, you get the job.’

So, does British football need a ‘Rooney Rule? Put it this way – 125 years on from Arthur Wharton becoming the first black professional, the statistics suggest that British football is still very much institutionally racist. ■





'We want to build a legacy for Yorkshire cricket'

Following Yorkshire's record 33rd County Championship title, Captain Andrew Gale spoke exclusively to *The Gryphon* about the team's recent triumph and his route into cricket.

First of all, congratulations on Yorkshire's recent success.

How does it feel to have captained your home county to their first Championship title since 2001?

It's immense. The support has been overwhelming – you don't realise how well-supported the team is until you win something like we have done. I've been playing for Yorkshire since I was 10 years old and to finally lead the team to a Championship was a dream come true.

What went right this year after finishing second in the previous campaign?

We didn't perform badly at all last year and it wasn't a case of us throwing it away. I think Durham won it rather than we lost it, but we did learn some valuable lessons. I think we learnt how to concentrate on the process – we didn't get carried away with where we were at any stage this year. Obviously, the lads had one eye on the League and it was my job as Captain and the job of the management group to make sure that they didn't get ahead of themselves. We used the old-fashioned stance of taking it game by game, session by session, ball by ball and we set each other little targets as we went along to make sure that we didn't get ahead of ourselves.

Who were the stand-out performers this year?

The two lads opening the batting – Adam Lyth and Alex Lees – were fantastic for us all season, averaging nearly 80 for the opening stand. Jack Brooks got 60-odds wickets in his first full Championship season and was vital for us. Adil Rashid really came into his own later in the season when the wickets were really dry and then there's Ryan Sidebottom, who also had a great season for us. You could name all of the team really – there have been stand-out performers throughout and it's truly been a team effort from start to finish.

How frustrating was it being banned for the last two matches of the season and not being able to receive the trophy?

It did take the gloss off that day a little bit. As I said earlier, I've been representing Yorkshire since I was 10 – I've worked so hard my entire career to try and lift that trophy and not being able to at Trent Bridge was difficult. I've had a tough time but ultimately we set out to win the Championship and we did that. Joe Root did a great job as Captain and after I got the ban the lads

really stepped up to the plate and got the job done.

Regardless of your suspension, you will always be recognised as having been the captain of Yorkshire when they won the 2014 County Championship. Would you say that that is the pinnacle of your career so far?

Yeah, it is definitely the pinnacle of my career. To be mentioned in the same breath as some of the legends that captained Yorkshire to Championships before such as Brian Close and David Byas is amazing. We hadn't won it for 13 years, so to eventually get it done is a very proud moment for me and all of my family.

How did you begin playing cricket and what is your history with Yorkshire County Cricket Club is. Where did it all start?

I was pretty lucky really – I started playing for Gomersal and I accidentally turned up for a Yorkshire under-11s trial thinking it was a local district trial. God knows why they picked me – I didn't get a run until I was 13 years old. I was lucky to be one of the only ones to start my journey from that early on alongside Tim Bresnan.

How aware are you of cricket at the University of Leeds? What do you know about Leeds/Bradford MCCU?

We see the cricket team around a little bit in training and I know some of the management. We usually play Leeds/Bradford in the first game of the season and I think they have improved a lot over the last few years – they've certainly given us a run for our money and it's always a good workout for us to start the season with.

Thinking back to when you were our age, what advice would you give to any of our cricketers who are looking for a career in the game?

I had a bit of a slow start really and I didn't get much of an opportunity until I was about 20 years old. You've got to be really patient and wait for your chance, but when it comes you've got to step up and make sure you grab it with both hands.

Many University of Leeds students know Headingley Stadium well now because of the cricket and rugby that is on offer there. How would you urge more students to get involved?

There are some great deals on for students now. I think if people are still around they should get down to Headingley for some of the Twenty20 games next year because it's a great night out. The matches will be starting a bit later at 7pm and I'm sure it'll be a great occasion for students to come along to. The test matches are always good – you can see on the TV the amount of people that come in fancy dress and have a good drink on the Western Terrace. There's always a great atmosphere.

What are Yorkshire's aims for next season? Will you be looking to add to your record of Championship titles or will you maybe try to add one-day or T20 success to your recent triumph?

We want to build a legacy now for Yorkshire cricket. We don't just want to win it one year and not again for another 13 years. It's about backing last year up and being consistent so we can win as much silverware with this team as we can. Obviously, international call-ups are going to be key – especially with the West Indies tour at the start of next season – but I still think we have a strong enough academy with players coming through that have the potential to become the next Joe Root or Gary Ballance. There's obviously more expectation as you start to win stuff, but I think we've got a mature enough squad to really keep consistently pushing for trophies now. I think there's a fantastic team and work ethic

within the team and a real hunger to keep performing.





Should England stars play in the 2015 Under-21 European Championships?

Yes

Rhys Stevens

With the ensuing debate raging about whether England's youngsters such as Liverpool whizzkid Raheem Sterling should be in contention for under-21 boss Gareth Southgate's plans for next summer, the question should be what is the harm?

The compelling argument for their inclusion is in light of Germany's success at the 2014 World Cup after they honed a core of exciting youngsters from the under-21s and bedded them into the senior squad who went on to win the trophy. Casting our minds back to the under-21 European Championship final in 2009 between England and Germany, six players from that victorious German side were lifting the World Cup in Rio this summer, while only Manchester City's James Milner survived to grab a senior spot in the England squad. Clearly, allowing youngsters to progress on the international stage as a unit provides the senior side with valuable tournament experience.

England have some great prospects in the under-21s including the in-form Saido Berahino and Stoke City's Jack Butland, however the presence of figures such as Sterling and Oxlade-Chamberlain will only improve these players as

they will undoubtedly benefit from their big-match experience.

I think that in England we often fall victim to bringing a player into the senior fold far too early, before seeing their progress flounder. Premier League bosses, such as Roberto

Martinez and Arsene Wenger, have slammed talk of including some of the top youngsters and have questioned the motivation of those who already have senior caps, but this is mainly based on selfish interest as they look to protect their players' fitness.

If England want to emulate German success within the next decade or so, the FA needs to put emphasis on allowing all top youngsters the opportunity to progress and play for all England age groups. The under-21s needs to increase in importance and not to be treated as an effective B team; otherwise what's the point in retaining it?



No

Peter White

While it may initially seem extremely attractive and perhaps almost obvious to take the best eligible players to the next year's under-21 European Championships, I think it is important that people consider some of the issues that may arise as a result of taking some of the senior players to the tournament. Several Premier League managers have already voiced their concerns over the idea; it is certainly easy to see why.

Firstly, Roberto Martinez has suggested that including big names such as Ross Barkley and Jack Wilshere would harm the development of the senior team and the individual players as it would effectively go against the idea of using the under-21s to promote players to the first team. The concept of the under-21 team is to feed the senior side, yet how are the likes of Ben Gibson and Will

Hughes supposed to develop into full England internationals if the likes of Calum Chambers and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain take their plane tickets to the Czech Republic. You might argue that competing in an international tournament will provide the first team with invaluable experience, however many of the players being talked about were in the 2014 World Cup squad and getting them involved will surely restrict the development of the players that got the team to the Championships in the first place.

In addition, there is the ever-topical tiredness debate. Is it really worth the risk of injuring or tiring key senior team players who will undoubtedly be required for the final France 2016 qualifiers next September and October? As aforementioned, many of the eligible senior stars were involved at the World Cup and two international tournaments in two years would undoubtedly be taxing - Raheem Sterling needed a rest after just 10 games of the season!

As an avid England fan, I thoroughly wish the final under-21 squad every success next summer; however I hope that all of England's elite will be joining me by watching it on the sofa.

Durham destroyed in badminton battle

Nancy Gillen
Women's Badminton
Leeds Uni Is 7-1 Durham Is

In their second game of the season, Leeds women's badminton 1s secured an impressive 7-1 win over Durham 1s, grabbing their first three league points after a disappointing loss away to Loughborough last week.

In the opening singles matches, Helena Lewczynska showed her superiority and skill by winning both

games in relatively quick succession.

However, the other single match, featuring Serena Midha, was more of a closely fought affair. The first game was even throughout, and the tension rose when the game reached 20-20. After a series of excellent rallies, Midha's perseverance finally paid off as she won the game 27-25. Due to this extension in play, her opponent from Durham seemed to tire in the second game, and didn't show as much resolve, with Midha obtaining her second

successive win. This excellent form from both single players was taken into their next matches, which were also won, taking the score to 4-0 to Leeds.

The double pairings of Harriet West with Jojo Minihan and Lizzie Hunt with Rae Lamour were also extremely successful in the majority of their games, showing excellent communication and movement.

However it was in the opening round of double games that Durham gained their only point. Nonetheless

the match lost was mostly on a level pegging throughout, and a tightly contested and tense third game was necessary to give Durham their first point in the overall contest after Leeds and Durham won one game apiece.

The team showed that they could bounce back from the defeat against Loughborough last week, and bounce back in style. A well-fought 7-1 win against a strong Durham side will provide encouragement for the rest of the season.

Gryphons still searching for elusive win after second defeat on the bounce

Daniel Nixon
Men's Basketball
Leeds Uni 1s 64-82 Teesside 1s

After last week's defeat to Sheffield, Uni were hungrier than ever to bounce back against a strong Teesside squad.

They may have felt harshly done by to go into the break behind after what seemed to be a very even quarter. The team displayed considerable ambition to get into the opposition's danger area. However the away team's defence held strong and were clinical with a bundle of breakaway moves to take an early lead of 12-18.

Teesside began to take control of the game early on in the second quarter with a host of two pointers. The away side scored an impressive 28 points in a section of the game that they largely dominated, with Teesside pulling out block after block and interception after interception. This was followed up by impressive breakaway attacks that left

the home side struggling to keep up, as the teams headed in at the break with the visitors 46-26 ahead. Leeds already had an immense task ahead.

Some of Uni's best play came at the beginning of the second half. Killian Stanley showed some nimble movement in the pacy breakaways, finishing them off in style with a number of lay-ups. Their domination had many of us thinking that a comeback may have been on the cards. Teesside had different ideas however, and scored a number of baskets towards the latter end of the quarter – leaving Leeds with little hope going into the final period.

Leeds had all but accepted that they were heading for their second defeat of the season. Nevertheless, Teesside's



Lucie England-Duce ©

complacency in the final quarter meant that, unfortunately, this was the only period of the match that Uni outscored their opponents. Overall, the Gryphons gave a good performance that would

have left them feeling uplifted, despite the outcome. The side face lower-league Bradford next time out in the cup, a match the team will be desperate to win in order to get their form back on track.

Try something new with Adam LeRoux

This week's sport of choice was fencing. Now I don't know about you, but when I think about the sport I think about scenes from *Pirates of the Caribbean* or *Game of Thrones*, where the gladiatorial competition of two rivals is conveyed with such grace and artistic flair to create an oxymoronic spectacle for the onlooker to behold.

Sports Hall 1 in The Edge may not be the most spectacular of surroundings in comparison, but watching the more experienced fencers in action was certainly more dramatic. Looking on at the toing and froing of each pair along the piste, as points started cautiously and then sprung into life, was almost like watching a Shakespearean masterpiece unfold.

The Bard himself was also a keen fencer and after donning the cottons and mesh mask attire, I could feel myself being transported back in time, to a place where sportsmanship and respect among competitors was just as

important as the victory in battle. The saluting of the referee and opponent before each match is testament to this, as etiquette is not to be forgotten.

Now, onto the action, and a fairly vigorous warm up session by Coach Tom Exeter to start, which certainly got the blood pumping. The next drill included jumping, and a lot of it, as the innovative use of blades as hurdles created a sharp-looking obstacle course to complete, testing footwork at the same time.

The battles soon began, and with my knowledge on épées and foils still in its infancy I wasn't holding my breath when the piste came calling.

Learning the



footwork on your own with no opponent or blade to worry about was relatively easy, but once you have to take into account all of these factors at the same time the men really get separated from the boys. My opponent, also a beginner, seemed to

have it all, moving in seamlessly each time to attack. I was soon found to be an expert at the lesser known approach of the 'retreat and swipe' technique, where you try to stave off the inevitable attack as long as possible, something that 20 years of being a bespectacled redhead had taught me well.

With a bit more practice I was soon winning points of my own, as defence slowly turned into attack. It was certainly an experience never to be forgotten; the regal feeling when suited up and the licence to battle with blades is something everybody should get a chance to do.

Got another sport you would like Adam to do? Send an email to sports@thegryphon.co.uk to get to join in.



Gryphons grab dramatic late victory

Charlotte Stones
Netball

Leeds Uni Is 28-27 Northumbria Is

Leeds Is put in an extraordinary effort to beat Northumbria Is in a tense match on Wednesday.

After falling just two goals short against Loughborough in their first game of the season, Leeds were visibly eager for a win. The tension was high in the opening minutes of the first quarter and it was neck and neck from the start as Uni's speed and accuracy was countered by Northumbria's fierce defending. Despite some skillful passing in the circle throughout the first 15 minutes, the away side successfully crowded Leeds out, restricting passing options.

The second quarter proved difficult for Leeds. Harsh umpiring decisions went against the hosts and valuable penalty shots were conceded to Northumbria's advantage. It was to

Leeds' credit that they kept a cool head, playing the game minute-by-minute and slowly gaining a more-refined momentum despite the speed and force with which Northumbria were passing. The score at half time was 16-16.

Going into the third quarter, tactics became unpredictable and though both sides showed incredible fitness, this stage of the match called for a slower pace. Leeds' centre, Potter, showed great commitment to the team, ensuring that the ball could reach the circle as Northumbria's defence weakened. Goal shooter, Crosbie, and goal attack, Scott, were on target in the D and the Northumbrian defence lost balance, giving away avoidable penalty shots to Leeds' advantage.

Returning to the court for the final quarter, The Gryphon Centre, was filled with cheers from both benches. Leeds managed to net three goals which put them just ahead, yet the visitors refused to give up the fight. With the score 26-

26, Northumbria missed a vital penalty shot, resulting in huge cheers from the Leeds bench. The Gryphons broke away in the final minutes thanks to excellent

work from Dowse and Gray, bringing a final score of 28-27.



Lucie England-Duce ©

Water Polo still awaiting first win

Adam LeRoux
Men's Water Polo
Leeds Uni Is 4-14 Durham Is

After a narrow defeat to Loughborough in their season opener, Leeds went down once again as Durham took a 14-4 victory at the Edge on Tuesday night.

The visitors had finished second in the Premier Division last year so the Gryphons knew to expect a tough match in the pool and right from the off the defence were called into action. The Durham attack moved the ball around with haste as they searched for the opening goal, stretching the Leeds defence from side to side. With four minutes on the clock the first goal was scored, and it had been on the cards, as the visitors finally found a free man who made no mistake when given the chance.

With Ed Scott in goal the home side always stood a chance of getting back into the game if they could get their attack into gear. Scott saved two penalty shots in the match and numerous other one on one attempts, making it clear to

see why he was called up to the Team GB squad for the 2012 Olympics.

Buoyed by Scott's efforts, Leeds started to claw away at the deficit. With some neat build-up play, they finally reaped their rewards and got the game back to 4-2 - the second being a superb back-handed effort past the hapless goalkeeper.

As the second quarter commenced the scores were still tight, and a powerful attempt by Simon Morton-Grant kept Durham's lead at only two to keep the pressure on.

The second half was a different story as Durham took the upper hand - their quick breaking ability and excellent distribution from the goalkeeper meant they profited from Leeds' wayward attack, as they countered numerous times to extend their lead.

With seconds to go, Leeds grabbed a late consolation penalty but Durham were by far the superior team here and fully deserved their 14-4 victory. With Scott in goal the Gryphons will always stand a chance in this division, but a

trip to last year's Premier Division winners Edinburgh next week will not be an easy one. Leeds know what it takes to overcome the Scottish side though, having taken a 13-3 victory the last time the teams met.



Sam Lewis ©



Beckett get Varsity revenge



Peter White
Men's Football
Leeds Uni 2s 1-2 Leeds Beckett 2s

The University of Leeds 2s succumbed to a narrow defeat in a game against Leeds Beckett which could have gone either way. Having defeated their opponents 3-1 in the Varsity fixture earlier this month, Uni were looking for a similar result this time around to kick-start their league campaign after suffering a heavy defeat to the 1s last week.

In miserable conditions at Weetwood, the game began at a high tempo with both sides looking to gain the upper hand early on in this local derby. Uni enjoyed the lion's share of possession in the opening exchanges and forced the first corners of the game after good pressure by Ben Leaman. However, Uni were reminded of the threat that the Beckett attack possess and impressive battling and last-ditch tackles were required from the Gryphons' centre-back pairing of Omar Bukleb and Chris

Jackson as the away side worked their way back into the game.

Uni had a penalty shout for handball waved away by the referee, before they were denied the lead by a clearance off the line. Yet, it was Beckett who scored the first goal of the game as an inswinging free-kick was met by a bullet header that flew out of goalkeeper Cody Wharton's reach.

The home side, however, weren't ready to lie down and responded well to going behind. They quickly forced another corner which culminated in a tame effort after a scramble in the Beckett penalty area. As the game headed towards half-time, Leaman initiated a well-worked one-two with captain Elliott Campbell which resulted in a great cross that almost led to a Beckett own goal.

After the interval, the game largely continued in the same vein and it wasn't long before Uni were deservedly on level terms. Jack Bullock latched onto a fine through ball with a neat touch which took the ball away from the defender,

before he buried it into the bottom corner from the edge of the area.

The goal seemed to put a spring in Bullock's step as he was soon firing on target again, with the home side now chasing the lead. However, Beckett were also looking for another goal and were soon back in front. The Gryphons conceded a foul after a spell of concerted pressure from Beckett, and there was truly no stopping the resultant free-kick from roughly 35 yards.

As the match reached its final stages, the pace of the game upped again with Uni desperate for an equaliser. Strong tackles flew in all across the field and a good save denied Bullock his second goal of the game from a free-kick on the edge of the 18-yard box.

Beckett ended the game victorious but they were largely matched by the home side and the win could quite easily have been Uni's on another day. It is now imperative that the Gryphons take this performance into their next game at home to Sheffield Hallam 2s on 5th November. ■

Results

Badminton 1s (M) 3-5 Durham 1s
Badminton 2s (M) 8-0 Huddersfield 1s
Badminton 3s (M) 5-3 Bradford 1s
Badminton 1s (W) 7-1 Durham 1s
Basketball 1s (M) 64-82 Teesside 1s
Basketball 2s (M) 71-82 York St. John 1s
Basketball 3s (M) 64-19 Leeds Trinity 1s
Basketball 1s (W) 61-17 Bradford 1s
Fencing (M) 131-111 Manchester 2s
Fencing (W) 133-135 Sheffield 1s
Football 1s (M) 4-3 Sheffield Hallam 2s
Football 2s (M) 1-2 Leeds Beckett 2s
Football 3s (M) 1-2 Sheffield Hallam 3s
Football 4s (M) 1-0 Hull 2s
Football 1s (W) 12-0 Manchester 1s
Football 2s (W) 3-3 Bradford 1s
Football 3s (W) 0-6 Hull 1s
Golf 3-3 Sheffield Hallam 1s
Hockey 1s (M) 1-5 Nottingham 1s
Hockey 2s (M) 4-4 Northumbria 1s
Hockey 3s (M) 3-6 Newcastle 2s
Hockey 4s (M) 6-1 Bradford 1s
Hockey 5s (M) 4-2 Huddersfield 1s
Hockey 6s (M) 2-2 Leeds Beckett 4s
Hockey 1s (W) 1-4 Nottingham 1s
Hockey 2s (W) 2-0 Newcastle 2s
Hockey 3s (W) 1-2 Sheffield 2s
Hockey 4s (W) 1-1 Leeds 5s
Hockey 5s (W) 1-1 Leeds 4s
Hockey 6s (W) 0-4 Leeds Beckett 3s
Hockey 7s (W) 0-5 Bradford 1s
Lacrosse 1s (M) 16-0 Durham 3s
Lacrosse 1s (W) 4-20 Nottingham 1s
Lacrosse 2s (W) 8-23 Newcastle 2s
Netball 1s 28-27 Northumbria 1s
Netball 2s 41-24 Newcastle 3s
Netball 3s 34-37 Durham 2s
Netball 4s 45-24 Leeds Beckett 4s
Netball 5s 23-23 Northumbria 4s
Netball 6s 18-45 Sunderland 2s
Rugby League 1s 50-6 Manchester 1s
Rugby Union 1s (M) 18-16 Northumbria 1s
Rugby Union 2s (M) 15-12 Sheffield Hallam 1s
Rugby Union 3s (M) 5-22 Newcastle 3s
Rugby Union 4s (M) 5-67 Newcastle 4s
Rugby Union 1s (W) 7-32 Northumbria 1s
Squash 1s (M) 3-2 (9-8) Manchester Met 1s
Squash 2s (M) 3-0 (9-3) Northumbria 2s
Squash 3s (M) 3-0 (9-4) Huddersfield 2s
Squash 2s (W) 4-0 Northumbria 2s
Table Tennis 1s (M) 0-17 Notts Trent 1s
Table Tennis 2s (M) 14-2 Sunderland 1s
Tennis 1s (M) 8-4 Leeds Beckett 2s
Tennis 2s (M) 10-2 Sheffield 2s
Tennis 3s (M) 2-10 Durham 4s
Tennis 5s (M) 2-10 Durham 5s
Tennis 1s (W) 12-0 Liverpool JM 1s
Tennis 2s (W) 10-2 Durham 5s
Tennis 3s (W) 0-12 Leeds Beckett 3s
Waterpolo 1s (M) 4-14 Durham 1s
Waterpolo 1s (W) 12-15 Loughborough 1s



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Could the men's football 2s repeat their Varsity victory over Leeds Beckett? – p. 23



How did the men's basketball fare against a tough Teesside team? – p. 21



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Alice Greenfield ©

Leeds take the spoils with the foil

● Two wins out of two for outstanding Gryphons

● Victories in both épée and sabre sees winning streak extended

Alex Bowmer
Men's Fencing
Leeds Uni Is 131-III Manchester 2s

Leeds put down a marker for the rest of the league as they maintained their 100% record in the men's fencing this season.

They faced off against Manchester 2s, and made sure that they got off to the strongest start by electing to start off with the sabre event, which they feel to be their strongest discipline. Their superiority over Manchester was clear to see as Alex Coleman, James Foreshaw and Jordan Au helped Leeds to a 15-4 lead after the first round of bouts, through a combination of lightning-fast footwork and clinical shots.

Although Leeds were still dominant, the away team were gaining a foothold in the contest – which was briefly punctuated when one of Manchester's sabreurs broke his blade during an exchange. Rather than fight on with what now resembled a toothpick, Leeds generously lent him a spare sabre, but at the cost of a yellow card. Another yellow card would have meant that a point would be awarded to Leeds.

Fortunately for Manchester, this never transpired. Towards the back of the end of the round, Leeds stretched their lead further, with venomous play from all three men resulting in a 45-25 win after one weapon.

It was now the turn of the foilists to take up the mantle and after a quick fix

of the scoring apparatus (by that ever-reliable material, ducttape), the contest was back underway. Coleman returned to the piste, but found the going tougher, as neither he, Au or Alastair Plant were specialists at the discipline. Nevertheless, they stepped up to the plate, with Coleman producing the performance of the round, scoring ten hits to one against one of his opponents.

Leeds looked set to pull off a memorable victory with the weapon, until Manchester snatched victory from the jaws of defeat to keep their faint hopes of snatching victory.

The épéeists had to wait a long time for their chance to shine, but grabbed it with both hands. Josh Stuart kept Leeds in the driving seat, with Harry

Jamson and Rob Ward maintaining that advantage. Manchester could now not catch Leeds' total score, meaning the contest was wrapped up. Manchester soon gained renewed impetus and took the lead in the final weapon, but Stuart's experience stood him in good stead and turned around the outcome in spectacular fashion.

It finished 131-III and Stuart mentioned that after losing out on promotion to Durham last season, Uni are favourites to finish top of the league this time around. After Wednesday's performance and the trouncing of the UCLAN the previous week, they can rightly be confident of making it three wins on the bounce when they visit Bangor in two weeks' time. ■